

Buffalo Cursillo

January Newsletter

Lay Coordinator's Report:

Blessings!

A New Year is upon us and we have Spring Weekends scheduled. Team Selectors are busy putting together teams. I ask all of you that if you are asked to be on a team to please pray about it. These weekends cannot be successful without each of us doing our part. Our next School of Leaders is January 16th. We've had good attendance so I hope all of you can make it. Well, I know everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year celebration. 2016 was a beautiful year for Cursillo. We welcomed in 34 Cursillistas after very successful weekends. We also have a new Ultreya, "Full of Grace" in the Elma area and there is a new one on the horizon in Clarence.

GOD IS GREAT!

After moving into our new digs, Joan and I began to unpack and then pack again for Florida. This coming year will be joyous for the Conklin's as our son will be getting married in April on an island off the coast of Florida.

AGAIN – GOD IS GREAT!

This will be short, but I need to share a Christmas story with you. We all know that Christmas is a time of sharing. Sharing presents, sharing our love for each other, helping the needy, looking for ways to help out the less fortunate. Joan and I belong to St. Vincent DePaul Society at our Parish and we handle Home Visits with the Eucharist to

those who cannot attend Mass. We delivered Jesus to them on Christmas morning and one lady was so overwhelmed that she told us "there is a special place waiting for us on the other side." What a beautiful thought she left us with.

Finally, another Christmas story. Joan and I after moving into our new home had to purchase a new vehicle as our other one was in need of many repairs. We spend Christmas Eve overnight with our daughter and her family. The topic of having to purchase a new car came up and Joan said, 'yeah, now were broke.' Our 6 year old granddaughter overheard this and left the room going to her bedroom. She came out a little later and handed Joan \$5.00 from her bank... How beautiful was this? She literally thought we were broke and didn't hesitate to help us.

TEARS, TEARS AND MORE TEARS.

If only the rest of us could look at the world and help each other. It takes a 6 year old. MAY GOD BLESS ALL OF US.

Yours in Christ,

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Spiritual Director's Reflection:

Spiritual Director's Reflection for 2017

I hope you all are having a wonderful Christmas Season!

For weeks after Christmas, how often will we be asked or will we ask others:

"How was your Christmas?"

It's a popular question/greeting that strongly implies that Christmas is over – it's past.

I raise this question in recognition that we are **event-driven** people. We tend to live our lives from one event to the next. We need only to look at our calendars – they're just full of events!

Both St Luke's and St John's Christmas Gospels were proclaimed twice during the Christmas octave. St. Luke describes the **nativity event** and St. John offers us a very important and different understanding of Christmas, life, and humanity by providing the context – ***I love how the two Gospels work so beautifully together!***

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. (John 1:1-4)

For St. John, **this is** the Christmas story - set in the context of creation, "In the beginning."

But, when considered together, don't both Gospels urge us to come to think of Creation as **not just an event of the past** but as the **ongoing** life of God **with** his people?

St. Gregory of Nyssa described Christmas as the **"festival of re-creation"**; God giving His own **life** to His people.

Through Mary – we receive the **gift** of **Christmas, Jesus!** And, through Jesus we have been given the power to **become children of God**; by the **will** of God.

Ponder this - just as Mary **carried** Jesus in her womb, we human beings **can become** the tangible, outward, and visible signs

and **carriers** of God's grace; His spiritual presence **in and to** the **world**.

The implications are profound; it will **change** how we **see** ourselves and one another, the way we live, our actions, and our words.

Christmas, the very **gift** of Jesus, should **never be limited to just an event...**

Christmas is a **life** to be **lived**, a **way** of **being** every day.

So, maybe Christmas **would be** better understood as a **verb** rather than a **noun**.

Instead of asking, "How was your Christmas?"

Perhaps we should be asking, "How are you **'Christmassing'?**"

May God's grace, peace and blessings be with you throughout the 2017.

God bless!

Deacon Greg Moran

Spiritual Advisor–Diocese of Buffalo

Cursillo Movement

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Call/Text 716-863-3163 or e-mail @

deacongregmoran@gmail.com

Pre Cursillo Report:

May God Bless you in 2017

A new year is upon us and God willing many Blessing's in 2017

We have Spring Weekends planned. Men's April 20 ~ 23 and Woman's May 18 ~ 21st. Both being held at Saint Vincent's in Elma.

Let's open our hearts and in this New Year, "Make a friend, be a friend and bring that friend to Christ" The Pre ~ Cursillo team is ready for those application to start coming in !!!

Many Blessings and Prayers for great Spring Weekends!

Carolyn McNamara, Donna Foster and
Carol Stier

Carolyn McNamara
1701 Eddy Drive,
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
694-5949

Donna Foster
4596 Chapman Parkway,
Hamburg, NY 14075
627-4491

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

Cursillo Section:

Hi Folks hope you all had a great Christmas!
I am asking our team for some help.

I'm looking for a Secretary to record our
minutes at The Section Meeting.

Also we are looking for a couple to take
over the Kitchen. If you know of anyone
please let me know.

As always, Thank You for your help!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Bob Piskun,
Cursillo Section Leader
38 Bernadette, West Seneca
716-982-8025
custodianbob@roadrunner.com

Post Cursillo

There will be no Reunion Mass for the
month of January.

The school of Leaders will meet on January
16th at 6:30pm.

The last weekend in January 27-29th is the
date for Second touch!

Jack and Christine Thomann
4290 Fireside Drive
Williamsville, New York 14221
jackt@tapc.net
cmtpsalm139@gmail.com

School of Leaders

I hope everyone had a very Merry
Christmas and are looking forward to a
wonderful Blessed New Year.

Let's begin with a recap of our December
meeting as always we began with the
Leaders Prayer and a short grouping.
Deacon Greg gave a great 20 min
presentation on developing interpersonal
skills. This will be very helpful for Table
Leaders on a weekend. He discussed how
each of us learn and respond differently
given different situations. This was followed
by a presentation from Jack and Chris
Thomann on Post Cursillo. It was a great
night and informative as well. Thank You to
all who were there and those that
presented.

Our next School of Leaders is Jan. 16, 2017
beginning at 6:00pm. As always it will be
held at St. Vincent's in Elma. All are
welcomed to attend no prior experience
necessary. The topic will be an explanation
of Regional Cursillo.

**IF THE WEATHER IS BAD PLEASE WATCH TV
FOR CANCELLATION NOTICE.**

Ultreya

Mary Ann DeMaria
Coordinator
716-512-4765

mdemaria@roadrunner.com

School of Leaders

Monday, January 16 @ 6:00 pm
St. Vincent's

January Reunion Mass

No Reunion Mass this month. See you in February!

Ultreya Schedule for January

Bethany (1st & 3rd Thursday)

Thursday, January 5 & 19 @ 7:00 pm
St. Martha's Parish

Bethany Satellite Meeting (Last Tuesday)

Tuesday January 31 @ 7:00 pm
Annunciation Church, Selbert Hall
Clinton Street, Elma

Pueblo de Paz (2nd Wednesday)

Wednesday January 11 after 7:00pm Mass
@ St. Mary's Church,
6785 East Arcade Rd., East Arcade

Pueblo de Paz (Last Sunday)

Sunday January 29 @ 7:00 pm
Oatka Village Apts. Community Room
Linwood Ave, Warsaw (Next to YMCA)

Rainbow Vineyard (1st & 3rd Thursday)

Thursday, January 5 & 19 @ 7:00 pm
Our Lady Czestochowa Church,
64 Center Ave, North Tonawanda

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

Thursday, January 5 & 19 @ 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, January 5 @ 7:30 pm
Jan. 5 Mike and Dawn Quinns
532 Southshore Lackawanna, 824-8347
Witness: Jamie Shephard

Thursday, January 19 @ 7:30 pm

Linda and Bob Piskun
38 Bernadette
West Seneca, NY 998-2503
Witness speaker: Diane Putt

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's 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 keep the following people in your prayers and palanca: Charlie McCarthy, Nina Prendergast, Marie Sorrentino, Betty Ciavarella, Joe Insana, Liz Pauly, Gary Tatu, the Quinn and Putt children.

Notable News: Some great news.....
God really does answer our prayers!!! This is Carolyn McNamara letting everyone know that after all the many prayers for the healing of my son Dex's left eye we had a wonderful exam this morning. Dr. Kevin Komm said his vision in the left eye is now 20 ~ 60 a vast improvement from the 20 ~ 400 a year and a half ago. His new glasses will improve his vision to almost perfect. Dex had 3 major eye surgeries by Dr. Lema from the Ross Eye Institute, what a wonderful Doctor.
Dex is a pretty laid back guy, but those who know me.....I was ready to do the "HAPPY DANCE" To all of you who have kept Dex in your prayers thank you and Praise God....
Love and Peace, Carolyn and Dex
McNamara

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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Cursillo Contacts Continue.

CURSILLO CONTACTS

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ULTREYA'S

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