



The Rooster

Happy Fall 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 Spring 2020 Cursillo weekend, letters from Pre-Cursillo, Post-Cursillo, School of Leaders, and the Lay Director.

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

Spring 2020 Men's Cursillo

April 16 – 19, 2020

Spring 2020 Women's Cursillo

April 30 – May 3, 2020

Ultreya: Honoring Our Newest Cursillistas

November 17

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

St. Bridget's Hall
704 Clifford Ave
Loves Park, Illinois 61111

SECRETARIAT

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Pre-Cursillo Report by Lenore Zegiel

In the Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement it states that in the PreCursillo stage, our Movement initiates the evangelizing process in which it must accomplish in order to fulfill its purpose.



Sponsoring candidates is one of the main aspects of the PreCursillo, and an important factor that contributes to the success of the Cursillo Weekend; to the continued development of a personal relationship with Christ; to living a life of Grace and having the tools to become the servant-leaders of Christ; to the Post Cursillo that supports, encourages, equips and enables each Cursillista to become a part of the evangelizing mission of the Catholic Church.

These three stages of The Cursillo Movement are so closely connected that it can be said that they constitute an organic whole, a living and thriving organism, and a failure in the functioning of any one of the three stages of the Movement will have a direct consequence on the other two.

Through the last six months many different venues were used to spread information about the Cursillo Movement, such as: letters were sent to all the pastors in the dioceses, over 1,500 pamphlets were given away, Ambo Talks were given, Cursillistas represented the Cursillo Movement at ministry fairs, and Articles about the Movement, such as the bilingual *Ultreya* and Cursillo picnic were published in the *Observer*. This information about the movement is slowly spreading throughout the Rockford Diocese. People are becoming aware that we are here to serve Christ and others. But these are just venues to give information about the Movement and not meant to be a substitute for our Lord's call to evangelize our environments.

It is through knowing and continuing to develop our friendship with Christ that we are given the ability and power to tell others about Him. It is through this visible and joyous expression of our relationship with Jesus that draws those around us to hear and receive the Love of God, so our environments will become Christ centered.

May your friendship with Christ, empower you to "Make a friend, Be a Friend, and Bring Your Friend to Christ"!

Post Cursillo Report by Donna Herrmann

De Colores! I'm Donna Herrmann from St. James Church in Lee and have been living my Fourth Day since spring of 2015. I really believe that Cursillo is making a positive impact in bringing Catholics closer to Christ and helping us to be more Christ-like. Because of this I became part of Secretariat as the Post Cursillo Chairperson. My role is to help Cursillistas live their Fourth Day—to live for Christ for the rest of their lives. In addition to prayer, I coordinate the *Ultreyas* that occur about a month after each Cursillo weekend and help with *Ultreyas* taking place throughout the diocese. I also plan special events such as Cursillo family picnics and *Ultreya Grandes* where the Spanish and English speaking Cursillistas gather to celebrate their faith. I am also a resource to help Cursillistas to find small groups in their area.

Please check the Rockford Cursillo website and your emails for notifications of when *Ultreyas* and other activities occur. Feel free to contact me if you need help living your Fourth Day!

Lay Director Report by Ken Meeker

GET INVOLVED!

Thinking about being on Secretariat? Election will be held at the Grand Ultreya in late January – early February. We have two position opening:

Treasurer: Al has served the past six years and will be unable to serve again per our by-laws. What's involved? You will handle the financial matters of the Cursillo Movement – collect, deposit and disburse funds. Submit monthly reports to the Secretariat for review and ensure all obligations are met in a timely manner. You don't need to be an accountant to fill this position – just dedicated to the Movement.

Secretary: Currently, Melanie is finishing out an interim year as secretary as no one ran last year. She is planning to run again in order to complete a full term. The Secretary is responsible for taking monthly minutes at the Secretary meeting; being editor for the quarterly Rooster newsletter; and getting the Cursillo Movement historical records on file.

ROCKFORD DIOCESE HOSTS OMCC DINNER

On September 27, 2019 the Secretariat along with other volunteers from the diocese hosted a dinner for the OMCC. OMCC is the world organization of Cursillo organizations. There were 27 members from around the world in attendance; from North America and Caribbean, Asia Pacific, Europe, and Latin America. The International group held their bi-annual three-day meeting in Chicago and was sponsored by both the English and Spanish Cursillo groups from Rockford Diocese with assistance from several other dioceses in Region V.

Random Thoughts....

- Thanks to everyone that has said YES to aiding the Movement in so many ways every day. Every time we need someone to step up to say YES, they are there; from being Rector/Rectora, speakers, team members or just helping a fellow Cursillista.
- We lost a long-term member a few months ago – Pete Petit. Pete was totally dedicated to the Movement for so many years and is greatly missed. But his wisdom continues for many of us in our everyday life.
- I heard this at a team meeting recently and thought I would share it with everyone: we all know our method is to *Make a Friend, Be a Friend and Bring that Friend to Christ*. But we should be making Jesus Christ our best friend first through our piety and study. Once we do this, we then can introduce our best friend to our new friends. (Thanks Scott)
- And this from Deacon Ron: “You cannot out give God”

School of Leaders Report by Cathy Vendemia

Who are the Cursillo Leaders?

All who attend a Cursillo Weekend are called Cursillistas. On your weekend, during the Leaders talk, we affirm that all, for good or bad, are leaders of something or someone in life. They must be Christian leaders within their environments (home, work, social, political, etc.); however, not all Cursillistas are called or choose to become Cursillo Leaders.

“The worst enemies of a movement are those who promote it without understanding it.”

(Structure of Ideas, Ultreya Press)

Leaders are total leaders. Leadership entails much more than just being on Cursillo teams. Leaders are the axis of Ultreya and of Christianity and are involved in **all the phases** of the Movement---Precursillo, 3-Day Cursillo, as well as the Postcursillo. Involved means making things happen. This is done primarily through personal contact with: (1) persons in the Precursillo, (2) participants on the Weekend, and (3) Cursillistas in their Fourth Day.

The leaders' role is to give a witness that is exemplary in terms of living in grace and using the Cursillo method. The Leader is not a technician, an organizer or a speaker. He is a person who lives the Christian life to the fullest and takes every opportunity to share it with others in their environments.

Do you want to be a Cursillo Leader? 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 **November 20, 2019 at 7:00 pm.**

Cursillo ULTREYA

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

When? *6pm to 8pm on Sunday, Nov. 17*

Where? *St. Bridget's Hall
704 Clifford Ave.
Loves Park, IL 61111*

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.