

Buffalo Cursillo

Updated December Newsletter

Lay Coordinator's Report:

Well, I hope everyone had a very blessed Thanksgiving. The week prior to thanksgiving, I flew to Florida to help my son drive back up to Buffalo so he and I could go on our annual hunting trip. His fiancé flew up the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Her wedding shower will be held the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Wedding will follow in April on an Island on the Gulf Coast of Florida.

While hunting and sitting in my tree stand, I couldn't help but say many prayers of thanksgiving. I thanked God for family and friends and the opportunity to hunt with my son. I thanked Him for my wonderful wife who has guided me closer to Him each and every day. I thanked Him for my two beautiful daughters who gave me my wonderful grandchildren. I thanked Him for my new home in Orchard Park, (even though I didn't want to move) LOL. I thanked Him for the 30 years I was able to spend in my previous home raising my children and making a very close relationship with my neighbor whom I continue to hunt with. I thanked Him for my Parish, Our Mother of Good Counsel, where we raised our children in a beautiful faith community. I thanked Him for Cursillo and the Cursillo community that changed my life forever. Without all of you I am not sure where I would be today. The Cursillo Community has been a blessing for Joan and me. It has really strengthened our marriage beyond belief.

Finally I thanked God for not giving up on me; for being patient, compassionate and

forgiving. I do pray that I have left a good legacy for my children to follow. Again I hope you all had a blessed Thanksgiving. Hope to see you all at the 4th Day Dinner. This newsletter will probably not reach you in time, so for those who could not attend, I wish to introduce you to our new Assistant Lay Director, Jerry Casillo. Jerry, I'm sure, will have all of your support in the coming years. I would like to express another Thank You to Randy and Lori Rackoczynski for their years of hard labor running the Cursillo kitchen. They have elected to step down at this time, so when you see them give them a hug and thank them.

We'll see you all at the next School of Leaders Dec 12th @ St. Vincent's starting at 6:30pm! The season of Advent has begun. While we are preparing ourselves for the birthday of our Lord, let us pray for those less fortunate. There are many ways we can help those in need.

Joan and I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy New Year!!!

God's Blessings,

Dennis J. Conklin #155
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Spiritual Director's Reflection:

Isn't it astounding that we are already entering the holy season of Advent and Christmas?

I'm ashamed to admit this, but I remember so many years of my life when I would simply overlook Advent. Perhaps it became easier just to become so enveloped in the busy flurry (*no pun intended*) of the Christmas preparations that I didn't devote

enough time or consideration to the holiness of the Advent season; it's rich meaning nor the powerful Scriptural messages and how they could and would eventually change my life. In other words, I wasn't **prepared** or even **preparing** for Christ. Now, I have come to savor Advent and treasure each week like it was a revered professor that guides, instructs and truly prepares me for the events to come. During the four weeks of Advent, we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth through prayer and reflection. But while we focus our contemplation on the First Coming of Jesus as Savior, we need to always anticipate His promised Second Coming.

And, most importantly, through the midst of all our preparations for Christmas, we should look for practical ways to observe, capture how to incorporate and never lose sight of Advent's holiness and its critical message throughout each day of the year. Advent symbolizes the coming of Christ and the hope, anticipation and joy that comes with celebrating not only His birth but His presence in our daily lives in all we do. To help you make the most of this Advent season, I invite you to regularly visit the following website www.ignatianspirituality.com/advent and follow along from week to week with their wonderful weekly reflections.

An Advent/Christmas Prayer for you All!

Dear Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for the shining star, the angel's song, and for the Holy Infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in this little Child. We behold His glory, and are bathed in His radiance.

Be with us as we pray, bless and sing praises to You this Christmas season, Oh Lord, as we kneel before You as shepherds,

*innkeepers, and traveling pilgrims in adoration and thanksgiving!
Grant us the peace and blessings of this Holy Season and the courage to bring its message to the world around us! Amen.*

A Happy and Holy Advent and Christmas Season to you all!

Deacon Greg Moran
Spiritual Advisor—Diocese of Buffalo
Cursillo Movement
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Pre Cursillo Report:

No Article Submitted.

Carolyn McNamara
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North Tonawanda, NY 14120
694-5949

Donna Foster
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627-4491

Carol Stier
1792 Eddy Drive,
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
692-1606

Cursillo Section:

My Friends in Christ: T'iss the season for all of us Catholics. As the song goes, it's the most wonderful time of the year!!!! The Section Team, Linda and I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas!!!!!!!!!!!!!! May God bring you much joy, peace and good health to you and your families?

At our last Section Meeting we had the pleasure of having both Rectors from both of the Weekends. First off the Weekends went very well. The more we continue to have Weekends the better we become as far as set up and the flow of the Weekend. Clean up and packing up went quit well but we still need more organization in our store room.

Problems on the Weekend: There weren't many. Some talks went a little bit too long and the hook had to be brought out. (Just Kidding) Our Talk Advisors need to be at the two Professors School to instruct the team about their talks and especially the times.

There seem to be a problem on the Women's Weekend with the bathrooms. I understand that women were waiting to get into the bathrooms and showers. The problem seems to stem from people trying to get into the kitchen to prepare food. We will look at other entrances to get in the building.

JOB OPENINGS: I'm looking for a Secretary to take the minutes for us at the Section Meetings.

We are also looking for people to take over our kitchen. On that note, we as a Cursillo Community would like to THANK Randy and Lori Rakoczynski for their many long hours and work over the years serving all of us those delicious meals. May God bless them with much joy and good health for all they have done serving our Community?

Merry Christmas to all of you and your families!!!!!!!

PEACE!!

Bob Piskun,
Cursillo Section Leader
38 Bernadette, West Seneca
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custodianbob@roadrunner.com

Post Cursillo

Important Fourth Day Ways to Keep FAITH & FAMILY 1st! All season long!

1st: Come join in the CURSILLO FAMILY GATHERING at 6:15 Friday, December 2nd for a festive REUNION & POTLUCK!

- Bring your food ready to serve & bring your table setting, & appetite!
- Bring your family (games welcome for the kids)
- Bring yourself, kick back & enjoy music memories from 215 & 216!

2nd: December 12th is the Cursillo School night. It is a week earlier to keep those later December weeks open for family. It begins at 6:30 with the topic "A practical guide & understanding of ULTREYA."

Have a blessed Advent,

Jack and Christine Thomann
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Williamsville, New York 14221
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School of Leaders

Thank you to all who attended our School of Leaders last month. We had a great discussion and sharing concerning permanent friendship groups. A special thank you to our new babe chicks that were in attendance. I hope we helped you to understand the importance of grouping. We will continue this month with our study of the Post Cursillo. Our focus will be on Ultreya. Chris Thromann who along with her husband Jack coordinates the Post Cursillo section will be presenting. Once again I urge all new babe chicks and those

of us who have not been to Ultreya in a long time to join us.

We will be meeting a week earlier than usual due to Christmas on Monday Dec.12, 2016 at 6:30 St Vincent's in Elma.

Mary Ann DeMaria

Coordinator

716-512-4765

mdemaria@roadrunner.com

School of Leaders

Monday, December 12 @ 6:30 pm
St. Vincent's

Ultreya Schedule for December

Bethany (1st & 3rd Thursday)

Thursday, December 1 & 15 @ 7:00 pm
St. Martha's Parish

Bethany Satellite Meeting (Last Tuesday)

Tuesday December 27 @ 7:00 pm
Annunciation Church, Selbert Hall
Clinton Street, Elma

Pueblo de Paz (2nd Wednesday)

Wednesday December 14 after 7:00pm
Mass @ St. Mary's Church,
6785 East Arcade Rd., East Arcade

Pueblo de Paz (Last Sunday)

Sunday December 25 @ 7:00 pm
Oatka Village Apts. Community Room
Linwood Ave, Warsaw (Next to YMCA)

Rainbow Vineyard (1st & 3rd Thursday)

Thursday, December 1 & 15 @ 7:00 pm
Witness speaker on 12/1 is Mary
Montero. 12/15 is our book
exchange/Christmas party.
Our Lady Czestochowa Church,
64 Center Ave, North Tonawanda

The Spirit of the City (1st & 3rd Thursday)

Thursday, December 1 & 15 @ 6:00 pm
The St. Jude Center in Downtown,
760 Ellicott Street, Buffalo. For information
please call Eva Tamoga @ 689-8431

Southtowns (1st & 3rd Thursday)

Thursday, December 1 @ 7:30 pm
Jim and Marie Sorrentino
4535 Hidden Hollow, Hamburg

Thursday, December 15 @ 7:30 pm

Ron and Cassie Haak
5 Royalcrest Rd. Orchard Park

Second Touch

It's that time again to mark your calendars for the annual Second Touch (more than a retreat) weekend for all Cursillistas.

The Date is January 27th to January 29th at Stella Niagara Center of Renewal, Lewiston NY. All Cursillistas are invited to attend. This weekend is a very special time for all of us, a time for prayer and community building, a time for sharing, for making new friends and reconnecting with old friends.

These weekends help us to continue our understanding of Cursillo. Each year we have a special theme. This year the Theme is "God' Gift of Grace".

The weekend starts on Friday night 7pm and finishes on Sunday afternoon about 1pm. To come for the weekend and stay at the center the cost is \$160. To come as a commuter \$85, come for all day Saturday \$50, or for Mass, dinner and Ultreya Saturday night \$15, or Saturday Ultreya at 7:30pm - no charge. Scholarship donations are welcome and needed for those who need financial help to attend.

To sign up or for more information call Carol Palesh 716-694-0942 or E-Mail grannypalesh@verizon.net

Sick List: Please pray for: Quinn children, Peggy Walders, Mary Ellen Klaja, Carol Ellis and Liz Pauley.

Notable News: Shirts can still be purchased by contacting Dennis or Joan Conklin at 827-2627.

Cursillo Name Tags or Shirts can be ordered by mailing a check with name, weekend # and color preference for nametags: Contact Dennis Conklin for shirts.

Newsletter Address:

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Secretariat Members:

Lay Director:

Dennis Conklin 480-2904

Assistant Lay Director:

Jerry Casillo

Spiritual Advisor:

Dcn. Greg Moran 863-3163

Pre-Cursillo:

Carolyn McNamara 694-5949

Donna Foster 627-4491

Carol Stier 692-1606

Cursillo:

Bob Piskun 982-8025

Post Cursillo:

Chris Thomann 583-2324