



May2020 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 Witness & Report:

Casillo witness on the protection of St Joseph and a biking adventure. Click here: [St Joseph](#)

Region III Spring Meeting

Please attend the Region III Virtual Meeting part 2 Saturday May 9, 10:00am – noon. The topic is the New Pre-Cursillo. Click:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/519625176?pwd=ZVlhSWVDeS9tNlZLSlQxbGJkRXZwQT09>

Or you can dial in via phone to 1 929 436 2866 US (New York) and enter:
Meeting ID: 519 625 176 Password:
036470

Here is the **Lay Director Report** I will give at the Region III virtual meeting part 1 May 8, 2020.

All our activities were shut down from a public stand point beginning March 20 as directed by NYs governor. Our Spring Weekends are indefinitely postponed. Men's 227 last month and women's 228 was supposed to be this weekend. No monthly reunion masses, no public Ultreya, no School of Leaders.

However, some of our 7 Ultreya's are meeting via video and phone conferencing. Others are sharing witness talks by email. Bethany and Come to the Well Ultreya's are hosting Zoom

conferencing. The last "Come to the well" Ultreya had 20 people zoom in. Terry Johnson the host partitioned 4 people in 5 separate chat rooms so they could group at the start. Then they all joined together for the witness talk by Chuck DiMaria. Read his witness by clicking here: [Chuck DiMaria Witness](#)

I am hearing from several people that many permanent groups are still meeting. Ours has been meeting as usual on Saturday mornings via free Conference Call.com.

This has been a great blessing for us. It keeps us focused on what is truly important in our lives. It gives us a sense of purpose and inspiration as we listen to our friend's piety, study, action and Close moments with Christ. We discuss evangelization in this new environment. All of the people I group with and talk to have said they are praying more and watching daily mass and listening to talks on youtube by all the great Catholic evangelists like Bishop Barron.

Others permanent groups meet in places like open churches following all the social distancing guidelines. Joan Conklyn reported that her group tried phone conferencing and they just did not like it. So they meet in a corner of their church 6 feet apart every week.

We have on the agenda for our next Secretariat meeting to discuss how

Cursillo is going to be different in the future. When the social distancing is relaxed many may still feel uncomfortable sleeping in a gym with 25 others or in a conference room with 40 others. Personal contact issues like, hugging, shaking hands etc. will need to be addressed.

We are waiting for Bishop Scharfenberger to appoint a new Spiritual Director. We expect this to happen quickly.

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

[Pre Cursillo Reflection:](#)

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, In some ways it is hard to believe that many of us have been "locked down" for about 7 weeks. For many, they have been our hero's as they care for the sick and dying, they keep our grocery stores open and other essential business' open. I am grateful for their efforts and pray for them every day.

Marge and I have been able to use technology to remain connected to our Permanent Group and other groups like our Bible studies. While we miss receiving the Eucharist, we are grateful for the ability to "attend" Mass. We so appreciate all the local and national priests that are streaming their Masses, offering workshops, rosaries and the Divine Mercy chaplet for us to participate in, along with Catholic radio. Not only do they give us a sense of unity and community but we are also struck with awe when we see people from Kenya, Ireland and Singapore participating in Mass with us. It truly makes the world smaller.

In recent weeks, I have been struck by (2) homilies - one is from Father Mike

Schmitz and the other one is by Father Jonathan Meyer. I don't know about you, but at this time in history I realize how much I like to be "in control" and how feeling secure and certain about finances, food and shelter gives me comfort. Father Mike Schmitz suggests that as much as we might want and need security and certainty, they are illusions. It has me evaluating what and who I put my trust in. Father Jonathan spoke about the return to "normal" and maybe normal wasn't physically, emotionally or spiritually healthy for us. Perhaps we need to re-examine those areas of our lives.

For both Marge and I felt like we trusted God but under these new circumstances, we recognize that there is room for growth to trust even more in God and also accept HIS will.

When the Secretariat met via teleconferencing, my take away was how much everyone is relying on their Permanent Group and Ultreya to encourage, challenge and pray with them. It reaffirms that beauty of having a community that walks with us on our journey. It is why we sponsor - to bring others to Jesus and give them a community like Jesus had.

May Our God, continue to give you HIS peace.

Click here for [Lynn Lomanto's reflection on Holy Communion](#)

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

[Cursillo Section](#)

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:

Mike Cucinotta 310-2861

Mary Beth Cucinotta 573-8205

4077 Thornwood Lane

Williamsville NY 14221

Email: Mcucinotta@roadrunner.com

Email: Mbcucinotta@roadrunner.com

School of Leaders Personal Reflections & Comments

After Christmas I dutifully put away all the decorations: the tree, the wreaths, the garlands, the glass ornaments. Everything went into their appropriate boxes and down the narrow stairs to await next December. After finishing, I collapsed on to the sofa. Then I looked over to the side table and noticed that I had not put away the crèche.

Oh well, I thought, I'm tired from all those trips up and down the stairs. The crèche can wait until tomorrow. Tomorrow came, and I got busy with all the bits and pieces that make up daily life, and the crèche stayed put. The same for the next day and the day after that and the day after that and ...

Along about mid February I looked over at it and decided that the time had come. I would do it as soon as I had finished watching the latest episode of NCIS, but of course I fell asleep. When I woke up it was bedtime, and so my resolution vanished. Soon it was time for a long planned trip to Massachusetts, and again the crèche was forgotten.

I arrived home just in time to find everything, everywhere closed down, and as I am in the high-risk category, I was closed down too. Days of endless isolation led to more days of isolation. I spoke to people on the phone, carried on Internet correspondence, and watched one Netflix offering after another.

The restrictions were starting to get on my nerves. Then, one day I looked over at the

crèche, and there were Mary and Joseph and the baby just as I had left them. To one side were Luke's shepherds and to the other were Matthew's wise men.

Gradually it dawned on me why I had not put them away. Perhaps it was more than simple fecklessness. I find myself wanting to sit with them, look at them, talk to them. I genuinely need them, and so where they are is where they'll stay.

May God bring this emergency to a speedy end.

Bill Gross

Email: wfgross45@gmail.com

Secretary Reflection:

I am blessed my entire family is safe and healthy and am able to work full time, along with everyone in my family. I am working from home, exercising, and making dinners. I have my normal morning prayer time prior to the start of work.

I try to watch mass when I can and visit my church, but it closes at 2:30. At minimum, my husband and I watch Mass on Sundays together. Since this pandemic started, my husband and I have watched the entire Marvel movie series from movie #1. We need to watch the final one yet. I recently binge watched "The Chosen" as was recommended during a recent virtual (zoom) Ultreya and absolutely LOVED it!

I am currently reading "33 Days to Merciful Love" by Father Michael Gaitley. We get dinner take out every Friday night to try and support the local restaurants. If the weather is nice on the weekend, we get together with a neighbor couple and have a couple of cocktails and play games (appropriately distanced).

I miss going to church and receiving Jesus, and am sad for all the people that are laid off, or are unable to go to the doctors or cannot have elective surgeries

performed. They must be so stressed out. I am praying for them and for a return to normalcy.

God bless!

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.

Pray for assisted living people and their family
Ron Buticci
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
Joan Roberts
Mary Flanagan
Joe Insana
Dell Leaderstorf
Bob Yegar
Bill Heidle
Corinne Giermek
Larry Lomanto
Dcn Joe Barr
Jim Youngers
Cathy & John Agugliaro
Shaun Vona
Tim Heidle
Owen Mangan
Sister Antonita
Dennis Hodur
Michael Volk
Kathy O'Keefe
Denise Bressette
Lynn Johnson

Diane Coughlin
Deacon Dan McGuire
Gary Banas
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
Marie Sorrentino
Frank Gallagher
Pat Abraham
Vinnie Barone
Linda Orszulak
Eva Tamoga
Ellie Wieleba
Lou and Liz Pauley
Lorrie Dickerson
Doug Shrout
Dan Graesser

Joe Rebisz shared this beautiful song of hope from Catholic artists at home. Click here: [Be not afraid](#)

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.