

## CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE



## THE EVANGELIZER



January 2023

New Website: [www.BellevilleCursillo.org](http://www.BellevilleCursillo.org)

**FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR** DEACON WAYNE WEILER

*“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path.”* (Psalm 119:105)

In September of 2019 Pope Francis established the "Sunday of the Word of God" to be celebrated each year on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. By the time you read this that day will have passed, but it is no less important to contemplate this gift of the Church. The Holy Father is asking us to draw closer to Christ in the reading of and praying with the Sacred Scriptures. In doing so, we come to know the heart of Jesus and, yet again in new and amazing ways, we become more aware of his presence among us.

I know from my own experience the time spent reading, studying, and certainly praying with the bible have proven to be fruitful and time well spent. At times, the passages may seem daunting and often confusing, but at other times God's message is crystal clear - that He loves us beyond measure! We find Christ there, in all His truth and wisdom, He is present to us.

In the teaching of the Catholic Church from the Second Vatican Council document *Dei Verbum*, Church Fathers tell how God has revealed Himself to us and, through Jesus, makes visible His divine plan of salvation. *Dei Verbum* states, *“Then, after speaking in many and varied ways through the prophets, now at last in these days God has spoken to us in His Son”* (Heb. 1:1-2). *For He sent His Son, the eternal Word, who enlightens all men, so that He might dwell among men and tell them of the innermost being of God* (see John 1:1-18). *Jesus Christ, therefore, the Word made flesh, was sent as "a man to men."* (3) *He "speaks the words of God" (John 3:34), and completes the work of salvation which His Father gave Him to do* (see John 5:36; John 17:4). **To see Jesus is to see His Father** (John 14:9). “(DV #4)”<sup>i</sup>

I can't recall a time when I turned to the scriptures for one thing, and didn't come away with far more answers than I originally search for; the Holy Spirit seems to move us that way. There are many sources of study, great and very worthy books available to us, but you can never go wrong with the bible along with a good bible commentary to help draw us closer to Christ. I might recommend the New Collegeville Bible Commentary, or the Ignatius Study Bible.

A very good source of study can be found in the recent United States Conference of Catholic Bishops series on the bible. It was made available for the “Sunday of the Word of God.” Please find it at the following link: <https://catholic.bible/sunday-of-the-word-of-god/>. The videos are short with questions for further reflection.

As Cursillistas daily seeking a closer union with Christ, may we take the opportunity often to discover the endless treasure of the Word of God - the lamp for our feet, the light for our path.

De Colores!

Deacon Wayne Weiler

[https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_const\\_19651118\\_dei-verbum\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651118_dei-verbum_en.html)

**FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR** CHERYL RAJSKI

Greetings Cursillistas!

The Secretariat is preparing for the next Cursillo Weekends. John Schaberg has found locations for the Men's and Women's Weekends. This has been challenging with the move of King's House to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows and the consolidation of those facilities. Please check out Garry Range's Precursillo article in this newsletter for the dates and locations.

Another wonderful event is coming in the spring. Twice a year our Cursillo Region IV holds an Encounter meeting. This spring it will be hosted by the Belleville Diocese at Our Lady of the Snows. The theme is *Living a Life in Grace ... The Presence of Christ in our Fourth Day!* The talks given at these events are inspiring and a wonderful way to encounter Christ with our friends. The event begins March 24 with registration at 4 p.m., and dinner at 5 p.m. The event closes Saturday evening with a Fiesta beginning at 8 p.m. Look for an email with an invitation letter, agenda, and registration form. Please consider attending. **We are also looking for volunteers to assist with the encounter. Many hands make light work. Please email [laydirector@bellevillecursillo.org](mailto:laydirector@bellevillecursillo.org) if you are able to help.**

We have some new Cursillistas helping with prayer requests. Thank you to Margie Reaka for continuing this ministry. Welcome and thank you to Anna Feurer, Mike Fietsam, and Pat Butler for joining! After seven years serving prayer requests, Paula Sobol is moving into a role where she will lend a helping hand when a substitute is needed. We are grateful to Paula for her many years serving this important ministry.

I attended my first Cursillo de Cursillo in January with Margie Reaka and Michelle Massey. It was a beautiful opportunity to learn more about the Cursillo Movement and to spend time in the company of inspiring Cursillistas from Region Cursillo, National Cursillo, and the Belleville, St. Louis, and Evansville Dioceses. I hear another Cursillo de Cursillo is planned for Region IV, and we will keep you informed as we learn more.

Know you are in my prayers, especially those with prayer requests. God bless you!

De Colores,

Cheryl Rajski



October's Grand Reunion in Mount Vernon at St Mary the Immaculate Conception Parish



**PRECURSILLO GARRY RANGE**

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

We continue to prepare for the 2023 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 deeper relationship with Christ by starting their Cursillo journey.

The 2023 Weekend dates are:

Women #44: Aug 03 - 06, 2023

Men #40: Aug 17 - 20, 2023

Application deadline: July 14, 2023

Application deadline: July 28, 2023

The Women's Weekend will be held at Toddhall Retreat Center in Columbia, IL.

The Men's Weekend will be held at the new King's House located at the Shrine of Our Lady of The Snows in Belleville, IL.

The Cursillo Weekend Package will be available at [www.bellevillecursillo.org](http://www.bellevillecursillo.org) when pricing for the Weekends is finalized. 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](mailto: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**

As this article is being written, the Secretariat is making plans for the 2023 Cursillo Weekends. Please know, many hours have been spent by our Cursillo Chairperson and the Secretariat to make sure we had a place to have our Weekends. With the many changes happening in the last few years to our venues, this was not an easy task. Please keep John Charlton, the Men's Rector, and Karen Davidson, the Women's Rectora, in your prayers as they prepare their teams and formation meetings for the upcoming Weekends. And please talk to any potential candidates – "Make a Friend, Be a Friend, Bring that friend to Christ!"

Recently, I had been preparing a lesson for the confirmands at our parish about our Bishop and was interested to learn, from the Diocese website, that his Coat of Arms motto is (and I have copied this directly from the website): "*Vos Autem Dixi Amicos, taken from John 15:15. Jesus says to His disciples, "I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you." This, too, is an allusion to the fellowship of discipleship which Jesus gives to all people.*"

I found it interesting that the Bishop should use this quote talking about friendship, and a quote from Jesus about friendship and discipleship... what we are and what Cursillo is for us to being friends in Christ. And Jesus taught His Disciples what he learned from His Father, which is what we do... keeping his teachings in our hearts throughout our days as we bring Christ to others - even in our small ways. Our Fourth Day is about maintaining our connection to our fellow Cursillistas in our groups, the monthly Ultreyas, and the School of Leaders meetings via Zoom. These connections help us to discuss and learn about our faith, not just about Cursillo. Our spiritual journeys are filled with ups and downs, but we know we can connect or reconnect by our friendship groups. If you are not currently in a group, get in touch with your sponsor or with me. We will help you connect with a group.

De Colores!

Linda Bagsby

**SCHOOL OF LEADERS MARGIE REAKA**

As my three-year term comes to an end in March, I want to share what a blessing it has been to serve as the School of Leader Chairperson. While the first couple of meetings in my tenure were cancelled due to the COVID quarantine, we quickly learned how to use ZOOM, and for School of Leaders, ZOOM is now the meeting venue of choice.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you who took time to research, prepare, and present one of the many topics over the last three years. Because teams are chosen from School of Leaders when possible, our focus these last three years has been on team preparation.

With the team preparation in mind, our primary goal was to have a presentation and discussion on each of the 15 rollos, which we completed at the January 2023 meeting. In addition to discussing all the rollos, we discussed best opportunities to invite candidates to the Weekends and the sponsor's role in both Cursillo and Postcursillo. As we prepared our Weekends to conform to updates from National Cursillo, a few of our monthly presentations focused on the team contacting candidates prior to the Weekends, as well as corridor work during the Weekends and updates to Weekend music. And a

committee from School of Leaders updated the Formation Binders used by the teams for the Cursillo Weekends.

We call it a “school” and we learn, however our goal is to learn by sharing with each other rather than being taught. We have no teacher, we have no students; we simply share. All are welcome.

May the Lord continue to bless the Belleville Diocesan Cursillo School of Leaders.

Peace, love and joy,

Margie Reaka  
School of Leaders Chairperson

**CURSILLO COMMITTEE** JOHN SCHABERG

Dear Fourth Day Community:

God has answered our prayers (as only He will do, always)! In October we invited you to pray and help us find a home for the 2023 Weekends and a parking spot for our supply trailer. I am happy to say that our Weekends have found venues, and our trailer has found a home! Our Women’s Weekend will be held at Toddhall Retreat Center – August 3 - 6, and our Men’s Weekend is scheduled for Aug. 17 - 20 at the new Kings House at The Shrine of Our Lady of Snows. Our trailer is safely parked behind St. Theresa’s Parish Church, thanks to the good people and Pastor of that Parish.

The waiting and anticipation begins, the formation of the teams is underway, and the excitement for our new homes is building. Be sure to talk to God about your friends, and then talk to your friends about God. And if that results in an invitation to a Weekend, may God bless your new sponsorship and your new candidates!

**Romans 1: 12:** *“What I mean is that both you and I will be helped at the same time, you by my faith and I by yours.”*

De Colores and Peace!

John I Schaberg  
Chair, Cursillo Committee

**PUBLISHER’S NOTE** KENT JEANNERET

You may have noticed the Evangelizer was published a month later than normal. This is a permanent change so the new publishing dates are end of January, April, July, and October. This was done to facilitate the writing of articles during the Christmas period as everyone is quite busy during that time of year. Thank you all for your understanding and patience.

De Colores!

Kent Jeanneret

<p><b><u>LOOKING FOR A FRIENDSHIP GROUP REUNION?</u></b></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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:jeannerk@charter.net).

## PRAYER REQUESTS BY EMAIL

Note that prayer requests are distributed, once per day, by one email address, ([PrayersRequested@BellevilleCursillo.org](mailto: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:**

**[Prayersrequested@bellevillecursillo.org](mailto:Prayersrequested@bellevillecursillo.org)**

[Prayersrequested@bellevillecursillo.org](mailto:Prayersrequested@bellevillecursillo.org) is read late each day. All prayer requests from this email address are gathered into one email and sent via [PrayersRequested@BellevilleCursillo.org](mailto:PrayersRequested@BellevilleCursillo.org). We are allowed one mass distribution email per day. (Note that any prayer requests sent to [PrayersRequested@BellevilleCursillo.org](mailto: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](http://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 (unless otherwise noted) at 7:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Cathedral undercroft. 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](mailto: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

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Margie Reaka, School of Leaders / Prayer Requests

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Garry Range, Precursillo / Website

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