



MAY—JUNE 2023

CURSILLO MOVEMENT OF THE YOUNGSTOWN DIOCESE

P.O. BOX 3196 YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO 44513-3196

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

FR. EDWARD BRIENZ

330-205-8632

EBRIENZ@

YOUNGSTOWNDIOCESE.ORG

LAY DIRECTOR

BILL JOYCE

330-540-9602

WJOYCE1701@AOL.COM

SCHOOL OF LEADERS

MIKE HRIPKO

330-502-7239

MAHRIPKO@AOL.COM

PRE-CURSILLO

PEG ELSTON

330-542-0130

PEG9970@AOL.COM

CURSILLO

THOM GODWARD

330-503-8549

ThomandJan@sbcglobal.net

POST-CURSILLO

MARTHA COULTER

330-207-6808

mrcoulter28@gmail.com

SECRETARY

DEBORAH SCOPACASA

330-272-3578

DScopacasa1@yahoo.com

TREASURER

LOU FUSILLO

330-503-4804

FUSSY13@HOTMAIL.COM

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER FOR MAY—JUNE, 2023



We are very excited to announce the team for **Men's Cursillo Weekend #66** has been discerned. A complete list of team members can be found on **page 2** of this newsletter. If you know someone you would like to see make the weekend, Sponsor Guidelines are on **Page 6**.

The formation meetings will be on Tuesdays at 7pm starting on **August 1**. They will be held in the basement of **St. Paul Church** 9531 West Akron-Canfield Road in Canfield, Ohio.

Drive around to the rear of the church and enter the door under the CTNY sign. The weekend will be held **October 26—29** at **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church** Hall downtown Youngstown. More details on this will follow.

We have a new Region III Coordinator. His name is Dan Kubisiak, and he is a very active Cursillista. Learn more about him in the article on **Page 4**.

Cursillo Region III had their **Spring Virtual Encounter** on May 5 & 6. Dioceses that comprise Region III are Youngstown, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Altoona/Johnstown, Buffalo, and Rochester, NY. The meeting was centered around how to sponsor candidates to Cursillo. Our own Jim Kramer gave a presentation there, and will present it to us at our next Ultreya on **June 8th**. Please come and hear more about how to sponsor candidates for a Cursillo Weekend.

Good things are also happening in the National Cursillo level. Please take the time to read the **National newsletter**. You'll find links at the **bottom of this page**, and by using them you can read about what is happening in your choice of language of English, or Spanish.

(Continued on Page 3.)



Use the Links below to read the Latest National Cursillo Newsletter:

ENGLISH:

https://www.natl-cursillo.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/CNN_0423_EASTER_ENF-1.pdf

SPANISH:

https://www.natl-cursillo.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/CNN_0423_EASTER_ESF-1.pdf

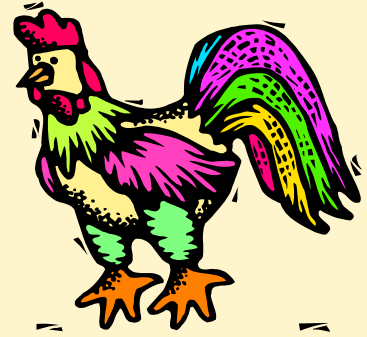


1 Chronicles 16:11

"Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always."

Men's Cursillo Team #66 — Weekend October 26–29, 2023

Spiritual Director:	Father Edward Brienz
Rector:	Don Shilling
Assistant Rector:	Don DeFluiter
Musical Director:	Paul Toth
Head Guide	Ed Sunseri
Guide:	Tim Carr
Sacristan:	Carlos "Charlie" Colmenares
Rollistas (Professors)	Mike Hripko
	Rick Smrek
	Peter Huntley
	Jim Kramer
	Paul Toth
	Bill Joyce



Please begin your Palanca for the team and candidates. The Men's Weekend will take place **October 26-29, 2023** at **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church Hall** downtown Youngstown.

Team Formation meetings begin at 7pm on Tuesday, August 1st in the basement of St. Paul Church, 9531 West Akron-Canfield Road (Rte. 224), Canfield, OH 44406. Please put these Tuesday evenings on your calendar and come support the team.

PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS

PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL PEOPLE, EVERYWHERE AND AT ALL TIMES TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH. THIS IS WHAT JESUS COMMANDS US TO DO.

‘YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES... TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.’

ACTS 1:8

As Cursillistas, we are aware of what God expects us to do in our environments and we have been given the intellectual and spiritual tools needed to get the work done. Through prayer and apostolic action, there are more people being introduced to the love of Jesus Christ on Cursillo Weekends.

Because of faith filled Cursillistas who sponsor friends and believe in their ability to make a difference, lives are being touched by the love of Christ, perhaps for the first time, and a light in the darkness is being illuminated.

When thinking about becoming a sponsor to a future new Cursillista, try to imagine the bigger picture. Imagine the corners of the world waiting to be illuminated by the light of Christ, waiting for you to find that special friend of Jesus whose job it will be to bring the light to them.

Ultreya is on the second Thursday of each month

Upcoming Ultreyas– June 8, July 13, Aug. 10, Sept. 14

Ultreya begins at 7 pm at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Basilica in downtown Youngstown



Positions Opening on the Secretariat

Two Secretariat positions need to be filled: Lay Director and School of Leaders

I have served as Lay Director for three years, and **my term is now coming to a close**. As such, we are seeking for an individual that would be interested in holding this position. The new title will be **Lay Coordinator**.

The Duties are: Preside over Secretariat Meetings and set the agenda for them. Responsible for securing the facility for Weekends. The Lay Coordinator may only cast a vote in a tie-breaker situation. Stay in contact with the Region III Coordinator and attend all meetings of Region III. The Lay Director shall meet with the Bishop once a year. The Lay Coordinator shall give the history of the Cursillo Movement to new Cursillistas.

The requirements are: A Cursillista that is an member of a group reunion, living the Cursillo method, that has worked on a Cursillo weekend, and has previously served as a Rector or member of the Secretariat. Must be able to attend Secretariat meetings and attend Ultreya and School of Leaders.

School of Leaders Coordinator

Mike Hripko 's term is coming to an end soon, and we will need to fill this position as well.

The Duties of this position are: Responsible for preparing and directing all activities related to the School of Leaders including providing formation for Cursillo Leaders, working with other sections, preparing the Pastoral Plan (Mission Statement). The School of Leaders Coordinator shall bring all recommendations from the School of Leaders to the Secretariat. The School of Leaders Coordinator shall appoint and oversee all committees and its members under this section. The School of Leaders Coordinator shall report on this section at Secretariat meetings.

The requirements for this position are: Must have worked on one team, be in a group reunion, must live the Cursillo method, attend Ultreya, attend School of Leaders regularly, must be able to attend Secretariat meetings.

I'm asking each of you now, wherever you are in your journey, whatever weekend you made— give serious thought about making Cursillo your main apostolate for a few years. Please pray about these positions, and if the Lord is calling you to step up, or you know someone that would be a great fit for either of these roles please let us know.

To nominate yourself or someone else for this position, please contact any member of the Secretariat. Their names and contact information can be found on the first page of this newsletter in the column on the left.

Also continue to pray for our Cursillo movement, the Catholic Church, for our hierarchy, for Bishop Bonnar, for our priests, deacons and religious. Most especially, please pray for peace in our land.

May God Bless you and keep you.

DeColores, *Bill Joyce*



Father Edward Brien



Dear Friends,

Cursillo is alive and well in the Diocese of Youngstown. The refreshing winds of Pentecost are fast approaching. Amid all the hustle and bustle of our busy days, let us make certain that we joyfully receive the fullness of inspiration in whatever manner our Lord sends His Holy Spirit. He does indeed speak to each one of us.

Freed from the restrictions of the pandemic, let us recommit to our faith expressions, outreach and ministries in ways that not only resume full, active and conscious participation in prayer, but also in our beloved Cursillo Community. This newsletter announces exciting details of opportunities to refresh our activities and even to raise them in ways that share the many talents that God has bestowed upon our membership.

I'm looking forward to the Assumption Day Picnic on August 15 at Mauthe Park in Struthers. Might that be a good time to call an old friend and ask them to enjoy the Holy Day Mass with a great outdoor meal? We'd love to see everyone. And especially if you and have not yet met, what are we waiting for?

De Colores!

Fr. Ed Brien



News from around Cursillo Region III

Dan Kubisiak, Coordinator

This article is to introduce myself to you. I'm the new Cursillo Region III Coordinator.

I have been married to Daria for 48 years, and we live in Cranberry, PA which is north of Pittsburgh. Daria and I both lived our Cursillo weekends in 2000. My small group has been meeting every week for 23 years. It was my pleasure to lead the School of Leaders for 4 and 1/2 years. After that, I served as the Cursillo Lay Coordinator for the Pittsburgh Diocese. I've worked on many weekends and have given all the talks. I was asked to serve on the Region III Service Team, and then later was asked to serve as the Coordinator last Fall. I've presented Cursillo workshops, and lived the new Rector's Guide weekend along with Bill Joyce in Rochester, New York last September.

I also currently serve on Cursillo's National Coordinating Group along with Region III's efforts. As such, I've been attending Cursillo Regional and National Encounters for some time now.

Daria and I have been facilitating a Bible study in our parish for 18 years. We still ride our motorcycles and take many week-long trips with friends. We'll be leaving shortly for another one with some other Cursillistas.

I will always be available to you when needed.

DeColores!

- Dan

About the School of Leaders...

Cursillo was developed and is operated by a core of “leaders” working inside the movement; committing themselves to be of service to the movement. The School of Leaders is open to **EVERY** Cursillista. The only requirement is that you have made a weekend.

Cursillistas who have been in the movement for a long time and younger/new Cursillistas are encouraged to participate in Leader’s School... because it’s the **LIFE BLOOD** of the movement.

If Cursillistas don’t commit to **service** within Cursillo, the movement WILL fade away in time. Cursillistas, please think about *service* to the movement.

Long-time Cursillistas; we need your role as mentors.
Younger/New Cursillistas; we need your enthusiasm !

**Don’t just remember what
Cursillo did for you...
Ask yourself—what are you
Doing for Cursillo?**



To the right are the scheduled meetings for the School of Leaders for the rest of 2023. Meetings will run from 7:00-8:30pm, and will be held in the offices of the Youngstown Diocese, 144 West Wood Street, Youngstown, OH 44503

- 7/19/23
- 9/20/23
- 11/15/23

Watch your email for more information about School of Leaders meetings.

Spiritual Resources for Daily Reflection

Bible in a Year Podcast by Father Mike Schmitz:

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/category/ascension-podcasts/bibleinayear/>

Very Popular Podcast!

Catholic Online News and Magazines:

EWTN: www.ewtn.com/

Relevant Radio: <https://relevantradio.com/>

Catholic World News: www.cwnews.com/

Zenit News: www.zenit.org/

National Catholic Register: www.ncregister.com

Our Sunday Visitor: www.osv.com/

Catholic News Service: www.catholicnews.com/

Ignatius Insight (Ignatius Press): www.ignatiusinsight.com/

Carmelite (OCD) News: www.discalcedcarmel.com/

Catholic Radio: www.catholic.com/



YOUNGSTOWN CURSILLO SPONSOR GUIDELINES

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

The Cursillo is a method for living, sharing and spreading Christianity. For this method to be effective, there are specific requirements that must be met. Therefore, sponsorship is a serious responsibility. Before you fill out an application, consider these two questions:

Will my candidate both benefit from the weekend AND be faithful to the expectations of the Fourth Day?

Is my candidate capable of and likely to use the tools of Group Reunion, Ultreya and spiritual direction to persevere in his/her Fourth Day?

In selecting a candidate, seek out individuals who would exert a positive influence in their environments. The ideal candidate isn't necessarily active in his/her parish already. Consider potential candidates who express a deep desire and hunger for spiritual growth and contentment, and who are currently living their Catholic faith to the best of their ability.

Other guidelines to follow when selecting a candidate:

If you have been an active Cursillista for less than one year, please ask either your sponsor or an experienced Cursillista to co-sponsor your candidate. Obtain permission from the Pre-Cursillo chairperson and/or Lay Director to sponsor more than two candidates for the same weekend. Seek out the advice of the Youngstown Cursillo Spiritual Director and/or your candidate's Parish Priest if he/she has experienced any of the following in the past two years:

- Divorce or separation
- Death in the immediate family
- Treatment of any kind for emotional or mental issues
- Rehabilitation or a recovery program for drug, alcohol or other addiction
- Serious legal issues

As a sponsor, your responsibilities before, during and after the Cursillo weekend are as follows:

- Explain the Cursillo as a short course in Christianity, as well as the expectations of the 4th day.
- Bring your candidate to your Group Reunion or to Ultreya prior to the weekend.
- Tell your candidate that the **\$100** cost is a suggested donation and should not be a deterrent.
- Complete the application **WITH** your candidate. Complete the Sponsor Confidential Sheet on your own and submit both forms to your Parish Representative or the Pre-Cursillo Chairperson.. If at all possible, fill out both spouse applications simultaneously for all married candidates.
- Provide transportation for your candidate to and from the Cursillo weekend. This is very important as your candidate will be tired at the end of his/her weekend. **NOTE:** If you are on the team and sponsoring a candidate, arrange for someone to drive your candidate to and from the weekend.
- Make yourself available to your candidate's family for church, shopping, meals, babysitting, or any other personal need that may arise. If your candidate has few or no outside needs, be sure to be there to help during the weekend. There is always a need for help!
- After the weekend, accompany your candidate to the post-Cursillo seminar and to Ultreya.
- Be available to answer any and all question regarding the Cursillo Movement that your candidate may have. There are excellent brochures available to help you in this matter. Contact the Lay Director for a copy if your parish does not have one.
- Help your candidate utilize the Cursillo tools to persevere in his/her environment.

BIBLE VIGIL THANK YOU FROM JIMMY GIANOTTI



I'd like to thank the Youngstown Cursillo community all of you who came to see my family and I at Rossi Funeral Home for the Bible Vigil for my Mom, Marianne Gianotti. What a wonderful turnout. It was a beautiful Bible Vigil. I didn't shed a tear at the funeral home until I saw the community that I grew up with the last 40 years and to feel the love and support from each one. I am truly a blessed man with such great friends. And then the funeral at St. Luke's, wow, we walked in the door and the first thing that my eyes saw was Father James Korda, I didn't even know he knew mom passed, Father Korda is a very good friend of mine and my family and what a touching moment to see him there. I thank Father Korda from the bottom of my heart. Msgr. John Zuraw gave an awesome homily for my mom, absolutely beautiful. Power of Praise and Joe McKim's music was beautiful. My sister sang Ave Maria at the offertory and did an incredible job. I would be amiss not to thank Sister Mary Alyce for helping me with the service and for her love and kindness as well, again I am blessed. Then the service at the cemetery was just as beautiful and the mercy Lunch was great... so many friends sharing their love for mom and us. The whole week was amazing. And then to have some of you show up at BW's on our last night there, it was just so special. And of course, I have to thank my brother Bill Rinehart for opening his home to us, we wouldn't have been able to afford to come up if he didn't do that, and he spoiled us. So thank you to Bill, to Cursillo, to Power of Praise, to Sister Mary Alyce, to Msgr. Zuraw, to Father Korda, to Joe McKim and to you my brothers and sisters. You made my mom's celebration of life a memory for my family and I remember forever. I truly do LOVE you all so much, you have NO IDEA!! May God shower you all with blessings always. YOU all live in my heart.

The following people made donations to Cursillo in Memory of Marianne Gianotti:

- John and Linda Susany
- Thom and Janet Godward
- Bill and Sandy Joyce
- Power of Praise Band

Donations to Cursillo in remembrance of a loved one may be sent to:

Youngstown Cursillo
P.O. Box 3196
Youngstown, OH 44513-3196

Bible Vigils

BIBLE VIGIL REQUESTS

Can be made for a Cursillista or an immediate family member.

To arrange for a Bible Vigil, please call :

Jim & Laurie Kramer

(Cell) 330-720-7987

From Bishop David J. Bonnar's Pastoral Letter:

"Testify to the Light"



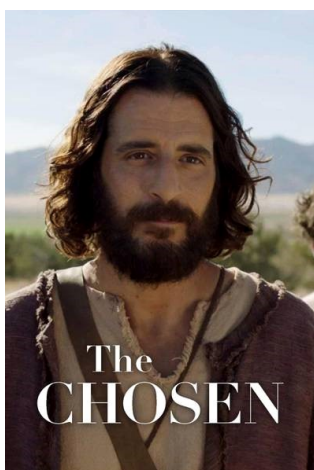
"Testify to the Light" was Bishop Bonnar's first Pastoral Letter to the Youngstown Diocese. It was published February 2021. One of the sections speaks to the importance of Small Groups, which is the essence of what the Cursillo Movement was founded upon and continues to do to this day.

Here are Bishop Bonnar's comments:

The Formation of Small Groups

It is my dream that parishes will form small groups for people to share their faith and support one another as they become disciples. These small groups can be tailored to accommodate people's schedules and be made up of men, women, married couples and individuals. By coming together in a small venue, individuals can share their faith and encounter Jesus through the Gospel and in other ways enabling them to go forth and proclaim the Gospel. Small groups are a powerful way to accompany one another as pilgrims on the journey.

There is a difference between being a follower and a disciple. We need more disciples in the Church who like John the Baptist can boldly speak in the wilderness and be a witness to the light. Pope Francis says, "Missionary disciples accompany missionary disciples."



Great television show. "The Chosen" is the first-ever multi-season series about the life of Christ. It's the free show that tens of millions of people are talking about.

The Chosen series is now streaming on all of Angel Studios' platforms. Enjoy all three seasons for free. Incidentally, Jonathan Roumie, the actor who portrays Jesus is Catholic.

How do I watch? Watch Seasons 1-3 for free.

Tune into the Angel app on your TV or watch online on YouTube today.

<https://watch.angelstudios.com/>