

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE



THE EVANGELIZER



December 2018

New Website: www.BellevilleCursillo.org**FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR** DEACON WAYNE WEILER

“...they departed for their country by another way.” Matthew 2:12

The story of the Magi making their way to find the new born king is one for us to ponder with great hope for our own journey of faith. Led by a sign from God, a star, they find Jesus the One sent by God to rescue and redeem the world by a message of Love, Joy and Peace.

The journey of the Magi was surely one of uncertainty and many questions. What would their search lead them to? What would they report back to Herod, and what would his response be to what they found? Who would they meet along the way? Would there be doubters trying to sway them from what they sought? Would the star occasionally be overshadowed by clouds? Would they need to correct their bearings or even change course? When they arrived would something more be asked of them?

The obstacles the Magi may have encountered are not different from what we encounter in our search for Jesus. Fear, uncertainty, doubt, distractions and questions can overshadow our signs, our stars. Likewise, what the Magi found is not unlike what we too find--the pure love and wisdom of God in our Lord Jesus Christ. They would not encounter a king on a throne, but rather a king in an unusual and humble setting—a manger. They would meet a king who comes to rule by humility and compassion.

Scripture tells us that the Magi would not return from this meeting by the same route. So too is our journey of faith and encounter with Jesus. When we truly meet Him, we simply cannot return from where we came in the same way. When we receive Him in the sacraments we're changed. When we give of ourselves, and offer our self-gift in the service of others, we too experience an epiphany. And like the Magi, our pilgrimage takes us on a different road than from where we came.

We, too, will find Christ if we are willing to search for and recognize the signs from God in our own time that lead us to Him. As this Christmas Season comes to a close, we've once again experienced the great mystery and the reality of Emmanuel—God with us. May they bring about our own Epiphany in this New Year—a closer walk with the One who comes to save all of mankind!

De Colores!
Deacon Wayne



FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR ROBERT MCCORMACK

December Ultreya

With the Cursillistas in Du Quoin from last year's Weekends and the new Cursillistas anticipated to attend the Cursillo Weekends this spring, there are enough Cursillistas in Du Quoin and the surrounding area to support a regularly scheduled Ultreya. To start this process, an Ultreya was held, with support from the Belleville Ultreya, in the Parish Center at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Du Quoin, IL, on December 8, 2018. The Ultreya was well-attended and should serve as a good example to follow for future Du Quoin Ultreyas.

Plans are on schedule for the Cursillo Men's and Women's Weekends at the Adorers of the Blood of Christ Motherhouse in Ruma, IL, in March 2019. However, the number of applications received for the Women's Weekend exceeds the capacity of the Motherhouse in Ruma. A second Weekend for women is being considered in anticipation of additional applications that will be added to the waiting list of women candidates. A host of issues such as date, location, team, and spiritual direction need to be resolved before a second Cursillo Weekend can be held.

The Belleville Ultreya closed 2018 with a fun-filled Christmas social run by Jerry Palmisano. In addition to the usual grouping and goodies, we enjoyed a Christmas Trivia session and a wonderful Christmas songfest accompanied by the guitars of Terry Kostel and Steve Hughes.

I want to thank everyone who has worked to make 2018 a successful year, and I look forward to working with everyone in 2019.

Love, Joy, Peace, and De Colores

Bob McCormack



PALANCA BOBBI SCHAEFER

Always There

One year wraps up; another unfolds. And Baby Jesus remains in the manger, His love and graces outpouring over every one of us. Whether you've received many blessings or gone through many trials this past year, God has always been there. Whatever may have happened to you – good or not-so-good, (maybe the hard stuff moved you farther down the road to sainthood?!), with prayer and thanksgiving, let Jesus take those cares from you so you have the chance to start anew.

As this new year reveals itself to you, make a resolution that no matter what comes your way, you AND GOD can handle it – TOGETHER – through prayer. A great start to each day is saying the Lorica of St. Patrick, found at EWTN.com/devotions. It really covers ALL the bases!

May the Christ Child richly bless you and yours this New Year, drawing you closer to Himself in ALL that comes your way!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

De Colores!

Bobbi



PRECURSILLO LAURA VEACH

“O, come, all ye faithful!.... O, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!” (A Christmas carol adapted from Psalm 95)

2019 Cursillo Weekends are:

MEN: Thursday thru Sunday, March 7 – March 10, 2019

WOMEN: Thursday thru Sunday, March 14 - March 17, 2019

We are blessed this year with a healthy crop of applicants for the March 2019 Weekends. Applications have been coming in earlier than in the past. Congratulations, sponsors, for your diligent work for Christ. It is important that you maintain close contact with your candidates during the Precursillo period. Pray for and with them. Participate in the novena which begins in early January. Answer any questions they may have and help them prepare for the Weekend. Make arrangements for your candidate's transportation to and from the Weekend. Attend the closing. Help your candidates successfully transition into 4th Day by assisting them in connecting with a sharing group. Continue to be a "friend for Christ." Their journey is just beginning.

The application and sponsor commitment forms are included in this publication and are also available online at www.bellevillecursillo.org. Sponsors, it is your responsibility to submit both forms and the deposit together. Do this as soon as possible. If you have questions or need assistance you may contact me, Laura Veach, via email at laura.sings.4@gmail.com or by phone at 618-233-3062 (H) or 618-972-3062 (C).

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

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

Wishing everyone a very **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year!**

De Colores,

Laura Veach

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

POSTCURSILLO JOHN AND BERNADETTE CHARLTON



May the peace of Advent be with our 4th Day Community.

It is below freezing outside today as we write this short article. There is a dusting of snow on the roofs. We are sitting in the atrium on the south side of the house, and the sun is pouring in through the windows, warming us through and through. It is a pleasant, peaceful feeling ... like the feeling we often experience during this beautiful season of Advent. Prepare the way for the birth of Christ our Savior!

Colder temperatures also presage the preparation for the Men's and Women's Cursillo Weekends. The 9-week Novena commences on Sunday, January 6, 2019, at St Joseph's Parish in Freeburg. Once again in Ruma, the Men's Weekend is March 7 – 10, followed by the Women's Weekend on March 14 – 17. It is not too early to begin offering Palanca for both candidates and team members.

The 2018 Grand Ultreya was held at Saint Liborius Parish on October 27th. We were honored to have Father Joseph Oganda from Sacred Heart in Du Quoin join us and share some thoughts. The ever-reliable Julie Weber once again led us in musical praise. An inspirational and moving witness talk was presented by Leo Wolf. He knocked it out of the park! Leo addressed early grouping after his Weekend, "A Way" and "Connectors." A few of his major points were: Step out and be bold; Jesus will carry you; and if you want to get something accomplished ... call a Cursillista! He also encouraged all of us to make friends and stick together sharing our love of our Lord ... and, don't let this messed up world shape your faith.

We are pleased to announce that Du Quoin held their first Ultreya on December 8, 2018, at Sacred Heart. There are many vibrant Cursillistas from around that area. We had an excellent turn out from Du Quoin, Carbondale, Pinckneyville, Tamaroa, and Carbondale. Thank you to those Cursillistas from the Belleville area who also participated. Onward!

De Colores!

John and Bernadette Charlton

charltonba23@gmail.com,

402-578-5198



Excerpts from the Grand Ultreya Witness Talk

Witness Talk by Mr. Leo Wolf on October 27, 2018

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for bringing Cursillistas together to grow and strengthen our faith. Continue to guide us as we strive to do Your will. Yes Lord, we are willing to go and do anything You wish us to do. Just nudge us some way, somehow and point us in the direction You wish us to go. And as we proceed, put Your hand out to give us guidance.

Please understand what I say today is in the context of The Jesuit Way: everything we do is done for the greater glory of God:

- Striving for Excellence
- Sharing gifts, concern for the poor
- Respecting each person as a child of God
- Teaching behaviors that reflect responsible action on moral and ethical issues

Today I'd like to discuss early grouping after my Weekend, A Way, and Connectors.

(I need a favor: Please look at our story as an opening of ourselves to the Holy Spirit, not as something boastful).

After my Weekend, I was not a faithful grouper. There weren't many men from Freeburg who were Cursillistas, so I did some grouping with good guys from New Athens. If I wanted to group in Freeburg, I had some work to do. So I invited two friends to the next Weekend, and they accepted. In the meantime, I was invited to join the team as an assistant table leader. On the Weekend, one more candidate from St. Joseph's showed up. We were short a table leader, so they asked me to take the St. Joseph's guys and that was my table. The Holy Spirit had done it again – we had a St. Joseph's group! We grouped weekly for about six months. Then we decided that we wanted to step out, get bold, do something long term, do it for our parish.

But before stepping out we developed A WAY. A WAY like the Cardinals baseball club ... like the Jesuits. Our WAY was to “strive to do the will of God”: Prayer (piety), Study, and Evangelization – Action.

The “prayer” that we decided upon was to institute Eucharistic Adoration at our parish. This took some coordination with our pastor, who gave us the green light. We proposed to establish a weekly Adoration period beginning after the Tuesday morning Mass and ending Wednesday morning before Mass. We then created an Adoration prayer book and a holy card. Father gave us some homily time to address the congregation one week prior to sign-up weekend. At sign-up weekend we had all hours covered and about 50-60 people sign up. The hard hours were all covered by Cursillistas.

We then decided to get bolder. We agreed to go to the surrounding parishes of St. Libory, St. Agatha's, St. John the Baptist, and St Michael's. Why? Because they all had a good group of Cursillistas to help us install Adoration. We used the same format at each parish. Hours were tailored

to each parish. Each priest was willing to give us homily time to address the parishioners. We could not have done all of this without Cursillistas.

Next we addressed “Study.” We established a Lenten Discussion Group. There were about six of us. After Easter, we decided that we didn’t want to quit, so we established a Bible Study. We advertised in the bulletin and ended up with about a dozen members. We studied Salvation History (Old Testament) for four years, and then moved on to Matthew, Mark, Luke, The Acts, and the Mass. This group still meets today, and we have started a new Bible Study with eight participants. So far we have studied the Eight Encounters with Christ from the Book of John and we’ve just started The Mass, by Bishop Barron.

We also addressed our “Service” – “Evangelization.” Here’s how it works: Jesus sends us Work Orders, calling us to help friends, church and family. We go where He sends us! Sometimes we get ourselves in trouble and other times we get in a pickle. But all work orders are fulfilling!

My experience has been that Cursillistas are great CONNECTORS. The backbone of every initiative we have implemented regarding Piety, Study, and Action has been Cursillistas from their respective parishes. Connectors work both ways. We have used our weekly golf group over the years to recruit new Cursillistas. Our current group of 16 golfers has 11 Catholics in it. Four are Cursillistas, and three more are seriously considering making a Weekend. Two of the guys have been together since 2000. Our current Bible Study has seven golfers, five of whom are Cursillistas, with two considering making a Weekend (the other member is non-Catholic). At the Weekend it was taught, “Make a Friend ... Be a Friend ... and Bring that Friend to Christ!”

Let me conclude with these thoughts. Step out and be bold. Jesus will carry you. If you want to get something done, call on a Cursillista. Make friends, stick together, and don’t let this messed up world shape your faith.

Amen!

SCHOOL OF LEADERS JOHN SCHABERG

As we enter the New Year of our Lord 2019, looking both forward and backwards from the present moment, I’d like to take a minute to reflect on my personal Cursillo Journey.

To put it plainly, I am having an absolute blast chairing the School of Leaders! Since I was a kid, I have always wanted to be a **sincere, authentic, child of God**. I had a hard time following the fad or fashion of the day, unless it was **sincere**. I could not enjoy a friendship unless it was **authentic**. And I could not imagine my life without the **love of God to guide me**, to **inspire** me, to **admonish** me, to **drive** me forward, and to **rein me in** from time to time.

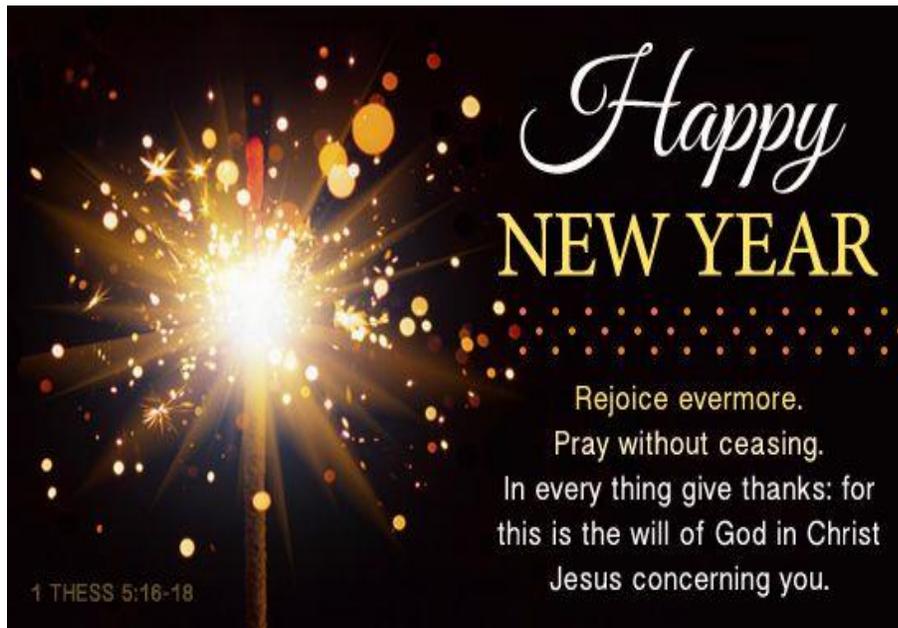
The School of Leaders allows me to be that sincere, authentic, child of God. Like an Olympic skier **visualizing** the turns and gates, before strapping on his skis, I have spent my life **“internalizing”** this

opportunity to offer **my witness, my voice, my heart, and to open my eyes and my ears** in this **service for Christ and His Church**. My goal is to make the **School of Leaders** a **welcoming place** where *all Cursillistas can offer up their sincere, authentic selves as children of God, to lead their environments to Christ.*

Our **School of Leaders** is on vacation during Formation, but we will meet again, after the 2019 Weekends, on **April 9, 2019**, at **7 p.m.** in the Parish Center of **St. Joseph's Parish in Freeburg, IL**. Please join your fellow Leaders! **Happy New Year on your Journey!**

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



Cursillo in Christianity



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



Belleville Cursillo	2019 Weekend Date	Application Deadline
Men's Cursillo Weekend	March 7 - 10	February 21, 2019
Women's Cursillo Weekend	March 14 - 17	February 28, 2019

Name _____

Preferred name for your name tag _____

Address, City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Type of Employment _____

E-mail _____

Sponsor _____

Parish _____

Pastor _____

Age: _____ Emergency Contact: _____
(Name & Phone number)

Are you a Catholic, eligible to receive the Sacraments?

Yes No

Marital status:

Single Separated/divorced
 Married Widowed

Has the Cursillo Movement been explained to you?

Yes No

If married, is your spouse Catholic?
Yes No na

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

Yes No

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

Questions? Contact Laura Veach, Precursillo Chairperson - 618.972.3062

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 4th 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 6 through March 3 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 4th 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	2019 Weekend Date	Application Deadline
Men's Cursillo Weekend	March 7 - 10	February 21, 2019
Women's Cursillo Weekend	March 14 - 17	February 28, 2019

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 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

Questions? Contact Laura Veach, Precursillo Chairperson laura.sings.4@gmail.com
OR 618.972-3062

LOOKING FOR A FRIENDSHIP GROUP REUNION?

Below are contacts for Friendship Group Reunions in the Belleville area:

Men & Women's Friendship Group: Bob McCormack, (618) 277-3709; McCormack3000@gmail.com

Women's Friendship Group: Julie Weber, (618)-444-2894; weber-julie@sbcglobal.net or Linda Bagsby, (618)-960-1023; lbagsby@gmail.com

Men's Friendship Group: Garry Range, (618)-401-9677; g.range@charter.net

NOTE: Additional Friendship Group's points of contact will be posted in future Evangelizers as information is received. Please send your Friendship Group's points of contacts' information, including meeting day of week and type of group (men or women or both) to Kent Jeanneret; jeannerk@charter.net.

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.)



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 p.m. at St. Joseph Parish, Freeburg, IL, on the last Tuesday of May, July, September, November, January, and March.

School of Leaders

The School of Leaders is on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph's in Freeburg. Contact John Schaberg (618) 420-2670.

Ultreyas

Belleville Area: Monthly on the second Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Undercroft at St. Peter's Cathedral. (Entrance on W. Garfield St.) Contact Jerry Palmisano, (618) 581-7705.

New Athens Area: Monthly on the third Sunday at 11:15 a.m. 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 a.m. 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 Kent Jeanneret at jeannerk@charter.net 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 KENT JEANNERET AT JEANNERK@CHARTER.NET

TO RECEIVE ONE MAILED PRINT COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER, SEND \$5 WITH POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO KENT JEANNERET.



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Robert McCormack, Lay Director

3000 Lebanon Ave., Belleville, IL 62221; (618) 277-3709; McCormack3000@gmail.com

John Schaberg, School of Leaders

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Laura Veach, Precursillo

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Terry Kostel, Cursillo

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John and Bernadette Charlton, Postcursillo

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Anna Feurer, Treasurer

1200 Cinnamon, Freeburg, IL 62243; (618) 779-1388; anna.feurer@purina.nestle.com

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Sean Nolan, Prayer Requests

219 Kristina Ct., Mascoutah, IL 62258; (618) 972-5063; sean.nolan@yahoo.com

Paula Sobol, Prayer Requests

1433 Christina Dr., Belleville, IL 62226; (484) 574-3272; psobol07@aol.com