



December 2025 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:

Spring 2026 Weekends:	Men's Weekend #240, February 12 th – 15 th , 2026 Women's Weekend #241 – March 12 th -15 th , 2026
Virtual Ultreya:	Bethany Ultreya meets virtually on Zoom the 2 nd and 4 th 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 *****

Buffalo Cursillo Second Touch 2026: Becoming the Good News An Invitation to Explore the richness of the Cursillo movement. January 30, 2026 – February 1, 2026

All Cursillista's are invited to participate in the upcoming Second Touch weekend at the **Stella Niagara Center of Renewal** in **Lewiston, NY**. This program offers an opportunity to engage in periods of reflection and prayer, share experiences, foster new connections, and enjoy quality time together. Meals will be provided throughout the weekend.

Theme: "Becoming the Good News"

Registration Options & Costs:

- \$220: Full weekend (includes two nights' accommodation and six meals)
- \$100: All day Saturday only
- \$40: Dinner and Ultreya only

Scholarships are available to support participation.

Weekend Schedule:

- **Friday:**
 - **Registration 3:00 – 7:00 PM**
 - **Dinner 5:30 PM**
 - **Reconciliation: 7:00 – 8:00 PM**
 - **Program Begins at 8:00 PM**
- **Saturday: Full day ending with Ultreya**
- **Sunday: Breakfast, Mass, Lunch**
- **The weekend ends approximately 1:00 PM**

For further information or to register, please contact:

- Carol Palesh: call 716-694-0942 or grannypalesh@gmail.com
- Karen Trimper: call or text 716-867-8962 or karentrimp@gmail.com

A \$50 deposit is required to reserve your place. Please make checks payable to Buffalo Cursillo and mail to:

Karen Trimper
101 Werkley Rd.
Tonawanda, NY 14150

Lay Coordinator Report:



Welcome to the Women of Cursillo Weekend 239!

Pat	Jarrell	Mary	Frank
Elizabeth (Liz)	Neswadi	Erin (Pidge)	McNichol
Monica	Pierce	Sharon	Tojek
Catherine (Cathy)	Gattie	Lucy	Torres
Rachel	Denz	Bienvenida (Beni)	Keck
Bonnie	Kendall	Mary Anne	Heeb
Anne	Mucica	Yoharis	Montanez
Therese	Milkowski	Mary	Bushway
Kathleen (Kathy)	Heberling	Joyce	White

It's now onto your 4th Day. Cursillo is more than just a weekend retreat. We hope that you will take the next step and join your Buffalo Cursillo community by participating in Ultreyas and in a permanent group. Ultreyas times and locations can be found at the end of this newsletter. Don't be shy, come and join your fellow sisters and brothers in Christ. We look forward to meeting you.

De Colores
Chuck Stephan
Lay Coordinator
cstephan@twc.com
(716) 817-3969

Assistant Lay Coordinator Report:

Spiritual Advisor Report:

As Advent begins, it is good to ask yourself, "How will I prepare for Christmas this year?" I don't mean clicking through Amazon to find gifts or setting up the best decorations. I don't even mean planning the family dinner for Christmas day. Think back to when you were five years old and you first heard Christmas was nearing. You pictured a baby in a manger with a donkey, some sheep, and Mary and Joseph looking at the baby Jesus with such awe!

I remember when we were kids, my mother would take a shoe box and fashion it into a manger. She would take small strips of yellow paper and, running them across a scissors, would curl them into what looked to us like straw, soft and cushiony. She told us that each time we performed some act of kindness, we were to place a piece of this "straw" into the manger. It would provide a soft bed for Jesus who we would place in the manger late on Christmas Eve. It was clear to us that during Advent, more than shopping or decorations, life was about doing good things for others. About preparing the way of the Lord. As my brothers and sisters and I grew over the years, even to the present day, that message, of course, never changed.

May all your actions this Advent Season prepare for and provide comfort for Christ our Lord!

As my three-year term as Spiritual Advisor for Buffalo Cursillo comes to a close at the end of this December, I wanted to thank you for the joy of this opportunity! Know that you will remain in my prayers and I will continue to see you at Cursillo events. On January 1st, please welcome Deacon Mark Leaderstorf who will be taking on this role. Many of you already know Deacon Mark from the Weekends where he served, and also at so many 4th day dinners, Ultreyas, etc. With his wise insights, inspiring leadership, and openness to the Holy Spirit, I know that he will do a terrific job as Spiritual Advisor!

Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas!

Deacon Dave Clabeaux
Buffalo Cursillo - Spiritual Advisor
716-353-3752

Prayer for Intercession

We ask the intercession of Eduardo Bonnin to guide us so that we will be touched with the same Spirit that guided him to develop a method to bring us closer to Christ and our neighbor in the Cursillo Movement. Help us Lord to a deeper understanding of the true and authentic method of Cursillo and the Foundational Charism. Amen

Historian Report:

Buffalo Cursillo History Historian's Report #42, December 2025 "The Spanish Cursillo Movement of Buffalo" Part II

In December, 1996, the Spanish Cursillo Community got its second wind when Carol Palesh, Lay Director of the Buffalo Cursillo published an article in the "Buffalo Cursillo Newsletter" offering Hispanic Cursillistas to receive the current and subsequent newsletters.

Carol welcomed our Hispanic Brothers and Sisters writing: "We are one Cursillo movement with two language groups. Through this newsletter we hope to communicate to one another about our various activities and offer Palanca for one another. You, the Hispanic Community, have brought Cursillo to us and you have enriched our movement from its beginnings. We look forward to sharing and getting to know you and working together with you."

"In our diocese the growing Hispanic/Latin population...has been a creative force as we all share our unique talents, wisdom and special gifts. In experiencing the common bond of Cursillo...we all come to know one another in a trusting way, creating bonds of unity, a commitment to mission and new lay leaders." "Buffalo Cursillo Newsletter," December 1996 . (P. 1)

Also beginning in December 1996, Miguel Santos (Buffalo Spanish Men's #27) began adding an article in Spanish to the newsletter, (sometimes with an English translation, especially if it was to inform or to invite the Anglo community). In the same article, he invited all Cursillistas to the January 1997 Spanish Reunion Mass to be held at Holy Angels Church. He also listed the dates for the monthly Spanish Ultreya to be held at Holy Cross Church for 1997.

Fr. Dennis Mende (Buffalo Men's #111) was their Spiritual Advisor. Miguel Santos was the Hispanic Lay Director and Coordinator of the Ultreya. He was listed as part of the Buffalo Cursillo Secretariat from 1997 until 1999 and often attended the Buffalo Secretariat monthly meetings.

In 1997, Men's #164 (Feb. 12-15) and Women's #165 (April 17-20) were bilingual, in English and Spanish to bring both communities together for a Cursillo Weekend. Both were held at Southeast Community Work Center in Depew.

At the May 1998 Secretariat Meeting, Miguel announced two upcoming Spanish Cursillos: Men's 09/24-27, and Women's 11/19-22 to be held at Harvest House, 1782 Seneca St. in Buffalo. There hadn't been a Spanish Cursillo in Buffalo in ten years!

Fr. Dennis Mende would be serving on the women's teams as Spiritual Advisor. A Hispanic men's team would be imported from New York City and Latina Buffalo gals would serve as the women's team.

In the August “Buffalo Cursillo Newsletter”, Miguel invited the English-speaking Cursillistas to offer Palanca, and to join them at (bilingual) Las Mananitas and at La clausura to welcome the new babe chicks. People were also invited to attend their Leaders’ School every Friday night at their Cursillo center set up at Holy Cross Church.

The July 1998 “Buffalo Cursillo Newsletter” listed the members of the most current Buffalo Spanish Secretariat. They Included:

Spiritual Director: Fr. Peter Drilling (M #63) and Deacon Carlos Ramos

Coordinator: Miguel Santos

Co-Coordinator: Francisco Guzman

Treasurer: Amelia Ortiz

Corresponding Secretary: Denise-Gomez-Santos

Pre-Cursillo: Mildred Rosado

Post-Cursillo: Angelita Lopez

Liturgy/Music: Jorge Rodriguez, Jr.

Palanca: Carmen De Leon

Communication: Isaura Campos

Leaders’ School: Erohita Suarez and Veronica Rodriguez

Fr. Dennis Mende continued to be the Spiritual Advisor of their Ultreya at Holy Cross until December 1998, when he was transferred to Jamestown. Msgr. David Gallivan, Buffalo diocesan priest, returned from the missions in South America, stepped in as Ultreya Spiritual Advisor in March 1999.

Miguel Santos continued to write his articles in Spanish in most of the issues of the “Buffalo Cursillo Newsletter” until March 1999. He was subsequently ordained a deacon for the Buffalo Diocese and continues to be involved in the Spanish Community at Holy Cross Church. He is also head of the Office of Cultural Diversity for the diocese.

Buffalo Hispanic Cursillistas continued with their own leadership groups and church celebrations where they felt more comfortable with their own customs and cultural traditions. Often language was a barrier in joining with the Anglo ecclesia.

A few years ago, Deacons Miguel Santos and Alejandro Manunta (M #199) attempted to resurrect the Spanish Cursillo Movement in WNY. After Fr. Rodriguez, Spiritual promoter of the Spanish Cursillo Movement, retired, the lack of pastoral leadership attributed to its decline as well as the fact of “many of our Spanish Cursillistas moving to other cities in the United States and Puerto Rico. Many continued to be involved in Cursillo within their respective dioceses. It is good to know that they were nurtured in our diocese and that the fruits continue to be felt not only in the Buffalo Diocese but also in dioceses throughout the country. (Interview of Fr. Rodriguez by Miguel Santos)

Carol Stier (Buffalo Women’s #7)

Buffalo Cursillo Historian

716-692-1606

Pre-Cursillo Report:

Hi all! What an amazing women's weekend #239 was. Such spirit filled candidates! The closing ceremony was so filled with The Holy Spirit and the energy was powerful , so much joy and laughter!!

With that being said, let us not be nervous or shy about inviting men and women to the upcoming men's weekend February 12 and women's March 12 2026. Ask The Holy Spirit to lead you to those who would be blessed and deepen their walk with Jesus.

Upcoming info nights for men and women will be announced soon. We know these info nights are a wonderful way to get potential candidates to meet other men and women who live their faith with joy.

We already have applications for the next weekend so don't wait to contact that person you have been thinking about

God Bless and I am thankful for you all!

De Colores
Sherry Misso

Cursillo Section:

In October and November the Men's and Women's Fall Weekends (#238 and #239) were held.

As many of you know, I (Diane Putt) am one of the Coordinators of the Cursillo Section and had the honor to be the Rectora. After working on the Cursillo Section for a number of years and working with the various members of the Section and the Secretariat to have the weekends run smoothly, it was exciting to watch from the sidelines how the planning paid off BUT also how the Holy Spirit moved on that weekend. Both Teams did an outstanding job in preparing for the weekend and once the weekend was underway, allowing the Holy Spirit to move in and through them to help the Babe Chicks encounter Christ.

To take a phrase from the Steubenville Conferences, the Cursillo Weekend was about POWER and PURPOSE. All of us saw the POWER of PALANCA, as strangers became brothers and sisters in Christ. There were a few Team and Candidates that encountered "obstacles to grace" prior to the weekend; where they had to make a choice - "actual grace" to stay home or push through and attend the weekend. I believe it was also the PALANCA that helped the individuals to choose to attend the weekend.

I can personally testify to the power of YOUR Palanca and that of the worldwide community. My mother has dementia and about 2 weeks before the weekend, she declined significantly. So much so that hospice was called. Needless, to say, I had concerns if I would be able to work the weekend. Thanks to prayer, my mom's vitals were stable (still are). We advise the candidates to leave their concerns at the door. Thanks to the prayers, I was able to leave my concerns about my mom behind. I was able to experience JOY and Holy laughter.

The weekend gives us a PURPOSE - to educate ourselves about Christ, so that we can bring Christ to a troubled world. The weekend also gives us a community, that helps strengthen us on our journey. As the Team and Candidates met at the 4th Day Dinner; a common theme I heard was how many have experienced a peace, calm and deep, deep joy. Feelings that they wish to hold on to. As the church year ends this weekend with the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - let us be charged with making the Kingdom of Heaven begin here and now, through us, as we bring the light, peace, calm and joy to every situation and environment we encounter.

May you have a beautiful Thanksgiving and Holy Christmas.

Denise Daniels - 716-823-5453

Diane Putt - 716-380-0187

Post-Cursillo:

Post Cursillo Report:

Now that we are into the holiday season, it's time to count blessings and check the wishlist.

We are very thankful for all who attended the 4th Day Dinner last week and helped make it a wonderful success and meaningful for the new Cursillistas. We had 85 join us.

This is our Christmas wishlist:

*That everyone attends an Ultreya or asks someone to come with them to an Ultreya.

*That everyone be part of a small discussion group. If you are not part of a group then please call us and we can help you join or form a group.

*That everyone gives prayerful consideration to attending the Second Touch retreat at the end of January. It's a wonderful refresher course.

*That everyone turns to that person in Church who seems to be looking for more out of their faith and says, "Are you familiar with Cursillo"?

*That all of us enjoy the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ and carry that peace to all our families and friends.

Make a friend, Be a friend and Bring a friend to Christ.

DeColores,

Pat Mahaney 716 481-3715 pmahaney2@gmail.com

Greg Wilttrout 716 870-7986 gwilttrout74@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Secretary:

God Can.

God Will.

End of story.

Pray, then let it go

Hope to see everyone at 2nd touch, January 30-February 1, 2026. It's going to be a wonderful weekend all about "Being the Good News". Any questions call, email or text me.

Karen Trimper
716.867.8962
karentrimp@gmail.com

School of Leaders:

In my article last month I described the busyness that can occur in life. Especially during Advent there is so, so much happening every day, from Christmas parties to shopping, to decorating our homes and going to school Christmas pageants. My life is no exception. So, I apologize when I tell you that we will not have a School of Leaders in December. I had hoped to pull it off but unfortunately could not.

Regardless, you can do your own bit of self-study by looking into what the season of Advent is really all about.

1. It's a time of Hope. We wait in anticipation of Christ's birth. Keep hope alive in your heart. Hope for all that is good and full of love and for prayers to be answered.
2. It's a time of Peace. Peace on earth? Sure, why not. Peace in your home and family? Absolutely. Especially though, Peace in your heart. It starts there and then spreads everywhere.
3. It's a time for Joy. Joy is much bigger than happiness. Joy is deeper and wider. Joy endures. Seek it through Jesus and you will find it.
4. It's a time for Love. Let the love that fills your heart shine brightly everywhere you go this Advent season. Light up the lives of everyone you encounter. Don't be one of those burnt out bulbs. Make sure your bulb is shining right along side all the rest of us. Let your love light bring warmth to those around you this season.

Have a wonderful Christmas, wrap yourself warmly and keep safe so that I get to see you all again in January and beyond.

DeColores,

Marty Ruhland
School of Leaders

Prayer Request:

Entered into their 5th Day: Deacon Dennis Kapsiak (Men's #59), died November 30th, 2025

If you know of a Cursillista who has died, please call Carol Stier at (716) 692-1606 so she can add the person to this column.

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

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

Buffalo Cursillo Ultreya Schedule				
Ultreya	Date	Time	Location	Contacts
Bethany Cheektowaga & surrounding area	12/10/25 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	12/17/25 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	None in December	7:00 PM	Member House Contact Marty for location	Marty Ruhland rdservices@roadrunner.com 716-481-0662 (m)
Pueblo de Paz Warsaw area	12/29/25 Last Sunday	7:00 PM	St. Michael's Church 171 N. Main St, Warsaw	Liz Wascak 585-237-5155 ewascak@yahoo.com
Rainbow Vineyard Northtowns area	12/10/25 2 nd Tuesday None- Christmas Eve 4 th Tuesday	7:00 PM	St. Jude the Apostle Parish 800 Niagara Falls Blvd North Tonawanda	Carolyn McNamara 716-694-5949 716-867-8962 Carolyn Ruhland 716-912-2890 caruhl73@verizon.net
Southtowns Southtowns area	12/5/25 1 st Thursday 12/18/25 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
St. Brendan on the Lake Lockport area	12/9/25	7:00 PM	St. Brendan on the Lake (conference room)	Contact Lynn Lomanto lomantolynn@gmail.com 585-409-4123

Upcoming Cursillo Dates	
Cursillo	Reunion Masses
January — Men's meet and greet. More information to follow.	None scheduled yet
Men's Weekend #240 February 12-15, 2026	Women's Weekend #241 March , 2026
<p>2/7 – 4:00 pm Support Mass for men's weekend at St. Teresa of Avila, Akron, NY</p> <p>2/11 - Set-up for Weekend 5:30 pm</p> <p>2/12 – Registration from 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm, Sponsors & community prayer service at 8 pm.</p> <p>2/14 – Break-in 7:00 pm, arrive by 6:45 pm</p> <p>2/15 – Las Mananitas – 6 am (Men only) - 3 pm Closures with community mass</p>	<p>3/ – 4:00 pm Support Mass for women's weekend</p> <p>3/ - Set-up for Weekend 5:30 pm</p> <p>3/ – Registration from 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm, Sponsors & community prayer service at 8 pm.</p> <p>3/ – Break-in 7:00 pm, arrive by 6:45 pm</p> <p>3/ – Las Mananitas – 6 am (Women only) - 3 pm Closures with community mass</p>
OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDY	
School of Leaders (Workshop)	Other Opportunities
<p>Topic:</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <p>Date: No School in December</p> <p>Time:</p> <p>Location:</p>	<p>Second Touch January 30th – February 1, 2026 (see article on page one above)</p>

Organizer: Marty Ruhland (716) 481-0662	
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December '24 & early January '25 Outbound Palanca

Start Date	End Date	Event	Location	
2024-12-05	2024-12-08	Men's 146 (Spanish)	Raleigh, NC	
2024-12-05	2024-12-08	Women's 686 (Spanish)	Houston, TX	
2024-12-05	2024-12-08	Men's 130 (English)	Springfield/Cape Girardeau diocese, Southern Missouri	
2024-12-19	2024-12-22	Men's 91 (English)	Worcester, MA	
2025-01-23	2025-01-26	Men's Cursillo (English)	Windsor-Essex, Ontario	
2025-01-23	2025-01-26	Men's Cursillo (Spanish)	La Paz, Bolivia	
2025-01-31	2025-02-02	Women 's 382	New York, NY	
2025-02-06	2025-02-09	Women's Cursillo (English)	Windsor-Essex, Ontario	