



February 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:

Spring 2023 Weekends:	Men's Weekend #230: May 4-7, 2023 Women's Weekend #231: May 18-21, 2023 Support Masses: TBD
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

Lay Director's Report

Don't be fooled by the recent string of sunny, warm days. It's still winter in WNY and it will come back to bite us, probably in the form of an unwelcome snowstorm around about Easter Sunday. Just sayin'. In the same vein, let's not get complacent about the fact that May is still three-plus months away. Before we know it our Spring Cursillo® weekends will be upon us. The men's team is already in formation and the women's is...not far behind. So with Lent fast approaching it's a good time for all of us to start doing palanca and asking the Lord to write upon our hearts the names of friends He wants us to bring to him.

The Second Touch weekend held at Stella Niagara last month was a success, attended by more than forty overnight guests and a dozen more individuals on Saturday. The theme of this year's Second Touch was "The Charism of Friday on the Cursillo® Weekend". We heard a recap of how the rollos build upon one another given by Bill Gross and then four more rollos: "Charism of Friday" by Carol Palesh, "Charism of Forming Groups" by Denise Daniels, "Lay Leaders and Personal Contact" by Tony Shilen and finally "The Skiing Story (all this for me?)" given by Pat Reinbold. Each rollo was followed by group sharing. There was time for reconciliation and visits to the Blessed Sacrament and on Saturday night we held an Ultreya. Sunday was capped by Mass at the beautiful Sisters' Chapel. Comments by the attendees on their evaluations were very positive with many saying they learned something, reconnected with old friends, better understood the how and why of what we do and the importance of keeping things simple. Next year's Second Touch is already scheduled for the first weekend in February 2024 so mark your calendar today and save the date!

Having already mentioned that teams are in formation, I would be remiss if I didn't say that we all need to spend some time in Study lest our tripod falls out of balance. And what better place to study than at the

School of Leaders which will be held at Annunciation of the BVM in Elma on Saturday, February 25th at 10:30am. See more below in the School of Leaders section of this newsletter.

Last thought: Grouping. If you're new to Cursillo®, or if you lived your Cursillo® weekend decades ago and are not currently in a permanent group – you're missing out on countless blessings. The Leaders' Manual states: "*The purpose of the groups is to make possible for each one that which is necessary for all: the normal, lasting and joyful living together of our lives as Christians.*" LM pg. 126. Need help finding or forming a group? Ultreya is the place for you. See the schedules in the Upcoming Events" page.

De Colores,

Terry Johnson #191

Lay Director Buffalo Cursillo

(716) 908-9055

twjrex@gmail.com, buffalocursillo@gmail.com

Spiritual Director Report:

My brothers and sisters in Christ:

Preparation time!!

As we start the season of Lent, I feel mixed emotions. On the one hand, I am happy because it is the best time of the year for me. I especially like it because of the invitation to a deeper reflection on our spiritual lives. But, on the other hand, the outward signs of Lent would seem to propose a time when happiness is moved to the back burner, even banned. The word Alleluia is removed from our liturgies, the rejoicing of the Gloria is placed on hold, and then we are presented with themes of mortification, fasting, abstinence, etc.

This tension, however, is not a contradiction but rather two sides of the same coin. The outward signs help us to develop an inward relationship with Jesus which cannot have a different outcome than happiness. I invite you to live this Lent in plenitude, discovering the living Christ who is counting on you and making out of every Lenten mortification a fruitful Palanca for our movement, our next weekends, and our new candidates.

May we all have a blessed Lent!

And always remember....

...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...

Historian Report:

Buffalo Cursillo History #14 (continued):

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February 2023

“Cursillo Wedding Bells”

Someone once said, “If you want to meet a suitable mate – Go to Church”. Cursillo in the 1970’s was a catalyst for many sacramental marriage unions. Many people making Cursillo were young couples and single men and women. These Cursillistas sponsored their young friends, siblings and relatives.

Cursillo provided the opportunity to meet other singles at Reunion Mass socials, Leaders’ School attended by over a hundred in Spring and Fall sessions, and at the Singles’ Ultreya and Singles’ Second Touch Weekends.

Such was the case for Paul Szalda (Men’s #16) and Bonnie Kwaczala (Women’s #12) who met at a monthly Cursillo Reunion Mass, “Like seeks out like.” After dating, Paul proposed on Valentine’s Day, 1972, and they were married on February 10, 1973 at St Luke’s Church. They celebrate their 50th anniversary this month. Bonnie recalls that their wedding was “very special” because there were so many people from Cursillo”.

Upcoming weddings were generally announced in the “Buffalo Cursillo Newsletter” of the 1970’s. A few people I interviewed recently

The earliest marriage of Buffalo Cursillistas occurred between Paul Swing (Men’s #3, 1965) and Elaine Piwowar (Women’s #5, 1968). According to Elaine, Paul tried to call Elaine’s sister to ask her to go square dancing. However, Elaine answered the phone and said that her sister had actually moved out of the house to be on her own. After an extended conversation, they decided to meet each other in person at Sunday Mass and breakfast afterwards. At the end of that encounter, Paul remarked, “Don’t be surprised if I ask you to marry me”. Paul sponsored Elaine for Women’s #5. “Being Babe Chicks in an exciting new movement in the Church”, Elaine wanted a Folk Mass wedding, but couldn’t have it at her conservative parish. They were married at Holy Family (where Elaine was a teacher) on July 12, 1969.

St Paul’s Church in Kenmore was the venue for the marriage of Bob Mahiques (Men’s #22) and Barbara Breitnauer (Women’s # 11) on November 5, 1971.

A June wedding at St Bernadette’s Church was the choice for Jim Lorigo (Men’s #19) and Mary Jane Janca (Women’s #13) on June 24, 1972.

Ray McGraph (Men’s #20) and Louise DeSpirit (Women’s #13) met at a Tuesday evening Mass at St Gerard’s presided by Fr. Corky Mach. Both being Cursillistas, their first date was at a Cursillo Reunion Mass, which cemented their relationship. Ray and Louise were married at St Gerard’s on September 15, 1972. According to Louise, “Cursillo was a major part of our life at the beginning of our marriage”. They eventually became involved in Mission (an offshoot of Cursillo) and a lead couple for the eight-evening parish retreats.

Tom Godleske (Men’s #29) and Cheryle Graupman (Women’s #16) were married at Ascension Church on December 26, 1972.

Some Cursillistas brought their intended partner to Cursillo before they were married so that they could begin life together with God as the Keystone of their marriage.

William C. (Bill) Rott, Sr. and Regina O'Connell had each lost their spouse early in their marriage. Both were parishioners at St. Leo the Great and on the same bowling team. Bill had made Men's #20 in 1970. Both being devout Catholics and Bill wanting to share another bond sponsored Regina for Women's #20 in 1972. Bill worked several Men's Weekends, was a Kitchen Supervisor and attended to his burgeoning roofing business according to Bill Rott, Jr. Bill and Regina were married June 24, 1974 at St. Leo the Great Church.

Karen Quinlan (Women's #68) had been sponsored by her fiancé Russel Valvo, Jr. (Men's #67) in 1974. Their Charismatic Cursillo Wedding really rocked at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Hamburg, May 3, 1975.

Fast forward almost 50 years to two recent Cursillo marriages.

Paul Johnson (Men's #193) made Cursillo in 2006 sponsored by his brother Terry Johnson (Men's #191) who is currently Buffalo Cursillo's Lay Director. Lisa Gauthier made Women's #200 sponsored by her friend Diane Skotorczak (Women's #172) ("Bring a friend to Christ"). After a few years, Paul and Lisa ended up working together in the Cursillo Section – Paul as Men's Team Selector and Lisa as Palanca Team Selector and eventually together on a Palanca Team where love blossomed. They were married at Cursillo's current home, St Vincent de Paul in Springbrook on June 27, 2020.

"God had a hand in all of it," remarked Janine Rubrecht, a sales woman for Mary Kay products, who met her future husband Richard (Rick) Murray on-line October 2017. She had tried several dating websites, but found a lot of dishonesty. She was about to give up her subscription to Zoosk, a dating website when Rick's picture came up. She took a chance! (That day marked her late parent's wedding anniversary!)

Rick was a businessman who had cared for his late parents and never had time to date. Their first date was October 15th and Janine had already planned to make Women's Cursillo #219 the following Thursday. Afterward she encouraged Rick to make the next Men's Weekend #221 in 2018.

After dating a while, they really were a match, and Rick proposed on May 13, 2018. They were married at St. Amelia's Church on September 14, 2019. Reflecting about her wedding and marriage: "When God's in the middle of it, there is the Joy."

Carol Norwalk Stier (Buffalo Women's #7)

Buffalo Cursillo Historian

(716) 692-1606

Pre-Cursillo Report:

This month the Pre-Cursillo Section is planning staes to visit the Ultreyas to talk about Sponsorship. We will visit Warsaw Ultreya on February 26th at St. Michael's fr a Pot Luck dinner at 4:00pm. Raibow Ultrya is scheduled for Marcg 28th at St. Jude the Apostle parish is North Tonawanda at 7:00pm, and Bethany Ultreya is February 21st.

Further dates will be scheduled for South Towns, Full of Grace and Come to the Well for the Sponsorship talk.

Lynn Lomanto will present a talk on Sponsorship at the School of Leaders, Saturday, February 25th at the School of Leaders. See below for more details.

We continue to contact sponsors and candidates through the phone and email. Prayers are also being offered for the candidates and the team.

Lynn Lomanto – (716) 863-9852
Donna Civileto – (716) 785-5519

Cursillo Section:

I would like to thank the Secretariat for the invitation to join them on the Secretariat. I would also like to share that Denise Daniels has accepted the position of Co-coordinator to help keep the Cursillo Section running smoothly.

I met with the "section" members, and they are an amazing group of dedicated volunteers. They do a great job in all of their roles from Team selection, reviewing the talks, setting up the building, feeding everyone along with providing music, supplies for the weekend, Out Bound Palanca emails, and last but not least, the sacristan - who makes sure we have food for our soul - the Eucharist.

Speaking of the sacristan, Liz Wascak has been our Sacristan for numerous years, and we have been blest by her dedication to prepare everything for the weekend; faithfully driving up from Perry. Knowing that she was looking to "retire," Kay Clabeaux will be our new sacristan. Liz will mentor Kay on the upcoming Men's weekend to learn the ropes.

If anyone is interested in working the Palanca team for the weekends, please contact Lisa Johnson. Whether you are new or old to the weekend, it is a great way to make new friends.

If you contact Denise or myself, we can help you get in contact with Lisa.

DeColores,

Diane Putt - (716) 380-0187
Denise Daniels - (716) 823-5453

Post-Cursillo:

Please invite your friends to the next Reunion Mass to be held at the Saints Peter and Paul Church in Williamsville on Friday March 10th at 7:00 PM. The April 2023 Reunion Mass will be at the St Jude the Apostle Parish in North Tonawanda on April 14th at 7:00 PM.

If you sponsored a babe-chick or were a table leader on a recent weekend, please call the people you sponsored or who were at your table to personally invite them to the reunion masses. These reunion masses

will likely be their first and they may be uncomfortable showing up if they don't know that there will be anyone there that they know.

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

We have asked each Ultreya to provide volunteers for a Grand Ultreya Committee. The committee will meet and plan the first Grand Ultreya in many years. We are looking for a location such as a parish picnic pavilion, a park pavilion, or something similar. Oh, yeah, we need to pick a date too. Any suggestions? If you have any ideas or connections, please let us know.

Your Post Cursillo Coordinators,

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

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

School of Leaders:

Joy, Freedom, The Person, Love, Friendship, Sincerity, Conviction, Criterion, Life, Normality.

These are the 10 Topics of Cursillo that we will be delving into in the coming months as doctrinal talks. Joy is the focus of February along with the important role of a Sponsor in our Movement.

Our date is set for March. Saturday, March 18th from 10:30am until Noon. We will again be meeting at Church of the Annunciation on Clinton Street in Elma. Doctrinal Topic is yet to be determined. However, our Techniques talk will cover the fascinating topic of the role of the Liturgist in our Movement.

Please come and join us.

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:

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.

Randy Rakoczynski	Mary Mercurio	Tim Heidle
Lynn & Terry Johnson	Fr. Joe Badding	Kathy O'Keefe
Jerry Frisicaro	Pam Hornung	Denise Bressette
Dennis Conklin	Jean Claire Buchbinder	Diane Coughlin
Deacon Gary Terrana	Chelsea Ellis	Gary Banas
Arthur Ruhland	Laura & Angelo Ciavarella	John Agugliaro
Bob Yager	Marie Gannon	Marcia Moretti
Cole Koons (and Karen Trimper and family)	Mike Ryan	Cheryl Besant
Mike Matyas	Timothy McCann	Bobby Lovenetti
Teresa Barone	Joan Roberts	Vinnie Barone
Cathy Derrick	Mary Flanagan	Linda Orszulak
Corinne Giermek	Bill Heidle	EllieWieleba
Patrick Johnson	Dcn Joe Barr	
Cathy Agugliaro	Jim Youngers	