



# Fourth Day

AUGUST, 2024

## THE GLOBALIZATION OF INDIFFERENCE

It's no secret that the various medias have preferences concerning political and global issues. These polarize society and leave many people falsely informed. So when the CBS network pulled off the unexpected interview with Pope Francis, I immediately feared of how it may attempt to slant the conversation, seeing how CEOs would have the final say in the editing. I should have trusted the Holy Spirit and Pope Francis.

A line Pope Francis used during this interview that stuck with me was **Globalization of Indifference!** He used this phrase not to attack one part of society or another, but to identify what is found in every aspect of society today — including the Church. Yes,



there is a global indifference to just about everything — a mentality of “*If it doesn't concern my way of life or my thinking, I could care less.*” Pope Francis called this a “very ugly disease.” I couldn't agree more. Indifference partners well with such destructive natures as individualism, secularism and pluralism, among the many “isms” that could fill this page.

This “*leave me alone*” mentality can also be read as “*It's none of your business how I live my life.*” Imagine if all of us just lived as we desired with little or no thought of the consequences of our actions or works. You don't have to look too far to see it occurring now. Chaos already exists in the mob scenes on our streets and parades which are set on destroying human dignity as it was created.

see **INDIFFERENCE** on page 2

## Some Moves Made For All The Wrong Reasons!

I was recently listening to a podcast of how some Catholics are relocating so they can live in a “Christian community.” They believed there was value in it for themselves and family. This goes against what we hear in Cursillo: “Bloom where you are planted.” Doesn't God give us everything we need to build and live in Christian community?

My piety and study over the past several months have had me reflecting on the impact the Cursillo method has had on me over the last eight years. I have found myself contemplating how living the sacraments and living the Cursillo method has deepened my spirituality in ways I could not have imagined. Before living the Cursillo method, I thought doing nice things was all God asked of me. Cursillo continues to show me (us) that we are called to experience much more...living and sharing what we have been given.

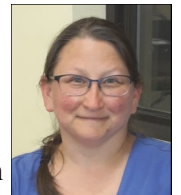
Nicole and I have been attending a parish across the river for weekday Mass a couple days a week. We have made some new friends and are getting to know a few of them, hopefully well enough to invite them to a future weekends

see **MOVING** on page 3



## AS ESSENTIAL AS FAMILY — COMMUNITY

I have lost three very important people to me in the past year, and as devastating as those losses were, and they continue to be, I am staying the course. As I navigate these untested waters without my father guiding me, and he and my mother have given me a compass to help me, and that compass is Cursillo. I know that Cursillo and its community will always point me to the true North — Our Lord, Jesus Christ.



As I continue to grieve, my group reunion and my Ultreya help me to be focused on what is needed to be done here and now. When I need prayer or words of encouragement, my group is a text away to lift me up in prayer and to give insights into the small and big problems that crop up in the everyday mess of life. Or if I need to talk something out, I need just to call one of them to be my sounding board and, at times, a voice of reason when I want to rail against the world. The people from Ultreya, in turn, are always there when they are needed. From prayer to words of solace and comfort. The outpouring of grace that has come over the last year has been overwhelming to say the least.

Do you need to reconnect with an Ultreya? Look at the back of this newsletter, and any Ultreya would be glad to see you. Do you need the comfort and security of a group reunion? Reach out to a few people and see if they are willing to meet up and talk piety, study and action with you.

DeColores!

Julie Fleckenstein  
Lay Director

# **PITTSBURGH CURSILLO**

## **60th ANNIVERSARY**

### **1965-2025**

#### **MARCH**

**Men's Weekend #225**      *March 6-8, 2025*  
**Women's Weekend #226**      *March 13-16, 2025*  
*Martina Spirituality Center*

#### **APRIL**

**Fourth Day Welcome and Grand Ultreya**  
*Sunday, April 27, 2025 — 2:00PM*  
*Martina Spirituality Center*

#### **MAY**

**Family Mass at St. Frances Cabrini Church**  
*May 9 — 7:00PM*  
*Hosted by Beaver Valley and Young Adult Ultreyas*

#### **JUNE**

**"Traveling the Ultreya Circuit"**  
*Visit all of our Ultreyas during monthly meetings*  
*Friday, June 6 — Young Adult Ultreya*  
*Monday, June 9 — Southwest Butler Ultreya*  
*Monday, June 16 — City North Ultreya*  
*Monday, June 23 — South Hills Ultreya*

#### **JULY**

**"Traveling the Ultreya Circuit"**  
*Visit all of our Ultreyas during monthly meetings*  
*Tuesday, July 1 — Beaver Valley Ultreya*  
*Tuesday, July 8 — Washington County Ultreya*  
*Thursday, July 24 — South Central Ultreya*  
*?Monday, July 28 — Butler Ultreya ?*

#### **\*SEPTEMBER**

**Annual Family Mass and Picnic**  
*September 14, 2025 — 2:00-7:00PM*  
*Cranberry Park*

#### **OCTOBER**

**60th Celebration Mass, Dinner & Dance**  
*October 12, 2025 — 4:00PM*  
*Resurrection Parish, St. Thomas More Church & Hall*  
*Hosted by South Hills Ultreya*

#### **\*NOVEMBER**

**Family Mass of Thanksgiving**  
*St. Ferdinand Parish, Cranberry Twp.*  
*7:00PM*  
*Hosted by Southwest Butler Ultreya*

**MARK YOUR CALENDARs NOW**

## ***CELEBRATING LIFE:***

*Christ Counting On Us In The Past, Present & Future*

*Our upcoming 60th anniversary of living the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Pittsburgh is not simply one of counting years, or how many people have been blessed by the Cursillo method of evangelization. No, it's about men and women celebrating friendship in, with and through Jesus Christ in the past and in the future.*

*As we make final preparations for our year-long 60th Anniversary, we celebrate who we are today as well. There will be times to remember the past. But we need to celebrate now as well. It's only in this way that others who follow us will have reason to celebrate a 75th or 100th Anniversary.*

*An anniversary is always a reminder of looking to the future and those who will follow because of what we have shared, and what we will share in this moment.*

*The schedule of events listed in the box is set in place minus those dates marked with an asterisk. So you may mark these on your calendars. More information will be provided.*

### **~~~~~ IN MEMORIAM ~~~~~**

**Please pray for these Cursillistas who now rest with our Lord, and for all deceased Cursillistas.**

**Deacon Joe Cerenzia**

**Peg Heiry**

**Mary Ball**

**Wayne Fleckenstein**

*Wayne's involvement in Cursillo has spanned 40 years and has included regional and national leadership positions as well as two terms as Lay Director for Pittsburgh Cursillo and numerous volunteer positions — including chief cook at our annual Family Picnic and in maintaining our diocesan database.*



### ***INDIFFERENCE, from page 1***

*Indifference destroys unity! It destroys the bond to be had among those of the human race. And most importantly, it destroys the unity we are called to live and have in and with Jesus Christ as members of his body. But yes, indifference is happening even in the Church as some think they can ignore the Church's teachings for the sake of their own spirituality or preferences. Pope Francis wouldn't say it, although he implied it, that yes, Satan is at work even in the Church. He remained much more positive. Thankfully, we know our Lord's promise that Satan will not prevail. It is not ours to now sit back and be indifferent to Satan's work, but rather, be active in the Lord.*

*Let us show no indifferences in our faith. Let us take what we have been handed through the teachings of Vatican Council II and become excited about our faith — giving witness to the world of our willingness to live in the gifts of the Holy Spirit — live as if every day were Pentecost. Come to think of it, everyday is Pentecost as we choose to live our baptisms when the Word of God sets a fire in us through the Holy Spirit.*

*Love and prayers,  
Fr. Tom Galvin*



## Working My First Weekend: Only Described As *"Tremendously Special"*

If you're considering working a Cursillo weekend...Do it! You will not be disappointed. As Cursillistas, we all know of the close moments with Christ that are available to us on a weekend. We all recall how impactful our first weekend was for us personally. When you can be a small part in helping new friends experience their own Cursillo weekend, that can only be described as tremendously special. It's a small way in which we can answer the call to share the gift of Cursillo with others. Are you feeling a nudge to be more involved with the Cursillo movement? You know what I'm talking about...when you sit quietly with out God and ask Him for what He wants you to do, you have an option — to listen or to ignore His call. If you listen to His whisper, asking you to work a weekend, please give me a call. I'd be glad to discuss any questions you might have — my cell phone: 412-334-4737.

My experience of Weekend #219: I served as an auxiliary and was the speaker for the "Layperson: Christian in the World" rollo (talk). I summarize my involvement as three primary steps — Preparatory, Delivery and Retrospective.

A large part of the preparatory step is team formation, and it's a beautiful thing. You have an opportunity to connect with other team members on a deeper level than you might imagine. For the weekend I worked, our team became close as we each grew to understand our roles, develop trust in each other, and rejoice in what God was doing.

In the delivery step, I was afforded the opportunity to work closely with the Cursillistas who participated in discussions at our table. This was a wonderful experience... one of my favorite things about the weekend. Those men, as special as they were on the weekend, are now actively participating in a Group Reunion. Additionally, I learned more than I did during my weekend (#215 in Oct. 2022). Get this...I took 35 pages of notes the weekend I worked. These pages are gold! This was

an experience similar to reading scripture multiple times finding previously overlooked words now jumping off the page at me due to growth in allowing the Spirit which may have not been there before. You're sharing parts of your life and seeing in real time how what you experienced can have a positive impact on others. You speak from the heart to men hungry to go deeper in our Catholic faith.

In the Retrospective step, a fo-

cus is placed on continuous improvement. It's when someone who works a weekend shares feedback with weekend Coordinators so that the experience for future Cursillistas can be even better for them. I'm grateful to be a part of Cursillo, not only for my sake but for the sake of others who are looking to become Christ for others. That's what it's all about — be Christ to others.

Jim Ciotti

First-time Team Member



**Men's Weekend 218**  
(l to r) Deacon Jeff Fornica, Dennis Kutcher, Tony Gallo, Mark Restito, Ron Faccenda, Fr. Dan Waruszewski



**Women's Weekend 219**  
*front* Marpal Monnin, Eleanor Faccenda, Mary Anne Dille, Terri DeChellis;  
*back* Jane Suski, Mandy Keys, Leah Drain

### ***MOVING... from Page 1***

It's an opportunity to share Christian Community in Cursillo.

Witnessing some of the "Veterans" live out their fourth day for most of their lives has taught me how, if we choose to utilize this gift, it works. Seeing new Cursillistas live out the three days are as transformative as they were on Weekend #1 in Pittsburgh back in 1965. It is also important to note that those who loved me enough to challenge me within the community, springboarded my growth as well. They loved me enough to tell me the truth and risk not being "liked." I have had lots of friends and community in my life but

there is something profoundly different about Christian community. No, we do not "move" to find Christian Community. God gifts us with that — and the ability to build Christian communities where we live. DeColores!

Mike Albanese #193

**Upcoming Holy Hour**  
**Wednesday,**  
**October 23 — 7:00PM**  
**St. Oscar Romero Parish**  
**St. Patrick Church**  
**317 W. Pike Street**  
**Canonsburg, PA 15317**



## Receiving a Lever through Internet Palanca

*I was pleasantly surprised this past March as I opened emails from the Cursillo community worldwide. My new computer automatically translated the email message from the sender — whether it was written in Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and others — into English. The message was almost always, “Here is our LEVER for your weekend.”*

*Lever? The translation of the word PALANCA is lever, which I remembered from general science as a tool useful as an inducing or compelling force to lift an object. In Cursillo, Palanca is a useful tool to lift up our hearts and minds to God, to request a special blessing or grace on and for someone. Cursillistas do Palanca for each other, for weekends, for encounters, Ultreyas, witness talks, or special needs. We should be DOING palanca at all times.*

*A Palanca letter is one sent to inform others of the prayers, sacrifices, sufferings you offer on their behalf. The letter is NOT Palanca. It is a joy to receive the note, but knowing that fellow Cursillistas are praying and offering sacrifice for you is a constant reminder of how much we are loved. Don't wait for a special occasion. Offer Palanca always.*

— Mary K. Fleckenstein.

— contact at: [mkfleck1963@gmail.com](mailto:mkfleck1963@gmail.com)



## Provide the Invitation

This is the time to extend an invitation to that person you have been called to befriend and bring to Christ. In other words, now is the time to invite someone to learn of friendship in and through the Cursillo Method and the love of Jesus Christ. Speak to them about Jesus' way of life and our sharing in the very method he used. Then take your friend to an Ultreya, and provide an application. Walk with him or her (or them) all the way to next year's Fourth Day picture.

## The Weakness of our Human Existence needs God

A few years ago I wrote an article on my journey to Santiago De Compostela and lately I've been longing to go back and relive this amazing experience. But with many family concerns, I needed to stay close to home for those living within my square meter. Even so I know my journey of faith continues because I am always moving toward a closer relationship[ with Jesus, and I love that I get to do this with all of you, my family, friends, and my fellow pilgrims.

Recently, “family” took on a new look. You see, I learned a fellow pilgrim with whom I became a close friend on my way of the Camino is now under a doctor's care for a rare form of Leukemia. This came as a great shock because he was the first person to finish each day on our long daily hikes and had the most energy of all the pilgrims. He was simply full of life and energy. Now, he was sitting still while undergoing a treatment that will drain all his energy from him in the hope to save his life. I think of the times when I had to be where I had not wished to be. And I think we can all remember such times — sitting still when we would rather be moving. This is the time we renew and/or reaffirm our journey toward God.

Working the women's weekend in March was simply a blessing beyond words. It was an opportunity to experience my Cursillo weekend anew, and to recall my daily journey in relationship with my Lord.

God bless all of of us — new Cursillistas and veteran old timers. May we continue our journey each day toward knowing and loving Jesus. Ultreya!

Peg Lias

Cursillo Treasurer

## God Unexpectedly Showed Up On a Business Trip

A dreaded business trip was reason for me to pray for it to be peaceful. My co-worker and I would get into the car each day and, prior to pulling out of the hotel parking lot, we would ask the Lord to guide us. We'd ask for guidance and patience. One evening I found myself next to the CEO at dinner. I asked him what he would have been doing if he wasn't at this dinner. He then asked me the same question. I started to talk about how Monday night is prayer group; Tuesday every other week was Ultreya; and Wednesday was Leaders School. We talked about Cursillo, having faith, and what it means to each of us, how having faith keeps you grounded. He said he wished he lived closer. He commented on how upbeat and joyful I was and stated he knew he must find a place to go and share his beliefs. He asked if he could conference in on the Monday night prayer group. I had explained that the prayer group was all women. His response was that he would disguise his voice and change his name.

The Lord was at work guiding me to speak up and talk about faith and how important it is for each of us to have a belief in God. I know that the CEO is Christian. He went to a Catholic College. You never know when an opportunity will arise to discuss faith. Always be open to the opportunity that is given to you. DeColores!

Lee MacFarland, Post-Cursillo Chair

## CURSILLO CALENDAR

*Unless otherwise marked all activities are held at St. Patrick Center, 317 W. Pike Street, Canonsburg, 15317, beginning at 7:00PM*

**Wed., Aug. 7** — School of Leaders, 7:00PM

**Wed., Aug. 21** — School of Leaders, 7:00PM

**Wed., Aug. 28** — Secretariat, 7:00PM

**Wed., Sept. 4** — School of Leaders, 7:00PM

**Sun., Sept. 8** — Mass and Picnic at Monroeville Community Park — 2:00PM

**Wed., Sept. 18** — School of Leaders, 7:00PM

**Wed., Sept. 25** — Secretariat, 7:00PM



# PITTSBURGH CURSILLO FAMILY PICNIC

**Sunday, Sept. 8 at Monroeville Community Park West**

**GATHERING at 1:00PM; MASS at 2:00PM; FOOD at 3:30PM**

**FOOD:** Pittsburgh Cursillo will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks.  
Please bring a side dish and/or dessert to share with 10 or more people



**GAMES:** Bring games for fun and fellowship.

As always — We'll be holding our Basket Auction, 50/50 Raffle and more!

Renew friendships and begin plans for our year-long 60th Anniversary Celebration. **Bring a lawn chair as well!**

**ULTREYAS** are asked to contribute one or more baskets for the Basket Auction. (Individuals may also submit a basket.)

**BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND POSSIBLE CANDIDATES**

for the March Weekends for Men and Women.

**Reservations are encouraged either through your Ultreya or by contacting Lee MacFarland (see secretariat box below).**



## IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR!

In 1979 I lived my Cursillo Weekend, #67. John Major was Coordinator although we titled them Rector back then. Don Graham was my table Auxiliary. Monsignor Paul Lackner was the Spiritual Directory. Eduardo Ugarte's Rollo introduced me to Make a Friend, Be a Friend, and Bring a Friend to Christ. All have since passed, RIP. Strong committed men with names like Beans, Edger, Pooch and Rock, as well as Bobby, Guy, Jack and Gene, mentored me during those early years of my 4th Day (Matt 28:29). All but Bobby RIP today. Ultreya was every Monday at West Pittsburgh. Permanent group(s) were weekly, mainly at lunch hour but whenever we were together. Many others were also a gift to me as I grew in my walk with Jesus.

Some of those times were tough; the world grabbed me back a couple of times. But the taste of Christ's love and mercy as well as the Gift of the Holy Spirit and God's graces never left (Matt 28:20). Forty-five years have passed, The journey continues because of a commitment to Piety, Study and Action, My weekend promised me a tool that works. And that method continues to work today.

How about your weekend? Memories? Mentors? Is your journey continuing? Growing closer to Jesus? Christ is still

**79** counting on me. He is still counting on you. Someone long time ago told me, "If you don't feel close to God, guess who moved?" Jesus is alive in us (1Cor 6:19-20).

Our world has made drastic changes since 1979. It needed me then, it really needs us now. Next year we can celebrate 60 years of the Cursillo Movement in the Pittsburgh Diocese. Many have gone before us. Someone gave us all the "gift" of a Cursillo Weekend — our sponsor. Have you passed this gift onto someone else? Re-gifting is a good thing. No, a GREAT thing! Our world needs God's love. It

need Christians to stand up at times of turmoil and with a smile on our faces, and joy in our hearts, and let others know that "GOD LOVES THEM."

If its been a while, I offer a solution. Visit an Ultreya. Call a Cursillista. Remember the three-legged stool of piety, study and action? It still works today. Give someone the gift that someone gave you. Invite a friend to experience a Cursillo Weekend. Let Jesus know that he was correct to "count on you."

DeColores  
Allen Dworkowski  
Beaver Valley Ultreya

### PITTSBURGH CURSILLO SECRETARIAT & ASSOCIATES

Lay Director	Julie Fleckenstein	jkfleckenstein@gmail.com	215-272-3331
Secretary	Janet Cushma	janetcushma@gmail.com	412-523-4057
School of Leaders	Tony Manno	minpin05@comcast.net	412-613-5958
Pre-Cursillo	Rita McCusker	ritamacrn1@gmail.com	412-973-0194
Cursillo	Mike Albanese	mikea2002@hotmail.com	724-462-5276
Post-Cursillo	Lee McFarland	aesopmac@comcast.net	724-312-0452
Physical Arrangements	Jim Haefner	jimhaefner@gmail.com	724-321-3723
Treasurer	Peg Lias	plias1@yahoo.com	412-915-2593
Communications			
Prayer Chain/Emails/News	Marta Salasa	msasala@comcast.net	724-317-2763
Data Base		<b>NEEDED</b>	
Newsletter, Bulk Mailings, Daily Blogs		<b>NEEDED</b>	
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	waynkayh@yahoo.com	412-965-5261
Diocesan Spiritual Advisor			
	Fr. Tom Galvin	tgalvin@diopitt.org	724-745-6560

## PITTSBURGH CURSILLO MOVEMENT

203 Maplehurst Drive  
Aliquippa, PA. 15001

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



***CURSILLO: Doing What Jesus Did and  
Giving Witness to Christian Community***

### ALLEGHENY VALLEY

#### Group Reunion

Victoria Polvocek  
Call 724-274-7955 for info.  
The meeting location varies.  
2nd Tuesday of the month.

#### BEAVER VALLEY

Tony Manno  
412-613-5958  
[minpin05@comcast.net](mailto:minpin05@comcast.net)  
Rene Pintado  
412-609-3659  
[rprigorac1@gmail.com](mailto:rprigorac1@gmail.com)  
Meet at Our Lady of Fatima  
2270 Broadhead Rd.  
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

### PITTSBURGH ULTREYAS

#### CITY NORTH

Bob Corcoran  
260 Martsolf Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15229  
412-931-4928  
[corcoranr@leidos.com](mailto:corcoranr@leidos.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  
[mkfleck1963@gmail.com](mailto:mkfleck1963@gmail.com)  
Meet at  
2313 Banker St.  
McKeesport, PA 15132  
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

### 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@hotmail.com](mailto:jppatnik@hotmail.com)  
Meeting at St. Bernadette Church  
(Biedenbach Hall — under  
church), Monroeville  
3rd Thursday at 1:00PM

### WASHINGTON COUNTY

Jan Cushma  
324 Buckels Avenue  
Houston, PA 15342  
412-523-4057  
[janetcushma@gmail.com](mailto:janetcushma@gmail.com)  
Meeting at St. Patrick  
Parish Center  
317 W. Pike St., Canonsburg  
2nd Tuesday at 7:00PM

### YOUNG ADULTS

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

***Where Friends Share God, Faith & Fellowship***