



September 2018 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.

Lay Director's Report:

We have a busy September lineup.
September 14 is our reunion mass at 7:30 pm,
St Joseph's Cathedral.
September 15 is our 1st ever dance. 7:00 pm,
St Vincent's gym
Saturday September 29 is the support mass
for the men's 221 weekend.

We scheduled the **reunion mass** and invited Bishop Malone to preside 6 months ago. Since then there have been accusations against him and calls for his resignation. We don't know how this will all play out. Bishop Malone's secretary confirmed that he still intends to celebrate the mass with us. As good Catholic Cursillistas consider these prayers as a way to respond going forward:

- Pray and ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance on the path forward. Lead us in purging our church of the menace of priest abuse, both of children and adults. Teach us how to prevent this from ever happening again.
- Pray for the healing and restoration of our Catholic church in our diocese and throughout our country.
- Pray for all the victims of abuse that they find healing and peace. Pray also for their families.
- Pray for all the good and devoted clergy who truly live their vows in service to Christ. Give them strength and graces to endure the anger, misguided blame and persecution resulting from the sins of their brethren.

- Pray for all those whose faith has been shaken. May they still hear God's voice through the darkness and not abandon Jesus' church but rather help rebuild it.
- Pray also for the priests and bishops who have lost their way. Just like in prison ministry, we do not judge the men and women who have done terrible things to other people. We help them to find a blessed relationship with Jesus that can lead to a repentance of their sins.

Bob Piskun conceived and organized our first ever **Cursillo Dance**. It has a twofold objective. First we just wanted to have a good, clean, fun night out together. We all love each other so, let's go dancing! Second, the parish of St Vincent de Paul has been a great blessing to us. Father Karl has supported us and helped us tremendously. The parishioners have been great also. Cursillo is a large undertaking. On several occasions there have been facility conflicts with other ministries. We have always been able to work them out amicably to everyone's satisfaction. So we invited the parishioners of St Vincent's to join in our fun. Partying together can only make our good relationship with them even better. This will be a great opportunity to get to know each other and to say thank you for your support. Hopefully some will be called to make a Cursillo weekend themselves in the near future!

The **support mass** for the Cursillo weekends have traditionally been held on Sunday afternoons before the weekend. We are going to try something different; the support

mass for the next two weekends are going to be held on the prior Saturday during the regular parish mass at 4:30pm. Several factors prompted us to trial this change. It is getting more difficult to find priests on a Sunday afternoon to say an additional mass. Father Karl has helped us out in recent times. This change helps him, and he expressed his appreciation that we are trying to be considerate of his work load. Also, during our strategy sessions, some expressed a concern about having events (team formation and support mass) on Sundays because it takes away from family time. Lastly, we again are hoping to build a stronger relationship with the parish. This will give them an opportunity to come to know us and hopefully make new friends.

Men's weekend 221, October 4-7, Women's 222 November 8-11. We are asking all sponsors from the last 4 weekends to contact their candidates ASAP and ask them if they know of anyone who may benefit from a Cursillo weekend. Offer your expertise and/or help in speaking with the potential participant. Maybe co-sponsor. I too offer my assistance in providing information or guidance to our recent Cursillistas and potential candidates. Call me anytime.

Keep in mind: All Cursillistas should be part of a permanent group and regularly attend Ultreya (dates and places are listed below in Post Cursillo) All events are posted on the website.

Lastly we have our Second Touch Weekend on February 22nd to 24th. Carol Palesh has been working hard to put this together for all of our benefits. Click here for the invitation and details. [Second Touch 2019](#)

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

[Spiritual Director's Reflection:](#)

IMPROVING OUR PRAYER LIFE

Cursillistas are pray-ers – that is, we pray often.

I thought I'd address a frequent question that I'm often asked: "How can I improve my prayer life?"

One very effective way of improving our personal prayer life is by working on our *response to the Holy Spirit during our time of prayer.*

Too often, we overstress the role of *aiming* our formal prayers and petitions, all while using the exact language, *at* God and then waiting for His reactions to them, that we tend to underestimate the importance of our own role in the process. Our approach to prayer can either facilitate or block the movement of the Holy Spirit. It might be helpful to think of praying this way - when we pray, we open ourselves and *allow* God's Spirit to *join* with our spirit.

Prayer then becomes a cooperative venture between God's Holy Spirit and ourselves. Cooperative in the sense that our role is to establish the best conditions we can that will serve to foster our ultimate attentiveness to God; the Holy Spirit's role is to unite us in our prayer to God within these conditions.

To be clear, I am particularly referring to the type of personnel prayers we say when we withdraw from activity specifically to be with the Lord; this does not really apply to the brief, spontaneous prayers we say throughout our day. It need only to be pointed out that the more we have been spontaneously relating to God during the day, the less trouble we should have relating deeply to God in our dedicated prayer times.

To improve our prayer life, we should begin to consider prayer as the expression of our *relationship* to God under the influence of the Holy Spirit in response to the Word of

God. The key addition, is the “in response to the Word of God.” We are driven to pray through our desire to respond in some way to God’s Word – that is, how it has touched our souls in some tangible and meaningful way that stirs us to faith and desiring to serve God.

Formal prayer then becomes the time of focusing on God’s Word and allowing the Holy Spirit to move our hearts even more in response to His Word. When I use the phrase “God’s Word”, interpret it in a very broad sense with multiple dimensions - that is, the Word of God in the Sacraments, in Scripture, in the Events of our life and in all of Creation and our place within it.

Therefore, the starting point of our prayer can be any aspect of the Word of God; Sacramental, Scriptural, Existential and/or Created.

1. First, at the opening of our prayer session we must relax - quieting our surroundings and our mind.
2. Make appropriate acts for coming into the presence of God. We quietly move toward expressing ourselves to God in words and acts of humility, reverence, love and petition for help. We ask God to send us His Spirit.
3. The best place to begin prayer is where we truly are - begin our prayer with what’s foremost in our heart and then remain open so that the Holy Spirit can draw us to God as He wills. As we focus on whatever Word of God we’ve chosen, we may find our hearts subtly drawn in a different direction – be willing to yield to this direction.
4. After we speak to God, take the time to wait, listen so we can respond to the Word of God under the influence of the Holy Spirit’s direction – without straining or restraining. The

goal of our prayer time is not simply to weave our own meditation around the aspect of the Word (or subject) we’ve chosen but instead to allow the Spirit to speak through the Word and influence all our thoughts and feelings in this encounter with God.

5. Finally, to close our prayer, we draw together where we are in the presence of the Lord and make our closing prayer in gratitude and love for what God has brought to us. A daily rhythm of this type of prayer will quickly help foster a deepening relationship with God in prayer and in service.

Peace and all good things!

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:

We have are going through the applications and have about 9 to 10 men interested in attending the Cursillo Weekend. We are confident that we will receive more applications over the next few weeks.

As we have another set of weekends before us, we are learning to reach out to both the sponsor and candidate. We want to make sure the sponsor is comfortable in taking their candidate to Ultreya, Reunion and Permanent group. We are also reaching out to the candidates to see if they have any questions or concerns that we can alleviate.

We’ve also been reading literature (Study) from National about strategies that we can share with sponsors about sponsorship. There are (2) things that are sticking in my mind - one being the phrase - “make a friend, be a

friend, bring a friend to Christ”. While it is the Cursillo motto, it should be our personal mantra - whether our friend (s) can make Cursillo is not necessarily the point, but helping our friend develop a relationship with God. The other point is about Palanca. I quote - “Palanca is the actual prayers, sacrifices and works of mercy. Palanca is action.” As the Men’s and Women’s weekends approach, let us challenge ourselves to be people of Action.

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

Cursillo Section

My Friends in Christ!!!!

The Cursillo Section Team has been on the move again getting ready for another set of Cursillo Weekends coming this Fall. Men’s Team has been picked and has a couple of meetings under their belt. I am very fortunate to have been asked to work this Men’s Weekend and very much looking forward to the Weekend.

If you are asked to help in any capacity PLEASE do so. You won’t be disappointed you did. Palanca Team is always looking for help to work behind the scenes. Our Kitchen Crew is also in need of people to serve a meal or wash some dishes. Talk about Palanca; what a great opportunity to do a little sacrifice for our Candidates.

HOPE TO SEE YOU ON THE WEEKEND!!!!!!

CURSILLO DANCE: Save the date, September 15th, 7:00pm to 10:00pm, St. Vincent’s Gym Parish.

PEACE to you and your families!!

Bob Piskun
Section Team Coordinator
Call/Text:716-982-8025
Email:custodianbob@roadrunner.com

Post Cursillo:

CURSILLO PICNIC Thank you Mike and Dawn Quinn for another wonderful day of friendship, socializing, swimming, food, singing and the Holy Eucharist. Your commitment to promoting community in the Buffalo Cursillo movement is greatly appreciated by all of us who were gifted by your generous hospitality. Thank you also to Father Joe Badding for celebrating the mass for us.

Looking to form a **permanent group** or add members to your existing group?
Email Jerry at BuffaloCursillo@gmail.com.

Contact Info:

Curtis Boyle 725-5416
Maria Boyle 785-3275
3936 Jefferson Ave
Hamburg NY 14075
Email: mhens77@gmail.com
Email: curtisbo@buffalo.edu

Mike Cucinotta 310-2861
Mary Beth Cucinotta 573-8205
4077 Thornwood Lane
Williamsville NY 14221
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ULTREYA SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

1st Wednesday September 5, 2018

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

1st Thursday September 6, 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 Stack 6490-37 Taylor Rd. 64-4615

2nd Wednesday September 12, 2018

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

3rd Tuesday September 18, 2018

Come to the Well @ 7:00 pm

Members houses, contact:
Jack Thoman 716-583-2320
psalm139@gmail.com

3rd Wednesday September 19, 2018

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

3rd Thursday September 20, 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

Piskun, 38 Bernadette, West Seneca
H) 716 998-2503
kstack716@yahoo.com

Last Tuesday September 25, 2018

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

Last Sunday September 30, 2018

Pueblo de Paz: Warsaw area @ 7:00pm
St.St. Michael's Church Hall, [171 North Main
Street, Warsaw, NY](#)

School of Leaders:

Our new format for School of Leaders
(everyone is a leader) begins this fall.
Instead of Monday night meetings, we will
be having three Saturday workshops at three
different churches.

Please save these dates:

October 20, 2018-- St. Vincent de Paul, Elma
March 9, 2019-- Nativity, Clarence
June 1, 2019-- St. John Paul II, Hamburg

The workshops will start at 10:00 and end
around 2:00, more or less. Additional details
will be displayed on the Cursillo website as
the time nears.

Come and bring a friend.

Bill Gross

Email: wfgross45@gmail.com

Secretary:

Marty Ruhland

Secretary

Email: rdservices@roadrunner.com

Prayer Request:

Please keep the following people in your
prayers and Palanca:

All Cursillistas who are ill or suffering.
For the team and candidates of Men's 221
weekend.

The Catholic church in the Buffalo dioceses,
Bob Sesamen's mother, Bishop Malone,
Mary Dewald and her nephew's daughter
Amelia and friend Kent, Karen & Patrick
Jordan, Gary Banas, Diane Coughlin,
newborn Marylynn Joanne, Toni Sessamen,
Mary Mercurio, Father Sam Venne, Carol
Mazurkiewicz, Elaine Stack, Dcn Joe Barr,
Scott Crowe, Bob and Cheryl Besant, Linda
Orszulak, Eva Tamoga, Ellie Wieleba, Lou
and Liz Pauley, Lorrie Dickerson, Diana
Sotarczak's friend Carol, Doug Shrou, Dan
Graesser, Leo Reiter, Mary Flanagan, Joe
Insana, Quinn children, Corinne Giermek,
Marcia Moretti, Lorrie Rackozynski, baby
Finleigh, Joan Conklin's friend Joyce, Vinnie
Barone, Mark Schweizer's dad, Marie
Sorrentino, Ilona Klein's friend Bella, Pat

Abraham, Cheryl Besant, Jeannette Shields
daughter in law, Kate Emery's dad

Send names of people who should be added
to the list or removed from the list to
miride@aol.com

[Cursillo Name Tags or Shirts](#)

Contact Mike Szematowicz;

Call/Text: 812 0633

Email: szematm@gmail.com

List shirt size, color preference, weekend #.

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