

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE



THE EVANGELIZER



September 2020

New Website: www.BellevilleCursillo.org

FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR DEACON WAYNE WEILER

I hope this finds everyone well and in good spirits! I begin this message by offering sincere gratitude for the leadership and guidance Bob McCormack has brought to the Belleville Cursillo in Christianity Movement as Lay Director. Bob has been a strong supporter for ensuring the mission and method of the Cursillo is lived and put into everyday practice, while providing the support necessary to implement exciting National Cursillo updates. Bob, we thank you for your example in living out the aim and purpose of Cursillo - evangelizing our environments. But also, we thank you for your friendship and your witness to Christ. We also congratulate Cheryl Rajski, our new Lay Director. Cheryl, please be assured of our prayers as we all continue to grow in faith and holiness.

“There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for everything under the heavens.....”
(Ecclesiastes 3-1-8)

I think it may be safe to say that we are growing weary and we may have to admit we are experiencing “COVID Fatigue.” We are hungry for some sense of normalcy, and we trust that it will come, and soon it will - whatever normal becomes. We have certainly seen our share of individual disappointments through all of this. But one that is often overlooked is the disappointment brought on by the loss of time. Loss of time spent with family, loss of time spent in gatherings, loss of time in activities you enjoy, loss of time with our fellow Cursillistas. We can feel as though we’ve somehow been deprived of special time and moments.

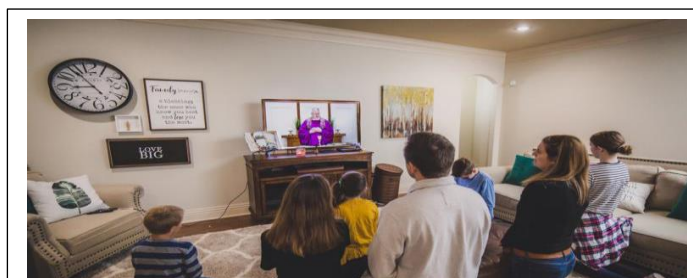
In these times St. Paul reminds us of God’s assurance, “in an acceptable *time* I heard you”
(2 Corinthians 6:2).

As disappointing as this shifting of our time is, it is important for us to remember that God gives us time in this life to grow in closeness to Him through our Lord Jesus Christ. And haven’t we all said at one time or another, “If I only had more time I would _____.” Fill in the blank. Perhaps this “acceptable time” is meant for our benefit, giving us new opportunities to read more, write more, reflect more, and pray more. Our Piety, Study, and Action may be enhanced in ways that not long ago might have seemed unimaginable.

May we embrace our new time, whatever that looks like for now, in a way that most glorifies God. Trust God, for His grace endures, His Love is timeless.

De Colores,

Deacon Wayne



FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR ROBERT MCCORMACK

My three-year term as Lay Director of Cursillo is coming to an end this month. I will be replaced by Cheryl Rajski who is very qualified to lead Cursillo for the next three years. It has been a privilege to lead the Belleville Diocese Cursillo for the past three years while going through a period of transition. Thanks to a dedicated group of Cursillistas, we have navigated this period with relative ease.

We have changed venues for our Cursillo Weekends from the ASC Motherhouse in Ruma to the King's House in Belleville, and we have also changed the date from early spring to fall. Sadly, because of COVID-19, we had to cancel both the October Men's and Women's Cursillos, scheduled this year at King's House. However, a Cursillo Weekend has been scheduled for next fall at the King's House in September 2021.

While getting through COVID-19, we have been making good use of computer technology, mainly Zoom, to continue Secretariat and School of Leaders meetings; and this month we used Zoom for a successful Ultreya. Additionally, some of our Cursillo friendship groups have continued meeting using Zoom or similar software.

We have also implemented changes that bring our Cursillo Weekends into alignment with the National and International Cursillo guidelines referred to as the Step-by-Step Process. Our Cursillo leaders, led by Margie Reaka, Cheryl Rajski, and Bernadette Charlton, have worked hard to adopt the Step-by-Step Processes and include them in a guide to be used for team formation.

Since my Cursillo Weekend 17 years ago, the Cursillo Movement has been a great joy in my life. It has given me many Catholic friends, each of whom in some small way has been responsible for bringing me to a closer relationship with Christ. Even though I won't be holding a formal position in Cursillo, I do plan to continue those relationships in my life through Cursillo.

De Colores!

Bob McCormack



PRECURSILLO CHERYL RAJSKI

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

The decision was made to cancel the Belleville Diocesan Cursillo Weekend scheduled for October 22-25, 2020. The leadership team carefully watched the data and researched options. We discussed ways to assure everyone’s safety during a Cursillo Weekend. After several months of discernment, the decision was unanimous. It is not possible to bring Cursillo as it should be with the current COVID-19 situation and guidelines.

Letters were sent to all the candidates and their sponsors during early August. The candidates can choose to have their deposits returned or used to hold a place for the next Cursillo.

We understand this delay is difficult for candidates and we share sponsors’ concerns. Please consider inviting your candidate to the Zoom Ultreya or as guests to your group reunions. It is another way to keep the gift of friendship strong during this delay.

Our next Men’s and Women’s Weekends are scheduled for September 9-12, 2021. The updated application and sponsor commitment form is on the Belleville Diocesan Cursillo website: www.bellevillecursillo.org. If you have any questions, you can reach me, Cheryl Rajski, at 618-334-0135 or cedete@charter.net. If I don’t answer, please leave a message. I will return your call.

I pray for you. May the peace, joy, and love that come from God be with all of you!

De Colores!

Cheryl Rajski

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

POSTCURSILLO JOHN CHARLTON**De Colores!**

As I write this article for our fall Evangelizer, we mark more than six months with COVID-19. Much of our Cursillo world has been in a holding pattern this past year. My previous article addressed the importance of **perseverance** in our Cursillo Movement. Some of our Friendship Group Reunions have continued to gather electronically via Zoom. We have had three more months now to try to get our arms around the challenges that we are facing, and we are making steady progress. In addition to Group Reunions, we have convened two School of Leaders meetings, one Secretariat meeting, and our first Belleville Diocesan Cursillo Ultreya via Zoom. Almost 30 Cursillistas participated in this initial Zoom Ultreya, including several Fourth Day-ers from the DuQuoin area. That's a success in anyone's book! Chris Kelley stepped up on short notice and gave a beautiful witness talk. Chris took us back to September 11th noting how those who died had no idea that they were living their last day. Then she reviewed the COVID-19 saga. The potential for sickness and death can be cause for fear in all of us. Chris shared that fear pushes her straight into our Father's arms, where she finds rest and comfort with Him. She mentioned several unexpected blessings as a result of the coronavirus. Even preparing oneself for death can be without fear because as Psalm 84 states, "Blessed are the people where God is their strength." Special thanks to Rock Verrochi for facilitating our first Zoom Ultreya ... you definitely ROCK!

For the foreseeable future, this looks to be the "new normal," so please be on the lookout for our next Zoom Belleville Diocesan Ultreya. All it takes to join is a phone. If you are interested and would like some one-on-one Zoom coaching, let us know!

One of the areas that we are concentrating on during these times of social distancing and quarantine is improving communications within our Cursillo Movement. We would like to identify area/parish representatives within the Belleville Diocese as communicators for our Belleville Diocesan Cursillo Movement, creating a communication network for the entire Belleville Diocese. This has been an organizational goal for many years.

Please contact me if you would like to be an area/parish representative or if you would like to serve on the committee to establish our area/parish representatives.

As your Postcursillo representative, I am here to serve you. If you need assistance in joining or starting a group reunion, your sponsor should be able to assist you. I, too, am available and can be reached at charltonje23@gmail.com or (703) 868-6419.



Perseverance ... Ultreya ... Onward!

SCHOOL OF LEADERS MARGIE REAKA

Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Romans 12:12

This is one of my favorite quotes from scripture and as I reflect on the last six months, this scripture is just how I've seized each day. I hope for a future without social distancing restrictions, pray daily for peace, healing, and help in all our needs, all while enduring the effects of the pandemic and unrest.

More than six months ago, March 10, 2020, to be exact, School of Leaders met face to face. We sat near each other, did not wear masks, and shared hugs. Now with social distancing requirements, the group has been blessed to find an optional platform to continue meeting. While we miss the closeness of an in-person setting, our friendships and meetings have prevailed via Zoom.

Everyone is welcome to be in School of Leaders, but you may be wondering what is it? Why should I join? Why is School of Leaders so important to the Belleville Diocesan Cursillo? As I searched to find the best answers to these questions, I found an article from the August 2018 National Encounter where John Ciliberti, Region VI, shared his thoughts on what School of Leaders is NOT and what School of Leaders IS.

“The term School of Leaders is one that seems to cause confusion. What does the term ‘School’ mean in the Cursillo mentality? The second word that causes equal misunderstanding is ‘Leader’.

“The word ‘School’ tends to bring up visions of students sitting at their desks, listening to a person or persons, teaching something to them. In the context of Cursillo, nothing could be further from the truth. It is not and never has been a ‘School’ where someone, such as a veteran Cursillista, shares their acquired knowledge. In the context of Cursillo, we are referring to a ‘School of Thought’ where people who are already knowledgeable to a lesser or greater degree, have come together to share some ideas and philosophies. Together they explore and deepen their understanding and gain wisdom and insight from one another.

“Belonging to the School of Leaders does not make one a leader, and similarly, all the leaders are not necessarily in School. In fact, some of the best leaders may never attend and their reasons for not doing so are their own.

“The School of Leaders is a *group of friends* that individually and collectively have faith in Christ....And collectively these leaders want the love of God to reach as many people as possible, so naturally, they want to be part of Christianity in Action. Therefore, they want to learn more about the Cursillo method and collaborate with each other to achieve its purpose, i.e., that the joyful news that God loves us may reach all people.”

The Belleville Diocesan Cursillo School of Leaders meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. via Zoom, which we will continue using for the foreseeable future. Meeting details are sent through Cursillo Prayer Request emails about five days before the meeting.

Each month we explore and discuss a topic that will help us deepen our understanding of Cursillo and our Catholic Faith. In October we will begin exploring the 15 rollos. On October 13 Linda Bagsby will present **Ideal**; on November 10, **Habitual Grace** will be presented. There will not be a meeting on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Peace, love, and joy,

Margie Reaka
618-581-7355
margiereaka@gmail.com

School of

L – Live for Christ
E – Evangelize for Christ
A – Adore Christ
D – Disciples of Christ
E – Eucharistic love of Christ
R – Receivers of Christ
S – Students of Christ

<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. via Zoom, 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. via Zoom (watch for announcement in Prayer Requested emails). Contact Margie Reaka (618) 581-7355.

Ultreyas

Belleville Area: Monthly on the second Friday at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom (watch for announcement in Prayer Requested emails) Contact Lawrence "Rock" Verrochi, (618) 581-7705.

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

Robert McCormack, Lay Director

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

Margie Reaka, School of Leaders / Prayer Requests

308 Lake Pointe Court, Freeburg, IL 62243; (618) 581-7355; margiereaka@gmail.com

Cheryl Rajski, Precursillo

305 E. Meadow Brook Dr., Freeburg, IL 62243; (618) 334-0135; cedete@charter.net

Terry Kostel, Cursillo

2607 Lebanon Ave., Belleville, IL (618) 234-8010; kostel_t@charter.net

John Charlton, Postcursillo

3291 Sugar Lake Drive, Freeburg, IL 62243; (402) 578-5198; charltonba23@gmail.com

Nancy Myerscough, Secretary

4501 Elk Meadows Lane, Smithton, IL (618) 235-6309; mrmrsm64@sbcglobal.net

Anna Feurer, Treasurer

1200 Cinnamon, Freeburg, IL 62243; (618) 779-1388; annafeurer56@gmail.com

SECRETARIAT AD HOC COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Gail Kostel, Publicity

2607 Lebanon Ave., Belleville, IL (618) 234-8010; tgk1030@yahoo.com

Karen Davidson, Palanca

5447 Robert Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109; (618) 670-8383; kraul16@yahoo.com

Kent Jeanneret, Newsletter / Cursillo Roster

117 Joan Dr., New Baden, IL 62265; (618) 531-8855; jeannerk@charter.net

Garry Range, Website

4013 Sassafra Lane, Belleville, IL 62221; (618) 401-9677; g.range@charter.net

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