

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

**THE EVANGELIZER****JUNE 2015****New Website: www.BellevilleCursillo.org****FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR FR. GARY GUMMERSHEIMER**

Since the last time I penned a missive for this newsletter several very interesting things have taken place. The first is a two-part interview of the national leadership of Cursillo that aired on EWTN. You can watch what aired on the National Cursillo Web page (www.Cursillo.org) under the "resources" section of the Web page. They reminded us of the importance that Cursillo can and does play in the Church's call for a "new" evangelization. I would encourage you to go and take a look at it.

The second is that our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has called for a Holy Year to be celebrated: an "Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy." This Holy Year will open on 8 December 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and will close on 20 November 2016, the Solemnity of Christ the King.

Pope Francis, in calling this special time in the Church, said: "We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. The word, mercy, reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity; the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us; the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life and the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to a hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness."

So we have a unique and wonderful time ahead of us in the Church. The Bishops will meet this fall to continue the discussion of the role of the family in society and the Church in this time of strained understanding of what it means to be family and Church. Let us pray that the gift of the Spirit of God may guide them in their discussions.

We are reminded, time and again, by our Holy Father that the ultimate gift of God's love and mercy are what calls each of us to be children of God. It is also what calls each of us, in the gift of the Holy Spirit in our initiation, to become the disciples that Christ calls us to be. Make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ.

As I write this in the week before the Solemnity of Pentecost, my prayer for all of you as we enter this summer season, is that the Spirit of Christ may be with you to guide you and keep you always in the love and mercy of God.

De Colores, Fr. Gary

FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR NICK LANG

De Colores, Dear Cursillistas;

Our Loving God has brought our world back to life in this springtime of beauty and color. May your hearts be filled with this radically amazing event of His creation. I recently read that God didn't have to give us color. Oh, what a blessing it is to us that He did so.

With all the new growth taking place, my soul longs for new growth in our Cursillo movement. I hope and pray that each of you is busy planning for new candidates for the 2016 weekends. Have your groups pray with you for the friend you desire to bring to Cursillo.

I think we should spend some time reading our Leaders Manual (chapter 9 and specifically pages 93 – 96) to gain a better understanding of the sponsorship process and the responsibilities involved. There is also a small booklet available from Linda Bagsby (618-960-1023) on sponsoring.

So often we think we are finished once an application is turned in to the pre-cursillo chairperson. This is just the last step in the preparation phase. After the candidate has made his/her weekend we have many responsibilities to see that they are properly introduced to life in their Fourth Day. Get your friends into a friendship group and attending Ultreyas and the School of Leaders. Stay abreast of their growth and involvement with Cursillistas. Your friendship does not end at the closing of their weekend.

The application and dates of the weekends are available on our website, www.BellevilleCursillo.org.

God Bless you all, Nick Lang



PRAYERS AND PALANCA SUSAN MCCORMACK

As I reviewed my list of prayer requests, I couldn't help feeling how fortunate many of us are. Yes, we have our problems and our aches and pains, but some families are dealing with much more. They have expressed their thanks to all of us for our prayers and for God's healing. They trust in Jesus and His Father to know what is best, to guide them and to give them strength to accept His will.

Keep this in mind, as you pray... for those who are fighting cancer: Dave Sanson, Karen Siddell, Sister Joan Markus, Wendy Blatzer, Ryan McShane, Robert Verges, Carla Fickett's father-in-law, 7-year old Bryce, and a special lady, Karen Juengling, who made her Cursillo this year. Continued prayers are also needed for Cursillista, Charlotte Kaffer.

For those who have had surgery, and those who are preparing for surgery, we pray for a speedy recovery with no complications and that God will guide their doctors: Almont Shortsleeves, triple bypass; Jacqueline Racener, cataract surgery; Lynn Woesthaus, mouth surgery; Frieda Sponemann, colon surgery; 12-year old Pete Cernecka, birth defect involving veins outside of his skull; Paula Segert, knee replacement; Sharon Gugliotta's sister-in-law, Josephine, neck surgery; Nita Weissert's mom, Arleen, for surgery and a speedy recovery; and Robin Schuetzenhofer's mom, gall bladder surgery.

Prayers are needed for those who are, or have been, hospitalized and have other illnesses or problems: Mary Malowery, diabetes and other illnesses; Cy Determan, heart attack; Nick Lang's brother, depression; Brendon, drug addiction; Linn Labonik, hit by a car; Russ Peterson, rare blood infection; Laura Veach's niece, Joan, job security; Chris Leja's brother, Pete Bily, Alzheimer's and his caregiver, Cathy; Robin Schuetzenhofer's cousin Brittany and husband Daryl, infertility problems; Barbara Bour; Jamie Rau; and Ed Wottowa. Judia Touchette's niece, Marie, is in her 4th month of pregnancy and has been diagnosed with breast cancer. The Ziaja family: Uncle Ben, recovery issues from surgery; his daughter, serious back and health issues and her husband, critical condition as a result of a car accident; great grandchild, baby Hudson, on a feeding tube and cannot hear.

I'm sure you have seen the brutal, evil photos and the request to please pray for the deliverance of the people of Iraq from ISIS and its extreme Islamic goals for mass conversion or death for Christians. Ask Jesus' mother, Mary, to intercede with the Lord for peace in the Middle East.

We ask for prayers for our loved ones who have been laid to rest: Cursillista, Marie Weissert; and Patricia Gundlach, sister of Laura Veach, a new Cursillista. We should include in our prayers all those who have died at the hands of terrorists. Let us pray for the repose of their souls, and for God's mercy, grace and peace for their families and their homeland.

As I summarized these prayer requests, thereby reading all the details, my heart went out to all these people and their families. As we plan our summer, let us stop and take a moment to thank God for being with them and with us, for answering our prayers, and for all the blessings He has given us. Let us not forget the poor, the homeless, police, firefighters and our men and women in the Armed Forces. And remember to...Trust in Jesus.

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

PRECURSILLO MARGIE REAKA**PRAY IT FORWARD!**

There are three parts that compose the work of Cursillo – Precursillo, the 3-Day Cursillo, and Postcursillo. Precursillo is the part that prepares the persons who will attend the 3-Day Cursillo.

So how does *pray it forward* relate to Precursillo? If someone you don't know did something special for you, for example, paid for your McDonalds' order, you were probably thrilled and chances were you couldn't wait to *pay it forward* and do something special for somebody else. When you made your Cursillo weekend, you didn't know who prayed, sacrificed, and performed works of mercy (Palanca) for you, but you were overjoyed that others did something so special in spiritual preparation for your weekend. Now you can *pray it forward* by giving Palanca for the 2016 Cursillo weekends.

Palanca is an essential part of Precursillo. Please join in a *Pray It Forward Palanca Campaign* to spiritually prepare the candidates, sponsors, teams, and Fourth Day Community for the 2016 Cursillo weekends. It is important to remember that Palanca is not just a letter sent to the candidates or team, but rather it is the actual prayers, sacrifices, and works of mercy – the action given in sacrifice for others. Sponsors are beginning to discuss the weekend with potential candidates, and teams will be formed over the next few months. Now is the time to spiritually prepare for the 2016 Cursillo weekends and the community being formed for the 3-Day Cursillo – it is time to *pray it forward!*

A list of potential candidates was sent by e-mail in early May asking for Palanca– so our Palanca Campaign to *pray it forward* has actually begun! We want to continually add names to the list so please e-mail margiereaka@gmail.com with your potential candidates. An updated list will be sent out monthly.

In addition to the spiritual preparation, Precursillo is also responsible for accepting candidate applications and, with their sponsors, preparing candidates for the weekend. The 2016 weekend dates are: Men's #35 – February 25 - 28; Women's #38 – March 3 – 6. The Candidate Application and Sponsor Information Form are included in this issue of *The Evangelizer* and are also available at www.bellevillecursillo.org. It's not too early to send your candidate's application (along with your Sponsor Information Form). If you have questions, contact Margie Reaka, Precursillo Chairperson (e-mail – margiereaka@gmail.com; cell – 618-581-7355).

Please give Palanca for a successful Men's #35 and Women's #38.

May your summer be filled with God's peace, love, and joy!

POST CURSILLO TONY AND SHARON GUGLIOTTA

Hello to each of you, Fourth Day Community –

We would first like to take a moment to tell you that you are all in our prayers each day. Know that we pray for you, your families, and your intentions, in your joys and sorrows, and your ups and downs, whatever they may be. Tony and I are thankful for each and every one of you.

As summer approaches and God's beauty is reflected all around us, let us remember that He is counting on us to evangelize our communities right where we are every day. Each day presents new opportunities to be thankful for our blessings, to pray for others who need our love and support, and to be open to encounter others on the journey. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ!

What a great showing at the recent reunion on April 19! It was wonderful to see so many of you there! The Holy Spirit surely was among us, and guided the day from start to finish! We would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank you" to Nick Lang for his witness talk. Very informative and inspiring! "Thank you" to those who came early to help set up and stayed after to clean up. We appreciate it very much!

We are planning the Day of Recollection. It will be Saturday, July 25, 2015 at 11 am until 3 pm at St. Agatha's Catholic Church parish center in New Athens, IL. So watch your email for an announcement with further details! Put it on your calendar, and we hope to see everyone that day!

Grouping is a wonderful way to stay in touch with Jesus through others and sharing how Jesus is at work in our daily lives. If any of you are not grouping or attending Ultreya and want to be, please don't hesitate to contact one of us (Tony or Sharon) at guggang@charter.net or by calling 618-239-9480. We would be glad to help you find a group or Ultreya near you, or if we can be of assistance in your Fourth Day journey. Peace be with you.

Your Post Cursillo Chairpersons,

Tony and Sharon Gugliotta



SCHOOL OF LEADERS TERRY KOSTEL**A Leader? Who? Me?**

The overall consensus is that the Cursillo community in general does not have an understanding of the School of Leaders, its purpose, and/or how it operates. Hopefully, this article will help dispel some of the uncertainty. For those who have a Leaders' Manual, it might be helpful to read Chapter 6 entitled, "School of Leaders."

When we hear about the School of Leaders, we tend to have mistaken concepts about it or identify it as a center for education or formation of leaders to give talks on the weekend. The School of Leaders is the working arm of the Secretariat. In simple terms, the School is made up of a core group of leaders for the Cursillo Movement in a particular Diocese. They are those leaders who have an intense desire to do whatever is necessary to ensure the Movement remains vibrant and authentic ... leaders who are willing to give their time, talent, and treasure to the Movement, as needed. The School is and will always be an essential piece for the continuation and development of the Cursillo Movement. In other words, if there is no School, there are no Cursillo weekends and there is no Secretariat.

At this point, I can hear you saying, "School of Leaders, that's not for me. I am not one of those people called on to be a leader in the Movement." The reason I can hear those words so clearly is because when I heard about the School of Leaders, I said the same thing. The truth is, not all Cursillistas are called or choose to become Cursillo Leaders. Those behind the scenes are as important in spreading God's message as those who may be comfortable out front.

The School of Leaders is NOT a school in which someone learns to be a leader ...as indicated on page 24 of the Leaders' Manual, "One is not a leader because he belongs to the School; rather he belongs to the School because he/she is a leader of Christianity." A more apt name for the School might be, Community of Leaders, Reunion of Leaders, Community of Respondents (those responsible for others), or even the School of Followers. However, keeping in line with the Cursillo literature and terminology, we will refer to it as a School.

The School of Leaders is not a school in the academic sense. It is a forum to educate and discuss various aspects of our own holiness, formation, evangelization, and our Catholic faith.

The School is simply a dynamic gathering of the Fourth Day Community, which articulates, gives voice to, and is the hands and feet of the Ideal of the Cursillo movement. This is just like the personal Ideal we talk about in the first Rollo, but the School of Leaders envisions and pursues the Ideal of the entire Fourth Day Community. Participating in the School of Leaders is really not difficult for anyone who actively participates in the Cursillo Movement and all of the beauty it has to offer, to keep us moving towards our personal Ideal. We must

be mindful of the fact that we do not invent theology, but as St. Paul has stated, “We pass along that which we have been taught by Christ, through the Church and our Bishop.”

The School energizes and drives the Cursillo Movement towards that Ideal, giving direction and purpose to the Secretariat, and giving constancy and perseverance to the Fourth Day Community.

As Leaders of Christianity, the School helps each of us accelerate and live the fundamentals of being a Christian: IN ONESELF - IN THE MOVEMENT - IN THE ENVIRONMENTS.

During the 3-day Cursillo weekend, the talk on Leaders asks each of us to lead the people in our families, our churches, and our communities, to know the love of Jesus. Now that we have experienced just how much Jesus loves every one of us, He wants us to share that love with everyone else we meet. We are a pilgrim people, always in process, always growing - we continue our formation scripturally, prayerfully, and apostolically, and the School of Leaders provides a place for continuing our growth in our faith journey.

All Cursillistas are encouraged to participate in attending the School of Leaders to enrich their Fourth Day experience. The School of Leaders is not a school to train speakers for the weekend. The School of Leaders is an opportunity to develop into Catholic Christian Leaders in the community.

Whether or not you want to be a team leader in Cursillo, we would love to have you join us so we can all help each other continue to grow in His love. The School of Leaders is open to all Cursillistas, and we encourage everyone to attend. Come and enrich your understanding of the Cursillo.

The School of Leaders meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm at St Joseph’s in Freeburg.

Let us remember and reflect on, “Do we put into action what Christ has commanded us?” Christ is counting on me, and I on Him!

De Colores, Terry

P.S. The Holy Spirit inspired a Cursillista to write the following which I think is perfect:

School of

- L** – Live for Christ
- E** – Evangelize for Christ
- A** – Adore Christ
- D** – Disciples of Christ
- E** – Eucharistic love of Christ
- R** – Receivers of Christ
- S** – Students of Christ

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

Excerpts from a Witness Talk

Intro to Ultreya April 19th Witness Talk: I am Nick Lang and I started my Cursillo Journey on Belleville #4 and sat at St. Paul's table.

Prayer: The Lord my God is Lord alone. And I shall love the Lord my God with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength. And I shall love my neighbors as I love myself.

From Witness Talk: Nick is a convert of 55 years and experienced the start of his Cursillo journey 22 years ago. Nick had been busy as a father, husband, worker and practicing Catholic, but felt that something was lacking – a closeness to Jesus and working to spread His Kingdom. Cursillo has been the greatest help in his conversion process and provided friends and tools to “grow closer to our great God of Love – TO KNOW, TO LOVE, and TO SERVE HIM”. The Ultreyas and groupings have taught him, encouraged him, and challenged him. Working with the Secretariat and School of Leaders taught him the wisdom of the Cursillo method to “Christianize all the places and people with whom I interact”.

Nick shares that the Fourth Day is our goal as Cursillistas and that we “have been prepared and planted exactly where we are in order to be the leaven for our specific environments”. Here is an excerpt from his talk with carries a deep message for each of us:

“The challenge before you at this time is to develop a plan for inserting your newfound and loved relationship with our God of Love into your family, your neighborhood, your workplace and your parish. The Fourth Day community and your sponsors are here to support all your efforts through the group reunions and Ultreyas. Get involved with these and help them to develop your piety, study, and action. Pray that the Holy Spirit guides you in developing your plans and encourages you in moving forward with Him. Do not be afraid of failures and setbacks, for these are only signs that you are actively involved for Christ. Always remember that in your environments you are the hands, feet and voice of our Lord at

work for His Kingdom and that He is working with you. As St. Francis tells us “evangelize everywhere and at all times and if necessary use words”.

“The results of your involvement should bring you to the point wherein you will want to bring your family, co-workers and other friends into a closer walk and deeper love for our God of love. In short, this is the process of sponsoring candidates for the weekends. It requires some work on your part to prepare them for the experience. Your sponsors or other Cursillistas can help you with the procedures.”

Nick ends with an offer of help from your sponsor, a member of the Secretariat, your grouping, or from a member of the Ultreay meetings. Review the website, www.BellevilleCursillo.org for contact information, to make a comment, and to stay abreast of the movement. Remember the tripod: Piety, Study, and Action (Evangelize). Apply it to your life in all situations. Nick closes with the familiar words of Jesus and Saint Pope John Paul II, “Be Not Afraid”! Go forth on your journey and bring Christ to all your friends!

If you need help in any way to get settled in this new experience in your life please contact your sponsor or any member of the Secretariat.

Ultreyas and School of Leaders

Belleville Area: Monthly on the second Friday at 7:30 pm 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 10:15 am 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 pm 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 July 14th. Contact Terry Kostel (618) 234-8010.

Excerpts from a Grouping

The St. Augustine grouping began with discussion about the first beatitude, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” What did that mean? Near despair? So we challenged our group to find out. Here’s what we discovered:

1. “Beatitude” means a possession of all things held to be good.
2. “Poverty of spirit” simply means humility (simple but not easy since pride can slip in here).
3. When we think of all Jesus went through for us, “into thy hands I commend my spirit” has new meaning.
4. St. Ignatian spirituality gives us “utter dependence on God, not in any demeaning, servile sense, but in the sense of the Principle and Foundation: God is God, and we are creatures created to praise, love, and serve God. Before all else, we depend on God for our happiness and fulfillment.” We are free to offer our talents, abilities, wealth, and achievements to the services of God and others. Further, we can let go when these traits get in the way of self-giving. “Poverty of spirit is an emptying of self so that God can fill us with life and love.”
5. From the Baltimore Catechism No. 4 explanation, there is “One is poor in spirit if one does not set his heart upon riches and the goods of this world in such a way that he would be willing to offend God in order to possess them or rather than part with them.” So then what does mourning mean? I'm mourning, so am I special? No! I'm at a pity party. It's not moping it's sorrow for hurt we have caused.

So, the beatitudes build on each other. First we must be selfless and become courageous enough to follow this roadmap which is: His plan for us... to be saints.



Check out the Cursillo Diocese of Belleville website: www.BellevilleCursillo.org

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

Webmaster@BellevilleCursillo.org or add a comment on the moderated website.

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Cursillo in Christianity



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

Belleville Cursillo	2016 Weekend Date	Application Deadline
Men's Cursillo Weekend	February 25 - 28	February 14, 2016
Women's Cursillo Weekend	March 3 - 6	February 21, 2016

Name _____

Address, City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Type of Employment _____

E-mail _____ Sponsor _____

Parish _____ Pastor _____

Age:

Marital status:

- 18-25 46-55
- 26-35 56-65
- 36-45 Over 65

- Single Separated
- Married Divorced
- Widowed

Has the Cursillo Movement been explained to you?
 Yes No

Has your spouse made a Cursillo?
 Yes No na

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

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

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).

If you cannot afford the cost of the weekend, please do not let that prevent you from making the weekend.

Belleville Cursillo website: www.bellevillecursillo.org

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	2016 Weekend Date	Application Deadline
Men's Cursillo Weekend	February 25 - 28	February 14, 2016
Women's Cursillo Weekend	March 3 - 6	February 21, 2016

Candidate's name _____ How long have you know him/her? _____

Why do you feel this person is a good 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 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 information about a Palanca letter for your candidate and their transportation to and from Ruma.

Belleville Cursillo website: www.bellevillecursillo.org

Questions? Contact Margie Reaka, Pre-Cursillo Chairperson

margiereaka@gmail.com OR 618.581.7355