



January 2023 Newsletter

Check out our website at <https://www.buffalocursillo.com/> You will find dates and information on Ultreya, Weekends, Reunion mass schedule, Newsletters, Applications, and much more.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Spring 2023 Weekends:      Men's Weekend #230: May 4-7, 2023  
                                         Women's Weekend #231: May 18-21, 2023  
                                         Support Masses:  
                                         Friday February 10th at 7:00 PM  
                                         at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Clarence  
                                         Friday March 10th at 7:00 PM  
                                         at Sts Peter and Paul Church in Williamsville

Virtual Ultreya:              Bethany Ultreya meets virtually on Zoom the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday each month. This is ideal for those who cannot get out and those who have moved out of town. Contact Lynn Lomanto for the meeting information; [Lomantolynn@gmail.com](mailto:Lomantolynn@gmail.com)

**Lay Director's Report**

What to talk about? So much has happened in the past few weeks. Light comes into the world in the midst of darkness. A Child is born to us, a Son is given, but we're unable to attend Christmas Mass. The worst blizzard in recent memory forces many of us to spend days inside without heat, without light. Pope Benedict passes away. Damar Hamlin's heart stops, and with it ours too, briefly. Through it all, God reassures us that He is able to bring good from apparent evil. Moreover, that He permits evil so as to show His glory.

It's a dark, dreary, drizzly day for what seems to be about a month and a half; but I'm sure it's only been a couple of weeks since the last glimpse of actual sunshine. What better incentive do we need to start Thinking Spring! And in particular – thinking Men's and Women's Cursillo® Spring Weekends scheduled for May. Our expert team selectors are busy searching for just the right individuals who will say "yes" to serving on these teams.

Speaking of leaders, Diane Putt has agreed to join the Secretariat as Cursillo® Section Chair. Please join me in congratulating Diane and thanking her for her "yes" to the Movement.

Also worthy of a note of thanks are our Ultreya Coordinators. To wit:

Paul & Lisa Johnson – Southtowns

Jack & Christine Thomann – Come to the Well

Lynn Lomanto – Bethany  
Marty Ruhland – Full of Grace  
Carolyn Ruhland & Carolyn McNamara – Rainbow Vineyard  
Liz Wascak – Pueblo de Paz

These folks work tirelessly each month to ensure that our ultreyas are vibrant and inviting. See the Events page at the end of this newsletter to find out where and when the next meeting is. If you're not yet in a regular Group Reunion, ultreya is a good place to find others to group with.

De Colores,

**Terry Johnson #191**  
Lay Director Buffalo Cursillo  
(716) 908-9055  
[twjrex@gmail.com](mailto:twjrex@gmail.com), [buffalocursillo@gmail.com](mailto:buffalocursillo@gmail.com)

### Spiritual Director Report:

My brothers and sisters in Christ:

Happy Epiphany!!

At the Epiphany (from the greek "to appear"), we celebrate God appearing to the world in the second person of the Holy Trinity. It's God's self-revelation to us by becoming one of us.

This is a time of joy and celebration. And we do have plenty to celebrate; weekends are back in full motion, Second Touch is around the corner, the School of Leaders is in session, and Reunion masses will be restarting soon. All of them wonderful tools for our spiritual growth and enrichment. Let's not miss these God-given opportunities.

Please, join me in thanking the Good Lord for the privilege of having chosen us to serve Him in this, His worldwide movement. And from our little corner in Buffalo, blizzard or no blizzard, may we be the disciples He wills us to be.

Again, Happy Epiphany!!

And always remember....

...God revealed is counting on you!

And now, let us pray for the beatification of our founder:

O God, dispenser of all graces and charisms.

You granted your servant EDUARDO BONNIN AGUILO the grace of dedicating his whole life, with humility and generosity, to the work of the CURSILLOS IN CHRISTIANITY MOVEMENT, as he traveled the five continents proclaiming that God in Christ loves us.

Grant us through his intercession the favor that we now implore Thee.

(name the favor being requested)

Also, grant us the grace of his beatification for your greater glory and the good of your Church that shines throughout the lives of its saints.

We beg this of You in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father...

## Historian Report:

### **Buffalo Cursillo History #13 (continued):**

January 2023            “Photographs”

According to Lou Pauly, Father of the Buffalo Cursillo Movement, it was a custom to have a photo of each Men’s or Women’s Weekend Group, including team and candidates in one large 8”x10” photo. Each member received a copy. Lou recalls that an early Cursillista (he can’t remember the man’s name) whose hobby was photography took the Buffalo English Cursillo photographs in the first eight years.

When Dick Sterling, of Sterling Photographers in Lackawanna made Men’s Cursillo #59 in 1973, he assumed the mantle of photographer for the subsequent Buffalo Cursillos for the next 40 years. Dick also took the group photos of all the Second Touch Weekends at the St. Columban Center in Derby, NY from 1992 to 2012, as well as the Men’s and Women’s Kairos Prison Ministry Weekends at various prisons in WNY.

Photos were black and white from 1965 to 1981. From then on, color photos were the norm. With superior cell phone technology various Cursillistas including Alice Appenheimer (Women’s #91), and Mike Szematowicz (Men’s 206) have stepped up to take the weekend photos. Currently Jerry Casillo (Men’s #191) with a quality digital camera, is taking the photos.

In 1973, Bill Rae, Cursillo Lay Director, managed to compile a complete photo album from Men’s # 1 to Women’s #62 trying (with the assistance of many people) to fill in all the names. He mounted these pictures with the names below on the walls of Bishop Gibbons High School where visitors and Cursillistas could view them. These photos and names are now in the Cursillo Archives.

In his leadership role, Bill Rae wrote in the “Buffalo Cursillo Newsletter” April, 1973: “There was a time when looking through old pictures like this would worry me, because there are so many faces I’ve never seen. My worry is that Cursillo had never affected these people. That’s obviously an illogical conclusion. A person’s absence from Cursillo functions means only that he feels able to satisfy his spiritual needs elsewhere.”

“There are many people who do just that. The important thing is not what they do in the Cursillo Movement, but what they do in the Church... I pray to continue to understand this more fully; and not worry whether someone has been lost to Cursillo. The only question that’s a cause for worry is when someone is lost to the Church.”

“So these are days when some reflection about our history might help to point the way toward a better unity in renewal in our diocese.”

“It’s really a sobering thing to look back at all those years, and to reflect on what the state of the Church was then and what it is now, and to reflect on what the Cursillo Movement was then and what it is now.”

These words were written 50 years ago and yet in some ways they are very pertinent today. We stand on the shoulders of those Cursillistas who have gone before us including those who have entered their 5th Day. When we look at the photos of our own Cursillo weekend, we remember the lay witnesses and spiritual mentors who inspired us.

How amazing to think of the many friendships we made on our weekend or on weekends we worked as a team member – friendships that have lasted a lifetime. Not to mention the friends we have made through Ultreya and working on Cursillo Sections.

As the Buffalo Cursillo Historian, I am looking for the following photos for the Archives. I am not asking for your Cursillo Weekend photo, unless you are willing to part with it, but for any one you worked. If you wish them back, I can make copies and return the originals. These will be labeled and become part of a digital archive as well.

Please let me know if you have any of the following photos your wish to share or donate: #72, #73, #101, #102, #103, #115, #122, #123, #124, #125, #127, #128, #129, #130, #132, #134, #135, #137, #140, #143, #151, #152, #169, #189, #190, thru #201, #203, #204, #205, #206, #207, #209 thru #217, #219 thru #224.

Carol Norwalk Stier (Buffalo Women's #7)  
Buffalo Cursillo Historian  
(716) 692-1606

### Pre-Cursillo Report:

Pre-Cursillo will be meeting frequently to begin phone contact with Sponsors and applicants and reviewing the current applications for the upcoming Spring Weekends.

Further preparation for the men's and women's weekend in May will be reviewed and communication will be made with the Team Rectors.

We will be contacting the Ultreya Coordinators and offer a time to meet with the Ultreya's to discuss sponsorship.

Please keep all in your prayers.

Lynn Lomanto and Donna Civiletto

### Cursillo Section:

To be provided next month.

### Post-Cursillo:

Happy New Year fellow Cursillistas! We will resume with reunion masses starting in February. The first Reunion Mass will be held on Friday February 10th at 7:00 PM at Nativity Blessed Virgin Mary in the Williamsville/Clarence area. The next Reunion Mass will be held at the Saints Peter and Paul Church in Williamsville on Friday March 10th at 7:00 PM. The following Reunion Mass will be at the St Jude the Apostle Parish in North Tonawanda on April 14th at 7:00 PM. Did you notice all the reunion masses are in the north towns this spring? Yeah, me too ... that is to avoid potential lake effect snow events that may hit the southern communities if the lake doesn't freeze.

If you sponsored a babe-chick or were a table leader on a recent weekend, please call the people you sponsored or who were at your table to personally invite to a reunion mass. These reunion mass's will likely be their first and they may be uncomfortable showing up if they don't know that there will be anyone there that they know.

**Make a friend. Be a friend. Bring a friend.**

We will be reaching out to each Ultreya and ask for volunteers to assist with planning a Grand Ultreya for the summer. A big challenge will be finding and reserving a suitable location. If you have any ideas or connections, please let us know.

Your Post Cursillo Coordinators,

Kate Emery – 716-598-5073, [emeryinbuffalo@roadrunner.com](mailto:emeryinbuffalo@roadrunner.com)

Mike Emery – 716-207-2834, [memery289@gmail.com](mailto:memery289@gmail.com)

### School of Leaders:

Our Second Touch weekend will be the S.O.L. event for the month of January. It takes place from the late afternoon Friday, January 27th through midday Sunday, January 29th at the Retreat Center of Stella Niagara in Lewiston NY. The theme of the weekend is our Cursillo Charism. More specifically, the charism of the 1st day (Friday) of our Cursillo weekend. Carol Ann Palesh has poured her heart and soul into this weekend for two (plus) years now since we were unable to have it last year. In my view, this weekend will be a much-needed reunion and fortification for our Cursillo community. See you all there!

In February, the School of Leaders will take place on the last Saturday of the Month (February 25<sup>th</sup>) from 10:30am to Noon. We will be returning to Annunciation School in Elma for this event. I expect it to be a joy filled event as the topic to be discussed will be "JOY in Cursillo". Additionally, we will tackle the important role of Sponsorship both pre- and postcursillo. So please mark your calendars now. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Marty Ruhland  
Call/Text: 716-481-0662  
Email: [rdservices@roadrunner.com](mailto:rdservices@roadrunner.com)

### Treasurer:

Ed Hackett  
Call/Text: 716-863-9851.  
Email: [ehbanker@yahoo.com](mailto:ehbanker@yahoo.com)

### Secretary:

Mary Bitka  
Call/Text: 716-984-0664  
Email: [marybitka@gmail.com](mailto:marybitka@gmail.com)

### Prayer Request:

Entered into their 5<sup>th</sup> Day:

Deacon Terry Harter (Men's #179) – Died 8/28/2022

Deacon Gordon Steinagle (Men's #18) – Died 9/7/2022

Deacon Lawrence Markowski (Men's #92) – Died 11/25/22

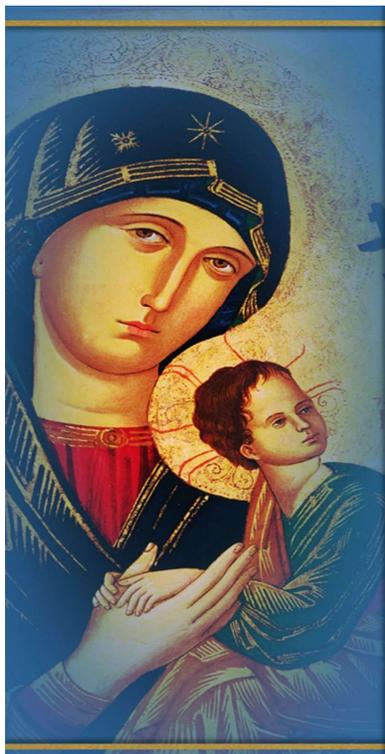
Violet Lochocki (Women's #171) - Died 12/2/22  
 Alice Zack (Women' #9) – Died 12/15/22  
 Marie Sutton (Women't #205) – Died 12/20/22  
 Betty Ciavarella (Women's #151) – Died 12/25/22

If you learn of a recently deceased Cursillista please notify Carol Stier at (71) 692-1606.

Please pray for the following:

Dennis Conklin	Deacon Gary Terrana	Arthur Ruhland	Bob Yager
Cole Coons	Karen Trimper and family	Mike Matyas	Teresa Barone
Cathy Derrick	Mary Mercurio	Fr. Joe Badding	Pam Hornung
Chelsea Ellis	Laura Ciavarella	Betty Ciavarella	Angelo Ciavarella
Marie Gannon	Mike Ryan	Timothy McCann	Joan Roberts
Mary Flanagan	Bill Heidle	Corinne Giermek	Dcn Joe Barr
Patrick Johnson	Kathleen Montesanti	Jim Youngers	Cathy Agugliaro
Tim Heidle	Kathy O'Keefe	Denise Bressette	Lynn Johnson
Diane Coughlin	Gary Banas	John Agugliaro	Marcia Moretti
Cheryl Besant	Bobby Lovenetti	Vinnie Barone	Linda Orszulak
Ellie Wieleba	Jean Claire Buchbinder		

Notify Marty Ruhland (716-481-0662), [rdservices@roadrunner.com](mailto:rdservices@roadrunner.com) ) for any names to add or remove from the prayer list.



## Novena Prayer

Mother of Perpetual Help, with the greatest confidence we come before your holy picture to be inspired by the example of your life.

We think of you at that moment when, full of faith and trust, you accepted God's call to be the mother of his Son. Help us, your children, to accept with joy our own calling in life.

When you learned that your cousin Elizabeth was in need you immediately went to serve her and offer your help. Help us, like you, to be concerned for others.

We think of you, Mother, at the foot of the cross. Your heart must have bled to see your Son in agony. But your joy was great when he rose from the dead, victorious over the powers of evil.

Mother of Sorrows, help us through the trials and disappointments of life. Help us not to lose heart. May we share with you and your Son the joy of having courageously faced up to all the challenges of life.

Amen.

 Redemptorist Communications