



The Rooster

Happy Spring Cursillistas!

For those of you who have just made your Cursillo Weekends:

Congratulations & Welcome to your Fourth Day!

We hope you enjoy the news about the Cursillo Movement here in the Rockford Diocese. In this newsletter, you will find the dates for the Fall 2019 Cursillo weekend, letters from the Lay Director, Pre-Cursillo, Post-Cursillo, and School of Leaders.

If you have any questions or concerns, always know that you can contact anyone on the Secretariat as listed on the right.

Fall 2019 Men's Cursillo

October 17 - 20, 2019

Fall 2019 Women's Cursillo

October 24 - 27, 2019

Ultreya: Honoring Our Newest Cursillistas

June 2, 2019

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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Lay Director Report by Ken Meeker

The Secretariat has spent some time reviewing our Annual Report, which is filed with both the Bishop's office, as well as the National Secretariat. Here are some highlights:

Secretariat

- Fr Godwin has been assigned to and meets regularly with the team, in addition to meeting monthly with the Lay Director
- The Lay Director attended both the National and Region V Encounters
- Secretariat has developed a working relationship with Region V Secretariat; has created and maintains the Region V website; and arranged for the representative that attended the Ultreya Grande in January 2019
- A Spanish representative regularly attended the English Secretariat meeting in 2018. There were two joint Ultreyas and the Lay Directors continue to work together to compare notes and items of interest

Communications

- Constant Contact allowed communications to email various notices from different aspects of Cursillo. Secretariat averages at least one informational email per week, in addition to sending daily prayer requests. Currently, there are nearly 500 email addresses in the database, with a 40% rate of emails being opened.
- A new web site was created and has been well received. It is updated frequently and experiencing over 200 "hits" per month.
- Developed and published a tri-fold brochure explaining Cursillo, its benefits and how to begin its journey. Out of the 107 parishes in Rockford, 58 parishes have active Cursillistas. Within those active parishes, 29 have a point of contact and have brochures displayed in their Narthex.

Pre-Cursillo

- Secretariat has created a 'Table Leaders' talk, which is given to the leaders during the initial team meeting
- This team meeting has been done for several years by the women, and the men began in 2018. It is a gathering of the conference room team and team heads and includes lunch and may last several hours.

Cursillo Weekends

- Four weekends (Men and Women) were held in 2018 and four weekends have been scheduled for Spring and Fall 2019 at St. Mary's Parish Center, Oregon, IL
- A letter has been sent out after the Fall weekends to Pastors of the parishes of the new Cursillistas that completed their weekend.
- A new Sponsor information package has been created and is included with candidate/ sponsor forms and can be found on the website.

Ultreya

- We are getting closer to our goal of having an Ultreya in each area of the diocese. Thus far, there are Ultreyas in: Oregon, Aurora, Rockford/Loves Park, Elgin, and McHenry. An Ultreya will be held in Hampshire in 2019.
- In September, a bilingual Ultreya was held in Carpentersville with 62 people in attendance. Fr. Manuel Gomez gave an informative presentation on Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- A six-person team made up of both English and Spanish Cursillistas planned and held the latest Ultreya Grande at St. Laurence, Elgin on February 9, 2019 with 95 people in attendance. Speakers included Fr. David Smith from Miami (former Cursillo National Spiritual Director) and Carol Perez (Region V Cursillo National Secretariat).
- An excellent front-page article on this Ultreya Grande was published in both the English and Spanish *Observer* in February 2019.

School of Leaders (SOL)

- The primary emphasis has been on reestablishing the SOL, which has been inactive for some time. Thus far, four meetings have been held. Meetings are held at St. James, Belvidere, on the third Wednesday, on odd numbered months. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary Report by Melanie Marcordes

DeColores! I wanted to introduce myself as the new Secretary of the Rockford Diocese Cursillo Secretariat. I've joined the Secretariat simply because there was a need and my goal is and always has been to serve when there is a need. As my predecessor, Tiffany Guthrie, has completed her six-years of service, I now have big shoes to fill!

I began living my Cursillo in October 2016. I like to pretend that I started a trend in my family, because both of my parents have also become Cursillistas. Fortunately, I'm not that powerful or persuasive and it has been through the intercession of the Holy Spirit that my parents and I all joined the Cursillo family within a year of each other. I group every Friday with my 'regular' group – as we have been meeting weekly since living our Cursillo in 2016. I also have begun grouping a couple of times a month in order for newer Cursillistas to establish their own groups. I work full-time for the Village of Barrington as the Assistant to the Village Manager and have been with Barrington for over 20 years. I am a co-youth minister for St. Laurence and I also teach 5th grade religious education. I have a 19-year old son, Max, who is attending the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. I am engaged to be married to John – no date is set, as we are waiting on his annulment. Once that is complete, we will start planning the wedding.

Life is crazy, and I am blessed to be a part of all of this craziness.

School of Leaders Report by Cathy Vendemia

What is the School of Leaders (SOL)?

SOL is, above all, a Christian community in action which gives life to the entire Cursillo movement. This Christian Community must be a school of idealism, of dedication, and a spirit of love. There must be in it a handful of determined, enthusiastic, dedicated men and women who group themselves about Jesus Christ with the aim of spreading the Christian ideal to all those in the movement and therefore translating it into works.

So, it goes without saying that the school of leaders functions primarily as a community of service to the Cursillistas – particularly in the Post-Cursillo. SOL is called to be a community before anything else. Therefore, operating on the same principal on which the group reunions and Ultreyas are based, this community meets regularly in order *to be in and be sustained as* a community. Its basic function is not *to do* things, but to *become* a community of service.

The purpose of the school is to form leaders for the whole movement. The school produces leaders technically and spiritually prepared, not simply to direct each of the Cursillo weekend, but also and principally in order to be leaven of the movement in the Diocese. This is important, because it is the leaders on whom lies the responsibility of creating our group reunions and Ultreyas into effective evangelizing communities. So, the school is more than just learning about what the Cursillo Movement is – its purpose is to provide the leaders a deepening formation in what is fundamental for being a Christian.

The school is the tool the movement uses that helps Cursillo leaders develop their spiritual formation, the mentality of the movement, and an understanding of the purpose and strategy of the Cursillo Movement. The School of Leaders meet the 3rd Wednesday of the odd numbered months at St. James Church (Connolly Hall) in Belvidere. Our next meeting is May 15, 2019 at 7:00pm.

Pre-Cursillo Report by Lenore Zegiel

Our Pre-Cursillo pamphlets have been printed and over 1,000 pamphlets have been distributed to 50% of the active Cursillo parishes in our Diocese. A grateful “Thank you” to all of you who have helped in getting the information about Cursillo out there. But there’s more to Pre-Cursillo than handing out pamphlets, and I’d like to say a little something about sharing Christ with others.

Our first step in serving our Lord, is to spend time with Him, because it is through knowing Christ that we are given the ability and power to tell others about Him. The more we know Christ, the more of His light we will reflect, and the more we will naturally attract others to come and hear how Christ has totally changed our lives, and how the Cursillo Movement has given us the tools and support to live a life of Grace. In other words we are to become the Good News, so we can share the Good News with others.

Eduardo Bonnin, tells us throughout many of his writings; to focus on the person, and that we are to continue the conversion process of ourselves in order to help the conversion of others, and by doing this, our environments will automatically and naturally be transformed.

Also remember that: “Before you speak to someone about God, speak to God about that someone”

Make a Friend, Be a Friend, and Bring Your Friend to Christ, is our **second step**, and it is through personal contact, and listening to others tell their life stories, that we get to know them, and learn how to match their need to Christ’s provision. As a friend, and if we listen long enough, eventually our friend, will ask us about our life story. People don’t care about how much we know, but they will listen once they know how much we care.

The main thing to remember is that our friendship with Jesus must be visible in our friendship with others. That’s it for now, and may our Lord bless you abundantly!

Cursillo Report by Anne Stevens

Greetings and De Colores, my brothers and sisters in Christ!

My name is Anne Stevens and I was re-elected in February to serve a second term as the Cursillo chairperson on Secretariat. I began living my Cursillo in the Spring of 2014. I’m a life-long member of St. Mary’s in Oregon, having worked many a fund-raiser, washed dishes, fried bacon, bused tables, taught Religious Education and attended CCD in this very building for more than 40 years. Needless to say, I think I know the parish center almost as well as I know my own apartment!

The Cursillo Chairperson is responsible for the overall operations or logistics of each weekend event. The Cursillo Chairperson is the liaison, if you will, between Secretariat and the facility which we rent each weekend, which is St. Mary’s Parish Center in Oregon. Fortunately, I’m a member of the parish at St. Mary Oregon and have a great working relationship with the staff, the deacons and Father Nail. It is my responsibility to make sure the weekend dates are secured, leases signed, building up to par and all supplies needed are ready to go. I also work around the liturgical calendar to avoid as many potential conflicts with Holy Days and other Diocesan events. On the weekends, I am present at set-up and tear-down. I am the keeper of the keys not only to the building, but also to the toilet paper! (Very valuable position!) It is my responsibility to make sure the weekends run hassle-free, to the best of my ability.

If you have any questions of how things operate, where things go or where to find something while on a weekend, please don’t hesitate to ask me. I’d be happy to let you know!

De Colores!

Letter to Cursillo Community by Scott Long

The candidates and CHRIST are the focus of the Cursillo Weekends. We put all this work and planning our **Awesome Cursillo Weekends**, but do not put in as much work and planning the invitations to candidates to attend. If Cursillo is special to you, Share it!

Make Friends, Be Friends, and bring ALL your friends to CHRIST.

Every single person I have ever met through Cursillo is special and I consider a close friend. You are all people who others want to be friends with. We need to *constantly* and *continuously* introduce our friends to JESUS. This is an ongoing process and effort. This should not start after the first team meeting and then end after the weekends. This should be a topic at all our group meetings.

As Cursillistas, we are called to speak to **GOD** about our friends before speaking to our friends about **GOD**. We need to constantly be praying for candidates, praying for the teams, praying for the leadership, and praying for all Cursillistas to continue their Fourth Days.

Please pledge **not** to wait to identify, pray, and invite candidates. Share the **Gift of Cursillo!** The Cursillo weekends are more than simply a retreat or something to do to increase our faith. Cursillo is a way of life. Cursillo is a Movement. Cursillo is a vocation.

The purpose of the Cursillo Movement is **NOT** to give everyone the experience of having made a Cursillo Weekend or a retreat. Our purpose is to form a movement of apostolic Christians who have a unified vision of how to bring Christian life to every environment. Cursillos are not held so that there is a large number of Cursillistas all over the world but to have living and active Christians all over the world.

Everyone should know we are Catholic by the love we show to everyone. We need to continue make new friends (not just to bring them to Cursillo weekends) but to bring **CHRIST's** love to everyone we meet and in that process if someone says *"I want what you have, that love for CHRIST. How can I get that?"* Then you must ask, *"Is Cursillo right for them?"*

Post Cursillo Report by Donna Herrmann

De Colores! I am the Post Cursillo Chairperson of Secretariat. My primary role is to help all Cursillistas have an opportunity to grow in their Fourth Day. I have been working to increase the number and location of Ultreyas to make them more convenient for Cursillistas. While this responsibility appears daunting, I take comfort in knowing that "with God, all things are possible."

Events:

On February 9, a **Bilingual Ultreya Grande** was held at St. Laurence, Elgin - an inspiring event with nearly 100 people attending.

On the 4th Sunday of every odd numbered month, an **Ultreya** takes place at **Holy Angels Parish in Aurora**. The next one will be on May 26th at 7pm. A reminder will be sent.

Our next **Ultreya**, designed specifically so that the newest Cursillistas can meet more experienced Cursillistas, will take place on June 2 at St. Mary's parish center in Sycamore. (See Flyer).

Please save the date for our **Cursillo Diocesan Picnic**, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Cursillo movement, which will take place at Bruce Ream Park near St. Charles Borromeo in Hampshire on July 2

Cursillo ULTREYA

**In Honor of our Newest Spring 2019 Cursillistas
ALL MALE & FEMALE CURSILLISTAS ARE INVITED**

- When?* 6pm to 8pm on Sunday, June 2
- Where?* St. Mary's Parish Activity Center
312 Waterman St.
Sycamore, IL 60178
- Why?* To keep the flame of Cursillo
burning brightly
- What to Bring?* A dish to pass (optional)
A friend or two (also optional)
- What to Wear?* Casual
- Who is Speaking?* Current Rector & Rectora
Future Rector & Rectora
Spiritual Echo

What is an Ultreya?

"Ultreya" is a Spanish word, derived from the original Latin, meaning Onward! It was commonly used by pilgrims to greet and to encourage one another along the way. This word is now used by the Cursillo community to signify the meeting which is held after a Cursillo experience. This meeting may be between Cursillistas from one or several communities.

The Ultreya gathers groups together from a particular region and provides continuity by contributing to the maintenance of the Cursillo spirit and by revealing the reality of the living Church. In a climate of friendship, members share their life experiences based on a passage from Scripture or the three tenets of Cursillo life: Prayer, Study, and Action. This sharing can be contemplative in nature or may deal with an evangelizing experience. These sharing's from real-life experience serve as examples to all of us of the challenge which Jesus lays before His followers: "Go and do likewise."

As its name implies, the Ultreya, is a call to move forward and to keep the flame of the Cursillo burning brightly.

This is Part 2 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 Deacon Kevin Prunty at the School of Leaders meeting in March 2019. He talked about the role of the Spiritual Advisor during the Cursillo weekend. Below are notes from this talk; he explains how each of the Rollos (talks) build on each other and how the meditations help to transition from one Rollo to the next.

Thursday – Retreat Phase: Introduction

1. 1st Meditation: *Know Yourself*
 - a. Prayer Time
2. 2nd Meditation: *The Prodigal Son*
 - a. Purpose: to get the candidates questioning who they really are.
 - b. Sets the stage for “Ideals” Rollo

Friday - Know Yourself

1. 3rd Meditation: The Three Glances of Christ
 - a. Purpose: all should see a mirror held up to themselves
2. “Ideals” Rollo: question our motivation
3. “Habitual Grace” Rollo: God reaching out to us
 - a. God’s Ideal = Love
 - b. Sets up the “Lay Person in the Church” Rollo
4. “Lay Person in the Church” Rollo – The role of the non-ordained
5. “Actual Grace” Rollo: Our response to God
 - a. Echo’s the “Lay Person in the Church” Rollo
 - b. Sets up the “Piety” Rollo

Saturday – Instruction Phase: Knowing God

1. 4th Meditation: *The Passion of Christ*
 - a. *PURPOSE: God as a human; not so different than us. God is accessible*
 - b. Heavy on Bible citations to start to set up “Study’ Rollo
2. “Study’ Rollo: how to know God
3. “Sacraments” Rollo
 - a. How God imparts his Graces
 - b. How we in turn respond
 - c. Habitual and Actual Grace lived out through better understanding
 - i. As adults
4. “Action” Rollo: the call to do something with our faith
 - a. To live it out in the world

5. “Obstacles to a Life in Grace” Rollo: Pointing out the challenges everyday life can be to our faith life.
 - a. Especially the obstacles built into our society
 - b. Very important to point out the problems that are current
 - i. This is to make the listener somewhat uncomfortable and rethink their own ideas on social justice
 - c. Sets up the “Leaders” Rollo
6. “Leaders” Rollo: points out this is our Baptism call

Sunday – Call to Action: Knowing Others

1. 5th Meditation: *Christ Message to the Cursillistas*
 - a. Purpose: live radically – change the world through love and self-sacrifice
2. “Study of the Environments” Rollo: know where you are and bloom
 - a. Sets up the “Life in Grace” Rollo
3. “Life in Grace” Rollo: it is possible to live a life pleasing to God
 - a. Affirms the “Life in Grace” Rollo
 - b. Sets up the “Christianity in Action” Rollo
4. “Christianity in Action” Rollo – how to actively live your Christian faith with the help of a small group of friends who are striving towards the same goal
 - a. Sets up the “Total Security” Rollo
5. “The Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo” Rollo: telling the candidates what the Cursillista is to be, what they have and what they know.
 - a. Sets up the “Total Security” Rollo
6. “Total Security” Rollo: to encourage, to convince and to enthuse the candidates that they have a clear, pressing mission.
 - a. There environments are the same
 - b. But they are different
7. Mass and Homily
 - a. Final Spiritual Advisor Rollo