



December 2023 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:](#)

Happy New Year everybody! New Year? Am I not jumping the shark just a bit there? No, the Church celebrates a new year at the beginning of Advent, not on January 1st so Happy New Year! Now, the secular world would like us to believe that it’s already Christmas season, or I should say xmas season and that it started sometime just before Thanksgiving – or perhaps July if you’re a fan of the Hallmark Channel. But that is totally inaccurate and we as Cursillistas should know it and show it by the way in which we prepare for the birth of Jesus this month. In this season of Advent it is well that we remember to keep it solemn and prayerful. Fr. Robert McTigue had an interesting episode on his daily program/podcast on WLOF talking about Advent and what it should and should not be. One of the things he said that stuck with me was “if your Advent doesn’t include at least two trips to the confessional you’re doing it wrong!” And he followed that up by asking, “how do you know when it’s time for you to go to confession?” To help answer that question he suggested thinking about “how do you know when it’s time to take out the trash?” The answer will be different for everyone I suppose depending on your tolerance for filth in your life, and how much time you plan to spend in Purgatory should you not do a sufficient job of cleaning out your spiritual closets here. The point is that we’re all still sinners and living in this fallen world we can’t help but get some of its dirt on us that needs to be washed in the Blood of Christ. We also can’t help accumulating various refuse that needs to be carried to the curb occasionally. The important thing to remember in this season is that we are waiting for the arrival of the King of Glory, Emmanuel, God with us. Knowing that He is coming, should we not want to prepare?

Cursillo offers us some wonderful opportunities to do just that. Getting together in Friendship Groups, attending Ultreya and the School of Leaders are excellent ways to prepare our hearts for the birth of the Savior. Individually we can pray a novena, attend daily Mass and pray the Rosary. A holy hour spent in front of the Blessed Sacrament is a great way to bring peace into your life, and by extension the world. We sure can use it.

Have a blessed Advent and a very Merry Christmas!

DeColores!

Terry Johnson #191

(716) 908-9055

twjrex@gmail.com, buffalocursillo@gmail.com

Spiritual Director Report:

“I’m dreaming of a white Christmas, just like the ones I used to know.”

We hear Bing Crosby singing that song and right away memories of every single Christmas in our past fill our minds. The gently falling snow. Christmas cards. The fun of being with family and friends. Everyone being extra nice to each other. The beautiful Mass at church. And for me, and very likely for you too, that song brings us all the way back to when we were kids. Remember, there in the living room, looking at the baby Jesus in the manger and realizing that something extraordinary happened that first Christmas. Your young mind filled with the joy of realizing that God became human because he loves us so much! And as you thought about that, you could hear in the background, the voice of Bing Crosby, “I’m dreaming of a white Christmas...”

That song, “White Christmas,” was written by Irving Berlin, who was Jewish. He was an extraordinary man. Now with a Jewish background, you have to wonder how he was able to compose a song that so beautifully brings us those nostalgic memories of peace, warmth, and the love of Jesus, lying in a manger. Could it be that what he wrote was a reflection of what he saw in Christians he knew, as they celebrated Christmas? That his writing reflected the increased love we show towards one another as it is rekindled each year by the Christ Child in the manger.

This Christmas, after Mass, when we go out into the world, may our own actions towards one another be powerful reflections of our love of the baby in the manger. May we create memories that others will want to dream of. “And may all your Christmas’s, be white.”

For all of us in Cursillo, our *weekend* and subsequent Ultreya meetings and small groups have expanded our understanding of the magnitude of the birth of Christ. This year may we invite others into this movement so that they can appreciate the love of Jesus in the manger in a new and powerful way!

Merry Christmas!!!

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

Historian Report:

Buffalo Cursillo History #23 December 2023 “Pastoral Plan” Part IV—Goals

At the 1975 Leaders’ Workshop, eighty Buffalo Cursillistas helped to formulate the first Pastoral Plan, putting together eight goals created to meet the objective of bringing Christ to personal and diocesan environments.

Goal 1

Provide education to the Community (especially to the early Cursillistas in the Movement), which is the purpose and method of Cursillo.

- A. Employ newsletter space for Christianizing your environment. (Communications Section)
- B. Emphasize environmental witness talks at Ultreya and monthly Diocesan Reunions (Post-Cursillo Section).
- C. Include environmental personal witness at Weekend closing (Cursillo Section)
- D. Include more environmental emphasis in Leaders’ School (Leaders’ School Section)
- E. Publicize the availability and value to the community of Leaders’ School classes that involve the Cursillo purpose and method (Leaders’ School section)
- F. Promote subscriptions to the Cursillo National Magazine “Ultreya.”

Goal 2

Determine the various environments represented in the Cursillo community. Solicit information from Cursillistas about their present environmental involvements or interests. Collect responses into useful compilations.

The following action steps were taken:

- A. Develop a written survey from the pilot form prepared during the 1975 Leaders’ Workshop (Pre-Cursillo Section)
- B. Mail survey form to all members of the Cursillo community (Communications Section)
- C. Compile responses for each item of the survey, including listings of Cursillistas by the type of environment in which they indicated active or potential involvement. (Special Volunteer Group under the direction of Pre-Cursillo Section)

Goal 3

Provide an opportunity for present Cursillistas to place themselves environmentally and/or to link up with other Cursillistas in identical or similar environments.

The following action steps are anticipated:

- A. Develop a written survey from the pilot form prepared during the 1975 Leaders’ Workshop, (Pre-Cursillo Section)
- B. Mail the survey form to all members of the Cursillo community. (Communications Section)
- C. Compile responses for each item on the survey, including listings of Cursillistas by type of environment in which they indicated active or potential involvement. (Special Volunteer Group under the direction of Pre-Cursillo Section).

Goal 4

Determine why sizeable number of Cursillistas are not active in the Post-Cursillo Program of Ultreya Group Reunion through the survey.

Reintroduce those who previously made Cursillo the benefits to be gained through this method in terms of influencing their environments for Christ.

See Actions Steps in Goal 1.

(to be continued next month).

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

Pre-Cursillo Report:

The PreCursillo is the first of the three stages of the Cursillo Movement. In this stage the Cursillo Movement initiates the evangelizing process it must complete to accomplish its purpose.

The PreCursillo consists of:

- *Studying and selecting environments in need of evangelization.
- *Searching out, selecting, and preparing candidates, with a view towards maximum evangelical effectiveness.
- *Making plans to accompany the new cursillistas in the PostCursillo to help them mature in their faith, Christian commitment, and take.

It is the responsibility of every Cursillista to fill the role of Precursillo. Let's continue to move forward and bring new candidates to Cursillo.

Merry be your Christmas
Peaceful be your home
Joyful be your family
Blessed be each one

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

Cursillo Section:

Denise and I have been in this role for about a year; mostly observing how the weekend flows and listening to your concerns regarding the weekend. We have used the last few weeks to reflect on all we've seen and heard.

As many of you know, the women's fall weekend was postponed. The women's spring weekend will be April 25 - 28, 2024. It is our hope to have enough candidates to run the weekend and it appears many of the women will be able to reteam and work the spring weekend.

Talking of postponing weekends - it is a very hard decision for the Cursillo Section and the Secretariat when we are faced with light numbers of candidates. We do not make this decision lightly and unfortunately, there is no good solution. If we postpone a weekend, that could have been the only weekend a person could have lived one. If we run a weekend, the candidates might not have enough people to interact with.

Based on lighter number of candidates, the Cursillo Section and Secretariat have, for the time being, decided to provide (2) weekends a year vs (4). To keep our "stride", we will offer the women's weekend in the spring and the men's weekend in the fall. Please note; that with HOPE in our hearts, we will reserve (2) weeks in the spring and (2) weekends in the fall at St. Vincent's so the building is available when our numbers increase. The tentative date for the men's weekend is May 16-19 and will be based on applications received/projections.

As Post Cursillo pointed out, there are a couple of priests from the Diocese that are inviting the Secretariat to help them encourage their parishioners to live a weekend. With many of the Family of Parishes up and running, perhaps we can encourage our new family members to live a weekend. I know at my own parish, I see some new faces and/or I see Cursillistas that haven't been active in a while. A new environment to make a friend, be a friend and bring the friend to Christ.

May you experience a fruitful Advent and a very Merry Christmas season and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

God bless,

Cursillo Section, Co-Coordinators:
Denise Daniels: 716-823-5453
Diane Putt: 716-380-0187

Post-Cursillo:

The 4th Day Dinner held on November 11th at St. Vincent DePaul's parish was another success! Expecting a smaller crowd after just one Cursillo weekend we moved the dinner to the multi-purpose room, this is where the weekend Chapel is, and where Rollo's (talks) are given during Cursillo weekends at SVDP. The room provided an intimate feeling for the 56 people from the Cursillo community that were present. We had a good time catching up with good friends who live the Cursillo way, and of course great food too!

A Lockport pastor has requested that we bring Cursillo to his parish(s). We are considering starting our 2024 Reunion Mass schedule with a mass at this parish and invite their community to learn about Cursillo, and to make some new friends too. Secretariat is very excited to hear that a Parish is asking for Cursillo. The Lord is answering our prayers.

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:

Since January 6th is the Feast of the Epiphany, it seems best to hold our next School on the following Saturday, January 13th, because of the many activities that tend to take place in homes on Epiphany. As we have been doing, the school will be held in the school building at the Church of the Annunciation, 7580 Clinton Street, Elma, NY.

We've been studying the 10 Topics of Cursillo and are getting down to the last few. December covered "Normality". Deacon Marc Leadersdorf did a wonderful talk on this. Remaining are the topics of "Sincerity", "Conviction" and "Life" as they relate to Cursillo. It's been an interesting Journey. I'm pleased to announce that in January Deacon Dave Clabeaux has stepped up again to give us insights into the topic "Life". You won't want to miss it!

For our techniques talk my hope is continue focusing on our 4th day with another interesting witness by one of our cursillistas.

We've had some great conversations around these 10 topics and our techniques subject matter. If you haven't been to our School of Leaders lately, please come in January. You won't be disappointed.

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.

Merry Christmas to all,

Marty Ruhland

Call/Text: 716-481-0662

Email: rdservices@roadrunner.com

Treasurer:

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

Secretary:

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

Prayer Request:

Entered into their 5th Day:

Mary Anne Benz (Women’s #14) - Died 11/16/23

Mary S. Suchan (Women’s #140) – Died 11/20/23

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 Events

Buffalo Cursillo Second Touch 2024

Date: Friday, February 2nd – Sunday, February 4th 2024

Time: Registration on Friday, February 2nd from 4pm to 7pm

Place: Stella Niagara Center of Renewal, 4421 Lower River Rd, Lewiston NY 14144

Contact: Carol Palesh (grannypalesh@gmail.com)

Women's Weekend #235

TBD - Support Mass for Women's Team 4:30 pm mass at:

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, 3148 Abbott Rd.

Orchard Park, NY 14127

4/24 - Set-up Women's Weekend @ 5:30 pm,

St. Vincent DePaul, 6441 Seneca St, Elma, 14140

4/25 – Registration from 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm

[Sponsors & community stay for prayer service at 8 pm.](#)

4/27 - Break In 7:30 pm

4/28 – Las Mananitas – 6 am (Women only)

3 pm Community Gathering with Closura (with Mass) **All are Welcome**

TBD – 4th Day Dinner; Potluck @ St. Vincent's:

doors open at 5:30 pm. Dinner at 6:00 pm

Entire Community Welcome

Men's Weekend #234

Dates tbd

Reunion Masses

Dates tbd

School of Leaders

Date: January 13, 2024

Time: 10:30am – 12:00pm (approximate end time)

Place: Church of the Annunciation (School Building) 7580 Clinton St., Elma NY

Speakers and Topics: (see school of leaders article)

Please confirm Ultreya gatherings ahead of time for November

Ultreya name Area served	Date	Time	Location	Contact Person
- <u>Bethany</u> Cheektowaga & surrounding area	- 12/12/2023 2 nd Tuesday	7:00 PM	- <u>Zoom</u> Contact Lynn to be added to email list	<u>Lynn Lomanto</u> lomantolynn@gmail.com 585.409.4123
- <u>Come to the Well</u> Clarence area	- 12/19/2023 3 rd Tuesday	7:00 PM	- <u>Member House</u> Contact Chris for location	<u>Jack & Christine Thomann</u> 716.583.2324 (Chris – m) 716.583.2320 (Jack – m) cmtpsalm139@gmail.com
- <u>Full of Grace</u> Elma area	No meeting in December	7:00 PM	- <u>Member House</u> Contact Marty for location	<u>Marty Ruhland</u> rdservices@roadrunner.com (716) 481-0662 (m)
Pueblo de Paz Warsaw area	- 12/30/2023 Last Sunday	7:00 PM	- <u>St. Michael's Church</u> 171 N. Main St, Warsaw	Liz Wascak 585.237.5155 ewascak@yahoo.com
- <u>Rainbow Vineyard</u> North towns area	12/12/2023 2 nd Tuesday	7:00 PM	- <u>St. Jude the Apostle Parish</u>	<u>Carolyn McMamara</u> 716.867.8962
	12/26/2023 4 th Tuesday	7:00 PM	800 Niagara Falls Blvd North Tonawanda	<u>Carolyn Ruhland</u> 716.912.2890 caruhl73@Verizon.net
- <u>Southtowns</u> South towns area	12/7/2023 1 st Thursday	7:00 PM	Member House Contact Lisa for location	<u>Lisa & Paul Johnson</u> 585.313.0853 (m – Lisa) lisagauthie1@gmail.com
	12/21/2023 3 rd Thursday	7:00 PM		
<u>Spirit of the City</u> City of Buffalo	<u>No Meeting</u> (inactive)		-	