

# Rooster

Happy Fall Cursillistas!

For those of you who have just made your  
Cursillo Weekends: Congratulations &  
Welcome to your Fourth Day!

We hope you'll enjoy the news about  
the Cursillo Movement here in the  
Rockford Diocese.

You will find letters from the Lay Director,  
Secretary, Pre-Cursillo Chairperson, &  
School of Leaders Chairperson, as well as a  
special first installment of a three-part series  
about Cursillo Weekends in this Fall edition  
of the Rooster.

If you have any questions or concerns,  
always know that you can contact anyone  
on the Secretariat - our information is to  
your right! —>



## SECRETARIAT

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# Cursillo ULTREYA

In Honor of our Newest Fall 2018 Cursillistas  
**ALL MALE AND FEMALE CURSILLISTAS ARE INVITED**

**Ultreya**  
**AURORA**

**Gatherings:** 4th Sunday of every other month (odd months) at 7pm at Holy Angels Church  
**Contact:** Marty Lachat, 630-204-7920, [MartyLachat@yahoo.com](mailto:MartyLachat@yahoo.com)

**MCHENRY**

**Gatherings:** Three times a year: Spring, Summer, & Fall  
**Contact:** Anne Schweder, 815-5581204, [a.schweder@yahoo.com](mailto:a.schweder@yahoo.com)

**OREGON**

**Gatherings:** June & December at St. Mary's Parish Center  
**Contact:** Ron & Linda Abramowicz, 815-986-8554, [Abramz6@comcast.net](mailto:Abramz6@comcast.net)

**ROCKFORD**

**Gatherings:** January, May & September: 6pm @ St. Bridget's Parish Center, Loves Park. Dates TBD  
**Contact:** Al Johnson, 815-877-3546, [alfredjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:alfredjohnson@gmail.com)

**ELGIN**

**Gatherings:** St Laurence Dates TBD  
**Contact:** Joe Bermea 847-931-5133 [bermej2002@yahoo.com](mailto:bermej2002@yahoo.com)

- When?** *7 pm to 9 pm on Sunday, Dec. 2*
- Where?** *St. Charles Borromeo Church  
297 E Jefferson St, Hampshire, IL  
The meeting room is directly under the church itself*
- Why?** *To keep the flame of Cursillo burning brightly*
- What to Bring?** *A snack to share (optional)  
A friend or two (also optional)*
- What to Wear?** *Casual*
- Who is Speaking?** *Current Rector & Rectora  
Future Rector & Rectora  
Spiritual Echo - Religious*

## LETTER FROM LAY DIRECTOR

The summer flew by since our Spring 2018 Weekends. But the activities of many Cursillistas has not stopped. In the past few months, we have accomplished many things:

We now have a Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Godwin. The leadership team has met with him and are very excited in what we as a Movement can accomplish.

Our Pre-Cursillo team has sent a letter to every pastor/parish in the Diocese (107) letting them know about the Movement and asking for their help in getting the “best kept secret in the Catholic Church” out to their parishioners.

The School of Leaders has held two sessions that have helped Cursillistas understand the Movement and the why we are doing it. A new website has been published with emphasis on each of the sections of the Cursillo: Pre-Cursillo, Cursillo and Post Cursillo; current calendar; prayer requests; and links.

We held several Ultreya throughout the diocese; including two multi-lingual sessions.

And, of course, we have prepared for the Fall Weekends

I also attended the Cursillo National Conference in Seattle, WA for three days. The emphasis of this conference attended by over 700 Cursillistas was Unity and Diversity. One of the things I learned talking with other members from the various dioceses is that we are not alone. We all have issues but one thing I heard over and over was how many dioceses have mastered the 3-Day Weekend but are falling short in the Pre-Cursillo and Post Cursillo. The key being keep Cursillistas involved and getting new candidates. Our diocese is no exception; so, you will see the Secretariat, the movement leaders and teams focusing on getting the message out.

We need to do more Make a Friend, Be a Friend and Bring that Friend to Christ. Not just a few weeks before each weekend but every day. We were sent by Christ to make disciples of all people, that is part of our Cursillo Mission. Think about being your parish’s Cursillo coordinator – sign up on the web site. Each one of us can do a little bit .... With Christs directions we can accomplish great things.

God Bless

Ken

## SCHOOL OF LEADERS

The School of Leaders is the element that is essential to continuity and development of the Cursillo Movement. It forms and develops Cursillo leaders in the mentality of the Movement and offers a Christian community for support. It is a place of formation whereby we grow in our commitment to Christ and the mission of the Church.

Is the Lord calling you to a deeper commitment to be a Cursillo Apostolate? Would you like to learn more about the methods of Cursillo and serve Christ through leadership in the movement? Attending the School of Leaders will get you there.

**Our next meeting is November 28, 2018 at 7:00pm in Connolly Hall (church basement) at St. James Church, 402 Church St., Belvidere.**

If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Vendemia, 815-566-1843 or email [cathyvendemia@gmail.com](mailto:cathyvendemia@gmail.com)





## SECRETARY

Happy Fall, Y'all! It has come time for me to encourage you to consider a role on Secretariat. My 6 years (2 terms, 3 years each) will be up and elections for the new Secretary will take place at the Ultreya Grande in January 2019. If you have any interest in serving on the Secretariat, please come to a meeting! We meet each month on the second Tuesday at St. Mary's in Oregon. A Rosary begins our meeting at 7PM and the meeting begins at 7:30PM. I would LOVE to hand over the reins to someone who wants to learn more about the Movement. I would also love to have a few months to go over some things with you! Please feel free to contact me for any questions or concerns. If you would like to nominate someone, please pray about it and contact me so I can pray for him or her also!

Many Blessings!

Tiffany Guthrie



## PRE-CURSILLO

De Colores my Brothers and Sister in Christ,

Many things have been happening in the Pre Cursillo sector of the movement.

Simplified Candidate and Sponsor forms were created and are now in use.

In July, a letter was sent out to all the pastors within the Rockford Diocese. This letter gave a general explanation of the Cursillo Movement, and how it is a beautiful gift given to the Church, and a great tool to be used by the Church to reclaim the fallen away, and to revitalize the lukewarm hearts within our Diocese.

A Pre-Cursillo pamphlet has been designed and will soon be coming off the press for use. This pamphlet gives information about the Cursillo Movement. The vision for the use of this pamphlet is to place them in Adoration Chapels, and in each Parish Narthex, or to be given out to anyone a Cursillista feels would benefit from reading the pamphlet. Sponsors can also use this pamphlet to help them inform their potential candidates about Cursillo.

A future project is to establish a contact person for each parish who would be willing to organize several Cursillistas to give an after mass talk about the upcoming Cursillo Weekend at their parish, and who would also be willing to talk to those who are interested in the Cursillo Movement.

That's it for now, and may our Lord bless you abundantly,

Lenore Zegiel  
(Pre Cursillo Chair)

**MAKE A FRIEND**

**BE A FRIEND**

**BRING YOUR FRIEND TO CHRIST**

*This is Part 1 of a three-part series on the how the Weekends are organized and the intent of each day. This article has been extracted from a talk given by Scott Long at the School of Leaders meeting in September 2018.*

## **Weekend Organization and Purpose**

Cursillo is the discovery of the invitation made to each candidate to "*Come and See*". That invitation is made in different ways. It certainly is made when we hear the Gospel at Mass. The invitation is also made through the sponsor or friend who encouraged us to come and live the weekend. Cursillo fosters the person becoming fully alive by means of three fundamental encounters: with Self, with **CHRIST**, **AND** with Others.

### ***The First Encounter — The Encounter with Self***

St. Augustine prayed: "**Lord** let me know myself in order that I may know **You**." The journey of encountering self begins with the meditation on the first evening, "*Know Yourself*", followed with the "*Prodigal Son*" and then the "*The Three Glances of Christ*" on Friday morning along with all of the Talks of the first day.

A journey into self can be frightening. We all have some fear in facing ourselves. However, this scary ride is worth the trip. As the weekend progresses, the fear turns into an acknowledgement and acceptance of our humanity, but also brings a recognition of the goodness within ourselves and seeing ourselves as being created in the image and likeness of **GOD**.

The Cursillistas is asked to look inward and in that process to stand exposed before **GOD**. It is not a process meant to fill us with guilt, or shame, or remorse. Rather, it is an invitation to stand before our true self and **GOD**, free of all manipulation, illusion, pretense, pride, self-deception and fear; so that we might allow **GOD**'s loving arms to embrace us as the **Father** once embraced the Prodigal Son and draw us close to **Himself** just as we are. In this warm, unconditional embrace, we discover that we are precious in the eyes of **GOD** and that we are eternally loved. When we personally experience this fundamental truth, we begin to find answers to the '*why*' and '*what for*' of our existence, to the meaning of our life.

This real encounter with oneself, with which the Cursillo begins is what later makes possible the encounter with others and with the Gospel. In this three-fold encounter, which begins and ends with friendship, Cursillo does not wish to impose any new commitments or obligations on anyone. Rather, it seeks that each one finds meaning in the commitment that he or she already has – the commitment that springs from life itself and from human relationships, a commitment that finds its source, strength and nourishment in friendship: friendship with **GOD** and neighbor.

Thursday is a culmination of six months of Praying, Planning, and Preparation. It is the time to setup for the weekend. It is a continuation of our Fourth Days. It is the eve of the First Day of the Weekend (Friday). It is the result of our Team formation and community building.

The goal of the early church was to build authentic Christian communities throughout the world. The Apostles were sent out in pairs to do this. They went from houses . . . to villages . . . to cities . . . to countries **Making Friends, Being Friends, and Bringing Their Friends to Christ**. That is how the Church was started and grew, by friends, making more friends, and becoming communities centered on **JESUS**.

Friendship is essential to Christianity and Cursillo. Friends offer their lives for each other and in turn become better themselves. A true friend becomes a second self. Friendship can turn into love and can develop into the highest form of love, the self giving love called Agape. This is possible when we give our self to another in a selfless manner for the good of the other. **JESUS** taught us that a friend is one who would lay down their life for another.

True friendship requires that we have matured ourselves into having the capacity to actually be a true Christian friend. It is within the friendship of **CHRIST** that we may begin to form friendships with others. Friendship magnifies our joy as Christians.

Cursillo is based on friendship. This friendship must translate into service toward others, basing it all on serving **CHRIST**. Cursillo is a witness of **CHRIST** offering **His** friendship. The Cursillo leader makes use of friendships in order to make their friends . . . friends with **CHRIST**. The linkage of Christian friends who help each other to maximize their potential by living together the life of grace is made possible through our Group Reunions and Ultreyas (both communities inside the larger community).

We start to develop friendships and communities in Pre-Cursillo where we focus on personal contact - Making Friends, Being Friends, and Bringing Friends to **CHRIST**.

In Cursillo (weekend) we continue these friendships and communities by spending 3 Days to develop 3 Friendships. There is the Friendship with Self (Friday), the Friendship with **CHRIST** (Saturday) and the Friendship with Others (Sunday).

(Part 1 of 3, Weekends by Scott Long, Continued from page 5)

In Post-Cursillo we link these friendships together into specific communities through our Group Reunions & Ultreyas.

Forming authentic Christian community does not happen over night or through a thought or desire. It cannot be faked or pretended. We need time to get to know each other authentically and grow close to one another. We spend this time with each other at Group Reunions, Ultreyas, School of Leaders, Secretariat, the weekends, and at the weekend team formation meetings. Each team forms a unique and particular Christian community that has been called by **GOD** to witness to a unique and particular group of candidates **He** has chosen. Christian community is only formed from the experience as being a living Church in communal witness. This can only be achieved by all team members spending time together sharing their Christian lives with one another prior to the actual Cursillo weekends. The weekends themselves do not form this community. The weekends are a continuation and culmination of this forming of community and an initiation and welcoming others (the candidates) into it.

We must be disciples of **CHRIST** out in all of our worlds knowing we are backed by a much larger community.

Remember . . .

**CHRIST** has given himself to all of us.

We must give ourselves to **Him** by giving ourselves to each other.

Touch someone's life with your life.

Touch someone's heart with your heart.

Share the gift of **GOD'S** love with everyone you meet

Every time we meet as a group of Cursillistas we pray this Scripture before we part ways:

***(Hebrews 10:24-25)** "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."*

We promise to stir up one another. We promise to love one another and work together. We desire to meet with each other frequently and encourage each other more every day. This is why we gather and group at all of our meetings. We become friends. We love each other. We are accountable to each other. We bring each other closer to **CHRIST**. We are an authentic Christian community.

Building an Authentic Christian Community requires friendship. Christian friendships need time with **CHRIST**. This is what Cursillo is, an Authentic Christian Community based on friendship with each other through **CHRIST**.

We do all of this in service of **CHRIST**. Our focus is always on **Him**. We need to be faithful and obedient servants of **JESUS**. We need to see **CHRIST** in each other. We should want to spend time together, be friends, be part of this awesome authentic Christian community, and share this Gift with everyone.

Thursday of the Cursillo Weekend is most importantly a Silent Spiritual Retreat. It is a Spiritual Retreat for us all, the candidates and the team.

We all need to Re-Treat from our busy and hectic lives. We need to awaken our moral and spiritual consciences.

The Spiritual Retreat is an extended time we take in relative quiet and solitude to pray, reflect, and ponder **GOD'S** will in a sustained, uninterrupted, and focused way. A lot of people do not take advantage of this time on the weekends. They are too busy still getting ready for the weekend and writing their Palanca notes, things they should have done before they arrived on Thursday.

**JESUS** made many retreats. He fasted in the wilderness for 40 days and nights, He was Transfigured on a mountain, and sweated blood in the Garden of Gethsemane. Moses retreated to the mountain to hear **GOD'S** voice and receive **His** commands. Many of the prophets withdrew from their worlds to know **His** will and grow into communion with **Him**. Paul went away into the Arabian desert after his conversion to contemplate.

(Part 1 of 3, Weekends by Scott Long, Continued from page 6)

We need to Retreat to adjust ourselves to a radically different way of thinking to begin to discern **GOD'S** will and honestly judge our lives by **His** standards.

This is why the Silent Retreat at the end of Thursday is so important for all of us, not just the candidates. We all need to Retreat away from our lives in order to draw closer to our **Lord** and prepare us for the rest of the weekend. Remember back to your weekend. Silence on the first night helps clear everyone's mind and open themselves to **CHRIST**.

The key to understanding our Movement is to understand the key messages found in each one of the weekend Talks and then how that fits with the underlying message of our Movement which is: "**GOD** Loves You." The Weekend talks follow along two separate, but interwoven, strands. There are the Grace Talks given by the Clergy and Lay Talks given by the lay people. Each Talk has a specific message to convey and as we've often heard, each Talk builds on the one that precedes it.

Friday is the First Day and is focused on the "Encounter with Self". Friday is aimed at getting the candidates to focus on themselves and their lives. This began at the start of the Silent Retreat.

On Friday, we have Morning Prayers with "*Three Glances of **CHRIST***" Meditation, Holy Mass, Breakfast, *IDEAL* Talk and Discussion, *HABITUAL GRACE* Talk and Discussion, Lunch, *LAYPERSON IN THE CHURCH* Talk and Discussion, *ACTUAL GRACE* Talk and Discussion, Palanca Table, Chapel Visit with "*Divine Mercy Chaplet*", Reconciliation, Dinner, *PIETY* Talk and Discussion, Chapel Visit with "*Stations of the Cross*", Poster Preparations and Party, Night Prayers, and the Night Team Meeting.

The five talks of Friday (3 lay talks - *IDEAL*, *LAYPERSON IN THE CHURCH*, and *PIETY* and 2 clergy talks - *HABITUAL GRACE* and *ACTUAL GRACE*) present the concept of living a life of grace. They raise the questions: *What do you value? How do you become pious? How can you live in grace?* Thursday began the focus on self. This day also draws attention to **GOD**, the Church, and Grace. The meditation the "*Three Glances of **CHRIST***" emphasizes the themes for the day.

The first talk of the day and the weekend, the *IDEAL* talk, quietly asks the candidates to analyze life goals. It assists the candidates to discover what it means to be a human. This talk helps them analyze what ideals are directing their lives, what motivates them, how they choose to spend their free time. It is a gentle invitation to discovery.

*"What do you think about most often?"*

*How do you spend your time?"*

*What do you spend your money on?"*

*What pleases you most in life?"*

*The answer to these questions is your Ideal."*

The *HABITUAL GRACE* talk, the first clergy talk of the day and the weekend, presents the central ideal of the Cursillo method. It tells the candidates that living a life in grace is the Christian ideal and that **GOD** is calling each candidate to a personal relationship with **GOD**.

The *LAYPERSON IN THE CHURCH* talk connects the life of grace to the modern world. This talk describes the church as a community of people who are living in grace. It focuses on several aspects of the church and the means of bringing **CHRIST** into the world. "*I am the Church. You are the Church. Together we are the Church.*"

The *ACTUAL GRACE* talk outlines the theme that **GOD** is available at all times to those who need help. At the end of this talk, Palanca letters are read and distributed.

*PIETY*, the final talk of the day presents the first and most basic step of being an apostle. It invites the candidates to direct their whole lives to **GOD**, to living the Christian ideal fully and without reserve. The Tripod of Piety, Study, and Action is introduced. The talk is very direct, straightforward, and identifies ways of avoiding this duplicity. The talk is specific about how to direct one's life to **GOD**. It sums up the themes of the first day's talks.

*"The only adequate response to the gift of grace of **GOD** is to totally surrender to **Him**."*

## DIOCESE NEWS



It's time to celebrate our Movement!

**Saturday, December 1, 2018 6 PM-1AM**

**La Sierra of Aurora 2121 E New York St, Aurora**

**\$ 35.00 per person, includes dinner**

The Spanish Language Cursillo in Christianity in Movement of the Diocese of Rockford is pleased to invite you to their 2nd "De Colores" Dance. This dinner-dance is to benefit the Spanish language Cursillo Movement in the Diocese. It is open to anyone over 18 years of age. Come to a night full of joy, fellowship, friendship, fun, raffles, live music, dinner, 50/50 raffle and much more!

**For tickets: (English contact, Spanish Lay Director) Marisela Garcia (630) 853-9202**

**(Aurora) Maria Velazquez (630) 788-4946**

**(Elgin) Elvira Torres (224) 402-3503**

**(DeKalb) Cleme Camarena (224) 595-7631**

**(Carpentersville) Maria Ceja (847) 836-9239**

**(Rochelle) Rafael Barajas (815) 622-8967**

e-mail: [Cristocuentacontigorockford@gmail.com](mailto:Cristocuentacontigorockford@gmail.com)

# Congratulations!

We are honored and proud to have six Cursillistas who have recently become Permanent Deacons!

May God Bless you and Keep you all the days of your life!

Ron Abramowicz

Jose Bermea

\*Rick Broderick

Fermin Garcia

John Gibson

Steven Johnson

\*just made his Weekend: Fall 2018!!

## Spring 2019 Cursillo Weekend Dates:

St. Mary's Parish Center, Oregon, IL

Men: April 25-28, 2019

Women: May 2-5, 2019

Grande Ultreya to be held in late January 2019 -  
announcement coming soon!





We need to know the time and talent you have to help the Movement...help us to get to know each of you better by telling us how you can help...

*Can you help the Movement by being...*

On a Secretariat Team (Pre Cursillo, Cursillo, Post Cursillo)?

Being Part of the School of Leaders Core Group?

Hosting an Ultreya in your area?

Being a Parish Rep?

*On Weekends...*

For Liaison can you do computer work (MS Word, Excel)?

For Music: can you sing? Do you play an instrument?

For Chapel: are you an EM, Lector, or a Sacristan?

For Kitchen: are you a chef? Do you like to shop and plan meals?

Send us an email and let us know: [rkfdcursillo@gmail.com](mailto:rkfdcursillo@gmail.com)

Rockford Diocese



Cursillo Movement

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5