

# THE ROOSTER

JANUARY 2024

# Cursillo

## *School of Leaders*

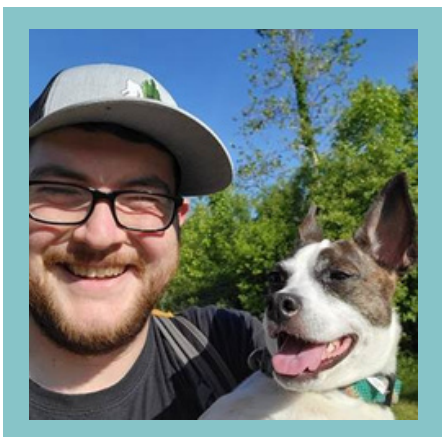
*By Tommy Lachat, Chair*

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Tommy Lachat, and I have recently taken over as the interim Head of School of Leaders. To get to know me a little better, I would like to take a few moments to explain who I am, my history in Cursillo, and my plans for the School of Leaders moving forward.

For starters, I am married to my wife Alesia, my high-school sweetheart, and we will have been married 5 years at the beginning of December. We don't have any kids, just a little hyperactive dog named Chase. I work as the Slitting and

maintenance Supervisor at Strata-Tac in St. Charles, with that being said, my background is in IT- a field I hope to go back to someday.

My history in Cursillo starts before I was born. My Grandparents on my mom's side, Bob and Lois Wright, made their Cursillo weekends in the early 70's over 20 years before I was born. My Parents in turn, made their weekends in the spring of 95, a time when I was almost 1 year old. This means I attended my first Clasura before my 1st birthday. I was raised in a household where mom or dad would leave 1 night a week to go do this thing called "grouping". Some of my earliest memories are of my parents leaving for a couple days twice a year to go on weekends. My mom would leave us a "treasure hunt" around the house where we would have to follow clues, eventually leading to a stash of small toys, treats, and of course Palanca letters. My dad would just leave the letters, it turns out these are a lot less exciting to kids when candy isn't included with them. As of the Spring of 2023, not just me but all 4 of my siblings as well have made their Cursillo.



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I made my own Cursillo weekend in the Fall of 2015. I wouldn't say the weekend itself was a life-changing experience, but it was definitely a good one, especially having my dad as the Rector and my God-Dad Jack Wright, as his assistant. My Cursillo life really began to grow following the weekend as I began to group and began to grow into a brother in Christ with those guys in my group. I've been through a lot with those guys over the last 8 years, I don't know where my faith life would be today without them. I was asked to be the Rector for the 2022 Fall weekend. Following that weekend I was looking for a way to get more involved in the movement, this led me first to helping maintain the website, and later to getting involved in Secretariat.

This leads me to the position I am in today- serving the School of Leaders. I would like to take a moment to thank Ken Meeker for all his hard work and dedication to the Cursillo movement but, especially to the School of Leaders over the past several years. There are a few things I would like to focus on as I begin this transition. 1. I would like to increase clergy involvement and have them giving the doctrinal talks whenever possible. 2. I want to narrow the focus by having shorter 5-10 minute talks and longer discussions. 3. I would like to increase accessibility, by making sessions available online- "drive out to Maple Park" is a harder sell than "hop in a zoom meeting at 7".

De Colores

# Letter from Our Lay Director

By Tiffany Guthrie

As we move on from the Weekends which didn't happen this fall, let us reflect on how we can grow along the roads of our own faith journeys not only to be better Christians (as we are always called to improve ourselves), but to bring others with us along that journey. Whether it is inviting someone you haven't seen lately to Mass with you, to offering to pray for someone when hearing that they need some prayers. To inviting a Cursillista friend to attend an Ultreya or School of Leaders meeting with you, the job we have is to bring more friends to CHRIST.

As for the upcoming Spring Weekends, let us begin now to build up the attendance! If you have someone in mind, it is NEVER too early to pray for them! Mention the Cursillo Weekend and let them know they've been on your heart to share this amazing adventure with them! Please know that I am praying for you as their possible sponsors as well as for them - we should always be praying for those who are being called to walk along the Cursillo journey, and whether they make it on the next Cursillo Weekend or ten years from now, never stop praying for them!

May your Christmas, and New Year's be full of love and laughter, kindness and joy, topped with mounds of blessings and peace.

## UPCOMING WEEKENDS

**MEN'S:** APRIL 11 - 14, 2024

**RECTOR** - BRIAN ARNET

**THEME** - *"Do not let your heart be troubled. You have faith in God, have faith also in me."* Jn 14:1

**TEAM MEETING** -

FEBRUARY 11 (ALL AT SCB HAMPSHIRE), FEBRUARY 25 (COMMISSIONING), MARCH 10, MARCH 24, APRIL 7

**WOMEN'S:** APRIL 18 - 21, 2024

**RECTORA** - PATTI HARTMANN

**THEME** - *"FOR EVEN THE SON OF MAN DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE."* MK 10:4-5

**TEAM MEETING** -

FEBRUARY 11 (ST. PATS MCHENRY), FEBRUARY 25 (AT SCB HAMPSHIRE - COMMISSIONING), MARCH 3 (ST. PATS MCHENRY), MARCH 24 (ST. PATS MCHENRY), APRIL 14 (ST. MARY'S SCHOOL OREGON)



[www.rockfordcursillo.org](http://www.rockfordcursillo.org)

# *Pre-Cursillo Chair Reflection*

*By Sandra Ondrla*

Recently I was asked to write an article for our **Cursillo Rooster** – the official newsletter of the Rockford Cursillo Movement. I was asked specifically to discuss the importance of each member of our movement; as it relates to the Pre-Cursillo Chair.

As the **Pre-Cursillo Chair**, some of my responsibilities include updating, distributing, collecting, and reviewing Candidate and Sponsor forms. Ensuring they are properly completed, documented and forwarded to the applicable parties, I am also responsible for promoting Cursillo at the numerous parishes within the **Diocese of Rockford**.

So after much prayer and consideration it appears although my focus as “Pre-Cursillo” chair, my primary focus should be on matters leading up to the Cursillo weekend- makes sense- right? Well not necessarily. **My focus will be on the Cursillista**; because without candidates - there will be no Cursillo; something we have all recently experienced this past Fall when we had to cancel the weekend due to low enrollment.

• Who is a Cursillista?

Simple. It is a person who made their Cursillo. These Roosters Newsletters are made available to our Cursillista’s- so if you are receiving this- **you are a Cursillista!**

The Cursillista can be placed in one of two categories: those of us who have not sponsored a candidate and those who have sponsored candidate(s).

From the arrival of the candidates on Thursday night to their departure on Sunday evening the Holy Spirit is at work. You can see the conference room come to life as the weekend progressed. From the smiles on their face to the growing chatter, He is 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!

**Those of us who have not sponsored.** If you fall into the first category, you need to honestly ask yourself how engaged are you with Cursillo? A weekend that for many - **if not most** - was an opportunity to get to know Jesus Christ in a very profound manner. Do we think our own weekend was a “one and done” with Jesus?

Could it be that our own weekend was an introduction, or a “taster” to a new way of life that God was leading us to? Are we allowing God to lead us down that path He has chosen for us?

Perhaps you are feeling called by God, but not quite sure what you are called to do. If that is the cross-road you are now facing, maybe God is calling you for a very specific task. Perhaps the obvious is staring you right in the face, but you are thinking- or I should say overthinking it.....and you say to yourself, “If this is from

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**JN 14:1**



God He will make Himself known with trumpet blasts". God will never force Himself into our life. He knocks and we can either answer or ignore Him. God called me precisely 24 years ago when my sister and brother asked me to go on a weekend. It was not a fluke, nor was it a fluke accepting HIS invitation. It was all in God's precise timing. Pivotal times in our lives such as these need serious consideration. What I did not conclude after the Clusura Mass 24 years ago was God blowing into my life saying "It's been great weekend, wishing you the best in life". I knew this was a "taster" to a life that God had waiting for me to embrace.

What have I done to try to promote Cursillo? There should be someone in your life God would want you to share the same opportunity with. How about your sons and daughters? What about your neighbors, parish priest, best friend, or co-worker. The list is endless.

We all see the state of the world now. We know Jesus will return someday. Some people think sooner rather than later. I don't know if it will be in my lifetime or not, but one thing I do know is it is my responsibility as a parent, aunt, sister, spouse, friend and now a grand-parent to be proactively participating in a role within the Church where God has planted me. To do nothing, especially in the times we are living in, would be a great travesty.

Pope Benedict XVI has said: "They (laity) should not be regarded as "collaborators" of the clergy, but, rather, as people who are really "co-responsible" for the Church's being and acting."

"Guiding people to the encounter with Christ, proclaiming his Message of salvation in languages and ways understandable to our time, marked by social and cultural processes in rapid transformation, is the great challenge of the new evangelization."

"May you feel as your own the commitment to working for the Church's mission: with prayers, study and active participation in ecclesial life, with an attentive and positive gaze at the world, in the constant search for the signs of the times." \*\*

**Those who have sponsored candidate(s).** These are those who have sponsored candidates to a life changing weekend. As a Cursillista please ask yourself the question- have I upheld my commitment to those I have sponsored? Do I remember what I committed to when I sponsored my candidate? I know personally I have fell short of the expectations of being a sponsor. I also know God is a God of second chances. So never give up on picking ourselves up and trying again. We need to reach out to those we have sponsored to see how they

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**MK 10:4-5**



are doing. Remember the make a friend part.... **“Make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ.”** We should contact those people we have sponsored to see how they are doing.

Let us all come together in prayer and penance lifting up our loved ones especially those separated from the church. Let us pray we can all be of one heart and soul.

“Dear friends it is important to study in depth and to live in the Church this spirit of profound communion, characteristic of the beginnings of the Christian community, as attested by the Acts of the Apostles: “The Company of those who believed were of one heart and soul” (Acts 4:32).” \*\*

\*\*MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XVI.

## *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](mailto:rayoleferchik@earthlink.net). We'll do our best to publish all submissions and we can keep your submission anonymous if you'd like!

*Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ,*

