



## February 2025 Newsletter

Our website has a new look! Check it out at <https://www.buffalocursillo.com/> You will find dates and information on Ultreya, Weekends, Reunion mass schedule, Newsletters, Applications, and much more.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

<b>Spring 2025 Weekends:</b>	Men's Weekend #236, February 13 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 Women's Weekend #237 – March 13 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
<b>Virtual Ultreya:</b>	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>

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**Please see Pg 9 of the newsletter for a complete list of events**

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### **Lay Coordinator Report:**

Cursillo – The best kept secret of the Diocese of Buffalo

One of our fellow Cursillistas went to collect some items that an older couple wanted to donate to St. Vincent de Paul ministries. While loading his truck, they struck up a conversation where our fellow Cursillista mentioned about being involved with Cursillo. "Cursillo?", asked the husband, "Is that still around? I made Cursillo in the 60's and didn't know that it was active anymore."

Visibility is key to spreading any message. While for some people asking someone if they would want to make a weekend is easy, for the rest of us it's one of the hardest things we could be asked to do only after getting up in front of a crowd to talk. In sales it's known as that "one tone phone" that's almost impossible to pick up to make that first call. Being visible makes that conversation a little easier. It also reminds Cursillistas that Cursillo is still alive and kicking.

This topic of how to get the message about Cursillo out is currently being discussed in the Secretariat and we have begun to take some steps towards addressing it. Before I go any further let me say that we all believe that making a friend, being a friend, and bringing that friend to Christ is the cornerstone of spreading the Cursillo message, we are just exploring how to make it easier to take that first step.

As part of getting the message out we are in the process of ordering 1,000 copies of the Cursillo Brochure along with the request for information / pre- registration mailer insert. We have received a number of requests for copies of the brochure to leave in the back of churches. A space on the back cover of the brochure will be added so that the Cursillista who asked for the brochure will be able to write or type up stickers to add their name, email address, and phone number on the brochure. We'll send out a message when they become available.

The brochure currently directs people to our website either by typing in [www.buffalocursillo.com](http://www.buffalocursillo.com) or clicking on the QR code both of which are also on the back cover.

The website is also being worked on. As it is right now, the site is designed primarily for the Cursillo Community, not for the general public or someone seeking a general introduction to the Cursillo Movement in Buffalo. The goal is to set up that general introduction on the first pages along with separate community pages with access limited to just the community.



Here in the Akron / Clarence Family #17 we have also included an announcement in our bulletin.

Think about asking your parish to include it in your bulletins.

This file is available in MS Publisher format, .jpeg picture format, and as a .pdf. If you want any or all of these formats, just send me an email at [cstephan@twc.com](mailto:cstephan@twc.com) . Dates will be updated as needed.

The back of the Cursillo cross has "Christ is counting on you" etched into it. Let's use all the tools at our disposal to bring a friend to Christ.

Ultreya

Chuck Stephan  
Lay Coordinator

### Spiritual Advisor Report:

As I write this article it is Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> and the entire world is waiting for the Groundhog to make his great proclamation on the weather on Groundhog Day, February 2<sup>nd</sup>! By the time this newsletter gets to you, you will already know his prediction and no longer be in the suspense I now endure! (haha)

Happy Groundhog Day! The Ground Hog is supposed to let us know when Spring will start. But of course, the Groundhog doesn't know anything about how long winter will be, no one does. But it is fun when Ground Hog Day rolls along to add some humor during this rather dark and dreary time of year.

But if we really want to brighten up our days, there is something far more real and important being celebrated the same day as Groundhog Day. And that is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. The prophet Simeon in the Temple recognizes the baby Jesus as the Light for all Nations. He recognized this baby as the Christ that everyone was waiting for. And what is the first thing he does when he sees the baby Jesus? He takes Jesus into his arms. Pope Francis said:

*“How good it is for us to hold the Lord “in OUR arms”, like Simeon. Not only in our heads and in our hearts, but also “in our hands,” in all that we do: in prayer, at work, at the table, on the telephone, at school, with the poor, everywhere.”*

Isn't that exactly what each of us do as we pour ourselves into providing support on a Cursillo weekend? Whether on the Team, Palanca, Kitchen, etc. or praying from home, we hold Jesus in our arms and present Him to the newest Cursillistas!

Back-to-back Men's and Women's weekends in February and March! What a reason to celebrate!

Peace

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

### Historian Report:

#### **Buffalo Cursillo History-#34, Feb. 2025**

##### **“Transitions”**

The period between 1979 and the autumn of 1980 was a time of transitions for the Buffalo Cursillo Movement. Bishop Gibbons High School had been home to the Buffalo Cursillo since 1972. In April, 1979, the diocese sold Bishop Gibbons High School which would eventually become Bishop Gibbons Apartments for the elderly and the handicapped.

Cursillos and Koinonias were then held at Mt. St. Joseph Academy's new building in Buffalo and later at Cardinal Mindszenty High School in Dunkirk. This afforded the opportunity for people from the Southern Tier to become part of the Dunkirk-Fredonia Ultreya. A Pre-Cursillo section team had given information to parishes in the area.

In August 1980, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Children's Home in Cheektowaga owned and run by the Felician Sisters became Buffalo Cursillo's new home for Weekends. There ended up being only four Cursillos there because of the limited parking and cleanup after the Weekends was not up to the Sisters' standards. All of the forementioned facilities are no longer in existence.

Joe Maggio (M #16) had been Buffalo Cursillo's 6<sup>th</sup> Lay Director for a year and a half (09/1978). Sr. Noreen McCarrick, Stella Niagara Franciscan (W #82) had held the role of Associate Spiritual Director of the Movement in August 1979 when Fr. Pete Szafran (M #15) resigned. Deacon Gordon Cartwright (M #15) was appointed by Bishop Edward Head to serve as Diocesan Spiritual Director with Sr. Noreen in June 1980.

In the midst of all this transitioning, in August 1979, the Buffalo Cursillo was asked to host the Fourth National Encounter of the Cursillo Movement in July, 1980.

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

### Pre-Cursillo Report:

Hi everyone! The men's #236 weekend is fast approaching!! There is still time to bring a friend to Christ by inviting them to the upcoming weekend.

As of now we have 8 definite candidates with more applications on the way.

The men's information chili night held by Otto Misso and Mike Cucinotta of the Come to the well Ultreya was a huge success.

40 men total showed up and of the 40 there were about 14 candidates. A few will be making the spring weekend and several in the fall. Great info, food and conversations were had by all!

Ladies info night is Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 in the home of Christine Thomann 4290 Fireside Dr. Williamsville 14221.

Please come join us and bring a friend who is interested in more information about Cursillo, it may just change their life.

Sweet treats and drinks along with wonderful women will make the evening not only informative but also fun!

DeColoras!  
God Bless!  
Sherry Misso  
Pre-Cursillo

### Cursillo Section:

The Support Mass for the Men will be Saturday, February 8 at St Teresa's in Akron at 4 pm. Please come and show your support by praying for the Team. Please watch the website for when the Women's team (#237) will have their support mass or check with your Ultreya Coordinator.

The Men's Weekend (#236) will be February 13 - 16, with set-up on Wednesday, February 12 at 5:30. The team is made up of the following men:

Rector & Total Security	- Terry Johnson	#191
Assistant Rector & Piety	- Paul Johnson	#193
Ideal	- James Piegdon	#234
Laity	- Ryan Weber	#230
Study	- Tom Bergman	#227
Action	- Matt Reinbold	#230
Leader	- Steve Flumerfeldt	#230
Environment	- Bill Andrews	#228
CCA	- Bill Gross	#210
4th Day	- Tom Felong	#189
Warden	- Jeff Hamm	#218
Liturgist	- Rob Gill	#214

Spiritual Advisors – Dcn John Zielinski, Dcn John Hendricks

The Women's Team (#237) will be March 13 - 16 with set-up on Wednesday, March 12. The team is made up of the following women:

Rectora & Total Security	- Mary Ann Moore	#180
Assistant Rectora & Piety	- Delphine Leadersdorf	#156
Ideals	- Patricia Hardy	#152
Laity	- Marge Fetterman	#215
Study	- Cheryl Clifford	#226
Action	- Mary VanSplunder	#233
Leaders	- Patti Piegdon	#235
Study of the Environment	- Janine Murray	#219
CCA	- Kay Clabeaux	#194
Warden	- Celeste Hartman	#235
Warden	- Jennifer Mical	#224
Liturgists	- Peg Barkley	#123
Liturgists	- Vida Frysz	#152
Beyond the 4th Day	- Mary Ann DeMaria	#167

Spiritual Advisors - Marc Leaderstorf - #155

As always, please keep the members of the teams and the candidates in your prayers and Palanca.

The schedule of events of the weekends are as follows:

Wednesday evening - Setup for the weekend begins at 5:30pm. Many hands make light work.

Thursday evening - Candidates arrive between 6:30 and 7 pm. Prayer service to follow. Please stay after the candidates and Team begin the weekend.

Saturday evening - Break-in/Serenade. Arrive between 7 and 7:15. Holy Hour to follow in the church (8 pm). ALL are encouraged and invited to stay. This is a great way to come together to pray for the Team and Candidates.

Sunday morning - Las Mananitas at 6:00am. Arrive no later than 5:45am  
- 11:30 AM - Help tear down and put away - all are invited to help tear down the building. For additional information, please reach out to Peter, our building coordinator. He can be reached at (716)310-6869.

Sunday afternoon - Mass and Clausura at 3:00pm

Looking forward to seeing you at the weekend!

DeColores -

Denise Daniels - (716) 823-5453

Diane Putt - (716) 380-0187

### Post-Cursillo:

Lots to be thinking about as we enter February. First thing to mention is the ladies social/meet and greet at Jack and Christine Thoman's on Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM to welcome potential women candidates for the March 13-15 Women's number 237 Cursillo. The following Saturday brings us to the support Mass at 4 PM on Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup> at St. Teresa's in advance of the Men's Cursillo 236 scheduled for Feb 13 – 16<sup>th</sup>. Never too late to make a friend and be a friend in our effort to bring more men and women to make a Cursillo weekend.

Lent doesn't start until early March but there are many good podcasts on the Catholic apps. Finally, its time to start thinking about the 23rd WNY Catholic Men's Conference scheduled for March 29th at Cardinal O'Hara High School.

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

Your Post Cursillo Coordinators,

Pat Mahaney - 716 481-3715 [pmahaney2@gmail.com](mailto:pmahaney2@gmail.com)

Greg Wilttrout - 716 870-7986 [gwilttrout74@gmail.com](mailto:gwilttrout74@gmail.com)

## School of Leaders:

Our Buffalo Cursillo Second Touch weekend just concluded on Sunday February 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were folks from as far away as Virginia! Also, a number of Rochester Cursillo folks joined us. It was a Holy Spirit filled weekend filled with prayer and learning and fellowship.

I get asked quite frequently the question “what is Second Touch”? Unfortunately, I haven’t provided a very clear answer to that question. So what is Second Touch? First and foremost, it is a “retreat” weekend. Webster’s defines “retreat” as a quiet, isolated place where you go to rest or to do things in private. Our Second Touch weekend is just that. Much like our Cursillo weekends, it is a chance to get away from the noise of the world for a couple of days and surround yourself with wonderful people of faith.

On a Second Touch weekend, cursillistas come together in prayer, fellowship, and learning. A typical Second Touch weekend includes community morning and evening prayer and an opportunity to partake in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. There are rollos and group discussions based on a weekend theme. There is also an Ultreya followed by food and fellowship. I’ve been to the past three Second Touch weekends. I’ve come away refreshed and spiritually invigorated each time. I hope you’ll consider coming to our next Second Touch weekend that will take place near the end of January 2026.

Our next school of leaders will be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

We have three more sessions on our series on prayer that began in September. In January, Deacon Mike Hahn gave a though provoking presentation on Our Lords Prayer. Otto Misso helped us to look at our own personal prayer by witnessing on his own walk in prayer.

In March, I have arranged to have a speaker, Dcn Alex Manunta, who will give a presentation on the Rite of Exorcism. In my view, this Catholic Rite is often misunderstood due to the many fictional films and books involving this subject. In addition, and to continue the theme of lay sharing our personal life journeys in prayer, Patty Pidgdon has agreed to give us her witness. My intention for these personal witnesses has been to prompt each in attendance, to think back on your own prayer journeys and to examine how your own prayer life has grown or changed over the years. It is an interesting and valuable exercise.

So come and sing, pray, and learn from each other in the warm atmosphere of our Cursillo community.

DeColores!

Marty Ruhland  
School of Leaders Facilitator

### Secretary:

Karen Trimper  
Call/Text: 716-867-8962  
Email: [karentrimp@gmail.com](mailto:karentrimp@gmail.com)

### Prayer Request:

Entered into their 5<sup>th</sup> Day:

Robert Piskun, Men's #181, Died January 4, 2025  
Fr. Jim Kasinski, Men's #17, Died January 6, 2025

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](mailto:rdservices@roadrunner.com) ) for any names to add or remove from the prayer list.

Eugene Kanski (Barb Wiers Brother)	Mary Mercurio	Patrick Johnson
Carol Tank (Barb Wiers Sister-In Law)	Fr. Joe Badding	Jim Youngers
Dcn Dennis Kapsiak	Pam Hornung	Cathy Agugliaro
Bill Gross	Jean Claire Buchbinder	Tim Hiedle
Lois Weber	Chelsea Ellis	Kathy O'Keefe
Lorrie Rakoczynski	Laura and Angelo Ciavarella	Denise Bressette
Jerry Frisicaró	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



<b>Upcoming Cursillo Dates</b>	
<b>Informational Meetings</b>	<b>Reunion Masses</b>
<b>February 4th</b> informational meeting for women about Cursillo at 6:30 PM. Hosted by Christine Thomann at 4290 Fireside Dr, 14221. For more information call Sherry Misso at 716-984-0163	02/08 – Men's Team Support Mass, 4:00pm at St. Teresa of Avila, Akron NY
<b>Men's Weekend #236</b> February 13-16, 2025	<b>Women's Weekend #237</b> March 13-16, 2025
<b>02/08</b> - Support Mass for Men's Team at 4pm at St. Teresa of Avila, Akron NY <b>02/12</b> - Set-up Men's Weekend @ 5:30 pm, <b>02/13</b> – Registration from 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm, Sponsors & community prayer service at 8 pm. <b>02/15</b> – Break-in/Serenade, arrive at 7:15pm <b>02/16</b> – Las Mananitas – arrive at 5:30am (Men only) - 3 pm Clausura with community Mass <b>04/05</b> - 4th Day Dinner; Potluck at St. Teresa of Avila in Akron. 4pm Mass, 5pm setup, 5:30pm doors open. Dinner at 6:00pm (Entire Community Welcome)	<b>TBD</b> - Support Mass for Women's Team <b>03/12</b> - Set-up for Weekend @ 5:30 pm, <b>03/13</b> – Registration from 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm, Sponsors & community prayer service at 8 pm. <b>03/15</b> – Break-in/Serenade, arrive at a time 7:15 pm <b>03/16</b> – Las Mananitas – arrive at 5:30am (Women only) - 3 pm Clausura with community Mass <b>04/05</b> - 4th Day Dinner; Potluck at St. Teresa of Avila in Akron. 4pm Mass, 5pm setup, 5:30pm doors open. Dinner at 6:00pm (Entire Community Welcome)
<b>OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDY</b>	
<b>School of Leaders (Workshop)</b>	<b>Other Opportunities</b>
<b>Topic:</b> See the School of Leaders article <b>Speaker:</b> <b>Date:</b> Saturday, March 22nd <b>Time:</b> 10:00 am – 12 noon <b>Location:</b> Church of the Annunciation school, 7580 Clinton St., Elma <b>Organizer:</b> Marty Ruhland (716)481-0662	23rd WNY Catholic Men's Conference scheduled for March 29th at Cardinal O'Hara High School.

## Buffalo Cursillo Ultreya Schedule

<b>Bethany</b> Cheektowaga & surrounding area	2/11/25 2nd Tuesday	7:00 PM	Zoom Contact Lynn to be added to the email list	Lynn Lomanto <a href="mailto:lomantolynn@gmail.com">lomantolynn@gmail.com</a> 585-409-4123
<b>Come to the Well</b> Clarence area	2/18/25 3rd Tuesday	7:00 PM	Member House Contact Chris for location	Jack & Christine Thomann 716-583-2324 (Chris – m) 716-583-2320 (Jack – m) <a href="mailto:cmtpsalm139@gmail.com">cmtpsalm139@gmail.com</a>
<b>Full of Grace</b> Elma area	2/26/25 Last Wednesday January - June Sept. – October	7:00 PM	Member House Contact Marty for location	Marty Ruhland <a href="mailto:rdservices@roadrunner.com">rdservices@roadrunner.com</a> 716-481-0662 (m)
<b>Pueblo de Paz</b> Warsaw area	1/5/25 Christmas Party	2:00 PM	St. Michael's Church 171 N. Main St, Warsaw	Liz Wascak 585-237-5155 <a href="mailto:ewascak@yahoo.com">ewascak@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Rainbow Vineyard</b> Northtowns area	1/14/25 2nd Tuesday  1/28/25 4th 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 <a href="mailto:caruhl73@verizon.net">caruhl73@verizon.net</a>
<b>Southtowns</b> Southtowns area	skip 1st Thursday  1/16/25 3rd Thursday	7:00 PM	Member House Contact Mary Ann for location	St. Andrew's Permanent Group Mary Ann DeMaria 716-512-4765 <a href="mailto:mdemaria@roadrunner.com">mdemaria@roadrunner.com</a>
<b>St. Brandon on the Lake</b> Lockport area	1/8/25 2nd Wednesday  1/22/25 4th Wednesday		St. Brandon on the Lake Parish	Jessie Smith 716-930-9901 <a href="mailto:jsmithjr2@verizon.net">jsmithjr2@verizon.net</a>

## February, 2025 Out Bound Palanca

02-06	2025-02-09	Women's Cursillo (English)	Windsor-Essex, Ontario
-02-06	-02-09	Men's 63 (Spanish)	Palm Beach, FL
-02-06	-02-09	Men's #434	San Antonio Tx
-02-06	-02-09	Cursillo de Hombres # 210	Rockville Centre, NY
-02-06	-02-09	Women's 721	Orange, CA
-02-06	-02-09	Men's 434	San Antonio TX
-02-06	-02-09	Men's #276	Lansing, MI
-02-13	-02-16	Men's 391 (English)	St. Paul & Minneapolis, MN
-02-13	-02-16	Men's #234	NY
-02-13	-02-16	Womans 105th weekend	Harrisburg, PA
-02-13	-02-16	Men's 236	Buffalo, NY
-02-14	-02-16	Men's 46	Outaouais, QC
-02-13	-02-16	Men's #120	Diocese of Nashville, TN
-02-13	-02-16	CURSILLO 610 DE HOMBRES DEL 13 AL 16 FEBRERO DE	JALISCO
-02-13	-02-16	Cursillo de Hombres #293	Arquidiocesis de Miami, FL
-02-20	-02-23	Men's 8 (Spanish)	Joliet, IL
-02-20	-02-23	Women's Cursillo	Richmond, VA
-02-20	-02-23	Women's 92 (English)	Rochester, NY
-02-20	-02-23	Women's Cursillo (English)	Richmond, VA
-02-20	-02-23	Women's 61 (Spanish)	Palm Beach, FL
-02-20	-02-23	Women's 392 (English)	St. Paul & Minneapolis, MN
-02-20	-02-23	Men's Cursillo	MN
-02-20	-02-23	Cursillo men's #30	Washington Dc
-02-20	-02-23	Men's 131	Diocese of Springfield, Cape Girardeau: Missouri
-02-20	-02-23	CURSILLO 413 DE MUJERES DEL 20 AL 23 DE FEBRERO DE	GUADALAJARA
-02-20	-02-23	Men's 30	Kaposvár, Kaposszentbenedek
-02-20	-02-23	Women's #277	Lansing, MI
-02-20	-02-23	Men's 8 Cursillo	Joliet IL
-02-27	-03-02	Women's 9 (Spanish)	Joliet, IL
-02-27	-03-02	Men's 77	KY
-02-27	-03-02	Women's #104	Diocese of Nashville, TN
-02-27	-03-02	Cursillo de Hombres 504 (Centro Silao)	Arquidiócesis de León, Gto. México
-02-27	-03-02	Men's 262,	Laredo, TX
-02-27	-03-02	Cursillo de Mujeres #268	Arquidiocesis de Miami, FL
-02-27	-03-02	Women's #104	Nashville, Tennessee
-02-27	-03-02	Women's 9	Joliet IL