

# The 4<sup>th</sup> Day Journey

Erie Diocesan Cursillo Newsletter

Thanksgiving Newsletter 2020

## 2021 Cursillo Dates

The Dates for Cursillo in 2021 are:

**Men's #251 March 18-21 at OLM**

**Women's #258 May 20-23 at OLM**

**Men's #252 June 10-13 at ECCHS**

**Women's #259 July 15-18 at Notre Dame, Hermitage**

**Men's # 253 August 12-15 at St. Philip, Linesville**

**Women's # 260 October 21-24 at OLM**

**Men's # 254 November 18-21 OLM**

We also know all dates are subject to change. We are all in a period of uncertainty and that makes planning hard. Please be patient with us and we will try to get information out of you as soon as we can.

## Office Update

Currently the office is closed. Email is probably the best way to reach the office for now.

[Office@eriecursillo.org](mailto:Office@eriecursillo.org). Please be patient with response time since I am only in about 3 hrs a week for right now. Thanks! Janet Chandley (Office Manager)

## A Word from Cursillo Leadership

### A Note from Fr. Jacquell



**De Colores!** In the midst of this earthquake of a year, we do well to reflect upon “the colors.”

I am pleased to report that our search for a new Spiritual Director has resulted in the happy announcement that Deacon Tom McArw has been appointed by Bishop Persico to this position. The Bishop's letter indicated he officially begins November 6 – for a 5-year term. He and I were co-spiritual directors of last November's Women's Cursillo # 257, and we had worked before together at least once. He currently juggles his time between the State Correctional Institution at Albion and All Saints Parish, Waterford. He's a retired educator and also serves, with Pam, his wife, on many different ministries, including the Parish Response Team. They came to Holy Rosary Parish following the revelation of the extensive sex abuse scandal and were adept at bringing blessings to our parishioners struggling to understand this.

Ever since March, we have all dealt with the fallout of this pandemic (as well as many other challenges). We get frustrated, fearful, angry – and other such negative emotions. Will we lose loved ones to this disease? Will we lose momentum in serving Christ and our culture?

Somehow, we could see this whole situation as hitting the “reset” button – or “restart.” I'd also suggest it is like the concept of “Jubilee” which we read about in Leviticus chapter 25. Every fiftieth year, the Hebrew people were to stop doing things as normal – they were to rest the fields – forgive debts – and take time to restore the balance which had gotten out of whack in the 49 intervening years. This pandemic hit 102 years after the last one – so I think we skipped a Jubilee year in there.

No, this pandemic has felt like a curse to our lives, but it has also provided some blessings in that we can clean house, re-evaluate, and make some new resolutions. We are not “out of the woods” yet, but we're making progress.

We do miss the dynamic, amusing, and amazing insights, as well as fervent convictions, of our Fr. Dan (Msgr. Daniel Arnold) – and are all going through our own grief stages as this, too, hit us without warning. We plan to celebrate a Memorial Mass for him in March 2021. Our first plan is to welcome people to Holy Rosary, Erie, on March 27<sup>th</sup> for the 4 pm Saturday Mass (which would be Palm Sunday weekend). If we are forced to suspend the March Cursillo, then we'd rather celebrate it March 20<sup>th</sup>, the Saturday before it – same time and place. So, keep in touch as we roll into the new year.

Meanwhile, continue your piety, study, and action – we WILL get through this. Use these opportunities to attend to what you've been too busy to do.

*Fr. John Jacquel, Interim Erie Cursillo Spiritual Director*

### A Few Words from our President Rick Skladanowski about our New Spiritual Director:



When Deacon Tom McAraw was added to the list of choices for Spiritual Director of the Erie Cursillo Movement, my first thought was, he's too busy and too involved in the Chaplaincy at two correctional institutions.

Many times, I have heard it said, "if you want something done and done right, call the busiest person you know".

We in Cursillo are blessed to have Deacon Tom McAraw as Spiritual leader of the Erie Diocesan Cursillo Movement.

Welcome Deacon Tom! Thank you for, once again, responding to God's call with a "yes". We all look forward to working with you.

### A Few words from our New Spiritual Director:



It is with humility and honor that I share my thoughts as the new Spiritual Director of this wonderful Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Erie. Pam and I have prayed and discerned much over the past months since the opportunity was first brought to our attention.

Every journey starts with the first step, but I never imagined how stepping into Holy Redeemer Parish for Cursillo #155 in 1996 would lead to this. Our love for the movement and all involved has grown through our time from snack committee for Ultreyas to the journey of executive officers, leading us to the role of presidential couple in 2002. We have journeyed together through it all.

Although I have been appointed to this position, Pam is a vital part of my support system and will always be my first love and vocation. She is on this journey with me. It is truly humbling to be the first Deacon in this role as I look back at the blessed list of wonderful priest spiritual directors I am following.

The words Bishop Persico shared were inspiring. He said, *"I am grateful for your willingness to accept this significant position. You recently shared with me the great impact of Cursillo in your own life of discipleship and how it helped you recognize your call to the permanent diaconate. It is my hope the movement will continue to bring men and women to Christ so that they can find their place in the community of faith."*

I will have more to share in the future as our journey to a new time and life together unfolds.

In the meantime, I reflect on the words of St. Paul to the Philippians.

*Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but [also] everyone for those of others. Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus.*

I look forward to our journey together and ask all of you for your prayers as I assume this awesome responsibility.

DeColores,  
**Deacon Tom**

## Ultreyas

<u>Erie County:</u>	December 4, 2020 St. John the Baptist, Erie 7:00 p.m.
<u>Crawford County:</u>	None at this time
<u>Elk/Cameron County</u>	December 3, 2020 Queen of the World, St. Marys 7:15 p.m.
<u>Mercer County:</u>	None at this time

## 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 of Gary Drapcho, Deacon Pratt, John Pytlarz's brother, Florence Wander, Janet Downing, Tom Straub, Millie Bloeser, Greg Morealli's brother, Tim Nowakowski's uncle, Charlene Schroek's sister, The Jacquels' Aunt (Doris Myers), Dan Sweeney, Donald McCurdy, Carmen Pontoriero, Norman Schlosser, Deacon Kuzma's sister, Chuck Faytak, Ted Davis Jr., Peggy Fitzgerald, Jack Curtis, Kathryn Bojorquez's Mom, Jerry Zelt's sister in-law, Mary Alys Pitonyak, Agatha Tyzinski, Mitchell Oblinski, Delores Cagnoli, John Gromack's Father, Dennis Hodges, Steven Viera, Joseph Martone, Michael Thompson, Roy Maloney, Greg Brocious, Thomas Wingerter, Josephine Quattrone, Kathy Byers, and all those of whom we are unaware.

### Our sick and recovering

Best wishes for a quick recovery for Ann Flick, Gregory Konkol, Mike Tarquinio, Roseanne Blair, Mary Esser's son, Tim Lynch's sister, Alvin Wolfe, Frank Quattrone Jr., Tom Petkas, Jim McDonanell, Martha Pastore, Fr. Swoger, Fr. Noble, Joan E. Masi, Fr. Dan Prez, Lucille Sitzler, Jim Delhunty, Kay Hotchkiss, Ray Rocky, Joanne McIntire, Tom and Pam McAraw's granddaughter, Greg Pasteraro, Ed Niebauer, Danita Moate, Jose Martinez, Ken Bish, Carol Masko's Mom and Daryl Cruz's daughter Annie Griggs 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, Felix Cruz III, Stefan Treacle, and all those of whom we may be unaware - Thank you for your service.

### Our Religious

As always, keep our seminarians (especially Cursillistas Ben Dagher, Luke Dagher, Christopher Wheeler), women and men religious candidates, as well as our deacon candidates and their wives in your prayers.

Please pray for a quick end to Covid-19 and prayers for all those that are sick with it!

## FOR THE GOOD OF THE MOVEMENT:

1. Please participate in the #iGiveCatholic giving day on December 1 to support Cursillo! Visit <https://erie.igivecatholic.org/>, search for Cursillo and make a \$25 or more gift. You can go on anytime after November 16<sup>th</sup> and give. Totals will not begin to show up until December 1<sup>st</sup>. When you go online to give it will ask you if you want to add the fees to your donation. This means that if the fee is \$2.00 and you donated \$25.00 your total will be \$27.00 if you don't do this it is ok too. It will just be taken out of your donation. So again, if you donated \$25.00 and the fee is \$2.00 it will be a profit for us of \$23.00. You can also mail in your donations



to the office and put in the memo that they are for I Give Catholic and we will receive 100% of the funds. The Catholic Foundation of Northwest Pennsylvania is coordinating our participation in #iGiveCatholic and will be offering cash prizes! Help us win a prize! Prizes are listed here: <https://erie.igivecatholic.org/>  
We would appreciate any support that you can show us right now. We know that it has been a crazy year and that many have already given. We of course never want to anyone to feel like money is the most important thing. If you have the ability and can give please do as we are looking forward to (hopefully) getting started again in 2021. Your donations will help us do that! If you are unable to give at this time please just continue to pray for the future of Cursillo and for people to find peace in Christ! To many who have already given we appreciate it and know that if you can continue to support us you will! We are always so very blessed with generous people in this movement who give of their time, talent and treasure! De Colores!

### **Erie Cursillo Office**

429 East Grandview Boulevard

P.O. Box 10397

Erie, PA 16514-0397

Phone: 814-824-1119

Fax: 814-824-1128

E-mail: [office@eriecursillo.org](mailto:office@eriecursillo.org)

Web site: [www.eriecursillo.org](http://www.eriecursillo.org)

**Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!**

**from you Executive Committee**

**Spiritual Director Deacon Tom McAraw**

**Assistant Spiritual Director Fr. John Jacquel**

**President Rick Skladanowski**

**Vice-President Nick Heise**

**Sunday Coordinator Jeff Hickin**