



Buffalo Cursillo

July 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.

School of Leaders	Saturday September 7, 2019, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm Tentative Christ the King Main St Williamsville 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	Saturday September 21. Details to follow
Men's #225	October 10 -13, 2019
Women's #226	November 7 – 10, 2019

Lay Director's Report:

At the June School of Leaders, we had a good and lively start to our presentation of the new "Step by Step" Rectors guide for the weekend format.

Gail Terrana explained how this all came about. Original documents from our founder Edwardo Bonnin were studied which revealed more clearly his vision of the movement as revealed to him by the Holy Spirit. One important point is that we are called to seek out the "far away" to bring them back to Christ. For them there needs to be a "Conversion" of hearts on the weekend and not so much instruction. Candidates need time to internalize who they are, who Jesus is and their relationship with God.

In this morning's gospel Jesus says: "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do". This is a directive to us to make a friend, be a friend and to bring that friend to Christ, eventually inviting them to make a Cursillo weekend. This pertains to Catholics who have been baptized and have made their first reconciliation and Holy Communion. Because of their state of grace, they may not be able to receive communion at first but if a conversion occurs on the weekend and they go to reconciliation they will be able to receive our lord in communion.

Of course, we should also still invite our friends who are very close to the Lord.

We then reviewed one of the new features of the weekend; reading of stories (appendixes) by the rector and team members. These are stories like parables with a specific message for the new Cursillistas to ponder.

It was the consensus of the group that the first Appendix "Bankruptcy" is too long. This consists of 5 separate stories which are read on Thursday following the Rectors Preliminary rollo and the first chapel meditation "Know yourself". Gail was asked to discuss this with National Cursillo and request a shorter more vernacular rewrite.

We will continue to roll out the details of Step by Step at our next School of Leaders on Saturday September 7. It is important that we all know what is being presented and understand the reasons for the new format. The society in which we live is changing, especially in terms of religious beliefs and organizations. We must adapt to what the Holy Spirit is asking of us now.

Consider this, Bishop Robert Barron last week addressing the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) stated: that for every new Catholic added (infant baptized and RCIA), 6.7 Catholics are leaving the church (including death). Our Catholic church is in decline. This is a sobering statistic that we are being called to reconcile in our evangelization efforts. Bishop Barron also stated in his recent book "Letter to a Suffering Church" page 97 "I believe that our time calls for renewal movements that will involve both priests and laity. Perhaps Communion and Liberation, the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) movement, Opus Dei, L'Arche, **Cursillo**, and the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) give some indication of what forms these could take."

Thank you to Bob Piskun who is handing over his "Cursillo Section" Secretariat office to Joan Conklin and MaryAnn DeMaria. When you see Bob thank him for his many years of service (since OMGC days). It was a pleasure serving with Bob. He brought fun and enthusiasm to all our meetings and events. He served the movement with dedication, loyalty and purpose. We are thrilled that he is staying on as building coordinator to setup and tear down after weekends.

Also, congratulate and thank Joan and MaryAnn for their commitment to serve the Cursillo Movement in the Buffalo Diocese thereby serving all of us Cursillistas.

We have other positions that are currently available or opening up shortly. We are always in need of new volunteers and leaders in Cursillo. The immediate need is for an outside Palanca coordinator that Alice Appenheimer has been doing for a very long time. Some one new has to step up and help out in this very important job. In a little while I will send a "shout out" with a list of positions and jobs in the Buffalo Diocese with a short description of each for your consideration.

I ask the Ultreya Coordinators to offer recommendations of people who might be willing to help out. Call, email or text me if you are interested or have recommendations.

Peace,
Jerry Casillo
Lay Director Buffalo Diocese
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Email: miride@aol.com

[Spiritual Director's Reflection:](#)

Last week we celebrated Corpus Christi Sunday or what is now referred to as the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ.

We read powerful Scriptures passages that described how from the dawn of salvation history, God revealed our future in “figures.”

The figure of a king and high priest from Jerusalem offering bread and wine to **celebrate the victory** of God’s beloved servant, Abram, over his foes. Melchizedek, by his offering, bestows God’s **blessings** on Abram.

In doing so, he is showing us, too, how one day **we** will receive God’s blessings and in turn “**bless God**”—how we will give thanks to Him for delivering us from our enemies, sin and death.

Last Sunday’s reading from St Paul reminded us of how Jesus **transformed the sign of bread and wine**, making it a sign of His Body and Blood, through which God bestows upon us the blessings of His “**new covenant**.”

The critical tie-back - Jesus is “the priest forever in the line **of Melchizedek**,” that God promised in the Psalm of that day, who will rule from Zion, the **new** Jerusalem.

As often as we **share** in His body and blood, we proclaim His victory over death, until He comes again to make His victory **our own**.

The Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ **commemorates** the great gift of the **Eucharist**; the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ.

One would have thought we would hear a **Last Supper** Gospel but instead, we heard about Jesus **feeding** of the **five thousand**; the one miracle that’s recorded in all four gospels.

By the miracle of loaves and fishes, Jesus, again, **prefigures** the **blessings** of the **Eucharist**!

We noticed how He **took** the bread, looked up to heaven, **blessed** it, **broke** it, and **gave** it to the Twelve to “set before the crowd”. We can also find this **precise order** and **words** of the **Last Supper** and in His celebration of the **Eucharist** on that first Easter night with two disciples in the **Emmaus** story.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all testify to this magnificent **miracle** that Jesus performs of feeding five thousand people from five loaves and two fish.

However, Luke’s account offers some **distinctive** elements.

Let me just point out **one** - Luke emphasizes that it takes place in a “**lonely place**.”

The Greek word Luke uses here is actually **erēmos**, which can also be translated as “**a deserted place**”, meaning the wilderness. (Interestingly, that the same word, **erēmos**, was used when Jesus went out into the desert to be tempted by the devil.)

Now, let’s pretend we are 1st Century Jews – when we hear this account, it would immediately **trigger** or **echo** memories of how our ancestors wandered in the **wilderness** at the time of the **exodus from Egypt**.

Luke purposely recalls the **setting** of the feeding of the five thousand in this **deserted** place - this **wilderness** - as a **clue/indicator** that this miracle points back to the **exodus** from Egypt, where one of the great miracles was the **miraculous feeding** of the twelve tribes of Israel through the **gift of the manna from**

heaven; the *miraculous bread* from heaven.

How can we apply this to our world today?

Three ways...

- You and I must ***realize*** that even in this midst of the turmoil our church is struggling through today – where our churches have become a little ***“lonelier”*** and a little more ***deserted*** - God presence is with us; He will never abandon us – nor will the gates of hell ever prevail against His church.
- You and I must ***stay strong and trust*** in God’s presence and how He always restores what man has disrupted, corrupted and/or completely destroyed.
- Finally, you and I must ***recognize*** that through His good priests, Jesus is still feeding us - ***the hungry crowd - in this “the deserted place” with His own Body and Blood given to nourish us during the journey of our earthly exile – this version of our own exodus.***

The Holy Eucharist always fulfills the offering of Melchizedek. It is the daily ***miracle*** of the heavenly high priesthood of Jesus - a priesthood He conferred upon the Apostles and all those good priests who have followed in their footsteps,

- In ordering them to ***feed the crowd***
- In filling exactly twelve baskets with leftover bread
- In commanding them on the night He was handed over to: ***“Do this in remembrance of Me.”***

And by this miraculous sign He nourishes/strengthens us so we can continue our journey toward ***a glory that He pledges to us is yet to come.***

- No matter what our situation is, or seems to be;
- No matter how desolate our surroundings appear,
- No matter how bleak things look – God’s providential care and holy presence have ***always*** been there for His people! As we receive God’s ***blessings*** through the ***Eucharist***, may we in turn ***“bless God”*** and give Him ***thanks*** for this ***miraculous*** gift that sustains us.

Peace and all good things!

Deacon Greg Moran
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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: bfloprekursillo@gmail.com

Cursillo Section

My Brothers & Sisters!!!!

I will be stepping down from my position as Cursillo Section Coordinator. We have two very well seasoned Ladies to take over the job. One is Joan Conklin and the other is Mary Ann Demaria. Both come very well qualified. Please pray for them that the Holy Spirit will guide them in doing Gods will.

For myself I will be the Building Coordinator. Helping set up and take down. I am always looking for help, so come join in and help our Candidates.

Peace to you and your families!!!
Ultreya!!!!!!

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

Post Cursillo:

Mike Cucinotta 310-2861
Mary Beth Cucinotta 573-8205
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Email: Mcucinotta@roadrunner.com
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School of Leaders:

Thanks to all the cursillistas who helped make the June School of leaders amazing. We will continue our study of the Step by Step rector's Guide in September.

Bill Gross
Email: wfgross45@gmail.com

Secretary:

Have a Safe and Blessed Summer!
Mary Bitka
Call/Text: 716-984-0664
Email: marybitka@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Randy Rakoczynski
803-0058
Email: Randy357@gmail.com

Prayer Request:

Please keep the following people in your prayers and Palanca:

Helga Pollak, Mary Flanagan, Joe Insana, Dell Leaderstorf, Regina Amendolea, Mercurio's 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, 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 Shrout, Dan Graesser, Leo Reiter, Jeannette Shields daughter in law, Chuck DiMaria

All Cursillistas who are ill or suffering.

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.