

The 4th Day Journey

Erie Diocesan Cursillo Newsletter

February 2018

2018 Cursillo Dates

The Dates for Cursillo in 2018 are:

Men's #244 April 19-22 at OLM, Harborcreek
Women's #251 May 17-20, at OLM, Harborcreek
Men's #245 June 21-24, at Elk County Catholic, St. Marys
Women's #252 July 19-22 at Kennedy Catholic, Hermitage
Men's #246 August 16-19 at St. Philip, Linesville
Women's # 253 October 18-21 at OLM, Harborcreek
Men's #247 November 15-18 at OLM, Harborcreek

Ultreyas

Upcoming Ultreyas will occur at the following locations and times:

Erie County: March 2, 2018 at St. Andrew Church, Erie 7:00 p.m.

April 6, 2018 at St. Andrew Church, Erie 7:00 p.m.

Crawford County: No March Ultreya (see up coming events for March activities)

April 13, 2018 at St. Hippolyte, Frenchtown 7:00 p.m.

Elk/Cameron County: April 26, 2018 at Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Department

If you know of someone who has passed away, someone who is ill or serving in the military, please notify the office so their names can be placed on the prayer list.

Our recently deceased:

Our deepest sympathy and prayers go out to the loved ones and friends Fred Keck, Dennis Jacobson, Nancy Rupp, Mary Blakeslee, Jim Lieb, Renee Calabrese, Judy Kaliszewski, Mary McArw and all those of whom we are unaware.

Our sick and recovering

Best wishes for a quick recovery Linda Tolhurst, Cyndi Aiello, Tom Straub, Ed Sznajder, Tom Zielinski, Rich Allenbaugh, Dave Reichert and Daryl Cruz's daughter Annie Smardz and all those of whom we are unaware of their illness.

Our troops and military

To, SMSgt Darin Beckes, Fire Chief, Sra. Michael J. Brown II, Msgt Joshua T. Brown, Joey Garvey, Matthew Gredler, Military Specialist Evan S. Hornick, TSGT Mitchell Smardz, Pvt 1st Class Nathaniel Staff, Stefan Treacle, and all those of whom we may be unaware - Thank you for your service.

Our Religious

As always, keep our seminarians, women and men religious candidates, as well as our deacon candidates and their wives in your prayers.



Upcoming Events

1. **SECRETARIAT:** We will hold our bi-annual Secretariat Meeting on February 24th, 2018 at 9 a.m. at *** St. Mark Center (429 E. Grandview Blvd.) PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION AS ST. ANDREWS WAS NOT AVAILABLE! EVERYONE is welcome to attend. Please RSVP by February 20th so once again we can plan food. If you have an item, you would like discussed or a report due please have it to me no later than February 16th so that I can have everything printed and ready to go for the meeting. Thanks in advance and Hope to see you there!!!
2. **CURSILLO CHOIR EVENTS:** **Our 1st** event will be on February 24, 2017 at Blessed Sacrament (1626 West 26th Street, Erie, Pa 16508). Practice will be at 3 p.m. and Mass will begin at 4 p.m. There will be fellowship afterwards with food provided. You are asked to bring a dessert.
The 2nd Choir event will be March 10, 2018 at St. James (2634 Buffalo Road, Erie, Pa 16510) with practice at 4 p.m. and Mass at 5 p.m. There will be fellowship after Mass with food provided. You are again asked to just bring a dessert.
3. **Tureen Dinner Rescheduled:** We were disappointed that the weather caused cancelation of our Tureen dinner, but safety comes first! We have set a NEW DATE March 9, 2018. It will still begin at 6 p.m. and will be held at Our Lady of Mercy (837 Bartlett Road, Harborcreek, Pa 16421) Yes, we know it is lent so our Menu will be different. Tomato Soup, Grilled Cheese and Fish. We are asking that you still bring sides and desserts! There is no cost (just bring the dish to share) and everyone is welcome! (there will be some activities for children also!)
4. **LETTER WRITING EVENT:** March 11, 2018 2-5 p.m. at St. Brigid (383 Arch St. Meadville, Pa 16335) Bring the names and addresses of potential Cursillo candidates and we will provide writing materials, envelopes, and stamps! Hope to see you there!!!
5. **Winter Family Turkey Dinner:** Saturday February 17, 2018 after 5 p.m. mass at St. Marys (315 Church St. St. Marys, Pa 15857) You are invited to join us for 5 p.m. Mass and the dinner will follow. *Guest Speaker is Nate Nicklas.* The main meal is provided free of charge (Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing, and Bread) Please bring a side to share: Veggie-St. Leo & St. Boniface, Desserts – Sacred Heart & Queen of the World, Drinks- Holy Rosary, St. Callistas, St. Marys, & No Parish, Salads – St. Marks, St. Joseph. Their will be a Good Shepard Program for those ages 3-8 and a movie for 9 and above. Please RSVP to elkcameroncursillo@gmail.com by email or text 814-512-5121.
6. The Past Presidents of the **Erie Diocesan Cursillo Movement** proudly announce the **23rd Annual K.I.S.S. Dance** to be held on Saturday, APRIL 28, 2017 from 7:00pm—11:00pm in Scheffner Hall at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, 1531 East Grandview Blvd., Erie. Access to the OLMC Faith Formation Center is gained on the North Side of the complex where the walkway is marked with a "Parish Office" sign. The cost will remain \$7.00 per person in advance or \$10.00 per person at the door. Tickets will not be printed but you may reserve admission at the advance sale price by emailing TimWWJD@AOL.com or texting/calling 814.566.6435. This is a B.Y.O.B. event with Beer, Pop, & Snacks provided. "D.J. Dean" Balkovic will once again provide the soundtrack for this most enjoyable evening. ***One need not have made a Cursillo weekend to attend the event so invite your family and friends to join us.*** After hosting all 22 dances from 1996 to 2017, Holy Rosary is unable to welcome us in 2018 as they have "winterized" their Faith Formation Center to reduce expenses, moving all Parish activities to the campus of their partner Parish, St John the Baptist. Given the level of parishioner and pastoral support from 1996 to 2017, the proceeds of the 2018 event will be shared with Holy Rosary Church.

Happy Moments:

1. We would like to offer a special congratulation to Mark and Ellen McNerney for celebrating 50 years of marriage. May God continue to bless you!
2. If you know of Happy events like special wedding anniversaries (25, 30, 40, 50) Weddings, or Births please feel free to notify us here at the office we would love to send out Best Wishes and God's Blessing to them in this Newsletter.

In Memory:

1. Dorothy Gianoni donated in Memory of Dorthy George. Gennaro and Cyndi Aiello donated in Memory of Judy Kaliszewski. Please know that your generosity in their Memory is appreciated and will go towards helping other come to Christ through Cursillo!

Heard at the Closings

Men's 243

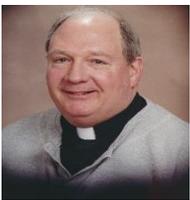
1. "Best experience of my life!"
2. "The best thing is to slow down, listen to God, take the time to listen and be ready."
3. "Now I have a greater understanding of God."
4. "God and Jesus bring out my inner glitter!"
5. "God is always there for us. Even though I turn my back he is always there for me. So glad I came, it changed the way I look at everything!"
6. "I have a wonderful life, but something was missing. I found it here and it has changed my life."
7. "This was a long time coming. I avoided it for a long time. I had baggage in my heart. This was a true blessing, it was everything I needed and everything I didn't know I needed."
8. "A wonderful experience."



Women's 250

1. "I am not active yet, I was in a dark place but now I am ready to take the world on."
2. "There is so much love here. My faith has been renewed and deepened."
3. "I had a come to Jesus moment and realized life is not about achievements it's about building relationships with people."
4. "When I was here and saw all the love, it showed me how much people mean. It showed me unconditional love and family."
5. "I am more aware of His work that needs to be done and I am to be the messenger and am ready to do His work."
6. "Now I know where I am supposed to be."
7. "I was able to get back into the God and Jesus mode. I learned God is present all the time not just during the highs and lows and it is important to know His presence."
8. "This was a life changing event for me."

Fr. Dan's Comments:



Confession of a Catholic Late Bloomer

While I was on vacation recently visiting my friends Jerry and Kelly on the Caribbean island of Montserrat, Kelly, a passionate and capable woman, asked what I thought about Colin Kaepernick, a currently unemployed NFL quarterback, and his protesting what he views as racial injustice in the United States. He would not stand while our national anthem was being played before the start of football games. I expressed my dismay that he would use his notoriety as a very public figure to protest, and in a sense bite the hand that

feeds him. Kelly shot back immediately saying that I needed to see a bigger picture, or as she put it, I needed a “larger sample.” Kelly is incisive and well thought out. I knew that it was time for me to listen to my friend and abandon my instinct to “clarify my position” on the topic. So, I listened and pondered.

Part of my “larger sample” included thinking of Rosa Parks, sometimes referred to as “the mother of the freedom movement” and “the first lady of civil rights.” On December 1, 1955, she refused to surrender her seat on bus #2857 in Montgomery, Alabama to a white passenger. She was arrested for breaking the law that made segregation legal then. Today, the possibility of encoded racism must be named evil and not just illegal. Even so, it is my experience and my confession that it is still too invisible. Colin Kaepernick’s protest is that racism is still alive. Where it is invisible the blind live. Where it continues in the experience of its victims, it is painfully visible.

Rosa Parks was born February 4, 1913 and Colin Kaepernick, November 3, 1987. In the intervening seventy-four years, racism has become illegal but the blurred vision of it has not been successfully corrected. Culture is a ship that changes course only with grave difficulty.

The word “catholic,” when used as an adjective, means universal, inclusive and all embracing. Catholic, when used as a noun, denotes the group of Christian faithful who are in continuity with the original universal church founded by the Apostles. The temptation for Catholics is to become so comfortable with this brand of belief system that we stop thinking of the wider meaning of the term as universal, inclusive and all embracing. I can be comfortable as a noun, but being an adjective is outside my comfort zone, not a part of a larger sample. I guess part of my discomfort with Colin Kaepernick is that I was comfortable as a noun (Catholic) but not so much as an adjective (catholic). As a Catholic, Kelly and Colin and Rosa call me to a more catholic view, to have a larger sample, to have a wider perspective. Or as Jesus asked, “Do you have eyes and not see, ears and not hear? And do you not remember, when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many wicker baskets full of fragments you picked up?” (Mark 8: 18-19)

I know that God is patient with late bloomers, but not with those who have eyes yet will not see. So, I choose to see albeit as a late bloomer, as a catholic Catholic.

Lord, have mercy.

Fr. Dan Arnold

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