

Newsletter

Diocese of Kalamazoo



August 2017

Message from the Lay Director...

De Colores! Wow! This is a very exciting time! The Holy Spirit is surely moving throughout the Kalamazoo Cursillo. **So much is happening...you won't want to miss the Ultreya this Sunday!**

What a gift we have been given! What a gift we have to share! Share is exactly what Jeff Chancey felt called to do! Jeff just lived his Cursillo last May...Cursillo changed his life. Jeff and many others have been sharing about and inviting those that belong to the 5 parishes in the Berrien County Collaborative to embrace the Cursillo. This amazing team of volunteers have spoken at masses and attended evening "Come and See" gatherings at each of the Parishes. The interest has been tremendous and we have already received several applications for the upcoming Women's weekend. We have also met up with some wonderful Cursillistas from the past who want to get involved now! We also enjoyed swapping stories with Fr. Richard Altine who is also a Cursillista! This was so much fun and so empowering!!!

Cursillo is a gift! It is similar to the Gospel last Sunday...the Transfiguration. Peter, James, and John journeyed in community up the mountain...on top they grew to see Jesus in a new light...they were forever changed. Many of us saw Jesus in a new light and were forever changed during our weekend. I think Peter wanted to stay on top of that mountain ...who could blame him. We wanted to stay too! But in community Peter, James, and John had to go back down to those in the village to share and invite. We call it living the 4th...with community ...living and sharing the Gospel and inviting others to know Christ. **We all have been changed...we all have been called to live and share the Gospel and invite all to know Christ.** Cursillo offers a plan and a community to sustain a life with Christ! **Please do your best to "make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ"!**

Jeff Chancey has invited several of his "friends" that are interested in the Cursillo to attend the Ultreya this Sunday. I ask you to warmly greet and welcome them as only Cursillistas can.

Erica Santiago, the Rectora for the Women's weekend November 9-12, has a team lined up and will begin formation in September. Please offer Palanca each week for the team and the candidates!

Sharon Matkin

Two Regional Ultreyas in June... Amazing Witnesses!

In June we hosted two "Regional Ultreyas" one in Saint Joseph (Saint Joseph) and the other in Sturgis (Holy Angels Parish).

Mary Williams was the witness speaker at the Saint Joseph Ultreya. Mary lived her Cursillo in Tennessee 10 years ago. She found healing and a "new life" through the Cursillo. She was very active within the Movement in Tennessee. In 2016 she moved to Berrien Springs, MI to be closer to her daughter and family. Lucky for us, Mary diligently sought out her other family...the Cursillo! Kalamazoo Cursillo has truly been blessed by Mary's deep faith, commitment to live the Gospel, and passion to share Cursillo with others. Mary truly understands the power of prayer and sacrifice, she lovingly serves as our Palanca Chairperson. This is a woman you will want to get to know!



Keith Keyser shared his witness at his home parish during the Sturgis Ultreya. Keith lived his Cursillo in Kalamazoo in 2013...the first of the Kalamazoo rebirth! Keith also found healing and a sense of "new life" by living his Cursillo.

This is an example of Divine intervention in so many ways! You see...Mary had served her husband well as he died a difficult death. Keith had served his son well as he died at the age of 8 from a difficult illness.

During the weekend, Keith was asked to sit at the table of **Matthew**... his son's name is **Matthew**. Keith felt a peace that he was truly in the right place. Through the discussions around the table of Matthew, Keith met another candidate who had also lost a son around the same time... 7 years prior. The other candidate's son's name is also **Matthew!** God is sooo good all the time and He is always there for us and has a plan for us! These men offered love, compassion, and healing to one another as well!

Keith truly did have a powerful Cursillo weekend...but he did not stop there. He is a firm believer in the strength and power offered to him by meeting with his reunion group weekly. He knows God called him to the Cursillo and so to give back Keith has served on all of the Men's teams since, (except for the last one...his daughter's wedding!). Keith is a Cross Country Coach and Confirmation teacher...he lives the Gospel daily and shares Christ with all he meets.

Regional Ultreyas proved to be fruitful and fun!

A total of 55 Cursillistas attended...8 attended both Ultreyas! There was representation from 9 parishes! Sturgis held their Ultreya on a Monday night...two people said they had never been able to attend before because they are always held on Sunday. They truly enjoyed the experience! We received good comments all around. We will have to do this again soon!

Palanca Request...

Summer is a busy time, hopefully you have continued your offering of Palanca for the Cursillo movement. The women's weekend is coming up November 9th to the 12th this year and the men's weekend is February 22nd to the 25th next year. Palanca is needed for the weekends in our Kalamazoo Diocese and throughout the world. The immediate need is for the team formation for the women's weekend as well as for candidates for the weekend. Remember that Palanca can take many forms – prayer, sacrifices, or any action you offer as Palanca. Your Palanca helps our Kalamazoo Diocese Cursillo to continue to grow. Even if you cannot participate fully in Cursillo events, you can be a part of the growth of the movement through your Palanca.

Mary Williams, Palanca Coordinator

Find us on the Web...

Check out our website at <https://kalamazoocursillo.com>. It already contains a wealth of information about our movement. When at the site, be sure to click on the buttons and explore what we have there for you. Use it as a resource when talking with potential candidates about attending a Cursillo weekend, it is perfectly OK to direct them to our site for more information.

Wanted!...

The Secretariat is looking for someone to fill the position of treasurer. If interested, please contact Sharon at 269-689-8688.

2017 Secretariat

Sharon Matkin, Lay Director srmatkin@gmail.com
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Mary Williams – Palanca kalamazoopalanca@yahoo.com

Contact Phone: 269-689-9087 (Sharon)

Pre-Cursillo Update...

One of the joys of making a Cursillo is that you want to share your experience with others. As members of the Secretariat we want to bring Cursillo to every Parish and area of our Diocese. After over twenty years of inactivity it seems like a daunting task. This past month of July offered our Kalamazoo Cursillo Movement a unique invitation and opportunity to reach out to 5 Parishes. Father Altine, as a Cursillista and Pastor of St. Gabriels, Berrien Springs, St. Anthony, Buchanan, Holy Maternity, Dowagiac, Sacred Heart, Silver Creek, and Holy Family, Decatur graciously offered us the opportunity to speak about Cursillo and invite all interested Parishioners to make a Cursillo at his "Come and See" program. It is still an ongoing process but so far talks have been given at 10 Masses in this Collaborative the past two weekends with more scheduled at the evening programs at each Parish August 1-9.

While we will never know the ultimate results it is both inspirational and humbling to be a part of this and we pray the efforts of Father Altine, Melissa Schultz, Patti Mather, Patty Mitchell, Jeff Chancey and Diane Chancey, Dave Garwood, Mary Williams, Mike Zenk, Mike Metzger, Valorie Meimes, Kay Welsh, Bob and Sharon Matkin, and Serena and Dave Spear will bring many closer to Christ.

As we look forward to the upcoming Women's Cursillo in November and the Men's Cursillo in February let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us reach out to all potential candidates who will be most influential in bringing Christ into their environment. Share your experience and invite them to make a Cursillo.

Dave and Serena Spear
Pre-Cursillo Chairs



- **August 13th**– Ultreya, 2:00 p.m., St. Thomas More, Kalamazoo
- **September 10th** - Ultreya, 2:00 p.m., St. Thomas More, Kalamazoo
- **October 5-8** – Men's Spanish Cursillo, St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo
- **October 12-15**, Women's Spanish Cursillo, St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo
- **November 9-12, 2016** – Women's English Cursillo, St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo