

THE ROOSTER

MAY 2023

Cursillo

School of Leaders

By Ken Meeker, Chair

I heard about Piety, Study and Action on my weekend. But no one said I need to go back to school. The Cursillo "School" is not like a classroom education; we promise no test, no grades, no one checking your attendance. Rather, The Cursillo School of Leaders (SOL), like a school of fish, is designed to be spiritual and technical nourishment for those called to be leaders within the Cursillo movement and for those who wish to learn more about the movement (Pre-Cursillo, Cursillo, Post-Cursillo) and to grow in their spiritual journey.

As paradoxical as this seems: "The school precedes the Cursillo, since it is within it that it was born, it is within it that it still gets its sustenance and it is from it that it expands. At all times, the school

has been – and continues to be – the pillar essential for the continuity and development of the Cursillo Movement." (no. 530 and 531)

What do I "learn at the school?" During the past year we have been reading and discussing the book "Whom Shall I Send?". There is an article about it later in the Rooster. What we discussed was how it has impacted us and how we are involved not only in Cursillo but also in our other ministries. We're about done, we will be moving on to other Doctrinal topics like:

- What is the real meaning of Palanca?
- How do I make a Make a Friend
- How do I live a Sacramental life.



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UPCOMING WEEKENDS

Men's: October 26 - 29, 2023

Women's: November 2 - 5, 2023

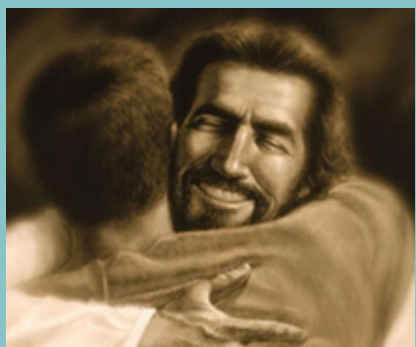


For the technique talks we have reviewed each of the areas of the Cursillo movement; Pre-Cursillo, Cursillo and Post Cursillo. Now we will be moving into the new topics: friendship groups; specific Rollo's/talks; and being a table leader.

Those that attend the SOL are the candidates for the future Rollo and team leaders for the weekend. It is also the training for leadership on the Secretariat and its various subcommittees. But don't worry, you are not volunteering to do more than you want, you can come and enjoy learning more about Cursillo, expand your friendships from the weekends and learn what's new.

Remember, The Cursillo School of Leaders (SOL) is for Cursillistas who wish to grow in service to the Cursillo community. If the Cursillo Movement is an umbrella, the people in the School of Leaders are the spokes that support it and keep it strong. Through fellowship, we encourage each other in spiritual growth and a growing appreciation of the Cursillo purpose, mentality, and method. The Cursillo School of Leaders is a Servant School and is open to all Cursillistas who are interested in serving and strengthening the movement!

Bring a friend!



A Letter from our Lay Director

By Tiffany Guthrie

Hello & De Colores!

First, may I give a very warm welcome to our newest men and women Cursillistas! Congratulations and God's blessings on each one of you!

As we head into the lovely days of spring & the quickly approaching warmer days of summer, may we remember all the blessings our Lord has given to us, particularly the gift of Grouping. Folks, if you haven't Grouped in a while or are in need of a new one, don't hesitate to reach out. Connect with your sponsor, call an old friend, or contact one of us on Secretariat. We are here to help!! May the Holy Spirit continue to shower you with blessings & enhance the growth of your faith in Him.

Rector's Reflection

By Joe Herrmann

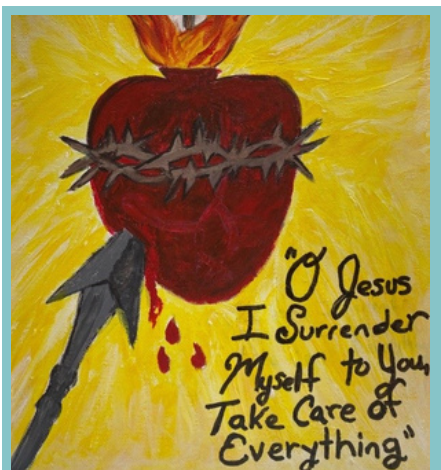
So where do I start? Last fall when I was asked to be the Rector for the Men's Spring Cursillo, I was a bit hesitant to say yes. Now looking back I have seen the work of the Holy Spirit at work. What started as a possible burden has become such a great gift. The Holy Spirit has been guiding me through the whole process, to helping me choose a team, and

*"Make a
friend,
be a
friend,
bring
your
friend to
Christ."*



through the weekend itself. I have heard stories from people of how they were excited to be asked to play a role. One was from a person who had said no in the past and was afraid they might not get asked again. When I did, he didn't hesitate to say yes. To a person who I asked to replace some one that could not attend the weekend even though a second choice they were very happy to say yes. I just heard today from the spouse of one of my Deacon speakers how he was asked to do a talk that he hadn't done in years, but said yes. His talk touched the hearts of a couple of the candidates. It was exactly what they needed to hear. Only the Holy Spirit could have put all of them in the conference room together during the weekend.

From the arrival of the candidates on Thursday night to their departure on Sunday evening the Holy Spirit was at work. You could see the conference room come to life as the weekend progressed. From the smiles on their face to the growing chatter, He was at work. I was gifted with a team that worked so well together. If there were any problems, I certainly did not know about it. What a special Team. Thank you Jesus! What started as a burden became a true gift from God!



Rectora's Reflection

By Cynthia Penne

De Colores! Our Lord truly is an amazing artist! Our Lord perfectly planned all aspects of the weekend. From the service team He wanted present, to the new Cursillistas that heard His call, He was always in control. With our surrender, He used our hearts and minds aligned to His will to develop us, the new Cursillistas and this weekend. The painting "A Sunday Afternoon" by Georges Seurat comes to mind. This painting is made entirely of pointillism (tiny dots used to create an image). Our Lord allowed us to experience a beautiful grace filled weekend during the 104th Women's Cursillo. Every tiny dot of grace, love and of mercy He used to develop this amazing work of art, will forever be imprinted in my heart and hopefully in the hearts of those who experienced this weekend.

These dots that painted this beautiful image, were as a result of our trust in Him. When I let go of the need to control outcomes, and time frames, He was able to enter into my heart and allow His plan to develop. Our need for control at times, can block Him from our hearts. With each of our surrenders made, He would take care of every hiccup, heart ache, late night or anxiety that arose before or during the weekend. The power of the Holy Spirit took over

"We are called"

EPH 4:1-8



each of our hearts and His new Cursillistas were able to experience His authentic love through our labors of love. The weekend workers were able to gain clarity, guidance and strength as we not only planned the weekend but also allowed Him into our daily lives.

There were some rough moments... some areas of the painting He was creating that I smudged when I forgot to let go of my humanness and became impatient but He showed me that He makes beautiful things with our mistakes and nothing is ever wasted. He just needs us to keep turning to Him. It was a true honor and absolutely humbling to serve as Rectora and I cannot wait to see how He continues to grow His Cursillo. I am excited to see how He will build His army with the armor described in Ephesians 6. I hope that Our Lord continues to bring you His Rest, His Courage, His Strength and His Light as you continue to give your surrender to Him both in and out of Cursillo. May He bless you and protect you from all things not of Him. De Colores!

Being Called

By Sandra Ondrla

I took on the position, of Pre-Cursillo Chair, over a year ago so I feel comfortable witnessing my assessment of this position. As Pre-Cursillo Chair, this position can be very challenging. So much time and preparation goes on

behind the scenes for each and every Cursillo. One might think there is ample time to break from our duties, after a weekend takes place. I consider this is a time of “basking in GOD graces” HIS gift to me- before preparation for the next weekend begins.

Although there is roughly 6 months before the next weekend occurs, preparation begins almost immediate after the last weekend.

After experiencing that “mountain-top moment” in my relationship with God nearly 25 years ago, it seems working in this area of the movement keeps me naturally engaged, triggering the message of “making a friend, being a friend, and then bringing that friend to Christ.”

If you think you are being called to do more in the Cursillo movement, but you’re just not sure what, please reach out to one of our Secretariat members. I can reassure you, you will not be disappointed. God does not disappoint, rather HE appoints and HIS blessing will be more than you could ever imagine.



*"Oh Jesus I
surrender
myself to
you, take
care of
everything!"*



Calling all Prayer Warriors!

Each Cursillo weekend we receive letters from Cursillistas in Diocese all over the world letting us know that they have been praying and sacrificing for the success of our weekends. These letters are displayed on Friday's during our Men's and Women's weekends for the candidates to read. We need to do the same for them!

We are seeking warriors to commit to praying for worldwide Cursillos. This can be a rosary, Divine Mercy, Hail Mary or any other prayer that would be prayed on a consistent basis. These prayers will be included in the letters we send to be displayed on Cursillo weekends all over the world.

If this is something you would be willing to do, please send your commitments to rkfdcursillopalanca@gmail.com. If you know of someone who doesn't get these emails but think they might be perfect for the job, please ask them.

An Invitation to Share "a Moment Closest to Christ"

By Ray Oleferchik

At our weekly group reunions, Cursillistas are encouraged to share their "moments closest to Christ." Whether you made your Cursillo this fall or 30 years ago, we are inviting Cursillistas to share with the entire Cursillo community a "moment closest to Christ" that has deepened your faith as you journey on your fourth day.

"A moment closest to Christ" submissions should be sent to rayoleferchik@earthlink.net. We'll do our best to publish all submissions and we can keep your submission anonymous if you'd like!



*"With all
prayer and
supplication,
pray at
every
opportunity
in the
Spirit"*

EPH 6:18



www.rockfordcursillo.org