

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE



THE EVANGELIZER



January 2021

New Website: www.BellevilleCursillo.org

FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR DEACON WAYNE WEILER

“You shall not have other gods beside me.” Exodus 20:3

Like you, I watched in bewilderment and great disappointment the events of January 6th in the breach of our nation’s capital. The senseless loss of life, total disregard for property, and outright assault on our democracy hopefully compels us to self-reflection, and certainly much prayer. What further compounds the sadness of this tragic day is that it occurred on the traditional feast day of the Epiphany of Our Lord; a day when the divinity of Jesus is made known to all the nations in the visit of the Magi, and represents His coming to us as King and Redeemer of all mankind and all of creation.

While concern over the ever-widening political divisions in our country is surely justified, of deeper concern for our nation is our growing incapacity to disagree, our inability to have a reasoned discussion, and our failure to respect one another. Of even greater concern in all of this is the apparent and obvious disregard for neighbor. The sin of pride is glaring.

The reasons for these events are many, far too complicated to delve into in this space. But at the heart of much of this is the false and destructive notion that politics is the sole answer for all societal flaws. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI captured this so very well when he wrote the following: ***“Wherever politics tries to be redemptive, it is promising too much. Where it wishes to do the work of God, it becomes not divine, but demonic.”*** It seems the greatest commandment of Jesus to love God and neighbor has far too often given way to love of political dogmas.

Politics should guide our nation’s discussion on the role of justice and peace in our society and the common good of all. It should not be the source of evil and ruin of our culture. As Catholics, we should and must oppose all that is contrary to the respect for life and the dignity of the human person and the care for God’s creation. We are charged to do so out of charity. Catholic social teaching instructs us, and the Gospel enlightens our way on the road toward peace and justice.

As Cursillistas we know our core charter is to bring the gospel message to our environments. We can be part of the solution to clear the clouds of division and hatred that so prevails over our country. We are well prepared in our Piety, Study and Action to be leaven and light of the world. We are poised to bring about change, the true change our country needs—A return to God in all things. May the events of January 6, 2021 be an epiphany, an awakening, a change of heart toward a more peaceful society.

With prayers for our leaders, our country, and one another!

De Colores,

Deacon Wayne



FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR CHERYL RAJSKI

I hope this Evangelizer finds you all well. After the challenges of 2020, it's nice to turn the page on the calendar and hope for calmer times in 2021. I thank God for the blessings to be found even in the midst of these challenges.

In the last quarter of 2020, Bob McCormack ended his term as Lay Director. We thank him for his years of generous leadership and the example of faith he is to us all. He continues to support me as I learn the ropes.

Anna Feurer has also completed her three-year term as Treasurer. Many thanks to Anna for her joyful service! Marvin Winkeler accepted the call as our new Treasurer. Welcome, Marvin! We are also welcoming Garry Range as Precursillo Chair. Garry will continue his work on the website and as our technical guru. Thank you, Garry and Marvin, for answering the call to service on the Secretariat!

We are getting a little more sophisticated in our use of Zoom for meetings. It is a blessing to get together for Group Reunions, Ultreyas, and School of Leaders via technology. I miss hugs, but it is so good to see smiling faces and be warmed by your faith-filled words in this time of Covid-19. Please consider joining these meetings. If you are not familiar with Zoom, we have several people who could coach you. A computer is not required, just a smart phone. Reach out to me if you would like to give it a try.

The team from School of Leaders has made beautiful progress on the new guides for formation and the 3-day Weekend. The Secretariat reviewed their work and provided valuable feedback. The rector/rectora guide and team member guide are very close to being ready to print. Next, work will begin on a guide for head stewards. Thank you to Margie Reaka, the team leader, and team members Linda Bagsby, Bernadette and John Charlton, Karen Davidson, Anna Feurer, and Kent Jeanneret.

John Charlton will share exciting news on our efforts to become closer to our Cursillo friends throughout the diocese in his Postcursillo article. We are also preparing for a meeting with Bishop Michael McGovern on Cursillo in the Belleville Diocese.

I pray that God will give you strength in these challenging times and also the peace and joy that is such an amazing gift from the Holy Spirit.

De Colores,

Cheryl Rajski



PRECURSILLO GARRY RANGE

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

First, we extend our thanks to Cheryl Rajski who has served as Precursillo Chairperson since March 2020. Cheryl started her Fourth Day journey at Belleville Women’s #35. She is leaving this position as she has assumed the role of Lay Director. Please pray for Cheryl in this undertaking.

Second, as of December 2020, I have assumed the role as our Precursillo Chairperson. I started my Fourth Day journey at Belleville Men’s #32.

As we begin to prepare for the 2021 Cursillo Weekends, our first step is again 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 and prayer are such wonderful gifts at all times, but they are especially precious in these times as we continue in hope to resume more normal activities in our lives and for Cursillo.

The 2021 Weekend dates are:

Women:	Sept. 9 - Sept. 12, 2021	Application deadline: Aug. 20, 2021
Men:	Sept. 30 - Oct. 3, 2021	Application deadline: Sept. 10, 2021

Both the Women’s and Men’s Weekends will be held at the King’s House in Belleville, IL.

The Cursillo Weekend Package is available at www.bellevillecursillo.org. This package includes the Sponsor Guidelines, Sponsor Form, and Candidate Application. As a reminder, all paperwork and the registration deposit are to be submitted as a package to the Precursillo Chairperson by the sponsor, it should not come from the candidate. The Sponsor Commitment Form is essential to the candidate’s confirmation. If you have any questions contact Garry Range, Precursillo Chairperson (email: precursillo@bellevillecursillo.org; cell: 618-401-9677).

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

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

De Colores!

Garry Range

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

POSTCURSILLO JOHN CHARLTON

Happy 2021 to our Fourth Day Community. May we all pray for a return to normalcy this year, especially for our Cursillo calendar and two wonderful Weekends this fall.

In the previous Evangelizer, I briefly introduced our Parish Representative initiative that we had begun working on. Former Lay Director, Nick Lang, laid the foundation for this project a few years ago. It has been sputtering along in fits and starts since then. Taking advantage of the pause in operations this past year, our new Lay Director, Cheryl Rajski, has bumped this project up the priority list. We had a Zoom meeting with our Spiritual Advisor, Deacon Wayne Weiler, last month, and he gave his blessing to move forward after the Christmas season. The goal of this effort is to improve communications within our Cursillo Movement throughout the Belleville Diocese. We plan to identify volunteer representatives throughout the diocese who will work in coordination with the Cursillo Secretariat, through the Postcursillo representative, to ensure effective two-way communications about all Cursillo events to our Fourth Day Community.

Parish Representative responsibilities include:

- Meet with respective parish pastors to ensure that they are aware of the Cursillo Movement within the Belleville Diocese. Obtain permission to disseminate Cursillo information in local bulletins, pamphlet racks, etc.
- Coordinate with the Cursillo Master Roster POC to ensure that the Master Roster is current and contains accurate information on parish Fourth Day Cursillistas.
- Coordinate Cursillo announcements from the Secretariat ensuring that appropriate information is communicated effectively to respective parishes.
- Facilitate Group Reunions and Ultreyas with respective parishes, as needed.

A lot of the groundwork here has been accomplished. Several parish representatives have already volunteered or been identified. Cheryl has been reviewing the Belleville Diocese Cursillo history and made several updates to the Master Roster. The next step is to gather a few volunteers to begin reaching out across the numerous parishes in the diocese and calling perspective parish reps. As representatives are identified, they will be folded into a basic organizational structure and we will be off and running!

The amount of time required to be a representative should be minimal. As we begin to build the Parish Rep roster, there may be a couple of hours up front to meet with your pastor and get organized, but after that I would estimate no more than a few minutes each month would be necessary. We will attempt to occasionally meet or Zoom to compare notes and exchange ideas. I think it is safe to say that all of us benefited greatly from our Cursillo experience. Are you interested in bringing others to Christ? Do you know anyone else in your parish who might be interested?

As your Postcursillo representative, I am here to serve you. Please feel free to contact me if you are interested in volunteering to be a Parish Representative or if you are in need of joining or starting a Group Reunion: charltonje23@gmail.com or 703-868-6419.

De Colores!

John



SCHOOL OF LEADERS MARGIE REAKA

HAPPY NEW YEAR and many blessings for 2021 from School of Leaders!

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. 1Thessalonians 5:16-18

As we all know, 2020 was a year filled with obstacles and challenges, and definitely prayer. We coped with the unexpected, gave thanks for our safety and health, then prayed more. Many of us found an abundance for which to rejoice rather than dwell on being troubled. With just a few weeks into 2021, it appears we will continue having to cope with more unexpected challenges. I pray you will be blessed with good health and safety, peace in our country and our world, and that you always find much for which to rejoice and be thankful. As St. Paul, our Cursillo Patron, told the Thessalonians, "Pray without ceasing."

Last year, School of Leaders introduced monthly presentations and discussions. Using the new *Step by Step* documents from National Cursillo, we started by discussing modifications to the Weekends. For example, contacting candidates prior to the Weekend and the emphasis of corridor work throughout the Weekend. In October, we began a series of presentations and discussions based on the 15 rollos

starting with Ideal, followed by Habitual Grace in November. Rollo presentations will continue in 2021 and into 2022.

Below is the schedule of presentations for 2021.

- January 12.....Layperson: Christian in the World
- February 9.....Actual Grace
- March 9..... The Sponsor and Precursillo
- April 13..... Piety
- May 11..... Study
- June 8..... Action
- July 13..... Sacraments
- August 10.....The Sponsor and Postcursillo
- September Cursillo Weekends/No School of Leaders
- October 12 Observations from the Women’s Weekend
- November 9Observations from the Men’s Weekend
- December 14.....General Meeting

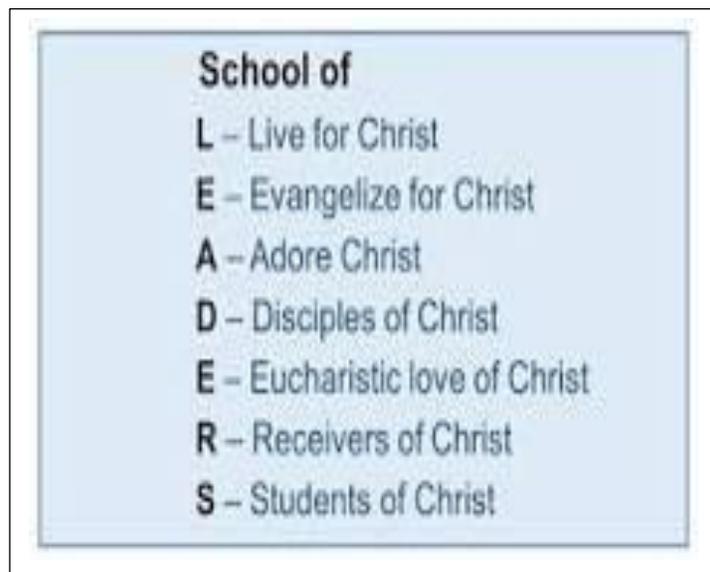
To observe the diocesan guidelines for COVID-19, we are meeting via ZOOM until further notice. Everyone is invited to join, and if you are interested in presenting one of the topics, please let me know - it’s a great way to learn more about the Cursillo Weekend.

Peace, love, and joy,

Margie Reaka

618-581-7355

margiereaka@gmail.com



<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

Cheryl Rajski, Lay Director

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

Margie Reaka, School of Leaders / Prayer Requests

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

Garry Range, Precursillo / Website

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

Marvin Winkeler, Treasurer

4275 Biverton Drive, Swansea, IL 62243; (402)-214-1155; mewinkel51@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

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