

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE



THE EVANGELIZER



March 2022

New Website: www.BellevilleCursillo.org

FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR DEACON WAYNE WEILER

"I am the True Vine" (John 15:1-15)

Dear Fourth Day,

Welcome to spring!

Jesus ties the task of taking away the dry branches and pruning those that are green and ready to blossom, to oneness and unity with Him. He would help them to recognize the need to stay close, to REMAIN connected to Him always, while, at the same time, giving us a lesson in gardening. This well-placed example helps us to know that the vine provides the life blood of the branch, and that a well-pruned branch provides an abundant harvest of good fruit. He reminds His disciples that they have already been pruned by witness to and alignment with His word and works.

Don't we sometimes need a little reminder of what we have also received by our gift of faith? We've also been pruned, or prepared, to live a life for love of God and neighbor. Our baptism in Christ was such a work of the master vine grower; the dead branches of original sin were cut away, and new life was born. What a blessing it is that we will see new life spring forth in the Church again this Easter as so many have answered God's call to conversion and holiness. We see in their Baptisms and Professions of Faith the connection to the True Vine - connected to Christ, and we, the branches, ever renewed.

Jesus presented a familiar image of the vineyard to the apostles. Our vineyards today, as we are painfully aware, often reflect stark and painful realities. We see images filled with hopelessness, hunger, terror, war, racism, greed... the list goes on. It was these very things that Jesus was preparing the apostles for then, and He continues to prepare us for, still today.

These images may well frighten us, but they need not. They should challenge us to seek holiness and action over fear and anger. These images help us to see even more clearly the need for unity with God and one another. They should be our reminder that the world desperately needs our good fruits.

Jesus shows us by the power of Easter Morning that hope, and new life conquers all, especially in the darkest hours. May we take comfort in the Joy of the Resurrection and remain always close to the Eternal Vine.

Blessed Easter and De Colores!

Deacon Wayne



FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR CHERYL RAJSKI

As I write this, Lent is at the halfway point. I hope you are finding this Lenten season full of God's gifts.

It amazes me how God works in our lives in all things both great and small. Sometimes I hear about a book and then it seems to leap into my hands through no effort of my own. Such books go to the top of my reading list! This Lent God sent *Prayer: Our Deepest Longing* by Ronald Rolheiser and *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence. Oh, they are lovely books! Do you have a spiritual book that has made a difference in your journey? Send your recommendations to laydirector@bellevillecursillo.org and I will share in the next Evangelizer.

Preparation is under way for the July 28-31 Women's Weekend and for the August 18-21 Men's Weekend. It is an exciting time. Sr. Genarose has once again donated boxes of books for the men and women at our Weekends! Please pray for those considering making the upcoming Cursillo Weekends and for the teams, and say a special prayer for those considering asking a friend to the Weekend.

At my friendship group, we were talking about other friends we hope to see at Cursillo someday, or better yet, this year! We were doing a bit of strategizing on the best approach. It is not an easy, breezy thing to do. I suppose it is because it can be hard to hear a "no," when in our hearts we understand the precious gift we are offering. My sponsor relayed how nervous she felt about asking me. I thank God she asked me! Who in your life will thank God you invited them?

Garry Range, Precursillo Chair, and I are always available to support and encourage you in sponsoring a candidate. Please reach out to us if you have any questions. Let's pray for each other as we spread the love of Christ in our environments!

The Region 4 Spring Encounter was a wonderful opportunity to learn and also meet leaders from other dioceses, the Region Support Team, and from National. I've attended several Zoom encounters, but this was my first in-person encounter. I'll share some jewels from the meeting at future School of Leaders meetings.

Belleville Diocesan Cursillo is participating in Synod 2021 2023. To be invited on this journey with Pope Francis and our diocese fills us with joy. The goal of this journeying together is to be present with one another, to listen and learn with each other, and to grow closer to the Lord and His Church. Journeying together is so deeply a part of the Cursillo movement. I hope you will be able to join us on either Saturday, April 9, from 10-11:30 a.m. at St. Peter's Cathedral in the Undercroft or via Zoom on Monday, April 25, from 7-9 p.m.

God bless and keep you all. Know you remain in my prayers.

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 2022 Cursillo Weekends with our most important task - **prayer**. Continue to offer prayers for our Fourth Day, Secretariat, and School of Leaders. And pray 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 2022 Weekend dates are:

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|--------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Women: | July 28 - 31, 2022 | Application deadline: July 8, 2022 |
| Men: | August 18 - 21, 2022 | Application deadline: July 29, 2022 |

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

Current candidates, their parishes, and sponsors for the upcoming 2022 Weekends are:

Women Candidates

Julie Harris
MaryAnne Orr
Debbie Blume

Parish

St. Peters Cathedral
St. Clare of Assisi
Corpus Christi

Sponsor

Cheryl Rajski
Cheryl Heimerman
Dorothy Davis

Men Candidates

None to date

Parish

Sponsor

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 LINDA BAGSBY

Happy Spring!

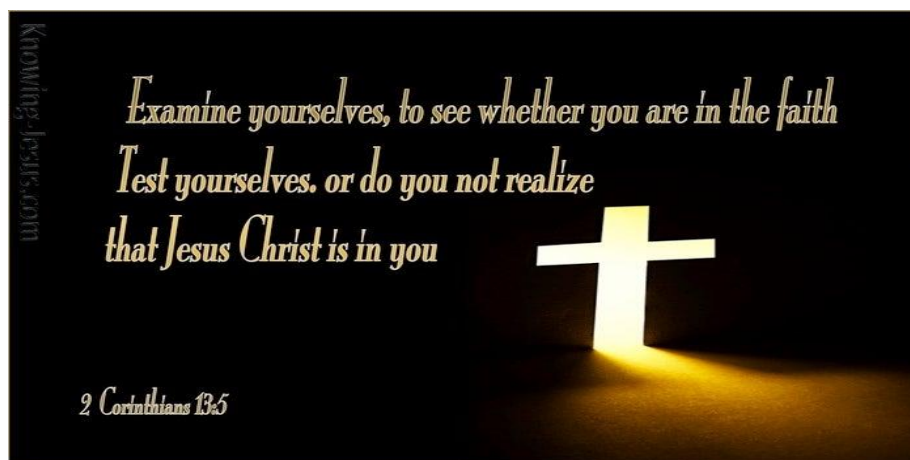
As I write this article, we are still feeling a bit of winter in the air, but spring is here. I know this because I had to cut my grass last week, and, for the rest of the spring season, will continue the game of trying to cut the grass around rainy days and my work schedule! The spring bulbs are blooming, the pretty, yellow daffodils are blooming, and the fields are showing the winter-wheat green. I always think about planting annuals but have to make myself wait until Mother's Day, when I feel assured that no more frost will affect new plantings.

This time of year also causes many allergies and spring colds to creep into our lives. A few weeks ago I received a last-minute text (about 90 minutes before Mass was to start) from the scheduled lector saying that they were suffering from a sinus infection or allergy attack and felt like they should not be in church, much less be the lector. I decided I would get to Mass early to see if I could find a "volunteer," but instead decided I would be lector myself. I quickly read the First and Second readings from the missalette, and then as I stood in front of the Ambo and the Lectionary, I realized I had pre-read the wrong readings. I had read the readings for the RCIA Sunday liturgy. Oops! All was okay – I read without much problem. But I kept thinking about the "wrong" reading - the First reading, which was from the first book of Samuel. There was a line that I had read over and over: "Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart." That reminded me of the Cursillo Weekend and how we are given the opportunity to examine our hearts as God looks into our hearts. We realized what is important is what is in our hearts, not so much how we look to God; and how we need to share that with others. I pray that as our 2022 Cursillo Weekends approach, we have candidates that will experience that metanoia – conversion of the heart.

Dear Fourth Day Cursillistas, please keep the upcoming Weekends and candidates in your prayers. May your spring be full of hopefulness and the beauty of God's creation. Look into your hearts as God does!

De Colores!

Linda Bagsby



SCHOOL OF LEADERS MARGIE REAKA

During the last couple months, the Belleville Diocesan Cursillo School of Leaders has been active and involved in assisting our Cursillo movement in various ways. Many members have helped in making recommendations to Secretariat, attending rollo presentations/discussions and assisting the movement to ensure its continuance during the Covid pandemic and now the more recently announced Covid endemic. A few of the more recent activities in which members are involved include:

- Facilitating the Synod Listening Sessions on April 9 and April 25.
- Making a final review of the Cursillo Weekend details for the rector, the rectora and teams
- Recommending Covid guidelines for the upcoming weekends
- Recommending the cost of the Cursillo Weekends for attendees and teams

On behalf of the Belleville Diocesan Cursillo School of Leaders I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of the 4th Day a Happy and Joyous Easter Day and continued joy and blessings throughout the Easter Season.

De Colores!

Margie Reaka, School of Leaders Chairperson



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| <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 via Zoom except during week of Ultreya: Contact Kent Jeanneret, (618) 531-8855; jeannerk@charter.net

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 Janice and David Bassler's house in Swansea at 1:00 PM on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. Contact Janice Bassler, 618-207-0882; jan-bass@hotmail.com

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

Mount Vernon Area Friendship Group Reunions

Women's Friendship Group: Meets at St. Mary Immaculate Conception Church, 1500 N. Main St, Mount Vernon at 4:30 PM, Mondays: Contact Susan Cunningham, 618-214-4604

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