

FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR NICK LANG

Dear Brother and Sister Cursillistas;

I have spent a good amount of time praying over and wondering what to write to you about concerning our lives of “Christ Counting on each of us.” Needless to say, considering that we currently have one man and one woman as candidates for our upcoming weekends, the idea of evangelization comes to mind most frequently.

We’ve all enjoyed a wonderful vacation this summer, and the weather hasn’t been so bad. Now is “Harvest Time,” the time to turn around and get busy working to harvest souls for our God of Love. Have you made some new friends, gotten some new neighbors, or parishioners? How about those who have journeyed through the RCIA, and most importantly do these friends know that you have made a Cursillo? Pick up the pace of your new friendships and bring these friends to Christ through the Cursillo.

I recently listened to a Lighthouse CD titled “Evangelizing Catholics” by Dr. Scott Hahn. It is so interesting that evangelization has been the theme of every Pope since Vatican II. Two years ago the Church was to have been dedicated to a “New Evangelization” but I, for one, failed to see much action from this effort. Perhaps that is the fault of we lay people. We can’t sit around waiting for our priests and bishops to lead us by the hand. Remember go forth and – Be a Friend – Make a Friend and Bring that Friend to Christ.

Our Cursillos are for our Catholic brothers and sister. However, we should also have an ecumenical spirit to our friends of other faiths and guide them to programs of renewal, if these are available, or at least guide them through the process of conversion in their lives to bring them closer to the love which Christ has for each of them and us. One never knows when they are talking to one of our next converts.

Ultreya (Onward), Nick Lang

"An evangelising community gets involved in word and deed in people's daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary, and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others."

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, n 25.

PRAYERS AND PALANCA SUSAN McCORMACK

As summer comes to an end and the kids are back in school, it is now time for us to concentrate on our upcoming Holy Year of Mercy; a time for us to spend more time in prayer and offering palanca to those who are less fortunate and are dealing with problems, pain and heartache.

Let us take a few minutes out of our day to pray for healing, strength, and recovery for those who have medical problems: Dave Bassler's brother, Bob, medical conditions, and his son-in-law's father who is battling life-threatening medical problems; Jennifer Schaefer's mom, Jacque Racener and Paul Feurer, eye surgery; Richard Wright, health problems; Joyce Bush, possible operation; Bonnie Browy's niece, Amanda Lambert, breast surgery; Margaret Wahlig, lung infection; Karen Rau Davidson's co-worker, depression, and co-worker's daughter-in-law, brain surgery.

Prayers and palanca are very much needed for Cursillista, Charlotte Kaffer, who has been fighting cancer for many years. Julie Weber, Charlotte's sister, tells us she is very weak, has not been able to tolerate her chemotherapy treatment and is also dealing with additional problems.

Prayers are needed for others fighting cancer: Paula Sobol's cousin, Jackie, breast cancer; Cursillista Donna Kocher, lung cancer; Stephanie Vogel's friend, colon and liver cancer; and Sister Joan Markus, SSND, who will receive her last chemotherapy treatment at the end of August and has been progressing very well.

Please pray for Deacon Bob Becker, Dave Sanson, and Ken Rybicki who have left us to be in a better place with our Lord, and for Josh Toenis who was found in the Kaskaskia River. May they rest in peace with Jesus. Their difficult, painful journey is over. Let us pray for the repose of their souls and for strength for their friends and family to accept God's will.

On the happier side, Robin Schuetzenhofer has asked for prayers in thanksgiving for her cousin and her husband, who after trying to have a baby for almost six years, the good Lord has smiled upon. Pray she has a trouble free pregnancy and a safe delivery.

Let us pray for potential candidates for the Men's and Women's Cursillo weekends and for those who have strayed from the church, the poor, the sick and the homeless.

As I close, I ask that you offer prayers and palanca for our country and for freedom to live as Christians, to build a closer relationship with Jesus, to keep Jesus in our daily lives and to bring others to Know, Love and Trust in Him.

Love, Joy, and Peace, **Susan**

PRECURSILLO MARGIE REAKA

On a recent trip to Ireland I met a wonderful nun, Sister Carmel, who worked in Dublin with the homeless and imprisoned. We talked about various aspects of our Catholicism, in particular to better understand differences in their customs versus those in our Belleville Diocese. One of the key differences we noted were the short Masses in Ireland – never more than 40 minutes, even on Sunday, because according to Sister Carmel, “people in Ireland just won’t attend Masses that last more than 40 minutes.” The Sunday Mass we attended was 35 minutes (Wednesday evening was on 17 minutes), but there was no music, the sermons were short, and the Eucharist was only distributed to the congregation in the form of bread, no wine.

In addition to discussing our cultural differences, I also asked Sister Carmel if she was aware of Cursillo, and she was, but she indicated that the movement is not as well-known in the Dublin area as it is in Northern Ireland. While I know that Cursillo is an international movement, I was warmed by her answer that it is so important to an area where only 25% of the people are Catholic, so we talked a little about that.

One thing I realized during our conversation was how easy I found it to mention Cursillo to her. Yet, it’s not that easy for me to talk with my non-Cursillista friends or family about making a weekend. Why am I hesitant to bring up the weekend to those close to me? Am I afraid of being told “no”? Do I feel like I am pushing them to go on the weekend? Am I afraid they won’t feel the same way I did after my weekend?

How about you? Is it easy to approach that special person in your life and ask them to make a weekend? Or is it easier to shy away and hope they ask you about it? Regardless of how you approach potential candidates, it is important to take time to pray and to sacrifice (offer Palanca) for those who are considering the weekend. We should offer Palanca before we approach them, again after our discussion with them, and continue Palanca until the Cursillo weekend is complete. I have three special people in my life that I would like to make a weekend, and that is my plan, I am offering Palanca. And I know the Holy Spirit is there to help me along the way.

The 2016 Candidate Application and Sponsor Information Form are included in this newsletter and are also available at the Belleville Cursillo Website (bellevillecursillo.org). And if you prefer that I mail you an application and Sponsor Information Form, or if you have any questions, please contact me.

God’s Blessings,

Margie Reaka, MargieReaka@gmail.com, 618-581-7355

POSTCURSILLO TONY AND SHARON GUGLIOTTA

Hello again to you, our fellow Fourth Day Cursillistas! We are greeting you with the beautiful season of fall upon us, as summer winds to a close. Many of you have asked for prayer or been in need of our support through prayer. Know that our daily prayers continue for each of you and your families whether sick or ill, for blessings of peace, comfort, courage, or strength in whatever your intention may be.

Let us recall that as the change in seasons is upon us, there are changes in seasons in our lives as well. Jesus is there with us as we journey through our Fourth Day. He never fails us, and He always loves us. We find that to spend time each day with Jesus, with His Word and in prayer, is to grow closer to Him. He is counting on us to reflect His love outward to others, to be an example of His love in the world.

The annual Day of Recollection was held on Saturday, July 25, at St. Agatha's Catholic Parish Center in New Athens, IL. It was a fulfilling afternoon. We had a potluck meal, music by Julie Weber, and Deacon Don Sparling facilitated a lively discussion following the DVD presentation of now Auxiliary Bishop-Elect Robert Barron's "Eucharist." It was wonderful to see everyone who attended, including some new faces. Thank you all for coming! Tony and I would like to say "Thank you!" to Deacon Don Sparling and Julie Weber. Also, a special "Thank you!" to Susan Ditch, and Ann and Joe Haubrich for assistance in advance and helping to set up for and clean up after the event. We could not have done it without you!

We are excited to announce that the Belleville Cursillo Annual Grand Ultreya is set for Sunday, October 25, 2015, at the Newman Center in Carbondale, IL from 2:00 until 6:00 p.m. There will be a witness speaker. Further details will be forthcoming, so please watch your e-mail for an announcement on that.

Let us take just a moment to acknowledge some of the ways we as Cursillistas stay close to Jesus. We do that through our interaction with others, taking time to encourage each other, by grouping and attending Ultreya. If any of you are not grouping or attending Ultreya and want to be, please do contact either Tony or Sharon at guggang@charter.net or by calling 618-239-9480 so we may help you get in touch with a group or Ultreya near you, or be of assistance in your Fourth Day walk.

Peace be with all of you.

Your Postcursillo Chairpersons,

Tony and Sharon Gugliotta



SCHOOL OF LEADERS TERRY KOSTEL**Caught Between Faith and Doubt**

From Matthew 14:22-33 – Then He made the disciples get into the boat and precede Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. After doing so, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When it was evening He was there alone. Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, He came toward them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea they were terrified. “It is a ghost,” they said, and they cried out in fear. At once [Jesus] spoke to them, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Peter said to Him in reply, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” He said, “Come.” Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how [strong] the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did Him homage, saying, “Truly, you are the Son of God.”

This scripture reminds us of our weakness to be easily distracted, which can cause our faith to waiver. Are we more like Peter, ready to ask God to use us, or are we more like the other disciples who sat in the boat watching to see what would happen with Peter? Peter stands for every disciple in every age, caught between faith and doubt. He believed in the presence of Christ, yet his faith wavered.

In the struggles and complexities of life, it seems natural for Christians to seek signs of God’s presence and of God’s will. Yet the true Christian challenge is to believe in the presence of God precisely when it is least discernible. Peter’s challenge to Christ came not from a strong faith in Jesus, but from the sad reality of “little faith.” The Christian cannot walk on water, and is not meant to do so. But God does empower every disciple to believe against the odds, to face the struggles, and to mature and grow in faith in the process. The essence of Christian life is not signs, but faith. The desire for signs does not originate from God. Yet it is precisely from instances of little faith and sin that Jesus is prepared to reach out his hand and catch the waverer.

In the Christian journey, Jesus invites disciples to follow. In this incident, Peter took the initiative. Interestingly, Jesus accepted his challenge in order to underline for Peter, and for all subsequent believers, the meaning of deep faith.

Faith doesn't save us from trials and tribulations; what it does is give us strength to face them. The person who has faith has a source of strength and inspiration, especially when trouble strikes. It's not we who keep the faith - It's the faith that keeps us.

No one's faith is perfect. If we ever have a doubt like Peter did, we need to talk to Jesus about it. Mark 9:24 says, then the boy's father cried out, "I do believe, help my unbelief!" Just like Jesus reached out His hand and grabbed Peter to keep him safe, He is that close to us, and He will help us too.

The truth is, lots of situations are too big or too scary for us to handle, but **nothing is too big for Jesus!** We shouldn't focus on the situation we are in. Instead, we should focus on the One who has power over every situation! In Verse 27, Jesus tells us like He told the disciples; "*Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.*"

Our faith will be strong when we keep our eyes on Jesus. When we know Jesus, we know He is completely deserving of our trust. When we keep our focus on His power and His love for us, our faith will be strong.

Final thought: "We shall steer safely through every storm, so long as our heart is right, our intention fervent, our courage steadfast, and our trust fixed on God." - **St. Francis De Sales**

Faith

Secretariat Meetings

September 22, 2015 at 7 pm at St. Joseph Parish, Freeburg, IL

November 24, 2015 at 7 pm at St. Joseph Parish, Freeburg, IL

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 September 8th. Contact Terry Kostel (618) 234-8010.

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

Excerpts from a Witness Talk

FOURTH DAY

Friday, July 20, 2015

Witness: Bonnie Browy

I began my Cursillo journey on Belleville Women's #34 and sat at the table of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.

Following God's will does not stop me from crying. I cry when things are good and/or bad. I read once that we cry because we love.

Two month's ago at the Ultreya, the Deacon's wife, Debbie, spoke about obedience to God's will. The importance of obeying what God tells me is monumental, even if it's a small aspect of my life. I've been dealing with separation anxiety after my mom moved to live with my sister. And my son making his own life with his family turned out to be quite a struggle for me. None of the above went according to my plan, because I needed to learn to be obedient to God's plan regarding the people involved.

My Cursillo weekend was wonderful. It was the last weekend held at Camp DuBois and I loved it. It was rustic and had wonderful scenery, *brought to you by God*. We had a large group of women and we prayed and laughed and learned our faith more than we even thought possible. And our stewards were excellent as well. Though I don't see many of those ladies that were there that weekend, I know we are still united as Sisters in Christ.

Being active in Cursillo gives me strength to persevere and know that God knows what is best for me. Friends are walking, talking versions of God. They comfort me, feed me, and let me rest. Their way to heaven is assured. On the Last Day be sure to find me since I'm short, so I can verify how you took care of Christ by what you did for me. (As an added thought, I hope there's a nice sunny beach on the Last Day.) My non-Cursillo friends definitely care about me, some have not know what to do with me. However, my Cursillo friends automatically know how to be Jesus to me.

And that's why I am going to work on getting more candidates for the Cursillo Weekends! God Bless You All!

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



Excerpts from a Grouping

Peggy Dickey -- August 23, 2015

For me, the knowledge I acquired at Cursillo weekend was pretty much a refresher course that I had acquired over a period of 8 years at St Agatha Parochial School (1952-1960)

However, on the fourth day, I realized that the commitment as a Catholic, I had taken for granted.

Since the first, Fourth Day, I have a new and refreshing understanding while attending Mass and while praying my prayers. I am more aware of self through prayer, and through giving, and what I can do and cannot do in my being.

The weekend was very trying at times, but, also fun/uplifting, and enlightening. And actually, it was rewarding every waking minute!

Thank you Holy Spirit for being with me every day of my life!

P.S. Weekly grouping with people of like minds is also very rewarding.

And, I will keep praying, and putting the word out there, for more people to join the Cursillo Movement.

Thank you!



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.

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS

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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

Single

Separated

26-35

56-65

Married

Divorced

36-45

Over 65

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, Precursillo 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, Precursillo Chairperson

margiereaka@gmail.com OR 618.581.7355