



# Fourth Day

March 2021

**May the light of the risen Christ be with you today and throughout the Easter Season!**

## Let Them Say No; Plant the Seed

Recently, I was in conversation with Mike Albanese about new people coming to Ultreya who had not made a weekend yet. He was frustrated because he had asked some of these people previously to come into Cursillo and to experience Ultreya, and in his words, “said no and ran from me.” I had to remind Mike that he planted a seed, and now that seed is taking root.

As I reflected on our conversation, I was struck about how many times, since June of 2020 I have told people- “Give people the opportunity to say no.”

As we are called to make friendships and walk with people on their faith journey, and we will be called to ask them to do various things, whether it is in ministry at the parish or even a Cursillo weekend. This is where the Holy Spirit works in, through and with us. We might be the ones planting the seed of opportunity for the ones we are talking to, however sometimes we do not get to the harvest from the seeds that we plant.

This is why our tripod is so important when we are praying about bringing people into Cursillo. We have to get to know

the people we are inviting to Cursillo, study them and the environment in which they are living. We have to take their names to prayer and ask the Holy Spirit how we can assist them on their faith journey. This is the tricky part, we have to be willing to hear the no when we ask them to come into a closer relationship with Jesus.

That no that you receive plants a seed of hope in that person. Your invitation to Cursillo or to ministry in the parish is that glimmer of light, that light of Christ, that sometimes we all are blind to. And as such, we have to be willing to ask the questions, give out the invitation, and be able to accept the no when it come out.

As we continue to be the Light of Christ in a very dark time, shine bright and keep on accepting no for an answer. Ultreya!

~ Julie Fleckenstein

Pittsburgh Cursillo Lay Director



### School of Leaders

“One is not a leader because they attend the School of Leaders; One is in the school because they are a leader of Christianity.”

As we heard on our weekend during the Leaders talk, Christ calls us all to be leaders and to spread the Gospel message of love. We gather at the School to learn and share how to grow as leaders in our environment. Presently we are studying the Cursillo Leaders Manual.

Come join us on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm (via Zoom during the pandemic) to learn and share about our movement. Check out the chapters that

will be discussed on the email blasts.

Also, on April 21, we will begin a study on specific areas of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

With the many challenges we face as Catholics today from our culture, we will review the church teachings on issues such as marriage, abortion, gender and sexuality.

Come and learn. Come and share. Enhance your Study to be the “yeast” in your environment. Zoom sign on code is 84587976330.

Allen Dworakowski – School of Leaders Chairperson



### Scheduled Holy Hours

**For the upcoming Men’s Weekend  
Wed., April 7  
7:00 pm**

**at St. Patrick Church  
317 W. Pike St.  
Canonsburg, PA 15317**

**For the upcoming Women’s Weekend  
Wed., April 14  
7:00PM**

**at St. Catherine Church  
199 McGovern Blvd  
Crescent, PA 15046**

# GATHERING AT THE CROSS OF HOPE

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As our country and the world begin to get a grasp, and a little control, on the COVID-19 virus, we begin to see signs of hope in our lives. This is



good as it means that we will have more opportunities to tell people of the hope we have in the cross of Jesus Christ! Yes, soon we will no longer have “social distancing” as an excuse for not evangelizing the people in

our square meter, our lives. And we’ll have greater opportunities to show how our faith has continued to strengthen us over the past year.

Nearing Holy Week and the most sacred of times for our Catholic faith, the cross stands before us as a sign of hope. Now this hope can be seen as the way we are brought to the redemption won for us through His passion, death, resurrection and ascension.

But sometimes we take this to morbid extremes and forget the joy that it brings, the life God wants us to have and live and share. So I am always mindful of the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross celebrated in September even as I live Holy Week and Good Friday.

I bring this to your attention so that your evangelization efforts are joyful encounters shared with those who have a desire, and/or a need, to come to the cross, while removing any trepidation brought by our doubt of worthiness. You see, when our Lord lifts me onto the cross with Him, I often feel His compassion and love extending to the people below. I see, as He allows me to see, the fear in the lives of many who are afraid to take that step to come to the cross, to grasp it. They fail to see that God is calling them as they are, and it is the compassion of God that will bring them to a wholeness rooted in love.

Too many fail to understand that the compassion and love of our God is greater than what we experience in our humanity set on an “eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth”

mentality (see Ex 21:24; Mt 5:38). This is where we need to show others the God of love and forgiveness, of life and hope and not a god of retribution and punishment. Our Lord went to the cross for our freedom from sin as well as the pain of guilt sin brings with it.

So as the world begins to open up again, the eyes of many will be on getting back to earthly behaviors and activities. We can pray that they have also realized that the fullness of God’s mercy has been with them, and they have realized that a change in their lives is needed. The gift you and I are called to offer now is a joyful reunion with others and our Lord at the cross of hope and fulfillment.

If we have come to the cross with a sense of joy in our Lord’s victory over sin and death, we need to offer it to others. The victory of Christ is with us 24/7/365. Don’t wait until Easter. It needs to be known every day.

Love and prayers,  
Fr. Tom Galvin  
Pittsburgh Cursillo Spiritual Advisor

## SPONSORING CANDIDATES: PART THREE

Last spring we talked of the importance of praying before sponsoring or approaching a person about making a Cursillo weekend. In the fall we looked inward to study ourselves to see if we are living the Gospel so that others can see Christ in you by your actions in all aspects in your life. So, we have covered piety and study. Does that mean we are now ready for action?

No, not yet. Next, we have to study our environment. (But keep doing the previous piety and study.)

We need to look for the natural leaders

in our environments. Leaders are those who have influence in their environment because they make decisions, their opinions are heard, and they attract people. Look for people who can lead, but be aware that the most popular or the most outspoken person may not be a good leader. Some of the best leaders are known to be on the quiet side. For instance, my husband seldom talks first or the longest when he is in a group. His thoughts, though, are deep and intense. When he does talk, people listen because he is a man of few words, but the words are meaningful and

deliberate. He is definitely a leader. If you were looking for an outspoken person or the most popular person as leaders, you would overlook a person like my husband.

Look for leaders. But most importantly, ask God for guidance. Ask God to show you the leaders. Once you find the leaders, pray.

Eileen Schmura—Pre Cursillo

### PITTSBURGH CURSILLO SECRETARIAT

Lay Director	Julie Fleckenstein	jkfleckenstein@gmail.com	215-272-3331
Secretary	Janet Cushma	janetcushma@gmail.com	412-523-4057
School of Leaders	Allen Dworakowski	allendworakowski@gmail.com	724-252-9901
Pre-Cursillo	Eileen Schmura	teschmura@comcast.net	412-427-2206
Cursillo	Wayne Fleckenstein	fleckenstein@verizon.net	412-427-6148
Post-Cursillo	Mike Albanese	mikea2002@hotmail.com	724-462-5276
Physical Arrangements	Jim Haefner	jimhaefner@gmail.com	724-321-3723
Treasurer	Peg Lias	plias1@yahoo.com	412-915-2593
Communications			
Data Base	Wayne Fleckenstein	fleckenstein@verizon.net	412-427-6148
Emails/Prayer Chain	Patty Joyce	pattyj7@comcast.net	412-831-1835
Newsletter & Bulk Mailings	Star Haefner	starhaefner@gmail.com	724-504-3952
Facebook	Julie Fleckenstein	jkfleckenstein@gmail.com	215-272-3331
Technology	<b>Open</b> (for live transmission of Leaders School, etc.)		
Webpage	Clyde Werger	cawerger@gmail.com	412-486-5702
Calendar	Wayne Houston	waynekayh@yahoo.com	412-520-6681
Diocesan Spiritual Advisor	Fr. Tom Galvin	tgalvin@diopitt.org	724-745-6560



Please pray for these  
Cursillistas  
who have recently died.  
May they rest in the arms of our  
Lord in His eternal kingdom.

JAN HELD



### SPRING WEEKEND CLOSINGS

**PARKING:** For those planning to attend the closing of our upcoming Men's and Women's weekends, please carpool if possible. Parking is limited. Cars can park along one side of the driveway adjacent to the Ark and the Dove (yellow brick ranch house) as long as the Sisters who live there can get in and out. There is a parking area on Babcock Blvd. -- to the right if looking at the Ark & Dove. Please stay off the grass since the ground will be soft.

**SILENCE IS NEEDED** when entering the building as the sound from the entrance and foyer carries right up to the chapel where Mass will be taking place. Cursillistas will be at the entrance directing where you are to go. If the weather is warm, you may choose to remain outside.



**BREAK-INS are scheduled for 4:30PM.**



10745 Babcock Blvd  
Gibsonia, PA 15044

## The Importance of Attending the Fourth Day Welcome and Beyond

*“Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”* (Hebrews 10:24-25 RSVCE)

It seems that we are all busy and even when we are in lockdown that we can busy ourselves with technology, projects or get lost in a book, but we are called to community. Nicole and I have been noticing more and more people in our environments seeking community (The pandemic has created new opportunities in our environments for each of us to make-a friend, be-a-friend, and bring that friend to Christ, but I will save that topic for another arti-

cle).

In Cursillo, we learn that no one can do everything, but when we come together we can each do our part. Attending Ultreyas, closings, fourth day welcomes, Holy hours, and even picnics allows us to be a beautiful shining piece of glass in a mosaic. Each of us can bring a piece of Christ together when we come into community. I personally remember the joy that attending the Fourth Day welcome brought to my heart after making my Cursillo #193.

The Cursillo weekend concludes with the Total Security Rollo. The talk brings together our encounter with each other and that we are there for one another. It would

be unthinkable to bring someone to a Cursillo, and leave the person without the means to live what they heard throughout the weekend. This is where each of us are called to do our part in the community. I am asking you to pray about the opportunity of attending the Fourth Day Welcome to welcome our new brothers and sisters into community. This is an opportunity to meet the new Cursillistas, build community and welcome them on their fourth day. The Fourth day will be held on May 2, 2:00 – 4:00 PM. Location will be announced.

Mike Albanese—Post Cursillo

### Palanca Answers to FAQ's

With weekends scheduled for next month, emails and announcements at Ultreyas will be requesting Palanca for the candidates and teams. Let's review the answers to frequently asked questions on Palanca.

#### **What is Palanca?**

*Palanca is the actual prayers, sacrifices and works of mercy offered for the participants of a particular Cursillo function, such as a weekend, an Encounter, a witness talk, for the diocesan or worldwide movement.*

#### **Who does Palanca?**

Palanca can be offered by any Cursillista.

#### **When is Palanca offered?**

Palanca is ongoing for the movement as a whole. In addition, special intentions can

be made for special reasons, such as weekends, witness speakers, candidates etc.

#### **What is the difference between general and personal Palanca?**

General Palanca is a single letter written to all the participants. Personal Palanca are letters written to particular candidates, usually by sponsors, close friends, and family members.

#### **What is NOT Palanca?**

A Palanca letter is one that is sent to the candidates and team informing them of the prayers and sacrifices that one is offering...” Nor is Palanca gifts, little pins, holy cards, tracts etc.

~ Mary K. Fleckenstein

**If you are interested in working the fall weekend or beyond, please contact Wayne Fleckenstein at 412-678-1723 or email him at [Fleckenstein@verizon.net](mailto:Fleckenstein@verizon.net).**

### PITTSBURGH CURSILLO CALENDAR

*Unless otherwise marked all activities are held at St. Patrick Center, Canonsburg, beginning at 7:00PM*

**Wed., Apr. 7** - Holy Hour for Men's Weekend #211

**Thur.-Sun., Apr. 8-11**—Men's Weekend at the Ark and the Dove

**Wed., Apr. 14,** - Holy Hour for Women's Weekend #212 at St. Catherine, in Crescent, PA 15046

**Thur.-Sun., Apr. 15-18** - Women's Weekend at the Ark and the Dove

**Wed., Apr. 21,** - School of Leaders

**Wed., Apr. 28** - Secretariat

**Sun., May 2** -2:00-4:00 Fourth Day Welcome; location TBA

**Wed., May 5** - School of Leaders

**Wed., May 19**—School of Leaders

**Wed., May 26** - Secretariat

**Wed., June 2** - School of Leaders

**Wed., June 16** - School of Leaders

**Wed., June 30** - Secretariat

PITTSBURGH CURSILLO MOVEMENT  
203 Maplehurst Drive  
Aliquippa, PA. 15001

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PITTSBURGH, PA.  
PERMIT NO. 224

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*Where Friends Share God, Faith & Fellowship*

**PITTSBURGH ULTREYAS**

**ALLEGHENY VALLEY**

**Group Reunion**  
Meet at Our Lady of Victory  
Parish, Harwick  
Mass  
2nd Tuesday after 12:00PM

**BEAVER VALLEY**

Joe & Gwen Butts  
3001 Floral Drive  
Aliquippa, PA 15001  
412-779-3194 (Joe)

[gbutts04@aol.com](mailto:gbutts04@aol.com)

[joebutts@novaachem.com](mailto:joebutts@novaachem.com)

Meet at St. Johns  
Pastoral Center  
1501 Virginia Ave  
Monaca, PA 15061

Also on Zoom  
1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7:00PM

**BUTLER**

Ron & Ina Kocian  
682 Cherry Road  
Chicora, PA 16025  
724-445-3326  
[inaron@penn.com](mailto:inaron@penn.com)  
Meet at St. Peter Parish  
Butler  
4th Monday at 7:30PM

**CITY NORTH**

Bob Corcoran  
260 Martsolf Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15229  
412-931-4928  
[corcoran@leidus.com](mailto:corcoran@leidus.com)  
Meet at JMJ Center at  
Sisters of Holy Family  
of Nazareth  
201 Nazareth Way, Pgh 15229  
3rd Monday 7:00PM

**SOUTH CENTRAL**

Mary Fleckenstein  
2313 Banker St.  
McKeesport, PA 15132  
412-678-1723  
[mktieck@hotmail.com](mailto:mktieck@hotmail.com)  
Meet at Corpus Christi Parish  
Rectory Meeting Room  
2515 Versailles Ave.  
McKeesport  
2nd & 4th Thursday at 7:30

**SOUTH HILLS**

Kay Houston  
4920 Brightwood Rd. Apt C509  
Bethel Park, PA 15102  
412-965-5261  
[katyann41@gmail.com](mailto:katyann41@gmail.com)  
Meet at St. Thomas More  
Parish (Rooney Room)  
(across from South Hills  
Village)  
2nd & 4th Monday at 7:30PM

*Virtual at this time.*

**SOUTHWEST BUTLER**

Joe & Lisa Fix  
4336 Glen Eden Rd.  
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066  
724-553-1264 (Joe)  
724-553-0137 (Lisa)  
[JLVfix@verizon.net](mailto:JLVfix@verizon.net)  
Meeting at St. Ferdinand  
Parish  
(Upper Room of Parish Center)  
Cranberry Township  
2nd Monday at 7:00PM  
One Week later if Holy Day

**TRES RIOS**

Jack Patnik  
2751 Race St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235  
412-793-0476  
[jppatnik@gmail.com](mailto:jppatnik@gmail.com)  
Meeting at St. Bernadette  
Parish Office  
Monroeville  
4th Tuesday at 2:00PM

**YOUNG ADULTS**

Julie Fleckenstein  
264 Seneca St.  
Turtle Creek, PA 15145  
215-272-3331  
[kfleckenstein@gmail.com](mailto:kfleckenstein@gmail.com)  
Location currently varies.  
First Friday of each month.  
Always call for details.

**WASHINGTON CO.**

Leda Miller  
247 Reco Ave.  
Houston, PA 15044  
724-745-7744  
[lgmiller711@gmail.com](mailto:lgmiller711@gmail.com)  
Meeting at St. Patrick  
Parish Center  
317 W. Pike St., Canonsburg  
2nd Tuesday at 7:00PM