

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

**THE EVANGELIZER****September 2016****New Website: www.BellevilleCursillo.org****FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR FR. GARY GUMMERSHEIMER**

We just celebrated the Solemnity of the Assumption, honoring our Blessed Mother, believing that God raised her body and soul into the Kingdom thus avoiding the corruption of the grave. As I compose this missive, I have just finished celebrating the first school Mass of the year, welcoming and praying that God's Holy Spirit might be with teachers and students in this new school year. So, in theory the hot and humid days of summer should be drawing to a close. But then we live in Southern Illinois and anything weather-wise is possible.

But one thing is now going to take place. Now that school has started, parishes will again begin gearing up for the many activities that occur during these next months. Youth groups will ramp up many activities, religious education will go into full swing and most parishes will again be looking seriously at inviting folks to join us in the Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. The downtime of summer is being replaced with excitement of this "new year."

So, what are you going to do at this time of year to increase your Piety, Study and Action? Is it maybe time to start grouping after having been away for a while? How about going to the School of Leaders to learn more about the Cursillo Movement? If my parish, or a neighboring one, offers some form of adult continuing education, will I work at fitting it into my schedule? Will I take a serious and prayerful look at making a retreat? Will I join others at Adoration or a Rosary or a Divine Mercy prayer group? Will I look to the Church or some other charitable organization at which I could volunteer some time to be of service? Piety, Study and Action were not just talks you heard on the Cursillo weekend. If you add generosity to that list you have the four pillars that Matthew Kelly says are necessary to be a dynamic Catholic.

And a big issue that faces us this fall will be the election of our next President. Are you prayerfully seeking God's help and the insight of the Holy Spirit in making your decision?

So, this becomes a busy time of year following the lazy days of summer. It is my hope and prayer that your summer gave you some time for relaxation - a time to recharge batteries. Now I pray that our good and gracious God of Mercy will bless you with the grace you need to live out your call to be a child of God - a disciple of Jesus Christ.

De Colores,



Fr. Gary

FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR NICK LANG

Dear Brother and Sister Cursillistas,

Your Secretariat has been hard at work for the well-being of Cursillo within our diocese.

At our last meeting, with input from the School of Leaders, we elected Laura Veach to be the Chairperson of the Precursillo Committee as of the close of our meeting in September.

We sincerely THANK Margie Reaka for her long dedicated service.

Assistant Rector and Rectoras were selected for the 2017 Weekends. Margie Reaka will be the assistant for the Women's team; while Garry Range will be the same for the Men's Weekend. Further, the 2017 teams have received all of the necessary materials to begin their preparation for two great weekends.

We received a great report on the Spring Encounter of Region IV in Louisville, KY from Linda Bagsby. Most interesting is that there will be a "Cursillo de Cursillo" conducted in a nearby location within a year. This three day weekend is for us older Cursillistas to reignite our flame of love for our Lord.

Another big task is the reorganization of Cursillo within our diocese. We need to have parish representatives willing to work with the Secretariat to advertise our presence, to purify and complete our records, and to reawaken many Cursillistas whom we have not seen in many years. If you are willing to help in this effort, please contact me at 213-6391 or nplang415@gmail.com.

May God richly bless you in works for His kingdom,

Nick Lang



PALANCA BOBBI SCHAEFER

Hello, and blessings to all our Cursillistas! My name is Bobbi Schaefer, and I have accepted the torch from Sue McCormack. As I am still learning the ropes (and endeavoring to fill her shoes in some small way!), I will be short and sweet.

I am an intercessory prayer warrior, and I take note of all the prayer requests that flow through our Prayer chain notices. Please do not stop sending these in! We have so many that plead for prayers and seek God's help through your intercessions...know that they ARE being prayed for! Thank you for lifting up your prayers to Our Lord.....

For our sick and infirm, and their families, who seek grace and healing from our loving God;

For those who have gone before us, and the loved ones left behind in grief, that our merciful God will console them and assist them to move forward with life;

For those battling a crisis, needing God's strong Hand to survive;

For those who see a need for another and turn to God for fulfillment;

And for those who give thanks and praise to Jesus for answering their petitions in His abundant love.

We are so blessed to have a wonderful Cursillo community that believes and seeks Our Lord!

Having said that, I turn to Jesus' words from Matt. 7:7-8:

“Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

Cursillistas, **THIS IS WHAT WE MUST DO NOW!**...ask God's help, seek His Face, and knock on Heaven's Door as never before!! Our country is in dire crisis, and it's up to us to raise our voices to Heaven in volumes unprecedented! Please, please, **pray the Rosary daily, NOW through Oct. 7th**, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. This is a novena for our country, and we must lift her up to God now, lest it become too late! Our freedoms are God-given and too precious to lose! (For more info, go to Fr. Richard Heilman's site, romancatholicman.com, for 54 day novena for our country.)

As you do your prayers and palanca for all Cursillistas, please...

Remember those who have strayed from God's Love, that by His mercy they will come back to His love, grace and peace;

Remember the poor and homeless, who need the necessities God can provide;

Remember those out of work, who desire gainful employment to provide for their families;

Remember our loved ones who have gone before us, that they have eternal bliss in God's Arms;

Remember the unborn who have had their lives taken from them before they've had a chance to breathe, and that this atrocity be stopped!

And do remember our military and their families, who are

sacrificing all for our way of life!

I leave you with this final thought.... **Christ IS counting on YOU!**

De Colores!

Bobbi Schaefer



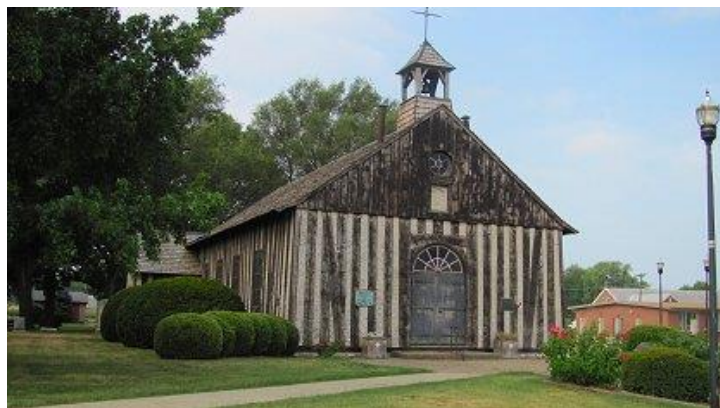
ST. AUGUSTINE FRIENDSHIP GROUP ACTION

The St. Augustine Friendship Group participated in the Mass celebrated by Msgr. Wm. McGhee at the historic church of the Holy Family in Cahokia recently. Following Mass was a reception and a tour of the museum. Holy Family was founded in 1699 by Canadian missionaries though the first Mass was celebrated on December 8, 1698. The Log Church was built in 1799.

Msgr. McGhee used a chalice that was given to the parish by King Louis XIV and which was also used by Saint Pope John Paul II when he celebrated Mass in St. Louis.

A tour followed the Mass and the tour guide provided some amazing stories including a personal story concerning their visit to Rome. The tour guide came with a letter from the parish priest which he gave to a Swiss guard. They received a call on April 1st to come to Mass with the Pope. At first, they thought it was a joke. They arrived early and were led to a small chapel. They sat next to ...wait for it... Mother Teresa!

The museum holds many artifacts dating to as early as 500 A.D. and includes a Monstrance from 1717. What a history for the oldest continuous Catholic Parish in the United States! Beginning with Indians living across the road and the campsite of Lewis and Clark nearby! It was a great afternoon!



PRECURSILLO MARGIE REAKA**WHAT'S NEW?**

What's new? Precursillo has a new look!

- ✠ The Candidate Application / Sponsor Information form have changed. More about those changes below.
- ✠ More importantly, starting in September, Laura Veach will be the Precursillo Chairperson. Laura started her 4th Day journey at Belleville Women's #37 and has been involved in many Cursillo activities including School of Leaders and Ultreyas. Please welcome Laura!

Now some information about the new look of the Candidate Application and Sponsor Information form.

The candidate application form is a one-page document, with changes to a couple of questions.

The more noticeable change is in the Sponsor Information sheet. In an effort to provide additional information to sponsors regarding the precursillo process and expectations of them as their candidate begins their 4th Day, the Sponsor Information Document is now titled *Sponsor Commitment*. While the questions sponsors answer remain the same, a second page has been added that provides information for sponsors regarding the application process, activities prior to the Cursillo Weekend, responsibilities during the weekend, and most important--how to support your candidate as they begin their 4th Day. As a sponsor, you are encouraged to keep a copy of this information and refer to it frequently, especially as the Cursillo Weekend draws near.

A copy of the Candidate Application and Sponsor Commitment are available at the Belleville Cursillo website ([click here](#)) or by contacting Laura Veach (laura.sings.4@gmail.com OR 618.972-3062).

It's good to know that nothing else about the Precursillo phase has changed. As always, 4th Day are encouraged to *make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ*. As you consider friends as candidates, talk to them about Cursillo sharing your experience about how the Weekend changed or impacted your life. Invite your friends to your group meeting or to an Ultreya. And most of all, offer palanca. Through palanca you come closer to Christ as you *bring your friend to Him*.

In closing, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as Precursillo Chairperson the past three years. I have been truly blessed.

Peace, love, and joy,

Margie Reaka



CURSILLO DE CURSILLO

The Cursillo of Owensboro, Kentucky is sponsoring a Cursillo de Cursillo
- December 4 through December 7, 2016 –

What is Cursillo de Cursillo (CdC)?

Cursillo de Cursillo is a course for Cursillistas who are searching for something beyond the Cursillo weekend.

Who should attend a Cursillo de Cursillo?

CdC is open to all Cursillistas especially those who wish they could make a Cursillo once again. The weekend is intended for those Cursillistas who are leaders in their Diocesan Cursillo Movement and for those who would like to better know the charisms of the Movement.

What is the format?

The Cursillo de Cursillo Weekend is similarly structured as a Cursillo Weekend. It begins on Thursday evening and concludes on Sunday evening. Like a Cursillo Weekend, participants stay at the facility the entire time.

The presenting team consists of five lay members and one priest or deacon. And like a Cursillo Weekend, there are rollos (13) and meditations (4). Participants are assigned to table groups and discussions are held after each rollo.

Cursillistas will need their *Pilgrim's Guide* for the Way of the Cross, Morning and Night prayers, and Examination of Conscience. (Extras are available for those who don't have one.) Mass is celebrated Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Where will it be held?

The Cursillo de Cursillo will be held at Mount St. Joseph Retreat Center, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356. There is room for about 100 participants.

What is the cost?

At the time this article was written the cost for the weekend is being finalized.

Where can I get additional information?

For more information and final costs, visit Cusillo-Owensboro.org or call Mary Hagan at 270-240-4778.



POSTCURSILLO TONY AND SHARON GUGLIOTTA

Good day, fellow 4th Day Cursillistas! It looks like summer is hanging on for a little while longer. It's been so nice, although sometimes it is humid, and we get a bit of rain when needed. What a blessing we have received. Yet, fall will be upon us very soon. September is right around the corner; another beautiful season each year. As the seasons change, so do the circumstances in our lives and our ongoing need of the support of others and consistent prayer for many of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Tony and I pray each day for every one of you. Whether or not you have reached out in prayer requests for family members, or people in our wider community, or for yourselves, be confident of being lifted up. May the Holy Spirit be with you and yours in the days and nights.

We know that time dedicated to piety, study, and action helps us reflect Jesus to others, even when we are not focused on it, and that we are open to His work in our lives. The word of God instructs our hearts and helps us to grow closer to Him and in how we regularly interact with others. There are many wonderful Catholic works such as "the WORD among us" which contains the daily Scripture readings, meditations, and inspiring stories. "Rediscover Jesus" by Matthew Kelly is also a good resource. Let us be an example of Christ in our world. It is much needed, and we can make a difference!

The Annual Day of Recollection was held on Sunday, July 10, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Murphysboro, IL. We had a good showing; it was very nice to see all of you who were able to come. Your attendance and participation make it a success! We had a bit of fun in keeping with the theme of a summer day. People brought "summer BBQ" type food items for the potluck. We had bratwurst, hot dogs, various colorful veggie and fruit salads, and lots of yummy desserts, too! Father Gary Gummersheimer did an interesting presentation based on the Book of Psalms. Music was presented by Julie Weber. Tony and I thank Father Gary for his presentation, Pat Cook for the use of the K of C Hall and meeting us there, Julie Weber for her gift of music, and of course everyone who helped in any way to set up and clean up at the Hall that day.

We are gearing up for the annual Grand Ultreya! We are looking forward to Saturday, October 22, 2016 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Church in O'Fallon, IL. The address is: 1411 Cross St., O'Fallon, IL 62269. The website is www.stclarechurch.org. Julie Bostick will be the witness speaker. Afterward, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available followed by Mass. Watch your e-mail for further details.

Remember that you are the Cursillo 4th Day Community. Any and all Cursillistas and your potential candidates are welcome at every one of these gatherings! You are important to us. We want to see you, and get to know you. Let's encourage each other on the journey, by friendship grouping and attending Ultreyas. If someone is not friendship grouping or attending Ultreyas, do you want to connect or reconnect with a group? Might you have a suggestion to share? We are here for you. Do contact one of us – Tony or Sharon – at guggang@charter.net or by calling 618-239-9480. We want to hear from you. If we miss your call, please leave us a message and we will get back in touch directly. Let us be of assistance in your 4th Day walk.

De Colores!

Your Postcursillo Chair,
Tony and Sharon Gugliotta

SCHOOL OF LEADERS TERRY KOSTEL**Our Daily Manna**

During our faith journey there are many times we find ourselves struggling with our faith because of how difficult it is to follow God's word and be what he created us to be. The Bible is full of ordinary people whom God has called. Which of them, in their power, their resources, or their ways had what was required to do what God called them to do?... **Not one!**

As we are called, we should refuse to focus on what we are not, what we can't do, or do not know. We need to, "Rely on God's power, his resources, and his ways" – Christine Cain. We should center our thoughts on who Christ is in us, fixing our eyes on Jesus.

Matthew 7:7-11 tells us, "Ask and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

The apostle James asks Jesus what's going to happen tomorrow – James 4:14. The length of our lives is like a fog, here for a little while and then vanishes. God gives us each day, one at a time. If we think about it...today is all we have because yesterday is gone and tomorrow may never come.

We are reminded as we pray the Lord's Prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread" – Matthew 6:11. Not tomorrow's bread or next week's bread. God is a daily provider who provides for our needs today.

As with the manna, called the "bread of angels," God provided for the children of Israel in the wilderness. God's instructions to Moses, was for the people to gather it every morning. He further warned them not to attempt to hoard it or store it overnight in any way, because if they did, the stored manna would breed worms. They were only to gather as much as they would use on any given day.

Like some of us today, there were those that paid no attention to the restriction, and tried to gather more than what was needed for the day, so they could store the extra away for the next day or two. After all, what if God didn't show up with manna tomorrow? I mean, when it comes to food and survival, you can never be too careful, but we can be short on faith. As a result, when the disobedient Israelites looked at their stored manna the next day, it was as God had warned them, horrible, rotten, and full of worms.

So, what is the lesson here? God is a daily provider. He provides for Monday's needs on Monday, and Tuesday's needs on Tuesday. We are to trust Him one day at a time and not become anxious over what we may require tomorrow. He will be there tomorrow as well, with more than enough grace to help us in our time of need.

Final Thought: "There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, 'All right, then, have it your way.'" **C. S. Lewis**

PRAYER REQUESTS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers! What's involved? We need people who will accept prayer requests via email and then on the same day or the next day distribute the prayer request to all our cursillistas via email. Since group email is involved, some technical expertise on sending group emails is needed – or – someone with technical ability who is willing to learn.

If you are willing to accept this critically needed prayer service, please email Christine Leja at lejachristine@yahoo.com.

If you are unable to volunteer, please pray for volunteers to come forward!

May the Holy Spirit inspire the volunteers we need to come forward!

PRAYER REQUESTS EMAIL

During the last few weeks, a number of cursillistas have asked why they are not receiving prayer requests any more. In researching the loss of emails, it was discovered that many times, especially most recently with gmail accounts, the prayer request emails are going into the spam folder. The gmail email service has increased its security which included possible spam emails.

If you are missing prayer request emails, please check your spam folder. If you find a prayer request email there, please mark it as legitimate and move it into your In Box. You will then receive subsequent prayer request emails in your In Box (at least until the next security improvements).

YEAR OF MERCY – DECEMBER 8, 2015, THROUGH NOVEMBER 20, 2016

“It will be a holy year of mercy!” – Pope Francis



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

Excerpts from recent Ultreya Witness Talks

From Laura Veach's Witness Talk on July 8, 2016:

My faith is the fabric of my life.

I am a cradle catholic, born and raised here in Belleville. I was baptized, received my first holy communion, confirmed, educated, and married here at cathedral. My formal catholic education continued at the Academy of Notre Dame on West Main Street. I am the youngest of five girls, quite a bit younger than my sisters. My parents and sisters were great role models for me. Our family was, and remains, very close-knit. The dynamics have changed, but we remain connected. We did everything together. We prayed together and played together, laughed together and cried together. It was difficult when it came time for each one to leave home. We were happy and excited for each one to move on, yet the change was traumatic. Sundays and holidays were spent together. My paternal grandparents died long before I was born, but as long as my maternal grandparents were alive, we would all gather at their house on Sundays for visits and meals. Those Sunday gatherings continued at our house after grandpa and grandma died. There was lots of laughter and good food.

Christmas and Easter were especially joyful times. They were also times of preparing for the coming of the lord. In those days we observed ember days—days of fast and abstinence. How difficult it was to not eat between meals, to not sample the cookies as they came out of the oven. But I remember, too, that it aided my appreciation of the true meaning of those holy days.

Mom and dad instilled in us a love for God from the very beginning. We began and ended our days in prayer. We prayed before and after meals. We prayed at home, in church, in the car, in restaurants, during storms, in times of trouble, and in good times. Going to Mass was as natural as going to the grocery store and praying the rosary was learned well before I started school. The bible was always visible at home, along with books on lives of saints, and other spiritual readings.

Mom and dad were adamant that we all attend parochial school. I was educated by the School Sisters of Notre Dame through high school. Some were stern and demanding; others were warm and nurturing. Some remained very distant while others were open and able to show a fun-loving spirit as well. I was always struck by how they were able to interweave our religious education with our other subjects, demonstrating that our faith was a way of life.

Sunday Mass was never missed, except for illness. I looked forward to Mass; it is such a beautiful service—the perfect communion with the Lord. This was supported by our attendance at daily Mass all through school.

Being the youngest in the family, my place at Mass was between my parents. We always arrived early for Mass, as did many parishioners. And everyone was enveloped in prayer. Many rosaries were fingered before Mass began. I remember my father always carried a rosary and a magnificat in his

suitcoat pocket. Mother always had a rosary in her purse and admonished us girls to always carry a rosary with us wherever we went. I practice that habit to this day. When I was in fifth grade, the year we studied the Mass in school, I was gifted with my own personal Sunday missal.

We went to confession at least every two weeks, and even if my class had gone to confession that week, I went again on Saturday with the family. We attended 40 hour devotions, May devotions, Stations of the Cross, missions, and I remember the church being full to overflowing at many of these liturgies. It was inspiring and comforting! The sanctuary was full to overflowing with the priests, so different from today with our shortage of priests. We never imagined that we would not have enough priests to go around.

(Laura told a number of stories that you may want to ask her about.)

What sustains me?

My faith in God. I cannot fathom not believing in him. Everything around me speaks to me of his existence—the beauty of the earth, a loving family which is supportive and nurturing in good times and in bad, the wonderful friends and acquaintances I have made, and the experiences I have had, both good and not so good. I have come to understand, and accept, there is a reason for everything. That is not to say that it hasn't been painful at times, because it has. But somehow, deep inside, there is that ember smoldering and reminding me that with God everything will work out. All these things have enriched my life.

How has Cursillo impacted my life?

I had long wanted to make the Cursillo Weekend but for various wasn't able to work it out. I am sure it was the Lord carrying out His plan. He knew when I was ready, I surely did not.

It has helped me become less judgmental than I once was. I am learning to distinguish between the sin and the sinner, to hate the sin but love the sinner, to see more clearly the face of Jesus Christ in the face of my neighbor.

(There is much more to Laura's Witness Talk, so take a moment when you see her and she can give you information on sources of study, reaching out to others, etc.)

Laura ended her talk with her favorite prayer:

So, I close with this thought from *the Prayer of St. Francis*, in honor of Pope Francis' year of mercy:



Make me a channel of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving to all men that we receive
And in dying that we are born to eternal life.

From Janice Bassler's Witness Talk on August 12, 2016 (David and Janice's 49th Wedding Anniversary!):

Let us begin with this prayer to the Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit, Spirit of Light and Love;

Come with your light to help me.

See clearly what I am to do;

Come with your love to give me the courage and strength to do it. Amen.

(From Fr. Robert Braun, O.M.I.)

The impact on the Cursillo Weekend I made in February 2005 remains clearly with me. The first person I met on arrival was Donna Kocher, Steward. There were so many unknowns about the weekend and I was a bit anxious. Her friendly and joyous manner quickly put me at ease. She was like an angel to guide me. As time passed, Donna became a good friend and mentor of the Cursillo movement. Katie Emge was Rectora and Pat Cates was the Assistant Rectora. The theme was "Lead Me, Lord." Julie Bostick and Jeanette Schranz were the St. Bernadette's table leaders. The spiritual directors for the weekend were Fr. Robert Braun, Fr. Gary Gummersheimer, and Sr. Jenarose Buechler. The talks on the sacraments renewed for me: Jesus's promise that He would not leave us orphans, but would send the Holy Spirit to guide and lead and protect us. He gave the sacraments to heal, feed, and strengthen us and, therefore, grow closer to God.

My 4th Day Community over these eleven and a half years has improved my piety, study and action at each friendship grouping and Ultreya. By listening to others, I am encouraged to make spiritual improvements and Christian apostolate. The sharing of piety, study, and action keeps us on track and fueled with the Holy Spirit. Our group at St. Augustine's in Belleville meets the second and third Tuesday of each month at 7 pm following the 6:30 Mass and Novena of St. Joseph and St. Jude. Our meeting is in the rectory and Dr. Bill McGhee encourages us to group and even serves us homemade cookies that our parishioners make for him (He is not supposed to eat cookies because he is a diabetic.)

(Following the framework of piety, study, and action, Janice shared her perspective. What follows is an outline from her talk.)

PIETY

Daily prayer life (Shared Padre Pio prayer book)

Extraordinary minister (Called to serve her fellow Catholics)

Adoration (Prays for everyone)

STUDY

Scripture readings

Other religious books such as Rediscover Jesus by Matthew Kelly

ACTION

Talks on the phone to the elderly who many times are lonely and welcome the conversation

Prayer shawl ministry

Continues to grow deeper in Jesus

Love to all

(Janice ended her talk as follows.)

I just want to say that no matter how committed you are to Jesus, we can always grow deeper in our love for Him. May we follow Him more closely and love Him more deeply than ever before.

I love you all and thank you for listening. God bless!



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

Secretariat Meetings

Tuesday, September 27th, at 7 pm at St. Joseph Parish, Freeburg, IL

School of Leaders

School of Leaders continues each month on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at St. Joseph's in Freeburg. Contact Terry Kostel (618) 234-8010.

Ultreyas

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 third Sunday at 10:15 am at St. Agatha's Parish Center in New Athens. This is immediately after the 9 am Mass. Contact Joe or Ann Haubrich (618) 475-2006

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

Friendship Groupings

Belleville Cursillo has begun an activity to create a list of all the Friendship Groupings in our diocese to make available to cursillistas. If you are part of a Friendship Group, please send to Christine Leja at lejachristine@yahoo.com the following information: Name of Friendship Group, meeting times, and location.

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