

THE ROOSTER

JULY 2025

Cursillo

A Note From Our Lay Director



Another Weekend and New Cursillista Ultreya is in the books. The Lord has blessed us with 7 new cursillistas! While this was not the number of candidates many of us were hoping for, I know it made a difference for those who were able to attend the weekend. With that said we unfortunately had to cancel the Women's weekend due to low attendance for the 2nd time in a row.

With that being said- the need for action is now.

While the women may have missed 2 weekends, the men were very close to canceling for a 2nd time in a row as well. We cannot be complacent; the time to start looking for candidates is now. There is so much that takes up our time these days, if there is a potential candidate you have in mind, get them thinking about the weekend while it's still 5 months away. As St. Augustine says "Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you."



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DIRECTOR*

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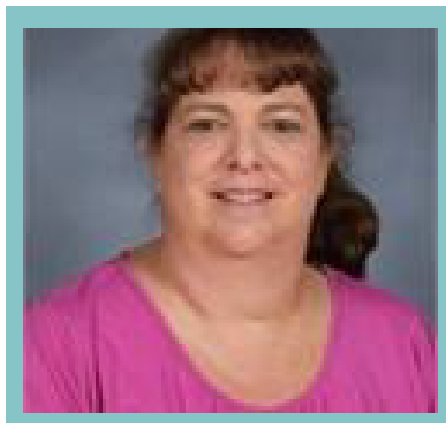
*REFLECTIONS
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*A NOTE FROM
OUR SPIRITUAL
DIRECTOR*



Welcome New Members!

Beth Lachat
Post Cursillo Chairperson



I am honored and excited to step into the role of Chairperson for Post Cursillo. Let me introduce myself to those who don't know me. My husband Marty and I have been married for almost 35 years and have been blessed with five children: Michael, Tommy, his wife Alesia, Megan, Matthew and Bridget. Marty and I made our Cursillo in the Spring of 1995 at Bishop Lane Retreat Center. It was the first weekend held at Bishop Lane, and I was one of eight candidates my weekend. What a blessed weekend! As many of you already know, Cursillo is a huge part of our family. My parents, Bob and Lois Wright started it all when they made their weekends in 1972.

All of my siblings and their spouses, several nieces and nephews, my in-laws and all five of my children have all made their weekend. Many of them remain active in the movement and work the weekends. Our son, Tommy is the current Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator. We are so proud of all of them.

The Post Cursillo committee has a terrific group of members. The Post Cursillo is responsible for ensuring Cursillistas have the opportunity to continue to grow in their faith after the weekend. As committee chair, my goals are to continue to facilitate this growth through supporting group reunions, organizing more Ultreyas so that there are opportunities to attend these in each of the regions of the diocese, as we had in years past, and to provide resources to help people live out their fourth day. Please feel free to contact me with additional ideas and resources you may have. I hope everyone continues to support the success of the Rockford Diocese Cursillo by working the weekends (full or part-time), doing palanca, attending the closings and inviting people to make the weekend. Remember to make a friend, be a friend and bring that friend to Christ!



**Make a friend,
Be a friend,
Bring a friend to Christ.**

116th Men's Fall 2025 Weekend

*"Remain in me, as I
remain in you."
John 15:4*

Oct. 16-19, 2025

Rector: Dan Wright
630-309-0781
dewright03@gmail.com

Assistant Rector:
Ken Manion
708-287-3184
kujomanion@aol.com

TEAM MEETINGS (1-4pm)

*August 24th- Holy
Angels, Aurora*

*September 7th- St.
Charles Borromeo,
Hampshire*

(Commissioning)
*September 21st- Holy
Angels, Aurora*

*September 28th- Holy
Angels, Aurora*

*October 12- St.
Mary's Parish Center,
Oregon (Women's
Clausura)*



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Laura Kraft-Greer School of Leaders Leader

Hello & De Colores!

I made my Cursillo in 1997. I have been married for 43 years, I have four grown children and one grandson, I have a degree in Early Childhood Education and recently, I became a Certified Food Manager.

Stepping into the School of Leaders, I want to improve my knowledge. To help and encourage others to keep the fire of their fourth day.

Reflections on the Spring Weekend

The 115th men's Cursillo in the Rockford diocese was held this spring March 27 - 30. It was an inspirational weekend, we had a great team and awesome candidates.



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The theme chosen for this weekend was "Here I am Lord" from Acts 9: 1-20. This was Ananias' response to the Lord after being called to bring the word of the Lord to Saul. Preparing for the weekend the team reflected on being like Ananias by answering the Lord's call to bring the Holy Spirit to the candidates. At the beginning of the weekend, the candidates were told of this theme and that they were being called by the Lord, through their sponsor, and answered the call by attending the weekend. They were asked to be opened minded to hear what the Holy Spirit was telling them on the weekend.

One of my goals going into the weekend was to try and be well rested so I'd be as alert as possible the entire weekend. Unfortunately, I had a call on Wednesday night prior to the weekend that required me to be up until after 3am. So much for my plan to be well rested. Early on Thursday morning of the weekend, I had a call from one of the speakers saying that he was sick and couldn't make the weekend. We started the weekend with 9 candidates. After the first night, two of the candidates, a father and son, needed to leave. This left us with 7 candidates to make the weekend.

106th Women's Fall 2025 Weekend

*"Woman, whom are
you looking for?"
John 20:15*

Oct. 9-12, 2025

*Carol Prunty
815-499-0842
pruntys79@comcast.net*

*Assistant Rector:
Barb Olson
815-544-1722
Olbel2618@hotmail.com*

TEAM MEETINGS (1-4pm)

*September 7th- St.
Charles Borromeo,
Hampshire
(Commissioning)
September 21st- St.
Mary's Parish Center,
Oregon
September 28th- St.
Mary's Parish Center,
Oregon*



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You might say that all these things were just a coincidence. You may also say that these were the devil trying to disrupt the weekend. My feeling is that these were reminders that the Holy Spirit is in charge of Cursillo weekends. It's the Holy Spirit's plan and not ours. In spite of these, the weekend went well.

My only hope is that the speaker that was sick will have a chance to give his talk on a future weekend. He spent many hours planning and rehearsing the talk. Then he was unable to give the talk or attend the weekend.

Cursillo weekends are unlike any other, there are many moments closest to Christ no matter what your job is on the weekend... candidate, kitchen worker, chapel team, rector. The first moment I can recall was watching the first couple of speakers give their talks and watching the response from the candidates. These were the first talks the speakers had given on a Cursillo weekend and things had gone great during practice at the team meetings prior to the weekend. Watching the Holy Spirit work through them in the conference room was amazing. Their talks were raised to

another level on the weekend. Chapel visits were also moments closest to Christ. It was amazing to sit in the back of the chapel behind the candidates all of us looking at Jesus and listening to a meditation. There is nothing like being in the chapel on a Cursillo weekend.

On Friday, Fr. Kramer was able to help with confessions. Because of his health, we were unsure whether he'd be able to participate in the weekend. Father was also able to spend some time in the conference room, introduce himself, and share a few thoughts on the Cursillo with the candidates.

In the conference room late on Sunday things seemed to be going pretty well. We were all getting kind of tired and a little stiff from sitting all day and listening to quite a few talks. One of the candidates familiar with physical training, volunteered to lead the room on some relaxing exercises. This helped get us all back on track. This was another spontaneous activity.

A final moment closest to Christ for me was Closures. Walking into the room full of men and women from the Cursillo community is awesome. These are the people that had been praying and doing

“Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me.”

JOHN 15:4



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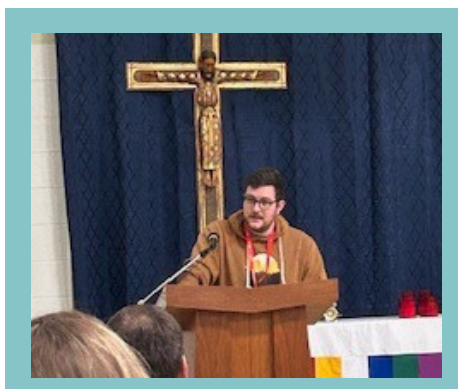


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Palanca for us. Being at Mass and then hearing how the Holy Spirit touched the candidates on the weekend is amazing. I encourage everyone reading this to always try to attend the Men's and Women's closing. We need to get together as a community to welcome our new Cursiistas. It's a fantastic, Spirit filled, experience.

A couple of weeks ago I was meditating on John chapter 3 verse 3. This is when John the Baptist, talking about Jesus said "He must increase, while I must decrease". In the past I usually focused on the "I must decrease" part of this quote. It occurred to me that maybe I should be focusing more on the "He must increase" part. In Cursillo, our mission is to spread Christ's message to the world. Helping Him to increase in the world. After the 115th Men's Cursillo weekend, we added 7 new men to help increase Jesus in the world. Praise the Lord!

De Colores,
Tom Wright, Rector



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A Note from our Spiritual Director



Fr. Godwin

"Make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ." That must have been the reality of the Apostles, inspired by the joy of the Lord's resurrection. It revived their lukewarm faith and made them proactive in evangelization. I pray it may also prompt us to action, as it did the Apostles, to sow seeds for a fruitful harvest.

The motto of the Cursillo, "to make, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ," was likely inspired by the testimony of the early church. Filled with the Holy Spirit, at Pentecost, they, led by Peter, sowed seeds that have endured over our two-thousand-year history, with over 1.4 billion Catholics under the new Pope, Leo XIV, as the successor of the first, Peter. The same Holy Spirit, through our Cursillo movement, invites and challenges us to join

*“‘Woman,
why are you
weeping?
Whom are
you looking
for?’
Supposing
him to be the
gardener,
she said to
him, ‘Sir, if
you have
carried him
away, tell
me where
you have
laid him,
and I will
take him
away.’”*

JOHN 20: 15



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the ranks as disciples and sow the seeds for a future harvest.

As disciples called to share the Good News, we recognize the profound impact of a Cursillo weekend—a time of renewal, reflection, and deepening our walk with Christ. The challenge is to extend this invitation far and wide, ensuring God's grace can touch more hearts. This calls for witnessing over words. I resisted attending the Cursillo weekend until a couple at the Newman Center, with their practical witness of faith, hope, and love, convinced me to give it a try. I felt the Joy and Peace of the Holy Spirit renewed in my heart in a manner I had not experienced in a long time, and I started wondering why I had not attended the weekend sooner. After that, I began sharing my experiences in the parish as a means of encouraging others to have the same experience. But I discovered that prayers, personal invitations, and witnesses were more effective. With those, I have encouraged so many over the years to attend the weekend, and they have shared their profound experiences.

You may recall that after the weekend, Ultreya's (moving

onward and beyond), the retreats help to revive the experiences of the early church with a sense of brotherhood and sisterhood that is better experienced than explained. It emphasizes the continuity of faith. It helps to strengthen our faith and connections with God and others in our parish and local communities. It creates a culture of belonging, not just to ourselves, but ultimately to God and His family—our brothers and sisters. We need to remember and share these realities and teach others about them. "The Holy Spirit... will teach...and make you remember..." John 14:26. We remember and need to share that the Cursillo weekend, followed by the Ultreya's, enlivens our faith and brings it to action. It helps us to see beyond words; directs our hearts on how to start personal invitations and lead others to Christ. Cursillo weekend encourages us to put our faith into action, strengthen our connections with our parish communities, and create a culture of belonging and prayer, "...for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit intercedes for us." Romans 8: 26.

As we arise from Easter through Ascension and Pentecost, we pray above all, for open hearts to God's grace through our upcoming Men's and Women's weekend in the fall. We entrust this mission to the

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Who will you
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Holy Spirit to prepare hearts, remove obstacles, and lead the right individuals to say “yes.” Prayer fosters openness and strengthens our faith as we trust in God’s plan. As we invite others to encounter Christ through Cursillo, we keep our core values of Piety, Study, and Action praying to lead us to “to live out our faith authentically, embracing Christ’s teachings daily in our lives; help us experience a personal and transformative relationship with Jesus, leading to a renewed commitment to Christian living” to understand the importance of community encourage believers to support one another through small group reunions and larger gatherings. A key principle is to evangelize through friendship- “make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ,” fostering evangelization through personal relationships. Engagement in ongoing growth and realizing the dynamics of faith and the individual, as well as communal encounter.



Let us remember that even the smallest invitation can lead to a life-changing encounter with Christ. Who will you invite today?



**Make a friend,
Be a friend,
Bring a friend to Christ.**

“The little seed sown in Spain more than 50 years ago has become a great tree rich in fruits of the Spirit.”

POPE FRANCIS



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