



**Buffalo Cursillo**

September 2019 Newsletter

Check out our website at <https://www.buffalocursillo.com/> You will find dates and information on Ultreya, Weekends, Reunion mass schedule, Newsletters, Applications, and much more.

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|-----------------------|--|
| School of Leaders     | September 7, 2019, Saturday - 10:00 am to 2:00 pm<br>Christ the King Parish, Main St.at 30 Lamarck Dr, Amherst, NY 14226           |
| Reunion Mass          | September 13, 2019, Friday – 7:30pm hosted by the South Towns Ultreya<br>Place: St. Anthony’s 306 Ingham Ave. Lackawanna, NY 14218 |
| Cursillo Dance        | September 21, Saturday 7 pm to 10 pm. At St. Vincent de Paul gym<br>Open to all. Price –FREE. Music by Jeff Pacer                  |
| Men’s #225            | October 10 -13, 2019   |
| Women’s #226          | November 7 – 10, 2019  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Touch | January 31 – February 2, 2019 Stella Niagara Center of Renewal,<br>Lewiston NY.  |

**Lay Director’s Report:**

Pam & I will be pilgrimaging again to Medjugorje in September. This is a site of present-day ongoing apparitions of Our Blessed Mother Mary. I am happy to bring any of your prayer requests to Jesus’ mother for one of the visionaries to present during their next apparition. Send me an email. Also, I can buy rosaries, scapulars or other sacramentals for anyone who asks. Mary has told the visionaries that she blesses any sacramentals purchased on pilgrimage in Medjugorje. Send me an email by September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Reminder: it is very important to join in the discussion of the new “Step by Step Rectors guide” this Saturday at the School

of Leaders. Please make every effort to attend.

Rainbow Vineyards Ultreya (North towns) has changed their regular gathering dates to the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday and the **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday** of each month. If you are not a regular attendee at Ultreya, please consider joining us again. This ongoing friendship sharing is the essence of Cursillo. It brings us back to that wonderful feeling of closeness to Christ and to one another that we experienced on our weekend. Call me to discuss.

Peace,  
Jerry Casillo  
Lay Director Buffalo Diocese  
Call/Text: 716 803-9952  
Email: miride@aol.com

## Spiritual Director's Reflection:

In this coming Sunday's Gospel -Sept 8<sup>th</sup> - (Luke 14: 25-33), we hear Jesus telling us to: Hate your father; hate your mother; your wife; your children; your sisters and brothers; even hate life itself and oh yes, give up all your possessions. **What a great way to get attention, eh...?**

Here are my Top 5 questions people might ask after reading/hearing our Gospel:

5. Has Jesus forgotten about the fourth commandment and honouring our parents?
4. Didn't Jesus say that we should love our neighbours as ourselves?
3. Has He forgotten that God *is* Love?
2. Where is our *gentle* Jesus - the kind and loving Jesus who smiled out from the pictures in my children's illustrated Bible?

The **#1** Question people want an answer to, is....

***What in the world is going on here?***

Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem while huge crowds were following Him:

- Clamouring for His attention
- Pleading for His healing touch
- Anxiously awaiting His next miracle
- And pledging to follow Him wherever He was going - hoping against hope, that He could save them from all their problems.

Only Jesus knows that He is on His way to Jerusalem; headed straight for the cross and the horror that lies ahead.

Jesus appears to be their Saviour and they may want to follow Him to the ends of the earth - but Jesus knows exactly what following Him will mean.

He's asking the crowds to think carefully before they follow Him any further. He's clueing the crowd in with the statements we just heard. But is Jesus really asking His followers **to hate**?

We define the word "**hate**" as "intense hostility and aversion; distaste coupled with sustained ill will".

So, logically, that just can't be what Jesus is requiring for discipleship...

The Hebrew word – "**sane**" (*saw-nay*) to "hate" someone doesn't mean **deep and unconditionally despising** - like our interpretation.

"To hate" is a Semitic expression which literally means, "**to love less, or detach oneself from.**"

Here, Jesus is **warning** the crowd that following Him means that everything on earth, even love of family, must be secondary to our love of God.

Jesus is being patently honest - His words are intentionally designed to shock the crowds into a true understanding of the **real cost** of following Him.

So, without this deeper understanding of His message, His provocative words **provoke** us; these shocking words **shock** us and they **confuse** us.

Jesus lays out three "**tripwires**" for discipleship:

- Attachment to family
- The difficult consequences of discipleship – carrying one's cross
- And attachment to possessions

If someone cannot detach from family or possessions or cannot live out the consequences of the Christian life, a realistic Jesus says that person "is **not** able to be my disciple".

Attachment to family came first.

Jesus isn't condemning society or the clan system that framed it.

He simply used a Semitic linguistic idiom of extreme language to emphatically make His point.

When He said "hate," Jesus was not talking about emotional revulsion. He was referring our having the **ability to put God**

*first* before relationships or self-interest. Without such detachment, we could never have the ability to truly follow Jesus.

Next, Jesus spoke of carrying one's cross. We modern-day people *reduce* the meaning of this phrase to our coping with *personal* struggles.

For early Christians and so many across our world even today, this phrase had/has a far more *literal* meaning. Just as Jesus went to the cross, His followers have also tasted suffering and death for their devotion to the Lord.

Thirdly, Jesus turned again to the notion of attachment.

In the end, discipleship requires us to "*detach*" or *put aside* both *possessions* of the *heart* i.e., one's relationships and possessions of the earth - *always putting God first*.

Discipleship not only means to follow Jesus through *detachment* and *carrying* our "*crosses*", but it also entails *revealing* the crucified and Risen Christ to others. Moreover, *through* our struggles and the consequences of faith, *Christ is present - to us and to those around us*.

***When we put God first, we open the door for Him to touch people around us in ways unimaginable as He works through us!***

Just think of the many ways Jesus touches us through others...

So, before we hold onto people, things, or causes too closely, let us always ask God to guide the priority we give them, and always put our relationship with God first.

Peace and all good things!  
Deacon Greg Moran  
Spiritual Advisor—Diocese of Buffalo

Cursillo Movement  
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Email: [deacongregmoran@gmail.com](mailto:deacongregmoran@gmail.com)

## Pre Cursillo Report:

Marge and I have begun to see how many men are interested in attending. We have a handful of new applications. If God is talking to you to invite someone, please respond to His nudge.

As stated in previous newsletters, we would like to train individuals to take over our job in the Spring or Fall of 2020.

You are welcome to shadow what we do before you commit. Please pray – this could be your ministry.

God bless,

Diane-380-0187 and Marge-698-5828  
Email: [bfloprekursillo@gmail.com](mailto:bfloprekursillo@gmail.com)

## Cursillo Section

Wow did that summer go by fast. Can't believe it is already September. Here is the news from the Cursillo Section. The men's team selectors are 90 percent of the way to a full men's team and the women selectors have begun their work on the formation of a women's team. If you receive a call from the women's or men's selectors please pray and consider saying yes to their request.

Joan and I are excited to begin our preparations for the fall weekends. In anticipation of that our first Cursillo Section meeting is this Sept. 10, 2019. Please keep the Section and Joan and I in your prayers as we go about the business of making a friend, being a friend and bring that friend to Christ.

DeColores,  
Mary Ann and Joan

Joan Conklin and Mary Ann DeMaria  
Section Team Co- Coordinators  
Call/Text: Joan at 716- 480-2964  
Or Mary Ann at 716 512-4765  
Email: Joan [dnjconklin5303@gmail.com](mailto:dnjconklin5303@gmail.com)  
Mary Ann [mdemaria@roadrunner.com](mailto:mdemaria@roadrunner.com)

### Post Cursillo:

#### **ULTREYA SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER**

Click here to view: [September Ultreya](#).

#### **SECOND TOUCH 2020**

It's that time again to mark your calendars for the annual Second Touch (more than a retreat) weekend for all Cursillistas.

The Date is January 31 to February 2, 2020 at Stella Niagara Center of Renewal, Lewiston NY.

All Cursillistas are invited to attend. This weekend is a very special time for all of us, a time for prayer and community building, for sharing, making new friends and reconnecting with old friends. These weekends help us to continue our understanding of Cursillo.

This year we are continuing the “**LIVING THE CHARISM SERIES**” with “**Cursillo a living Christian experience with others. The beginning - Thursday Night.**”

The weekend starts on Friday night January 31 at 7PM and finishes on Sunday afternoon February 2nd about 1PM. To come for the whole weekend and stay at the center overnight the cost is \$160. To commute is \$85. To stay all day Saturday \$55. For Dinner and Ultreya on Saturday \$25.

To Sign up or for more information call Carol Palesh 716-694-0942 or E- Mail [grannypalesh@verizon.net](mailto:grannypalesh@verizon.net)

Looking to form a **permanent group** or add members to your existing group?

Email Jerry at [BuffaloCursillo@gmail.com](mailto:BuffaloCursillo@gmail.com).

#### **Contact Info:**

Mike Cucinotta 310-2861  
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#### **School of Leaders:**

The next step in examining the Step by Step weekend will be Saturday, Sept. 7 from 10:00 to 2:00 at Christ the King Church, Main Street. Lunch will be served. It is important for everyone involved in the planning and execution of Cursillo weekends to be as informed as possible about the Step by Step.

Come and bring a friend.  
Bill Gross  
Email: [wfgross45@gmail.com](mailto:wfgross45@gmail.com)

#### **Secretary:**

May the gift of peace be with you.

Mary Bitka  
Call/Text: 716-984-0664  
Email: [marybitka@gmail.com](mailto:marybitka@gmail.com)

#### **Prayer Request:**

Please keep the following people in your prayers and Palanca along with all Cursillistas who are ill or suffering:

Karen Stack Koneski  
Mike Ryan  
Timothy McCann  
Mike McCarthy  
Alice's daughter-in-law, Laura  
Bill Gross  
JoanRoberts  
Helga Pollak  
Mary Flanagan  
Joe Insana  
Dell Leaderstorf  
Bill Heidle  
Corinne Giermek  
Larry Lomanto  
Ryan Stack  
Dcn Joe Barr  
Jim Youngers  
Tim Heidle  
Nan  
Owen Mangan  
Gary Hall  
Michael Volk  
Michael Ryan  
Kathy O'Keefe  
Denise Bressette  
Lynn Johnson  
Diane Coughlin  
Deacon Dan McGuire  
Bishop Malone  
Gary Banas  
Father Jim Walter  
John Agugliaro  
Marcia Moretti  
Amelia and Kent  
Cheryl Besant  
Quinn children  
newborn Marylynn Joanne  
Toni Sessamen  
Mary Mercurio  
Father Sam Venne  
Elaine Stack  
Marie Sorrentino  
Frank Gallagher  
Pat Abraham  
Vinnie Barone  
Linda Orszulak  
Eva Tamoga  
Ellie Wieleba  
Lou and Liz Pauley  
Lorrie Dickerson

baby Finleigh  
Doug Shrout  
Dan Graesser  
Leo Reiter  
Jeannette Shields daughter in law

Notify Casillo of any names to add or remove from the prayer list.

### Cursillo Name Tags or Shirts

Contact Mike Szematowicz;  
Call/Text: 812 0633  
Email: [szematm@gmail.com](mailto:szematm@gmail.com)  
List shirt size, color preference, weekend #. Mike will provide price and address where to send the check.