



JULY EDITION 2026

Secretariat
Members



CURSILLO MOVEMENT OF THE YOUNGSTOWN DIOCESE

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

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

FR. EDWARD BRIENZ

330-205-8632

EBRIENZ@

YOUNGSTOWNDIOCESE.ORG

LAY COORDINATOR

PEG ELSTON

330-542-0130

PEG9970@AOL.COM

SCHOOL OF LEADERS

HOWARD CASKEY

330-310-7255

HECASKEY@ZOOMINTERNET.NET

PRE-CURSILLO

RAY NEWMAN

330-227-8079

RAYNEWMANPMP@GMAIL.COM

CURSILLO

THOM GODWARD

330-503-8549

ThomandJan@sbcglobal.net

POST-CURSILLO

GINA LOVE

330-717-6208

glove@youngstowndioocese.org

SECRETARY

DEBORAH SCOPACASA

330-272-3578

DScopacasa1@yahoo.com

TREASURER

LOU FUSILLO

330-503-4804

FUSSY13@HOTMAIL.COM

NEWS FROM OUR LAY COORDINATOR



Hi, Brothers and Sisters in Christ

I'm just a few days on the job as your new Lay Coordinator, so I barely have my "feet wet"

Firstly, I would like to thank the Secretariat for honoring me with their confidence. I will do my level best to manage the day-to-day business of the Youngstown Cursillo Movement.

Secondly, I wish to thank Bill Joyce for his tenure as Lay Coordinator for these past six years.

There is a lot of good news to share. **Men's Cursillo Weekend #69** will take place **October 22nd through 25th** and the team will begin their Formation meetings on August 4th.

Father Edward Brienz will be the Spiritual Director and Deacon Ron Layko will be the Assistant Spiritual Director. Howard Caskey will serve as the Rector and Al Pompeo will be the Assistant Rector for this weekend.

On page two of this newsletter is a complete list of team members and the meeting schedule and location. Please begin to pray and offer Palanca for the team as well as our new friends, the candidates. Now is the time to speak to God about your candidate, and then speak to your candidate about God. Then, use the application on **pages 7 & 8** to sponsor your candidate for the weekend. Once signed, please get the application to Ray Newman as soon as possible. Ray's contact info is in the column directly to the left. Remember... **Christ is counting on you.**

Also, there has been a change to our **August 15th Cursillo picnic**. We will all go to **4pm** Mass at **St. Charles** and then have the picnic on the grounds of Boardman Park in Boardman. More details inside this newsletter. Hope to see you there!

Yours in Christ,

Peg Elston

**De
Colores!!!**

UPCOMING ULTREYAS:

Youngstown: July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10, Nov. 12., Dec. 10

7pm in the basement of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 343 Via Mt. Carmel, Youngstown OH 44503

Columbiana: July 28, Aug. 25, Sept. 22, Oct. 27., Nov. 24

6:30 pm at St. Jude Church, 180 Seventh Street, Columbiana OH 44408



Ephesians 1: 3-4

"Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! For in our union with Christ He has blessed us by giving us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly world."

Men's Cursillo Team #69**Spiritual Director:** Father Edward Brienz**Assistant Spiritual Director:**

Deacon Ron Layko

Rector: Howard Caskey**Assistant Rector:** Al Pompeo**Musical Director:** Joe McKim**Head Guide:** Phil Wilson**Guides:** Brandon Benson, Andy Shenigo, Steve Tarajcak**Professors:**Don DeFluiter, Brian Hammond,
Jim Kramer, Bill Joyce,
Ray Newman**Sacristan:** Carlos Colmenares**Team Formation Schedule For Men's Cursillo #69***Tuesdays at 7pm in the Martha/Mary Room at St. Luke Church, 5235 South Avenue, Boardman OH 44512*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Agenda</u>
Aug. 4	Introductions, Team Assignments, and Commitment Talk
Aug. 11	Five Minute Summaries & How to Write and Give a Talk
Aug. 18	OFF (Professors write their talks)
Aug. 25	OFF (Professors write their talks)
Sept. 2	Ideal & Laity
Sept. 8	OFF (Labor Day)
Sept. 15	Piety & Study
Sept. 22	Action & Leaders
Sept. 29	Environment & Christianity in Action
Oct. 6	Fourth Day (Al Pompeo) & Total Security (Howard Caskey)
Oct. 13	Psychology of Weekend and Mock Tables
Oct. 21	5pm Weekend set-up at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Hall
Oct. 22–25	Men's Cursillo Weekend #68 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Hall



How long has it been since you have heard one of the **Cursillo talks**? Now is a great time to come support the Men's Team during Formation and listen to these great speakers deliver the Cursillo message. The team would love to have support by our community. Come to the Martha/Mary Room in St. Luke Church. The address is: **5235 South Avenue, Boardman OH 44512**

. The Formation meetings begin **Tuesdays promptly at 7pm**. Hope to see you there!

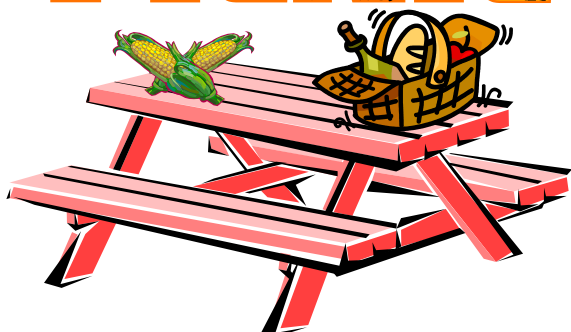
Thank you and Congratulations to Father Edward Brienz



It was recently announced that Father Edward Brienz has retired as of July 1st, 2026. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1996 by Bishop Tobin, and recently celebrated the 30th anniversary. He serves as Sacramental Minister at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Boardman (St. Charles Church and St. Luke Church). He is also the Chaplain for all four of the diocesan Cemeteries. He has also been serving as the Spiritual Advisor for the Cursillo Movement of the Youngstown Diocese.

Over the years, Father Brienz has been a strong supporter of the Cursillo movement, and has been the Spiritual Director for nine Cursillo Weekends, and will serve as the Spiritual Director for the upcoming Men's Cursillo in October. He has always been gracious in giving of his time, and we very much appreciate his ministry.

We thank Father Brienz for all the years of prayers and assistance he has given to our Cursillo center, and are happy that he will be continuing as our Spiritual Advisor.



Our annual **Cursillo Picnic** is August 15th (the Feast of the Assumption). We will be gathering at **St. Charles Church** for **4pm Mass**. (St. Charles is located near the intersection of Route 224 and Market Street in Boardman.) Afterward, we'll head to **Boardman Park**, located at 5235 Boardman-Poland Road (Route 224).

We have two pavilions: Hoffmaster and Chester Long.

Bring your own picnic food for your family. The Cursillo Secretariat will supply the corn on the cob, as well as cold beverages.



Email Notification

We are asking if you have a new email address, please send it to us at:

Youngstown4thDay@gmail.com

We have cut costs on the newsletter by sending it now only through email. Please, if you have an email address, let us put you on the electronic list. Thanks!

youngstown4thday@gmail.com

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

De Colores! COUNTDOWN!

THE NATIONAL ENCOUNTER IS ALMOST HERE!

TODAY IS

★ **Less** ★

than 3

weeks

AWAY!

36TH NATIONAL CURSILLO®
ENCOUNTER

JULY 23-26, 2026



WHEATON COLLEGE
WHEATON, ILLINOIS



JULY 23-26, 2026



THE EXTENSION AT

\$550

IS VALID FOR

FOR ONLY

2

MORE DAYS!

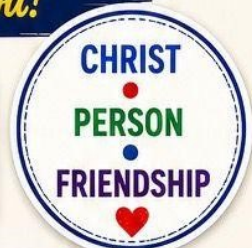
DON'T
MISS THIS
OPPORTUNITY!

★ **REGISTER TODAY AND SAVE!** ★

There is still time. There is still room for you!



REGISTER TODAY!
CURSILLOUSA.ORG



De Colores! ❤️

National Cursillo® Movement



This event is sponsored by the National Cursillo® Movement
 and is not sponsored, endorsed, or administered by Wheaton College.

SPONSOR CONFIDENTIAL FORM

Must accompany candidate application

Before you fill out this form, you must read the attached guidelines to see whether or not your candidate is ready/capable to attend the Cursillo weekend.

Name of Candidate _____

What is your relationship? _____ How long have you known him/her? _____

What environments do you share? _____

- Have you read the attached **Youngstown Cursillo Sponsor Guidelines**? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Have you brought your candidate to your group reunion or to Ultreya ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Have you explained the Cursillo movement and 4th Day? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Do you recommend your candidate as table secretary? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**As a sponsor, It is very important that you know your candidate.
Talk to God about your candidate BEFORE you talk to your candidate about God**

Because this is an intense, emotional experience, we urge you to consider any serious issues in your candidate's life. We want them to be able to experience the Cursillo weekend to its fullest, so if they have experienced any of the following in the past two years, we suggest you confer with the Youngstown Cursillo Spiritual Director and/or your parish priest before inviting this candidate to participate in the weekend.

Has your candidate experienced any of these issues within the past two years? ☐ Yes ☐ No

- Separation or divorce
- Death in their immediate family
- Treatment of any kind for emotional or mental illness
- Rehabilitation or recovery program for drug, alcohol or other behavioral addiction
- Serious legal trouble

Can this candidate receive the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Sponsor Name _____ Date _____

Cursillo Attended _____ Diocese _____ Year (optional) _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Parish _____



Candidate Application

All information on this form will be kept confidential and will be used by the Youngstown Cursillo Center only to help us prepare your weekend.

Last Name		First Name		M.I.	Nickname for badge	☐ M ☐ F
Address			City/State		Zip	
Phone	Alt/Cell Phone	Email (for Cursillo use only)		Parish/City		
Occupation		Birthdate	Level of Education: ☐ High school ☐ Trade school ☐ College ☐ Post-grad			
Hobbies/Interests: _____ _____						
Community/Church Activities: _____ _____						
Do you play a musical instrument? ☐ Yes ☐ No Which instrument? _____						
Please indicate all that apply: ☐ Priest ☐ Deacon ☐ Religious _____ ☐ Married (Spouse Name: _____) ☐ Single ☐ Widowed ☐ Divorced ☐ Separated If Married, is spouse Catholic? ☐ Yes ☐ No Has your spouse attended a Cursillo? ☐ Yes ☐ No <u>The Cursillo method strongly emphasizes full participation in the sacramental life of the Church.</u> Can you receive the sacraments? ☐ Yes ☐ No Can your spouse? ☐ Yes ☐ No						
Why do you wish to attend a Cursillo? _____ _____ _____ _____						
Has your sponsor explained Group Reunion, Ultreya and the 4th Day to you? ☐ Yes ☐ No A Cursillo Weekend is three very full days, programmed with many activities and opportunities for spiritual growth and community building. If you have any adverse health conditions, or if you are taking any medications, discuss them openly with your sponsor and list them on the back of this application. Also, if you have any food allergies or dietary restrictions, please list them on the back of this application. There is a suggested donation of \$100 for all weekend participants. (More accepted, less never turned down.)						
Candidate Signature _____					Date _____	
Sponsor(s) _____						
Parish Representative Signature _____						

(See Reverse side for more)

Mail application and check to: Youngstown Cursillo, P.O. Box 3196, Youngstown OH 44513-3196

(Back page of Candidate Application)

Do you have any food allergies or dietary restrictions? Y N
Please list them:

Are you taking any medications that we need to be aware of? Y N
Please list them:

Do you have any medical conditions that we need to be aware of? Y N
Please list them:

Do you need any special assistance on the weekend (i.e. access to electrical outlet for CPAP) Y N

Please describe:

What is your preference for sleeping? Please check one.

_____ Inflatable air bed

_____ Folding cot

_____ I prefer to bring my own