


Buffalo Cursillo

January 2025 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:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Second Touch 2025: | January 31 – February 2 (Stella Niagara Center for Renewal)
<small>(see School of Leaders article)</small> |
| Spring 2025 Weekends: | Men’s Weekend #236, February 13 th – 16 th , 2025

Women’s Weekend #237, March 13-16, 2025 |
| 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 *****

Lay Coordinator Report:

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. As 2025 begins we find ourselves in a new home at St. Theresa’s in Akron and with new members on the secretariat, which I’ll talk about a little later. Along with changes for Cursillo there are also changes in our beloved Buffalo Catholic Church. Some changes can be good and others that are challenging or worse. Gratefully none of this applies to Cursillo but rather to what is happening to the Catholic Church here in Buffalo. People are upset, disillusioned, sad, and feel abandoned and lost. Finger pointing and head scratching abound which have made little difference. We even see people walking away. There is a dark cloud hanging over the Buffalo Church snuffing out the joy that was once there.

Cursillo’s charism is to make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to the Light of Christ. Exactly what is needed and exactly what we as Cursillistas are called to do. Remember your witness after your weekend? Remember how you committed to bringing that new Light of Christ burning in your heart to your environments, family, workplace, friends? To set the world on fire with the love of Jesus?

The sense of community in our church is being broken as churches close and merge but our Cursillo community is becoming stronger with each event we sponsor. The latest, our last 4th -Day Reunion Dinner, saw over 120 people together, talking, laughing, enjoying the company of each other. One of the largest 4th-Day Dinners that I have ever been to.

As we sing at the closure Mass, “Go make a difference, we can make a difference”. Take out the “we” and replace it with” I”. I can make a difference. We all have been given a great and wonderful gift of the love of Jesus and our Cursillo community; gifts that are needed now more than ever. Share it, make it Christmas for someone who is bitter, sad, dejected, afraid. Offer that invitation to a weekend. They’ll reject it at first (didn’t most of us say no to our first invitation) but if we offer that gift in love being charitably persistent; love, as another song says, will prevail. Our Cursillo brochure shows Jesus knocking on a door, always knocking. We are His hands and feet. Let’s knock and knock and knock. Fill the February Men’s and March Women’s weekends to capacity. Call the lost Cursillista back to Ultreya and Permanent groups. Dispel the darkness and fill your environment with bright colors to make their hearts cry.

Thank you to everyone who has made Buffalo Cursillo the strong and vibrant community that we all treasure. Thank you to the secretariat members whose terms have ended with the coming of the new year: Lynn Lomanto as Pre-Cursillo, Mary Bitka as Secretary, Ed Hackett as Treasurer, Mike and Kate Emery as Post Cursillo, and finally to Terry Johnson as Lay Coordinator. Buffalo Cursillo would not be where it is today without their dedication and hard work. Thank you to our new members: Sherry Misso for Pre-Cursillo, Karen Trimper for Secretary, Mike Cucinotta as Treasurer, Greg Wiltrout and Pat Mahaney for Post Cursillo: all of whom will be joining Diane Putt and Denise Daniels – Cursillo, Marty Ruhland – School of Leaders, Deacon Dave Clabeaux, and myself. A great team following a great team all committed to making a difference in the world.

De Colores

Chuck Stephan #206
Lay Coordinator

Spiritual Advisor Report:

As we begin preparations for the Men’s Cursillo Weekend, each of us brings forward their particular gifts to do God’s work of expanding the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth, one friend at a time. Some are on the team, others work Palanca, cook, serve, clean, and pray. We all have something to offer! Thinking of this reminded me of a true story, and it goes like this:

My nephew Wally was 8 or 10 years old, and the family was at Mass at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. They had been selected to bring up the gifts. Walking up the aisle young Wally carefully carried the plate that held the unconsecrated bread. Then it happened, tripping over his shoelace, he stumbled, falling towards the floor. Looking up at his family, still holding the plate level, shouted out loud, “Didn’t spill even one!” The whole church broke out in laughter. From in front of the altar Fr. Butch Mazur commented, “Well done Wally!” The entire congregation was lifted up by the humor, a joy brought forth to the altar by Wally as an additional gift that day.

We all bring forward our own special gifts for God, waiting to receive them at the Cursillo Weekend. Prepare yours, and pray, pray, pray!!!

Peace,
Deacon Dave Clabeaux
Buffalo Cursillo - Spiritual Advisor
716-353-3752

Historian Report:

Buffalo Cursillo History-#33

“Environmental Ultreyas” (continued)

“The evangelization of environments necessarily involves the evangelizing of structures and institutions. The Cursillo Movement, like the Church, knows that the primary target of evangelization is persons. Structures and institutions are only secondary targets.... success doesn't happen unless there is a conversion of heart and mind on the part of those who live in these structures and on the part of those who govern them.” The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement #144, National Ultreya Publications 1992

A temporary Environmental Ultreya Team was planned to establish the purpose and objectives of the Environmental Ultreya and to distinguish the difference between it and the Interparochial Ultreya everyone was used to.

The Environmental Ultreya Team include George Deck (Men's Koinonia #1), Mary Ann Erickson (W #7), Sr. Maura Fortkort, OSF (W #74), Esther Rae (W #5), Mary Ann Stegmeier (W #9), and Dick Ushold (M #61). “Buffalo Cursillo Newsletter”, Nov. 1976

The Environmental Ultreya Team gathered and studied materials on the role of laypersons and their ministry to the world. These included Pope Paul VI's, document “Evangelization in the Modern World” and a pamphlet entitled “Listening to Lay People” sponsored by the National Council of Churches, which focused on “developing in the Christian Church a new ministry through the lay people to the institutions of the secular world.” While the Environmental Ultreyas were not meant to become study groups, background reading could afford insights into the goal of Christianizing their environments. “Buffalo Cursillo Newsletter”, January 1977 (P 2)

An Environmental Ultreya group that did get off the ground was that of Peace and Justice composed of Mary Ann Erickson (W #7), Esther Rae (W #5) and Pat Crowley (W #12). They became volunteers at the Center for Justice (now closed) in Buffalo, founded and run by the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Sisters of St. Francis of Stella Niagara. “The purpose of the Center being to educate the issues of social justice, to educate to alternative solutions of social justice, to establish communication and coordination among groups engaged in addressing social justice issues in order to strengthen the efforts of all; to serve as a research center making materials available for others to use.” “Buffalo Cursillo Newsletter” (August 1976 (P. 2)

In an article “I was Hungry and You Gave Me Food” (“Buffalo Cursillo Newsletter”, October, 1975) Esther Rae wrote “We know that in order to work towards the goal of bringing Christ into an environment, we must consciously let our attitude, our Christian values find expression in the spoken and unspoken “laws” that guide and affect all those who live in that environment.” The women took the opportunity to express those values to the leaders of our “national environment” by joining and working with Bread for the World Movement (BFW), a national organization, the goal of which was to enlist members and others to write to government officials on policy matters that have direct effect on U.S. policy and world hunger.

Poverty and hunger were ongoing social issues in America. In the 1960’s, President Johnson promoted the War on Poverty. Hunger became a Bicentennial issue, both for the U.S. Congress and for the 41st International Eucharistic Congress held in Philadelphia, PA in August 1976-the theme of which was The Eucharist and the Hunger for Bread.

In fall of 1975, the U.S. Congress had before it a resolution on the right to food, asserting “that it is the right of every person to a nutritionally adequate diet and asked **for the first time**, that this right become a cornerstone of U.S. policy.” A Bread for the World newsletter suggested that Christian churches write letters to their U.S. representatives to endorse this resolution.

Esther, Mary Ann and Pat approached their parish liturgy committee with the idea of an “Offering of Letters” at the Thanksgiving Day Mass. At Mass, after the Gospel, they showed a film dealing with world hunger and after asked everyone there to write a brief note to their Senator and Congressperson encouraging them to vote in favor of the right-to-food resolution. Instead of the usual canned goods for the needy, the letters were brought up by each person as their offertory gift. Later, the women mailed the letters to the respective Congress personnel. The resolution passed! “Buffalo Cursillo Newsletter,” August 1976 (P 3)

Environmental Ultreyas are never mentioned again in the Buffalo Cursillo newsletters after January 1977. For many, time for family, work, ministry and two Ultreyas was just too demanding! Cursillistas did attend their regular Ultreya and permanent group, if they had one.

For forty years, American Cursillistas were left to their own devices trying to understand and to explain their environment. Publications for American and the Spanish Cursillistas differed. According to Gail Terrana (W #123), former Vice President of the World Organization of Cursillos in Christianity (OMCC): “It wasn’t until a Cursillo de Cursillo in 2006 that Juan Ruiz, President of OMCC explained that your environment is the one square meter around you.” We’ve taken it from there...

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

Pre-Cursillo Report:

Happy New Year All! Pre-Cursillo is now focusing on the upcoming Spring weekends. Men's February 13-16, 2025, and Women's March 13-16th, 2025. We have had a lot of Cursillistas contacting me about possible candidates for the upcoming weekends. It is coming up soon so get those candidate and sponsor applications sent to me ASAP. They can be downloaded from the Buffalocursillo.com website or your sponsor or I can provide them. We have several applicants that could not make the last weekend that we will be following up with. The men's chili info night is January 20th at 6pm at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary church Paa center 4375 Harris Hill Williamsville. The women's will be February 4th at 6:30 pm at Christine Thomanns home 4290 Fireside Williamsville. These info nights are so important, we have had great results from them! It's a New Year so let's all set a goal to " Make a friend, Be a friend and Bring that friend to Christ". God bless.
De Colores!

Sherry Misso
Pre-Cursillo Coordinator
shermis@hotmail.com 716-984-0163

Cursillo Section:

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

This time of year finds me (Diane) reviewing the past year, considering what new habits I want to develop and which habits I need to break. I recently read the book, "Our Fourth Day for the New Cursillista". Two words that come to mind after reading the book are Perseverance and Accountability. It can be hard to establish new habits and routines and twice as hard to break the old ones. If I share my goal with others, they hold me accountable and help me persevere to obtain my goals. Being in a permanent/small group and attending Ultreya can work the same way. By being in a small group and attending Ultreya, I work harder at learning about Jesus and am more aware of His presence in my life. I want to bring others closer to Jesus; to make a friend, to be a friend and to bring a friend to Christ.

Who do you want to bring closer to Christ in 2025?

On that note, our Men Team Selectors have put together a great team for Men's Weekend **#234**. The weekend will be held February 13 - 16 with set-up February 12. The team members are as follows:

Rector & Total Security	- Terry Johnson
Asst. Rector & Piety	- Paul Johnson
Ideals	- James Piegdon
Laity	- Ryan Weber
Study	- Tom Bergman
Action	- Matt Reinbold
Leader	- Steve Flumerfelt
Environments	- Bill Andrews
CCA	- Bill Gross
4th Day	- Tom Felong
Warden	- Jeff Hamm
Liturgist	- Rob Gill

Our women Team Selectors are putting together a Women's team as you read this. The Women's weekend #235 will be held March 13 - 16, with set-up on March 12. Should you receive a phone call to be part of this Team, please consider saying yes to working the weekend.

Our Lay Coordinator, Chuck Stephan, has worked with St. Teresa's to secure dates for ALL future weekends. Future Men's Weekends will be the President's Day weekend in February and Columbus Day weekend in October. This year those dates will be October 9 - 12. The Women's Weekends will be the 2nd weekend in March and the Veteran's Day weekend in November. This year the dates will be November 6 - 9, with set-up on November 5.

Your prayers and Palanca for the team and candidates are greatly appreciated as they prepare and develop community.

DeColores,

Denise Daniels - (716) 823-5453

Diane Putt - (716) 380-0187

Post-Cursillo:

Welcome to 2025. We would like to introduce ourselves as the new Post-Cursillo coordinators.

Pat and I would like to thank Mike and Kate Emery for all their hard work. Pat and I are reasonably new to Cursillo. Pat's Cursillo is 228 and I am from Cursillo 227. This is our first time in the Secretariat so please have patience with us.

Post-Cursillo is about staying involved. In an effort to encourage all Cursillistas to stay engaged we would like to encourage all to take advantage of the 2nd Touch Weekend - January 31st to February 2nd. **Why attend a 2nd Touch weekend?** This year's topic is Charism of the Third Day. Remember your Third day at your Cursillo? You awoke to Las Mananitas, a fresh start to a new day and a new way. This Second Touch could be your re-fresh start to the Cursillo way of life. Come for the weekend or come for a Saturday. There are still open spots.

On behalf of Pat and myself we look forward to meeting and working with you all.

Your Post Cursillo Coordinators,

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.

School of Leaders:

Happy Jubilee year everyone! January doesn't have to be bleak as the tone of the song "In the Bleak Midwinter" might leave you feeling. The words are filled with beauty, hope and duty. It's a beautiful winter song that plays on my heart each time I hear it.

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Enough for Him, Whom cherubim, worship night and day,
Breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, Whom angels fall before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.*

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what can I give Him... give my heart.*

-Songwriters: Stephen John Anderson, Robin Womphrey, Clifford David Masterson, Dp

Our next school of leaders will be held on January the 18th in the school building at the Church of the Annunciation, 7580 Clinton Street, Elma NY. We begin promptly at 10am in hopes of being finished around the noon hour.

Our series on prayer continues this month with two speakers that are near and dear to me. One of our newest deacons, Deacon Mike Hahn will bring us a discussion of The Lord's Prayer. He will be joined by Otto Misso who will share with us some of his life journey as it relates to prayer. Come and sing and pray and learn from each other in the warm atmosphere of our Cursillo community.

Second Touch 2025 is also just around the corner. January 31 – February 2 at Stella Niagara Center for Renewal. Come and join me and many others as we continue our Cursillo in Christ Jesus, together. (Contact Karen Trimper (below) to get signed up.

Marty Ruhland
School of Leaders Coordinator

Secretary:

I'm excited to be the new Secretary for the Secretariat and I will do my best to fulfill my duties in this position. Many thanks to Mary Bitka for her help getting me going and for the great job she has done as Secretary.

Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Karen Trimper
Call/Text: 716-867-8962
Email: karentrimp@gmail.com

Prayer Request:

Entered into their 5th Day:

- Bob Piskun, (Men's 181) – Died January 4, 2025
- Sr. Paula Marie Skalski, CSSF (Women's #91) – Died October 26, 2024
- John Agugliario, Men's 193, Died December 29, 2024

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.

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

Buffalo Cursillo Ultreya Schedule

Ultreya	Date	Time	Location	Contacts
Bethany Cheektowaga & surrounding area	1/9/25 2 nd Tuesday	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	1/21/25 3 rd Tuesday	7:00 PM	Member House Contact Chris for location	Jack & Christine Thomann 716-583-2324 (Chris – m) 716-583-2320 (Jack – m) cmtpsalms139@gmail.com
Full of Grace Elma area	1/29/25 Last Wednesday	7:00 PM	Member House Contact Marty for location	Marty Ruhland rdservices@roadrunner.com 716-481-0662 (m)
Pueblo de Paz Warsaw area	1/5/25 Christmas Party	7:00 PM	St. Michael's Church 171 N. Main St, Warsaw	Liz Wascak 585-237-5155 ewascak@yahoo.com
Rainbow Vineyard Northtowns area	1/14/25 2 nd Tuesday 1/28/25 4 th Tuesday	7:00 PM	St. Jude the Apostle Parish 800 Niagara Falls Blvd North Tonawanda	Carolyn McNamara 716-694-5949 716-867-8962 Carolyn Ruhland 716-912-2890 caruhl73@verizon.net
Southtowns Southtowns area	skip 1 st Thursday 1/16/25 3 rd Thursday	7:00 PM	Member House Contact Mary Ann for location	St. Andrew's Permanent Group Mary Ann DeMaria 716-512-4765 mdemaria@roadrunner.com
St. Brendan on the Lake Lockport area	1/8/25 1 st Thursday 1/22/25 4 th Wednesday	7:00 PM	St. Brendan on the Lake (conference room)	Contact Lynn Lomanto lomantolynn@gmail.com 585-409-4123

OutBound Palanca January 2025

Start Date	End Date	Event	Location
2024-12-19	2024-12-22	Men's 91 (English)	Worcester, MA
2025-01-09	2025-01-12	Women's 156 (Spanish)	Philadelphia, PA
2025-01-09	2025-01-12	Men's 109 (English)	Harrisburg, PA
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
2025-01-30	2025-02-02	Women's 128 (English)	Savannah, GA
2025-02-06	2025-02-09	Women's Cursillo (English)	Windsor-Essex, Ontario
2025-02-06	2025-02-09	Men's 63 (Spanish)	Palm Beach, FL
2025-02-13	2025-02-16	Men's 391 (English)	St. Paul & Minneapolis, MN
2025-02-20	2025-02-23	Men's 8 (Spanish)	Joliet, IL
2025-02-20	2025-02-23	Women's Cursillo	Richmond, VA
2025-02-20	2025-02-23	Women's 92 (English)	Rochester, NY
2025-02-20	2025-02-23	Women's Cursillo (English)	Richmond, VA
2025-02-20	2025-02-23	Women's 61 (Spanish)	Palm Beach, FL
2025-02-20	2025-02-23	Women's 392 (English)	St. Paul & Minneapolis, MN
2025-02-27	2025-03-02	Women's 9 (Spanish)	Joliet, IL