

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE



THE EVANGELIZER



March 2020

New Website: www.BellevilleCursillo.org

FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR DEACON WAYNE WEILER

“It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.” - Deuteronomy 31:8

At this time and place we find ourselves in the midst of great uncertainty! Uncertainty over the Coronavirus and its impact on our health and that of those we love. Uncertainty over school closings, business failures, loss of employment and income, and changes in our lives we could not have envisioned only a short time ago. But of all these, as Catholics, the suspension of the celebration of the Eucharist in the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is perhaps the starkest reminder of the situation in which we find ourselves.

What are we to take from the events of these past several days? We call on our faith in all things, this is ever important now. Our Spiritual Works of Mercy can be a comforting help in time of trouble and fear. Two of them in particular come to mind, “Comfort the Sorrowful” and “Pray for the Living and the Dead.” These are things we can do:

- Lend a listening ear to those who are worried or fearful over the unknown of COVID-19;
- Write a letter or send a card to someone who is suffering (instead of grouping write Palanca to your group mates and others);
- Keep a list of prayer intentions, writing down the names of those you are keeping in your prayers;
- Ask a friend or family member if there is anything you can pray for them about;
- In prayer, entrust your cares and concerns for those around you to God

A few moments of your time may make a lifetime of difference to someone who is coping with uncertainty. Spiritual works of mercy lead us to piety, and must sustain us now. They are a reflection of grace given and faith lived through concrete actions out of love for God and neighbor.

Then, when we return to the table of Our Lord, we will do so with an increased yearning for that which sustains us all the more - the source and summit of our Christian lives - *The Precious Body and Blood of Christ*. He has not left us!

While we are temporarily unable to receive Him in Sacramental Communion, we may make an Act of Spiritual Communion, as follows:

*My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things and I desire to receive You in my body,
my soul, and my whole being.
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,
Come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if you were already there
And unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

Dear Lord, Hasten the day we return to Your Altar.

De Colores!

Deacon Wayne



FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR ROBERT MCCORMACK

The School of Leaders and the Secretariat have finalized plans for our next Cursillo. Both the Men's Cursillo and the Women's Cursillo are scheduled for October 22 - October 25, 2020, at the King's House. For a number of reasons, we have decided to have both the Men's Cursillo and the Women's Cursillo in the same place and at the same time. We have had many lengthy discussions and reviews of the Cursillo schedule and the King's House venue to determine if it is feasible to host both of the Weekends at the same time and place while maintaining separation between the Men and Women. The conclusion is that, with the help of the Holy Spirit along with careful schedule planning and cooperation between the Rector and Rectora, we will be able to successfully hold both Cursillos.

Many of our current volunteers are completing their terms of office in the near future. We have already had several recent changes. Cheryl Rajski has replaced Laura Veach as the Precursillo Chair, and Margie Reaka will be taking over the School of Leaders from John Schaberg. I would like to thank Laura and John for their contribution to Cursillo during the past three years. I would also like to thank Margie and Cheryl for saying “yes” and accepting the challenge to manage two important Secretariat Chairs. Changes are in the works for other Cursillo positions which will be announced in the next few weeks.

We also have a small group working to improve and standardize our Cursillo formation practices. In a search for best practices, we are also reviewing Cursillo formation practices from other Region IV dioceses and considering them for adoption. This effort should improve how our teams prepare for our annual Cursillos.

I hope everyone is having a very prayerful Lent and is looking forward to Holy Week and a wonderful celebration of Easter.

De Colores!

Bob McCormack



PUBLICITY BOBBI SCHAEFER

Lent – an unprecedented, difficult time such as this has become. Jesus was supremely tested during his 40-day sojourn in the desert...and now we are in a surreal desert being tested as never before. The devil is boldly throwing in our faces fear, doubt, anxiety, and panic. We are being challenged in a way that can make us shudder down to our very core - mind, body, and spirit!

“Can” make us shudder?

This is the most serious time we’ve ever been given to find out just **“Who We Are”!**

We are children of the Living God, made in his image, who has promised to never leave us or forsake us!

We are recipients of unlimited divine love, mercy, and grace!

We are the living Body of Christ!

We are Catholics!

Our focus needs to be Jesus. He is our Strength, our Hope, our Provider, our Life! This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to divest ourselves of the cares of everyday life that daily tries to draw us away from Him.

THIS is our time to turn **TO** God – **HE WILL bring us through!** Trust Him. Spend time with Him, praying, praising, reading Scripture to find solace, comfort and peace in God's Word. Ps 91: 1-2 is one of my favorites. Take time to find what - and Who - speaks to you. Lay your cares and concerns at His feet.

Even though this is a time of quarantine, in some form, **don't** isolate yourself from God! Run to Him! Cling to Him! He alone is the Answer! Pray 24-7!

May this find you safe and well and close to Him!

De Colores!

Bobbi Schaefer



PRECURSILLO CHERYL RAJSKI

We extend our thanks to Laura Veach. She has served as Precursillo Chair since September 2016. Laura started her Fourth Day Journey at Belleville Women's #37. Laura has been an excellent lead of Precursillo activities and much more, including serving on Weekend teams and as an active member of Secretariat and School of Leaders.

Starting March 2020, Cheryl Rajski will be the Precursillo Chairperson. Cheryl started her Fourth Day Journey at Belleville Women's #35. (I hope to do as well as Laura in this new role!)

As we begin to prepare for the 2020 Cursillo Weekend, our first step is prayer - prayers for our Fourth Day, prayers for Secretariat and School of Leaders, and prayers for sponsors to be given words of encouragement to evangelize and bring others into a deep relationship with Christ by starting their Cursillo Journey. It is not too early to begin prayers for those who are called to be on team and for those who could benefit from Cursillo. Faith is such a gift at all times, but it is especially precious in these times.

The 2020 Weekend dates are:

Men: October 22-25, 2020 Application deadline: October 7, 2020

Women: October 22-25, 2020 Application deadline: October 7, 2020

Both the Men and Women's Weekends will be held at the King's House. They will share the facility, but in other ways the Weekends will be held separately as they have in the past.

The Cursillo Weekend Package is available at www.bellevillecursillo.org under the link "Cursillo Sponsor and Candidate Application 2020". This package includes the Sponsor Guidelines, Sponsor Form and Candidate Application. If you have any questions contact Cheryl Rajski, Precursillo Chairperson (email cedete@charter.net; cell - 618-334-0135).

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

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, pray for us.

DE COLORES!

Cheryl Rajski

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

POSTCURSILLO JOHN CHARLTON

As I sit here at home, social distancing myself from the dreaded Coronavirus, I thought to myself: “Self, this would be a great time to write the spring Evangelizer article.” Hopefully, by the time you read this edition, the mass hysteria will have abated a bit, and toilet paper will once again be on your local grocer’s shelves. Crazy times for sure!

We convened our winter Grand Ultreya on February 23rd at St Joseph’s parish in Freeburg. Wow! The Fourth Day really turned out. It was standing room only! We had north of 60 attendees, all sitting elbow-to-elbow in very cozy conditions. Good thing this transpired in February, because it wasn’t compliant with Coronavirus guidance. Three of our wonderful musicians set a warm Christian atmosphere all afternoon. Kudos to Julie, Terry and Chuck! Of course, no one went home hungry, but the highlight of the afternoon was our witness speaker, Deacon Andy Lintker. Deacon Andy completely held the attention of all, as he walked us through his spiritual journey. You could have heard a pin drop. We once again want to offer Deacon Andy and Rosemary our heartfelt thanks for making time for us. God bless you both.

Our next Grand Ultreya will be in DuQuoin on Saturday, April 25th, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Under Fr. Joseph’s leadership and support, I’d wager that the DuQuoin area may be the most fertile Cursillo ground in the country, as approximately one half of our candidates for the past few years have been from this area. I encourage anyone who can to make every effort to attend this event. Let me also plug the monthly Ultreyas at Saint Peter’s Cathedral in Belleville, held on the second Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. We attended the March Ultreya on Friday the 13th. Our most recent rectora, Cheryl Rajski presented the witness talk. She knocked it out of the park!

We haven’t quite nailed it down yet, but we are looking at either the 12th or the 19th of July for this year’s Day of Recollection. We will present brief overviews of the talks that are given on the Cursillo Weekend, both Rollos and Meditations. The objective is to demonstrate how these talks build upon each other throughout the weekend, connecting Friday (Encounter with Self), Saturday (Encounter with Christ) and Sunday (Encounter with Others). If you have been on several teams, this will be a review. Hopefully the rest of us will gain a better understanding of the overall flow of the weekend, and the Charism of Cursillo.

As your Post-Cursillo Chairperson, I am here to serve you. As we all know, our Cursillo tools of Group Reunion and Ultreya sustain, encourage and enrich each of us in our Fourth Day. If you want to join a group reunion or start your own group reunion, your sponsor should be able to assist you. I am also available at charltonje23@gmail.com or (703) 868.6419.

Blessings from your Post-Cursillo Chair

John Charlton



SCHOOL OF LEADERS JOHN SCHABERG
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We ARE - - the Fantastic Four!!

Does God give us superpowers? Yes, if we let Him! Along my Cursillo Journey:

- **He stretches me** to do things I never wanted to do, to go places I never asked to go. I am not a natural leader – but He’s led me to deliver Rollos, serve as Rector, chair the School of Leaders, take active roles in the Parish Ministries and the Knights of Columbus, and to meet people I never would’ve encountered – especially Jesus! ***Reed Richards, Mr. Fantastic***
- **He makes me burn with the joy of faith . . .** to evangelize, to share the witness of my life, to light up my moveable square yard, to keep those around me on fire! ***Johnny Storm, Human Torch.***
- **He gives me strength** makes me a rock, enables me to do things beyond my own power. ***Ben Grimm, The Thing***
- **He provides an invisible force** the power of prayer - to persevere on the Journey, to act without drawing attention, to protect those I love, to do things that only the Holy Spirit can do and only the Holy Spirit can know. ***Sue Storm, The Invisible Woman.***

The Fantastic Four had to work as a team to defeat Dr. Doom. What powers has God given you? Are you letting your superpowers work to bring Jesus to your world and defeat doom?

Fortunately, ***there are more than four of us*** - our **School of Leaders** will meet on **April 14, May12,** and **June 9** at **7 p.m.** at **St. Joseph’s Parish in Freeburg, IL.** Please join your fellow Leaders in faith! (And, with any luck, this could be my last column – you’re freeeee!!)

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 (signing off??)



<p><u>LOOKING FOR A FRIENDSHIP GROUP REUNION?</u></p>
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Belleville Area Friendship Group Reunions

Men & Women's Friendship Group / Meets each Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM at member's house: Contact Bob McCormack, (618) 277-3709; McCormack3000@gmail.com

Women's Friendship Group / Meets 1st and 3rd Saturday at 8:30-10:00 AM in the Parish Center at St John's - Smithton: Contact Julie Weber, (618)-444-2894; weber-julie@sbcglobal.net or Linda Bagsby, (618)-960-1023; lbagsby@gmail.com

Men's Friendship Group / Meets each Tuesday evening at 6:30 PM at member's house: Contact Garry Range, (618)-401-9677; g.range@charter.net

Men & Women's Friendship Group / Meets at St. Augustine of Canterbury rectory in Belleville after the Tuesday 6:30 PM Novena Mass on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday: Contact Paula Sobol (484)-574-3272; psobol07@aol.com

Women's Friendship Group / Meets at Coffee with Christ Cafe, 6 Wade Square, at Lebanon Ave and Sherman in Belleville at 9:15 AM on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday: Contact Phyllis Lange, 618-213-6391

Women's Friendship Group / Meets at the "Sisterless House" (old convent) at St. Joseph's Parish in Freeburg at 7:00 PM, Tuesday evenings: Contact Bernadette Charlton, 402-578-5198; charltonba23@gmail.com

Men's Friendship Group / Meets at Frank Lill's house, 905 Meadow Brook Drive, Freeburg at 1:00 PM Thursday afternoons: Contact John Charlton, 703-868-6419; charltonje23@gmail.com

DuQuoin Area Friendship Group Reunions

Men's Friendship Group / Tree of Life / Meets at Haeffner Hall Du Quoin at 8:00 AM on the last Saturday of the month: Contact David Martin (618) 318-3183

Men's Friendship Group / Halom / Meets at Haeffner Hall Du Quoin at 8:00 AM on the last Saturday of the month: Contact Tony Kellerman (618) 318-0094

Women's Friendship Group / JOY (Jesus, Others, You) / Meets at Sacred Heart School Du Quoin at 6:00 PM on the 2nd Tuesday of the month: Contact Kathy Krisfaluzy (618) 318-0128

Women's Friendship Group / Mother Theresa / Meets at Haeffner Hall Du Quoin at 12:15 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of the month: Contact Kay Baker (618) 571-0515

Women's Friendship Group / Saint Elizabeth Anne Seton / Meets monthly at 1:00 PM at member's homes: Contact Marie Schimanski (815) 978-9419 for date and place

Murphysboro Friendship Group / Meets at Antoinette "Toni" Martie's house, 200 Marlyn Lane, Murphysboro at 4:30 PM, Thursdays: Contact Toni Martie, 618-319-0212

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 Margie Reaka (618) 581-7355.

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 Lawrence "Rock" Verrochi, (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.

Friendship Groupings

Belleville Cursillo creates a list of all the Friendship Groupings in our diocese to make available to Cursillistas and the sponsors of new 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, contact information, and location.

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS

Deacon Wayne Weiler, Spiritual Director

206 Papillon Dr., Swansea, IL 62226; (618) 277-3824; wlweiler@gmail.com

Deacon Ron Tiberi, Assistant Spiritual Director

1201 Lebanon Ave., Belleville, IL 62221; (618) 233-3500; rjtiberi@gmail.com

Robert McCormack, Lay Director

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Margie Reaka, School of Leaders / Prayer Requests

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Cheryl Rajski, Precursillo

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Terry Kostel, Cursillo

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John Charlton, Postcursillo

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Nancy Myerscough, Secretary

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Karen Davidson, Palanca

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Kent Jeanneret, Newsletter / Cursillo Roster

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Garry Range, Website

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Sean Nolan, Prayer Requests

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Paula Sobol, Prayer Requests

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