

THE ROOSTER

SEPTEMBER 2022

Cursillo

A Note From the School of Leaders

*"A Movement is only as
good as its leaders are."
Is GOD calling you?*

"The Cursillo Movement originated within a school, and it was through the constant and coordinated efforts of the leaders of that school that it acquired its form, as well as its drive toward growth and development. The school then came first. It was the school that gave birth to the Cursillo Movement, nurtured it, and made it strong enough to survive and branch out into a full-fledged movement in the Church. The school has always been and is to this day the element that is essential to the continuity and development of the movement."

Is the LORD calling you to a

deeper commitment to Cursillo Apostolate? Would you like to learn more about the methods of Cursillo and serve CHRIST through leadership in the movement? The School is a group of people who are striving to be saints and want to bring others with them. The School of Leaders is a community of service to the Movement.

School of Leaders – Upcoming Meetings

Our monthly SOL meetings will be held the first Tuesday of every month (September 6 and October 4). Locations change monthly. Watch for upcoming emails that will inform you of the scheduled location.

Please contact Ken Meeker if you are interested in becoming active in the Rockford School of Leaders.



IN THIS ISSUE

Meet Your
Secretariat Team

UPCOMING WEEKENDS

**Men's: Oct 27 - 30,
2022**

**Women's: Nov 3 - 6,
2022**



www.rockfordcursillo.org

Get to Know to the Rockford Cursillo Secretariat Team

excited to see our Movement alive and thriving once again! I hope to see you around!



Ray Oleferchik
Assistant Lay Director

Hello, my name is Ray Oleferchik and I made my Cursillo in the fall of 1997 at Bishop Lane in Rockford, IL. Since that time I have worked many weekends and have given many of the talks. Some years after my weekend I was asked to join the Secretariat and for the next 9 years I held a few positions with this group. In late 2021, I felt I was being called to rejoin this group of Cursillo leaders to assist in any way I can to help our movement continue to change peoples lives. As the Assistant Lay Director I hope to assist our current leadership group in any way I can.



Tiffany Guthrie
Lay Director

Hello & De Colores from your Lay Director! I am honored to serve all of the Rockford Diocese & its great many parishioners for the next three years. As we move along now that Weekends have begun again (cue the applause!), I'm looking forward to working with the Chairpersons on Secretariat who are guiding us along our Cursillo journey, particularly with School of Leaders as we bring it back to monthly sessions! I'm

*"Therefore,
my dear
brothers
and sisters,
stand firm.
Let nothing
move you.
Always
give
yourselves
fully to the
work of the
Lord,
because
you know
that your
labor in the
Lord is not
in vain."*

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58



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



www.rockfordcursillo.org



Candace Marsh Secretary

Hello & De Colores from your Secretary! I am looking forward to keeping the Cursillo flame burning. I am going to try to step out of my comfort zone a bit and be more of an extrovert instead of an introvert. My plan is to get the word out about the Cursillo movement to more people in my parish and maybe even in my area parishes. I plan to ask people to start thinking about going on the next Cursillo weekend which is already planned for Fall in October 27-30 for Men's and November 3-6 for Women's. Please note the Secretariat meetings are open to all Cursillo members and are held every 3rd Tuesday at St. Patrick's Church in McHenry. Only voting will be taken by Secretariat members.



Donna Hermann Treasurer

I'm from St. James Parish in Lee and have been living my Fourth Day since Spring of 2015. Previously I was the Post Cursillo chairperson but when the Treasurer position opened up, I volunteered. I have been an Accountant all my life and the treasurer of many organizations in the past. I am now retired and living with my husband Joe for the last 40 years and our son Ben for the last 34 years. My other kids, Nick and Melissa are married and have blessed us with three grandkids. Our faith and parish life have always been important to us but our faith lives have grown even stronger through Cursillo.

*"Therefore,
encourage
one another
and build one
another up,
as indeed you
do."*

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11



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



www.rockfordcursillo.org



Ken Meeker School of Leaders

My name is Ken Meeker, I am the School of Leaders Chairperson. I began living my Cursillo in the Spring of 2003. I have been married for 51 years to Carole, we have two married daughters and four grandchildren. We live in Batavia and attend Holy Cross Catholic Church.

I have been involved in the movement since I made my Cursillo. My first group consisted of many of the long term Cursillistas that were then the leaders of the movement. They encouraged me to get involved by working the weekends. And then taking on a more active role by being a team head and a speaker. Since I have been the Liaison trainer for many years, recently served as the Lay Director and now head the SOL.

I also serve on the Post Cursillo Committee.

Why do I serve? I now see my mission is to get as many people to heaven as possible. Not just my family but everyone I encounter each day. By dedicating time to the movement, I get to spend time with many other men and women who are like minded and living a Christian life. As we learn during the weekend and talk about in the SOL, Cursillo leaders bring joy into everything they do, and in turn will radiate joy to others.



Sandra Ondrla Pre-Cursillo

Hello, my name is Sandra Ondrla and I made my Cursillo weekend in fall of 1999. Since then I have been involved in Cursillo, however at this point in my life on a more

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18



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



www.rockfordcursillo.org

committed level. Knowing the importance of this movement, and wanting to share it with others on a wider scope, I joined the Secretariat Team in 2022. As Pre-Cursillo Chairperson, I would like to focus on bringing the Cursillo message to all parishes. Every practicing Catholic should have the opportunity of advancing in their faith journey thru Cursillo. It's the best gift they could ever get....but didn't even know they wanted!



Linda Abramowicz Cursillo

My name is Linda Abramowicz. I made my Cursillo in the fall of 2005 and am a member of St. Mary Parish in Oregon, IL.

As Cursillo chairperson I am the liaison between Cursillo and St. Mary's pastor and secretary.

I coordinate and secure the dates for the English Men's and Women's weekends, maintain the storage areas and am responsible for overseeing the facility during the English and Spanish weekends, ensuring that the building is left cleaner than we found it. Even though the weekends only happen 4 times a year I am on "call" all year round for any Cursillista that needs to get into the building for supplies or special meetings.

Some of my additional duties are maintaining inventory and supplies and coordinating the palanca that is displayed on the weekend.



Nick Hanks Post-Cursillo

My name is Nick Hanks and I am from St. Peter & Paul in Virgil. I began living my Cursillo in the Spring of 2012. I

"I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.

From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day."

2 TIMOTHY 4:7



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



hope this section of the newsletter makes it easier for you to find the resources to live your Fourth Day.

Now that you attended a Cursillo weekend, we hope to provide information and resources to help you live your Fourth Day so that Cursillo becomes a way of life instead of a fond memory.

We are in the process of updating the Post Cursillo information so if there is anything that should be updated, changed, or added, please let me know. We have formed a committee of four individuals: Don White, Ken Meeker, Marty Lachat, and Tiffany Guthrie, who are willing to help give direction in putting on Ultreyas.

We are all in this together.



**Fr. Godwin,
Spiritual Director**

Dear Cursillistas/Friends,

Decolores!

Our beloved Holy Father of blessed memory, Pope St. John Paul II said, "To be Christian means to be missionaries, to be apostles. It is not enough to discover Christ – you must bring him to others!"

That saying from JP II encapsulates the mission of the Cursillo movement. To put simply, Cursillo, as you may already know, is a short course on Christianity. It enlivens the essentials of the Christian message in simple but practical ways. Cursillo has helped me and many others to rediscover and to deepen a qualitative relationship with the Lord and others in the day-to-day experiences of life. The Cursillo dictum- "Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ,"



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

"I urge you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose."

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10



www.rockfordcursillo.org

captures the essence of discipleship, which is to become one but also to make others into disciples for the kingdom. "Go to the whole world and make disciples of all the nations..."
Matt 28: 19-20.

We all know that to be a Christian is to be a missionary. It is two sides of the same coin, one being the discovery of God's love in Christ Jesus and the other is to bring others to God's love or better still, to bring God's love to them in Jesus. About fifteen years ago, while I worked at the Campus Ministry of Christ the Teacher University Parish of Northern Illinois University (NIU), Dekalb, some Cursillistas invited me to be a part of the Cursillo by attending the retreat. I did. My experience was like what happened to the Apostles in the upper room, a church where all brothers and sisters experienced and shared God's love through prayer, faith, hope and boundless charity. About five years ago Bishop David Malloy appointed me to be the Spiritual Director for the Cursillo in the Diocese of Rockford. This has been a rewarding experience for me personally but also for my parish as many parishioners of St. Patrick in McHenry Illinois have made the three days Cursillo retreat. They have been set on fire with love for God. In turn, they serve our parish in many ministries. They make the faith

alive, and our parish is becoming, more and more, a welcoming community where people experience love and friendship, they become friends of Jesus and are always on the look out to bring others to him and or bring him to the world.

My role as a Spiritual Director has been twofold; One, I attend the monthly meetings as much as it is possible in order to direct, encourage and facilitate the efforts of the lay leadership in bringing people to the Weekend- three days retreat. Secondly, I pray for, assist in planning programs beyond the weekend. While the weekend is about encounter, beyond the weekend is about creating and enhancing a community that supports in our daily, weekly, monthly, and annual events of putting into personal actions the effects of the weekend. I see the weekend as the SEED and, beyond it as the FRUITS of that weekend's encounter.

Cursillo is a short course on Christianity. It involves three days weekend retreat that centers on the Eucharist with emphasis on what it means to live an authentic Christian life and means of accomplishing that goal. It helps us to radiate God's love in the world and to bring others to the experience of that love. It is about being an authentic Christian missionary, an apostle (sent) in the knowledge that it is not enough to discover Christ – you must bring him to others and others to him.



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

*"So faith,
hope, love
remain,
these three;
but the
greatest of
these is
love."*

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13



www.rockfordcursillo.org