

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE



THE EVANGELIZER



December 2021

New Website: www.BellevilleCursillo.org

FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR DEACON WAYNE WEILER

“We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” Matthew 2:2

There’s a story told of a teacher who had made an everyday habit of beginning his classes by reverently bowing toward his students. When asked why he did this, he simply replied that he saw each of them as a bundle of possibilities, and he bowed to them in the belief that many of them would one day reach their God-given potential, rise to greatness, and become worthy of honor and respect. The Feast of the Epiphany gives us some similarities to this teacher. The journey of the Magi, and upon finding Jesus, shows us their amazement and anticipation of what this Child, this Savior, would mean for the world. The journey of the Magi is important to our faith in three important ways.

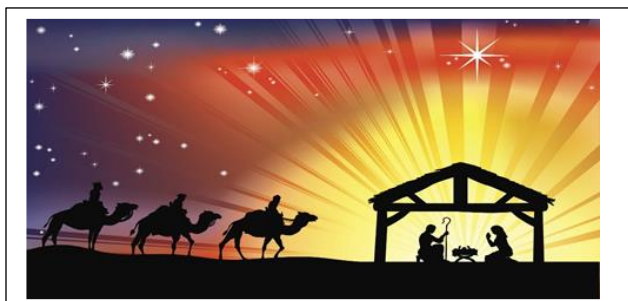
- Their journey took them on uncertain and unpredictable paths. The light we follow in times of uncertainty lessens our burdens and leads us to see with new and enlightened vision. Our gifts of prayer, service, and sacrifice come back to us in an abundance of grace to help us and others in countless ways.
- These were educated and well-informed men, probably teachers themselves, but they sought what they didn’t quite understand. The Magi let themselves be led by an unusually bright star, a light that would show them the way to Christ. He is still that light for us today, a light that shines on us and through us.
- Their search resulted in a new direction. They would not return from this sacred meeting the same way. When we truly meet Jesus, we simply cannot return from where we came in the same way.

Maybe in this New Year we can all resolve to keep our eyes open for that star that so often has trouble shining through the clouds of doubt, worry, or despair. Perhaps we could be like the teacher who sees the unrealized possibilities of his students and others we meet. Possibly we put old differences behind us, and show respect to those we haven’t taken the time to know. There are many ways for us to be led to Jesus by the star God puts before us.

This Christmas season we were once again reminded of the favor God has shown us in the precious gift of His Son, and of Himself, in these days. This story of the Maji shows us what it means to be led by the Light of Christ. May we always search, find, and rejoice in the Joy we have found in Jesus!

De Colores!

Deacon Wayne



FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR CHERYL RAJSKI

I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones well and that your Christmas was a source of peace and blessings. As I write this, 2022 is quickly approaching. We are excited to share the dates for the 2022 Men's and Women's Weekends! Please check Garry Range's Cursillo article for more information, and pray for the success of this year's Weekends.

Have you been considering New Year's Resolutions? Here is one that has enriched my life. Please consider attending School of Leaders and Ultreya. School of Leaders is on the second Tuesday of the month and Ultreya is on the second Friday of the month. These Fourth Day gatherings will be online through the winter months, so all in the diocese can participate without travel. Some have asked that we continue to offer the option to attend virtually since the drive can be an obstacle. We are researching ways to have the best of both with in-person and virtual options.

I am careful with New Year's Resolutions, perhaps because I've set and then broken far too many January resolutions in my younger years. This year I feel God is asking me to consider the sisters, Martha and Mary from Luke 10: 38-42, and to learn from Mary. I am far more comfortable in a Martha mode - crossing things off my "to-do" lists. Yet I feel a little wistful envy for Mary sitting so quietly with Jesus while Martha stays so busy. So this year I am going to "choose the better part." I suspect it will be challenging, but I know I can count on God's help. When you see me, ask how I'm doing. That will keep me focused!

How is God calling you in 2022?

You are in my prayers at all times, but most especially in this season. It is a time that is so challenging for many. I wish you many blessings in the coming year. Most especially, I pray that you may grow even closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

De Colores!

Cheryl

National Cursillo publishes a newsletter. Please check out the following link for December articles from our National Cursillo leadership.

English

https://www.natl-cursillo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/CNN_2021_12_ADVENT_ENF-1.pdf

Spanish:

https://www.natl-cursillo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/CNN_2021_12_ADVENT_ESF.pdf

Vietnamese:

https://www.natl-cursillo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/CNN_2021_12_ADV_VNF.pdf



PRECURSILLO GARRY RANGE

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

Dear Fourth Day:

We are being challenged to live out our faith in a very special way! The challenge: How do we bring others to Jesus during this era of a COVID pandemic?

It requires each of us to “Study our Environment” in a very different way than we thought just two years ago. With a deep abiding trust in God, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide our actions to enrich our existing friendships, to reach out to others to create new friendships, to be that friend, and to bring these friends to our dearest friend, our Lord, Jesus the Christ.

We know this world not only needs to hear the “Good News” of our faith, but also to experience firsthand the love of our God! May we be God’s instrument in this endeavor.

We, the Secretariat, are busily planning for the rescheduling of the postponed 2021 Cursillo Weekends. The scheduled dates for the upcoming weekends to be held at King’s House in Belleville, IL, are as follows:

Women’s Weekend #43 - July 28-31, 2022

Men’s Weekend #39 - August 18-21, 2022

As we all know, prices are on the rise across the board. The website, www.bellevillecursillo.org, will be updated with both Candidate and Sponsor forms once the cost of the Weekends is finalized. I will inform you, the Fourth Day, once the website is updated for these 2022 Weekends.

In the meantime, let us continue our Cursillo mission statement with a prayerful dependence on our God to guide our actions according to His will and our involvement to prepare and have successful Weekends in 2022.

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

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

De Colores!

Garry Range



POSTCURSILLO LINDA BAGSBY

Merry Christmas! We also celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph! In today's homily, I was reminded that we need to look for Jesus in our friends and family, like Mary and Joseph did when they realized Jesus wasn't with them in the caravan after a day's travel. They had to go back to Jerusalem to find Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52). This is the Fifth Joyful Mystery, and today it struck me - how joyful Mary and Joseph must have been to have found their son after all the anxiety of the search. I know when I misplace something and then I find it I am extremely joyful for that little thing. Yet Mary and Joseph couldn't find Jesus for three days and they must have been so relieved and joyful when they found him safe and sound.

We should always be in search of Jesus in ourselves and in others, and hopefully we find joy in that process. As we begin this New Year and open up those new calendars, let's mark some hopeful and joyful events to look forward to - not just doctor appointments! We hope to have the next Cursillo Weekends coming up in 2022, and let's pray that we are able to have them as we have planned. Let us also pray - as Fourth Day Cursillistas - that we can soon have an in-person event. Postcursillo strives to keep our new and old Cursillistas informed and connected by Small Groups, Ultreyas, Reunions, Days of Recollection, and Grand Ultreyas. I hope to be able to plan and schedule an event soon - maybe in the spring - to bring all the Fourth Day together. In the meantime, continue your prayers for candidates to begin their Fourth Day Journey of Cursillo.

De Colores!

Linda Bagsby
Postcursillo Chairman



SCHOOL OF LEADERS MARGIE REAKA

Entering a new year gives us a chance to think about what we accomplished in the past year and what we hope to achieve in the upcoming year.

The year 2021 was a good year for School of Leaders.

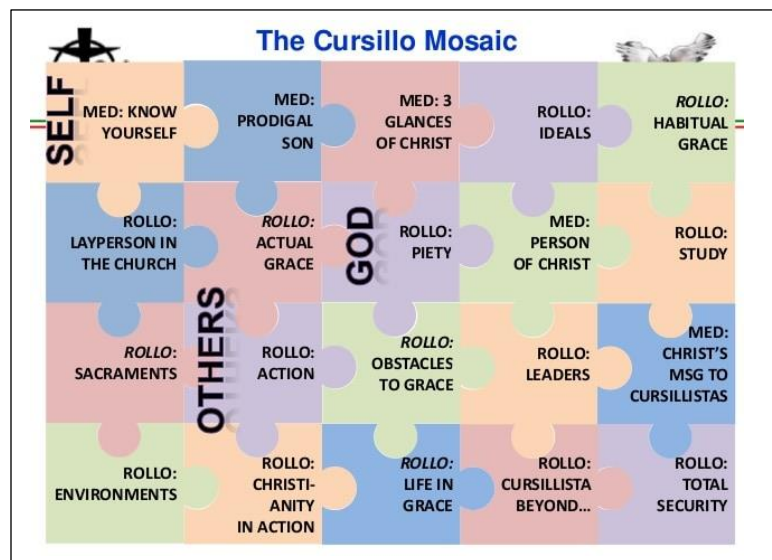
- The Weekend Formation Booklets for the rector/rectora and their assistants, spiritual advisors, team leaders, and stewards were updated to align with Step by Step. The booklets were presented to Secretariat for final review, printed, and distributed to the Weekend teams.
- Members of the Fourth Day presented four of the rollos to School of Leaders, providing the background, important elements, and thoughts for relevant witness. Rollos presented were *Layperson: A Christian in the World, Study, Action, and Leaders*. There was always a lively discussion following each presentation.
- Other presentations by Fourth Day provided detailed information about being a sponsor during Precursillo and during Cursillo as well as the importance of sponsors being involved following the Weekend.
- As three-year terms on Secretariat were completed for Postcursillo, Cursillo, and Secretary, nominating committees were selected from School of Leaders. The committees recommended names to Secretariat.

In 2022, School of Leaders will continue having Fourth Day presentations on the remaining rollos, starting with *Obstacles to Grace* which will be presented by Deacon Jim Law on January 11. We anticipate a few minor edits to the Formation Booklets, so a group will reconvene in late January to make the revisions far in advance of the Weekends. And as always, this group will be ready to take on tasks and challenges as requested by Secretariat.

For the foreseeable future, School of Leaders will continue to meet via Zoom so everyone, regardless of their location, can easily join. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Zoom information is sent via email about five days prior to the meeting. I hope you can join us in 2022.

May you find peace and joy in the New Year.

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



<p><u>LOOKING FOR A FRIENDSHIP GROUP REUNION?</u></p>
--

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 7:00 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. **NOTE:** In these pandemic times call the contact person of the friendship group to determine if and how they are meeting.

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

Linda Bagsby, Postcursillo

302 Cortner Dr., Smithton, IL 62285; (618)-960-1023; lbagsby@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