

# THE ROOSTER

January, 2023



## *A Note From the School of Leaders*

### *Why Attend?*

*By Ken Meeker, Chair*

Remember the talk at the weekend about becoming leaders in your environment? That call every Cursillistas has to become a leader in the way God is calling them to be. The purpose of the SOL is to help us to grow so that we can have the confidence and the tools to answer that call to leadership.

The School of Leaders is an instrument of apostolic outreach to those who have lived the experience of a Cursillo weekend. It helps each member to discover, accept, and grow in their vocations, bringing them together so that together they can take on the responsibility of being Leaders in the Church, in the Cursillo Movement, and in their respective environments.

As an operational structure of the Cursillo Movement, the SOL is a community of Christians who, united in the atmosphere of a Group Reunion, seek every day to become more centered, more committed, and more united, to accelerate in themselves, in the Movement, and in their environments the living out of what is fundamental for being a Christian.

The SOL includes prayer, group reunion, doctrinal and technique presentations, and work of the Cursillo sections. For doctrinal talks, we've been reading and discussing the book, *Whom Shall I Send?* It helps each of us discern the will of God not only for Cursillo but in our everyday life.

Our technique presentations have been going over each of the Cursillo sections – Pre Cursillo, Cursillo and Post Cursillo. As we continue, we will be reviewing



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### *UPCOMING WEEKENDS*

Men's: April 20 - 23, 2023

Women's: April 27 - 30, 2023



talks as well as weekend team activities.

Any Cursillista wanting to learn more about the Cursillo Movement or become more involved is encouraged and welcome to attend. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month; we move around the diocese to provide equal access to everyone for traveling. Check the website for this month's location.

## *A Letter from our Lay Director*

*By Tiffany Guthrie*

Hello Cursillo Family, near and far, from the newest to our most experienced!

I want to encourage you to continue to pray for our Cursillo Movement, our leaders, and for the newest Cursillistas who've just joined our beautiful family! If you have been away for a while, please pray about coming back to work a Weekend! We'd love to reconnect with you. We will be praying for you as well. Don't hesitate to reach out to ask questions or share your concerns. It is my pleasure to help via phone or email!

I wish you a beautiful Advent season and pray that you and your family are blessed with health, happiness, and JOY as we head toward Christmas and the new year!

## *Rector's Reflection*

*By Tommy Lachat*

This weekend, just like every Cursillo weekend, was a fantastic experience in its own unique way. It all started Thursday, my brothers and I arrived just in time to miss almost all the set-up. George pointed out to me a copy of Hook's Jesus with the words "Return to Bob Wright" written on the back of it, it was nice to see my grandpa was already there to watch over the weekend. The candidates began to arrive, one by one they slowly made their way into the building until 13 of the 15 we had expected arrived, we were already a bit behind schedule, so we decided to kick things off. As we started to make our 1st introductions, in came our last 2 stragglers, one of whom was Shannon (a trend that would continue throughout the weekend) amazingly we had no Thursday dropouts, God is good.

Friday rolled around and we started to hear our 1st talks, I can't say we heard a single bad talk this whole weekend- then again, I don't speak Portuguese. But it's amazing to watch as they candidates realize that speakers are amongst them and they "smell



*"I am  
the  
bread  
of  
life"*

JOHN 6:35



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

like the sheep” sharing in their weekend, not just lecturing them on how to live it out. Confession, while it may go on record as one of the longest in Cursillo history, was a major turning point on the weekend. It gave the guy’s time not just to go to confession but, to read their Palanca. All those personal letters from complete strangers clearly had a major impact on them, from that point forward the energy in the conference room had completely changed for the better. The day came to a close with the awarding of a blue ribbon at the poster party (leave it to a priest to pick the poster with Latin) and plenty of laughter to go along with it.

Saturday held many beautiful moments. There was the teaching Mass leading to agape, and of course Agape itself. Talk after talk was unbelievably inspirational, seeing Doug give every last ounce of energy he had into his talk was without question a moment closest for me. The day may have run a bit long but, it was worth it. All ending with candlelight, an Ave Maria, and a unique Our Father.

Sunday is always such a bittersweet day. It is incredible to see all these strangers from just a few days ago as your new brothers in Christ, and how different they are from when you 1st met them. Speaking of our brothers in Christ, we had some fantastic tacos for lunch, it was absolutely inspirational to see how many brand new Cursillistas from just a few weeks ago on the Spanish side came to serve us. I was able to sit down with Paul Valenti and have a conversation about trying to get a Cursillo started in his home diocese, yet another moment closest. In a blink of an eye it was time for Closures, the new Cursillistas came up one by one to tell us about their weekend. Weather it was Tom having the whole conference room behind him or Shannon giving a half hour off the cuff speech, each was a blessing in its own right.

Thank you to everyone involved, and to all the new Cursillistas for making the weekend as special as it was. We are always here for you as you journey on your 4th day. De Colores.

*"Make a friend,  
be a friend,  
bring your friend to Christ."*



# *Rectora's Reflection*

*By Rosiland Fiepke*

I began living my Cursillo 12 years ago in November of 2010. I'm from St Bridget Parish in Loves Park. When I was asked to be Rectora, I really didn't have to think of a theme for the weekend because it was something that happened to me on my weekend. My theme was - or should I say IS - "A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you. You will be my people and I will be your God." Ezekiel 36: 26, 28. I consecrated the weekend, all candidates, and all team members to Our Lady of Guadalupe. My prayer was for a weekend of peace, renewal, conversion of hearts and spirits.

There were many special moments on the Cursillo. Everyone in attendance of a Cursillo has their own moments which are closest to their hearts. I will share only a couple of mine or this might never reach an end! The first was the blessing of seeing music touch the hearts and minds and souls of the candidates as they turned shining faces heavenward with eyes closed, just listening. Some with open outstretched hands to receive from the Holy Spirit all that He desired to give.

The next moment I am willing to share was during the Cross Ceremony. I was supposed to be doing some speaking and as I looked around the room I saw some of my long-time Cursillista

friends with tears in their eyes, or running down faces. I was very moved by their reactions and it moved me deeply so that I had a hard time doing my work.

The last thing that I will share is 2 moments from the Clausura. As I said, I had consecrated the weekend to Our Lady of Guadalupe. At the Clausura, one of the candidates stood up and told us her birth story and how she had come to bear the name Guadalupe, and how she had come to this Cursillo after being asked and refusing twice before. She now has a whole new take on things and is going home to make a shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe. The other incident is something that also leaves me awed - one of the candidates told how a year ago she went to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, found herself buying a scapular of Our Lady of Guadalupe, then praying and fasting for someone whom she would give the scapular to. She was twice inspired to give it, yet did not. At the Clausura she said she finally understood who was to receive it, took it off and presented it to me. What a beautiful and humbling moment. I thank God for the beautiful experiences that serving as Rectora brought to me. I hope the candidates find themselves also blessed by the work this entire team did. A Cursillo is always the sum of everyone and the efforts of all. Many thanks to everyone who listened, heard, and acted on the call of the Holy Spirit to bring this Cursillo to fruition.

*"A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you. You will be my people, and I will be your God."*

EZEKIEL 36: 26, 28







## *An Invitation to Share "a Moment Closest to Christ"*

*By Ray Oleferchik*

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.

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,



*"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works."*

HEBREWS 10:24