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### **Buffalo Cursillo History #5 (March 2022 Newsletter)**

“Welcome to your Fourth Day” was proclaimed to almost 1000 men and women at the end of 25 Buffalo English Cursillo weekends, from 1965 to the beginning of 1970. Most were from WNY and about a tenth were from the dioceses of Rochester, Erie, PA, Ontario, Canada and elsewhere. During those years, the leadership spent the greater amount of energy promoting weekends. Once a men’s weekend was over, it was deemed necessary to present a women’s weekend a few weeks later.

Even from the beginning, Lou Pauly was thinking about how to create a Fourth Day program. The monthly Reunion Mass was a Buffalo invention. Originally, these Masses were called Ultreyas because of the witness and doctrinal talks and socializing afterwards.

Word of mouth and personal invitation brought many to Cursillo: husbands, wives, in-laws, friends, neighbors and parishioner, priests, religious sisters and seminarians. Many followed the Cursillo motto: “Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ.”

Cursillistas from nearby parishes began to gather in their own area for group reunions (not yet called Ultreyas), meeting in homes or parish buildings. Coming together once or twice a month, Cursillistas sought to share their piety, study and apostolic action, present a witness and a doctrinal talk in the pattern of a group reunion. There were differences from group to group as some began with music and Scripture and others with a prayer and personal introductions. Eventually called Ultreyas, these provided a vehicle for personal and spiritual growth and the support for the Fourth Day.

By 1970 there were 12 Ultreyas in the Buffalo Diocese: Amherst-Cheektowaga, Batavia, Clarence, Dunkirk-Fredonia, East Buffalo, Kensington-Bailey, KenTon, Lancaster-Depew, Niagara Falls, North Buffalo, South Buffalo-West Seneca and South towns (including Jamestown).