



November 2025

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:

Fall 2025 Weekends:	Women's Weekend #239 – November 6 th – 9 th , 2025
4th Day Dinner	November 22 nd 6:00pm. Doors open at 5:30pm St. Teresa of Avila, Akron
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

Please see the end of the newsletter for calendar of events

Buffalo Cursillo Second Touch 2026: Becoming the Good News
An Invitation to Explore the richness of the Cursillo movement.
January 30, 2026 – February 1, 2026

All Cursillista's are invited to participate in the upcoming Second Touch weekend at the **Stella Niagara Center of Renewal** in **Lewiston, NY**. This program offers an opportunity to engage in periods of reflection and prayer, share experiences, foster new connections, and enjoy quality time together. Meals will be provided throughout the weekend.

Theme: "Becoming the Good News"

Registration Options & Costs:

- \$220: Full weekend (includes two nights' accommodation and six meals)
- \$100: All day Saturday only
- \$40: Dinner and Ultreya only

Scholarships are available to support participation.

Weekend Schedule:

- **Friday:**
 - Registration 3:00 – 7:00 PM
 - Dinner 5:30 PM
 - Reconciliation: 7:00 – 8:00 PM
 - Program Begins at 8:00 PM
- **Saturday:** Full day ending with Ultreya
- **Sunday:** Breakfast, Mass, Lunch
- **The weekend ends approximately 1:00 PM**

For further information or to register, please contact:

- Carol Palesh: call 716-694-0942 or grannypalesh@gmail.com
- Karen Trimper: call or text 716-867-8962 or karentrimp@gmail.com

A \$50 deposit is required to reserve your place. Please make checks payable to Buffalo Cursillo and mail to:

Karen Trimper
101 Werkley Rd.
Tonawanda, NY 14150

Lay Coordinator Report:

Welcome men of Weekend #238 !!



It was a great weekend led by a great team. We are so grateful for all the hard work and dedication on the part of everyone that went into the weekend and are excited to make the Men of #238 a part of the Buffalo Cursillo Community. Congratulations to all!

Women's weekend #239 is also fast upon us. The Team is ready, and the roster is full with 18 candidates! The support Mass is Saturday November 1st at the 4 pm Vigil Mass at St. Vincent de Paul in Springbrook, let's all come out to support the team as they begin their journey to bring friends closer to Christ. As we, the community of Buffalo Cursillo, are called to be the hands and feet of our Savior, please come out to set up Wednesday the 5th at 5pm. The serenade is Saturday evening the 8th at 7:00 pm and Las Mañanitas (Women only) Sunday morning at 5:30 AM. Breakdown is Sunday starting at 11:30 am with the weekend ending with the Clausura and Mass at 3:00 pm. Come and be part of it all.

De Colores

Chuck Stephan

Lay Coordinator

8840 Wenn Rd.

Williamsville, NY 14221

cstephan@twc.com

Cell: 716 817-3969 (make sure to leave a message as calls are screened)

Assistant Lay Coordinator Report:

Spiritual Advisor Report:

St. Paul in the first chapter of Romans tells us of how he has been set apart to deliver the Gospel message. At the recent Men's Weekend, it was clear that these ten men were similarly set apart to do just that! One of them told me that he has always known that our world needs Jesus' message of love. That he himself has always wanted to spread the Gospel but was alone and did not know where to start. He said that after this weekend, he can see that he is not alone but has friends who believe and want to do the same thing!

Ten men, set apart to spread Christ's message. I am certain that the eighteen candidates for the upcoming Women's Weekend will also be set apart like St. Paul and the apostles to bring Christ to the beloved of God in WNY.

As we approach our celebration of Thanksgiving later this month, may we all offer our deepest gratitude to the Holy Spirit working through Cursillo throughout the world!

Happy Thanksgiving!!!

Deacon Dave Clabeaux

Buffalo Cursillo - Spiritual Advisor

716-353-3752

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Prayer for Intercession

We ask the intercession of Eduardo Bonnin to guide us so that we will be touched with the same Spirit that guided him to develop a method to bring us closer to Christ and our neighbor in the Cursillo Movement. Help us Lord to a deeper understanding of the true and authentic method of Cursillo and the Foundational Charism. Amen

Historian Report:

Buffalo Cursillo History

Historian's Report #41, November 2025

"The Spanish Cursillo Movement of Buffalo" Part I

The Spanish Cursillo Movement of Buffalo was begun and generated by Fr. Lucio Antonio Rodriguez, who came to Buffalo in 1958 from the diocese of Guadix, Granada, Spain. Born in Leon, Spain on October 11, 1925, Fr. Antonio, as he preferred to be called, was assigned to work in the Diocesan Spanish Apostolate throughout WNY. He first lived at Our Lady of Lebanon Parish in Niagara Falls. From 1960-1965, he served at St. Anthony's Church in Buffalo.

In the early 1960's, Fr. Rodriguez and some men of the Buffalo Inner City Apostolate made their Cursillo in English in Erie, PA. These included Jorge Rodriguez, Marvin Lewis and Richard James.

In 1965, Father was transferred to residence at Immaculate Conception Church on Edward St. to work with the Spanish communities in Buffalo, North Tonawanda, Medina, Dunkirk, and migrant workers in North Collins, Barker and Fredonia for the next fourteen years.

Also in 1965, Father Rodriguez, Fr. Barry Smith and Lou Pauly (who both had also made their Cursillos in Erie, PA) Fr. David Doyle, Thomas Matos, Thomas Rivera, Val Sabol and Mary Bielman, who had made their Cursillos elsewhere, met at St. Nicholas Parish to discuss starting a Cursillo in Buffalo. They were hosted by pastor Fr. Herold Nuwer, also a Cursillista. Fr. Rodriguez, Fr. Dave Doyle, and Thomas Rivera were intent on beginning a Spanish Cursillo Movement in WNY as there was a large Catholic Puerto Rican and Mexican population. Many living in Lackawanna and Buffalo were under contract to Bethlehem Steel; many worked for the railroads.

Hispanic leaders were recruited to make their Cursillo in Spanish in New York City. They returned on fire with the love for Jesus Christ and for the Movement. This ignited the flame for the Buffalo Spanish speaking Catholic community. Hundreds of people signed up to experience Cursillo. Photos of early Buffalo Spanish Cursillos reveal over fifty men on a weekend. Another picture shows seventy-two Hispanic women posing for their Cursillo photo.

Visiting priests from South America and Columbia, who came to Buffalo for vacation participated in organizing these Cursillo Weekends. Other priests from Mexico and Puerto Rico were also active in the Spanish Cursillo while they visited this diocese.

Early on, the English and Spanish Cursillos shared equipment and the same spaces such as St. Mary's Redemptorist Church, St. Mary's Business School, on Broadway, St. Mary's High School in Lancaster, Brothers of Mercy and Bishop Gibbons High School, and Our Lady of Lebanon. They always partnered with Buffalo English Cursillistas when attending Regional Cursillo meetings and National Encounters.

According to a recent interview with Deacon Miguel Santos, almost all the Spanish Community leaders became Cursillistas, and all of the Spanish church leaders came from the Cursillo movement. Early lay leaders of the Buffalo Spanish Ultreya were Carlos Ramos in the early

1980's and Miguel Santos in the late 1980's, and Roberto Miranda, a highly regarded Cursillista, all who later became deacons to serve the Buffalo Diocese.

The Spanish Ultreya was very active in the late 1960's, 1970's, and 1980's. The Ultreya rotated meeting at St. Anthony's, Holy Cross, St. Columba-Brigid's, St. Valentine's and at churches in North Tonawanda and Dunkirk. The Spanish Ultreya waned in the 1980's, but got a second wind in the late 1990's. One reason for the decline was the closure of Bethlehem Steel Plant in October 1983 laying off 7,000 workers.

Fr. Anthony Rodriguez was a member of Hispanic United Buffalo, Inc. and was selected Hispanic of the Year in 2009. Fr. Rodriguez retired in 2003 to live at Bishop Head Residence in Lackawanna, NY. He entered into his eternal rest on January 14, 2021.

The Buffalo Diocese and especially the Hispanic Community and Cursillistas are greatly indebted to Fr. Rodriguez for his many years of untiring and far-reaching ministry in bringing souls to Christ.

Carol Stier (Buffalo Women's #7)
Buffalo Cursillo Historian
716-471-4154

Pre-Cursillo Report:

Pre-Cursillo is getting ready for the women's fall weekend #239. We are so happy to announce there are 18 candidates with a waiting list for the spring weekend.

So many beautiful women are very excited! Please continue to pray and write palanca for them and the team. Candidate and team lists were emailed to all the ultreya leaders.

God Bless
Sherry Misso
Pre-Cursillo

Cursillo Section:

DO's and DON'T's OF A CURSILLO WEEKEND

1. Volunteer to DO something. DON'T wait to be asked.
2. DON'T rely on others to get the work done. You can DO something.
3. "What can I DO?"
 - It takes many hands to convert the building into a retreat center.
 - Wednesday before the Weekend, set up: the Chapel, Conference Room, Shower Areas, Sleeping Areas for the Team, Candidates, Palanca Team and Deacons.
 - Sunday as the Weekend concludes, tear down of all areas from Wednesday.
 - Contact Peter Adornetto, Building Coordinator to help at email: peterA96@verizon.net

4. If you DON'T have time to help on Wednesday or Sunday, DO consider other times on the Weekend such as:
 - Helping the Palanca Team with its numerous tasks throughout the Weekend such as organizing supplies for the Conference Room, sorting Palanca notes, setting up Small Chapel and Spiritual Direction Areas, cleaning bathrooms, directing people for the Saturday Night Serenade and Sunday Las Mananitas, maintaining cleanliness and order throughout the building during the Weekend.
 - Contact Diane Reese or Tom Bergman, Palanca Team Co-coordinators to help at email addresses: dianereese0909@yahoo.com or tberg@verizon.net
5. If you DON'T have time to physically help on the Weekend, DO offer a food dish for one of the Weekend meals: Friday and Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner; Sunday breakfast and lunch. Ultreyas are assigned to each meal with a fixed menu. Offer to help your Ultreya.

Contact Otto Misso or Mike Cucinotta if you are not in an Ultreya, but want to offer a food dish.
Otto's email is: omissojr@yahoo.com
6. DON'T ignore the Weekend if nothing above is within your abilities. DO pray, offer rosaries, Adoration Hours, Masses, etc. and write a Palanca note to the Candidates and Team setting forth your spiritual activities. If you are unable to write individual notes, DO write a General Palanca note, "Dear Team" or "Dear Candidates".
7. If you are donating books to the Book Table, DO make sure they are in good condition. No text books, no books with handwritten notes, highlighting or personal notes left in the books. DON'T donate books that are not of Catholic doctrine; check the opening pages and names of the publishers. DON'T donate plaques, framed pictures, etc. This is a "Book Table"; storing items not taken during the Weekend is becoming burdensome.
8. DO be part of every Weekend in any way that you can. We are a Community and should support every Weekend Team and all Candidates. **"CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU."**

Diane Putt – 716-380-0187
Denise Daniels – 716-823-5453
Cursillo Section Co-coordinators

Post-Cursillo:

We are coming into a very busy month. We hope you are able to take advantage of some of the events. The women's support Mass is November 1st, the Women's weekend break-in on 11/8, Las Mananitas and the Mass/Closura on November 9th. The 4th day dinner is scheduled for Saturday, November 22nd. Mass starts at 4pm. See the newsletter schedule for more details.

We have a strong class of women making their Cursillo. We are also making an effort to re-engage the recent past Cursillistas. For sponsors, new Cursillistas and all of us, remake a friend, bring them and please support these events. For all - Please wear your name tags if you still have them so we can break the ice quickly. And if you can't find a group call us, we'll help you start a group. Let's all work to keep the spirit alive.

Last thing, Second Touch is in January. If you have not been to Second Touch, it is very worthwhile. Let's talk. DeColores,

Pat Mahaney 716 481-3715 pmahaney2@gmail.com

Greg Wilttrout 716 870-7986 gwilttrout74@gmail.com

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

Treasurer:

Secretary:

School of Leaders:

It's amazing how busy a person can become with parish or faith related things. Cursillo has opened my world up to just such a busy-ness. The satisfaction that comes with being involved in my church community and our cursillo community is second to none. I've watched others who have come through a Cursillo weekend or some other encounter and gone on to become more involved in their parish life. It's wonderful to see.

With all of this busy-ness can come a price though. We can find ourselves feeling a bit overwhelmed, or we can see all of this activity getting in the way of family life. Discouragement can creep in if something we are involved in doesn't go so well.

Staying in touch with God through prayer is a key to ensuring we don't feel overwhelmed or get discouraged or miss out on important family events. The Holy Spirit guides us on our faith journey and when we rely on him through prayer, our priorities, our next steps, our path will be made clear.

In October, we heard all about how we can depend on our Mother Mary through the Rosary. On November 30th we begin the season of Advent. Advent is a significant period in the liturgical calendar, observed as a time of preparation and anticipation leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The term "Advent" comes from the Latin word "adventus", meaning "arrival" and signifies the arrival of Jesus. The season is characterized by reflection, prayer and acts of charity as we prepare for both the celebration of Christ's birth and His promised second coming.

Advent can become so "busy" that we lose sight of what is important. Reflection, prayer and acts of charity, slow things down for us so that we don't lose sight of our goal. Jesus.

Our School of Leaders in December will focus on Advent. A Season to Prepare. Yes, we will not have a School of Leaders in November. With our Women's Weekend #239, our Welcome to your 4th Day dinner and the Thanks-Giving holiday, there is more than enough to keep everyone occupied.

So, please join us in December (tentatively December 13th) to learn more about how to light up our hearts as we get ready for Jesus.

(in the school building (door A) at Church of the Annunciation, Clinton Street, Elma, NY.

DeColores!

Marty Ruhland
School of Leaders Facilitator
(716) 481-0662
rdservices@roadrunner.com

Prayer Request:

Entered into their 5th Day:

If you know of a Cursillista who has died, please call Carol Stier at (71) 692-1606 so she can add the person to this column.

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

Kathy Kaminski	Pam Hornung	Jim Youngers
Dcn Dennis Kapsiak	Jean Claire Buchbinder	Cathy Agugliaro
Bill Gross	Chelsea Ellis	Tim Hiedle
Lois Weber	Laura and Angelo Ciavarella	Kathy O'Keefe
Lorrie Rakoczynski	Marie Gannon	Denise Bressette
Jerry Friscaro	Mike Ryan	Diane Coughlin
Dcn Gary Terrana	Timothy McCann	Gary Banas
Arthur Ruhland	Joan Roberts	John Agugliaro
Bob Yager	Mary Flannagan	Marcia Moretti
Cole Koons	Bill Hiedle	Cheryl Besant
Lynn Fetes	Corinne Giermek	Bobby Lovenetti
Cathy Derrick	Dcn Joe Barr	Linda Orszulak
Mary Mercurio	Patrick Johnson	Elie Wieleba
Fr. Joe Badding		

Buffalo Cursillo Ultreya Schedule				
Ultreya	Date	Time	Location	Contacts
Bethany Cheektowaga & surrounding area	11/13/25 2 nd Thursday No meeting 4 th Thursday	7:00 PM	Zoom Contact Lynn to be added to the email list	Lynn Lomanto lomantolynn@gmail.com 585-409-4123
Come to the Well Clarence area	11/25/25 4 th Tuesday	7:00 PM	Member House Contact Chris for location	Jack & Christine Thomann 716-583-2324 (Chris – m) 716-583-2320 (Jack – m) cmtpsalm139@gmail.com
Full of Grace Elma area	Jan-June Sept-Oct 11/19/25	7:00 PM	Member House Contact Marty for location	Marty Ruhland rdservices@roadrunner.com 716-481-0662 (m)
Pueblo de Paz Warsaw area	11/23/25	4:00 PM	St. Michael's Church 171 N. Main St, Warsaw	Liz Wascak 585-237-5155 ewascak@yahoo.com
Rainbow Vineyard Northtowns area	11/9/25 2 nd Tuesday 11/25/25 4 th Tuesday	7:00 PM	Our Lady of Czestochowa 64 Center Ave North Tonawanda	Carolyn McNamara 716-694-5949 Carolyn Ruhland 716-912-2890 caruhl73@verizon.net
Southtowns Southtowns area	Not meeting 1 st Thursday 11/20/25 3 rd Thursday	7:00 PM	Member House Contact Maureen McCarthy for location	St. Andrew's Permanent Group Mike & Maureen McCarthy 716-9137369 Moeyishere.210@gmail.com
St. Brendan on the Lake Lockport area	11/10/25	7:00 PM	St. Brendan on the Lake Parish	Jesse Smith Jsmithjr2@verizon.net 716-930-9901

Upcoming Cursillo Dates	
Cursillo Weekend	Reunion Masses
November - Women's weekend – 6th – 9th, St. Teresa of Avila February - Men's weekend – 12th – 15th, St. Teresa of Avila March - Women's weekend – 12th – 15th, St. Teresa of Avila	November 22nd – Fourth Day dinner, At St. Teresa of Avila, Akron NY Mass at 4 PM Set up at 5 PM Doors open at 5:30 PM Dinner at 6 PM Bring your own place setting
Men's Weekend #240 February 12-15 2026	Women's Weekend #239 November 6-9, 2025
	11/1 – 4:00 pm Support Mass for women's weekend at St. Vincent de Paul, Springbrook NY 11/5 - Set-up for Weekend 5:30 pm 11/6 – Registration from 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm, Sponsors & community prayer service at 8 pm. 11/8 – Break-in 7:00 pm, arrive by 6:45 pm 11/9 – Las Mananitas – 6 am (Women only) - 3 pm Closures with community mass
OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDY	
School of Leaders (Workshop)	Other Opportunities
Topic: Advent Speaker: TBD Date: Saturday, December 13th Time: 10:00 am – 12 noon(ish) Location: Church of the Annunciation school, 7580 Clinton St., Elma Organizer: Marty Ruhland (716)481-0662	

December '24 & early January '25 Outbound Palanca

Start Date	End Date	Event	Location	
2024-12-05	2024-12-08	Men's 146 (Spanish)	Raleigh, NC	
2024-12-05	2024-12-08	Women's 686 (Spanish)	Houston, TX	
2024-12-05	2024-12-08	Men's 130 (English)	Springfield/Cape Girardeau diocese, Southern Missouri	
2024-12-19	2024-12-22	Men's 91 (English)	Worcester, MA	
2025-01-23	2025-01-26	Men's Cursillo (English)	Windsor-Essex, Ontario	
2025-01-23	2025-01-26	Men's Cursillo (Spanish)	La Paz, Bolivia	
2025-01-31	2025-02-02	Women 's 382	New York, NY	
2025-02-06	2025-02-09	Women's Cursillo (English)	Windsor-Essex, Ontario	

Cursillo Logowear & Name Tags

We are currently taking orders for Buffalo Cursillo® logowear and name tags like these:



Polo shirts typically cost between \$25-50 depending upon your choice of style. You can choose virtually any color and style. Visit <http://www.sanmar.com> and browse their catalog.

Paul Lanca

Buffalo Cursillo #123
De Colores

Name tags like this can also be ordered in YOUR favorite color. AND, for you sponsors of recent Cursillistas out there, if you order one now for your friend, you can get them by the Welcome To Your Fourth Day Dinner, which, of course, you will be attending, right? Here's what to do next: send an email indicating your interest in logowear/name tag to bflopalanca@gmail.com. Remember this: the more items we order together, the more savings for everyone. De Colores! (which I think translates to "show your colors" in Latin).