



December 2019 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.

Welcome to your 4 <sup>th</sup> day dinner	December 7, 2019 St Vincent de Paul. Doors open at 5:00 Dinner at 5:30. Bring your own place settings and serving utensils and a dish to pass
2 <sup>nd</sup> Touch	January 31 – February 2, 2019 Stella Niagara Center of Renewal, Lewiston NY. Call Carol Palesh 716-694-0942 Email: <a href="mailto:grannypalesh@verizon.net">mailto:grannypalesh@verizon.net</a>
Reunion Mass	January 10, 2020 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary 4375 Harris Hill Rd. Clarence, NY 14221 Hosted by Come to the Well
School of Leaders	February 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 from 10:00am to 2:00pm, St. Jude the Apostle, North Tonawanda
Spring weekends	Men's #227 April 23 – 26, 2020 Women's #228 May 14 – 17, 2020

### Lay Director's Report:

Welcome Women of Cursillo weekend #226!

All the Men and women who made the fall weekends will be reunited at the **Welcome to your 4<sup>th</sup> day dinner** December 7. This is a time to meet many of the active Cursillo members and spend time with the team and new Cursillistas. Additional details below in the Post Cursillo Section.

December 12 is the feast day of **Our Lady of Guadalupe**. As patroness of the Americas and Cursillo she holds a special place in all our hearts. Try to attend mass that day in honor of her and pray for all Cursillistas and for the advancement of the Cursillo movement in our diocese.

Sunday December 8 is the feast of the **Immaculate Conception**.

Carol Steir and I reached out to several Nuns who made Cursillo weekends asking them to work on the Women's team as a Spiritual Advisor. The response was very positive. We are hopeful that one can work the women's Spring weekend.

The Fall **Region III meeting** was held in Pittsburgh on November 1 & 2. The theme was centered around the actions of the Holy Spirit. Myself and Pat Tower attended from Buffalo.

I discussed the Holy Spirit's influence in our movement in the diocese of Buffalo. Key points were:

- That our society is growing farther away from God and His statutes.
- The number of true practicing Catholics are declining rapidly.
- The need for Cursillo is greater than ever.
- The Holy Spirit is working through us to evangelize a frail and scattered flock.
- We see the workings of the Holy Spirit in the new Cursillistas on the weekends and in their witness.
- We seek guidance from the Holy Spirit in making decisions in our movement. i.e. Step by Step understanding, implementation and conflict resolution.
- Guidance and assistance from the Holy Spirit in ministering to the “Far Away”.
- We are totally dependent on the Holy Spirit.

The 2020 Spring Region III meeting is scheduled for May 8-9, 2020 at Stella Niagara in Lewiston. The fall meeting is October 9-10, 2020 at Notre Dame in Rochester.

This year’s **2020 National Encounter** will be held in Omaha Nebraska on July 23 - 25, 2020. Details to follow. All Cursillista are invited to attend. I am planning to be there.

The Buffalo Secretariat meets on the third Monday of each month. If anyone wishes to attend to make suggestions, participate in planned events or discuss issues, let me know in advance. We will be happy to add your issue to the agenda. Next meeting December 16, 2019

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

This Advent “Prepare ye the way of the Lord”. I wish you and your loved ones a Holy Christmas.

Jerry Casillo  
Lay Director Buffalo Diocese  
Call/Text: 716 803-9952  
Email: [miride@aol.com](mailto:miride@aol.com)

### Spiritual Director’s Reflection:

To further our preparation for this Advent season – let us reflect on and appreciate what our Blessed Mother Mary can teach us about the coming of her Son - Christ our Savior.

As we approach the Christmas season and the joy, peace and hope that we feel through the Incarnation, when God’s Word was made flesh, we must first remember that it started with the courage and the faith-filled “yes” of a young Jewish girl, named Mary who conceded to conception by the Holy Spirit of Jesus, the Son of God.

That first, “Advent”, when Mary is very pregnant with Christ’s presence within her womb – can teach us so much about how we are to prepare and accept Christ in our lives and in our hearts.

So, wouldn’t Mary’s lessons be the perfect guide for us to more fully understand the purpose and meaning of Advent? Mary is our best guide to welcoming and receiving Jesus

In the Apostle’s Creed we profess that that Christ was “conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.” Mary’s “yes” was absolutely “holy”. She was still a young teenaged girl, yet by her courage, obedience and openness to submitting to the will of God.

It was through this type of faith and her humble submission, that she freely

cooperated with God in the work of human salvation so that the Son of God would make His entrance into human history.

- a. How does Mary's example show us how to welcome and receive Christ into our lives with complete openness to God's will?
- b. What can we learn from our Blessed Mother, Mary, about how we need to be completely vulnerable in God's Presence and actions in our lives?
- c. How does Mary's experience help us to understand that seeking and finding God is about our own openness to recognizing that God is already there for us – and always has been?
- d. Are we ready to submit to God and His will like Mary did?
- e. What is holding us back?

A Blessed Christmas to all!

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

### Pre Cursillo Report:

The Fall weekends are behind us and after the Holidays Marge and I will begin looking at the Spring dates.

As stated in previous emails, Marge and I would like to work with folks to hand over PreCursillo. Upon more prayer and reflection, we would like to form a small committee (say between 6 and 8 folks) that we can work share the job with. While some things work smoothly, there are still

areas for improvements. More hands make light work.

Please pray about being part of this committee. What is needed? Access to a computer, love of talking to people and sharing your joy of Cursillo.

Thank you for your prayer consideration. May God bless you with a joyful and peaceful Christmas season.

Diane-380-0187 and Marge-698-5828  
Email: [bfloprecursillo@gmail.com](mailto:bfloprecursillo@gmail.com)

### Cursillo Section

The Cursillo Section held our November meeting to conclude the two Cursillo weekends. The two Rectors Ed and Karen both reported that their weekends were a great success. We would like to thank them and their teams and everyone that was involved in the weekends, from set up on Thursday to clean up on Sunday. Also, for the prayers and Palanca from our wonderful community.

Hope to see you all at the welcome to the fourth day diner this Saturday doors open at 5:00 at St. Vincent's.

We are already making preparations for the Spring, keep your applications coming. There are two openings for positions on the section, the kitchen is looking for a co-coordinator and supplies is looking to be replaced. For more information about either of these positions please call or email either Joan or Mary Ann.

Joan and I want to wish everyone a Blessed and Holy Christmas and Joyous New Year

Remember Make a Friend Be a Friend and Bring that Friend to Christ.

Joan Conklin and Mary Ann DeMaria

Section Team Coordinator  
Call/Text Joan at 716-480-2964  
Email: [dnjconklin5303@gmail.com](mailto:dnjconklin5303@gmail.com)  
Call/text: Mary Ann at 716-512-4765  
Email: [mdemaria@roadrunner.com](mailto:mdemaria@roadrunner.com)

## Post Cursillo:

### **ULTREYA SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER**

Click here to view: [Ultreya dates](#)

### **UPCOMING EVENTS PAGE**

Click here to view: [Events](#)

### **“WELCOME TO YOUR 4TH DAY” REUNION AND DINNER**

Saturday, December 15, @ 5:30. Doors  
open at 5:00pm for setup.

St Vincent de Paul

6441 Seneca St, Spring Brook NY (Elma)

Come and socialize with the babe chicks  
from Men’s #225 and Women’s #226 and  
the entire Cursillo community. Bring a  
dish to pass as well as your plates and  
utensils. Drinks will be provided.

Bring hot food hot and cold food cold.

(There is a small microwave to reheat)

### **SECOND TOUCH 2020**

The annual Second Touch weekend (more  
than a retreat) is for all Cursillistas. Date is  
January 31 to February 2, 2020 at Stella  
Niagara Center of Renewal, Lewiston NY.

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.

This year we are continuing the “LIVING  
THE CHARISM SERIES” with “Cursillo  
a living Christian experience with others.  
The beginning - Thursday Night.”

The weekend starts on Friday night  
January 31 at 7 PM and finishes on

Sunday afternoon February 2nd about  
1PM. To come for the whole weekend and  
stay at the center overnight the cost is  
\$160. To commute is \$85. To stay all day  
Saturday \$55. For Dinner and Ultreya on  
Saturday \$25.

To Sign up or for more information call  
Carol Palesh 716-694-0942 or Email:  
<mailto:grannypalesh@verizon.net>

### **Contact Info:**

Mike Cucinotta 310-2861

Mary Beth Cucinotta 573-8205

4077 Thornwood Lane

Williamsville NY 14221

Email: [Mecucinotta@roadrunner.com](mailto:Mecucinotta@roadrunner.com)

Email: [Mbcucinotta@roadrunner.com](mailto:Mbcucinotta@roadrunner.com)

### **School of Leaders:**

We still have a lot of ground to cover in  
our study of the new “Step-by-Step”  
rectors’ guide. Before we can even  
consider the how, when, and what of  
implementation, we need to have a  
thorough knowledge of what has changed  
and why it has changed. Only by studying  
the document together can we make  
informed decisions.

The next workshop is scheduled for  
Saturday, February 8th, 2020 from  
10:00am to 2:00pm. Location will be St.  
Jude the Apostle, 800 Niagara Falls Blvd.  
North Tonawanda in their parish center.  
Lunch will be served. If there are any  
dietary restrictions, please let us know in  
advance.

come and bring a friend.

Bill Gross

Email: [wfgross45@gmail.com](mailto:wfgross45@gmail.com)

## Secretary:

May the gift of peace be with you.

Mary Bitka

Call/Text: 716-984-0664

Email: [marybitka@gmail.com](mailto: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 Casillo of any names to add or remove from the prayer list.

Romaine Lillis

Sister Antonita

Paul & Terrie Barone

Dan Siembida

Mary Lynn Heidle

Jonathan Scallon

Karen Stack Koneski

Mike Ryan

Timothy McCann

Mike McCarthy

Alice's daughter-in-law, Laura

Bill Gross

JoanRoberts

Mary Flanagan

Joe Insana

Dell Leaderstorf

Bill Heidle

Corinne Giermek

Larry Lomanto

Dcn Joe Barr

Jim Youngers

Tim Heidle

Nan

Owen Mangan

Gary Hall

Michael Volk

Michael Ryan

Kathy O'Keefe

Denise Bressette

Lynn Johnson

Diane Coughlin

Deacon Dan McGuire

Bishop Malone

Gary Banas

Father Jim Walter

John Agugliaro

Marcia Moretti

Amelia and Kent

Cheryl Besant

Quinn children

newborn Marylynn Joanne

Toni Sessamen

Mary Mercurio

Father Sam Venne

Elaine Stack

Bobby Lovenetti

Marie Sorrentino

Frank Gallagher

Pat Abraham

Vinnie Barone

Linda Orszulak

Eva Tamoga

Ellie Wieleba

Lou and Liz Pauley

Lorrie Dickerson

baby Finleigh

Doug Shrout

Dan Graesser

Leo Reiter

Jeannette Shields daughter in law

## Cursillo Name Tags or Shirts

Contact Mike Szematowicz;

Call/Text: 812 0633

Email: [szematm@gmail.com](mailto:szematm@gmail.com)

List shirt size, color preference, weekend #. Mike will provide price and address where to send the check.