

**CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE****THE EVANGELIZER****MARCH 2015**New Website: [www.BellevilleCursillo.org](http://www.BellevilleCursillo.org)**FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR FR. GARY GUMMERSHEIMER**

Most of you, if asked, could probably answer the question of what is the preamble to the US Constitution. But how many of you could tell me how the Declaration of Independence begins? The answer: "When in the course of human events..." Now why would a spiritual director begin his remarks with something such as this? The simple answer is that "human events" over the last several months have reminded us that we still have a long way to go in making this world we live in a reflection of the Kingdom of God.

The random and brutal slaying of so many, especially the Coptic Christians, by ISIS; the killing of media people in France; the slaying of young black men in this country; all of which leads us to realize that we still have a lot of work to do if we are going to change our environments to reflect the love of Christ Jesus. On this last issue, if you have not read Bishop Braxton's letter on racism, I would highly encourage you to do so. I believe that it is one of the best articles that deal with that issue, which unfortunately is still very much a part of who we are in this country.

So, with what is left of this Holy Season of Lent, use it to ask our gracious and loving God to give us the insight into how to spread His Kingdom, especially in the troubled places of our world. Let us take the "human events" that fracture our lives and use them as a spring board to establish God's Kingdom by inviting others to enter into a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

May this Lenten Season bring you challenges that strengthen your faith; a time to renew your commitment to Christ. May we celebrate the Easter Mystery with those who join us in our faith; dedicated to bringing more friends to Christ.

Blessings of the Paschal Mystery to you and all you love.  
De Colores, Fr, Gary

**REGION IV CURSILLO ENCOUNTER, APRIL 24 – 26**  
MANRESSA RETREAT CENTER AT ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY  
4012 WASHINGTON AVE., ST. LOUIS, MO 63103

CONTACT NICK LANG FOR APPLICATIONS.

**FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR NICK LANG**

De Colores to you Cursillistas!

It has been a long time since I've had the privilege to write an article for the "Evangelizer". Last October I responded to Father Gary's request to consider being Lay Director for Cursillo in our diocese. I held this honorable position from 1996 to 1999 and understood the amount of work it involves. After numerous prayers and discussions, I accepted the offer and was voted into office in November. I sincerely appreciate all the hard work that Pat Cates devoted to the office even as she battled some serious cancer and its treatment.

So here we are living through another precious Lenten Season. I pray that each of you has chosen your personal sacrifices. May I kindly request that you offer all of these as Palanca for our new Cursillistas as they begin their Cursillo journeys and for the Secretariat leaders. May your Lenten journey bring you to the full grace of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Morning.

For those of you starting your Cursillo journey, we sincerely and prayerfully welcome you to our community. I pray that you will find friendship groups soon and participate in the Ultreya nearest your home. Contact me or any of the secretariat officers if you require help getting started. We hope your recent experiences with Christ and the Holy Spirit throughout the weekend will enrich your spiritual life throughout your life.

To the rest of the fourth day community, I ask your help in examining where we are and what we must do to grow our community. Feel free to call or e-mail me with any suggestions.

God Bless, Nick

**PRAYERS AND PALANCA DIRECTOR SUSAN MCCORMACK**

I would like to welcome the new Cursillistas and thank the 4th day for their prayers, letters and palanca, as well as their attendance, at the women's and men's Cursillo weekends. Your support is important and appreciated. And, as a result, both weekends were filled with the love of the Holy Spirit.

The moms of our Cursillistas who have passed are uppermost on my mind. They are: Margie Reaka's mom, Pellagia Beckfeld; and David Maurer's mom, Adele Maurer. We also lost our dear friend, Cursillista Mary Neimann, who was taken by cancer recently. Please pray for the repose of their souls and for strength and healing for their friends and family.

I am delighted to report our good friend, Cursillista Charlotte Kaffer, is up and around. In fact, she sponsored her husband, Ken, in the men's weekend and was with us at both the women's and men's closings. As she continues to get stronger, perhaps we will enjoy her music once again. Let's pray for Charlotte, for strength and healing.

Many of our friends and family are dealing with cancer. Please pray for 4-year old Erin and Cursillista Della Paul nee Bush whose cancers have spread throughout their bodies; Donna Kocher's friend with Lymphoma; Cursillista Jan Epplin's grandson, Zac, who has been battling cancer; and John Schaberg's brother-in-law who is suffering with a brain cancer. I just received notice that Pat Cates' cancer has returned. I do not have any further information about Pat at this time. May these loved ones be close to Jesus, and may God's love, healing and strength be with them and their families.

Prayers are needed for: Chris Leja's friend who has a mass on her kidney; a friend of Donna Kocher whose daughter revealed she is addicted to prescription drugs; baby Hudson who has severe complications and remains in intensive care; Jeri Brown's mom, Marianne Ehrhardt, who fell and is now in a skilled nursing rehab facility and 18-year old Lily, who is in ICU with a blood clot and bleeding in her brain, although improving, has a long road ahead of her. We ask for God's grace, healing, direction and blessings for them and their loved ones.

Let us also pray for our men and women in the Armed Forces, for the poor and the homeless, and for those who have strayed from the church. May they know that God's love is always with them.

Love, Joy and Peace... Your sister in Christ, Susan



**POST-CURSILLO** – TRANSITION FROM KAREN RAU

Dear 4<sup>th</sup> Day,

Thanks for all your prayers to help make the Women's weekend #37 a huge success. We could all feel the Holy Spirit's presence guiding us in our talks, assisting the candidates as stewards, and sharing our love for God. I'd like to also thank my assistant, Sue Gass, who did a fantastic job keeping me in line. That was a full time job in itself! The ladies on the team who gave talks were an inspiration to the candidates and the table assistants also did a great job in reflecting on the talks given. We kept our head steward, Karen Wobbe, hopping and the stewards did an awesome job as well. Our theme this year was "Let the Children Come to Me" and I felt like the 19 women who took the time out to make the weekend were a gift from God. I know that God has blessed them and that the Holy Spirit will guide them as they continue on their Cursillo journey. It was an honor to be rectora this year and special thanks to Sue McCormack for having the faith in me to get the job done. I will treasure the memories of the Women's Weekend #37 for the rest of my life. De Colores!

On another note, I'd also like to say how grateful I was to be the Post-Cursillo for the past 3 years. I have to admit that when I was asked I really should not have taken on another responsibility. Things were quite hectic and I know that I maybe didn't do the best job at times, but I have always felt that when the Holy Spirit calls you, you don't say NO. I'm really glad I took the position because I learned so much about the Cursillo Movement that I would not have gotten the chance to if I had turned it down. I know that Sharon & Tony will do a great job.

Love, Joy, Peace,

Karen Rau

**POST-CURSILLO** TRANSITION TO TONY AND SHARON GUGLIOTTA

Hello, fellow Cursillistas!

This is our first article in the Evangelizer since accepting the position of Post-Cursillo which we will co-chair, effective January 2015. It is the purpose of the Post-Cursillo Chairperson(s) to support all of you in the 4<sup>th</sup> Day community in your journey to grow closer to Jesus Christ. We are prepared to serve you to the best of our ability. So if any of you are not yet with a friendship group and are looking for a friendship group near you or need information on upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> Day events or just have a question or suggestion, please contact us and we will

do our best to help you. Our contact information is as follows: Home phone #618-239-9480- or [guggang@charter.net](mailto:guggang@charter.net)

Both of us were privileged (Sharon) to be on the team for Women's Weekend #37 and (Tony) was on the team for Men's Weekend #34.

(Sharon) Speaking of the women's weekend, what an amazing time we had! There were 19 beautiful ladies filled with God's love and the Holy Spirit at work in each of them. Truly, it is an awesome experience to be a part of what takes place on a Cursillo weekend. I was honored to get to spend a little time with each one of them over the weekend. To the new women Cursillistas, I say to each of you again: Welcome to the 4<sup>th</sup> Day community! Know that my prayers continue for each of you and I'm confident of their continued prayers as well.

(Tony) Speaking of the men's weekend, what a remarkable time we all had! There were six awesome men who attended and it truly is amazing how the Holy Spirit works in each candidate who has come to grow and love his faith as he never has before. It was a heartfelt privilege getting to know all of them. The involvement of what takes place on a Cursillo weekend is truly a forever life changing experience for all who attend—it was an honor coming to know them and watch them grow closer to Christ. To the new men Cursillistas: Welcome to the 4<sup>th</sup> Day community! This 4<sup>th</sup> day community has and continues to pray for you all.

We definitely agree that each of these weekends were a beautiful work of the Holy Spirit, and now these new Cursillistas are counting on Christ as He is counting on them, and all of us.

There will be a Cursillo Reunion on Sunday, April 19 at 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Cathedral in Belleville, IL. It will be held in the Undercroft of the Cathedral. You can use the entrance on Garfield St., which is on the south side of the Cathedral. A potluck meal will be provided by the team members and sponsors. Mr. Nick Lang will be the guest witness speaker. All Cursillistas are invited. We are looking forward to seeing our new women and men Cursillistas and their sponsors. Come and enjoy this time together with fellow Cursillistas! Information on future events to be held such as the Day of Recollection and Grand Ultreya will be released at a later date.

We look forward to serving you!

POST CURSILLO Tony and Sharon Gugliotta

The Cursillo Diocese of Belleville has a **new website!** Check it out:

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

Let us know your thoughts! You can email your comments to

[Webmaster@BellevilleCursillo.org](mailto:Webmaster@BellevilleCursillo.org) or add a comment on the moderated website.

**SCHOOL OF LEADERS TERRY KOSTEL****Leaders in Christianity**

I imagine the best place to begin would be by asking ourselves, “Who is a Leader in Cursillo”? You might say that all those who are members of the Secretariat are the Cursillo Leaders. Or maybe you might say all those who attend the School of Leaders are Cursillo Leaders. You would not be wrong in either case, but you would not be completely correct, either.

What if I made a slight change to the phrase, “Make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ”? What if, instead, I said, “Make a friend, be a friend, and lead that friend to Christ”? Would you then recognize that all Cursillistas are Cursillo Leaders? We are called to lead others to Christ.

James 1:22-25 simplifies it for us, “But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, ongoing away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget, but doers who act – they will be blessed in their doing.”

We need to recognize that we are all on a spiritual journey, a journey that we travel together with the Holy Spirit as our guide in our effort to follow Christ. If our knowledge of Cursillo and being Christian is nothing more than what we hear on the Cursillo weekend without it becoming a part of our lives, then our effectiveness during this journey, as well as the distance we travel, will not be close to our potential. If, however, our knowledge of Cursillo and being Christian truly becomes part of us in and through Jesus Christ daily, then our effectiveness increases and the distance we travel will be great.

Cursillo is a lifelong journey that begins with a “weekend.” For the men and women who have just completed your weekends, the 4<sup>th</sup> Day has begun. Some have referred to Cursillo as a retreat, however, a retreat is an experience that doesn’t grow. What was learned on the Cursillo weekend will help all who apply the principles to grow in courage to become all that God created us to be.

Our life’s purpose should be to live what is fundamental to being Christian. Our lives should embrace all three phases of the tripod - Piety, Study, and Action, keeping in mind always that

this reflects our three relationships represented in the word "JOY" ..... Jesus, Others, and Yourself.

Our mission in the world includes our dedication to Christ and our daily decision to share the Good News that God loves us. The best way to share this good news is through practicing friendship in our daily activities in whatever time and place we find ourselves. It is through friendship and love that we will demonstrate to others our life in Jesus Christ.

For the new Cursillistas, some time may be needed to settle into the new reality, but you should never forget that the rest of the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community is available to provide help with how to "Make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ." This is our role as Cursillo leaders.

And for all of the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community, as our journey continues we need to remember an important tool available that will help each of us travel along the path of making that friend, being that friend, and bringing that friend to Christ - the **School of Leaders**.

As "Leaders in Christianity," we must ask ourselves the question, "Are we living the Christ-like example daily in sharing our faith in a loving way to help people to know God"?

A final thought, "Each day is a brand new opportunity to be Jesus to the world." - R. Falcon (*Better Tomorrows*)

### **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 pm at St. Joseph's in Freeburg. Next meeting is April 14<sup>th</sup>. Contact Terry Kostel (618) 234-8010.

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

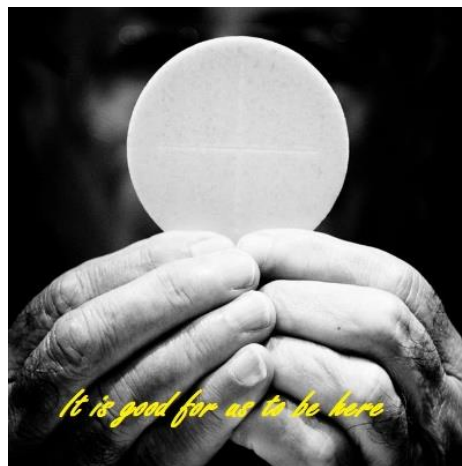
### **Excerpts from a Witness Talk**

A great blessing are the faith-filled people in Cursillo. How wonderful to learn from them on how they pray, on how they handle life's challenges, and on how they support each other. An example of this is when I shared that my mind wanders when I pray, David Bassler's suggestion was to read "Inner Sanctuary". Somehow, Cursillistas always have time to give because they are focused on God and leaning on His help to be able to give. What wonderful examples! What wonderful motivation to do more, to be more of a Catholic!

Here is an example of a Cursillista learning that "suffering" is part of God's purpose. What a big question mark for me!!! How could that be? Why would God want us to suffer? But I learned that "to suffer means that one is loved by God and to suffer well is a sign that one loves God". Suffering is the money with which one buys heaven. And, God selects certain souls who are especially dear to Him to help Him save souls by suffering. Suffering brings you closer to God! Every new suffering borne gladly brings you a step closer to the eternal home – HEAVEN. If God gives you much to suffer, it is a sign that He would make a great saint of you. In every need, let me come to Thee with humble trust saying, "Jesus, help me."

One more example of Cursillista learning is offering my day, my tasks, my challenges as a way to do my part in God's salvation. May my contributions, small though they be, help to bring all souls to heaven!

In Jesus and Mary's hands, Chris





**SECRETARIAT MEMBERS**

Fr. Gary Gummersheimer, Spiritual Director

724 Mulberry St., Murphysboro, IL 62966; (618) 687-2012; [pastor@stamboro.org](mailto:pastor@stamboro.org)

Nick Lang, Lay Director

7701 Baxter Dr., Belleville, IL 62223; (618) 213-6391; [nplang415@gmail.com](mailto:nplang415@gmail.com)

Terry Kostel, School of Leaders

2607 Lebanon Ave., Belleville, IL 62221; (618) 234-8010; [kostel\\_t@charter.net](mailto:kostel_t@charter.net)

Margie Reaka, Pre-Cursillo

308 Lake Pointe Ct., Freeburg, IL 62243; (618) 581-7355; [margiereaka@gmail.com](mailto:margiereaka@gmail.com)

Bob Emge, Cursillo

904 Reinhardt, New Athens, IL 62264; (618) 475-3438; [bobktemge@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bobktemge@sbcglobal.net)

Tony and Sharon Gugliotta, Post-Cursillo

2837 Smokehouse Way, Belleville, IL 62221; (618) 239-9480; [guggang@charter.net](mailto:guggang@charter.net)

Julie Weber, Secretary

306 Barker, Smithton, IL 62285; (618) 444-2894; [weber-julie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:weber-julie@sbcglobal.net)

Linda Bagsby, Treasurer

302 Cortner Dr., Smithton, IL 62285; (618) 960-1023; [lbagsby@gmail.com](mailto:lbagsby@gmail.com)

**SECRETARIAT AD HOC COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Susan McCormack, Publicity

3000 Lebanon Ave., Belleville, IL 62221; (618) 277-3709; [mccormac@charter.net](mailto:mccormac@charter.net)

Bonnie Browy, Palanca

314 S. 11th St., Belleville, IL 62220; (618) 250-5106; [bonnie-jeffcity@hotmail.com](mailto:bonnie-jeffcity@hotmail.com)

David Bassler, Procurement

180 Piney Woods Dr., Swansea, IL 62226; (618) 234-1932; [bolliewup@yahoo.com](mailto:bolliewup@yahoo.com)

Christine Leja, Newsletter

2813 Fairway Dr., Belleville, IL 62220; (618) 222-2798; [lejachristine@yahoo.com](mailto:lejachristine@yahoo.com)

Marie Caddell, Website

423 W. 10th St., Mt. Carmel, IL 62863; (618) 263-7124; [marie.caddell@gmail.com](mailto:marie.caddell@gmail.com)

**NEWSLETTERS ARE DELIVERED AT NO COST VIA EMAIL. PLEASE SEND YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS TO CHRISTINE LEJA AT [EVANGELIZER@BELLEVILLECURSILLO.ORG](mailto:EVANGELIZER@BELLEVILLECURSILLO.ORG) . TO RECEIVE ONE MAILED PRINT COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER, SEND \$5 WITH POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO CHRISTINE LEJA.**

