



January 2024 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Second Touch 2024:** February 2nd – 4th, 2024 Stella Niagara Center of Renewal, Lewiston NY.
(see the School of Leaders article for more details)
- Spring 2024 Weekends:** Women’s Weekend #233 - April 25-28, 2024
Men’s Weekend #234 – To Be Determined
- Virtual Ultreya:** Bethany Ultreya meets virtually on Zoom the 2nd and 4th Thursday each month. This is ideal for those who cannot get out and those who have moved out of town. Contact Lynn Lomanto for the meeting information;
Lomantolynn@gmail.com

***** **Please see the end of the newsletter for calendar of events** *****

[Lay Coordinator’s Report:](#)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Happy? Well, that remains to be seen. With all that is reported to be happening in the world and in the Church today it might be hard to stay on the bright side. Mark Twain has said, “If you don’t read the newspapers you’re uninformed. However, if you do read the newspapers, you’re mis-informed.” I don’t pay particular attention to what they’re saying so maybe I’m in the camp of the uninformed – at least in the concerns of the world, the flesh, and the devil. Here’s what I do know: in the end three things remain – Faith, Hope and Love. God is Love. Jesus is Lord. In Him I have Hope.

I recently watched a documentary on the life of Father Patrick Peyton called PRAY. Some of you more seasoned Cursillistas may recall Fr. Pat as ‘the Rosary Priest’ or the inventor of the phrases “The Family That Prays Together Stays Together” and “A World At Prayer Is A World At Peace”. I had heard those slogans many times growing up but was totally ignorant of Fr. Pat’s work before watching the documentary. For fifty years Fr. Pat travelled the globe talking to everyone and anyone about the importance of praying the Rosary daily with your family. Millions heard his message and attended his rallies. One rally in Manilla in 1983 was attended by two million people! A-list celebrities said ‘yes’ when he asked them to speak publicly on behalf of family prayer. He didn’t take ‘no’ sitting down. Instead, he knelt down and began praying until they said ‘yes’.

As Cursillistas we’re always trying to get our friends to say ‘yes’, aren’t we? We know the joy we experienced on our Cursillo and (hopefully) that joy continues to shine in our lives as we live our 4th Day in Group Reunion and Ultreya. As we make friends and be friends in this coming year, let’s come together as a family and Pray The Rosary when we are together.

Fr. Pat said that we needn't be overly concerned with politics or revolutions or wars. If we trust in Mary and do what she asked at Fatima and Pray the Rosary, God will act and our world will change. Get with your children and your spouse and Pray the Rosary. If your children won't pray with you then pray with your spouse. If your spouse won't pray with you then commit to PRAY YOURSELF. We're not called to be successful. We're called to be faithful.

De Colores,

Terry Johnson #191

(716) 908-9055

twjrex@gmail.com, buffalocursillo@gmail.com

Spiritual Advisor Report:

I was about eight years old, and it was the day after Christmas. I remember my mother asking why I looked so sad. I told her it was because Christmas was over. "All that waiting," I said, "and one day and it is done." She told me that the celebration of Christmas is not over for another two weeks! "Christmas is too big to be celebrated in just one day" she said. We celebrate Christmas all through the Christmas season which concludes on the feast of the Baptism of John the Baptist, 2 more weeks after Christmas. I remember the great joy I experienced as mom said that.

Looking back, I believe that the reason I wanted Christmas to go on longer was because everyone was extra happy around Christmas. It felt good to know that the Church recognized that one day wasn't long enough to celebrate God becoming man and entering our world as he did.

Anyone who has made a Cursillo weekend recognizes that the celebration of Christ coming into our world takes place every day of the year. That the impact is so great that anyone looking at us can see the joy with which we live!

Throughout this New Year, may you experience this joy every day. May it draw others towards you as you bring them towards Christ!

"Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ."

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Deacon Dave Clabeaux

Buffalo Cursillo Spiritual Advisor

716-353-3752

Historian Report:

Buffalo Cursillo History #24 January 2024 "Pastoral Plan" Part IV—Goals

(continuation from last month)

Goal 5

Provide a program right after the weekend which emphasizes linking up with other Cursillistas in similar environmental groups.

The following action steps to be accomplished:

- A. Provide a second private reunion shortly after the weekend that emphasizes explaining the Pastoral Plan and their potential involvement in it. (Post Cursillo Section)

Goal 6

Improve our direct dialogue with the Bishop and other diocesan leaders particularly regarding the purpose of Cursillo in relation to the diocesan goals; the dialogue to include by the autumn of 1976 , participation in one specific diocesan program.

“It is essential to have the approval of the local Bishop and integrate the Cursillo Pastoral Plan with the Diocesan Pastoral Plan where appropriate to the essence and purpose of the Movement.” (Leaders’ Manual p. 176 (1972).

The following steps will be taken:

- A. Provide the help of interested Cursillistas in the Diocesan Bicentennial Commission (a project of the American Catholic Bicentennial Observance) (Interested Cursillistas)
- B. Schedule Secretariat to meet with Bishop to dialogue regarding his concerns and how Cursillo can best support diocesan objectives.

Goal 7

Establish a dialogue with members of the other Christian faiths who share our goal of Christianizing the world, specifically within the Diocese of Buffalo. Initiate immediately; to extend over several year period.

The following action is anticipated:

- A. Assist in establishing a Protestant version of Cursillo in the Diocese. (This is already underway, with the initial impetus being provided by a small group of Protestant leaders. We will assist as requested in the first scheduled weekend for Sept. 1975.)

Goal 8

Identify the Environments in WNY that have the greatest influence on peoples’ lives and are in need of a Christian Influence.

Once the most important environments have been identified, we will at some point in the future formulate a plan to introduce Cursillo as an evangelizing force in those areas. (Working Group in Leaders’ School.)

Each goal provided its own timetable. The Secretariat felt that a single group should be given the overall responsibility to coordinate and guide the efforts of all the Sections involved. It was decided to designate the Pre-Cursillo Section under the leadership of Jim Walsh (Men’s #27), who had the proven ability in organizing and following through on such a complex and important endeavor. The Pre-Cursillo and the other Sections needed to expand their membership in order to handle their additional responsibilities. There was then a need for more leaders who would make leadership in the Cursillo Movement their major apostolate. Many stepped up to the call.

Carol Stier (Buffalo Women’s #7)
Buffalo Cursillo Historian
(716) 692-1606

Pre-Cursillo Report:

Happy New Year to everyone.

PreCursillo is waiting for you applications. Our Women's Weekend is scheduled for April 25-28, 2024 at St. Vincent de Paul in Springbrook.

I encourage all members to start the application process with any candidates you would like to sponsor. If we receive enough applications for the men's weekend, a date will be announced for May.

Pray for Candidates. We Pray for Candidates that will be open and receptive to the activities of Cursillo.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your Divine Love. God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructed the hearts of the faithful, grant, that by the same Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation.

For this we pray.

Lynn Lomanto
PreCursillo Coordinator
585-409-4123
lomantolynn@gmail.com

Cursillo Section:

I hope that this finds you rested up from your Christmas celebrations. As we know, the Twelve Days of Christmas began on Christmas Eve and I hope that will find time to reflect on the gift of Jesus, given so generously to us; along with Jesus' gift to us - dying on the cross for US.

For those that aren't aware, there are many sub-committees that make up the Cursillo Section. I will use the next few newsletters to share about each committee and what their role is. **Team Selectors** are the first sub-committee I would like to share with you. There is a team of (3) men and a team of (3) women who make up the Men's Team Selectors and the Women's Team Selectors. Currently the men on the Men's Team are: Paul Johnson, Jeff Peresie and Tony Shilen. The women that make up the Women's Team are: Catherine Friedman, Mary Bitka and Donna LoVullo. For many, many years, Alice Appenheimer has headed the Women's Team Selectors and has recently shared that she is stepping down from the role of a team selector. Alice has been such a blessing and used her gifts of discernment and insightfulness, along with time in prayer to work with the Holy Spirit to help pick the members of the teams. Before she decided to step down, she brought on Mary Bitka and Donna LoVullo and taught them how to go about selecting a team. I know first-hand how much her insight and dedication helped put together great teams - many of which I was privileged to work. On behalf of the Cursillo Section and the Cursillo Community, join me in thanking Alice for the love and time she poured into this position.

One other topic I would like to address is **Palanca**. Let me recap what Palanca is - Palanca is the Spanish word for lever or influence. Palanca is your prayers, rosary, adoration, Mass, Novena's or fasting. Palanca can also be offering up any hardships you might be encountering to be used as a lever for another's conversion. It has been the tradition to write individual palanca letters to members of the team or candidates to offer an encouraging word and let them know they have been lifted up in prayer. In the past, there would be a number of "palanca drops" throughout the course of the weekend. Based on National's recommendations and reflection by the Secretariat, there are now (2) palanca drops on the weekends. We will give out (3) pieces at each drop. The sponsor's palanca letter will always be included. All additional palanca letters will be placed in the bags for the candidates and team to read at a later date. When I took over the Cursillo Section, I had to take over the "OUT BOUND" palanca. OUT BOUND palanca is the BUFFALO communities' prayers for the various weekends across the COUNTRY and WORLD. I was also

privity to receiving the palanca from all the movements across the COUNTRY and WORLD. Wow - was that emotional to read about all the rosaries, Holy Hours, and Masses offered up for our Team by folks in Italy, Hungary, and Australia to name a few places.

Seeing how emotional the Outside Palanca made me, I would suggest that Ultreyas and Permanent Groups "do" communal palanca for the upcoming weekends (Women's April 25-28) and writing a General Palanca note. I was amazed at how powerful it was on me and regret that I can't read Spanish or Italian. As my daughter (a Cursillista) and I were talking about this - for her, General Palanca and Outbound Palanca showed her what the Body of Christ looks like. Working together to bring Christ to our environments and world through our acts of Palanca.

If you have any questions regarding any of this, please don't hesitate to contact Denise or myself for further explanation.

Hope to see you at the Reunion Mass.

God's blessings on us all,

Cursillo Section, Co-Coordinator:

Denise Daniels: 716-823-5453

Diane Putt: 716-380-0187

Post-Cursillo:

Post Cursillo is the time after your Cursillo weekend, also referred to as the 4th Day and the rest of your life. The School of Leaders (SOL) sessions include discussions on 4th Day activities. Over the last couple months all the Ultreya Leaders attended to share how their Ultreya operates. We discussed how Cursillo communication methods can be improved - is email old-school? Are texts preferred? How about phone calls, X (twitter) or Facebook? Please let us know if you have any no-cost suggestions. They shared how treats and beverages are typically part of the socialization at the end of the Ultreya too. Your input can help us to increase the energy and excitement of our Ultreyas!

The 4th Day discussions at the December SOL covered: Conviction/Piety, Decision/Study, and Consistency/Action. The thought we were left to consider was – ‘If men are not asked for much, they will not even give what they need to’. Are you investing in your 4th Day? If not, it is never too late to change course which is a very popular goal at the beginning of the year, and it just happens to be the beginning of 2024. Don't procrastinate, make changes now! ... even if they are small changes.

As we mentioned last month, a few parish families have requested that we bring Cursillo to those new parish families. The tentative idea is to have a reunion mass with the parish family community at a Saturday Vigil and follow that with an introduction to Cursillo and a social. The first reunion mass may be Saturday February 9th in the Lockport area. Details will be provided as they are confirmed.

Make a friend. Be a friend. Bring a friend.

Your Post Cursillo Coordinators,

Kate Emery – 716-598-5073, emeryinbuffalo@roadrunner.com

Mike Emery – 716-207-2834, memery289@gmail.com

School of Leaders:

“Life is like a bowl of cherries”. My step-mom is in a nursing home now with ever increasing dementia. But when I see her she still greets me with her favorite saying: “Life is good!” We can't all say that, some perhaps rarely and most of us aren't able to say that in every moment of the day. But hopefully once in a while you are presented with moments where you can say to yourself “Life is Good!”.

In our next school of leaders Deacon Dave Clabeaux will present us with a doctrinal talk on one of the 10 Topics of Cursillo. Life. I am anxious to hear his take on this topic and I hope you will be too. In addition, we will continue our conversations on 4th day. My hope is that we will have a group of folks willing to share their experience as sponsor as well as others sharing their experience as either willing or reluctant candidates. If you have a story along this line, come share it.

Our next school will take place on **Saturday, January 13th from 10:30am** until around noon. We will again meet in the Community Room of the school building at the Church of the Annunciation, 7580 Clinton Street, Elma NY. Coffee, water and various other treats always accompany our meetings.

If you haven't made School of Leaders a priority yet, please consider coming and experiencing our growing group of Cursillistas, willing to share and learn from each other. Come experience Christ in community.

Second Touch 2024!

It's that time again to mark your calendars for the annual Second Touch (more than a retreat) weekend for all Cursillistas. The Date is February 2 - 4, 2024 at Stella Niagara Center of Renewal, Lewiston NY. All Cursillistas are invited to attend. This weekend is a very special time for all of us, a time for prayer and community building, for sharing, making new friends and reconnecting with old friends. These weekends help us to continue our understanding of Cursillo. This year we are continuing the "LIVING THE CHARISM SERIES #4 - Cursillo a living Christian experience with others. The Charism of the second day - Saturday." The weekend starts on Friday night February 2nd, the registration is from 3-7pm, then Reconciliation from 7-8pm. We finish the weekend on Sunday afternoon February 4th about 1PM. To come for the whole weekend and stay at the center overnight 2 nights with 5 meals the cost is \$200. To commute is \$100. All day Saturday is \$75. Dinner and Ultreya Saturday night \$30. To Sign up or for more information call Marty Ruhland at 716-481-0662 or e-mail him at rdservices@roadrunner.com or Carol Palesh 716-694-094-Email grannypalesh@gmail.com. Donations for the scholarship fund are always welcome.

God Bless you and your families,

Marty Ruhland
Call/Text: 716-481-0662
Email: rdservices@roadrunner.com

Treasurer:

Cursillo continues to be blessed in many ways during 2023. Thanks to a generous bequest by the late Rev. Robert Beiter, our Buffalo Cursillo Movement received a wonderful donation of over \$5,000 that will keep our movement on sound footing for the foreseeable future. I know that many of you have questions about our financial position and if you do want to discuss this with me at any time, please feel free to ask me to review where we are at one of our events, such as Reunion Masses.

There have been many questions in the past about how much our weekends cost to put on, and do we cover those costs with the donations received (Candidates donations, Sponsor donations, Ultreya donations and collections at the Holy Hour and Closings). The answer is in general, our weeks come close to covering the costs we incur but not always. Our primary costs over the last few years have gone up substantially just as we have seen costs for our own home goods go up.

- Food currently runs in the range \$650 to \$700 for a weekend and Otto & Mike have done a great job at keeping costs under control while providing great meals.

- Supplies needed for each weekend generally run in the range of \$200-300. This includes Pilgrim guides, crosses and various supplies that are used.
- Stipends are provided to the priests who come on site for the weekend (Masses and Reconciliation) The costs have gone up significantly over time and now cost about \$400 each weekend.
- Additional costs come from photos and other small miscellaneous items that are needed.

Weekends do come with some significant costs, and we do need to be aware of those. We have always operated with a sense of “God will provide” and indeed he has always provided us the means to cover these expenses thanks to all who have given so generously in the past (both in time and gifts donated). Ways to help keep our weekend affordable and available would include Ultreya’s and Permanent groups make donations to either cover sponsorships or costs of a meal each weekend.

Cursillo has many other costs that we also must provide for, website fees, general supplies and postage, especially for Pre-Cursillo, National and Regional Dues as well as sending our lay leader to the national event each year. These costs are generally covered by donations made at our Reunion masses when they are held.

And often it is those one-time gifts, donations and remembrances from members of the community that make up for these costs in tight times. At this time of year, I’m grateful to be a member of Cursillo, to know so many who are indeed generous with the gifts God has provided and so willing to be there for one another. I hope and pray you each had a Blessed and Healthy Christmas Season, you have a Happy and Holy New Year, and keep our Buffalo Cursillo in thought, prayer as we go forward.

Ed Hackett, Weekend 189
 Call/Text: 716-863-9851
 Email: ehbanker@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Happy New Year!

Mary Bitka
 Call/Text: 716-984-0664
 Email: marybitka@gmail.com

Prayer Request:

Entered into their 5th Day:

Evelyn Milligan (Women’s #15) - Died 11/11/23

Dolores Kurzdorfer (Women’s #160) – Died 11/30/23

If you learn of a recently deceased Cursillista please notify Carol Stier at (71) 692-1606.

Notify Marty Ruhland (716-481-0662), rdservices@roadrunner.com) for any names to add or remove from the prayer list.

Jerry Casillo	Jean Claire Buchbinder	Cathy Agugliaro
Lois Weber	Chelsea Ellis	Tim Hiedle
Randy Rakoczynski	Laura and Angelo Ciavarella	Kathy O'Keefe
Jerry Frisicaro	Marie Gannon	Denise Bressette
Dcn Gary Terrana	Mike Ryan	Diane Coughlin
Arthur Ruhland	Timothy McCann	Gary Banas
Bob Yager	Joan Roberts	John Agugliaro
Cole Koons	Mary Flannagan	Marcia Moretti
Karen Trimper and Family	Bill Hiedle	Cheryl Besant
Cathy Derrick	Corinne Giermek	Bobby Lovenetti
Mary Mercurio	Dcn Joe Barr	Linda Orszulak
Fr. Joe Badding	Patrick Johnson	Elie Wieleba
Pam Hornung	Jim Youngers	

Upcoming Cursillo Dates	
Second Touch Weekend	Reunion Masses
Date: February 2-4, 2024 Times: Arrive Friday 4 pm – 7 pm Ends 1pm Sunday Place: Stella Niagara Center of Renewal, Lewiston, NY Details: See the Second Touch article	February 9, 2024 - tentative Location – To be determined March 2024 - date TBD April 2024 - date TBD May 2024 - date TBD
Women's Weekend #233 April 25 - 28, 2024	Men's Weekend #234 Date to be determined
Date TBD - Support Mass for Women's Team 4/24 - Set-up for Weekend @ 5:30 pm, 4/25 – Registration from 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm, Sponsors & community prayer service at 8 pm. 4/27 – Break-in, arrive at a time TBD 4/28 – Las Mananitas – 6 am (Women only) - 3 pm Closures with community mass Date TBD – 4th Day Dinner; Potluck @ St. Vincent's, doors open at 5:30 pm. Dinner at 6:00 pm, Entire Community Welcome	Date TBD - Support Mass for Men's Team Date TBD - Set-up Men's Weekend @ 5:30 pm, Date TBD – Registration from 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm, Sponsors & community prayer service at 8 pm. Date TBD – Break-in, arrive at a time TBD Date TBD – Las Mananitas – 6 am (Men only) - 3 pm Closures with community mass Date TBD – 4th Day Dinner; Potluck @ St. Vincent's, doors open at 5:30 pm. Dinner at 6:00 pm - Entire Community Welcome
OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDY	
School of Leaders (Workshop)	
Topic: Life (one of the 10 Topics of Cursillo) Speaker: Deacon Dave Clabeaux Date: January 13, 2024 Time: 10:30 am – 12 noon(ish) Location: Church of the Annunciation, 7580 Clinton St., Elma Organizer: Marty Ruhland (716)481-0662 Details: See the School of Leaders article	

Buffalo Cursillo Ultreya Schedule

Ultreya	Date	Time	Location	Contacts
Bethany Cheektowaga & surrounding area	1/9/24 2 nd Tuesday	7:00 PM	Zoom Contact Lynn to be added to the email list	Lynn Lomanto lomantolynn@gmail.com 585-409-4123
Come to the Well Clarence area	1/16/24 3 rd Tuesday	7:00 PM	Member House Contact Chris for location	Jack & Christine Thomann 716.583.2324 (Chris – m) 716.583.2320 (Jack – m) cmtpsalm139@gmail.com
Full of Grace Elma area	1/31/24 Last Wednesday January - June Sept. – October	7:00 PM	Member House Contact Marty for location	Marty Ruhland rdservices@roadrunner.com (716) 481-0662 (m)
Pueblo de Paz Warsaw area	1/28/24 Last Sunday	7:00 PM	St. Michael's Church 171 N. Main St, Warsaw	Liz Wascak 585.237.5155 ewascak@yahoo.com
Rainbow Vineyard North towns area	1/9/24 2 nd Tuesday 1/23/24 4 th Tuesday	7:00 PM	St. Jude the Apostle Parish 800 Niagara Falls Blvd North Tonawanda	Carolyn McMamara 716.867.8962 Carolyn Ruhland 716.912.2890 caruhl73@verizon.net
Southtowns South towns area	1/4/24 1 st Thursday 1/18/24 3 rd Thursday	7:00 PM	Member House Contact Mary Ann for location	St. Andrew's Permanent Group Mary Ann DeMaria 716-512-4765 mdemaria@roadrunner.com
Spirit of the City City of Buffalo	No_Meeting (inactive)			

Start Date	End Date	Event	Location
1/5/2024	1/7/2024	Men's 55 (Vietnamese)	Melbourne, Victoria (Australia)
1/11/2024	1/14/2024	Men's 703 (English)	Orange, CA
1/11/2024	1/14/2024	Women's 9 (Spanish)	Harrisburg, PA
1/12/2024	1/14/2024	Women's 56 (Vietnamese)	Melbourne, VIC (Australia)
1/18/2024	1/21/2024	Men's 153 (Spanish) (Spanish)	Philadelphia PA
1/18/2024	1/21/2024	Women's 65 (English)	Youngstown, OH
1/18/2024	1/21/2024	Men's Cursillo (English)	Windsor-Essex, Ontario (Canada)
1/18/2024	1/21/2024	Men's 110 (English)	Little Rock, AR
1/18/2024	1/21/2024	Men's 59 (Spanish)	ICA- PERU
1/25/2024	1/28/2024	Men's 31 (Portuguese) (Portuguese)	Newark, NJ
1/25/2024	1/28/2024	Women's 704 (English)	Orange, CA
1/25/2024	1/28/2024	Women 378 (Spanish)	New York, NY