



February 2022 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:

School of Leaders (SoL) To be determined.

Reunion Mass Date: February 11, 2022
 Time: **7:00 pm**
 Place: St. Jude the Apostle
 800 Niagara Falls Blvd.
 North Tonawanda, NY
Host: Rainbow Vineyard
Presider: Fr. Jim O'Connor

Fall weekends Men's: #227 April 7-10, 2022
 Women's: #228 April 28 - May 1, 2022
Support Mass: TBD
Welcome to 4th day June 4, 2022

Virtual Ultreya Bethany Ultreya meets virtually on Zoom the 2nd and 4th Thursday 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

[Lay Director's Report](#)

St. Paul – Patron Saint of the Cursillo Movement

Let's just get this out of the way: wouldn't it be great, JUST ONCE, for your favorite team – whoever they are – to WIN at the end? Sometimes it just seems that no matter how well you prepare, plan and 'play by the rules' the coin flip goes against you. As you may have heard, our long awaited Second Touch weekend had to be cancelled this year despite heroic efforts to get across the goal line. As they say in this game, there's always next year. But here's Good news! Christ has conquered death once and for all and that means there won't be any last second 'Oops!' to worry about. St. Paul is the patron saint of the Cursillo movement and for good reason. He knew better than anyone what it felt like to be facing defeat and yet be confident in victory. He stated his belief firmly when he declared in Romans: "If God is for us who can be against?" and "What can separate us from the love of Christ?" Rom: 8, 31-39. If you read the entire chapter, you'll see that nothing, NOTHING can separate us from the love of Christ and the sure victory that

He has gained for us on the Cross. Not tribulation, or persecution, or famine, or peril, or sword. He goes on to say that in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Let us therefore not be downhearted when the world fails us and man-made disasters threaten us. The darker the times, the more our light will shine. Let's make no excuses for not coming together to worship at the Reunion masses. Let's plan ahead to attend Ultreya and Group Reunion. Remember that the joy of the Lord is our strength!
The victory is ours!
Alleluia!

De Colores,

Terry Johnson – Lay Director
Buffalo Cursillo #191
(716) 908-9055

Spiritual Director:

My brothers and sisters in Christ:

Don't let the winter cold come to your hearts. As I look through the window, the ubiquitous white reminds me of the single digits, and I reflect on how easy it is, especially in this time of the year, to let the freeze reach our souls.

The cold is not only in the outdoors, but we feel it when we are in despair. COVID, vaccines controversies, Second Touch canceled, etc. are just some of the recent things that might lead us to despair.

Then I switch to the warmness of our Faith. The tongues of fire of a Holy Spirit that wants to dwell in us and to heat up our hearts, our souls, our lives. I feel the closeness of God, like Moses in the desert, next to the burning bush. So I see that the coldness of the heart is a work of the darkness. So I say: begone you coldness, I have Jesus fire in my life!!

And always remember...Christ 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
(continued)

After the first 3 Men's Cursillos, women were still going to Erie to make a Cursillo. It was time to start a women's weekend in Buffalo. Again, with the help from Erie, Buffalo Women's #1 was held at St. Mary's School for the Deaf on Main St. in July, 1966 with 53 candidates. It was a blessing for women not to have to wait to be accepted in Erie (as Erie was sponsoring their own women as well). Husbands were glad that they didn't have to travel to Erie.

Between August 1965 and October 1968, eleven of the fourteen initial Men's Cursillos in English and Spanish Men's #1 were held at St. Mary's Redemptorist Church at Broadway and Pine. (now closed). At least three Spanish Men's Cursillos were held at various other places.

During the same years Buffalo Women's #2 & #4, Men's #12 and Spanish Women's #1 and #2 were held at St. Mary's Business School on Broadway (now closed).

In 1967, Men's #10 and #13 and Women's #3 were held at St. Mary's High School in Lancaster.

Again, Lou had to line up places, get all the supplies for the weekend, and move them back to his house unless there were consecutive weekends in the same place. Lou and Liz continued to ask their neighbors for meals and help until there were enough Cursillistas to ask for assistance on the weekends. Once there were more Cursillistas in Buffalo everything was much easier. A Newsletter was initiated.

From the 30th Anniversary article by Lou and Liz Pauly in "The Buffalo Cursillo Newsletter", September 1995: "In the early days, there was not a lot of printed material available. 'The Leaders Manual', 'Christian Renewal', 'Questions and Problems' and 'Structures and Ideas' were first published in English in 1965. It was necessary to study and understand the structure of the Cursillo method. There was a tendency to want to change the basic format."

"The growth of the movement here was rapid, and we knew that we needed to study more. We began to get a better understanding and picture of what the movement was all about. We were even more convinced that we might have to work a little harder, study a little more. Others went to national workshops in other parts of the country as we had done and they then understood what we needed to do."

"So, we held our first Leaders' Workshop at Cana Grace Retreat Center in Alden in 1968. A team came from Michigan and Nevada. The Leaders' Workshop had a very powerful impact on the Cursillo in Buffalo. Along with the formation of a national structure, (the National Office and Secretariat in Texas), the workshops gave a unified direction to the movement throughout the country."

**** I am looking for any Buffalo Cursillo Newsletters from the 1980's and 2002****

Carol Stier
Buffalo Cursillo Historian
(716) 692-1606

[Pre-Cursillo Report:](#)

The Pre-Cursillo committee will be meeting this weekend to coordinate registration forms, contact sponsors, and send notification cards to candidates. Please continue to send in your candidate information. God bless.

Audrey DiMaria and committee
audimaria80@gmail.com

Cursillo Section:

We checked out our Master List and it shows over 6700 have lived their Cursillo weekend, that is amazing. We realize there are many who have entered their 5th day, but we believe that they are pulling for us up there. With that being said we have in the past shared the specifications to work a Cursillo weekend...Let's review. You obviously have had to live a weekend, be a part of a Permanent (Friendship) Group, attend Ultreya, have witnessed at an Ultreya (in order to give a talk on a weekend), have Spiritual Direction and attend Reunion Masses.

Based on this, the Ultreya Coordinators are contacted by our Team Selectors for possible Team Members. However, they may not know if you are in a permanent group or have Spiritual Direction or attend Reunion Masses (but are unable to attend Ultreyas). So, if you would be interested in possibly being called to work a weekend, contact your Ultreya Coordinator (that information can be found on the Cursillo website), or send an e-mail to Joan or Mary Ann. The Men's Team has been selected and they have already begun meeting, so please keep them in your prayers.

Team #227:

Rector: Randy Rakoczynski
Asst. Rector: Terry Johnson
Ideals: Peter Adornetto
Laity: Dan Burt
Study: Marty Ruhland
Action: Don Montero
Environment: Joe Biddle
CCA: Jerry Casillo
4th Day: Chuck DiMaria
Wardens: Mike Billoni, Justin Potter, Nick Brzezniak
Liturgist: Bob Sessamen and David Clifford
Spiritual: Deacon Alex Manunta (will be additional)

The Women's Team Selectors are still working on the Women's Team...Keep them in prayer.
Blessings,
Joan and Mary Ann

Joan Conklin and Mary Ann DeMaria
Section Team Coordinator
Call/Text Joan at 716-480-2964
Email: dnjconklin5303@gmail.com
Call/text: Mary Ann at 716-512-4765
Email: mdemaria@roadrunner.com

Post-Cursillo:

Last month we offered to assist those looking for a small group and we received an inquiry from one group. There used to be four dedicated members of this small group, but one **entered** his Fifth

Day, and another was ill and unable to group. I inquired with the Ultreya leaders for the geographic area of these men and found out there is no 'list' of small groups. I assume this is common in all Ultreyas. We are considering ways to survey Cursillistas to find groups which are looking for/willing to accept more people in their group or, on the flip side, to find those groups who have too many and would consider breaking into two groups, possibly open to a new Cursillista or two in each. We expect that most of you are comfortable where you and your small groups are, and we are not looking to disrupt what is working, but we would like to keep the Buffalo Cursillo movement strong by having as many involved as we can. We are considering a 'Survey Monkey' type of survey but are still **undecided**.

You are all invited to the Reunion Mass on Friday February 11th, at 7:00 PM at St. Jude the Apostle Parish, 800 Niagara Falls Blvd, North Tonawanda. Father Jim O'Conner will celebrate mass. The Rainbow Vineyard Ultreya **is hosting**, so please make an effort to attend and support our sisters and brothers in Christ.

Mike Emery - memery289@gmail.com (716-207-2834)
Kate Emery - emeryinbuffalo@roadrunner.com

School of Leaders:

We all have our daily routines. Part of mine is to read the daily readings and saint of the day writings on the Laudate app. Yesterday there was a terrific quote from St. Vincent Pallotti:

“Immediately after rising and throughout the day, all make the Sign of the Cross and renew their trust in God: to be strengthened by the power of the Father, to be strengthened by the wisdom of the Son and to be sanctified by the love of the Holy Spirit. And as they bless themselves, they may say: Of myself I can do nothing, with God I can do everything, I want to do everything for love of God.” Saint Vincent Pallotti

If you don't already know about the Laudate app, it is a resource you can install on your smartphone that provides an abundance of spiritual resources. Everything from the CCC to daily Mass readings and reflections on same among many other things. I highly recommend it if you don't already have such a resource.

I am targeting late March for our next School of Leaders. I am in the process of lining up speakers. The topic will be “Prayer”. What is it prayer? Why do we pray? How do we pray? My hope is to have a speaker from among our Cursillista clergy provide a talk from a liturgical/theological perspective. This followed by a lay person providing a witness to their prayer life.

Blessings to you,

Marty Ruhland
rdservices@roadrunner.com

Treasurer:

Ed Hackett
Call/Text: 716-863-9851.
Email: ehbanker@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Mary Bitka

Call/Text: 716-984-0664

Email: marybitka@gmail.com

Prayer Request:

Please keep the following people in your prayers and Palanca along with all Cursillistas who are ill or suffering:

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