

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE



THE EVANGELIZER



March 2017

New Website: www.BellevilleCursillo.org

FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR FR. GARY GUMMERSHEIMER

To the Members of the Belleville Diocesan Cursillo Community:

For the past several years, it has been my good fortune and honor to serve as the Spiritual Director for the Diocesan Secretariat. As I write this, I just received notification that Bishop Braxton has appointed Deacon Wayne Weiler as the new Spiritual Director. I wish Deacon Weiler success and good fortune in this endeavor and promise him, the Secretariat, and the Cursillo Community my continued prayer for the success of bringing friends to Christ.

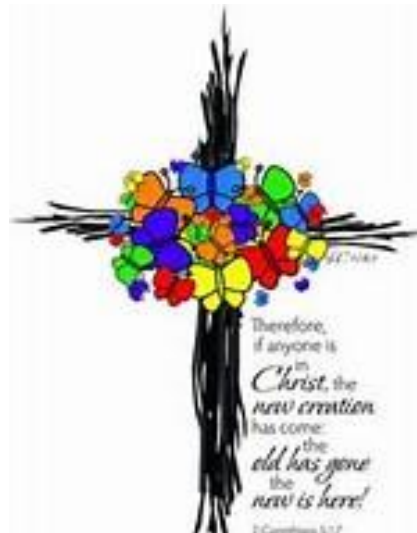
As we prepare to celebrate the great feast of Easter, may we all take some time and remember that we have all been baptized into Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection. May we strive and work to bring peace, mercy, and love to all of our communities.

Again, I wish to express my gratitude and thanks to all the members of the Belleville Diocesan Cursillo community for their prayer and support over these past years, especially the good people with whom I served on the Diocesan Secretariat.

May God bless and keep all of you close to His heart and grant you His love and peace.

De Colores,

Fr. Gary



FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR NICK LANG

Dear Brother & Sister Cursillistas,

I am proud to inform you that the Women's and Men's Cursillo Weekends have been completed and that Sharon Gugliotta and Steve Schaefer did a marvelous job for you all. We have 12 new women and 9 new men in our 4th day community. Their teams did outstanding jobs in all respects.

The Secretariat's efforts to reorganize Cursillo within the diocese continues, but sorrowfully with little progress. We need volunteers from each parish to step forth and be your parish's representative – please contact me at 618-213-6391.

May your Lenten journey bring you into a closer walk with our risen Lord, Jesus.

God Bless, Nick Lang



PALANCA BOBBI SCHAEFER

Lenten Prayer Focus

“Wow!” “Praise the Lord!” “Thank You, Jesus!” Have any of these words crossed your lips in response to prayers answered? These were heard from the Men’s and Women’s team members and 4th days as the time for our Cursillo Weekends drew closer and needed goals were met. God did indeed answer our petitions for the accomplishment of His designated times of retreat.

It’s an appropriate time also, since we are in the season of Lent – a special time of prayer and penance to draw nearer to God and to prepare for the saving wonder of Jesus’ Resurrection at Easter.

Our heartfelt prayers are the most direct way to communicate with Jesus. We can open our soul to Him through praise and thanksgiving, acknowledging who He is and what He has blessed us with...a most wonderful way to warm His Sacred Heart! We can ask for His help in petition to look honestly at our life and the state of our soul. A clear picture of this can lead to true repentance of those sins that have damaged our relationship with Him, and bring about the healing grace only Jesus can provide.

Perhaps you’ve decided to say some extra prayers for Lent – the Rosary, the Angelus, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy – that have not been a consistent part of your daily prayer time. By doing so, you’re allowing this extra time with Jesus to reflect on your relationship with Him. Let Him then renew and refresh you with the same grace you were gifted with in Baptism. You know, Jesus would love nothing better than to spend that precious time with one He loves so dearly!

As you move through this season towards the blessings of Eastertime, ponder as Mary did so long ago. Ask yourself,

“What have I **thanked** God for lately?”

Draw near to Him, and He will draw near to you.

De Colores and Blessings!

Bobbi Schaefer



PRECURSILLO LAURA VEACH

This month we are overjoyed to receive 21 candidates, 12 women and 9 men, as CURSILLISTAS. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the encouragement of their sponsors, and the guidance of the ministry teams, these women and men began their individual Cursillo Journey and joined the 4th day community on March 12 and March 19, respectively. Please welcome them and pray that their fervor and joy will increase throughout their journey!

We extend a sincere thank you to all the sponsors who brought their friends to Christ. It is never too early to seek out new candidates. Let us continue to pray for inspiration and guidance from the Holy Spirit and begin today to make more friends and bring them to Christ.

DE COLORES!

BELLEVILLE WOMEN'S CURSILLO #39**CURSILLISTA**

Edith Barber
Joan Bush
Karen Ferrara
Amy Hughes
Connie Janson
Cathy Ann Mueller
Juliana Pettis
Carol Schlitt
Emma Solia
Linda Porter-Smith
Nancy Truttman
Mary Ellen Wescovich

PARISH/CITY

St. Mary's, Belleville
St. Nicholas, O'Fallon
St. Henry, Belleville
St. Clare, O'Fallon
Sts. Peter & Paul, Waterloo
St. Nicholas, O'Fallon
St. Teresa, Belleville
St. Joseph, Freeburg
St. Teresa, Belleville
St. Andrew, Murphysboro
St. John the Baptist, Smithton
St. Luke, Belleville

SPONSOR

Carla Fickett
Susan McCormack
Margie Reaka
Bobbi Schaefer
Dorothy Kohler
Deacon Ron Tiberi
Mary Pettis
Karen Davidson
Phyllis Lang
Linda Kranawetter
Linda Bagsby
Margie Reaka

BELLEVILLE MEN'S CURSILLO #36**CURSILLISTA**

Daniel Bross
Guy Hawkins
Stephen Hellmann
David James
Steve Knefelkamp
Gary Mueller
William Schwartz
Tony Kellerman
Steven Waszak

PARISH/CITY

St. Theodore, Flint Hill, MO
St. Mary's, Alton
St. Clare of Assisi, O'Fallon
St. Mary's, Mt. Carmel
Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows
St. Nicholas, O'Fallon
St. Andrew, Murphysboro
Sacred Heart of Jesus, DuQuoin
Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows

SPONSOR

Sean Nolan
Steve Schaefer
Laura Veach
Caroline Trimble
Steve Schaefer
Deacon Ron Tiberi
Deacon Don Sparling
Fr. Joseph Oganda
Steve Schaefer

POSTCURSILLO TONY AND SHARON GUGLIOTTA

Hello to all 4th Day Cursillistas! Welcome especially to all our newest Cursillistas from this year's Women's #39 and Men's #36 Cursillo Weekends! We are so excited to be writing to you for this March (Spring) edition of the newsletter!

The annual Cursillo Weekends were held recently at the Ruma Center. It was wonderful to see everyone who came to support the new Cursillistas at both of the closings. We missed those who could not attend. We were blessed to be on team (Sharon) as the rectora for this year's Women's Weekend #39, and (Tony) on the Men's team for Weekend #36.

(Sharon) The immense love, strength, and support I received from our Lord in serving and working for Him in so many ways; preparing, forming, and praying with the entire team, praying for, sharing with, and getting to know the 12 extraordinary ladies who said "Yes!" to the Holy Spirit and made their Weekend. How special each one of them is! How thankful I am and what a blessing to be a part of and witness the innumerable graces the Lord poured out over the whole Weekend. Yes, the Holy Spirit was alive among us, and is with us throughout each day! My fellow Cursillistas - let us take refuge in Him. Seek a deeper friendship with Jesus. Let us always stand in the love of Christ and reflect the warmth of and Light of His love outward to others in our lives. Christ is counting on us!

(Tony) What an amazing time we all had on the Men's Weekend! There were 9 remarkable men who attended and it is amazing how the Holy Spirit works uniquely in each candidate who came to grow in their faith. What takes place on a Cursillo Weekend is uplifting and definitely a life changing experience for all who do attend. It is such an honor to come to know each of them better over the course of the weekend and to grow closer to Christ. To each of the new Cursillistas, we say Welcome to the 4th day community! You all have been and continue to be in all of our prayers.

Our purpose as Postcursillo Chair is to support you and help you to become closer to Jesus in your 4th day journey. If any of you have not yet found a friendship group/group reunion and would like to, your sponsor is your first point of contact for locating a group. We also have a listing of groups in various areas, and can provide you with contact information for a group near you. Any of you in need of the information are welcome to call. Also, if anyone has an idea or suggestion to pass along, we'd be glad to hear from you. Please reach out to us by e-mail guggang@charter.net or by phone at (618) 239-9480. If you get our voicemail, please leave a message and we promise to return your call as soon as we can.

It is that time of year when we are right in the middle of planning the **Cursillo Reunion which will be on Saturday, April 29, 2017, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. It will be held at the Guild Center at Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, IL.** In honor of our new Cursillistas, a potluck meal will be provided by the rest of 4th day community including this year's team members and sponsors. Mr. John Schaberg will be the guest speaker. All Cursillistas are invited! Please, everyone, come join us and

meet and get to know other fellow Cursillistas! Watch your e-mail for more information. For those you may know who don't get e-mail, please get the word out to them also!

We are looking forward to the annual events known as the Day of Recollection and Annual Grand Ultreya later this year. Information concerning these will be released at a later time.

We continue to stand ready to serve you to the best of our ability! Let us all reach out to one another and get to know our 4th Day Community better.

De Colores!

Tony and Sharon Gugliotta



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 requests 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 BY EMAIL

Note that prayer requests are distributed, once per day, by one email address (PrayersRequested@BellevilleCursillo.org). A different email address is used to request prayers.

To request prayers that will be distributed via email to all Belleville Diocesan Cursillistas, please send to the following email address:

CursilloRequestedPrayers@gmail.com

CursilloRequestedPrayers@gmail.com is read late each day. All prayer requests from this email address are gathered into one email and sent via PrayersRequested@BellevilleCursillo.org. We are allowed one mass distribution email per day. (Note that any prayer requests sent to PrayersRequested@BellevilleCursillo.org may be missed or not sent in a timely fashion.)

SCHOOL OF LEADERS TERRY KOSTEL**Christian Leaders**

My term as chairperson of the School of Leaders has come to an end. Before I introduce the new chairperson, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all you have done to inspire me during the past three years. I have truly come to know and better understand that we are all Christian Leaders, and that through using our love for God along with our talents, walking in the footsteps of Jesus really does influence others.

As Matthew Kelly has stated, "Christianity is a billboard campaign. You and I, we are the billboards. He sends us out into the world to send a message to the world. The question becomes, what's on your billboard? Catholic & miserable? Catholic & surviving? Catholic & thriving? or, dynamic Catholic living an extraordinary life & thriving? What message is on your billboard? Everyone you encounter every day gets the message on your billboard."

Our Catholic faith is a public thing. It is not meant to be left behind when we leave home. The duty of all of us as Christians is to take part in the life of the Church. We are urged to act as witnesses of the Gospel and of the obligations that flow from it. Jesus Christ wants us to bring the whole world to the truth, and the truth is Jesus himself, who is, "**The way, and the truth, and the life.**" (John 14:6).

As Christian Leaders, we must have the will to be like Christ and lead others to Christ. And not be like the young man in Matthew 19:16, who walks away from Christ when he hears about what he must give up in order to follow Christ more completely. We must have determination and perseverance in our journey. It will not be easy, but acceptance of our efforts, no matter the outcome, is summed up by Robert Louis Stevenson when he said, "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds that you plant."

It's now time to introduce John Schaberg, who has accepted the role as Chairperson of the School of Leaders for the next three-year term. Many of you know John, but for those of you who have not met him, he made his Cursillo Weekend in 2010 at Men's Cursillo #30, and he sat at the Table of Saint Giuseppe Moscati. John has previously served in the capacity of Secretary to the Secretariat. Now he again serves on the Secretariat as the Chairperson for the School of Leaders. I know John will be a great leader in his new role. May God be with you and guide you, John, as you begin your new journey.

As always, everyone is invited to attend the School of Leaders meetings. They are currently held on the second Tuesday of each month at St Joseph's School in Freeburg. The start time for each meeting is 7 p.m. Don't let the name School of Leaders deter you from attending because we need to remember, we are all, "**Leaders in Christianity**," those of us willing to step out of our comfort zones, as well as those who work behind the scenes. We are all needed to evangelize those we encounter. As Christian Leaders, we need to **go and make a difference.**

Some Final Thoughts: "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." **John C. Maxwell**

BELLEVILLE CURSILLO WEEKEND HISTORY

Hello Cursillistas from the Belleville Diocese!

My name is **Linda Bagsby**, Belleville Women's Weekend #29. I recently was given the History binders for the Cursillo Movement in the Belleville Diocese. There are two binders – one for the Men's Weekends and one for the Women's Weekends. Each weekend has an information sheet that shows the pertinent information for that weekend, i.e., Theme, Rector/Rectora, Dates, Team Name, and Candidate Names, and Table Names plus more detailed information. Many Weekend information sheets are complete but many are not. I would like to fill in the "blanks" if possible with your help. ***I am looking for any information or pictures that any of you out there may have for Weekends that you made or worked on the team.***

I plan to bring the binders to the Cursillo Reunion on April 29, 2017. If you can bring copies of your information to that event that would be great! Or if you are able to email me the info that would be great also! If you have any questions, let me know.

You can email me your questions, info or pictures to: Lbagsby@gmail.com or call me 618-960-1023. Thank You!



2017 Cursillistas Women's and Men's Weekends



Belleville Men's Cursillo Weekend #36 – March 16 – 19, 2017

“Blest be the Lord.” This was our theme, but the Lord returned that blessing a hundred fold.

After months of preparation, nine weeks of novena, six weeks of formation, several dozen reach-outs to our brothers in Christ, and a whole lot of praying to the Holy Spirit, nine amazing men said “yes” to the call.

The deacons got us started with some very moving meditations and the Stations of the Cross devotion. The team could tell on the very first night that this group of men was going to be something special. That awkward feeling of being among strangers had melted away by the time our silent reflection ended Friday morning and they were ready to hit the ground running.

Come Holy Spirit... amazing Rollos were given throughout the Weekend, well beyond our human ability. It was obvious that He was present. Table leaders and assistants did a great job engaging the candidates in discussions. It was apparent the Holy Spirit had placed a hunger in these candidates. Our musicians, who had put in hours of practice besides the normal formation, together with our gifted cantor, were so inspiring. It strengthened the level of comradery and bonding as a Christian community. And the stewards - what a blessing to have such a dedicated crew of men to see to our every need. Tirelessly working behind the scenes, they were indeed the hands and feet of Jesus in action. Together with a super Assistant Rector, who constantly had my back, what a great team of men the Lord provided for this Weekend!

Finally, what a blessing to have two spirit-filled priests to minister the sacraments to us. A special mention of Fr. Zachman, a 96-year-old priest who began his Cursillo journey at the second English-speaking Cursillo Weekend in the United States. What a humble love of Jesus he showed, and a treasure to have on our Weekend.

Yes, it was a lot of work, a lot of sweat, a lot of anxiety, but the Lord returned our human efforts with a floodgate of grace resulting in the team and nine new Cursillista men walking away on fire for the Lord. Yes, indeed, “Blest Be the Lord”!

Humbly submitted, Steve Schaefer, Belleville Cursillo Men's Weekend #36 Rector



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

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

Secretariat Meetings

Watch the website calendar for meeting times which begin at 7 pm at St. Joseph Parish, Freeburg, IL

School of Leaders

The next School of Leaders is on Tuesday, May 9th, at 7:00 pm at St. Joseph's in Freeburg. Contact John Schaberg (618) 420-2670.

Ultreyas

Belleville Area: Monthly on the second Friday at 7:30 pm in the Undercroft at St. Peter's 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.

NEWSLETTERS ARE DELIVERED AT NO COST VIA EMAIL. PLEASE SEND YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS TO CHRISTINE LEJA AT LEJACHRISTINE@YAHOO.COM .

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