

## CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE



## THE EVANGELIZER



December 2017

New Website: [www.BellevilleCursillo.org](http://www.BellevilleCursillo.org)**FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR** DEACON WAYNE WEILER

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the 4th Day,

Once again, our Christian journey finds us at the beginning of the Blessed and Holy Season of Advent. The weather is getting colder, the trees are bare, and the days are noticeably shorter, and there are obvious signs of change all around us. The new Liturgical Year is another sign of change.

Advent gives us the opportunity to use the stillness and quiet of these weeks before the Incarnation to reflect, pray, and to accept Jesus in our lives in new and amazing ways, while we anticipate and await His return.

But despite our best efforts, the time leading up to Christmas is often filled with business, distractions, and stress. We have our family traditions and gatherings, shopping, baking, wrapping, and yes all those “holiday” parties to attend. So much for the stillness and quiet of Advent, right?

Such is the world we live in today, and this is what our culture has embraced as the norm for celebrating Christmas. But these are not altogether sad reflections on society as much as they are occasions to show the face of Christ in an increasingly secular world. Here’s why.

As Christians, and especially Cursillistas, at Christmas we celebrate much more than the materialism and commercialism that has so taken hold of this most blessed result of God’s love for us. While we do, and should, take part in the festivities of the season--**we celebrate Emmanuel—“God is with us”** (Mt 1:23). We celebrate the coming of The Savior who has come to us, is with us still and will come to us again. We celebrate the One who gives us answers to the trials and evils of our troubled world. This is truly cause for celebration!

We are not removed from the negativity of our world, we live as a Christian witness in it, embrace it with all its faults, and bring Jesus, and His unfailing message to it. And by the Grace of God, perhaps we change it one person at a time.

We pray that this Holy Advent season be a time of reconciliation and change—change of heart for ourselves as well as our neighbor. May this be a season that brings hope to the hopeless and healing to the wounded souls of our time. And above all, may it be a season of the love and joy that the Prince of Peace makes ever possible, again and again. O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

Deacon Wayne

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny  
From depths of Hell Thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times did'st give the Law,  
In cloud, and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.



**FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR ROBERT MCCORMACK**

As the newly selected Lay Director for Cursillo, I would like to thank Nick Lang for his Stewardship as the Lay Director for the past three years. He has done a great job of guiding the Cursillo Movement in the Belleville Diocese. Nick gave me a great turn over with a well-organized set of Cursillo records and has been available to answer my question since then. In addition to Nick, I would also like to thank everyone who has served in the Secretariat positions as well as those in the Sub Committee chairs for their Cursillo work. We will need replacements for some positions: Evangelizer, Post-Cursillo, Cursillo and the Secretary whose terms of service have ended or are ending soon. Thanks especially to Chris Leja for assembling the Evangelizer, getting our web site working and handling the 4<sup>th</sup> Day emails, to Julie Weber for handling the Secretary position, to Tony and Sharon Gugliotta for their work as the Post-Cursillo Chair and to Ann Haubrich, and Bob and Katie Emge for all the work they did on the Cursillo Chair.

My first action as Lay Director was to attend the Region IV Fall Cursillo Encounter which was held at the Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center in Cincinnati, OH on 13-15 October. I was pleasantly surprised with the talks and the way the encounter was organized and run. Many of the attendees did not speak English so the talks were conducted in English but simultaneously translated to Spanish for the Hispanic community. The Mass was also conducted in both English and Spanish.

In my term as the Lay Director for the Belleville Diocese, I would like to continue providing great weekends for our candidates and I would like to move ahead with the selection of Parish Representatives for Cursillo which was started by Nick Lang. To be realistic, we are not going to get representatives for all the parishes in the diocese but I would like to start the effort with some of our more active parishes. This will also contribute to a second goal which is to improve the awareness of Cursillo in the Catholic Community. I would like to improve coverage of Cursillo in Diocesan publications and I would like to see more of the 4<sup>th</sup>-Day community wearing shirts with “Cursillo” or “De Colores” logos. Other ideas that will make the Cursillo better known in our Catholic Community are welcomed. De Colores

Bob McCormack



**PALANCA BOBBI SCHAEFER**

So.... Here it is again....Christmastime. Season of peace, joy, cheer and brotherly love. But really – is **that** what we're seeing? Or are we being inundated by evidence of immaturity, words of divisiveness, acts of violence, even outright hatred that is pervading our culture, planting seeds of fear and doubt in our way of life?

People gunned down while enjoying an outdoor concert;  
Policemen endangered during routine duties;  
Citizens attending Sunday service martyred by a mentally unbalanced man with a gun he never should have had;  
A despot ruler of a rogue government aiming nuclear missiles at our allies.... AND at us!

It all begs the question – **Where is our God?**

I answer with another question – *Have **YOU** been looking for Him?*

This is the season when wise men seek Him ... and He *can* be found. Yes, a Baby came into this world to save it; He then empowered us to help Him. And, He taught us how. *He taught us to pray.* **Prayer**.... This is the first step in seeking Jesus. This is the first step in making the world better. His Word says, "Pray unceasingly." And this, the world desperately needs us to do!

It doesn't really matter where you are or even the words you use when you pray. God is everywhere, and He seems to like it best when we speak to Him from our heart. He does listen, to our troubles as well as our joys. And He loves our words of thanksgiving!

So, in this season of love, joy and peace, what words will **you** use to help bring about these things? What words will you pray to God, and say to others to foster peace and goodwill?

It is true .... Prayer changes things. Are you doing your part?

**God is counting on you!**

De Colores & Merry Christmas!

Blessings,

Bobbi



**PRECURSILLO LAURA VEACH**

*“Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ.”* The Cursillo mission!

Sponsors, like Jesus and the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well (John 4:4-26) you have been busy *“making friends”* and *“being friends.”* Like Jesus, you have been engaging in conversation with your friends, gently encouraging them to accept a very personal invitation to begin the most important and exciting journey of their lives—a journey WITH Jesus. Now it is time to reap the harvest of your labors.

As a sponsor, you are **beginning** a journey with your friend which you will continue together long after the weekend ends. A good sponsor will assist the candidate with the application process, arrange for transportation to and from the weekend, help the new cursillista find a sharing group, and provide continuing encouragement along the way. To date we have 17 men and 20 women considering this journey with Jesus.

The dates for the 2018 Cursillo weekends are:

Men:	March 8-11, 2018	Application deadline: March 1, 2018
Women:	March 15-18, 2018	Application deadline: March 8, 2018

The application and sponsor commitment forms are available online at [www.bellevillecursillo.org](http://www.bellevillecursillo.org). They are also printed later in this newsletter, along with Margie Reaka’s FAQ’s for a Cursillo Weekend. Review Margie’s FAQ’s and have a one-on-one conversation about the weekend with your candidates. You may contact me, Laura Veach, for these items or with questions via email at [laura.sings.4@gmail.com](mailto:laura.sings.4@gmail.com) or by phone at 618-233-3062 (H) or 618-972-3062 (C). If I don’t answer, please leave a message. I **will** get back to you.

Novena begins Sunday, January 7, 2018, 1:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church in Freeburg. Please join us in prayer for the candidates and the ministry teams.

As you read this newsletter we are in Advent, preparing for Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ. What an extraordinarily loving gift from God to us! *“Bring a friend to Christ.”* What a beautiful and wonderful gift from us to Him!

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patron of the Americas, Pray for us.

St. Paul, Patron of Cursillo, Pray for us.

De Colores! And Merry Christmas!

**An encounter with God,  
An encounter with Yourself,  
An encounter with Others**

**POSTCURSILLO TONY AND SHARON GUGLIOTTA**

Hello, fellow 4th Day Cursillistas!

It's a special time of the year when we begin to prepare for Advent, and also to quiet our hearts and minds in reconciliation and joyful anticipation of Christmas. What a blessing each day is! Outside, the leaves on the trees are in full color; aren't they beautiful!

Be assured of our prayers offered for each of you and for your families - in your needs, healing, strength, encouragement, whatever your intention. Also, we offer prayers of thanksgiving for the friendships we have and continue to build upon with each of you in our 4th Day.

On Saturday, October 28, 2017, the annual Grand Ultreya was held at Holy Trinity Catholic Parish in Fairview Heights, IL. Garry Range was our witness speaker and he gave a great talk! (A brief version of his witness can be found elsewhere in this newsletter edition.) Also, we had another wonderful group of people who came together to share a meal, fellowship and their lives. We would like to thank Garry again for his witness, Julie Weber for always sharing her gift of music with us whenever we've asked her to, Janelle Neff for helping set up advance details and for her support that day, and Carol Kay Tucker for helping beforehand. We thank literally everyone who helped us clean up and pack up. We are grateful for you!

As we close out our three year term as your PostCursillo chair, we would like to thank anyone who has mentored, encouraged, and supported us in any way at every step, at each event. It has truly been an honor and a pleasure to serve in this capacity. We don't yet know who will be taking the reins of PostCursillo chair, but we offer that person/persons our support. We especially thank Nick Lang for his past leadership as Lay Director and Bob McCormack for his leadership as current Lay Director.

The Holy Spirit encourages us to reach out in friendship to our brothers and sisters in Christ to share our 4th Day journey, and to others in the various environments in which we have been planted to make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ. We should speak to Jesus about a person before we speak to a person about Jesus. He sends the Holy Spirit with us and gives us the words to say. We strive to plant the seeds of friendship and of sponsorship. We have previously shared how we came to meet new friends who became our Cursillo sponsors and fellow Cursillistas. Let us be watchful for opportunities to bring the Good News to our neighbors and acquaintances. Lord, please help us to be ready when You call upon us to serve others. Amen.

Preparation is underway for the 2018 Men's and Women's Cursillo Weekends in Ruma, IL. The 9-week Novena will begin in early January. Watch your email for announcements. Let us pray for and support the teams, as well as praying for men and women candidates to say yes to the Holy Spirit. The next PostCursillo event will be the Cursillo Reunion to be held in April 2018.

We are the point of contact for help and assistance in your 4th Day journey. We invite you to reach out to us by e-mail at [guggang@charter.net](mailto:guggang@charter.net) or home phone (618) 239-9480. Please leave us a message with your name and best time to reach you and we will get back to you. We want to hear your ideas or concerns, and look forward to being of assistance any way we are able. Peace be with you!

DeColores!

Tony and Sharon Gugliotta, your Postcursillo Chair



**SCHOOL OF LEADERS** JOHN SCHABERG**And Upon this [School of] Rock. . .**

As we like to say, we are not an Organization, we are a Movement. We did not join an organization, but we did set out on our 4<sup>th</sup> Day Journey, a movement toward Christ with those we encounter. We have no membership dues, no mandatory meetings, no rituals, no ranks or offices, no awards for “Cursillista of the Year.”

What we do have, however, is the **Friendship Group**, which gives life to our Movement. Everyone in our Friendship Groups is equal in status, free to speak their minds, and committed to the good of the others in the group. We all have equal responsibility to each other, to Christ and His Church, and to use our time, talent and treasure for the good of those near to us - - and to those far away.

But wait, you might say: What about this “School of Leaders?” Isn’t the Secretariat an “Organization?” Don’t we have Committees and Chair people who have to go to meetings? Don’t we have monthly Ultreyas that someone has to organize and run?

Yes, but these are simply larger “friendship groups,” which only exist to encourage and facilitate the forming of Friendships in Christ. **In the School of Leaders these past few months, we have been discussing and learning the meaning and effect of “Friendship” in the PreCursillo, Cursillo, and PostCursillo.** We have been studying the articles from the National Cursillo website and answering the question of what it means to “make a friend, be a friend, and bring your friend to Christ.”

Cursillo is not about adding up numbers of Candidates for the Weekends, it’s about developing friendships in Christ. If you only have one friend, that friend may have two friends, and each one has more friends. That’s the way God created us, and that’s the natural and authentic way we can share the Gospel, the Good News, that we are all loved, we can all receive forgiveness, and we are all friends in the Body of Christ. See? No mention of meetings, dues or committees –Cursillo is all about friendships, not about numbers, structures, fund-raising, or hierarchy.

The School of Leaders will be on “Christmas Vacation” until after the 2018 Weekends. Our next meeting will be April 10, 2018, at 7:00 pm at St. Joseph’s Parish Center. I wish all of you, your families and friends a warm and happy Christmas season! Welcome the homeless, infant Christ into your home, and introduce your family and friends to Him.

**Romans 1: 12:** *“What I mean is that both you and I will be helped at the same time, you by my faith and I by yours.”*

De Colores and Peace!  
John I Schaberg



**GRAND ULTREYA WITNESS TALK** SYNOPSIS OF GARRY RANGE'S PRESENTATION

Here is an edited version of Garry Range's talk. You really had to be there to get the full message and appreciate the deepness of faith given with a light Cursillo touch:

*My Name is Garry Range and I began my Cursillo Journey at Belleville Men's Cursillo #32, 1,655 days ago and I sat at the table of St. Matthew.*

By the grace of God I humbly stand before you today, a forgiven sinner who is loved by God, to give a sharing, a witness, to what I have seen and know about our God during my Cursillo journey.

Jesus invites us to go on a journey with him with the eyes of faith. St Paul gives us a definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1 "Faith is the substance of things to be hoped for, the evidence of things that appear not." This is where with the grace of God, His Word, and His Church and sacraments through our piety, study and action helps us.

What shirt do you see that I am wearing? Most people will say a baseball St. Louis Cardinals shirt and that I must be a big fan. But with eyes of faith do you not see I am wearing the shirt of a canonized saint of the Catholic Church, St. Louis IX? And, the color red, cardinal red, is associated with the Holy Spirit. This is my re-Confirmation shirt. This shirt is my "Come Holy Spirit" reminder. Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, if God can make holy this ordinary shirt, what can he do for each one of us? Yes, He can make scoundrels into saints!

Being a Christian is like riding a bicycle. One can admire the beauty of a bicycle and study everything there is to know on how to ride a bike. One can even join a bicyclist club that meets every weekend. But can one truly call himself a bicyclist without getting on that bike and riding it? With eyes of faith, are we pedaling with the Paraclete? With eyes of faith, this bike I am referring to is a bicycle built for three. We are seated in the middle with the Holy Spirit behind us, urging and encouraging us onward, with Jesus upfront steering!

We live in a most challenging time of human history. In today's world, the world I know and live in, it seems that very few people haven't heard of Jesus, but it does seem quite a few people do not know Jesus. Through eyes of faith, I must see the face of Jesus in every one I meet or know, be him a friend or foe. Through eyes of faith I must also be the witness, that is, the reflection of Jesus in all that I say and do. We must remember, and never forget, every human being, friend or enemy, Christian or not, we are all created out of God's love in the image and likeness of Him and thereby worthy of our love.

One of the many fruits of my Cursillo journey is my prison ministry. As God would have it I was introduced to prison ministry through grouping. I felt a vocation to minister to these men. I am a Volunteer Chaplain at Menard Correctional Center located at Chester, IL for the past three years. I bring the Holy Eucharist to the men and serve as a Catechist. It is both gratifying and fulfilling, but yet so humbling in bringing Jesus and His Word to these men who are incarcerated. These are men who long to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. They are most grateful the Church has remembered them.



Jesus has told us to visit the imprisoned. Even though humankind has meted their judgment on these men, God's mercy, which is love, prevails to a penitent person at all times regardless of what they have done. To sin is human, but to forgive is divine. Through eyes of faith let us forgive one another, i.e., become more like our God, as Jesus teaches us in the Lord's Prayer.

One day this summer I noticed a butterfly in the kitchen. It was fluttering to every window to try to be free, but to no avail. I approached the butterfly and after several attempts I gently cupped it in my hand. I went outdoors and released it. Through eyes of faith I thought does not our God do the same thing for me; for us? We, His butterflies are trapped, imprisoned in sin. God gently and mercifully reaches, full of compassion, to set us free; as many times as it takes! Blessed be God forever!

What is time? Is it not just the monitoring of the movement of heavenly bodies? Is not a day just the complete rotation of the earth on its axis? Is not a month just the cycled appearance of the moon in the sky? Is not a year just the orbit of the earth around the sun? But yet, people are too bounded, too controlled by time. How many of us think we do not have enough time? One of my favorite songs is called, "Sweet Time". Its lyrics ring true:

#### SWEET TIME

Refrain:

Beautiful, wonderful promise of man  
Time without measure in that great land.  
Give of yourself to others each day.  
TAKE YOUR SWEET TIME, BUT GIVE IT AWAY!

Life's not a mystery when we look back.  
Always a plan, always on track!  
Why do we wonder or worry each day?  
No need to hurry. Take time away!

Time is our fortune, more precious than gold.  
It is the key of love that we hold.  
Give of it freely. It shall be repaid.  
God promises time, so give it away.

Speak to a stranger, encourage a friend.  
Smell all the roses that someone sends.  
Comfort a heart that you could mend.  
Shop wisely my friend with time to spend.

My fellow cursillistas we all are on our fourth day journey. Mine began 1,655 earth rotations ago but I am still on my fourth day even when the earth has completed another orbit around the sun. Through eyes of faith, let us have Jesus as our axis and our Sun. His Truth will set us free. Let us not be bounded by time to limit our love for our God or our neighbor, since God promises us eternal life. Let us take each moment and make each moment to live in perfect harmony in doing His will. Everything we do must be done For Christ, Through Christ, With Christ, In Christ, Like Christ and for the Love of Christ. In short, everything done For The WILL of Christ!

I thank God for my journey to cross along your path as we tread the same footsteps.

I thank you for striving to be true, genuine, and authentic disciples of Jesus, our Lord, our Savior and our King!

You have been models for me in my personal journey.

You witness our faith that is uniquely you. God has blessed you with many talents and you have chosen well my friends, my fellow Cursillistas, my dear brothers and sisters!

You will always be in my prayers as you continue your journey to meet God face to face.

With eyes of faith, how have you seen God in your life happenings since you began your Cursillo journey?

De Colores!

Garry



ULTREYA

### 2018 Cursillo Weekends

#### **Men's Cursillo Weekend:**

March 8, 2018 – March 11, 2018

#### **Women's Cursillo Weekend:**

March 15, 2018 – March 18, 2018





### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:CursilloRequestedPrayers@gmail.com)**

[CursilloRequestedPrayers@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:PrayersRequested@BellevilleCursillo.org). We are allowed one mass distribution email per day. (Note that any prayer requests sent to [PrayersRequested@BellevilleCursillo.org](mailto:PrayersRequested@BellevilleCursillo.org) may be missed or not sent in a timely fashion.)



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

Check out the Cursillo Diocese of Belleville website: [www.BellevilleCursillo.org](http://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 School of Leaders is on the second Tuesday of the month 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 11:15 am at St. Agatha's Parish Center in New Athens. This is immediately after the 10 am Mass. Contact 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](mailto: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 .**

**TO RECEIVE ONE MAILED PRINT COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER, SEND \$5 WITH POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO CHRISTINE LEJA.**



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## *Cursillo in Christianity*



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



Belleville Cursillo	2018 Weekend Date	Application Deadline
Men's Cursillo Weekend	March 8 - 11	March 1, 2018
Women's Cursillo Weekend	March 15 - 18	March 8, 2018

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred name for your name tag \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Employment \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Catholic, eligible to receive the Sacraments?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Has the Cursillo Movement been explained to you?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Has the follow-up program of friendship grouping and Ultreya been explained to you?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Marital status:

☐ Single ☐ Separated/divorced

☐ Married ☐ Widowed

If married, is your spouse Catholic? ☐

Yes ☐ No ☐ na

Has/will your spouse made a Cursillo? ☐

Yes ☐ No ☐ na

Why do you want to make a Cursillo?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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 (non-refundable) to your sponsor.

Checks are payable to "Cursillo in Christianity"

The total cost of the weekend is approximately \$175 (the balance can be paid on the weekend).

Please do not let the cost of the weekend prevent you from attending.

**(You will receive a confirmation e-mail from the Precursillo chairperson with information about the weekend)**

Belleville Cursillo website: [www.bellevillecursillo.org](http://www.bellevillecursillo.org)

## *Sponsor Guidelines*



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 and consider the important items below.

### GUIDELINES FOR CANDIDATE SELECTION

- ✚ An adult Catholic (18+) who is able to receive the Sacraments and emotionally mature to understand the evangelical message and commit to it
- ✚ Able and willing to influence others in a Christian way
- ✚ Be free of unusual stress, e.g., recent loss of a loved one (out of respect for the candidate and in courtesy to other attendees)

### CANDIDATE APPLICATION

- ✚ Do not be secretive. Answer honestly any questions the candidate has about the weekend or the movement (with the exception of palanca)
- ✚ Explain the Cursillo 4<sup>th</sup> Day (Group Reunion and Ultreya) to the candidate
- ✚ The cost of the weekend is approximately \$175. No one will be turned away because of finances. Inform the precursillo chairperson, in confidence, if your candidate is unable to pay for the weekend in full
- ✚ Complete the application with your candidate and mail this completed Sponsor Commitment, the Candidate Application, and a \$50 (non-refundable) deposit to the precursillo chairperson. Note that Candidate Applications cannot be accepted without the submission of the Sponsor Commitment Form.
- ✚ Shortly after receipt of the application and Sponsor Commitment Form, the precursillo chairperson will e-mail the applicant a confirmation letter with further information about the weekend. You, as the sponsor will receive an e-mail as well. Check with your candidate that they received the e-mail and provide answers to any additional questions.

### IN PREPARATION FOR THE CURSILLO WEEKEND

- ✚ Do palanca (pray and sacrifice) for your candidate
- ✚ Attend the Novena on Sundays from January 7 through March 4 at 1:00 PM, St. Joseph Freeburg ✚ Invite your candidate to attend a group reunion and Ultreya (prior to the weekend)

### THE CURSILLO WEEKEND

- ✚ Insure your candidate has transportation to the Ruma Center. Candidates should not drive to the Cursillo site.

- ✚ Continue doing palanca for your candidate and all others attending the weekend
- ✚ Write a palanca letter to your candidate (indicate "Sponsor Letter" on the outside of the envelope) and give it to one of the team members prior to the start of the weekend
- ✚ Attend the Sunday evening closing and dinner, arriving at Ruma by 4:00 PM. Take your candidate home.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES FOLLOWING THE CURSILLO WEEKEND

- ✚ Keep in close contact with your candidate, continuing to show as much interest as you did prior to the Cursillo, and encouraging them to persevere in their 4<sup>th</sup> Day
- ✚ Help your candidate find a sharing group
- ✚ Attend the Cursillo Weekend Reunion with your candidate
- ✚ Accompany your candidate to Ultreya and School of Leaders

## **Sponsor Commitment Form**

Complete the sponsor commitment form and mail with your candidate's completed application and \$50 deposit to Laura Veach, 4 Zinnia Drive, Belleville, IL 62221.

Upon receipt, a letter will be sent to your candidate with information about the weekend. And you will receive a letter with a reminder about a Palanca letter for your candidate, their transportation to and from Ruma, and your support of your candidate beyond the 3-day weekend.

Note that Candidate Applications cannot be accepted without the submission of the Sponsor Commitment Form

Belleville Cursillo	2017 Weekend Date	Application Deadline
Men's Cursillo Weekend	March 8 - 11	March 1, 2018
Women's Cursillo Weekend	March 15 - 18	March 8, 2018

Candidate's name \_\_\_\_\_

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?

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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 the weekend? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(If your candidate cannot afford the weekend, please let us know so other resources may be sought to assist them.)

Belleville Cursillo website: [www.bellevillecursillo.org](http://www.bellevillecursillo.org)

Questions? Contact Laura Veach, Precursillo Chairperson

**FAQs**  
By Margie Reaka)

**Getting Ready for the Weekend**

*Q. What are the dates for 2018? Will there be other weekends?*

A. Each year in the spring the Belleville Diocese hosts two Cursillo weekends, one for men and one for women. The 2018 Men's Weekend is scheduled March 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>; Women's Weekend is scheduled March 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Q. What do I need to bring to the weekend?*

A. Please bring your own personal items such as soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, hairdryer, etc. Towels and bedding are provided. There will be plenty of food, snacks, and drinks as well.

*Q. Do I have to share a room and/or bathroom with somebody else?*

A. You will most likely share a sleeping room with another Cursillista. While the bedrooms do not have a private baths, there are plenty of bathrooms available and ample time for showering each morning or evening.

*Q. How should I dress?*

A. Comfortably! Jeans, sweats, tennis shoes, etc. are the norm.

*Q. I can't be there the entire time from Thursday evening until Sunday evening, can I still attend?*

A. Unfortunately no, this is a weekend community and is designed to build from the start on Thursday evening at dinner through Sunday evening dinner. Perhaps your candidate will be available for the Cursillo weekend the following year.

*Q. What is the cost of the weekend?*

A. The cost of the weekend is \$175; candidates are asked to give a \$50 deposit with their application. Please be assured that no one will be excluded from the weekend because the cost is beyond their means. In this case, please talk confidentially to the Precursillo Chairperson.

*Q. Why can't I drive myself?*

A. There are several reasons we provide a ride. Of course we don't want you to leave early (which is probably what you have heard), but riding to the weekend with your sponsor or friend provides an opportunity for last minute questions, and simply – you don't walk into the weekend alone. And when you leave you will most likely be very anxious to talk about your weekend, and the ride home with your sponsor is a great opportunity.

**During the Weekend**

*Q. Is Cursillo a retreat?*

A. Cursillo is not a retreat because it can only be made once in a lifetime. The Cursillo weekend is built on community and differs greatly from the individual solitude of a retreat. The word, Cursillo is a Spanish word meaning "little" or "short course" so the Cursillo weekend is "a short course in Christianity."

*Q. What happens during the weekend? What should I expect?*

A. You will listen to talks given by clergy and lay people during which you will take some notes just as you would take notes in a regular classroom. Each talk is followed by a discussion period. You



will also pray together, celebrate the Eucharist and visit the Blessed Sacrament with other Cursillistas. And you will have opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

*Q. Do I have to share about my past?*

A. No, you only share what you want to share.

*Q. Where can I get more information about the Cursillo movement?*

A. There is a lot of information available on the Internet. The Belleville Diocesan Cursillo Website ([bellevillecursillo.org](http://bellevillecursillo.org)) and the National Cursillo Movement ([cursillo.org](http://cursillo.org)) are two great sources.

### **After the Weekend**

*Q. After the weekend, how much of a time commitment do I have to make?*

A. There is no specific time commitment because you make a Cursillo weekend. Cursillo is not an organization, it is a movement. The Holy Spirit will guide you to what time you feel you want to give. After the weekend some go full board and attend every event Cursillo offers, some go to a few, and some just make the weekend; but regardless, the weekend will change your life.

*Q. What is “4th Day?”*

A. The three-day Cursillo weekend is meant to be a beginning. The “after” activity of the Cursillo weekend is known as the “4th day,” i.e., the balance of the Cursillista’s life on earth. There are many opportunities through Ultreyas or group reunions to continue the growth in understanding and zeal within the Christian community.

### **Sponsors**

*Q. Where can I get an application, when should I send it, and to whom do I send it?*

A. Applications are available at the Ultreyas, at [www.bellevillecursillo.org](http://www.bellevillecursillo.org), at the end of this newsletter, or by contacting the Precursillo Chairperson. Please be sure both the Applicant Form and the Sponsor Information Sheet is complete and mail them (with the deposit) to: Laura Veach, 4 Zinnia Drive, Belleville, IL 62221. The application deadline for the Men’s Weekend is March 1<sup>st</sup> and the application deadline for the Women’s Weekend is March 8<sup>th</sup>.

*Q. What are the responsibilities of the sponsor?*

A. To be a sponsor is a privilege and carries a serious Christian responsibility. It should be a deliberate act to bring your friend to Christ.

The sponsor should pray and sacrifice (Palanca) for their candidate before and during the Cursillo weekend. Sponsors are encouraged to attend the Precursillo Novena held at St. Joseph, Freeburg, each Sunday at 1:00 PM beginning January 7<sup>th</sup> through March 4<sup>th</sup>.

For the weekend, it is the sponsor’s responsibility to ensure your candidate has transportation to and from the Ruma Center as well as attending the Sunday evening closing and dinner. And finally, sponsors are encouraged to write a letter to their candidate (this can be given to any team member prior to the start of the weekend).

*Q. I don’t have anyone to sponsor. How can I be a part of the Cursillo weekend?*

A. Every 4<sup>th</sup> Day is encouraged to offer Palanca for the team and the candidates, attend the Precursillo Novena held at St. Joseph, Freeburg each Sunday at 1:00 PM beginning January 7<sup>th</sup> through March 4<sup>th</sup> and attend the closing and dinner on the Sunday evenings (Men’s Weekend – March 11<sup>th</sup> and Women’s Weekend – March 18<sup>th</sup>) at Ruma.