



Buffalo Cursillo

October 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:

Virtual Ultreya for those who cannot get out and those who have moved out of town.
Thursday October 13 & 27 Email Lynn for the meeting ID;
Lomantolynn@gmail.com

Reunion Mass Friday November 11, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
4375 Harris Hill Rd. Williamsville, New York 14221 Hosted by Come to
the Well, Presider: Father Ronald Sajdak,

Spring weekends Men's #227 April 22 – 25, 2021
Women's #228 May 20 – 23, 2021
Support Mass; to be determined
Welcome to 4th day June 5, 2021

Lay Director's Report:

Mother of God Novena for our Nation

We would like to ask all Cursillistas to join us in praying Novenas for the many needs in our world today. Each month we will post a different Novena on <http://www.BuffaloCursillo.com> that we ask all to pray in petitioning, praising, thanking or seeking mercy from Our God. They will mostly be related to Buffalo Cursillo with a few exceptions such as this month's novena.

This Novena was posted by EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network). There is a long introduction discussing the history of Catholics seeking and benefiting from Mary's intercession and motherly love. The novena First Day (1) starts on

page 8. EWTN started it on Sept 29 but you can start it on any day for 9 consecutive days.

The novena addresses the challenges our nation is facing against freedom of religion, morality and right to life by meditating on the life of Our Blessed Virgin Mary and petitioning her for help.

Each month the different Novenas will be listed on a new tab on the website "[Prayers and Novenas](#)" or you can click on this link. [Mother of God Novena](#)

Fr. Joe Badding

I received the following note from Fr. Joe: Jerry, I was given an opportunity to spend a 30 day retreat at ECMC. It was not my

first choice of where to make a retreat but when God calls ...

At home now and recovering from this challenge, I was more than surprised to find a Hugh box outside my front door. When I opened it, the surprise was overwhelming. Nineteen pounds of tropical fruit! Then as I read the card enclosed, I was even more touched and tickled to find that it was a love gift from the Buffalo Cursillo Community!

Could you put into the newsletter my profound gratitude and thankfulness for the love and prayers that poured out from many members of the Cursillo Community while I was at ECMC. And for the thoughtful gift of this tropical fruit. I never tasted a Dragon Fruit before, so that was new for me, as was receiving such a love gift.

Please convey my thanks and gratitude for all the cards and continued prayers. Peace!
Fr. Joe Badding

Region III virtual Fall meeting

The Region III fall meeting was held virtually as a Zoom conference on October 9 & 10. The 5 diocese each gave reports; Buffalo, Rochester, Pittsburgh, Altona-Johnstown and Youngstown. Erie PA was also represented.

Nadia Lopez, National English Coordinator, attended. She supports virtual events like Ultreya for those who are homebound or uncomfortable in public. She also requested using Amazon smile and designating Cursillo National as your charity. Last month Cursillo received \$280 in contributions.

Altona - Johnstown and Rochester both reported that their study of the Step by Step Rectors Guide is complete and will be implemented in the next men's and women's weekends.

The focus of the Saturday session was Ultreya. Some notable points from my notes:

Bobbie LaVoie "What Ultreya is and what it is not"

- Ultreya was created to encourage one another to share their experiences i.e. "experience-based communication".
- Group reunion 3-6 people. Men with men, women with women. Try to group with different people each week.
- Witness speaker should share with Spiritual Advisor and those asked to give Echo beforehand.
- Should end in prayer for community, personal petitions, & praise. Pray the Our Father.
- Snacks or meals are ok but not required.
- Sponsors and team leaders should be regular attendees of Ultreya.
- The true benefit of Ultreya is afterwards when we go out and live the experiences learned.

Fr tom Galvin "What it means to you."

Regarding Group Reunion when sharing our Piety, Study and Action:

- Piety is not our ritual or what we do (mass, rosary, novena, etc.) but "how am I growing in my relationship with God?"
- Study – Don't simply say what you read or watched or heard, but share what it was and what you learned from it.

Julie Fleckenstein "How to give an Echo"

- The main purpose and characteristic of an echo should be a summation of the witness recounting all the pertinent points and events.
- An echo may include some shared similar experiences, devotions or thoughts by the person giving the echo.

Buffalo Ultreya's

Most Ultreya's have gone back to meeting in person again in venues where social distancing can be practiced.

Bethany Ultreya is still having Video conferencing. We invite all Cursillistas from the Buffalo Diocese to join in, especially those who have moved out of town or are currently not active in another Ultreya.

The next two are Thursday October 22 and November 12 at 7:00 pm. Email Lynn for the meeting ID; lomantolynn@gmail.com

Cursillo National

NACG holds a virtual Ultreya every Wednesday evening at 9:00 pm. All Cursillistas are invited to attend.

[Zoom.us](https://zoom.us)

Meeting ID 87948813169

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a declaration on their website; "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" and urge all Catholics to vote.

Newsletter

From this point forward, we will publish the newsletter after we hold the Secretariat meeting. So, it will normally arrive closer to the middle of the month.

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

Spiritual Director's Reflection:

My brothers and sisters in Christ, given the current challenges that we are experiencing in our lives, it is easy to get our attention distracted from our personal relationship with Christ. Eduardo Bonin, our founder, says:

"...the evil of the world is the evil of the human person, and what the person needs most is to encounter himself and then to be able to grasp with joy, and even perplexity, the invitation that Christ gives to him, so that by being connected to Him by Grace, and through that same Grace, he will understand the joy that comes from spreading it to others."

When we live the Cursillo weekend, we are given the tools needed to encounter ourselves, so that we can, through grace, accept His invitation. On the spiritual side, these tools come in the form of meditations, starting with the "Know yourself" one, on the very evening the candidates arrive.

So, I believe it would be beneficial to recall in our spiritual life that first meditation to strengthen our relationship with our beloved Jesus. Knowing ourselves, very often, is more challenging than what it seems. Our lives are constantly bombarded with all kinds of worldly messages that bring us stress and disorganization.

Our meditation is centered on the discourse of the birds of the air and the lilies of the field (Mt 6:26-34). It reminds us of the Father's love and of the uselessness of worrying for our own wellbeing. And why is this? It is because when we place our mind and soul in the procurement of what we believe is indispensable, we cloud our ability to know who we are, to recognize ourselves as sons and daughters of God. The essence of this gospel passage is in verse 33:

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Do I worry about what I am going to eat or drink or wear? Do I worry about feel-good things or activities? Do I worry about music or entertainment or popularity? Our Lord does not say that we do not need all these things.

He says that if we first seek the Kingdom of God, then all these things will be added.

Let us meditate on these things, let us remove the worrying and the stress so that we can see who we really are and open ourselves to God's grace to let Him transform our lives.

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...

May the Good Lord bless us all...DeColores!!

Deacon Alex Manunta
Email: amanunta@gmail.com

Pre Cursillo Report:

After attending the Virtual workshop in May on Pre-Cursillo, we've come to better understand how important it is to have an authentic relationship with OUR candidates. We can't stress enough the need for us to truly know our candidate. Marge, Lynn, Audrey and myself met and

have developed a plan on sharing what authentic friendship looks like. We are also looking at ways to help the sponsor to grow their friendship with their candidate.

We hope to meet this month to finalize our plan and then begin sharing it with the various Ultreys in the coming weeks.

As a side note, this keeps coming to me. While at Mary Lynn's funeral, I remember hearing someone say - the attendance at the funeral looked like Reunion Masses used to be. In my head, I had to agree. Why don't they look the same? Maybe ask yourself, why do I not attend Reunion Masses like I once did? I know the reasons are varied - work schedules, children's commitments, we've aged and maybe our limitations hinder us or maybe the Reunion Masses are not well advertised.

Reunion Masses are for all! Ourselves, our children, friends and family members are welcome. Perhaps by attending a Reunion Mass those we bring will feel the love of Jesus in a way they haven't and want more. Reunion Masses are a way to reconnect with those we lived our weekend with and those we've worked weekends with.

Our next Reunion Mass is Friday, October 9 at St. Anthony's in Lackawanna, NY. Hope to see you there; we've missed you!

God bless
Diane-380-0187
Marge-698-5828
Lynn - 1585-409-4123,
Audrey 675-4847
Email: bfloprecursillo@gmail.com

Cursillo Section

We hope everyone is well. Wow it is fall already. The Section had their first meeting last month. We had discussions on being ready for the Spring weekends.

Buffalo Cursillo Picnic

In August Deacon Mike and Dawn opened their home again for our annual summer Cursillo picnic. There were approximately 25 that attended. There was no Mass or Eucharist celebration, however we all had our masks on and social distance. We sat in a circle, talked, shared, and laughed. Everyone brought their own lunch/dinner (no sharing), but it was so nice to just sit relax and be with some of our Cursillo family.

Reunion Mass

On Friday, October 9th, again Deacon Mike and Dawn opened their 2nd home, St. Anthony's for our monthly Reunion Mass, Fr. Jim Wahl celebrated and he did not disappoint us. We heard a wonderful witness given by Maryann DeMaria and a heartfelt Spiritual Reflection from Dawn Quinn.

Father Jim has been a big supporter of our Cursillo movement, always willing to be there for us. He would be there at our 2nd Touch and always such an inspiration. It was a wonderful Mass shared by approximately 40.

God Bless and DeColores

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:

Upcoming Events page

Click on [Upcoming events](#)

Ultreya Information

Click on [Ultreya](#)

Mike Cucinotta 310-2861
Mary Beth Cucinotta 573-8205
4077 Thornwood Lane

Williamsville NY 14221

Email: Mcucinotta@roadrunner.com

Email: Mbcucinotta@roadrunner.com

Harvey Gress

Email: hgress@roadrunner.com,

School of Leaders:

Sadly, our outdoor meeting to study the last day of the new leaders' guide for the Cursillo weekend had to be cancelled due to very low commitment to attend. I don't think rescheduling would help because the same conditions obtain with regard to the covid virus. The weather is no longer suitable for an outdoor meeting, and many people would be reluctant to attend an indoor meeting especially when the risk of a second wave is possible.

Yet we must study this final phase before going forward. I am suggesting that the next school of leaders meeting take place over the internet. Some Ultreyas are already using Zoom for their meetings, and I think this technology might be a good way to proceed.

What do you think? Please send me an email with your thoughts about having a Zoom conference. I'm sure we can do it in the same time frame as we have been doing recently, a Saturday from 10:00 to 2:00.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Bill Gross

Email: wfgross45@gmail.com

Secretary:

May the gift of God's 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.

Karen Trimper
Carol Cronin
Deacon Mike Quinn
Paul DeWalt
Kevin Urbanski
Diane Reese
Fr. Joe Badding
Joe Macchia
Paul Kieffer
Dennis Hodur
Chelsea Ellis
Marie Lelek
Frank & Martha Barry
Owen & Aidan
Laura, Betty and Angelo Ciavarella
Chuck Stephan
Marie and Jim Sorrentino
Deacon Norm Foster
Marie Gannon
Loretta Sterling
Betty & Leo Reiter
Dan Siembida
Mike Ryan
Timothy McCann
Mike McCarthy
Alice's daughter-in-law, Laura
JoanRoberts
Mary Flanagan
Joe Insana
Bob Yegar
Bill Heidle
Corinne Giermek
Larry Lomanto
Dcn Joe Barr
Jim Youngers
Cathy Agugliaro
Shaun Vona
Tim Heidle
Owen Mangan
Sister Antonita
Kathy O'Keefe

Denise Bressette
Lynn Johnson
Diane Coughlin
Deacon Dan McGuire
Gary Banas
John Agugliaro
Marcia Moretti
Mary Jo Kapsiak
Mical's Aunt Maryann
Cheryl Besant
Quinn children
newborn Marylynn Joanne
Mary Mercurio
Paul & Terry Barone
Father Sam Venne
Elaine Stack
Bobby Lovenetti
Frank Gallagher
Pat Abraham
Vinnie Barone
Linda Orszulak
Eva Tamoga
Ellie Wieleba
Lou and Liz Pauley
Lorrie Dickerson
Doug Shroul
Dan Graesser

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.