



# Buffalo Cursillo

May 2022 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:

School of Leaders	Sunday, May 22nd at 1pm at Church of the Annunciation	
Reunion Mass	Friday, May 13, 2022 at St. Michael's in Warsaw	
Fall weekends	Men's:	Weekend #229 - September 15-18, 2022
	Women's:	Weekend #228 - October 20-23, 2022
	Support Masses:	To Be Determined
	4 <sup>th</sup> Day:	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; <a href="mailto:Lomantolynn@gmail.com">Lomantolynn@gmail.com</a>	

## Lay Director's Report

On Easter Saturday night I attended the Vigil at Nativity of the BVM and Fr. Leising gave a beautiful homily about the importance of eyewitness accounts to historical events. Specifically, he was talking about how Mary Magdalene was the first eyewitness to the Resurrection of the Lord and how she then ran to find the apostles and tell them the news. Not being there at the empty tomb themselves nor encountering the risen Jesus in the garden personally, they doubted her story – until they went to see if what she said was true.

About a month ago I was an eyewitness to a Cursillo 3-day weekend. I was there. I recognized it as a Cursillo weekend right away. You see, I lived Men's Cursillo #191 in 2005 and shortly after that attended my first Ultreya at Bill Heidle's house where he told me he was going to put me to work. I worked the palanca team for Women's #192 with Don Appenheimer and Bob Piskun, two men whom I love and respect. After that I was called to be the assistant liturgist on Men's #193, and #195, and #197. Then I worked two Kairos weekends at Gowanda Correctional and two more at Wende Correctional before coming back and working as the palanca team leader for Men's Weekend #204 – a thankless, exhausting job if ever there was one. I'm not telling you this to pat myself on the back but to demonstrate that I've been on the inside, and on the outside a number of times and I think I know a Cursillo when I spot one. Every human face is unique but has the same

features: eyes, nose, mouth, etc. They are all immediately recognizable as human faces (image and likeness of God, you know) and they are distinct from the faces of every other animal. In the same way, every Cursillo I've been a part of has been unique, and Men's #227 was no exception. I watched as the babe chicks slowly emerged from their shells, saw friendships develop, listened to talks that, although written by different men all seemed to be penned by the same author. We shared beautiful Masses and delicious meals and one on one conversations. We witnessed wide smiles and laughed at stupid jokes. There was music, and solemn visits to the Blessed Sacrament, and let's not forget the serenade and Las Mananitas. If you had been there, you would have agreed: this is a Cursillo!

Since the weekend I've asked the team to write to me and give me their observations: positive and negative, and I also welcome comments from anyone and everyone who has something to say. I've already heard from a handful of people who either attended the closing or didn't. And so far it seems there is about a 50-50 split with half saying they were uncomfortable with the grouping at the Closura and the others saying they really enjoyed it. I guess that is to be expected and I'm not going to try to convince anyone that one is right and another is wrong. But I do want to assure anyone who has doubts about the future of Cursillo in Buffalo: Cursillo is alive and well! I know, because I was there!

Ultreya!

Ps – This month's topic at the School of Leaders is going to be – GROUPING! See the SoL article below for details.

**Terry Johnson #191**

Lay Director Buffalo Cursillo

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**Spiritual Director:**

My brothers and sisters in Christ:

Christ is risen!!! He is risen indeed!!

Praise God for the wonderful things he sends our way. We have finally had a much-blessed weekend after the hiatus brought by the pandemic. Six men who were able to experience Christ in a marvelous new way. This God-given gift was much needed so that we can now feel the start of a new time in our beloved movement. Looking through my window, I see creation coming back to life after a long winter. Think resurrection. It may sound a little cheesy, but it really gets to me, and I want to share it. I can see flowers blooming (de colores) at the same time that I see blooming in Cursillo. Bright colors outside and bright colors in our inner selves. Even the unceasing rain reminds me of God's love pouring all over.

It is a time to be grateful!!!

Happy Easter!!

And always remember....

...The risen Christ is counting on you!

And now, let us pray for the beatification of our founder:

O God, dispenser of all graces and charisms.

You granted your servant EDUARDO BONNIN AGUILO the grace of dedicating his whole life, with humility and generosity, to the work of the CURSILLOS IN CHRISTIANITY MOVEMENT, as he traveled the five continents proclaiming that God in Christ loves us.

Grant us through his intercession the favor that we now implore Thee.

(name the favor being requested)

Also, grant us the grace of his beatification for your greater glory and the good of your Church that shines throughout the lives of its saints.

We beg this of You in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father...

To the coordinators of our Reunion Masses: Holy Mother Church teaches us that participation in the celebration of the Eucharist is the “source and summit of the whole Christian life” (LG 11). As such, I would like to invite all of you to reflect on the respect and reverence we are called to show during the celebration of the mass. It would seem that suspending the celebration halfway through to deploy a witness talk, including a presenter, one or more witnesses, and finally, a doctrinal discussion, with giggles and clappings, may not be conveying all the respect due. Please, pray for guidance when planning the liturgy; you will not be disappointed. God bless...

## Historian Report:

### **Buffalo Cursillo History #7 (continued): May 2022**

“The Universal Call to Holiness.” The second factor for the growth of the Buffalo Cursillo movement in the first few years was Vatican Council II which occurred in Rome from 1963 to 1965. In the late 60’s, the Holy Spirit continued to generate the winds of Vatican II renewal affording the American Church a breath of fresh air with the Mass in English and involvement of the laity.

At the same time that Cursillo was taking off in WNY, sermons at Sunday Masses were focused on teaching the faithful and implementing the documents of Vatican II. The “Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy” and the “Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity” provided a seismic shift in Catholic thought and practice from a “Jesus and me” mentality to full participation of the faithful at Mass and in the life of the church.

The faithful were encouraged to a conscious and active participation in liturgy as celebration. Hence the recourse to English at Mass and in the administration of all the Sacraments (previously in Latin). Mass-goers now took part in the acclamation of English responses, the Psalm, Prayer of the Faithful and recitation of the Our Father; and such actions as the handshake of peace. To further draw in the faithful, the main altar faced the people. Male lectors read the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Readings and Psalm from a podium.

Previously, the Epistle or 1<sup>st</sup> Reading was from the New Testament. The new Liturgy of the Word now included a passage from the Old Testament, a Psalm, a reading from the New Testament followed by the Gospel. (Sermons derived from the Scripture readings at Mass became homilies.

More books from Scripture would be included over a 3-year cycle.) This prompted many Catholics to become interested in studying the Bible.

New songs in English, were being sung by the choir and folk groups at Mass. It was perhaps the most exciting time in the life of the Church for many Catholics in the last century.

Mirroring the Council's call to holiness and emphasis on the apostolate of the laity, Cursillo offered a perfect vehicle and model for Catholics to find God in a Christian Community, which supported the living out of one's faith, and to become more involved in the life of the Church.

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Buffalo Cursillo Historian  
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### Pre-Cursillo Report:

To be provided next month.

Audrey DiMaria and committee  
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### Cursillo Section:

To be provided next month.

### Post-Cursillo:

Welcome to your 4<sup>th</sup> day, new babe chicks! It was great to hear the six new Cursillistas talk about their weekend experience at the Closura on Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to gathering again at the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Dinner on Friday April 29<sup>th</sup> and are excited to encourage them, as well as all 'experienced' Cursillistas, to get as involved as possible in Cursillo activities including small groups, Ultreyas, reunion masses, and School of Leaders workshops. In this Easter season it is a great time to recommit to Christ as He is indeed "counting on you." Please consider making a promise to Christ that you will attend a Cursillo event within the next month!

Perhaps you can plan on attending the next Reunion mass which will be held on Friday May 13th at St. Michael's in Warsaw. The mass will begin at 7PM, the witness speaker will be Mary Ann Moore and the doctrinal will be given by Rick Manciewicz.

You can also put the School of Leaders on your calendar! The next workshop will be on Sunday May 22nd. Details are in the School of Leaders article.

We hope that small groups are continuing to meet regularly or are restarting after the 'COVID interruption'. Please let us know if you are in need of a group or are open to inviting additional Cursillistas to your current group.

Also consider a trip to Steubenville, Ohio! Study is one leg of the Cursillo grouping triangle, along with piety and action. There are opportunities to 'study' this summer at the Franciscan University. Most people would say that their relationship with God is not where they would like it to be, but many also feel unsure of how to change it. The Steubenville Conferences offer unique conference

experiences to help people escape the spiritual desert and empower them to live every day as joyful disciples of Jesus Christ. Franciscan University hosts adult conferences annually with the titles and themes of: Power and Purpose, Applied Biblical Studies, and Defending the Faith. We attended the Power and Purpose Conference for the first time in 2021 along with about 10 other Cursillistas from Buffalo and truly enjoyed it and are headed back on June 3rd! The conferences include moving speakers and some time to just chill, relax and be with God without the everyday distractions, or at least fewer of them.

You can get all the information on the conferences at <https://steubenvilleconferences.com/adult/>  
Here is a 2-minute promo video on the Power and Purpose Conference  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgsaPorFfRA>

Registration is now open. When you sign up use the codes below for preferred seating and other perks and discounts.

- Power and Purpose Conference June 3-5, 2022, code is: **PPC22JcasNY**.
- Applied Biblical studies July 27-29, 2022, code is: **ABS22JcasNY**
- Defending the Faith Conference July 29-31, 2022, code is: **DFC22JCasNY**.
- The Early Bird code prior to April 19 for a \$20 discount at registration is: **earlybird2022**

Jerry Casillo is an ambassador for Franciscan University and is leading groups from Buffalo, but you can also go on your own. Contact Jerry for additional information at [miride@aol.com](mailto:miride@aol.com) or 716-803-9952. He can help with transportation arrangements if needed.

“The Lord is Near! Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Phillipians 4:6

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### School of Leaders:

“Friendship Group Reunion” or “Permanent Group” or “Small Group” etc... Whatever your preference it is an essential piece in our Cursillo Movement. Coming together regularly to build Christian friendships, to support each other and learn from each other. To be accountable to more than self. To share the graces received. To be a friend.

There are some in our Cursillo community that are not a part of such a group and would like to be or would like to understand it a little better. Please join us to get a better understanding of this essential practice and perhaps to mix with others who could join you in becoming a small group.

There are others who are regulars in existing groups. Please also join us to share with our school the wealth of your experience.

Our next School of Leaders will meet on Sunday, May 22nd at 1pm. The location will again be The Church of The Annunciation on Clinton Street in Elma. We will be exploring Small Grouping (piety, study, action).

*“Everything which is lived as a Christian should be lived together. The Group Reunion is only a means for living together the Christianity that each one lives or seeks to live.”* (Eduardo Bonnin - Structure of Ideas)

DeColores!

Marty Ruhland  
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### Treasurer:

Ed Hackett  
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### Secretary:

Mary Bitka  
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### Prayer Request:

Please keep the following people in your prayers and Palanca along with all Cursillistas who are ill or suffering:

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