



# Buffalo Cursillo

October 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:

Fall weekends	Women’s: Weekend #229 - October 20-23, 2022 Men’s: Weekend #230 – May 4-7, 2023 Support Mass: October 15 <sup>th</sup> (Women’s) 4 <sup>th</sup> Day: November 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2022 at St. Vincent’s
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

Fall is certainly upon us with much cooler temperatures and the beauty of God’s creation exploding with *De Colores* here in WNY. The harvest is abundant in so many ways! Having just wrapped up Men’s Cursillo #228 (the Weekend that never fails) we’re now getting ready to celebrate Women’s Cursillo #229! It’s been great to see so many of our newest “babe chicks” at various Groupings, Ultreyas and just randomly at Mass lately. Cursillo is EVERYWHERE, including at the Stella Niagara Retreat Center in Lewiston, NY where Region III will be holding our Fall Encounter on October 28-29 and Buffalo Cursillo will be hosting the long awaited Second Touch weekend in January 2023. Stella Niagara has recently lifted all restrictions they had in place regarding covid so ALL CURSILLISTAS are again welcome to attend. Region III just completed a trial weekend called Living the Rectors Guide at the soon-to-close Notre Dame Retreat Center in Canandaigua, NY with a lot of positive feedback.

School of Leaders is back in session on a semi-monthly basis. It’s a great opportunity to learn more about this little thing we call Cursillo and get to know some great folks.

Our Cursillo Historian, Carol Stier highlights “Cursillo on the Move” during the 60’s and 70’s later in this newsletter.

As if that isn’t enough to get you out of your recliner, we will be having another one of those ever popular “Welcome to Your 4th Day Dinner” events at St. Vincent’s just a few short weeks

following the conclusion of the Women's weekend. Y'all come! See the Post Cursillo section of this newsletter for details.

Make a friend. BE a friend. Bring a friend to Christ. He's counting on you.

De Colores,

**Terry Johnson #191**

Lay Director Buffalo Cursillo

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### Spiritual Director Report:

To be provided next month

### Historian Report:

#### **Buffalo Cursillo History #10 (continued):**

##### **September 2022** "Cursillo Looks for a Permanent Home"

In the late 1960's and early 1970's parish schools, diocesan and private high schools were at full capacity with young baby boomers. Men's and Women's Cursillos were held wherever it was possible to use a school gymnasium with an adjoining kitchen during the summer months or Easter vacation.

Two Buffalo Catholic schools which had already closed were used extensively in the early days. From 1965 to 1968, St Mary's Redemptorist Church hosted Men's Cursillos #1 through #11 and #14 as well as several Spanish Men's weekends. In 1968, St Mary's Business School accommodated Women's #2 and #4 and Men's #12 in addition to Spanish Women's #1 and #2.

In 1967-68, Women's #3 and #5 were held at the new St. Mary's High School, Lancaster, and also Men's #10 and #13.

In 1969, Women's #6 was held at Cana Grace Retreat House, Alden; Women's #7 at St. Gerard's Lyceum, Men's #15 at Bishop Turner High School, Men's #16 at St. Marks School, in Buffalo; and Men's #17 at Bishop Neumann High School, Williamsville.

Members of the Secretariat formed the Cursillo Center Committee, composed of Fr. Barry Smith, Dick O'Donnell, Paul Needham and Tom Alberalla, to search for an available place for each weekend.

Finally, in November 1969, the Committee found a Cursillo Center at Brothers of Mercy Sacred Heart Home in Clarence where Men's #18-#21 and Women's #8-#11 were held as well as at least two Spanish weekends. For a year, there was no need to transport cots, big screens (which were used to divide the gym into a conference area and sleeping quarters), the essentials for Mass, songbooks and supplies for the candidates from place to place, week to week or month to month.

The Secretariat suggested a letter to Brother James Murphy, FMM, Provincial, be written thanking him for the use of the Brothers' facilities.

The next year, Cursillo found another Center at the Consolata Mission Seminary, Brompton Rd., Williamsville. The Consolatas were an Italian religious order of priest founded to work in the foreign missions. Fr. Anthony Bellagamba, Dean of Studies, and Fr. Ralph Lombardo Superior, welcomed Cursillo in January, 1971. The Chapel in the building afforded the Candidates to visit the Blessed Sacrament and attend Mass and Cursillistas to be at the Holy Hour on Saturday. There was a whole room for Cursillo Storage.

From February, 1971 to September, 1972, Women's #12 - #18 and Men's #22 - #28 were held there as well as one Spanish Men's and one Spanish Women's Cursillo. Imagine 16 Cursillos in 20 months! In addition, Leaders' School, a Single's Ultreya and the first Men's Second Touch Weekend\* were based there.

Fr. Lombardo enthusiastically made Men's #22 and Fr. Tom Talentino, a teacher, made Men's #26 and later sponsored two Consolata Seminarians.

A farewell thank you letter was sent to Fr. Lombardo, IMC and the Consolata Fathers for their helpfulness and generosity extended to Cursillo.

Following the cultural upheaval of the 1960's and the end of the Vietnam War, Consolata like most religious order seminaries in WNY closed in the 1970's. The building later became Brompton Heights for Assisted Living.

\*Note: One of the traditional parts of the 4th day program described in the official Cursillo literature is that each Cursillo should hold an annual reunion. Buffalo followed the practice rather sporadically. In June, 1971, the Secretariat approved the new program of annual reunions in the form of a Cursillo-style weekend from Friday evening till Sunday afternoon open to men or women separately. The talks would include a review of the major points of a three-day weekend, with a re-introduction, on Sunday, to the other elements of the fourth-day program (since Buffalo was still trying to solidify the Ultreyas). The name "Second Touch" was adopted from the story (Mark 8:22-26) of the blind man whom Jesus cured upon touching him a second time. The second Touch Weekend didn't become an annual event until 1992 and continued for 28 years until 2020 (Covid-19). The weekend was open to any man or woman who had ever made a Cursillo. It was intended to be a retreat and reunion for all who attended.

Carol Stier  
Buffalo Cursillo Historian  
(716) 692-1606

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

Pre-Cursillo continues to process candidates for the Women's weekend #229. Although the numbers can change daily, at this time we have 20 women. Thank you to all the sponsors who sent all the paperwork in and for **making a friend, being a friend and bringing a friend to Christ.**

The Spring 2023 Cursillo weekend's have been scheduled. Men's Weekend #230 will be May 4-7, 2022 and the Women's Weekend #231 will be May 18-21, 2023.

Thank you to all who have sent in the information for their candidates. KEEP PRAYING for all who are working the weekend and candidates who will attend and those who are discerning the weekend attendance.

God Bless,  
Audrey DiMaria  
[audimaria80@gmail.com](mailto:audimaria80@gmail.com)

### Cursillo Section:

Many hands make light work! Come to St. Vincent's with your helping hands for these events:  
Wednesday, October 19th at 5pm – set up for Women's Cursillo #229  
Thursday – Sunday – meal prep and serving – talk to your Ultreya coordinator  
Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1pm – come and help break down and then stay for the Closures

### Post-Cursillo:

As others have probably mentioned, a women's weekend will be held October 20th through 23rd. Please support the women's team on October 15th at the 4:30 PM mass at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (4375 Harris Hill Rd, Williamsville, NY 14221) and support the weekend by attending these community events:

10/20 Thursday – 8 pm prayer service with the sponsors & community  
10/22 Saturday - 7:00 pm Break-In  
10/23 Sunday – 6 am Las Mananitas (Women only)

3 pm Community Gathering with Closures. **ALL** welcome.

Sponsors, please invite the candidate's family and loved ones and members of your Group Reunion and/or Ultreya to the Closures. It means a lot to the babe chicks to see their families there supporting them and they will have an opportunity to meet some of the community and see how vibrant the Buffalo Cursillo is. All Cursillistas, please come to cheer on the babe chicks! We hope to see you at Closures!

The Fourth Day dinner is scheduled for November 12th (6:00 PM) at St. Vincent DePaul's. Support from the Cursillo community means a lot to the Teams and babe chicks, so please add these dates to your calendars and join us for all that you can.

Have a Blessed Fall!

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Kate Emery – [emeryinbuffalo@roadrunner.com](mailto:emeryinbuffalo@roadrunner.com), 716-598-5073

## School of Leaders:

2nd Touch 2023 is to be held the weekend of January 27th. Carol Palesh will be contacting people in the near future. The mask mandate and vaccination requirements at Stella Niagara have been lifted. Please prayerfully consider attending.

The next School of Leaders will be in late November. The subject, date and location will be identified in next month's newsletter.

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:

Reverend Robert G. Beiter (Men's #87), June 13, 2022

Diane Claire Thompson (Women's #13) July 15, 2022 (sister of Chris Thomann #101)

Noreen Zaccagnino (Women's #6) August 1, 2022

Lois Kinner (Women's #62) September 15, 2022

Paul Courtade (Men's #19) September 20, 2022

Sr. Mary Helen Buscarino, OSF (Women's #148) August 30, 2022

Please keep the following in your prayers.

Wayne Dryzmala	Jim Youngers	Kathleen Montesanti	Elaine Stack Bobby
Ken Dryzmala	Cathy Agugliaro	Kevin Urbanski	Lovenetti
Mike Matyas	Owen Mangan	Fr Joe Badding	Vinnie Barone
Teresa Barone	Kathy O'Keefe	Chelsea Ellis	Linda Orzulak
Randy Rakoczynski	Denise Bressette	Laura Ciavarella	Ellie Wieleba
Jean Clair Buchbinder	Lynn Johnson	Betty Ciavarella	Lou Pauly Lorrie
Dcn Gary Terrana	Diane Coughlin	Angelo Ciavarella	Dickerson
Pam Hornung	Dcn Dan McGuire	Marie Sorrentino	Doug Strout
Tony Rozak	John Agugliaro	Marie Gannon	Dan Graesser Corrine
Mark Mullen	Marcia Moretti	Mike Ryan	Giermek
Shirley Barone	Cheryl Besant	Timothy McCann	Dcn Joe Barr
Cathy Derrick	Quinn children	Joan Roberts	Bill Heidle
Lynn Lomanto	Dcn Mike Quinn Mary Mercurio	Mary Flanigan Bob Yager	Patrick Johnson

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