

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE



THE EVANGELIZER



April 2021

New Website: www.BellevilleCursillo.org

FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR DEACON WAYNE WEILER

Dear Fourth Day,

It is with great joy to share with you Bishop McGovern's inspiring words of gratitude addressed to you the Cursillo movement of the Diocese of Belleville.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & GRATITUDE

Since becoming Bishop of Belleville last July, I have been pleased to meet so many wonderful Catholic people here in southern Illinois. I am glad that we have members of the Cursillo movement in our diocese and look forward to the years ahead together. One of the qualities of the members of Cursillo that has impressed me over the years is the prayerfulness of the members. Prayer is foundational to our individual lives and to our life as members of Christ's Body the Church. We need to pray for one another and encourage one another to be attentive to the Lord in prayer. In that spirit, permit me to share with you a spiritual practice that has become meaningful to me over the past fifteen years that I invite you to consider beginning in your own life.

Years ago, a priest friend introduced me to a spiritual practice that has been most helpful to me. The spiritual practice is simply this: on the last day of each month, spend some time prayerfully reviewing your calendar for the month ending. As you review the month, offer God prayers of praise, thanksgiving and gratitude.

Like so many people, I have found that the days and weeks in my life speed by with many different activities, conversations, and events. It can be difficult to have a sense of the presence of God over the course of thirty days. However, as I spend time on the final day of the month reviewing each day and what happened each morning and afternoon, I am often humbled and amazed at what God has been doing in my life. In this simple spiritual exercise, I revisit graced moments as well as the challenging times during the previous month. As I go along page by page in the calendar, I give thanks to God for the moments when God gave me the right words to say, or the patience to listen carefully to someone, or the strength to take on something challenging.

This monthly spiritual practice also gives me a fresh perspective about the direction of my life. Is God indicating a direction for my life? How do I feel about taking God's direction? Were there times this past month when I could yield my own preferences and be open to what God was trying to do with and through my ministry? Can I be grateful to God for what the Lord seems to be asking of me?

Patterns can emerge as I review the month before the Lord. Sometimes there may be patterns of resistance: did I put off making a difficult phone call or a potentially awkward meeting? Did I allow God’s grace to help me follow through with someone who needed my help? Gratitude to God grows in my heart when I see a pattern of prayer taking shape in my life or I see I am becoming more consistent in thanking people.

After reviewing the month for about twenty minutes, simply spend your final minutes of prayer offering a Litany of Thanksgiving to God. It could be something like: “For the conversation I had with my brother-Thank you, Lord. For the letter I received from a friend-Thank you, Lord. For the grace of listening patiently when a person called me with a complaint-Thank you, Lord. For the positive outcome from a difficult meeting-Thank you, Lord. For good news from my doctor-Thank you, Lord.” By the time I finish making a Litany of Thanksgiving to God, I am often surprised at the ways the Lord has been generously gracing my life.

As I mentioned, this prayer exercise has been helpful to me. I share it with you in the hope it might be a help to you. Please know that when I review this month before the Lord, I will be thanking the Lord for the many members of Cursillo in the Diocese of Belleville. God bless you all.

Bishop Michael McGovern



FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR CHERYL RAJSKI

We are in the midst of the Lenten season as I write this, but the Evangelizer is scheduled to arrive after Easter. Happy Easter!

It has been a year since COVID-19 impacted our way of life and brought loss and great challenges to many. In this season of Easter, God's love for us and the hope that this brings has never been sweeter, more precious, or more needed in this world.

As Cursillistas, I pray that we all may bring the love of Jesus and the light of His peace to our environments. I know that Christ is counting on us and that we can always count on Him to be at our side. Please know that you are in my prayers.

You will see much news in this letter as we continue to serve Jesus and others. First a big THANK YOU to the nine people involved in improving the Belleville Diocesan Weekend Formation binders. This team's Cursillo knowledge and experience was so impressive. I am grateful for all that was accomplished and even more grateful for the chance to work beside such a passionate and faith-filled team.

Since our last Evangelizer, two people on the Secretariat have completed their 3-year terms of service, Terry Kostel, Cursillo Chair, and Nancy Myerscough, Secretary. Thank you to both Terry and Nancy for their service to Cursillo.

Welcome to our two new Secretariat members! John Schaberg is returning to the Secretariat to serve as Cursillo Chair. Michelle Massey is joining as Secretary. The Holy Spirit was very good to us!

Work is underway for our next Cursillo Weekends. Belleville Women's #43 is September 9-12, and Belleville Men's #39 is September 30-October 3. Please pray for the success of the Weekend, for the teams, and for the people considering making a Cursillo.

I pray that this Easter season and the coming of spring will bring you many blessings and the special peace and joy that come from God.

De Colores,

Cheryl



PRECURSILLO GARRY RANGE

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

We continue to prepare for the 2021 Cursillo Weekends with our most important task - **prayer**. Continue to offer 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.

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



POSTCURSILLO JOHN CHARLTON**POSTCURSILLO John Charlton**

By the time you read the next edition of The Evangelizer there will be a new person(s) serving as the Postcursillo chair. My three-year term as Postcursillo chair will conclude in May. I began this journey with my wife, Bernadette, as my co-chair. Midway through our term, Bernadette was selected to serve on the Cursillo Region IV Service Team and was required to give up her seat on the Cursillo Secretariat of the Diocese of Belleville (although she has continued to support Postcursillo events).

It has been a unique term, as COVID has pretty much wiped out most Postcursillo activity for the last 1+ year. We filled that void by establishing a committee of Cursillo Parish Representatives across the diocese. We go “operational” with these representatives immediately after Easter when we obtain the expected approval of the Secretariat. Our Parish Rep objective is to increase the visibility and participation of our Cursillo Movement across the vast breadth and depth of the Belleville Diocese. We presently have Parish Reps for approximately 30% of our parishes, and we intend to keep striving to increase that coverage over time.

Bernadette and I will continue to serve our Belleville Cursillo Movement in other capacities. Bernadette was recently selected to serve as the Region IV Service Coordinator. Region IV covers 15 dioceses in 8 states: MO, IA, IL, IN, TN, OH, KY, and AK. There are Spring and Fall Regional Encounters, two associated planning sessions for these encounters, as well as the annual National Cursillo Encounter. She is a pretty busy lady now, and I am her full-time chauffeur, chef, and bottle washer.

It has been an honor serving our Belleville Cursillo Movement. We both look forward to once again seeing you in person on our Weekends, Ultreyas, and most importantly in our friendship groups.

ULTREYA!



Thank you John; JOB WELL DONE!!!

SCHOOL OF LEADERS MARGIE REAKA

Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up.
Galatians 6:9

Over a year ago School of Leaders took on a project to revamp the team formation binders. The team, including six experienced rector/rectoras, the 2021 rector, rectora and their assistants, started meeting in October 2019.

The group began reviewing the original documents that had been used by the Belleville Diocesan Cursillo teams, then followed up by researching and revising each section to reflect *Step by Step* and include best practices from past Weekends. This was no small task. More than 130 pages were written and reviewed by the entire team and 27 appendices were updated.

By December 2020 the final drafts were completed. In January/February 2021 the documents were reviewed by Secretariat and finalized. And in early March the documents were printed and the binders were delivered to the rector (Kent Jeanneret) and rectora (Linda Bagsby) to be used for the 2021 Weekend teams.

A HUGE THANK YOU to Linda Bagsby, Bernadette Charlton, John Charlton, Karen Davidson, Anna Feurer, Kent Jeanneret, Terry Kostel, Cheryl Rajski, and Margie Reaka for their hard work and dedication. This group found a new appreciation for Zoom when social distancing requirements prohibited in-person meetings. The work was more difficult than any of us anticipated, but no one gave up – and now the Belleville Diocesan Cursillo team members will reap this harvest! This is a testament to the commitment and enthusiasm of the Belleville Diocesan Cursillo Movement.

Another HUGE THANK YOU to those who contributed by purchasing binders, paper, printing/ ink, page dividers and USB drives. The entire project was funded by these donations.

Just a reminder that School of Leaders meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM via Zoom. Last fall we began a series of presentations and discussions based on the 15 rollos and have completed the first four (Ideal, Habitual Grace, Layperson: Christian in the World, and Actual Grace). Below is a schedule for the remainder of 2021.

- April 13..... Piety
- May 11 Study
- June 8..... Action
- July 13..... Sacraments
- August 10..... The Sponsor and Postcursillo
- SeptemberCursillo Weekends/no School of Leaders
- October 12..... Observations from the Women’s Weekend
- November 9..... Observations from the Men’s Weekend

December 14 General Meeting

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

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

LOOKING FOR A FRIENDSHIP GROUP REUNION?

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 Krisfaluzny (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

John Schaberg, Cursillo

2428 Pro Tour Dr., Belleville, IL 62220; (618) 420-2670; johnschaberg@gmail.com

John Charlton, Postcursillo

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Michelle Massey, Secretary

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Kent Jeanneret, Newsletter / Cursillo Roster

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