

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE



THE EVANGELIZER



June 2021

New Website: www.BellevilleCursillo.org

FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR DEACON WAYNE WEILER

“Let the earth open and salvation bud forth; let righteousness spring up with them!” Isaiah 45:8

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Fourth Day,

I hope this finds you well and in good spirits! The days of summer are surely upon us now, and with these days come the many activities and events we all so cherish. We certainly have much time to make up for over the last year and a half as some sense of a new normal seems to be upon us now as well.

In the coming days and weeks of Ordinary Time on the Church calendar, our scripture readings will continue to reveal for us the great works of Jesus’ healing and saving power, by His word and by His deed. We will see how, time after time, God shows us that His mercy is greater than the effects of any suffering or hardship we will endure. We will come to see faith as the means to the grace we need to overcome the worry, doubt, and disappointments we all encounter from time to time.

In all this, the enduring message of faith is that God does not give up on us. Our life as Christians, and certainly as Cursillistas, is to make this message known wherever we find ourselves, at home or away, at work or at play, in good times and bad, in season and out of season.

I have been impressed and humbled by your faith and commitment to the Cursillo message of grace over these last months. Impressed, but not surprised at how you have continued to grow in faith through prayer and study, how you have used creative ways to keep your friendship groups and Ultreyas together by ZOOM or group phone calls, and how the business of Cursillo continues, uninterrupted, via the use of technology. This has been a witness to your faith and to your love for God and neighbor. You have not let the inconvenience brought about by the virus thwart the important work of the Cursillo, nor have you stumbled on your everyday walk with Christ!

On these summer days ahead, I hope you will take some time to catch up, in person, if possible, with family and friends you have missed throughout the pandemic. I hope you will find time to take in the beauty of all of God’s wondrous creation. What an amazing way for us to share with others our faith and our gift of grace which God so generously grants us.

May your summertime be a time of renewed vigor and energy in your call to serve our Lord! May your life of piety, perseverance in study, and charity to neighbor bring you lasting joy and peace.

De Colores,

Deacon Wayne



FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR CHERYL RAJSKI

Life seems to be a little more like before the pandemic as these summer days progress. It is so good to see our churches open to full attendance. I thank God for walking with us through this time.

I have been reaching out and talking with Cursillistas across the diocese to learn how I can serve Cursillo. They share their hopes and concerns for their communities after this time of greater social isolation. There is much opportunity for Cursillistas to reach out in friendship to share the love of Christ. The need is great and so are the possibilities. It is a time that calls us to fully live our faith.

I hope you can join us for the July 18 Grand Ultreya in Smithton. It will be so good to see you in person again as we hold a belated celebration for the 40th anniversary of the Belleville Diocesan Cursillo. Jim Wachtel will be our witness speaker. He and his wife, Ann, began their Cursillo journey at Belleville Men's and Women's #2. Jim served on many Weekends and was Rector for Belleville Men's #9. What a gift he and his wife are to Cursillo! I am looking forward to hearing his witness.

Preparations are well under way for Belleville Women's #43 (September 9 -12) and Belleville Men's #39 (September 30 - October 3). Please keep the team, sponsors, and potential candidates in your prayers.

I also ask for your prayers for all Cursillistas in our diocese that the Holy Spirit will guide us to be what our environments need at this time. Know that you are in my prayers.

God bless you and your families.

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 our candidates and current and potential 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.

Current candidates, their parish, and sponsor for the upcoming 2021 Weekends are:

Women Candidates

Julie Harris

Mary Kreher

Parish

St. Peter’s Cathedral

St. John the Baptist

Sponsor

Cheryl Rajski

Linda Bagsby

Men Candidates

Tony Heap

Parish

Queen of Peace

Sponsor

Mary Beth Schaltenbrand

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

In the previous edition of the Evangelizer, I told you that my term as Postcursillo chair was complete. I spoke too soon! I'm still hanging around...like a bad habit that's hard to break.

The pace of operations is beginning to return to normal as we work to resume our pre-COVID tempo. We launched our Parish Representative initiative last month and are working through the bumps of getting this up and running. This month we are busy preparing for our first in-person gathering in 18 months. We will convene our Grand Ultreya on July 18 in Smithton. Details are provided following this article. We are celebrating over 40 years of Cursillo in the Diocese of Belleville and our witness speaker, Mr. Jim Wachtel, harkens all the way back to Men's Weekend #2. We hope to see many friendly faces, both old and new, at this gathering. There will be lots of Cursillo memorabilia from Weekends across these past 40 years to reminisce over, and we'll enjoy some birthday cake as well. Please help us spread the word throughout the Fourth Day community, especially with those who may not have been active the past few years. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Ultreya!

John



De Colores to the Fourth Day Community,
and
Happy Birthday to us!

This month we will gather the Fourth Day community for our annual Grand Ultreya. We will also celebrate the **40th birthday of our Belleville Cursillo!**

We have many things to be thankful for, not the least of which is the ebbing of the pandemic that has put a damper on our lives this past year. Praise be to the Holy Spirit, we are *cautiously* resuming our Cursillo social gatherings. Despite the heat, we will gather outside for this Ultreya and will forego our traditional potluck. Birthday cake will be served instead.

This year's Grand Ultreya will be on July 18, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Smithton Park located off Memorial Street, a couple of blocks from St. John the Baptist Church. We have a covered pavilion reserved and will have fans to cope with the heat as best we can. Cold drinks will also be provided.

We are celebrating 40 years of Cursillo in the Diocese of Belleville. Memorabilia from Cursillo Weekends spread over these 40 years will be on display. Mr. Jim Wachtel will be our witness speaker. Jim began his Cursillo journey on Belleville Men's Weekend #2. He has served on numerous Weekend teams and was very active in Fourth Day events over many years.

A 12:00 p.m. Mass is tentatively planned at St. John's that Sunday. The Fourth Day is welcome to attend.

Please reserve this date on your calendars and spread the word to all Cursillistas. If you know someone who does not communicate via e-mail, please share this information.

I strongly encourage previous sponsors, rectors, rectoras, and table leaders to reach out to all Cursillistas. Christ is counting on us.

Blessings from your Postcursillo Chair,

John Charlton



SCHOOL OF LEADERS MARGIE REAKA

When the coronavirus pandemic hit the news in January 2020, so many new terms suddenly began surfacing - *COVID-19, shelter in place, social distance, masks required, Zoom, contact tracing, PPE, super spreader* - not really terms that we wanted to learn. Overall, they made me feel sad, uncomfortable, and actually scared. Now, as the pandemic lessens in severity, we hear these terms less, use them less, and pray that eventually most of them will no longer be a part of our vocabulary.

When I made my Cursillo Weekend, so many new terms suddenly began surfacing over that Weekend - *Cursillista, rollo, rector, rectora, palanca, De Colores, Fourth Day, friendship groups, Ultreya, witness speaker, School of Leaders* - not terms I expected to learn. Overall, they make me feel Christ's peace, love, and joy. Now, many years after I began my Cursillo journey, I want to remember what I heard and I'm working to continue hearing these terms for the remainder of my Fourth Day.

To remain closer to our Cursillo Weekend and ultimately closer to Christ, we know that meeting with our friendship groups, attending Ultreyas, and being active in School of Leaders makes a difference. It is meeting with the Fourth Day at these events that we continue to experience Cursillo joy.

“Consider it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you encounter various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. And let perseverance be perfect, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” James 1: 24

The Belleville Cursillo community persevered throughout the pandemic, Secretariat, Ultreya, and School of Leaders continued meeting - not in person, but via Zoom. With the recent 100 percent opening of our parishes for Mass and for events, the School discussed the option of once again meeting in person. It was decided that Zoom was, and continues to be, the perfect platform for School of Leaders - no one has to get dressed up, drive to the meeting, set up and take down the tables and chairs, and distance does not prohibit attendance. Using Zoom, we can all share, discuss, and make a difference as we draw each other closer to Christ.

Our next meetings are July 18 (the topic is “Leaders”) and August 9 (the topic is “The role of the sponsor in Postcursillo”). Meetings begin at 7 p.m. and typically last about 90 minutes. ALL are welcome, just watch for an email from Schoolofleaders@bellevillecursillo.org a few days prior to the meetings with details on how to join, either online or by phone.

Have a safe summer full of the peace, love, and joy of our Lord.

Margie Reaka
School of Leaders Chairperson

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 7:00 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

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

Michelle Massey, Secretary

206 W. Lincoln Ave., Caseyville, IL 62232; (636)-288-6784; michelle.caito@gmail.com

Marvin Winkeler, Treasurer

4275 Biverton Drive, Swansea, IL 62226; (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