



**Buffalo Cursillo**

March 2018 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.

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

February was a very busy month.

Deacon Greg and I met with Bishop Malone to discuss ways to grow our movement in the Buffalo diocese. Deacon Greg put together a power point presentation on our movement's history, strengths, challenges, and plans for the future. We solicited ways that the Bishop might assist us in our action efforts going forward.

The Bishop is very supportive of Cursillo and offered to help us in whatever ways that he can. Despite his demanding schedule he offered to celebrate a Cursillo reunion mass with us on Friday August 17. He also invited Deacon Greg and I to attend upcoming Presbyteral and pastoral council meetings to promote our movement, establish a presence in more parishes, and enlist the support of all diocesan priests.

In summing up our past participation I was surprised to discover that 5776 people have made Cursillo weekends in the Buffalo diocese since 1967. Of these 81 were Priests, 47 Deacons, 202 Sisters, 2474 Men, and 2972 Women. What a rich history we have.

Please pray for our Bishop and ask God to lead and inspire us in our efforts to promote this blessed Catholic movement. All for the glory of God and the salvation of many.

We conducted two Strategy/Planning meetings with the Secretariat members. We are holding a third brain storming session on

Monday March 5 with a broader base of active Cursillo members. From these meetings we hope to find ways to make Ultreya, group reunion and School of leaders more relevant and engaging for all Cursillistas. If you have thoughts and suggestions on how to improve our Cursillo Movement please call, text or email me. Every idea will be discussed and prayerfully considered.

Sadly, for us but joyful for them; two of our sisters entered their 5<sup>th</sup> day; Shelia Steiner and Mary Ann Pollock. Shelia's funeral mass at OLC was jam packed with Cursillistas and Kairos members. I was not able to attend Mary Ann's mass.

If you have masses said for any reason for Cursillistas at your local parishes, send me the date, time and Church. I will post it on the website so all of us have the opportunity to attend. <mailto:BuffaloCursillo@gmail.com>

We had a beautiful Cursillo reunion mass at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on February 9. Even though the weather was a little nasty and so many Cursillistas attended Sheila Steiner's mass that morning, the attendance was still very good.

Please join us on March 9<sup>th</sup> for the next reunion mass at Sts Peter and Paul on Main St in Williamsville.

I continue to make the rounds of our 7 Ultreyas in the diocese. This month I attended Bethany and Spirit in the City. The only one I have not gotten to yet is Pueblo de

Paz in Warsaw on the last Sunday of the month. Twice I attempted to go but each time something came up. I haven't forgotten you, I will get there soon I hope.

I was thrilled to see a large representation of Cursillistas at the 7th annual benefit banquet for St Gianna Molla pregnancy Outreach Center. Supporting prolife organizations like this, Project Rachel, 40 days for life, March for life, etc is great "action" and truly God's service on earth. It made me proud to be a Cursillista.

Please join us at the March 17 magnificat with our own guest speaker Marge Fetterman. Details at <https://www.buffalocursillo.com/magnificat>

We continue to make improvements to the website <https://www.buffalocursillo.com/>. Rob is adding a Calendar that should be up and running in the next week or so. Thank you for your patience!

Peace,  
Jerry Casillo  
Call/Text 716 803-9952  
miride@aol.com

### Spiritual Director's Reflection:

Nearly one third of our Lenten season has already passed. Are we fully engaged in what we have chosen to be our Lenten practices for this year?

Or, are we still pondering what to do, give-up or work on? There's still time!

Many of our Scriptures have been about "**being tested**." Recently, we heard about Jesus being tested in the wilderness and, just last week, Abraham was tested by being asked to offer his son Isaac.

Doesn't that sound similar to what **we** sometimes experience in life? It seems like we are always being tested and tempted.

Although Jesus was the **sinless** Son of God, He **still** experienced the full range of temptations that we do. Jesus knew what it meant to struggle.

But, as Mark tells us, He was **not** alone in that struggle – "The angels **ministered** to Him."

And, although we can't imagine what that looked like,

- Isn't it a **reminder** that, even in His worst trials, Jesus was **never** abandoned by God or **without** support.
- Shouldn't it **be** a **reminder** to us that, that even in **our** worst trials, **we** are **never** abandoned or **without** God's presence, grace and the prayers of our guardian angel who ministers **to us** and **protects** us.

God ensured that Jesus had the sustaining presence of His angels to renew and strengthen Him...

And, therefore, isn't that a **reminder** that just as the angels offered Jesus this loving, caring support that **we are also called to offer the same to each other**.

***In fact, don't the angels model for us what we are meant to be for others in need?***

That same Gospel concluded with a ringing cry that should resound in us throughout Lent: "**Repent and believe in the Gospel!**"

While **repentance** should always be at the **center** of Christian living, it takes on a particular focus and **intensity** during Lent.

Our repentance is precisely the **antidote** needed when we are menaced by the "**wild animals**" of **temptations** and **trials**.

To help us along, we are *gently* but *insistently nudged* toward this repentance by God's angels who *accompany* us on this journey.

- Angels help bring us *back* to the right path when we are *weary* and *discouraged* or when the “wild animals” have *worn us down* and *left* us spiritually wounded and bleeding.
- God's angels strengthen us when the *call* of the wild beasts *lie* to us and tell us that we are: *too broken, too sinful, too far gone* to be *redeemable*— and that God could *never* love us, be interested in us, and would certainly *spurn* our attempts to be with Him.

Against those deceitful voices, the *stronger* promptings of the *angels call us back* ... *fortify* us... *renew* our hope ... and *remind* us that *no one* is *ever* beyond the reach of God's *mercy*.

The wilderness can be a threatening and frightening place.

But God's angels are always there standing alongside us on our journey;

Their prayers of love and compassion are both for and with us; comforting and guiding us with their whispering voices that proclaim *God's mercy* and *reassure* us when we are *dejected/uncertain*.

So, no matter what we choose as our approach to this holy season of Lent, let us ground our preparations for the sacredness of Holy Week and joy of Easter by renewing our commitment to *“repent and believe the good news.”*

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)

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## Pre Cursillo Report:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ -

So, you want to sponsor someone, but not quite sure how to go about it. We have some questions for you to ask yourself about your candidate.

Is this person someone you know well?

Is your candidate desiring to be more Christ like?

Is this person wishing to bring Christ into their family and workplace?

Are they open to growing in their faith as a community?

If you can answer YES, then extend an invitation for them to make a weekend.

If you have never sponsored someone, consider finding a seasoned Cursillista or an Ultreya to help you.

Pray for direction from the Holy Spirit on whom to invite.

Walk the Talk

Your candidate NEEDS you after the weekend to get them involved in the community.

One way to be Christ-like is to remember that "He chose individuals to become "fishers of men". Can we be "fishers of men"?"

God Bless,  
Diane-380-0187 and Marge-698-5828  
[bfloprecurcillo@gmail.com](mailto:bfloprecurcillo@gmail.com)

## Cursillo Section

My Friends in Christ:

I wish you all well during this preparation of our Lenten Season. We are also in preparation of the Spring Weekends. Do you have a Candidate yet? If you do we need their application as soon as possible. The Section Team is ready and fired up about these Weekends. The Men's Team has been selected and has had their Professors School meeting. PLEASE PRAY FOR THEM!!!!!!!

Lisa Gauthier (585-313-0853) our Palanca Team Selector has started putting a Team together for the Men's Weekend. Have you gotten a call from her? Are you thinking or praying about it? Well get off that fence and come enjoy the work Jesus has asked you to do, you won't regret it.

Mary Kay Schwab is our Kitchen Crew Chief. I'm sure she is busy planning all those delicious meals for the weekend. Stop in and give Mary Kay a hand in the kitchen or better yet give her a call, 783-2894 and offer your help for the weekend. **YOU WON'T BE DISSAPOINTED!!!**

April 18th at 5:30pm we will start the set up for the Men's Cursillo Weekend. Please come in and give us a hand. Many hands make light work.

My Friends: May God grant you PEACE to you and your families!!

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

### Post Cursillo:

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

### **REUNION MASS**

#### **Sponsored by:**

Bethany & Rainbow Vineyards Ultreya

**Where:** Sts. Peter and Paul  
5480 Main St. Williamsville

**When:** 7:30pm March 9, 2018

Come join us, our presider Father Jim O'Connor, and our witness Carol Stier for an evening of faith and fellowship. Mass will be followed by a social, please bring a snack to pass, drinks will be provided.

## **ULTREYA SCHEDULE FOR MARCH**

### 1st Wednesday March 7, 2018

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

### 2nd Wednesday March 14, 2018

**Pueblo de Paz:** Warsaw area after 7:00pm  
Mass St. Mary's Church, 6785 East Arcade Rd., East Arcade

### 3rd Thursday March 15, 2018

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

**Rainbow Vineyard @ 7:30pm** Our Lady Czestochowa Church, 64 Center Ave, North Tonawanda 14120

**South towns @ 7:30pm** Mike Dawn  
Quinn's 824-8347, 532 South Shore,  
Lackawanna, Witness: Mike Quinn

### 3rd Tuesday March 20, 2018

**Come to the Well @ 7:00 pm** Tom and  
Linda Hall, 4260 Oakwood Dr. Williamsville  
14221 call 583-2320

### 3rd Wednesday March 21, 2018

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

### Last Sunday March 25, 2018

**Pueblo de Paz:** Warsaw area @ 7:00pm St.  
St. Michael's Church Hall at 171 North Main Street, Warsaw, NY

### Last Tuesday March 27, 2018

**Full of Grace @ 7:30 pm** Annunciation Church, Selbert Hall, 7580 Clinton St, Elma

### **Contact Info:**

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### **School of Leaders:**

Monday March 19 at St. Vincent de Paul  
Church, Springbrook, 6:30 pm.

This month's School of Leaders will feature a  
presentation by Deacon Mark Leaderstorf on  
the third leg of the Cursillo triad, action.

Deacon Mark will focus on being where you  
are called to be and doing what you are called  
to do.

Come and bring a friend.

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

### **Secretary:**

I was reading today from the Gospel of Luke  
Ch. 5. In verses 36 to 39 Jesus tells a  
parable: <sup>36</sup> “No one tears a piece out of a new  
garment to patch an old one. Otherwise, they  
will have torn the new garment, and the patch  
from the new will not match the old.” <sup>37</sup> And  
no one pours new wine into old wineskins.  
Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins;  
the wine will run out and the wineskins will  
be ruined. <sup>38</sup> No, new wine must be poured  
into new wineskins. <sup>39</sup> And no one after

drinking old wine wants the new, for they  
say, “The old is better.”

I didn't quite understand this parable. In my  
study bible, the brief discussion of this  
parable is what I found so refreshing. It  
states: “Wineskins” were goatskins sewed  
together at the edges to form watertight  
bags. Because new wine expands as it ages,  
it had to be put in new, pliable wineskins. A  
used skin, having become more rigid, would  
burst and spill the wine. Like old wineskins,  
the Pharisees were too rigid to accept Jesus,  
who could not be contained in their traditions  
and rules.

Christianity required new approaches, new  
traditions, new structures. Our church  
programs and ministries should not be so  
structured that they have no room for a fresh  
touch of the Spirit, a new method, or a new  
idea. We, too, must be careful that our hearts  
do not become so rigid that they prevent us  
from accepting the new way of thinking that  
Christ brings. We need to keep our hearts  
pliable so we can accept Jesus' life-changing  
message.

May the Lord bless and keep you,  
Marty Ruhland  
Secretary  
[rdservices@roadrunner.com](mailto:rdservices@roadrunner.com)

### **Prayer Request:**

Please keep the following people in your  
prayers and Palanca:  
Kate Emery's dad, Scott Crowe, Bob and  
Cheryl Besant, Audrey DiMaria, Toni  
Sessamen, Ellie Wieleba, Lou and Liz  
Pauley, Lorrie Dickerson, Diana Sotarczak's  
friend Carol, Doug Shrou, Rosebud Casillo,  
Mary Flanagan, Mike Quinn, Mary Flanagan,  
Joe Insana, Donna Foster, Corinne Giermek,  
Leo Reiter, Quinn children, Ron Lomanto,  
Denise Daniels, Lorrie Rackozynski, Helga

Pollak, Mary Lynn Heidle's daughter in law:  
Jeannette Shields, baby Finleigh, Vinnie  
Barone, Mark Schweizer's dad, Mary  
Dewald's nephew's daughter Amelia and  
friend Kent, Ilona Klein's friend Bella,  
Marcia Moretti, Marie Sorrentino, the team  
and candidates of Men's weekend 218 and  
Women's 220.  
Harold Leverentz 5<sup>th</sup> day

### **Cursillo Name Tags or Shirts**

Contact Mike Szematowicz; 812 0633

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

List shirt size, color preference, weekend #.

Mike will provide price and address where to  
send the check.