

Secretariat
Members



SEPTEMBER EDITION

CURSILLO MOVEMENT OF THE YOUNGSTOWN DIOCESE

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NEWS FROM OUR LAY COORDINATOR



Hi, Brothers and Sisters in Christ

The team for Men's Cursillo #69 is hard at work. Professor's School has begun, and the speakers have been preparing their talks, and he back table has been guiding the team. (All Cursillistas are invited to the team meetings to support the team.) The physical plant staff is geared up and ready for the weekend. NOW it's time for YOU, the Youngstown Cursillo community to sponsor candidates and to bring your friend to Christ. This is our core mission—and we need everyone to pitch in.

In background activities, we are expanding our Palanca outreach, pledging our palanca to dozens of other Cursillo communities in addition to soliciting their palanca for our candidates and team. We will begin sending monthly reminders to the community of upcoming weekends that have asked for our prayers. In addition, Ultreya leaders have devoted a specific time for all to join in common prayer sessions, and ask that you set your alarm or watch for 7pm on Thursday... so that regardless of whether you are doing the laundry or mowing your lawn...you can devote a few moments in prayer for all Cursillo candidates who will be beginning their weekends at that time.

Meanwhile, at the School of Leaders (SoL), a task group has been formed to update our Youngstown Cursillo Pastoral Plan as well as formulating the network to revitalize Parish Representatives. At the next SoL meeting we will discuss progress on this as well as an effort to create a task group to refine our existing By-Laws and our ongoing efforts for outreach through social media. School of Leaders meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Becker Family Center, 8536 Market Street, Boardman. I really encourage your participation at SoL, where ideas and initiatives are born, nourished, discussed, developed, and subsequently recommended to Secretariat.

As we teach on the weekend, we are ALL leaders in Christ's movement.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you,

Peg

**De
Colores!!!**

UPCOMING ULTREYAS:

Youngstown: Sept. 10, Nov. 12., Dec. 10

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

Columbiana: Sept. 22, Oct. 27, Nov. 24

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



John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

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

Father Robert Lanterman

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,
Joe Hollabaugh, Bill Joyce,
Jim Kramer, George Schorsten**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***Date****Agenda**

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

Howard Caskey
RectorAl Pompeo
Asst. Rector

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!

Message From Father Edward Brienz — Spiritual Advisor



Dear Friends,

Here's a comforting thought: We are all children of God. Each one is created in the image and likeness of our loving Creator. And each one of us has a calling from God to become a Saint in Heaven. This remains an important fact, no matter how long or short our life span.

Sometimes when a family mourns the loss of a young member, well-meaning people may attempt to console their loss by suggesting that somehow the child is rewarded by becoming an angel in Heaven. But actually, the Church teaches us that God has something even better in store for that child of ours.

We understand children in Heaven to be human Saints. So we and our children are destined after our days on earth to enjoy the Eternal Banquet in the presence of God. God creates each one of us as a union of a body and with an immortal spiritual soul. Upon death, the soul leaves the body. And we lay our bodies to rest in our cemeteries in respect for the role they served as dwelling places of the Lord, since God's Holy Spirit is in each of his sons and daughters. We await the day when Jesus returns and look for the Resurrection of our bodies to be physically transformed and patterned after our Savior's image.

Angels are something else. God sends these servants of his to help build up the Kingdom of God and they help us in so many ways that are known only to God or when we take the time to observe our lives through the eyes of faith. Angels are pure spirit with no bodies that can be resurrected. Angels serve the Lord in Heaven and on Earth.

What a perfectly Divine design. De Colores!

Father Ed Brienz



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:

Stephen & Faye Tarajcak

(Cell) 330-333-3569

A Message from our Pre-Cursillo Chair — Ray Newman

Preparing the Way: A Call to Candidates, Sponsors, and Prayer



As I begin my service as the new Pre-Cursillo Chairperson for our Youngstown Cursillo Movement, I have to admit that I am still learning what this ministry will ask of me. I haven't even made my first report yet! But one thing has already become clear: Pre-Cursillo is about much more than filling an upcoming Cursillo weekend with names. It is about preparing the way for people whom Christ may be calling.

So, as I begin this ministry, I would like to make three simple requests of our Cursillo community.

First, I ask you to look for candidates with open hearts and open minds. There are people all around us who may be searching for something more—perhaps they don't even know what they are searching for. They may be active Catholics, Catholics who have drifted away, or people who simply need to rediscover the love and mercy of Christ. We should not be afraid to invite them. We don't have to have all the answers. We simply need to extend the invitation and allow the Holy Spirit to do the rest.

Second, I ask our sponsors to remember that sponsoring someone doesn't end when the candidate arrives at the weekend. A good sponsor walks alongside the candidate before, during, and after Cursillo. Encourage them. Pray with them. Be patient with them. And remember that their family is part of this journey too. Sometimes the most important ministry a sponsor can offer is simply being present.

Finally, and most importantly, I ask for your prayers. Please pray for those who are considering Cursillo, for their families, and especially for those who are being called to serve on the team. Pray that the Holy Spirit will fill our team with wisdom, patience, humility, and love. Pray that we will have the courage to say what needs to be said, the wisdom to know when to listen, and the humility to remember that this is Christ's work—not ours.

I may be new to this chair, but I know this much:

We are not responsible for changing hearts. Christ is.

Our responsibility is to prepare the way, extend the invitation, accompany one another, and pray.

Perhaps there is someone God has already placed on your heart.

Don't ignore that prompting.

Invite them.

And then let the Holy Spirit take it from there.

A Sponsor Sheet and a Candidate Application form is attached.

PHOTOS FROM OUR CURSILLO PICNIC



NEWS FROM TERRY JOHNSON — REGION III COORDINATOR

Train yourself in godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come (**1Timothy 4:8**). I think of this verse often, as I'm out for a walk or doing some other exercise. It reminds me to focus on what God is doing in my life and the lives of my family and friends.

This month, on Saturday, **September 19** we have our **Region 3 Fall Encounter**. Every region in the U.S. holds a Fall Encounter and a Spring Encounter. It's kind of like an Ultreya. It's kind of like a school of leaders. It's kind of like a family reunion. Usually, we find a retreat house where we can stay overnight like we do on a Cursillo 3-day Weekend, but this time we're just doing a one morning encounter via **Zoom** from 8am until noon. You don't need to be a Cursillo 'leader' (although if you remember your Leaders talk we're all called leaders). Every Cursillista is welcome to attend, participate, learn and meet new friends in the Region and/or get to know your friends better. If you would like to expand your Cursillo circle of friends and join us on this encounter, email **Peg Lias** at plias1@yahoo.com and she will send you the **ZOOM** link.



In other news...from the National Cursillo desk, we have a newly updated website featuring interviews with Cursillo leaders, articles for personal study, updates on the cause for the beatification of our founder, Eduardo Bonin and mucho more. Find it on the interweb at <http://cursillousa.org>.

Lastly, mark your calendars, dust off your Stetson hat, get your boots and plan on going to the next **National Encounter** to be held in San Antonio, Texas! The dates are July 22-25, 2027. Let me hear you say, "Yeee haw!"

Terry Johnson,
Region 3 Coordinator



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

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 _____

These Cursillo Communities are requesting Palanca from our Youngstown Cursillo community in support of their weekends in September 2026. Please pray for them.

9/3/2026	Men's 175 (Spanish)	Santa Fe de la Vera Cruz, Argentina	9/17/2026	Men's 68 (English)	Seattle, WA
9/3/2026	Men's 140 (English)	St. Augustine, FL	9/17/2026	Men's Cursillo (Spanish)	Seattle, WA
9/3/2026	Women's Cursillo (Spanish)	Indianapolis, IN	9/17/2026	Men's 141 (Spanish)	St Augustine, FL
9/3/2026	Women's 695 (Spanish)	Galveston-Houston, TX	9/17/2026	Women's 72 (Spanish)	Wichita, KS
9/3/2026	Men's 285 (Spanish)	Stockton, CA	9/17/2026	Women's 9 (Spanish)	Evansville, IN
9/3/2026	Men's 17 (Spanish)	Springfield, MA	9/17/2026	Men's 2 (Hungarian)	Győr, Tényő, Hungary
9/3/2026	Men's 319 (Spanish)	Oakland, CA	9/17/2026	Women's Cursillo (English)	San Bernardino, CA
9/3/2026	Men's 263 (Tamil)	Mannar, Sri Lanka	9/24/2026	Men's 262 (Sinhala)	Colombo, Sri Lanka
9/3/2026	Men's Cursillo (Spanish)	Stockton, CA	9/24/2026	Men's 52 (English)	San Bernardino, CA
9/4/2026	Men's 254 (Spanish)	San Diego, CA	9/24/2026	Women's 355 (English)	Oakland, CA
9/4/2026	Men's 72 (Spanish)	Wichita, KS	9/24/2026	Men's 4 (Spanish)	Charleston, SC
9/4/2026	Women's 45 (English) A	gana, Guam	9/24/2026	Women's Cursillo (English)	Crookston, MN
9/10/2026	Women's 138 (English)	St. Augustine, FL	9/24/2026	Women's Cursillo (English)	Boise, ID
9/10/2026	Men's 354 (English)	Oakland, CA	9/24/2026	Women's 123 (English)	Little Rock, AR
9/10/2026	Women's 286 (Spanish)	Stockton, CA	9/24/2026	Men's 42 (English)	Venice, FL
9/10/2026	Women's Cursillo (English)	Monterey, CA	9/24/2026	Women's 1092 (Filipino)	Los Angeles, CA
9/10/2026	Men's 104 (English)	Evansville, IN	9/24/2026	Men's 275 (English)	Green Bay, WI
9/10/2026	Men's 394 (English)	Grand Rapids, MI	9/24/2026	Men's 264 (Sinhala)	Colombo, Sri Lanka
9/10/2026	Women's 127 (English)	Budatétény, Hungary	9/24/2026	Women's 95 (English)	Allentown, PA
9/10/2026	Women's 68 (English)	Seattle, WA	9/24/2026	Men's 70 (Spanish)	Atlanta, GA
9/10/2026	Women Cursillo (Spainsh)	Seattle, WA	9/24/2026	Women's 139 (Spanish)	St Augustine, FL
9/10/2026	Women's 24 (Spanish)	Seattle, WA	9/24/2026	Men's 97 (English)	Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada,
9/10/2026	Men's 1264 (English)	Peoria, IL	9/24/2026	Men's Cursillo (English)	Milwaukee, WI
9/10/2026	Women's 284 (English)	Gary, IN	9/24/2026	Women's 109 (Filipino/English)	Oakland, CA
9/10/2026	Men's 281 (English) K	ansas City/St Joseph, MO	9/25/2026	Men's 477 (French)	Outaouais, Quebec, Canada
9/10/2026	Women's 127 (Hungarian)	Budatétény, Hungary	9/27/2026	Women's Cursillo (Spanish)	Cuahutémoc, Chihuahua, México
9/10/2026	Men's Cursillo (English)	San Bernardino, CA			
9/10/2026	Women's Cursillo (Spanish)	Stockton, CA			
9/17/2026	Women's 173 (Spanish)	Santa Fe de la Vera Cruz, Argentina			
9/17/2026	Men's 24 (Spanish) S	eatlle, WA			
9/17/2026	Women's Cursillo (English)	Corpus Christi, TX			
9/17/2026	Men's 225 (English)	New York, NY			
9/17/2026	Women's Cursillo (English)	Bridgeport, CT			
9/17/2026	Women's 86 (Spanish)	Omaha, NE			
9/17/2026	Women's 120 (English)	Memphis, TN			
9/17/2026	Women's 261 (English)	Stockton, CA			
9/17/2026	Women's 57 (Spanish)	Trenton, NJ			
9/17/2026	Women's 255 (Spanish)	San Diego, CA			
9/17/2026	Men's 95 (English)	Allentown, PA			