



THE ARK

Toledo Diocesan Cursillo Mission Statement: Cursillo is a Catholic Lay Movement embraced by the Diocese of Toledo to bring hearts closer to Jesus Christ in order to transform society and be of service to the whole church. It is our mission to form small Christian Communities to deepen Spirituality in ourselves and in others.

November 2024

Application Forms are on the Website:

www.cursillo419.org

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Spring 2025 Weekends

Men's - March 6-9

Women's April 10 - 13

Spiritual Advisor

De Colores! My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I would like to focus my reflections for this article on the LEADER'S Prayer. We say it often at the opening of our meetings, Secretariat, School of Leaders and perhaps at Ultreyas and even in some groups. Some of us know it by heart.

I have often found myself saying the words and wondering after just what am I saying and what does it really mean. Is it a translation from an original Spanish prayer and what is its history? So I thought this would be a good opportunity to explore more about the LEADER'S Prayer.

In searching website for the National Cursillo Movement Office, I found very little by way of explanation of the Prayer or any of it's history but I will share what I did find.

First, the Prayer itself:

Leader's Prayer

† Lord grant that we may understand the necessity for depth in our Movement, rather than surface glory. Convince us of the truth that colorful programs do not constitute success.

† My God, give us a spirit of self sacrifice so that we may offer everything for Your cause: our time, our abilities, our health and even our lives if necessary. Instill in us courage in our initiatives, good judgment in our choice of the right means, and that determination, which in spite of failures, assures victory.

† Move away from us the tiny rivalries, sensitivities, discourtesies, pride, everything which distracts from You, everything which divides or discourages.

† Help us to maintain at a high level, a meaningful supernatural and mutual charity among ourselves, so that each one will seek by preference, the most humble task and will rejoice at the good performed by others, so that all our spirits, united in a common purpose, will have one single spirit, Yours Jesus, and that this spirit may let us see Your attractive goodness marked in all our faces, Your warm accents in all our words, and in our lives something superior to the world, something that proclaims Your Living Presence among us. Amen

† Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patron of the Americas, Pray for Us.

† St Paul, Patron of the Cursillo, Pray for Us.

Some thoughts:

First: of all it is a prayer asking for God's help to avoid the temptation or belief that one can accomplish a mission on our own, or that we are incapable of making a change.

It is a corporate prayer rather than a personal prayer and it is a prayer seeking virtues: humility and a personal offering of one's self in a total commitment; courage and good judgement in applying ourselves to the task of being a dedicated apostle; a person who puts all of his abilities in the service of Christ."

Second: Setting aside our own ego, and letting others be in the spot-light while we take on the role of being servant to all. This is difficult because we have to be mindful of our own selfishness, pride and sensitivity to our own emotional 'feelings.' It is a constant conversion process, as Jesus taught us, "I have come not to be served but to be servant of all..." How often and how many former Catholics and Cursillistas do we know who left the community over hurt feelings?

Third: We ask for divine assistance to "put on" the mind of Christ in accomplishing our task, which is not only on the human level but is also on a spiritual plane provided for and guided by the Holy Spirit. Again, think of ourselves as "monstrances" showing forth Jesus by our life, love and genuine concern to bring Christ into all of our environments. In short we are living 'sacraments' in the world.

Fourth: While we pray together this prayer of supplication to the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we also include a prayer of intercession to Mother Mary and St Paul and through them all of the heavenly hosts, especially our family and friends who are living their "fifth" day in eternity.

A Cursillo leader's prayer may include:

- Palanca A prayer offered at various stages of the Cursillo Movement, including before, during, and after the weekend. Palanca is offered for the team, candidates, and new Cursillistas.

- Asking for contact with Christ A prayer that asks for contact with Christ through the Holy Eucharist, the Gospel, and homilies at Mass.
- Asking for contact with others A prayer that asks for contact with others, especially in the Group Reunion, to grow in faith together.

The Cursillo Movement is a Catholic Church Movement that aims to help people live a Christian life. It was developed by men of prayer who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. So may it continue through our efforts.

P.S.

The National Election is 25 days from when this letter was written. I have no insight, divine revelation, or idea of how it is going to turn out and what the future might hold for us. But I do know that Jesus IS Lord and Savior and is in charge anyway, no matter what. He is my candidate! He is the ONE I am following and the Leader's Prayer is helping me to keep that focus.

Lots of love to all of you.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr Jim Brown



Lay Director

Greetings friends of the field, sojourners, brothers and sisters in Christ;

As we enter November we recall a time of thanksgiving. We recall times of joy and abundance, a time of reaping what we have planted. But what about reaping what we did not plant? Planting what we do not reap? Planting and sowing seeds that we do not know if they will grow? Isn't that what we are called to do do? To nurture those "seeds" that come to us! The ones that need direction in their lives. Not sure of where to go or what to do. I had one such young one who didn't know what to do. After some conversation I was able to direct them to doing the next right thing. Directing them to church. To mass. To reconciliation and a new life.

Don't we all need this? New life? I do !! To redirect my life in the way of Christ. The way of the cross. To prayer and adoration when available. Then I am very thankful for all that Christ has done for me and will do for me. No matter where I am in life or what is happening. God is with me and I will give thanks!!

As you reflect on your life, think of the blessings God has bestowed on you and give Him the thanks He deserves. He deserves all of our thanks and praise.

Let us enter this month with praise and thanksgiving on our lips and in our hearts for all that the Lord has given and done for us. Let us reach out to those in need and spread the love of Jesus as best we can! Jesus loves us! Let us love our neighbors!!

God's Peace

Ultreya!

John & Kathy



Pre-Cursillo

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419-476-9347

Looking forward to receiving applications (both candidate and sponsor's) for the spring 2025 weekends. Date are Men -March 6-9 ; Women - April 10-13. We know it sounds like a long ways off, but now is the time to start to Make a Friend, Be a Friend, and Bring a Friend to Christ! Both candidate and sponsor's applications are on the Cursillo 419 website. Easy to download, complete, and e-mail to us. If you have problems downloading them, let us know and we will e-mail you blank copies. Let us know if you need any assistance.

Yours in Christ,

Helen & Gary Keel

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419-476-9347



**Make a friend.
Be a friend.
Bring a friend
to Christ.**

Cursillo

Hello Cursillo community-

We witnessed some beautiful men and women living their Cursillo weekend this past month and a half. Thank you very much for all the work that both teams and sponsors put in to help our newest members grow closer to our Lord. "Just a closer walk"!

I hope and pray that all involved remember the importance of staying in touch with our newest Cursillistas. Please encourage them to group and attend Ultreya.



Also, after conversions at our closings it would appear that many would be willing and even excited to work in the near future on a team. If you are one of these people please send an application to Robert Drewior or myself and we will take it from there. Please don't be intimidated by what you might think you would be asked to do. The love for God and one another will guide you as it did on the initial weekend.

God bless each and all and have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Dave Zaborski

Dzaborski411@gmail.com and/or robertdrewior774@gmail.com

School Of Leaders

DeColores

DeColores Friends In Christ !



The leaves are changing their colors and the air is getting a little cooler. We change our clocks back an hour. Our daylight is becoming shorter up until the first day of winter. Here in northwest Ohio we are blessed to have the four different seasons.

One thing that never changes is our God's love for us. He continues to fill us with love, mercy and grace. When we think of Thanksgiving, we give thanks for all the blessings he gives us. Most importantly, we remember to give him our thanks throughout each and every day. Praise be to God !

School Of Leaders will be on break until January 18, 2025. We wish you a very joyful, healthy, and faith filled Christmas Season. Enjoy your Family and friends.

Walter Beckford wbeckford@bex.net

Annie Blum annieblum516@gmail.com



(prayers for the month)

Bob Drewior - back surgery, Deacon Ben Valdez - stomach cancer, for those in the path of Hurricane Milton, for Cursillo #296, family member - bipolar disorder, family member - uterine cancer, Patti - foot surgery, Jake - heart procedure, Barb Warner - fell, broken arm, Kathy Varga - cardiac bypass surgery, Kathy Krupp - passed away, and for her family, Tina - addicted to meth, family member - divorcing, 2 children, Deacon Ben Valdez - close to death with cancer, niece - severe sinus infection.

Fourth Day

What a glorious fall we've had so far. Thank you to all who attended the Holy Hour and Closing for the Women's 296 weekend. Reminder to Cursillos 295 and 296 about the reunion Ultreya on Nov. 3rd at Findlay St. Michael from 2-4pm. Also, reserve Nov. 16th on your calendars for the fall Focus Day at St. Wendelin Parish in Fostoria, beginning at 8:30am and lasting until about 3pm. See the flyer in this month's Ark for more details.

November Ultreyas

Area 2 Ultreya's are on the 2nd Sunday of each month. 2-3 pm Jaeger Hall St Clements church.

Area 7 and 10 Tiffin Area –Tiffin area Ultreya will be Nov. 24th from 7-9pm in the Upper Room of St. Joseph Activity Center.

Area 8 October Ultreya will be held on October 14, 2024 at the Activities Center at St Joe's in Galion from 7-9 PM. All are welcome!

Toledo Cursillo Fall Focus Day



Sat. Nov. 16, 2024, 8:30am – 3pm

Join us for our Fall Focus Day

8:30-9:00am Breakfast, Fellowship & Registration

St. Wendelin Parish, 323 N. Wood St. Fostoria, Ohio

Soup will be provided, bring a brown bag lunch if desired.

You may also bring something to share for breakfast.

Monetary donations will be accepted



Please share what you are doing for Palanca!
email to = Palanca419@outlook.com
Jack B. Reuter, Palanca Chair

witness : share how God is working in your life = email to = judbrick616@gmail.com

Current openings on Secretariat

For your information and reflection -- there are several positions on Secretariat that will be opening for replacements—

School of Leaders

The current position holders will be with you one year to familiarize you with the service position you assume/step into.



Please reflect on these openings and hear the Holy Spirit to be the Hands, Feet and Voice of Jesus, you can continue to grow in your faith!

'What a shame it would be if someone came looking for Christ and only found us! But what a blessing if they came looking for us and found Christ!!'

Eduardo Bonnin, Founder Cursillo Movement

NATIONAL CURSILLO INFORMATION: www.natl-cursillo.org Read about Cursillo news, palanca requests from around the world, or read the national newsletter.

TOLEDO CURSILLO WEBSITE: www.cursillo419.org Go here to view news of upcoming events, read the current month's Ark or download forms.

