

  
**Buffalo Cursillo**

December 2017 Newsletter

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

### **An open letter from Alice Appenheimer:**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

How blessed our family has been to receive your outpouring of prayers, Palanca, love and concern following Don's death. The best way to describe how we feel is overwhelmed, blessed and loved beyond measure.

So many of you have commented that Don was a faithful Cursillista and how much he loved and cherished our beautiful movement. Don never meant for that to happen, he was loved into it. His sponsors took their job very seriously and made sure they kept asking him to attend Reunion Masses, work Palanca teams, serve weekend meals, keep on grouping and attend Ultreya. Whatever would keep him involved in the Cursillo community. They "dragged" us along with them and little by little we became part of a living and breathing Cursillo community. They kept inviting us to grow and learn how to grow closer to God through understanding and living the Cursillo method of piety, study and action. Then he took what he learned and lived and shared it with others in whatever environment he found himself in.

Sponsors. Please, please do for your candidates what our sponsors did for us. Keep taking them to as many Cursillo functions as possible so they can become

that friend in Christ who will also bring others to Him.

The way the Cursillo community came together to honor Don and to care for us made a deep and lasting impression on our extended families. They couldn't help but see God's love being poured on us. Thank you, thank you, thank you for being the beautiful community you are.

De Colores! Alice Appenheimer

### **Lay Director's Report:**

I had the pleasure of attending the region III fall meeting in Pittsburgh on November 17 & 18. We stayed at the Mother House of Mt. Alvernia Sisters of Saint Francis.



Statue of St Francis & Jesus in the meeting room

Barb Bundy, the region III coordinator, gave a wonderful talk on friendship. We must

always remember that friendship is at the heart of our movement; friendship with God and with one another. We make friends and bring them to Christ on our weekends but also, we should cherish the established friends that we have here in our Buffalo Diocese Cursillo. I thank God for all the Cursillistas that I have befriended over the last 13 years.

Another blessing that I thank God for, is the excellent makeup of the Secretariat. These men and women are fully engaged and willing to work hard to bring more souls to Christ through our hallowed movement. The Holy Spirit is with us and guiding us. We have one last piece of the puzzle to put in place; a secretary. If you have the desire to serve God as part of this dynamic group, call me to discuss.

I will be visiting all the Ultreyas over the next couple of months. Several Ultreyas are held on the same night, so it will take some time to visit them all. I will carry that message of friendship, update you on all our plans and solicit ideas on how we can better serve our awesome God in this movement.

One of the things I love about Cursillo is the Joy by which we live our faith. Have a Joyful and Holy Christmas. Bring that joy & love of the baby Jesus to everyone God puts in your one square meter.

Peace,

Jerry Casillo  
803-9952  
miride@aol.com

### [Spiritual Director's Reflection:](#)

PREPARING for ADVENT and  
CHRISTMAS 2017

After a long year, try beginning this Advent by taking in a deep breath...

Each day, take in God's love, the light of Christ and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Exhale all your worries, your challenges, and your fears. During this time of Advent let us reflect on what we can do to prepare for the Lord.

- First, we can invite the Holy Spirit to help us prepare to see Christmas day as the newborn baby Jesus will see it.
  - What joy have we found today?
  - Where have we felt God's love?
  - What have we done today to prepare the way for Jesus being born into this world? For ourselves? For those around us?
- Each day between now and Christmas let's think about our life as if we were looking at it through the eyes of a child.
  - What do we see?
  - Was it something someone said or something we are grateful for?
  - What did we recognize as gifts we received from God?
  - Thank God for the gifts He has given to us throughout our lives.
- Throughout this Advent season, take a few moments each day to reflect on the times when God was especially present to us. Recognize and reflect on the feelings we experience during those moments.
  - What can we do differently to prepare our hearts for God's presence in the coming of Jesus?
  - Where did we feel God's loving arms wrapped around us the way Jesus felt Mary's arms?
  - How did we prepare ourselves to experience God's love, forgiveness, and hope?

- Use this special time to think about the times when God seemed to be hidden over this past year.
  - Where did we struggle to see the Messiah in our life—the way some failed to recognize the birth of the Messiah when Jesus was born?
  - When have we seen the need for love and didn't respond (maybe like the innkeeper), or the opportunity for forgiveness (to give or receive) and we walked away?
  - Ask God to forgive us for anything that moved our heart away from His love and from recognizing the birth of Jesus in our hearts/souls over this past year.
  - And ask God to help us to become the person that God created us to truly be.
  
- Finally, let us commit to opening our hearts for the *hope* of Jesus Christ in our lives by thinking about what we are most hopeful for in the coming years ahead.
  - Identify what we are looking forward to most during this Advent and Christmas season 2017.
  - Let's prepare to turn our hope to be like that of a child on Christmas morning!
  - What gifts are we willing to share to be hope for someone else this year?
  - Ask God to bless all in our lives as we prepare the way of the Lord, and ask God to be with us, our families and friends today and every day throughout the New Year!

*May God grant you peace and all good things throughout this Advent and Christmas seasons!*

*A Merry and Blessed Christmas to you and your families!*

Deacon Greg Moran  
 Spiritual Advisor—Diocese of Buffalo  
 Cursillo Movement  
 6056 Thornwood Dr. Hamburg NY 14075  
 Call/Text 716-863-3163  
[deacongregmoran@gmail.com](mailto:deacongregmoran@gmail.com)

### Pre Cursillo Report:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ -

With the celebration of the birth of Christ around the corner and the New Year around the bend that means upcoming weekends are on our radar. WEEKENDS are April 19 - 22 for the Men's Weekend and May 17- 20 for the Women's weekend.

Marge and I are here to help you sponsor your family and friends to experience the Cursillo weekend. We have brochures that you can hand out to help them decide if they would like to attend a weekend. We also have brochures and signs that can be placed on a resource table for events such as Mission or conferences. With the approval of your pastor, perhaps put literature in the back of your church.

We will be sending out letters to the men and women who were not able to attend the last weekend with the dates of the spring weekends, with hopes that with advance notice, they will be able to free their schedules.

We will pray for you as you discern who God is calling you to invite and we ask for your prayers as we prepare for the weekend.

May you be blessed with a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Diane-380-0187 and Marge-698-5828  
[bfloprecurso@com](mailto:bfloprecurso@com)

## Cursillo Report:

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ!!!!

First off Linda and I hope you all had a very Happy Thanksgiving. This is such a fantastic time of year. The seasons are changing, leaves on the trees and maybe we are to. If we could all take just one moment out of our lives and think of just one thing we are thankful for.

One thing I am thankful for is this Section Team. In the past we have done some spectacular things. Moved into a new home (St. Vincent's). Put on a few Cursillo Weekends. You know what a challenge it is to do a weekend in a new building. Saying goodbye to people that have served this Team for many years and searching for new people to take over and hit the ground running. I look forward in working with this Team once again going into the Spring Weekends.

Speaking of Spring Weekends, we have begun looking into a Men's Team. To my understanding there are going to be a couple of openings that we will need to fill. If you are asked to work any Team, PLEASE take some time and pray on it.

I'm looking forward to going through our supplies with Cathy Agugliaro and once again organizing our supply room. Anyone interested in helping out please contact me so we can be ready for the next set of weekends.

From now till April 18th seems like a long way off but as you know, time goes by so fast. Let's not put off what we can do today.

PEACE!!

Bob Piskun,  
Cursillo Section Leader  
716-982-8025  
[custodianbob@roadrunner.com](mailto:custodianbob@roadrunner.com)

## Post Cursillo:

### **SECOND TOUCH 2018**

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 26th to January 28th 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, for sharing, 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. ESSENCE - The Essence of Cursillo and the Essence of being a Christian. It is explained through TRUTH and LIFE. The Truth being the word of God. The LIFE being the living of the TRUTH.

To sign up call Carol Palesh 716-694-0942  
[grannypalesh@verizon.net](mailto:grannypalesh@verizon.net).

### **ULTREYA SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER**

#### Thursday December 7, 2017

**The Spirit of the City @ 6:00 pm**  
The St. Jude Center in Downtown,  
760 Ellicott Street, Buffalo

**Bethany @ 7:00pm**  
St. Martha's Parish  
10 French Rd, Depew, NY 14043

**Rainbow Vineyard @ 7:00pm**  
Our Lady Czestochowa Church,  
64 Center Ave, North Tonawanda 14120

**South towns @ 7:30pm**  
Carl and Elaine Stack's  
6490-37 Taylor Rd.Hamburg NY 14075  
649-4615

#### Wednesday December 13, 2017

**Pueblo de Paz:** Warsaw area after 7:00pm  
Mass

St. Mary's Church  
6785 East Arcade Rd., East Arcade

### Tuesday December 19, 2017

**Come to the Well** @ 7:00 pm  
contact Jack Thomann for location  
jackt@tapc.net or 583-2320

### Thursday December 21, 2017

**The Spirit of the City** @ 6:00 pm  
The St. Jude Center in Downtown,  
760 Ellicott Street, Buffalo

**Bethany** @ 7:00pm  
St. Martha's Parish  
10 French Rd, Depew, NY 14043

**Rainbow Vineyard** @ 7:00pm  
Our Lady Czestochowa Church,  
64 Center Ave, North Tonawanda 14120

**South towns** @ 7:30pm  
the Quinn's  
532 South Shore, Lackawanna

**Full of Grace and Pueblo de Paz:** end of  
month Ultreyas canceled due to Christmas  
and New Years eve.

Post Cursillo  
Curtis Boyle 430-1963  
Maria Boyle 785-3275  
3936 Jefferson Ave  
Hamburg NY 14075  
[mhens77@gmail.com](mailto:mhens77@gmail.com)  
[curtisbo@buffalo.edu](mailto:curtisbo@buffalo.edu)

Mike Cucinotta 310-2861  
Mary Beth Cucinotta 573-8205  
4077 Thornwood Lane  
Williamsville NY 14221  
[Mcucinotta@roadrunner.com](mailto:Mcucinotta@roadrunner.com)  
[Mbcucinotta@roadrunner.com](mailto:Mbcucinotta@roadrunner.com)

### School of Leaders:

Monday December 18<sup>th</sup> @ St Vincent's 6:30  
pm  
This month's school of leaders will feature a  
presentation by Gail Terrana on How to  
Make Study More Effective.

The school meets at St. Vincent de Paul  
Church, corner of Rice Road and Seneca  
Street, Elma. School starts at 6:30m and is  
usually done by 8:00.

Come and bring a friend.

Bill Gross  
[wfgross45@gmail.com](mailto:wfgross45@gmail.com)

**Prayer Request:** Please keep the  
following people in your prayers and  
prayer: Quinn children, Ron Lomanto,  
Denise Daniels. Mary Flanagan, Maria  
Boyle, Lorrie Rackozynski, Joe Insana, and  
Liz Pauley

### Cursillo Name Tags or Shirts

Contact Mike Szematowicz; 812 0633  
szematm@gmail.com  
List shirt size, color preference, weekend #.  
Mike will provide price and address where  
to send the check.

Looking to form a **permanent group** or add  
members to your existing group?  
Email Jerry at [BuffaloCursillo@gmail.com](mailto:BuffaloCursillo@gmail.com).

Looking for an **Ultreya** to attend? go to  
<https://www.buffalocursillo.com/> click on the  
Ultreya tab.