



**Buffalo Cursillo**

February 2019 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:**

See Post Cursillo below for details on upcoming events: **Reunion Mass** this Friday February 8, **Second Touch** February 22-24, 2019.

Also note that the date for the **Men's spring weekend #223** has been changed to May 30 – June 2, 2019. Women's weekend #224 remains the same on May 16 -19.

We had a couple changes in personnel on the Secretariat. Curtis and Maria Boyle have stepped down from their "Post Cursillo" position. With new baby Mary and Maria's return to work it became too difficult to put in the time commitments. Luckily for us we had Mike and Mary Beth Cucinotta in that office and they will take over all the duties. We are very appreciative to Maria and Curtis for all that they did for Cursillo and fully understand and support their family decision. We also thank Mike and Mary Beth for stepping up and taking over.

Our Secretary, Marty Ruhland, has offered to help with the upkeep of our website <https://www.buffalocursillo.com/>. I was struggling with keeping it up to date in a timely manner and asked for help. To fill the Secretary Office Mary Bitka Weekend #222 volunteered to be Secretary. She attended the January Secretariat meeting and competently recorded the minutes and sent them for review the very next day. Please welcome and pray for all of these good volunteers who work hard to keep the

Buffalo Cursillo Movement alive and well and moving forward.

Looking to form a **permanent group** or add members to your existing group?

Email Jerry at [BuffaloCursillo@gmail.com](mailto:BuffaloCursillo@gmail.com).

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

### **Spiritual Director's Reflection:**

The meaning of Scriptures can be obvious but often are subtle and multi-layered.

For example, in our Liturgy on the last week in January, Babylon was defeated, King Cyrus of Persia decreed that the exiled Jews could return home to Jerusalem.

Lead by the prophet Nehemiah, the Israelites immediately **restored** their ruined temple and **rebuilt** the city walls to provide protection; they **renewed** their covenant with God and re-**established** the Law of Moses as the people's rule of life.

Ezra reads and interprets the Law and the people respond with a great "Amen!"

St Luke's Gospel told us that Jesus, (like Ezra), stands before the people in the synagogue, is handed a scroll, unrolls it, reads and interprets it...and then proclaims to

all present – that these very Scriptures from Isaiah are **“fulfilled in your hearing.”** Luke adds, “they all spoke well of Him and were amazed” - but did they truly understand and/or believe what Jesus said? (The verses that follow describe how they quickly turned on Him...Sound familiar?)

- Do we believe Jesus?
- Do we believe what is written in the scrolls, the Word of God, and handed down to us?
- Do we believe it with conviction, like the Jews, enough to restore and re-establish our own covenant and temples and live by God’s Word?
- Do we respond with a great “Amen”?

In both that First Reading (Neh 8:2-6, 8-10) and Luke’s Gospel (LK 1:1-4, 4:14-21), we saw people exploring, listening to and applying the Word of God to their lives.

We are called to explore, listen to and be formed by God’s Word as well; to make the effort to encounter it deeply and to invite God’s grace to change our lives through it!

Investing the time to join/participate in a good bible study group (instructor-led or online) would greatly help us to explore, listen to and encounter God’s message at a much different and more satisfying/gratifying level.

As Catholics, much of our encounter with God’s Word becomes limited to hearing the Sunday Mass Scriptures and listening to a brief 8-10-minute homily for clarification/application ... in this way, we’re only **nibbling** at it instead of taking a large satisfying bite, chewing it and digesting it until it intentionally and eventually becomes **“the words of my mouth and the thought of my heart.”** (Psalm 19)

I began this article by saying – these Scriptures have subtle and multi-layered meanings because of the deep connections between the Old Testament and the New

Testament, that quite frankly, we miss completely...

But here’s a good reason why...

- Jesus was a first century Jew
- Born of a Jewish mother
- He studied the Jewish Torah
- Celebrated Jewish feasts and holy days
- He went on pilgrimages to the Jewish Temple
- At the very end of His life, He celebrated the Jewish feast of Passover
- Was tried by the Jewish council
- And was crucified outside the walls of Jerusalem.

As this list demonstrates, the Jewishness of Jesus is a historical fact.

Therefore, in order to sufficiently explore, listen to and encounter Jesus – especially the full and original meaning of His words and actions, a focus and understanding of His Jewish identity and context is absolutely necessary.

Example: In this first sermon in His hometown synagogue, Jesus began to reveal His messianic identity in a very Jewish way – He didn’t shout aloud in the streets or from the rooftops “Hey, I’m the Messiah!” Instead, He uses Isaiah’s prophecy from Jewish Scriptures, that all Jews would know, then He proclaimed in the synagogue to His fellow Jews that their long-held hope for the coming of the “anointed one” had been fulfilled.

Why wasn’t He tried and crucified then?

Because under Jewish Law it wasn’t blasphemy to claim to be the Messiah, it was blasphemy to claim to be God.

So, let’s modify our questions:

- Do we **know** the depth and richness of what has been written in all the scrolls, the Word of God, and handed down to us?
- Do we **know** enough, like the Jews, about why we **should restore** our own

covenant/temples and live by God's Word?

- Do we really *know* Jesus as well as we should?

Peace and all good things!

Deacon Greg Moran  
Spiritual Advisor–Diocese of Buffalo

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### Pre Cursillo Report:

With a New Year well underway, Marge and I have begun sending out inquiries to interested individuals to see if they can make the Spring Weekends – Women's will be May 16 – May 19 and the Men's will be May 30 – June 2.

Please lift these folks up in prayer that if they are meant to be here, God will free up their schedules.

Since the last set of weekends, we have only received (1) new application. Please talk to your family, friends and co-workers. Start by telling them what a tremendous gift Cursillo has been to you. Share your good experiences with them.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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

### Cursillo Section

Hi Folks, hope you are all keeping warm and safe during this wintery time.

Stay close to your phones, which you do already. You may be asked to help out on the Cursillo Weekends. The Weekends will have

some little changes but nothing we can't handle.

Mark your calendars for another **Cursillo Dance** coming September 21<sup>st</sup>.  
My Brothers and Sisters PEACE to you and your families!!

Bob Piskun  
Section Team Coordinator  
Call/Text:716-982-8025  
Email:[custodianbob@roadrunner.com](mailto:custodianbob@roadrunner.com)

### Post Cursillo:

The **Reunion Mass** sponsored by “Come to the Well Ultreya is this Friday February 8, 2019 at 7:30 PM

**Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
**4375 Harris Hill Rd** at Main St.,  
Williamsville, NY 14221

Please bring a friend who you think may benefit from making a Cursillo weekend. These masses are a great way to introduce your friends and relatives to the loving Cursillo community. PS. if you see someone there who you don't recognize, say hello, introduce yourself and make them feel right at home.

**Second Touch** is a couple weeks away.  
February 22 to February 24<sup>th</sup>

Stella Niagara Center of Renewal, Lewiston NY.

You can still sign up. Contact Carol Palesh  
716-694-0942 [grannypalesh@verizon.net](mailto:grannypalesh@verizon.net)

The **men's Weekend 223** has been moved to May 30 – June 2 to accommodate parish observations of Devine Mercy Sunday. The setup will be on Wednesday May 29, 2019. Details will follow for the Support Mass.

The new **Leaders Manual “Step by Step”** will be issued and explained at the **Region III meeting** on May 10 & 11, 2019 in Pittsburgh PA. Secretariat officers, Team Selectors, Palanca and Ultreya Coordinators are strongly urged to attend. Anyone who is interested is invited. Details to follow

shortly. We may rent a Van or two to caravan down there.

This year's **National Encounter** is close to home at the University of Scranton in PA. It commemorates the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Cursillo in Mallorca!. For details go to [cursillo National Encounter2019](#) Register before May 30 for a \$50 discount. All Cursillistas are invited.

Remember all Cursillo events and information can be found with a click of the button at <http://www.buffalocursillo.com/>

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### School of Leaders:

Please mark your calendars for the next **School of leader's workshop**-- Saturday, March 9th, from 10:00 to 2:00 at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Clarence. The topic will be How Cursillo helps participants to discover Christ. The speakers will be Deacon Tom Friedman, Bill Gross, and Dawn Quinn. Lunch will be provided. There is no charge for the workshop, but I would appreciate you letting me know if you're coming. this will help us plan how much food to buy. See you there.

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

### Secretary:

Peace be with you!

Mary Bitka  
Secretary  
Email: [marybitka@gmail.com](mailto:marybitka@gmail.com)

### Prayer Request:

Please keep the following people in your prayers and Palanca:  
Bill Heidle, Tim Hanavan, Larry Lomanto, Ryan Stack, Dcn Joe Barr, Jim Youngers, Tim Heidle, Nan, Owen Mangan, Tony Rozak, Gary Hall, Michael Volk, Michael Ryan, Audrey DiMaria, Kathy O'Keefe, Denise Bressette, Lynn Johnson, Deacon Dan McGuire, Bishop Malone, Gary Banas, Father Jim Walter, John Agugliaro, Marcia Moretti, Mary Dewald Amelia and Kent, Cheryl Besant, newborn Marylynn Joanne, Toni Sessamen, Mary Mercurio, 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 Shrou, Dan Graesser, Leo Reiter, Mary Flanagan, Joe Insana, Diane Coughlin, Quinn children, Corinne Giermek, Jeannette Shields daughter in law.  
All Cursillistas who are ill or suffering.

Please email [miride@aol.com](mailto:miride@aol.com) to add or remove names.

### Cursillo Name Tags or Shirts

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.