



June 2019

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.

### Upcoming Events:

Welcome to your 4th day Men's #223 &, Women's #224 - All are invited	St Vincent de Paul Saturday June 15, 2019 4:30 pm, doors open at 4:00 pm Bring your own place settings and serving utensils Bring hot food hot and cold food cold.
School of Leaders	Saturday June 29, 2019, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm St John Paul II 2052 Lakeview Rd. Lake View NY
Reunion Mass	Friday July 12, 2019, 7:30 pm St Cecilia, Centerline Rd. Sheldon NY
Cursillo Picnic	August 11, 2019 1:00 pm, Mass at 3:00 pm Deacon Mike and Dawn Quinn's house 532 S. Shore Blvd., Lackawanna, NY
Cursillo Dance	September 21. Details to follow
Men's #225	October 10 -13, 2019
Women's #226	November 7 – 10, 2019

### Lay Director's Report:

The Foundational Charism of Cursillo is a gift inspired and communicated by the Holy Spirit to our Founder, Eduardo Bonnín, who shared it with us.

Through a deeper friendship with Mallorca and the Foundation of Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló (FEBA) our access to the writings of Eduardo Bonnín, deepened our understandings of the Foundational Charism and improved our English translations of his

writings. We were informed of a "Step by Step Rector's Guide" for the Cursillos in Christianity authored by Eduardo Bonnín and was to be included in his final "Spiritual Testament". Eduardo wanted to leave the original intention and gift of the charism for all leaders in the movement.

The United States Secretariat has been studying this Rector's Guide and created a workshop to share it with all the dioceses. These workshops were introduced first to our Regional Coordinators in November 2018,

and then to our Regions at their Spring 2019 Regional meetings.

We are Region III (Western NY and Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia.) Myself, Karen Trimper, Marge Fetterman, Bill Gross, Diane Putt, Deacon Gary and Gail Terrana attended the Region III workshop in Pittsburgh explaining the major points of the new Step by Step format and the reason why it is important to study and use this guide from Eduardo. We will present these ideas at the next couple School of Leaders. I urge everyone who can attend to please come on June 29 as we discuss the proposed changes to our weekends.

We just completed men's weekend #223 where we welcomed 15 new Cursillistas. It was wonderful as usual. Please keep the men and women of the last 2 weekends in your prayers and help them any way that you can as they meet the community, attended Ultreya's for the first time and join permanent groups.

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

### Spiritual Director's Reflection:

I gave a talk recently and during the Q&A, I was asked:

“How do we reconcile the vastly different character of God from the Old Testament (OT) and the New Testament (NT).”

I teasingly began my response with – “Do you mean the *Loving* God of the OT and the God of *Judgment* of the NT?” There were many puzzled looks and the person who asked the question quickly replied, “*No, the other way around.*”

I explained that the truth is that there are many passages in the OT that depict God's

love in incredible ways. *For example:* the book of Hosea - one of my favorites. It's an incredible love story about how deeply God is in love with His people, His creation and how much He is hurt when we are separated from Him.

Conversely, in the NT, Jesus talks about hell quite directly. He comes right out and says, “if your eye causing you to sin, pluck it out.” It's better to enter eternal life with one eye than to hell...”

We need to *be careful* how we look at and characterize Scripture.

But what do we do about these two *competing* images of God?

One of the reasons we run into trouble with this often-asked question, is that we tend to *separate* these two aspects of God that *we really need to keep together*.

We are quick to rip apart God's justice from His love/mercy/forgiveness. We love the concept of a God who is loving and merciful and pats us on the head. But we always want to separate that notion of God, the source of all holiness and righteousness, from our God who is also our *judge*. We prefer to sweep that reality under the carpet and decouple those two characteristics. But in doing so, we miss the *richness and wisdom of God in Scripture!*

The God of the *entire Bible* is a God who is utterly pure, utterly holy and we are an utterly sinful people because of what we've done against Him and each other.

We should want God to be a holy, righteous God of judgment – because if He isn't, who is going to uphold goodness, law, rights and dignity? To what extent?

On the other hand, the Bible is very clear that He is a God of amazing love and forgiveness.

To reconcile these two images of God – first, we must recognize that forgiveness, love and mercy *contradict* justice.

*For example:* If you truly committed some heinous crime - the police arrest you, they hastily convene a courtroom with a jury of your peers, and you are tried before the judge who sentences you for 20 years. The judge has been just. But has she/he been merciful? *No – no mercy at all.*

Let's re-run that same narrative – but this time the judge says, “You should be sentenced for 20 years, *but today I'm feeling merciful* – now get out of my courtroom before I change my mind!” And you run out of the court as fast as your little legs can carry you!

Now, has the judge been forgiving/merciful? *Yes.* Has she/he been just? *No – she/he has ignored the rule book.*

Because mercy/forgiveness and justice *always contradict!*

If, as in our example, we exercise justice we have to ignore forgiveness/mercy; if we ignore forgiveness/mercy we have to overlook justice. Therefore, if God is both *just and merciful* – we have a problem.

What do we do? Do we just *throw out* the characteristics of God we *don't like* and only keep the ones we do?

The NT has the answer to what would otherwise be a contradiction to the heart of God –*the Cross of Jesus*. The God of the *entire Bible* loves us so much that He brilliantly, wisely and divinely exercises His mercy, not *at the expense* of justice, but *through justice... Through the justice of the Cross of His only Son, Jesus!*

Were it not for the Cross of Jesus Christ, we would be paying the penalty we deserved; where justice was upheld but Jesus took on our blame and punishment - *that should have fallen on us!*

*Jesus' Cross solves that contradiction in the heart of God.*

What we see in some of those difficult passages in the OT is the *reality* we deserve. We come face-to-face with what justice really *looks like* and how terrible and *destructive* sin really is - along with its consequences.

We need to be realistic and remember - that is what each one of us really *deserves* for the way that we have disobeyed God, mistreated both Him and each other in horrendously sinful ways.

As uncomfortable as some of those OT (and some NT) passages are – they remind us of the awesome holiness, righteousness and justice of God. And, they should send us *running* to the *mercy and forgiveness and love* of Christ's Cross where Jesus took the punishment that should have been ours. THANK YOU AND PRAISE YOU JESUS! Peace and all good things!

Deacon Greg Moran  
Spiritual Advisor–Diocese of Buffalo  
Cursillo Movement  
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Email: [deacongregmoran@gmail.com](mailto:deacongregmoran@gmail.com)

### [Pre-Cursillo Report:](#)

We had (2) successful weekends this May. In gratitude to the Holy Spirit; who worked in and through everyone, as we worked as One Body with many parts as we grew in love.

Our next set of weekends are scheduled for October 10-13 for the Men and November 7-10 for the Women. Please mark your calendar to:

- A) serve by being part of a Team or,
- B) participating in your Ultreya to make food or attending the events of the weekend.

Marge and I are asking for folks to pray about coming on board of Pre-Cursillo; to learn the ropes so that in the Spring of 2020, Marge can relinquish our 3 year term.

Continue to pray for us as we pray for you.

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

## Cursillo Section

My Brother's & Sisters!!!

At the time of this article we have finished the Women's Cursillo Weekend with much success in bringing 10 new Candidates to the love of Jesus. He is definitely smiling on our Community.

In another few days we will be called to serve again for the Men's Cursillo Weekend.

I am EXTREMELY PROUD of the work this Section Team has done these past few years in the work they do for Jesus. For the Cursillo Community and their support of our organization, many THANKS and BLESSINGS to you and your families!!!!

PEACE to you all and your families!!

Bob Piskun  
Section Team Coordinator  
Call/Text: 716-982-8025  
Email: [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).

Mike Cucinotta 310-2861  
Mary Beth Cucinotta 573-8205  
4077 Thornwood Lane  
Williamsville NY 14221  
Email: [Mcucinotta@roadrunner.com](mailto:Mcucinotta@roadrunner.com)  
Email: [Mbpcucinotta@roadrunner.com](mailto:Mbpcucinotta@roadrunner.com)

## School of Leaders:

A very important school of leaders is planned for Saturday, June 29th at St. John Paul II R.C. Church in Hamburg. We will be beginning our study of the "Step-by-Step" Cursillo weekend, which is being adopted by the National Cursillo Secretariat. This will most likely be the first in a series of School of Leaders sessions to delve into this topic.

I urge everyone who is involved in the planning and/or execution of Cursillo weekends to attend. Members of the secretariat who attended the regional meeting had our first glimpse of the "Step-by-Step" and will be presenting what we learned to everyone.

The presentation will begin at 10:00 and continue until 2:00. Lunch will be served, and there will not be any charge. Please plan on attending, and urge everyone in your respective Ultreya's to attend as well. See you there.

Come and bring a friend.  
Bill Gross  
Email: [wfgross45@gmail.com](mailto:wfgross45@gmail.com)

## Secretary:

May the Peace and Love of Christ 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:

Helga Pollak, Mary Flanagan, Joe Insana, Dell Leaderstorf, Regina Amendolea, Mary Mercurio & her nephew Ray, Bill Heidle, Tim Hanavan, Corinne Giermek, Larry Lomanto, Ryan Stack, Dcn Joe Barr, Jim Youngers, Tim Heidle, Nan, Owen Mangan, Tony Rozak, 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, Father Sam Venne, Elaine Stack, Marie Sorrentino, Frank Gallagher, Pat Abraham, Vinnie Barone, Linda Orszulak, Eva Tamoga, Ellie Wieleba, Lou and Liz Pauley, Lorrie Dickerson, baby Finleigh, Doug Shroul, Dan Graesser, Leo Reiter, Jeannette Shields daughter in law, Chuck DiMaria

All Cursillistas who are ill or suffering.

## Cursillo Name Tags or Shirts

See price list and pictures at  
[BuffaloCursillo.com/Resources/Wearables](http://BuffaloCursillo.com/Resources/Wearables)

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.