



To all Erie Diocese Cursillistas:

It is with a heavy, yet joy filled, heart that I am sharing the following information with you.

"Scripture tells us the only Guide worth trusting is the Holy Spirit. He's the One who knows our past completely, from the moment we were conceived, to the present, and who also knows our futures, from this day to eternity. He knows God's plan and purpose for us today and for each day of our lives. He also knows what is good and right for us."

Once again, change is taking place within the movement that will impact us.

1. As of April 23, 2024, our office manager/administrative assistant is moving on to other employment pursuits. Vicky has served us well over the past few years and has submitted her resignation. She has been my right-hand person in many ways as she maintained the office in an efficient and professional manner. As a result of the decrease in her hours due to the reduced funding support from our donors, she is no longer able to rely on the hours we can provide. Please keep Vicky and her family in your prayers as she deals with the changes in her life and routine.
2. I am also leaving my position as Spiritual Director for the Diocese Cursillo Movement.

In a letter from Bishop Persico to Deacon Tom McAraw:

As a result of the increased time constraints and responsibilities involved in your position as Director of Deacons, especially with the reinstatement of the Diaconal Formation Program, I am concluding your special ministry assignment as Spiritual Director of the Erie Diocesan Cursillo Movement. This change in assignment will take effect on April 23, 2024. You will continue as the Director of Deacons for the Erie Diocese and Deacon Assistant at All Saints Parish in Waterford.

I commend you on your successful leadership of Cursillo over the past four years. Your guidance through the trying times of the pandemic and the current changing landscape of the Erie Diocese has been effective in bringing men and women to Christ so that they can find their place in the community of faith. You have done well to keep the sixty-year tradition of Cursillo alive within the Erie Diocese.

3. Deacon Paul Barko will become the new Spiritual Director of the Erie Diocese Cursillo Movement.

In a letter from Bishop Persico to Deacon Paul Barko:

With this letter, I am pleased to appoint you as Spiritual Director of the Erie Diocesan Cursillo Movement, while continuing as Deacon Assistant at Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek. This appointment is effective April 23, 2024, and continues until April 30, 2028.

You will be replacing Deacon Thomas McAraw in this new role. I am confident that the local Cursillo community and secretariat will welcome you.

I am grateful for your willingness to accept this position. It is my hope that the movement will continue to bring men and women to Christ so that they can find their place in the community of faith.

My brothers and sisters in Christ.

It has been an honor to serve this wonderful movement since November of 2020. As it is stated in our preamble:

“The purpose of Cursillo is to nourish Christian individuals with the knowledge of God's love and grace and to help them discover their personal mission in the world so they may enjoy the fullness of Christian life.

The Cursillo Movement develops an experience of Christian Community in families, neighborhoods, parishes, work situations, and other places where people live their lives. It provides the tools, mentality, strength, and support to live life in a Christ-Like manner. It teaches us how to evangelize as a natural act of being Christ-Like by the example of our daily lives.

Cursillo is an instrument of renewal whereby Christianity can live and grow in today's world. It does not propose a new type of spirituality but teaches and demonstrates a method through which one's spirituality can be strengthened, lived, and shared in all areas of one's environment.”

I believe the true gift is always found in the giving. Pam and I have been blessed by the experiences, the unconditional love and friendship, and the support of so many of you.

That gift means the most to us. You will always be in our prayers.

Tom /Pam



***It was not you who chose me
but I who chose you!***

Deacon Thomas G. McArw

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