



THE EVANGELIZER



DECEMBER 2014

<http://home.catholicweb.com/bellevillecursillo>

FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR FR. GARY GUMMERSHEIMER

Dear Cursillo Family:

We often talk about "change" in varying degrees of excitement or frustration. I am guessing, that most of us like the change from daylight savings time back to standard time each fall as we gain extra hour of sleep. But I doubt if we are as happy about the start of daylight savings time in the spring because we lose an hour. But change whether we like it or not is inevitable. As we mature, our bodies change often bringing with it new aches and pains.

The Church changes as well, but often with the speed of a very slow glacier. So, I like many, were just a bit confused when the secular press seemed to think that much of the Church's teaching in several areas was about to undergo "major" change. What the press failed to understand, and unfortunately, some church members, was that what was being discussed in the Vatican, was just that - discussion; an open conversation among those gathered for the extraordinary synod about the issues that face the Church in this age. That doesn't mean that there might not be change in the future, but it will be deliberate, with much prayer, reflection and discussion before it happens.

What does it mean to us in the pews here in Southern Illinois? It means that we have to use one of the legs of the all important tripod of the weekend: STUDY. This study does not happen or makes little sense if it comes only from the secular press. We have to study the documentation that comes to us from Rome, from the Bishops of the United States. We must put this study into the proper context of the Catechism of the Church and the proclamations of earlier synods and the Vatican Council, then we will understand what is really being said and what direction the Church is really heading. So, dear friends study, study, study! It is the only way that we will truly know what is being said and where as a Church we are headed.

As we approach the beginning of the new Church year, the First Sunday of Advent, the festive holiday season; let us not be afraid, to say those very important words that will mark us as followers of Jesus Christ, MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Peace to all! De Colores!

Fr. Gary

FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR PAT CATES

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is my last article as Lay Director and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the support and prayers over the last three years.

We are very blessed that the Holy Spirit has guided Nick Lang to accept the position as Lay Director. Please thank him and welcome him, most of all let us all keep him in our prayers.

PRAYERS AND PALANCA DIRECTOR SUSAN MCCORMACK

As we prepare for the Holiday Season and the celebration of the birth of Jesus, I can't help thinking of the prayer requests we have received from our Cursillo family. While the excitement of the Holidays might be on our minds, many of our loved ones are dealing with heavy hearts.

Let us stop a few minutes in our busy day and pray for healing, strength, and recovery for those who have medical problems and those who have had accidents and/or operations: Fr. Gary; Ann Luth's daughter, Rose Marie, (kidney surgery); Charlotte Wagner's daughter, Allison, (healing); families who were affected by a fire in Amy Unfried's apartment; Ann & Joe Haurich's son-in-law, Ray Mueller, (heart attack); Carol Kaye Tucker's friend, Anna, (broken tibia and pneumonia); Lynn Tucker, (horse riding accident); Brittany, (cardiac arrest); Jean Sturgill, Ed and Rose Wottowa's daughter, (surgery); Jo Inman, (colon surgery); Asea, (brain damage); Rachel and Shirley, (cancer); Jim Hoffmeister's nephew, Matt, (cancer), Ken Metzger, (cancer); Vince, (cancer); and Brian Trentman's pregnant friend whose unborn son, Brooks, has a terminal medical condition.

We ask for prayers for our loved ones who have been laid to rest. Let us pray for the repose of their souls, and for God's mercy, grace and peace for their families: Joe DiGiovanni's stepfather, Tony; Maggie Janssen, mother of Rose Buchmiller and Jane Riesio; Norman Sheble, fiancé of Arlene Bommarito; and John Dreninan, friend of Mary Chambers.

Several prayer requests have come from family members asking us to please pray for the deliverance of the people of Northern Iraq from the terrible advancement of ISIS and its extreme Islamic goals for mass conversion or death for Christians across this region.

Let us pray that God will watch over all of our service men and women, and return those who are deployed safely home to their families.

As we move into the New Year, let's pray about making a resolution to support the Cursillo movement. Ultreya is held only once a month and weekends are only once a year. Put the dates on your calendar and let's pray for participation from Cursillistas that have been on sabbatical. We miss you. We would like to see you once in a while and... we need your support to sponsor new candidates so Cursillo in the Belleville Diocese can continue to prosper. Let's pray to the Holy Spirit to reunite all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our prayers are also needed for those who have strayed from the church, the poor, and the homeless. During the busy days ahead, remember to Trust in Jesus and put Him first in your life. Have a blessed Christmas. Susan

PRE-CURSILLO MARGIE REAKA

"My name is Margie Reaka and I began my Cursillo journey at Belleville Women's #34 and I sat at the table of St. Bernadette."

Each time I introduce myself at an Ultreya or School of Leaders I reflect on my Cursillo weekend and marvel at my 'now' relationship with the Holy Spirit. I am very thankful to my sponsor for being persistent in her encouragement for me to make the weekend.

The 2015 Cursillo weekends are scheduled at the Ruma Peace Center. Women's #37 will be held February 26th through March 1st. Men's #34 is scheduled the following weekend, March 5th through March 8th. A Candidate Application and Sponsor Information Sheet are included with this issue of *The Evangelizer* so you can bring a friend to Christ. No one will be turned away because they can't afford the cost of the weekend.

If you have any questions about the application, your responsibilities as a sponsor or the weekend in general, please contact me at margiereaka@gmail.com or 618-581-7355.

Decolores 

(The 2015 Candidate Application and 2015 Sponsor Information forms are also available for downloading from the Belleville Cursillo website, <http://home.catholicweb.com/bellevillecursillo/index.cfm> .

The Belleville Diocese Cursillo 2015 weekends will again be held at the Ruma Convent Peace Center. The Women's weekend is February 26th through March 1st and the Men's weekend is March 5th through March 8th.

SCHOOL OF LEADERS TERRY KOSTEL

Learning Leadership

God commanded us to go and teach all nations, to preach the Gospel to every creature. He tells us that those who hear us, hear him. At the end of each Mass we are told to go forth and announce the Good News. We are all asked to lead.

The School of Leaders helps us to understand that we are all leaders in Christianity. As a leader, we are called to be a witness of Christ at all times and in all environments. Our goal - to become the Good News as we seek to build Christianity in the world. Therefore, living in grace, loving God and our neighbor, can be considered the root, the origin of all Christian being and doing. We well know that the kingdom of God is inside each one of us, and that when this reality becomes conscious, it becomes contagious.

On our Cursillo weekend, we were provided a direction to fulfill our potential of being an authentic Christian. But we need constant guidance, so where do we go to get that guidance? What other source will provide the foundation? The Bible. It is the first place we should go to in order to learn how to become leaders today, preparing for the world tomorrow. There are many books in the world on the subject of leadership, but only one starts with the right foundation. It contains many stories of those whose leadership ability and the principles by which they lived are revealed for us to model. To name a few: Abraham, who through his daily actions was a man of character, was someone who could be trusted and always looked out for the best interest of those around him; Joseph, despite being sold into slavery by his brothers and then later imprisoned, rose to become second-in-command over all Egypt; and Joshua, who took the place of Moses, led Israel into the Promised Land.

God did not waste one word in the Bible. We can discover the traits that made these men successful leaders and how we can become the same. Many of the commandments and statutes are principles that help us become better leaders. Our purpose is to become leaders in the world tomorrow, rebuilding this world the right way.

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are listed in Galatians 5:22, "But the spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

Leadership that evidences love will yield trust and respect. If you have joy, people will follow just because they want to take part in that joy. Peace will relax people and set them at ease. Patience will encourage change. Kindness will encourage growth. Generosity will encourage loyalty. Faith will increase confidence. By showing gentleness, those under you will know that you do not see yourself as better than they. If you display temperance they will know that you are in control.

A final thought: "A Godly Leader finds strength by realizing his weakness, finds authority by being under authority, finds direction by laying down his own plans, finds vision by seeing the needs of others, finds credibility by being an example, finds loyalty by expressing compassion, finds honor by being faithful, finds greatness by being a servant."

--Roy Lessin

Make a friend. Be a friend. Bring that friend to Christ!



Happy 60th Anniversary, Sr. Genarose!

Sr. Genarose Buechler was born and raised in East St. Louis. She attended Holy Angels Grade School and St. Teresa Academy her freshman and sophomore years. Sr. Genarose went to Ruma as a Junior in high school and became a sister in 1954.

Sr. Genarose taught for 28 years in elementary schools in grades 1 through 4 with a majority in grades 1 and 2. She also taught a semester at Mater Dei of freshman religion classes. Her teaching was in the Belleville Diocese including: St. Augustine in Belleville, Holy Family in Cahokia and schools in Lawrenceville, Centerville, Chester, Metropolis, and Red Bud. She also taught at Holy Rosary Grade School in Iowa and grade schools in Kelso and Vienna, Missouri.

In addition, Sr. Genarose taught religious education from the Carbondale Center and DRE at St. Bruno's in Pinckneyville.

For over 15 years, Sr. Genarose held a number of positions at Taylorville Memorial Hospital with the primary position as receptionist in the waiting room.

Currently, Sr. Genarose is CoMentor of the ASC Associate Program and assists in Ruma Center activities.

Grateful for her vocation, Sr. Genarose has been active in Cursillo providing her religious knowledge to Cursillo members especially at the annual Women's retreats.

We, as Cursillistas, are grateful for Sister's sharing her faith, knowledge and humor!

May God continue to bless Sr. Genarose with good health and the ability to share her vocation with Cursillo and her other activities!



POST-CURSILLO KAREN RAU

The holidays are coming and another year is ending. In this fast pace life we live in, I want to thank everyone who took the time out of their busy schedules and attended the grand ultreya which was held at St. James Church in Millstadt, IL on Sunday, October 26th. We shared a special mass with just our Cursillo family, then had a wonderful luncheon followed by friendship grouping. I'd like to say a special THANK YOU to Carol Tucker who gave an enthusiastic and inspirational witness talk. She is God's gift to us all and after listening to her talk I have decided that I should give my guardian angel a name and I can't wait to someday meet her in heaven.

It is also that time of year when the Cursillo movement starts preparing for the upcoming weekends. There is a lot of time and effort that goes into making these weekends happen and everyone's cooperation is needed in order for the weekends to be a success. Please attend the School of Leaders and the ultreyas to help support the teams. This is OUR organization and only WE can keep the movement going.

Please pray for candidates, spiritual directors, deacons and the teams, that the Holy Spirit will guide them as they prepare for the weekends. Also, please plan on attending the novenas which will begin on **December 28th** and conclude on **February 22nd**, 2015. The novenas are held at St. Joseph's Church in Freeburg and they start at 1:00 p.m. and end at 2:00 p.m. I hope to see "ALL" of you there to show your support. We have to remember that this Cursillo Movement is an important part of our lives and to show our dedication to God, we should attend as many novenas as possible.

Ultreyas and School of Leaders

Belleville Area: Monthly on the second Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Undercroft at St. Peter Cathedral. (Entrance on W. Garfield St.) Contact Bob McCormack (618) 277-3709

New Athens Area: Monthly on the fourth Sunday at 10:00 a.m. at St. Agatha's Parish Center in New Athens. This is immediately after the 9:00 am Mass. Contact Joe or Ann Haubrich (618) 475-2006

Mt. Carmel Area: Monthly on the fourth Monday at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary Parish Center in Mt. Carmel. Contact Bob Steckler (618) 262-5095 or Tom Ford (618) 262-3673.

Murphysboro: Every other month on the last Sunday of the month at St. Andrew's school cafeteria. This is immediately after the 10:30 am mass (approximately 11:30 am). Contact Joan Sherwood (618) 529-4351.

School of Leaders—Monthly on the second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Parish Center in Freeburg. Contact Terry Kostel (618) 234-8010.

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS

Fr. Gary Gummersheimer	724 Mulberry St., Murphysboro, IL 62966	(618) 687-2012	pastor@stamboro.org
Nick Lang Lay Director	7701 Baxter Dr., Belleville, IL 62223	(618) 213-6391	nplang415@gmail.com
Terry Kostel School of Leaders	2607 Lebanon Ave., Belleville, IL 62221	(618) 234-8010	kostel_t@charter.net
Margie Reaka Pre-Cursillo	308 Lake Pointe Ct., Freeburg, IL 62243	(618) 539-3765	margiereaka@gmail.com
Open Position Cursillo			
Karen Rau Post-Cursillo	12 Briarwood Ct., Freeburg, IL 62243	(618) 539-4986	krau16@yahoo.com
Julie Weber Secretary	306 Barker, Smithton, IL 62285	(618) 444-2894	weber-julie@sbcglobal.net
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SECRETARIAT CHAIRS

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Christine Leja Newsletter	2813 Fairway Dr., Belleville, IL 62220	(618) 222-2798	lejachristine@yahoo.com
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Cursillo in Christianity



The start of your journey to grow in piety, study and action

Belleville Cursillo	2015 Weekend Date	Application Deadline
Women's Cursillo Weekend	February 26 - March 1	February 15, 2015
Men's Cursillo Weekend	March 5 - March 8	February 22, 2015

Name _____

Address, City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Type of Employment _____

E-mail _____ Sponsor _____

Parish _____ Pastor _____

Age:

8-25

46-55

26-35

56-65

36-45

Over 65

Marital status:

Single

Separated

Married

Divorced

Widowed

Are you a baptized Catholic? Yes No

Is your spouse a baptized Catholic? Yes No NA

Are you able to receive the Sacraments? Yes No

Has your spouse made a Cursillo? Yes No NA

Has the Cursillo Movement been explained to you? Yes No

If no, does s/he plan to attend a Cursillo? Yes No NA

Has the follow-up program of friendship grouping and Ultreya been explained to you? Yes No

What are your hobbies/interests? _____

Please explain any condition that would require special attention such as diet, medication, or physical handicap.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Return your completed application with a \$50 deposit to your sponsor. Checks payable to "Cursillo in Christianity"

The total cost of the weekend is \$175 (the balance can be paid on the weekend).

Belleville Cursillo website: <http://home.catholicweb.com/bellevillecursillo/index.cfm>

Questions? Contact Margie Reaka, Pre-Cursillo Chairperson - 618.581.7355



Cursillo Sponsor Information



Speak to God about a person before speaking to a person about God

To be a Sponsor is a privilege, and as such, carries a serious Christian responsibility. Sponsoring a friend for the Cursillo is not a haphazard circumstance. It should be a deliberate act to bring Jesus Christ into the world. Therefore, you must know your candidate very well and consider the important items below.

Belleville Cursillo	2015 Weekend Date	Application Deadline
Women's Cursillo Weekend	February 26 - March 1	February 15, 2015
Men's Cursillo Weekend	March 5 - March 8	February 22, 2015

Candidate's name _____

How long have you known your candidate? _____

Please complete the following information in regards to you, the sponsor.

Name _____

Address, City, State, Zip _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

E-mail _____ Parish _____

When and where did you start your Cursillo journey? _____

Are you presently a member of a friendship group? Yes No

Are you able to assist your candidate to become part of a friendship group? Yes No

Are you praying and sacrificing for your candidate? Yes No

Have you explained the post Cursillo to your candidate? Yes No

Do you plan to attend the closing of the Cursillo weekend? Yes No

If the candidate is married, have you discussed Cursillo with his/her spouse? Yes No

Have you explained the \$50 deposit and total cost of \$175 for the weekend? Yes No

(If your candidate cannot afford the weekend, please let us know so other resources may be sought to assist them.)

**Mail the completed candidate application, sponsor information form, and \$50 deposit to:
Margie Reaka, 308 Lake Pointe Court, Freeburg, IL 62243**

Upon receipt, a letter will be sent to your candidate with information about the weekend. And you will receive a letter with additional sponsor responsibilities, including a Palanca letter for your candidate

Belleville Cursillo website: <http://home.catholicweb.com/bellevillecursillo/index.cfm>

Questions? Contact Margie Reaka, Pre-Cursillo Chairperson margiereaka@gmail.com OR 618.581.7355