

# CURSILLO

The PRISM - A Monthly Insight into the Catholic Cursillo Community of Rochester, NY

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## Spiritual Advisor Wisdom

### Lord, What Do You Want Me To Do?

Sister Dolores Ann Stein, W8, Fairport Ultreya  
Spiritual Advisor

Cursillo has been an important part of my life since my weekend as is my motto engraved in my ring, "Be it done unto me according to your word."

With the danger of COVID, I along with others, have curtailed my going out in public places as a safeguard. This curtailment has given me an opportunity to look back over my life and count the many blessings that God has bestowed upon me. After three years of training and knowing the history of the Congregation, we were ready to pronounce our first vows. However, I wound up in the hospital. As it turned out, I had my appendix out. What I did not expect was to be told that it appeared to the Sister in charge that I did not have a vocation and wanted to go home.

I remember saying to myself, "Lord what do you want me to do?" After prayer, I put the matter in the Lord's hands. Within a day, a Carmelite priest who had given us retreats at the Motherhouse appeared at the front door and asked to see me. I could not believe what was happening. Father shared with me that something told him to stop and see me. He was in Rochester for a retreat at a different facility. We talked for some time and he assured me that I had a vocation. When we finished talking, he left the parlor and asked the sister on switch to see if he could see the Mother General. I don't know what was said, but he met me later and assured me that everything was going to be fine. I did pronounce my first vows with the others. As I reflected back, I realized once again that God walked with me then and continues to walk with me every day of my life. Some days have been easy ones and others have been challenging ones. However, when the day is over, I am confident that God guides me in my decisions and that my plans may not always be what God wants. I believe this is a lesson for all of us. We don't always see the full picture, but if our prayer life is what it is supposed to be, God will let us know which course of action we should take and what course we should avoid.

While in prayer I recalled a suggestion that Father gave us while on retreat. One of his suggestions was to meditate on the Our Father. He suggested that we begin with the last phrase and meditate on the phrases from ending to beginning. He emphasized that when we have put things in order, that is when God works most closely with us. Meditating in this fashion, can be transforming for us. It gives us a clear picture of how we should live our lives. It is a suggestion that you may want to try. DeColores!



*"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you—oracle of the LORD—plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope."*

Jeremiah 29:11



*"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."*

Matthew 7:7

# The Secretariat Page

Notes from October 14, 2021 Meeting:

Unfortunately, the October Secretariat Meeting was canceled due to the sudden illness of our lay director, Mary Liz Bartell. She is home and recovering. Please continue to pray for Mary Liz.

Please pray to ask the Lord if He is calling YOU to serve on Cursillo Secretariat. Several positions are open. The only qualifications are that you have lived a Cursillo weekend and you want to serve the Lord.

## What about these Meetings?

Secretariat Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm. Visitors/Cursillistas are welcome to join the Secretariat meetings. Currently, the meetings are being held virtually. Please contact Allan Stone for the meeting information if you want to join in!



## Who are we?

### Lay Director:

Mary Liz Bartell, (607) 324-0372  
[maryliz@aol.com](mailto:maryliz@aol.com)

### Assistant Lay Director:

*Is the Lord calling YOU?*

### Precursillo Chair: *Is the Lord calling YOU?*

Donna LaDuca, (585) 342-3234  
[donnaprecur12@rochester.rr.com](mailto:donnaprecur12@rochester.rr.com)

### Cursillo Chair: *Is the Lord calling YOU?*

Bob LaDuca, (585) 943-2427  
[laduca8@rochester.rr.com](mailto:laduca8@rochester.rr.com)

### Postcursillo Chair:

Mary Ellen Darling, (315) 521-8771  
[maryellendarling@gmail.com](mailto:maryellendarling@gmail.com)

### School of Leaders:

Sue Lorz, (585) 704-4988  
[suelarry5644@gmail.com](mailto:suelarry5644@gmail.com)

### Secretary: *Is the Lord calling YOU?*

Doreen Gala-Hebert, (585) 236-6049  
[dgalahebert@gmail.com](mailto:dgalahebert@gmail.com)

### Treasurer:

Allan Stone, (585) 269-4640  
[astone@rochester.rr.com](mailto:astone@rochester.rr.com)

Donations make out to Rochester Cursillo  
Mail to Allan Stone, 35 Cindy Lane,  
Rochester, NY 14626

### Spiritual Advisors:

Fr. Mickey McGrath, (585) 325-4041  
[Fr.mickey.mcgrath@dor.org](mailto:Fr.mickey.mcgrath@dor.org)

Dcn. David Paluskiewicz, (585) 281-1390  
[davidpaluskiewicz@gmail.com](mailto:davidpaluskiewicz@gmail.com)

## News from the Secretariat >>>

### The Three Day

Bob LaDuca, M84, Cursillo Chair

I need your HELP! I need people to come forward to train and work the Cursillo Three Day. Three Day has changed a lot since the old days; it is a lot easier to accomplish the duties. Since the new system is not totally in place, I will have to look at it and take control. Since I have done Three Day for so many years, I know all the ins and outs of what is required of Three Day. Once things are set in place, I'm sure everything will run smoothly. I know the Notre Dame facility and staff very well and they are always able to guide me in the right direction to acquire what needs I may have. Also, Walmart and Walgreens are just a short ride from Notre Dame should there be a sudden need. There is time for rest, reading, prayer and just enjoying the view. All-in-all, it is a job that can be demanding at times, but there is also time of much joy with a lot of great people in a great place on a great hillside. Come and join me and you will be pleasantly surprised. Feel free to call me, 585-943-2427, to talk about helping at the upcoming men's weekend, December 9-12, 2021. I pray for you to hear the call and I look forward to seeing you at Notre Dame in December!

DeColores!





# School of Leaders Sharing

## Lectio Divina, Praying with Scripture

Paula Welch, W17, Elmira Ultreya



Lectio Divina is an ancient prayer form practiced by the early desert fathers and mothers. Benedict of Nursia, founder of the Benedictines included Lectio in his rule. It is a way for us to become immersed in the life of Christ. In Lectio we read the scripture passage four times, giving us the opportunity to think deeply about it and respond thoughtfully. It draws us into closer relationship with God by reflecting prayerfully on His words.

What is “Lectio Divina”? Roughly translated lectio divina is divine reading or praying the scriptures. It can be divided into four parts or steps, lectio (read) meditatio (reflect) oratio (respond) and contemplatio (rest).

- Step one, we read a passage from scripture slowly and carefully. We listen intently to God’s word, as if we are Mary of Bethany sitting at Jesus feet.
- Step two, meditation (reflect) We read the same passage again. We let Jesus speak to us and consider what God wants us to learn from the passage.
- Step three oratio (respond) We read the same passage a third time. We now let our hearts speak to God. We may spontaneously pray or ask a question or wonder.
- Step four contemplation (rest) After reading the scripture one more time we sit and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to our hearts in silence.

Lectio divina is a prayer of quiet and contemplation. It should not be rushed through. It is a prayer of listening and opening our hearts to God’s word. To really pray scripture, we should set aside a time and place relatively free from distraction where we can pay attention to God’s word. Take time to enter deeply into a relationship with God: to listen to God’s call to follow Him.

It may be helpful as we begin to pray this way to use a timer after each step. A pause of two or three minutes to begin is a good start. The timer will free our restless minds from wondering how long we have been quiet instead of thinking about the passage. A good source of scripture passages is the Sunday readings. Many of us have “Magnificat”, “Living With Christ” or “Give Us This Day”. Start with this Sunday’s Gospel. DeColores!



## Ask the Three Wisemen (and women) ...

*Ask a wise Cursillista who has been around forever!*

*Send in your questions about Cursillo... anything and everything!*

*Send questions to: [notestobobbi@yahoo.com](mailto:notestobobbi@yahoo.com) Attn: Ask the Cursillo Wisemen*



## What Do I Have to Do to Become a Saint?

Answered by Margi Lash, W11, Geneva-Newark Ultreya

Cursillistas from around the world have initiated the cause of Beatification of **Eduardo Bonnin Aguilo**, founder of the Cursillos in Christianity Movement. This holy and humble man is called a Servant of God and has begun a 4 step journey toward sainthood. Let me explain the 4 steps to becoming a saint.

**Step I: Servant of God** - After a holy man or woman dies, five years must elapse before their cause can be considered. This allows for objectivity and scrutiny ensuring their reputation for sanctity. This five-year waiting period can be waived by the pope. When five years have lapsed, the bishop can officially open the cause, with the approval of the Holy See, and the person is declared a “Servant of God.”

**Step II: Venerable** - The bishop then forms a diocesan tribunal to investigate the life and virtues of the potential saint—or if a martyr, details of the martyrdom. Results of this investigation are sent to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome. If favorable, the Prefect of the Congregation presents the results to the pope, who then declares the person “Venerable.”

**Step III: Blessed** - In order for a Venerable to progress to Blessed, a miracle must be attributed to their intercession. Once this miracle has been rigorously investigated and verified, the pope beatifies the Venerable and grants them limited public veneration, usually just in the diocese or religious order to which they belonged. There is no miracle necessary for the beatification of a martyr.

**Step IV: Saint** - One more miracle is required for canonization, both for martyrs and non-martyrs. With the investigation and verification of this final miracle, the pope is able to canonize the saint, who is granted universal public veneration in the Church.

Eduardo Bonnin Aguilo, please intercede for us!

DeColores!

# Region III Fall Encounter



## Let The Spirit Guide You

**Notre Dame Retreat House, 5151 Foster Rd, Canandaigua, NY**

### **Friday, November 19, 2021**

Arrive after 3pm  
Group Reunion 6pm

Dinner 5pm  
Presentation & Prayer 7pm

### **Saturday, November 20, 2021**

Morning Prayer 7:30am  
Rollo and Discussion 9:00am  
Rollo and Discussion 1:00pm  
Dinner 5:00pm

Breakfast 8:00am  
Lunch 12:00pm  
Mass 4:00pm  
Farewell 6:00pm

\$125.00 Full Participation with Room Friday Night (check room type)  
single with shared bath\_\_\_\_  
double with ensuite bath \_\_\_\_ roommate's name \_\_\_\_\_

\$60.00 Optional Room for Saturday Night with Continental Breakfast\_\_\_\_

\$75 Commuter\_\_\_\_ Zoom\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Diocese\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_ Email\_\_\_\_\_

Any allergies or issues: \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail registration with payment to: Wayne Fleckenstein, Region III Treasurer, 2313 Banker St, McKeesport, PA 15132 Make checks payable to: Region III Cursillo. Kindly register by November 9*

*For information or questions contact Bobbi LaVoie at 585-727-4866 or [notestobobbi@yahoo.com](mailto:notestobobbi@yahoo.com)*

If you cannot join us in person, please join via Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85836067014?pwd=OzFibWNwbHdIREFOk1RaY1pJNkgvOT09>

Meeting ID: 858 3606 7014 Passcode: 465559 Dial +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

# Witness by a Friend of Christ!

Neil Combs, M80  
Hilton Ultreya

Many of you know me, some better than others. For those that don't, welcome to my story. For those that do, I want to share part of my story which I haven't really shared before as a witness. See, I have a life history of forgetting things... important things.. Things that truly affect my life.

In 1997, at the age of 37, I experienced chest pain, or angina, and after I failed a stress test, had a stent put my heart. For a long time I was very careful and worried about how I lived, and I ate better and I exercised. But after living that way for a while, I eventually started to forget. And I stopped living like I was supposed to.

In the early 2000s, just a few years after I actually became Catholic, being confirmed into the church with my two kids, I made my Cursillo weekend, Men's 80. And I was fired up. I had an amazing prayer experience in a chapel visit which brought me to tears, and it really changed my thoughts and understanding of prayer. I came back from the weekend on fire.... but after a couple of years I forgot the fire... I forgot the feeling, and I stopped living like I was supposed to. A little while after that a friend (who I had never met before) called and asked if I'd be interested in joining a Cursillo men's group. I honestly still don't know why, but I said yes, and started grouping on Monday nights (and like 12 years later I'm still grouping!) I did so much research and study on prayer, that I even published a book called, *A Body in Prayer*. That was a far cry from where I had been in my prayer life before... but over time I've begun to forget how important prayer has been to me. Too often I forget to live like I am supposed to live as a Christian.

On July 28th of 2021, I had a full blown heart attack at work. I made it to the hospital, but while they were prepping me to go to the Catheterization lab to get another stent put in, I went into fibrillation, and coded on the table, (meaning I had cardiac arrest and technically died on the table for a few moments.) I obviously survived that day, and came away invigorated... I was feeling like God has more for me to do, need to do, but apparently he had to wake my butt up, to be more attentive.

As I write this witness, I began to think about my history, and how I tend to forget. I think others forget too. The difference is my brothers, the men I group with, don't let me forget. They support me when I struggle, they lift me up when I'm down. They give me the opportunity to be there for them... I am living my life right now like I'm on borrowed time, and I owe a great debt to God forgiving me these extra days that I have had. But I'm also afraid because my history of forgetting. The ongoing challenge for me (and maybe for many of us) is how do I keep from forgetting?? How do I stop NOT living the Christian life like I am supposed to?

As I continue reflecting in my witness, I was struck by the thought of how many people have similar stories of forgetting... forgetting the feeling that they had at Cursillo. People who forgot the importance of grouping and Ultreya. I know we're still in a pandemic, and life is not normal like it was a few years ago. But I look at our Ultreya and I remember when we had 30 and 40 people people at Ultreya. The idea of grouping is to keep people close to their faith, to help them remember the fire they felt at Cursillo. We all know people who have quietly slipped away. People who have ceased to be a part of the Cursillo community. We have an obligation to seek them out, and bring them back into the fold. If someone had not reached out to me about 12 years ago, I guarantee I would not be here. I don't think I would still remember the fire I felt on my weekend. I challenge all of us to reach out to someone they know who has not been an active part of the Cursillo community. Invite them to group... invite them to Ultreya... help them to reignite that fire... As I battle to not let myself forget, let's all try to not let other people forget either...

Thank you to all my brothers (and sisters) who are faithful to Cursillo, and who help me remember!

DeColores!





# Men's 94

## Sponsorship & Palanca

For sponsor info contact Precursillo Chair, Donna LaDuca (585) 342-3234 or [donnaprecur12@rochester.rr.com](mailto:donnaprecur12@rochester.rr.com)

We need candidates. We need to start to enliven Cursillo again as society is slowly recovering from the pandemic. We need Christ in our lives more than ever! Please consider bringing a friend to Christ by sponsoring a candidate for Men's 94, December 9-12 at Notre Dame Retreat House. Applications, as well as, the pink book, "What is It?" and the blue book, "Sponsor's Boolet" are available through Precursillo or your Ultreya coordinator.

Please pray for candidates, pray for the team, pray for Cursillo. Palanca, prayers and sacrifices, for Men's 94 can be shared with [ref150@yahoo.com](mailto:ref150@yahoo.com)

Team:

- Tim Flynn, Rector
- Don Bradt
- Keith Bunker
- Neil Combs
- Joe DiBattisto
- Joe Manioci
- Kevin Spears
- Allan Stone
- Tom Treis
- Fr Mickey McGrath
- Deacon Dennis Lohouse
- Deacon George Welch



**Make a friend,  
Be a friend,  
Bring a friend to Christ.**

## Upcoming Events!

More info on our website [www.rochestercursillo.com](http://www.rochestercursillo.com)

School of Leaders – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the Month at 7:00pm via Zoom.us  
Next meeting is November 18<sup>th</sup>  
For Zoom invite, contact Sue Lorz, (585) 704-4988  
[suelarry5644@gmail.com](mailto:suelarry5644@gmail.com)

Region III Fall Encounter  
Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua  
November 19-20, 2021

Men's #94  
Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua  
December 9-12, 2021

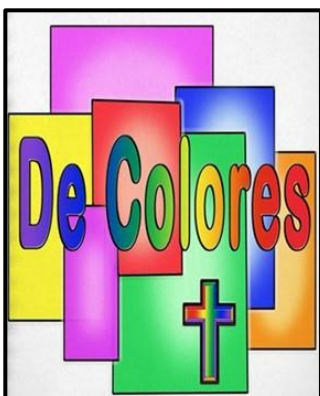
HOLD the date! Second Touch – Buffalo Diocese  
Stella Niagara, February 4-6, 2022  
Bill Gross, 716-821-0175

Women's #89  
Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua  
June 2-5, 2022

HOLD the date! CURSILLO NATIONAL ENCOUNTER  
Chapman University, Orange, CA, July 21-24, 2022

Men's #95  
Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua  
November 10-13, 2022

For information on the PRISM, contact: Bobbi LaVoie at 585-727-4866 or [notestobbi@yahoo.com](mailto:notestobbi@yahoo.com)



*You are Welcome  
to attend any Ultreya!*

**Hilton Area** - Last Saturday (4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>)  
IN PERSON Pot Luck 6:15 pm / 6:45pm  
St. Leo's Church  
Randy Campanaro, (513) 314-2999  
[rayjaycamp@yahoo.com](mailto:rayjaycamp@yahoo.com)

**Caledonia Area** - 1st Saturday  
Virtual Ultreya at 7:00pm  
St. Columba Church Rectory  
Beth Bullen, (585) 538-9406  
[beth.bullen1@gmail.com](mailto:beth.bullen1@gmail.com)

**Elmira Area** - 4th Thursday  
IN PERSON (tbd) /Virtual Ultreya at 7pm  
St. Mary's Church Rectory  
Deacon George & Paula Welch  
(607) 738-3959  
[pwelch@tqcp.com](mailto:pwelch@tqcp.com)

**Hornell Area** - 1st Thursday, 7:00pm  
IN PERSON & Virtual Ultreya at 7:00pm  
Mary Liz Bartell, (607) 324-0372  
[maryliz@aol.com](mailto:maryliz@aol.com)

**Geneva - Newark Area** - 2nd Monday  
Virtual Ultreya at 7:00pm  
Margi Lash, (315) 548-5164  
[lashmb59@gmail.com](mailto:lashmb59@gmail.com)

**Fairport Area** - 2nd Saturday  
IN PERSON & Virtual, Own Meal 5:15pm  
Ultreya 6:00pm  
Kathy Jacobsen, (585) 755-9578  
[kjacobson046@gmail.com](mailto:kjacobsen046@gmail.com)

**Rochester SPANISH** 3rd Saturday  
IN PERSON (tbd) 4:00pm Ultreya&SOL  
St. Michael's Office Building  
Sr. Theresa Ruddy, (585) 325-4041  
[truddy46@yahoo.com](mailto:truddy46@yahoo.com)

*Please contact Ultreya Coordinator for  
an invite with the Zoom info!*

*These Ultreyas are currently not meeting  
due to Covid-19. Pray to reunite soon!*

**Dansville Area** - 2nd Sunday, 11:00am  
Sacred Heart Parish, Kennedy House  
Bonnie Olsen, (585) 335-5971  
[summersky252@aol.com](mailto:summersky252@aol.com)

**Owego Area** - 2nd Sunday, 2:00pm  
St. Patrick's Church  
Jerry & Dodie Ward, (607) 786-0339  
[grr.ward@gmail.com](mailto:grr.ward@gmail.com)