



February 2020 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	February 8 th , 2020 from 10:00am to 2:00pm, St. Jude the Apostle, North Tonawanda
Reunion Mass	February 14 th 2020, St Anthony Church, 306 Ingham Ave. Lackawanna, Hosted by South towns Ultreya, Presider: Father Dave Galavin, Witness: Dawn Quinn
Spring weekends	Men's #227 April 23 – 26, 2020 Women's #228 May 14 – 17, 2020
Region III meeting	May 8 & 9 Stella Niagara Retreat Center, Lewiston NY. All are invited.

Lay Director's Report:

School of Leaders

This Saturday we are hosting the third School of Leaders explaining the Step by Step leader's manual. All Cursillistas should attend, especially those who have a vested interest in how our weekends are conducted. (see above for details)

Second Touch

We just completed another wonderful Second Touch Weekend attended by 70 Cursillistas from Buffalo and a few from Rochester. This was a continuation of the "Living the Charism" series: It focused on "The beginning - Thursday Night". We covered the Thursday night schedule, rollos, and meditations learning what our founder Eduardo Bonnin's specific purpose was for each.

At the start we all introduced ourselves and answered the following question: "How did you feel or what were your

thoughts when you arrived on Thursday night for your Cursillo weekend? Take a moment now to ask yourself that question.

As I would have expected, many said that they were excited and were looking forward to a spiritual experience. However, it was a revelation to me to hear that a great number, maybe even the majority said that they were nervous and felt uncomfortable. A couple dozen of the 70 said they did not want to be there and wanted to leave. Some felt pressured to attend by their spouse or their sponsor. Some felt trapped. Others did not like the fact that they were stuck for 3 days with 30 or 40 complete strangers. This was a real eye opener for me. I had no idea that such anguish was prevalent among a good majority of the candidates. The good news is that just about all of them said they loved the weekend in the end and were glad that they stuck it out.

This indicates the value and wisdom of something we learned at the last National Encounter: When sponsoring someone, and prior to the weekend, we should bring them to an Ultreya or reunion mass or to your permanent group or even one of the team formation meetings. Here they can meet some Cursillistas, get acquainted and not feel so overwhelmed or alone or uncomfortable when they arrive Thursday night. It also indicates the importance of a sponsor explaining to their candidate what to expect on the weekend in as much detail as they ask for. And of course, we should tell them that they won't fully understand the beauty and blessing until they experience it for themselves.

The Cursillo weekend is meant to transform us and lead to a conversion of mind and heart. Thursday night prepares us for this.

We reviewed the Preliminary and Know Yourself Rollos, the Bankruptcy story, and the prodigal son and Three glances of Christ meditations, and the Stations of the cross. These were discussed in terms of their meaning and objective. In general, they are meant to get the new Cursillista to think about who they are and how they are living their life.

- To make them aware there is an effective method to everyone's search for happiness and love.
- What are their priorities and are they participating in God's plan for their life?
- To see what life is like with Christ and without Christ.
- To assess the assets and liabilities in our book of life.
- To search for God beginning inside your own heart.
- To examine our conscience and encourage reconciliation.
- To dwell on Our Father's love and mercy.

These ideas and exercises influence their frame of mind and prepare them spiritually for what is to come next.

All the Second Touches are educational and inspiring. This one to me was exceptional. I urge everyone to consider attending next year's Second Touch on the first weekend of February 2021.

Pro-Life

Here is a link to a very informative homily by Fr. Jonathan Meyer the Sunday after the MARCH FOR LIFE in Washington DC this year. He discusses President Trump's address to the marchers and gives examples at the end of the homily of who we should be praying for. Click: [Pro Life Homily](#)

Ultreya

Please pray for our Ultreyas and their coordinators. A couple are experiencing difficulty and possible disbandment. I urge all to support and addend your Ultreya as often as you can. See the schedule in the Post Cursillo section below.

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

Spiritual Director's Reflection:

On the third Sunday in January, we heard when John the Baptist first saw Jesus he declared:

"Behold, the *Lamb of God*, who takes away the sin of the world."

His introduction of Jesus as a *lamb* definitively *consecrates* this prophetic sign of the *Lamb*.

Within the *most holy sacrifice of our Mass*, just before communion, the priest solemnly pronounces and makes holy these *same words* used by the Baptist to

announce the *Messiah* to Israel/us when he says:

"This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb."

This first sentence is taken directly from the Gospel that day; the second comes from the Book of Revelation (19:9).

This ancient proclamation:

- Emphasizes the importance of this Jewish conception of *the Lamb of God!*
- Reveals the Lord in his Body both then and now -
- Announces the *real presence* of Jesus in the Eucharist to the entire world!

With these words, John *bears witness* to Jesus and expresses his faith in the Son of God, made man, before *all* who hear!

As disciples of Christ, we bear witness to Jesus and express *our* faith in the *real presence* of the Son of God every time we attend/participate at Mass and worthily *receive* the Eucharist.

Just like the Baptist, when the celebrant heralds "*Behold, the Lamb of God!*", within our Mass, he indicates the presence of Jesus – signifying that the *bread and wine have been consecrated into the real presence of the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus!*

There is no more authentic and beautiful witness that *we could offer God* than that of our *willing/loving* attendance with *full participation* at Mass and through the reception of the Eucharist; not out of obligation, but out of true love and adoration for our God!

When we do -

- We become *surrounded* by God's angels and His Holy presence –
- And, in *return*, He *strengthens* us with His graces.

Earlier, I used its more formal name "*The Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass*" instead of just "the Mass" ... because the phrase contains nearly everything that we need to know in order to understand *the very reason we should attend Mass* as often as possible...

And, unless we come to understand this most fundamental/central aspect of the Mass, *nothing else makes sense*.

But, when we do ... *everything makes sense!*

That is, *The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass* is no less than Christ's *ultimate sacrifice*; it's not a:

- Figurative sacrifice
- Mere remembrance of something long ago

Nor is it a clever metaphor!

At every Mass we are *witnessing and participating* in the very *real* and very *present sacrifice to God*.

Every Mass is the sacrifice of the *Lamb of God* – Jesus' very life, His sufferings and His death; *it's Calvary continued*.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the most powerful atonement for our sins.

It's where:

- God forgives the venial sins which we have *not* confessed, providing for our negligence and omissions,

- The power of Satan over us loosens.
- We afford the souls in Purgatory the greatest possible relief when we pray for them.
- We join our sufferings/sacrifices to Christ's, as we offer our lives/crosses—as **living** sacrifices in the spiritual worship of God each time we participate.
- We kneel amidst a multitude of holy angels who are always present at every sacrifice of the Mass with **reverential** awe.
- Jesus makes us children of the Father by being baptized in the blood of the Lamb

Most simply put – the Mass and Eucharist is **where** we “Behold the Lamb of God”.

May we **acquire** that true and **reverential awe of the angels** and never become **complacent** to the extraordinary **sacrifice** of each Mass and the mysterious and miraculous gift of **every Eucharist**.

Here's the reason why...

For at the hour of our death, before God's throne – every Mass/Eucharist we have ever attended/participated/consumed, will be our greatest **consolation and witness** because every Mass goes both **before** us and **with** us to judgment ...**pleading** for our pardon!

God's love and mine!

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

Pre Cursillo Report:

Marge and I will be sending out inquiries this week to get a sense of how many men and women are interested in attending the Spring weekends. Please keep the possible candidates in your prayers.

Marge and I have had (2) individuals show an interest in shadowing Pre-Cursillo. Yeah! We still have a few people to ask personally. It is my vision to have about 5 to 6 people who will be able to handle the various stages of Pre-Cursillo from receiving the applications to running the prayer service on Thursday night.

I believe that a bigger group will enable Pre-Cursillo to prepare for weekends in the event we are called to work a weekend and/or should anyone need to step away for family emergencies.

We will be praying for you, please pray for us.

Diane-380-0187 and Marge-698-5828
 Email: bfloprekursillo@gmail.com

Cursillo Section

The Cursillo Section is pretty quiet at this time of the year. We are looking for a co-coordinator for the Kitchen and a replacement for Cathy Agugliaro as supply coordinator.

We hope you are praying about and sending in applications for the next set of weekends in the spring. God Bless you all.

It is with great pride I announce that our friend Joan Conklin has become famous in her condo complex in Florida, she won the chili cook off. Way to go Joan!!!!

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

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:

REUNION MASS

February 14, 2020 7:30 pm

St Anthony Church

306 Ingham Ave. Lackawanna,
Hosted by South towns Ultreya,
Presider: Father Dave Galavin,
Witness: Dawn Quinn

March 13, 2020 Friday, 7:30 pm

Annunciation

7580 Clinton St. Elma
Hosted by Full of Grace Ultreya

ULTREYA SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

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

UPCOMING EVENTS PAGE

Click here to view: [Events](#)

Mike Cucinotta 310-2861
Mary Beth Cucinotta 573-8205
4077 Thornwood Lane
Williamsville NY 14221
Email: Mcucinotta@roadrunner.com
Email: Mbcucinotta@roadrunner.com

School of Leaders:

The time is rapidly approaching for making decisions about the new Rector's Guide. Please make every effort to be as informed as you can about these important changes, and let members of the secretariat know what you think.

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

Secretary:

May the gift of peace be with you.

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 Casillo of any names to add or remove from the prayer list.

Marie and Jim Sorrentino
Deacon Norm Foster
Marie Gannon
Loretta Sterling
Betty Reiter
Dan Siembida
Mike Ryan
Timothy McCann
Mike McCarthy
Alice's daughter-in-law, Laura
JoanRoberts
Mary Flanagan
Joe Insana
Dell Leaderstorf
Bill Heidle
Corinne Giermek
Larry Lomanto
Dcn Joe Barr

Jim Youngers
Cathy Agugliaro
Shaun Vona
Tim Heidle
Owen Mangan
Sister Antonita
Dennis Hodur
Michael Volk
Kathy O'Keefe
Denise Bressette
Lynn Johnson
Diane Coughlin
Deacon Dan McGuire
Gary Banas
John Agugliaro
Marcia Moretti
Cheryl Besant
Quinn children
newborn Marylynn Joanne
Mary Mercurio
Paul & Terry Barone
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
Doug Shroul
Dan Graesser
Leo Reiter

[Cursillo Name Tags or Shirts](#)

Contact Mike Szematowicz;
Call/Text: 812 0633
Email: szematm@gmail.com

View details at: [Cursillo Wearables and Name Badges](#)

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