



## ROCKFORD DIOCESE CURSILLO MOVEMENT



### *Looking Back with Gratitude*

*By Tommy Lachat,  
Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator*

As this year comes to an end and a new one begins, it's a good time to pause and reflect on the past year.

We entered 2025 with an entirely new Secretariat. Candace remained in her role, Sandy and I stepped into new positions, and we welcomed four brand-new members to the Secretariat. While the transition was not without its challenges, I can confidently say that each of these individuals has done a fantastic job.

I would like to take a moment to highlight just a few of our members and their accomplishments this year.

Vicki, our Cursillo Chairperson, has been instrumental in maintaining our relationship with St. Mary's in Oregon and in helping to build a strong relationship with the new pastor, Fr. Sehr.

Beth, our Post-Cursillo Chairperson, has begun revitalizing the Ultreyas in our diocese. In November, more than 50 people attended the new Cursillista Ultreya, with additional Ultreyas planned for Lee, St. Charles, and Loves Park in the coming months.

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**THE ROOSTER**  
JANUARY 2026

And who could forget Mark? Our Pre-Cursillo Chairperson was relentless in encouraging Cursillistas to invite others to the weekends. His efforts—along with the dedication of each and every one of you—were instrumental in allowing 22 men and 14 women to make their Cursillo weekends this year.

Thank you all for your dedication to this movement. I ask that you please keep the members of the Secretariat in your prayers as we continue to serve both you and Christ. Know that you are always in ours.

*De Colores*



## *One Friendship at a Time*

*By Mark Powell, Pre-Cursillo Chair*

As we look ahead to the new year, the heart of Pre-Cursillo remains beautifully simple: make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ. It's the rhythm that keeps our movement alive. So much of our work happens long before anyone steps onto a weekend—in the small encounters, conversations, invitations, and genuine relationships we build in our ordinary lives. Christ works powerfully in those quiet, steady friendships. We don't need perfect words; we just need an open heart and a willingness to walk alongside someone.

In every parish, workplace, and neighborhood, there are people who are hungry for hope, community, and a deeper relationship with God, even if they don't say it out loud. Pre-Cursillo is simply paying attention to them—the ones God places in our path. When we truly “be a friend,” not as a strategy but as an act of love, the Holy Spirit does the rest. Invitations become natural. Conversations become meaningful. And lives begin to open in ways only Christ can orchestrate.

As we move toward 2026, I want to encourage our whole community to stay intentional: pray for the one person God may be nudging you toward; look for opportunities to encourage them; and, when the moment is right, invite them into something deeper. Our movement grows not by programs, but by people—by friends willing to share Christ's love one relationship at a time. Let's keep leaning into that mission with joy and confidence. *De Colores!*

**117<sup>th</sup> Men's Spring Weekend**

*"Lord...  
Make our  
hearts burn  
while you  
speak to  
us"*

LK 24:13-35

**April 16-19, 2026**

**107<sup>th</sup> Women's Spring Weekend**

*"Here I am,  
Lord"*

IS. 6:8

**April 23-26, 2026**



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# *Grace Through the Challenges*

*By Carol Prunty, Rectora Fall 20025*

Here are some of my reflections on the 106th Women's Cursillo—or, as Father Gow said, “the third time is a charm Cursillo.” And a charm it truly was. All the time, effort, and changes it took to get there were worth it. God was waiting until everything was just right. When we arrived on Thursday night, I felt at peace, knowing this was the group that was meant to be.

I am deeply thankful to Father Gow, Barb Olson, and the many team members who stuck it out with me. I am also grateful for the last-minute substitutions. The team was excellent and hardworking, with many serving in double and even triple roles.

It was a joy to have Abby, Father's dog, with us for the weekend. She was such a good girl, and her presence added something special to the experience.

There were a few hiccups along the way—many suffered headaches and didn't feel well, the dishwasher broke, and we had no heat—but we persevered together.

Seeing so many young women on the weekend and witnessing how deeply they were impacted by the Cursillo gives me great hope for the future.

It was an honor to experience God's patience in bringing this beautiful weekend to fruition—a weekend that touched the hearts of our candidates and drew everyone closer to Christ.

*"Woman,  
whom  
are you  
looking  
for?"*

JN. 20:15



# *God Was Faithful: Reflections on the 116th Men's Cursillo*

*By Dan Wright, Rector Fall 20025*

I was blessed to serve as the Rector for the 116th Men's Cursillo in the Rockford Diocese, held October 16–19, 2025. On Thursday afternoon, I spent a few quiet moments before the Blessed Sacrament, asking the Lord to be with me and to remind me that it wasn't all about me. He did not let me down.

It was a joy to watch the candidates as they listened attentively to each talk and then eagerly entered into their table discussions. Our table leaders did an excellent job guiding the conversations, keeping them focused, and ensuring that everyone had an opportunity to participate. As the weekend unfolded, we truly formed an authentic Christian community within the conference room.

We were blessed with outstanding service teams. The food was wonderful and always ready, no matter how far we fell behind schedule. The chapel remained a prayerful and holy place throughout the weekend. The liaison team ensured we had everything we needed when we needed it. The music team lifted our spirits through song at Mass, leading us in "De Colores" and joyfully singing our theme song—over, and over, and over again.

I am deeply thankful for the prayers and palanca that brought us an abundance of candidates, allowing us to hold both the Women's and Men's weekends. I pray that our new Cursillistas will persevere in their Fourth Day and that God will continue to bless our movement in the years ahead. De Colores!

*"Remain  
in Me, as  
I remain  
in you."*

JN. 15:4

