



## November 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 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Lomantolynn@gmail.com)

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

### Lay Coordinator's Report:

Fall is certainly upon us and winter can't be far away. The Liturgical year is winding up this month and soon we will begin a new year with the arrival of the Season of Advent. My spell-checker just suggested that I type AdventURE... I'll go with that. We should be looking forward to the coming year as an adventure. A spiritual adventure! Just as we would plan, dream and look forward to a career move, a family vacation or a pilgrimage, we should look toward The Year of Our Lord 2024 with the same mindset and start planning now to fill up our spring weekends with a whole coop of babe chicks. We need to start asking now when the weekends are still far off and set expectations for a hallelujah good time! This year, give yourself the gift of a new friend and give that friend the gift of Cursillo.

We're very grateful for the Cursillos of the past year and we are pleased to welcome so many new Cursillistas to our fold. On a more caliginous note, the Secretariat had to decide to postpone the Women's weekend until Spring due to a lack of candidates. Cancelling or postponing a weekend is something that we never want to do and the reasons for doing so never seem satisfactory. But if a righteous man can fall seven times a day and get back up, so can we. Please continue to pray, pray, pray and do palanca, always with an eye toward making new friends, being a friend to all, and if possible inviting friends to an Encounter with themselves, Christ and others.

At the most recent School of Leaders held at Annunciation School in Elma on November 4th we had a good turnout of more than twenty which included Ultreya Coordinators from every Ultreya. After a great witness on Freedom by Dcn. David Clabeaux discussions included topics like, what is the typical format of an ultreya, are they held at the same location every month, how many attendees, what is the socialization like. Some are fairly well attended. Some, not so much. But what we can all agree on is that more Cursillistas should come and participate regularly. If I was to look at the long list of people who have lived a Cursillo weekend I could safely say that a majority of them are not regular attendees at Ultreya. This is not to call anyone out or make anyone feel uneasy, it's just a fact. It's also true that Ultreya is a big part of the Cursillo Method. The Method is there to help YOU, the Cursillista. It's there to support you and give you

a community to help you fight the good fight of faith. Our patron St. Paul stated, “Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Heb. 10:25). That encouraging he speaks of is the “being a friend” part of our motto. It’s something we have to do on a daily basis and on a one to one basis. A broadcast message on social media or a group text is fine for getting the where’s and when’s distributed but who doesn’t appreciate being personally invited to something? And if there’s a good witness and good fellowship involved and maybe a slice of apple pie, who can resist?

De Colores,

**Terry Johnson #191**

(716) 908-9055

[twjrex@gmail.com](mailto:twjrex@gmail.com), [buffalocursillo@gmail.com](mailto:buffalocursillo@gmail.com)

### Spiritual Director Report:

As we enter the month of November our minds turn towards the Thanksgiving Holiday. A day to celebrate and simply give thanks!

At the School of Leaders gathering this month our presentation was on “Freedom.” As we dug into it, it seems that freedom is one of the things that I am most grateful for this Thanksgiving. Not only the freedom from oppression we share in this great nation, but, more important, the freedom we hold that allows us to serve others, grow in love, and find ourselves totally fulfilled!

On the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Cursillo Weekend, Fr. Francisco Serra Estelles wrote: “What does God expect from me?” ‘God expects my fulfillment and my happiness.’ ...[So that] I leave a luminous footprint. We have been sent to this world, we as persons, to make this world better and this is the fulfillment of creation.” So, our fulfillment, rather than being a selfish wish, is what God has in mind for us and for the world!

And here is where freedom comes in: Fr. Francisco continues, “Our fulfillment depends on our capacity to love and our capacity to love depends on our capacity to be free.” So, our freedom is essential to fulfilling our goal of becoming all we were created to be. Our freedom is essential to the Kingdom of Heaven growing here on earth! Isn’t that what Cursillo is all about as we bring friends to Christ? As brother and sister Cursillista’s may we continue to sponsor new friends, fully employing our freedom to that end!!!

Peace and Happy Thanksgiving,

Deacon Dave Clabeaux

Buffalo Cursillo Spiritual Advisor

716-353-3752

### Historian Report:

#### **Buffalo Cursillo History #22 November 2023 “Pastoral Plan” Part III-Objective**

The initial aftermath of the National Encounter in Findley, Ohio in 1974 was a commitment by the Secretariat to formulate a pastoral plan for the Buffalo Movement. The Secretariat worked on this from September, 1974 through January, 1975. The results of that effort was agreement on and a formulation of an overall objective and eight specific goals to be accomplished to help meet the objective. The focus of the February, 1975 Leadership Workshop was to confirm and to amend if necessary the work up to date and to propose specific action ideas for implementing each goal. Over 400 person-hours were devoted to this task at the Workshop.

“The overall objective is to effectively utilize the resources of the Buffalo Cursillo Movement collectively and of individual Cursillistas for achieving the primary goal of Cursillo to bring a structure of Christian living to all environments.” Pastoral Plan (P 4)

The formulation of this objective was based on the following conclusions:

1. The Buffalo Movement has reached a level of maturity after 10 years where the important mechanics of Cursillo-re: running weekends, establishing Ultreyas, Permanent Groups, Leaders’ School has been successfully accomplished.
2. The leadership of the Movement and a sizeable portion of the Cursillo community now recognize that the most effective use of the Cursillo method is to evangelize environments.
3. Study of environments has not been emphasized enough for the individual Cursillistas to discern where his or her “vineyard” is.
4. Individual Cursillistas, at present, are affecting environments alone or in a “casual” or “accidental” way, rather than in a planned and knowledgeable manner with the assistance and encouragement from the movement as a whole.

It was a very ambitious objective and the leadership was quite motivated. If the Cursillo Movement could really affect even a few environments in the Diocese, it would be a great accomplishment.

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

### Pre-Cursillo Report:

To be provided next month.

DeColores,

Lynn Lomanto  
PreCursillo Coordinator  
585-409-4123  
[lomantolynn@gmail.com](mailto:lomantolynn@gmail.com)

### Cursillo Section:

“Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ.” How many times have we heard this? However, how many times have we actually practiced it? The Women’s Fall weekend was postponed due to a dwindling number of applicants. When the Women’s Weekend Team was being selected, there were eight applicants. As the Team was meeting and preparing for the Fall Weekend, the number of applicants dropped to zero just days before the Weekend was scheduled to begin. Although it is important to encourage candidates to come forward, it is just as important to stay connected with your candidates well before the Weekend so they are still enthusiastic and eager to attend the next upcoming Cursillo Weekend.

The next Women’s Weekend is scheduled for April 25 – 28, 2024. If you have a female candidate who was intending to make the Fall 2023 Weekend, but dropped out for one reason or another please encourage her to be a Spring 2024 candidate; remain connected to her - - be her friend, not just an acquaintance. Instill in her a desire to really look forward to the Spring Weekend. This holds true for new candidates as well.

Thank you to the Team Selectors, Talk Advisors and Team Members who worked very hard to launch the Fall Weekend, and to the Priests, Deacons, Sacristan, Palanca Team, Kitchen Crew, Ultreya Meal Preparers, Building Coordinator and St. Vincent de Paul Building and Grounds personnel who cleared their calendars in anticipation of an October Weekend.

Happy Thanksgiving to all, special thanks to the Cursillo Section members who are committed to making the Weekends special for all, and remember to offer palanca for those nationally and internationally who recently lived or will be living their weekends in the upcoming weeks.

DeColores,

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

### Post-Cursillo:

Now that the Men's weekend has been successfully completed please plan on encouraging the babe chicks to continue their faith journey by attending the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Dinner on Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup> at St. Vincent DePaul's (SVDP, [6441 Seneca St, Springbrook, NY 14140](#)). It is a potluck event so please bring something to share. The doors open at 5:30 PM and dinner will be at 6:00PM. SVDP has a 4:00 PM Saturday vigil mass which you are welcome to attend and, if you do, please feel free to head over to the gym early to help with set-up for the dinner ☺.

If you sponsored a babe-chick or were a table leader on a recent weekend, please call the newbies to personally invite them to the 4<sup>th</sup> Day dinner ... maybe you can carpool with them too. Please also continue to encourage them to attend Ultreyas and to join a small group. Let us know if any assistance in finding/forming a small group is needed.

### **Make a friend. Be a friend. Bring a friend.**

Your Post Cursillo Coordinators,  
Kate Emery – 716-598-5073, [emeryinbuffalo@roadrunner.com](mailto:emeryinbuffalo@roadrunner.com)  
Mike Emery – 716-207-2834, [memery289@gmail.com](mailto:memery289@gmail.com)

### School of Leaders:

It is wonderful to see and feel the Holy Spirit working among us. I witness this each month at our School of Leaders gatherings. November was no exception. We had our largest turnout in my tenure as School of Leaders facilitator. The presentation by Deacon Dave was incredibly thought provoking and our conversations around Ultreya were beautiful.

December 9<sup>th</sup> is the date planned for our next School of Leaders. Deacon Marc Leadersdorf will provide a doctrinal talk on "Normality". Another of the 10 Topics of Cursillo that we have been learning about. Our Techniques talk is yet to be determined. I'm waiting for some input from the Secretariat on this. I expect we will have something quite useful to present.

So please come and join us on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. We will again meet in the school building at Church of the Annunciation, 7580 Clinton Street, Elma NY.

What an amazing Cursillo community we have here in the Buffalo Diocese. I'm grateful to belong here.

### **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](mailto:rdservices@roadrunner.com) or Carol Palesh 716-694-094-Email [grannypalesh@gmail.com](mailto:grannypalesh@gmail.com). Donations for the scholarship fund are always welcome.

Marty Ruhland  
 Call/Text: 716-481-0662  
 Email: [rdservices@roadrunner.com](mailto:rdservices@roadrunner.com)

**Treasurer:**

Ed Hackett  
 Call/Text: 716-863-9851  
 Email: [ehbanker@yahoo.com](mailto:ehbanker@yahoo.com)

**Secretary:**

Mary Bitka  
 Call/Text: 716-984-0664  
 Email: [marybitka@gmail.com](mailto:marybitka@gmail.com)

**Prayer Request:**

Entered into their 5<sup>th</sup> Day:

Rev. Robert Schober (Men’s #29) - Died 6/26/23

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](mailto:rdservices@roadrunner.com) ) for any names to add or remove from the prayer list.

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	
Jean Claire Buchbinder	Cathy Agugliaro	

# Upcoming Events

## Buffalo Cursillo Second Touch 2024

**Date:** Friday, February 2nd - Sunday, February 4th 2024

**Time:** Registration 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)

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDY

### School of Leaders (Workshops)

**Topic:** 10 Topics of Cursillo  
(Normality)

**Speaker:** Dcn Marc Leadersdorf  
**Date:** December 9th  
2023

**Time:** 10:30 AM - 12 noon

**Location:** Church of the  
Annuciation,  
7580 Clinton St., Elma

Organizer: Marty Ruhland  
(716)481-0662

See the School of Leaders article in the  
newsletter

### A Day of Gentle Reflection

Gentle Women, Mother of Mercy - Chapter of  
Magnificat

December 9, 2023 @ 9 AM, Saturday

Speaker - Dawn M Iacono

M Hotel Buffalo  
2040 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga,  
NY 14225

Details and registration at:

<https://magnificat-ministry.net/chapters/chapter-states-n-o/ny-buffalo/>

**Please confirm Ultreya gatherings ahead of time for November**

<b>Ultreya name Area served</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact Person</b>
- <u>Bethany</u> Cheektowaga & surrounding area	- 11/14/2023 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	7:00 PM	- <u>Zoom</u> Contact Lynn to be added to email list	<u>Lynn Lomanto</u> <a href="mailto:lomantolynn@gmail.com">lomantolynn@gmail.com</a> 585.409.4123
- <u>Come to the Well</u> Clarence area	- 11/21/2023 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	7:00 PM	- <u>Member House</u> Contact Chris for location	<u>Jack &amp; Christine Thomann</u> 716.583.2324 (Chris – m) 716.583.2320 (Jack – m) <a href="mailto:cmtpsalm139@gmail.com">cmtpsalm139@gmail.com</a>
- <u>Full of Grace</u> Elma area	11/29/2023 Last Wednesday January - June September – October	7:00 PM	- <u>Member House</u> Contact Marty for location	<u>Marty Ruhland</u> <a href="mailto:rdservices@roadrunner.com">rdservices@roadrunner.com</a> (716) 481-0662 (m)
Pueblo de Paz Warsaw area	- 11/25/2023 Last Sunday	7:00 PM	- <u>St. Michael's Church</u> 171 N. Main St, Warsaw	Liz Wascak 585.237.5155 <a href="mailto:ewascak@yahoo.com">ewascak@yahoo.com</a>
- <u>Rainbow Vineyard</u> North towns area	11/14/2023 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	7:00 PM	- <u>St. Jude the Apostle Parish</u>	<u>Carolyn McMamara</u> 716.867.8962
	11/28/2023 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	7:00 PM	800 Niagara Falls Blvd North Tonawanda	<u>Carolyn Ruhland</u> 716.912.2890 <a href="mailto:caruhl73@Verizon.net">caruhl73@Verizon.net</a>
- <u>Southtowns</u> South towns area	11/2/2023 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	7:00 PM	Member House	<u>Lisa &amp; Paul Johnson</u> 585.313.0853 (m – Lisa)
	11/16/2023 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	7:00 PM	Contact Lisa for location	<a href="mailto:lisagauthie1@gmail.com">lisagauthie1@gmail.com</a>
<u>Spirit of the City</u> City of Buffalo	<u>No Meeting</u> (inactive)		-	