



December 2024 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 Weekend:** January 31st – February 2nd, 2025 (see School of Leaders Article)
- Spring 2025 Weekends:** Men’s Weekend #236, February 13th – 16th, 2025
Women’s Weekend #237 – To Be Determined
- Virtual Ultreya:** Bethany Ultreya meets virtually on Zoom the 2nd and 4th 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:

De Colores, my dear friends. Here we are at the beginning of another wonderful season of Advent, and the beginning of the Jubilee Year 2025 (the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of Our Lord Jesus Christ – King of the Universe). We have just celebrated two outstanding Cursillo weekends, Men’s 234 and Women’s 235, and the testimonies, smiles and hugs of our newest babe-chicks were just over the top! I’m sure that many of you who attended the Closuras and the Welcome to your 4th Day dinner would agree that the excitement and the future of Cursillo in the Buffalo Diocese is building.

Don’t let the fire of the Spirit cool off just because winter is coming and days are darkening. During this blessed season of Advent, we Cursillistas need to be letting our light shine ever more bright to everyone we meet. We need to take every opportunity to show our joy and make friends, be friends and bring our friends to Christ. In the supermarket, at work and recreation, in church and especially at home.

The world wants to make this time all about new gadgets, stunt-filled movies, secular ‘holiday’ songs and laser light shows on people’s front lawns. We know that the best way to celebrate the season is to heed the words of our Blessed Mother: “Do whatever He tells you to do.” That means we need to practice our piety, get serious about our study, and take our action to the next level. While the world is going bonkers over Black Friday, we should seek the peaceful solace of First Friday and find time to spend an hour with Jesus in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. As the world incites us to go into debt for gifts that are forgotten moments after they’re unwrapped, we have the gift of Cursillo to freely give to our friends and family; a gift that will last a lifetime and will bring them to eternal life!

Why not include a Cursillo application in your Christmas card envelopes this year, along with a personal note? The next Men’s weekend is scheduled for February 13-16, 2025 and the Women’s weekend date will be determined soon.

Finally, as 2024 winds down, so does my tenure as your Lay Coordinator. In January Chuck Stephan will take the reins and I will step aside. I have been honored and blessed to serve on the Secretariat and to meet so many of you in the past few years. I encourage you to keep on living the Cursillo Method of Group Reunion and Ultreya. Lift high the Cross of Christ and have a very, very Blessed Christmas!

De Colores!

Terry Johnson #191

(716) 908-9055

twjrex@gmail.com, buffalocursillo@gmail.com

Assistant Lay Coordinator Report:

It's curious that when something bad happens, Our Lord will find a way to make it good.

Last summer Buffalo Cursillo found itself homeless. Issues with the septic system at St. Vincent's became the instigator that ended our over 10-year relationship even though we made every effort to attempt to find solutions to all of the presumed obstacles presented to us. In the end after exhausting every possibility and providing workable solutions to the perceived problems, it became clear that we would have to find a new home. With that a search began right in the middle of the diocesan restructuring and right sizing. After research and visits to those churches that might be a possible home, we found ourselves blessed at St. Teresa of Avila in Akron.

The move was a challenge and setting up in a new facility required creativity, patience, work, and an investment that put a sizable dent in our treasury. (Consider making a tax-deductible year-end donation to build it back up). But, and this is the good part, it seems to be worth it.

St. Teresa's works and Cursillo Buffalo has a new energy that started with the first set up for the Men's Weekend. It was as if a horde of locusts descended on St. Teresa's in the form of more volunteers ready to work than jobs that needed to be done. The Men's weekend, which was at one time contemplated to be cancelled due to insecurity about having somewhere to hold it, was a remarkable success with 11 candidates who had the opportunity to encounter Jesus in a new and wonderful way. The Women's weekend, also thought necessary to be cancelled, exceeded expectations with 16 candidates guided by a team that had been formed over a year earlier and who stuck together to make the weekend a life changing experience for all involved. Ultreyas stepped up to provide meals, the Palanca team went above and beyond supporting the candidates and team in a new and unfamiliar setting, and the kitchen crew outdid themselves with a number of attendees looking at diet plans on the way home Sunday. The building committee found itself blessed once again with more than enough people to put St. Teresa's back the way we found it. The Forth Day Dinner saw the largest attendance in years with over 120 Cursillistas in fellowship like only Cursillistas can do it. And finally, new life has been infused into the Ultreyas with increased participation and a major accomplishment of establishing a brand new Ultreya in Lockport. God is good, all the time; and all the time God is good.

Momentum is so hard to start so now it becomes imperative that we take advantage of this renewed spirit and push to continue. Let's make a commitment to no cancelled weekends. Volunteer to make the weekends possible by being a part of the weekend team or work palanca. Now more than ever look for that new friend to bring to Christ. Become that sponsor who will provide the spark to ignite the light of Jesus in someone close or for one far away. Let the love of Christ be evident in you especially in this holiday season when the light of Jesus saved the world and asks all of us Cursillistas to be His voice and hands. So Ultreya – go forward with courage. De Colores!

Chuck Stephan

cstephan423@gmail.com

(716-817-3969)

Spiritual Advisor Report:

As Advent begins, I remember a story and it goes like this: Once upon a time there was a little boy named Jimmy. Jimmy liked a lot of things. He liked puppies. He liked race cars and trucks. But what he liked best was his mother's Christmas Cookies. The cutout ones that you frost.

Well, it was Advent. Jimmy had been dreaming of eating those cookies. But one day his mother told him that there was too much work for her to do this year and that she would not have time to bake the delicious Christmas Cookies. Jimmy was sad.

And on this Fourth Sunday of Advent his mother asked him if he would clean up all of his toys in the living room and dust and vacuum the floor. Now Jimmy knew that he had already made plans to go outside and play in the snow with his friends. He knew that his mother had asked him a lot of times to clean the living room, but he usually took a toy or two and put it where it belonged, but never really cleaned the living room. But something was different today. He knew that it was Advent, and he was a little older and wiser. He knew that he was supposed to be preparing the way for Jesus. Something inside him said that he should change his plans and not go out to play in the snow today. He knew the right thing to do was to follow God's plan and really, really clean the living room.

So he told his friends that he would not be playing in the snow that day. Then he went to the living room and picked up not just a couple of toys, but all his toys. And he picked up all his sister's things and put them away too. Then he vacuumed the floor and dusted all the furniture and when he was done that room sparkled!! He felt really good when his mother came in and saw it. She looked so relieved.

A couple of hours later, Jimmy smelled a wonderful smell throughout the house. It was the unmistakable smell of fresh baked Christmas Cookies! You see his mother had some extra time because he had done such a good job cleaning, that she was able to bake the cookies – a triple batch!!!

That evening they all sat in the sparkling clean living room with a plate of the delicious Christmas Cookies on the coffee table. He took some cookies and enjoyed them more than ever before. Jimmy now knew how much better it is to follow God's plan instead of our own.

You see, 2000 years ago in Bethlehem Mary and Joseph had their own plans. But God had a different plan for them. They changed their own plans. They said yes to God's plan and the baby Jesus was born and their lives, our lives, and our eternity became wonderful!

So, this week listen carefully to learn what plan God has for you. Follow God's plan and you *will* prepare the way for Jesus in the manger this Christmas!!! Make a friend, be a friend, bring that friend to Christ!

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

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 #32

“Environmental Ultreyas”

The purpose of the Cursillo is to form men and women who will Christianize their environment through living a life of grace and working to bring others to live it.

The 1975 Pastoral Plan Survey sought to determine the various environments represented in the Buffalo Cursillo Community. It offered an opportunity for Cursillistas to identify their unique environments and interests and to link up with other Cursillistas in identical or similar environments.

Up until this time, many Cursillistas had actually stretched their vision and consciously tried to bring Christ into their neighborhoods, places of work, and social activities. One example was Ray Ruminski (M #19) who began a Bible Study with fellow workers.

An Environmental Ultreya would provide mutual support in living the life of grace by forming working group reunions of people with common interests and bringing Christ into a specific environment.

“A large number of people were involved in parish related activities, such as CCD, liturgy, parish councils, Home School Assn. and Holy Name Societies. Many were active in scouting. A fair number had shown some connection with politics. There was much interest in a number of Peace and Justice categories which we combined together.” “Buffalo Cursillo Newsletter”, September, 1976 (P. 2)

The same newsletter listed the name and phone number of a contact person from the major environments. While the contact person already had a list of names of those interested in their particular environment from the survey, other Cursillistas could feel free to call them to join that particular Environmental Ultreya.

The environmental areas and contact names included Parish Council-Jack Cusick (M#53), CCD-Marilyn Malloy (W #20), Scouting-Tony Ruggiero (M#59), Politics-Frank Schulz (M#27), Peace and Justice-MaryAnn Erickson (W#7), Medical-Anne Zirnheld (W#18), and Education: College-MaryAnn Stegmeier (W#9), High School-Mike Lopardi (M#29) and Elementary-Rita Gossert (W#50). There is no indication of how many of these Environmental Ultreyas actually got off the ground.

The same newsletter article itemized other occupations and areas of interest not assigned a contact person but which did have a small group of Cursillistas. “These included Holy Name Society, Knights of Columbus, Liturgy, Home School Assn., Foster Parents Assn., the Elderly, Alcoholism, the Handicapped, Right to Life, Banking, Trade Unions, Real Estate and various businesses.” For information on those areas, people were to call Jim Walsh (M#27).

Jim Walsh assumed leadership of the Pre-Cursillo Section in 1975 and had skillfully coordinated the survey findings. In September 1976, Jim Walsh was chosen to be Buffalo Cursillo’s 5th Diocesan Lay Director following Ralph Roll’s sudden job promotion to Cleveland.

(to be continued)

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

Pre-Cursillo Report:

Hi all! I have to say the women's weekend # 235 was a beautiful weekend. All 16 candidates were truly moved by the Holy Spirit. Almost all of these lovely ladies attended the 4th day dinner with great enthusiasm. Several of the women have already formed small groups.

Let's go forth now and let the Holy Spirit guide us to candidates for the upcoming men's weekend # 236. Make a friend Be a friend and bring that friend to Christ! (Dates to follow).

God Bless you!

De Colores!

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

Cursillo Section:

We have had (2) successful weekends at our new home at St Teresa's in Akron. From the witnesses of the men and women, I believe it is fair to say that all the candidates encountered Jesus' love in a powerful way. You could also tell they had a desire and thirst to live out the method. Continue to keep them in your prayers as they attend Ultreya and find a permanent group.

As we speak, Men's Weekend #236 has begun forming and formation will begin prior to Christmas. The weekend will be from February 13-16. Start praying about who God wants YOU to invite to live Weekend #236.

In addition to this Team being formed, our Palanca Coordinator, Diane Reese, will be putting together a group of folks to work the Palanca Team. If she calls you, please consider saying YES.

In my (Diane Putt) early years in the movement, I worked numerous Palanca Teams. I found it was a great way to gain a better understanding of what goes into running a weekend. I also met many new people I would not have met otherwise. With the transition from St. Vincent's to St. Teresa's, I helped out on the Palanca Team for both weekends. As in years past, it was a great experience getting to know members of the Palanca Team a little better. There is nothing that binds people together like working on a project, even if it is cleaning toilets!

It is preferred that you sleep over night (especially in February) but exceptions can be made if you need to commute. When you lived your weekend, you really didn't want to sleep in a dorm room with a bunch of strangers, but that format helped meld you together. That is the same effect you get when working a Palanca Team. Please pray about working on the Palanca Team.

Diane Reese can be reached at (716) 400-3618.

Have the Merriest Christmas!

Cursillo Section, Co-Coordinators:
Denise Daniels: 716-823-5453
Diane Putt: 716-380-0187

Post-Cursillo:

Alleluia, the Lord is with us ... with Buffalo Cursillo!! The Welcome to Your 4th Day Dinner on November 23, 2024 at St. Teresa of Avila was a huge success! Some 120 supporters of Buffalo Cursillo showed the new Cursillistas the energy and excitement that is us. This was the largest Welcome to Your 4th Day Dinner since pre-COVID and the largest we (Kate and I) have attended. We pray that participation in Cursillo continues to grow, and that the new and seasoned Cursillistas get involved to sustain the Cursillo Movement.

Post-Cursillo is about staying involved and supporting Cursillistas. Those living the Cursillo method supported the recent Women's Weekend by attending the Team Support Mass, offering personal and written Palanca, assisting with set up and with the Palanca team (behind the scenes support), assisting with or making donations towards meals, showing up for the break-in Saturday evening, for the Las Mananitas at 6 AM Sunday, and for the closing mass.

Attendance at the closing mass was good and I can only imagine that the Buffalo Cursillo Community really impressed the babe chicks. Way to go!

We'd like to thank all those who have helped us during our time as the Post-Cursillo Section leaders on the Secretariat (board of directors). Our extended term is coming to a close at the end of the month. It has been enjoyable and was always a joy seeing the Spirit in its mysterious ways. God Bless!

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

Your Post-Cursillo Coordinators,
Kate Emery – 716-598-5073, emeryinbuffalo@roadrunner.com
Mike Emery – 716-207-2834, memery289@gmail.com

School of Leaders:

Advent is here. This is a time to prepare for a big celebration! That of the birth of our Lord, our Savior, Jesus! Opportunities abound for study. Watch people as you walk the mall and perhaps learn a little about how to act or how not to act as lights shining for Christ. Listen to carols and hymns and stories on the radio, TV, at church, everywhere! Perhaps remind yourself of the true meaning of this celebration. Watch the world through your living room window as the sun sparkles on new fallen snow. Perhaps remind yourself of the tremendous beauty of all of God's creation.

There is no School of Leaders in December. Instead, use the time to prepare and to enjoy the company of your family and friends. We will resume in January with some fresh insights on prayer in our lives.

A special reminder: SECOND TOUCH 2025 is right around the corner.

Carol Palesh and her team have been working diligently throughout the summer getting things ready for this weekend. You can participate in this weekend in a number of ways. You can stay overnight for the weekend or come for a day, or commute for the entire weekend. An email with details on how to sign-up for the second touch weekend will follow this newsletter. You can also find those details on the website where there is a link to those details. You can contact Carol Palesh directly at 716-694-0942 (home phone) or grannypalesh@gmail.com or Karen Trimper at 716 867 8962 (cell phone) karentrimp@gmail.com.

What is Second Touch, you might be asking? My definition, from my having been to several of these weekends is this. It is the coming together of cursillistas from our Buffalo Community and around the

region to share an embrace of fellowship and a beautiful learning experience about some aspect of the Cursillo movement all wrapped in the warm glow of prayer. Come and experience this for yourself. You won't be disappointed.

Marty Ruhland
School of Leaders Facilitator
Call/Text: 716-481-0662
Email: rdservices@roadrunner.com

Treasurer:

I must first say thank you to everyone in Cursillo for allowing me the privilege of serving you and Christ in the role of Treasurer. The last 4 years have been a blessing in learning to always place my Trust in Jesus even when I felt that we might end up without the money needed to go forward, and yet He always provided through the community's generous response.

With the recent move to St. Teresa of Avila, we have once again experienced a significant drain on the treasury as well as some new expenses that we had not been confronted with for some time. Our recent weekends have again blessed us with both new Cursillistas as well as the community's generous support to get us through once again! While I'll be handing over my responsibilities to Mike Cucinotta, I want to encourage every member to think about making a donation to Buffalo Cursillo as we enter the upcoming year. Providing for the financial wellbeing of our Cursillo Movement as well as our Ultreyas will allow those we entrust to manage us through the Secretariat to continue bringing to Christ the deep and abiding friendships he desires. May everyone have a Blessed, Joy filled Christmas and may the New Year bring us into a time of great renewal and rebirth.

Ed Hackett, Weekend 189
Call/Text: 716-863-9851
Email: ehbanker@yahoo.com

Secretary:

My term as Secretary is coming to an end after 5 years on the Secretariat. I have made some wonderful friendships and have enjoyed my time serving to support the Buffalo Cursillo Movement. Karen Trimper is taking over the Secretary position (thank you Karen!) and her term begins January 2025.

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

Mary Bitka
Call/Text: 716-984-0664
Email: marybitka@gmail.com

Prayer Request:

Entered into their 5th Day:

Sr. M. Lucina Stang, OSF (Women's #76) – Died November 20th, 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	Jim Youngers
Bill Gross	Jean Claire Buchbinder	Cathy Agugliaro
Lois Weber	Chelsea Ellis	Tim Hiedle
Lorrie Rakoczynski	Laura and Angelo Ciavarella	Kathy O'Keefe
Jerry Frisicaro	Marie Gannon	Denise Bressette
Dcn Gary Terrana	Mike Ryan	Diane Coughlin
Arthur Ruhland	Timothy McCann	Gary Banas
Bob Yager	Joan Roberts	John Agugliaro
Cole Koons	Mary Flannagan	Marcia Moretti
Karen Trimper and Family	Bill Hiedle	Cheryl Besant
Cathy Derrick	Corinne Giermek	Bobby Lovenetti
Mary Mercurio	Dcn Joe Barr	Linda Orszulak
Fr. Joe Badding	Patrick Johnson	Elie Wieleba

A Very Special Thank-You to outgoing members of the Buffalo Cursillo Secretariat for your hard work and dedication that has helped in so many ways here in our Buffalo Cursillo community:

Terry Johnson (Lay Coordinator)

Mike & Kate Emery (Post Cursillo)

Mary Bitka (Secretary)

Ed Hackett (Treasurer)

Lynn Lomanto (Pre-Cursillo)

Buffalo Cursillo Ultreya Schedule				
Ultreya	Date	Time	Location	Contacts
Bethany Cheektowaga & surrounding area	12/10/24 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	12/17/24 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) cmtpsalm139@gmail.com
Full of Grace Elma area	None in December	7:00 PM	Member House Contact Marty for location	Marty Ruhland rdservices@roadrunner.com 716-481-0662 (m)
Pueblo de Paz Warsaw area	12/29/24 Last Sunday	7:00 PM	St. Michael's Church 171 N. Main St, Warsaw	Liz Wascak 585-237-5155 ewascak@yahoo.com
Rainbow Vineyard Northtowns area	12/10/24 2 nd Tuesday None- Christmas Eve 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	12/5/24 1 st Thursday 12/18/24 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	12/9/24	7:00 PM	St. Brendan on the Lake (conference room)	Contact Lynn Lomanto lomantolynn@gmail.com 585-409-4123

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