



March 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 <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**

Lent is here, thank God! How can we make the best of it? On our Cursillo weekend we may have been reintroduced to many liturgies and prayers of the Church: Benediction, Adoration, the Rosary, Confession and certainly the Eucharist. In our 4<sup>th</sup> Day it is up to us to continue in these things that help to sustain our faith, and by way of the Cursillo Method of Ultreya and Group Reunion we can also strengthen each other for the building up of the Church. The sacrament of Reconciliation is often avoided by most Catholics due to a number of reasons, none of them good. People don't care for a particular priest or have had a bad experience in the past or have grown so accustomed to a certain sin that they don't see it as all that bad and so don't feel the need for confession. One friend of mine rejects the teaching that the priest in the confessional is 'in persona Christe' – a man in the person of Christ. "He's just a MAN LIKE ME", goes the rhetoric. Maybe so, but he has been ordained by the bishop who laid hands on him and sent him out to minister. Confession is one of the greatest gifts that Jesus Himself gave to us through St. Peter when he charged him: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." John 20:23 RSV. Personally, I prefer to meet with my confessors face-to-face. I have come to be friends with a lot of good and holy priests over the years and I like this opportunity to sit down with them, make a good confession and receive grace. Keeping in mind that before even entering the confessional Jesus is already quite aware of my sin, it helps to think of the man waiting there as Jesus himself – so he won't be surprised or shocked about what I'm about to tell him. But I am often amazed at the wisdom and comfort given by him. It's quite supernatural. If you find that it's difficult to imagine your confessor as Jesus, just go behind the screen and let Jesus handle the rest.

So even in these times of fewer priests, reorganized parish families and what not, Lent gives us a time to draw closer to Christ in spirit, soul and body. There will be plenty of occasions for confession, visits to the Blessed Sacrament, Stations of the Cross and Eucharist. Plus, opportunities to get together with fellow

Cursillistas at Ultreya, School of Leaders and most importantly, Reunion Mass! This month our reunion is sponsored by Bethany and will be held on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at Sts. Peter and Paul in Williamsville. Get your fish fry over with early and meet us for the REAL Lenten celebration!

Let us pray a prayer for priests.

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests.  
Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments.  
Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people.  
Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.  
Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom.  
Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel.  
Allow them to experience joy in their ministry.  
Help them to become instruments of your divine grace.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest.  
Amen.

De Colores,

**Terry Johnson #191**

Lay Director Buffalo Cursillo

(716) 908-9055

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

### Spiritual Director Report:

To be provided next month.

### Historian Report:

March 2023 “Leaders’ School” - Part I

In 1971, The Buffalo Cursillo formulated its own Leaders’ School Manual. The manual (three and a half-printed pages) contained a description of the purpose, membership, requirements, structure and content of the Leaders’ School.

“The purpose of the Cursillo Leaders’ School in the Buffalo Diocese is to provide the time and place, the content and the structure in which those who have chosen the Cursillo as their primary apostolate can grow spiritually through group reunion, sharing community and formation in the Cursillo method. (p.1)

“Leaders’ School attempts to provide a setting in which those people can deepen their understanding of Christ and His Church, of each other and the details of their common apostolate.” (p.1) and principally to be a leaven in the Movement of the Cursillo in the Diocese.

Recommendations for topics for the classes periodically came out from the National Cursillo Office and from the national magazine “Ultreya”.

Earlier Buffalo Leaders’ Schools focused on the Documents of Vatican II. These included “The Constitution on the Church” (The Universal call to holiness), “The Constitution on the Church in

the Modern World”, and “The Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity”. (In most local parishes, the documents had not been explained or preached except for “The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy”.)

Buffalo was ahead of the curve. In 1973, the National Secretariat issued the following: “To ensure a proper understanding of the role of the Cursillo Movement in the pastoral work of the Church, diocesan secretariats and directors are urged to include the documents of Vatican II as part of the instruction for leaders’ schools particularly” the aforementioned documents... “It is imperative that the teachings of Vatican II in regard to the apostolate be well known, understood and lived by the lay leaders.”

A new format was announced Friday at Leaders’ School, Feb. 2, 1973 at the Cursillo Center in Bishop Gibbons High School.

The program was formulated through the efforts of the Section’s new Spiritual Director, Fr. Pete Szafran (Men’s #15), George Sentz (Men’s #16) Leaders’ School Chairman, Tom Flanagan (Men’s #16), Bob Infantino (Men’s #16), Sr. Kristen Corcoran, OSF (Women’s #9) and Lou and Liz Pauly.

The program included twelve weeks of classes of one hour each, divided into three four-week sessions followed by Group Reunion and a spiritual exercise ie; prayers or Mass.

The classes ran from March to May and were open to anyone who had decided to make Cursillo their apostolate, either on a part-time or full -time basis. However, it was expected that anyone who began a course would complete the entire twelve-week program.

The Basic Course (#101 and #102) was open to anyone, but requisite for new-comers, ran 3 times a year and consisted of two four-week courses.

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

### [Pre-Cursillo Report:](#)

Before the Cursillo Movement can have a strong sense of direction and be able to accomplish what it was designed to accomplish, there has to be a clear understanding of what the movement is and what it is for.

The **immediate purpose** is to provide a foundation for the person to live what is fundamental for being Christian- Love of God and love of neighbor- experienced through three essential encounters:

- The encounter with oneself.
- The encounter with Christ, and
- The encounter with others.

**The Cursillo Movement, by means of its own methods makes it possible for people to live what is fundamental for being a Christian, and to live it together; it helps people discover and fulfill their personal vocations, and the creation of core groups of Christians who leaven their environments with the Gospel.**

So sponsoring is not a haphazard circumstance. It should be a deliberate act to bring Jesus Christ into the world. Being a sponsor is committing oneself to the selection and preparation of a person for the Cursillo, and their ongoing assistance to that person in the Postcursillo. By consciously living the Cursillo method we can grow into a life of Grace. Establish friendship. Bring the desire for conversion and bring a deliberate act to bring cursillo into the world.

**Remember to speak to God about the person before speaking to the person about God.**

**What To Know:**

- Must be a baptized Catholic.
- Must be able to participate in the sacraments.
- Should be able to make decisions as an individual.
- Should be free from obstacles that hinder the ability to join a group reunion.

Before the weekend you should prepare your candidate. Let them know the Ultreya they may attend. Explain some of the weekend schedule. Have them aware of sleeping conditions and ask them if they have any health requirements, dietary restrictions or sleeping accommodations. Make sure you get an emergency contact and phone number for the Team, Palanca Team and Pre Cursillo.

**BUT MOST IMPORTANT:** There is one very important requirement that a sponsor should do before the Cursillo Weekend and on the Cursillo Weekend; **MAKE SURE THAT YOUR CANDIDATE HAS THE BOOKLET ENTITLED: Cursillo, What Is It?**

As a Sponsor your role should be to **PRAY, PRAY, PRAY.**

Sacrifice is also encouraged, Help your candidate with transportation. Don't let them come alone. If a family and spouse are in need of assistance while your candidate is on the weekend please take that responsibility seriously.

Then **PRAY** some more. Come to Las Mananitas morning for the song and be at the Closing. Keep up the personal contact after the weekend. Help with Group Reunion and Ultreya, Personal Contact is important. A new Cursillista needs much personal attention after the weekend. Remember your Cursillo Brothers and Sisters are here to support you and your Candidate.

And Don't Forget To Do Palanca!

DeColores.

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

**Cursillo Section:**

One of the jobs of the Cursillo Section is to email General Palanca to the Rector of the weekends that are taking place. As a recap, General Palanca is a letter that explains what our action is (prayers, sacrifice or works of mercy). When we send out a letter, we want to be authentic when we say we have offered up rosaries, Adoration, etc. To help us be genuine in this effort, the Secretariat will offer up our rosaries, etc. We will send a list to the Ultreya Coordinators to have them share these dates with you. For those that aren't able to attend Ultreya, we will attempt to post the weekends for the month. Your help in praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ would be most helpful. Below is a list of all the weekends being held for the

month of March. Your prayers and palanca for their success (that being a deeper relationship or conversion) is greatly appreciated.

3/2-5/2023	Men's 65	Tyler, TX
	Women's 101	Harrisburg, PA
	Men's 203	Rockville Centre, NY
	Men's 33	Bismarck, ND
	Men's 106	Bridgeport, CT
	Men's 71	Jefferson City, MO
	Men's 950	Phoenix, AZ
	Men's 115	Covington, KY
3/4/-5/2023	Cursillo de Cursillo Workshop	Oakland, CA
	Men's 116	Nashville, TN
	Men's 126	Lafayette-Indianapolis, IN
	Men's 116	Nashville, TN
	Women's 287	Corpus Christi, TX
	Men's 476	Dallas, TX
	Women's Cursillo	Corpus Christi, TX
3/9-12/2023	Women's 77	Owensboro, KY
	Women's 66	Tulsa, OK
	Men's 261	Green Bay, WI
	Women's 77	Owensboro, KY
	Men's 73 (uomini)	Trento, Italia
	Women's 951	Phoenix, AZ
	Men's 1213	Peoria, IL
	Men's 289	Toledo, OH
	Men's 2021-2	Cleveland, OH
	Men's 177	Detroit, MI
3/16-19/2023	Men's 24	Arlington, VA
	Men's 99	Fort Wayne-South Bend, IN
	Men's 161	Chihuahua, Chih
	Women's 32	Bismarck, ND
	Women's Cursillo	Boise, ID
	Women's Cursillo	Austin, TX
	Women's 79	Jefferson City, MO
	Women's 460	Outaouais, QC
	Men's Cursillo	Gary, IN
	Women's 100	Nashville, TN
	Women's 115	Lafayette-Indianapolis, IN
	Women's 186	Cincinnati, OH
	Women's 527	Richmond, VA
3/24-25/2023	2023 Region IV Spring Encounter	Belleville IL
3/23-26/2023	Women's 114	Orlando, FL
	Women's 100	Evansville, IN
	Men's 220	New York, NY
	Women's 1019	Los Angeles, CA
	Women's 142	Birmingham, AL
	Women's 96	Baltimore, MD
	Women's 376	New York, NY
	Women's 39	Providence, RI
	Men's 549	Richmond, VA
	Women 178	Detroit, MI
3/26-29/2023	Women's 114	Orlando, FL

The Men's Team #230 is now formed and in formation. The members of the team are as follows:

Stefan Mychajliw	- Rector/Total Security	Joe Beinhauer	- Assistant Rector/Piety
Greg Wiltrout	- Ideal	Mike Emery	- Laity
Mark Schweizer	- Study	Scott Arnold	- Action
Jerry Scherer	- Leader	Tom Hall	- Environment
Randy Rakoczysnki	- CCA	Ed Hackett	- 4th Day
Alex Hartman	- Warden	Mark Suchyna	- Warden
Scott McLaughlin	- Warden	John Jaskolka	- Liturgist
Rob Gill	- Asst. Liturgist	Dcn Alex Manunta	
Dcn Dave Clabeaux			

Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

If you would like to be on the palanca team, please reach out to Lisa Johnson. She can be reached at 1-585-313-0853. From personal experience, working on a palanca team is a great way to meet people and also begin to see how a weekend comes together.

I pray that you are having a fruitful Lent. If you are looking for extra activities to enhance your growth in the Lord, consider attending the Reunion Mass on March 10 @ 7 at St. Peter and Paul in Williamsville.

God bless,

DeColores,

Diane Putt - (716) 380-0187

Denise Daniels - (716) 823-5453

### Post-Cursillo:

Please invite your Cursillo friends to the Reunion Mass that will be held on Friday March 10th at 7:00 PM at the Saints Peter and Paul Church, 5480 Main St., Williamsville. The following 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 ... maybe you can carpool with them too. These reunion mass's 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](mailto:emeryinbuffalo@roadrunner.com)

Mike Emery – 716-207-2834, [memery289@gmail.com](mailto:memery289@gmail.com)

### School of Leaders:

Our School of Leaders will meet next on March 18th from 10:30am to 12:30pm. Once again it will take place in the school building of The Church of the Annunciation parish, [7580 Clinton St., Elma NY 14059](#).

Our **Techniques** talk will be on “**The Liturgist in Cursillo.**” We will delve into what is involved in being the weekend Liturgist and hopefully hear a bit of a witness on this experience from one or more current and former liturgists. **Jennifer Appenheimer** will lead this discussion.

Our **Doctrinal** talk will continue with the theme of the 10 Topics from the Conversations of Cala Figuera. This month **Deacon Marc Leadersdorf** will discuss “**The Person.**” This will be another thought-provoking talk and discussion.

If you’ve ever been a liturgist on one of our weekends we’d love for you to come and share your knowledge. If you are curious about the topic, our school in March will be the place to be.

The Peace and Joy of Christ be with you,

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:

Joseph Manuel (Men's #115) - Died 2/19/23

Clara M. Sentz (Women' #8) – Died 2/24/23

If you learn of a recently deceased Cursillista please notify Carol Stier at (71) 692-1606.

Randy Rakoczynski  
Lynn & Terry Johnson  
Jerry Frisicaro  
Dennis Conklin  
Deacon Gary Terrana  
Arthur Ruhland  
Bob Yager  
Cole  
Mike Matyas  
Teresa Barone  
Cathy Derrick  
Corinne Giermek  
Patrick Johnson  
Cathy Agugliaro

Mary Mercurio  
Fr. Joe Badding  
Pam Hornung  
Jean Claire Buchbinder  
Chelsea Ellis  
Laura & Angelo Ciavarella  
Marie Gannon  
Mike Ryan  
Timothy McCann  
Joan Roberts  
Mary Flanagan  
Bill Heidle  
Dcn Joe Barr  
Jim Youngers

Tim Heidle  
Kathy O'Keefe  
Denise Bressette  
Diane Coughlin  
Gary Banas  
John Agugliaro  
Marcia Moretti  
Cheryl Besant  
Bobby Lovenetti  
Vinnie Barone  
Linda Orszulak  
EllieWieleba

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



## Ultreya Schedule - March 2023

<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	<u>3/14/2023</u> 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	<u>3/21/2023</u> 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	<u>3/29/2023</u> 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)
<u>Pueblo de Paz</u> Warsaw area	<u>3/25/2023</u> Last Sunday	7:00 PM	<u>St. Michael's Church</u> 171 N. Main St, Warsaw	<u>Liz Wascak</u> 585.237.5155 <a href="mailto:ewascak@yahoo.com">ewascak@yahoo.com</a>
<u>Rainbow Vineyard</u> North towns area	<u>3/14/2023</u> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	7:00 PM	<u>St. Jude the Apostle Parish</u> 800 Niagara Falls Blvd North Tonawanda	<u>Carolyn McMamara</u> 716.867.8962
	<u>3/28/2023</u> 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	7:00 PM		<u>Carolyn Ruhland</u> 716.912.2890 <a href="mailto:caruhl73@Verizon.net">caruhl73@Verizon.net</a>
<u>Southtowns</u> South towns area	<u>3/2/2023</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	7:00 PM	<u>Member House</u> Contact Lisa for location	<u>Lisa &amp; Paul Johnson</u> 585.313.0853 (m - Lisa)
	<u>3/16/2023</u> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	7:00 PM		<a href="mailto:lisagauthie1@gmail.com">lisagauthie1@gmail.com</a>
<u>Spirit of the City</u> City of Buffalo	<u>No Meeting</u> (inactive)			

## Upcoming Cursillo Dates

<b>REUNION MASSES</b>	
<p><b>Date:</b> March 10, 2023  <b>Time:</b> 7:00pm  <b>Place:</b> Saints Peter and Paul Church,                      5480 Main St., Williamsville  <b>Host:</b> Bethany Ultreya  <b>Presider:</b> Fr. Matt Nycz</p>	<p><b>Date:</b> April 14, 2023  <b>Time:</b> 7:00pm  <b>Place:</b> St. Jude the Apostle Parish,                      800 Niagara Falls Blvd, North Tonawanda  <b>Host:</b> Rainbow Vineyard Ultreya  <b>Presider:</b> Fr. Jim Kirkpatrick</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Men's Weekend #230</u></b>  <b><u>May 4-7, 2023</u></b></p> <p>4/29 - Support Mass for Men's Team, 4:30 pm Mass at St. Vincent DePaul's Parish, Springbrook                      5/3 - Set-up Men's Weekend @ 5:30 pm, St. Vincent DePaul's Parish, Springbrook                      5/4 - Registration from 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm  <span style="color: blue;">Sponsors &amp; community stay for prayer service at 8 pm.</span>                      5/6 - Break In 7:00 pm                      5/7 - Las Mananitas - 6 am (Men only)                      - 3 pm Community Gathering with Closures (no mass) <b>ALL welcome</b>                      6/17 - 4<sup>th</sup> Day Dinner; Potluck @ St. Vincent's doors open at 6 pm. Dinner at 6:30 pm  <b>Entire Community Welcome</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Women's Weekend #231</u></b>  <b><u>May 18-21, 2023</u></b></p> <p>TBD - Support Mass for Men's Team, 4:30 pm Mass at St. Vincent DePaul's Parish, Springbrook                      5/17 - Set-up Women's Weekend @ 5:30 pm, St. Vincent DePaul's Parish, Springbrook                      5/18 - Registration from 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm  <span style="color: blue;">Sponsors &amp; community stay for prayer service at 8 pm.</span>                      5/20 - Break In 7:00 pm                      5/21 - Las Mananitas - 6 am (Women only)                      - 3 pm Community Gathering with Closures (no mass) <b>ALL welcome</b>                      6/17 - 4<sup>th</sup> Day Dinner; Potluck @ St. Vincent's doors open at 6 pm. Dinner at 6:30 pm  <b>Entire Community Welcome</b></p>
<b>OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDY</b>	
<p><b>School of Leaders (Workshops)</b>  <b>Topic:</b> Liturgist's Responsibilities  <b>Date:</b> March 18, 2023  <b>Time:</b> 10:30 AM - 12 noon  <b>Location:</b> Church of the Annuciation,                      7580 Clinton St., Elma                      Organizer: Marty Ruhland (716)481-0662                      For additional information please see the School of Leaders article in the newsletter</p>	<p><b>Catholic Men's Fellowship of WNY Conference</b>  <i>Evangelize the Family, Evangelize the World!</i>  <b>Saturday, March 25, 2023</b>                      Cardinal O'Hara High School                      39 O'Hara Rd, Tonawanda, NY 14150                      Details and registration at <a href="https://www.cmfofwny.org">https://www.cmfofwny.org</a></p>
<p><b>Catholic Women of Buffalo 2023 Conference</b>  <i>For such a time as this</i>  <b>Saturday, April 29, 2023</b>                      St Joseph's Collegiate Institute                      845 Kenmore Ave, Buffalo, NY 14223                      Details and registration at:  <a href="https://www.catholicwomenofbuffalo.org">https://www.catholicwomenofbuffalo.org</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A Day of Gentle Reflection</b>                      Gentle Women, Mother of Mercy - Chapter of Magnificat  <b>Saturday, March 11th, 2023</b>                      M Hotel Buffalo                      2040 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga, NY 14225                      Details and registration at:  <a href="https://magnificat-ministry.net/chapters/chapter-states-n-o/ny-buffalo/">https://magnificat-ministry.net/chapters/chapter-states-n-o/ny-buffalo/</a></p>