

## CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

**THE EVANGELIZER****April 2023**Website: [www.BellevilleCursillo.org](http://www.BellevilleCursillo.org)**FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR** DEACON WAYNE WEILER

*“Jesus himself drew near to them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.” (Lk 24:15-16)*

Dear Cursillistas,

I hope your Eastertide and return to the spring season are fulfilling and hopeful. This time between Easter and Pentecost gives us the unique, and might I say, rewarding time of prayer and reflection.

It is a unique time in our faith journey of knowing the presence of Christ, while at the same time often struggling to recognize Him in our routine or ordinary circumstances. It is a rewarding time when the doubts that creep into our thoughts give way to the comfort of those experiences of peace, awareness, and reassurance of Jesus walking with us.

I had the opportunity to listen to our new Catholics who were baptized, and others who entered into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. They expressed an overwhelming feeling of happiness and excitement in what they had experienced throughout Holy Week. Their stories were all different, but each of them displayed one common theme and expression of Joy and an experience close to Christ.

Reflecting on the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter, one person said, “I can’t put my finger on it, but I just feel different.” With each and every encounter with the Risen Jesus, we are truly “different” than we were before that encounter.

The 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost are celebrated in great Joy as one feast day, or one "Great Sunday." May we see these holy days of Easter as a time of knowing Christ more closely, seeing Him more clearly and inviting Him to walk and stay with us.

As Cursillistas, congratulate and welcome our new sisters and brothers in faith, encourage them to walk with us, too. But more important than these, let yourself be inspired by their newfound Joy.

Happy Easter and De Colores,

Deacon Wayne Weiler



**FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR** CHERYL RAJSKI

The gospels of this Easter time bring to life the promise and hope we have in the resurrection of Christ. Through the joys and the sorrows of life, Jesus is the treasure above all treasures.

Cursillistas gathered for Father Gary Gummersheimer's funeral mass in January. What a gift Fr. Gary was to the Cursillo movement in our diocese! I am counting on him to continue to advocate and pray for us.

The Regional Spring Encounter in March was amazing. The regional team presentations on *Living a Life in Grace... The Presence of Christ in our Fourth Day* inspired and called us onward. We are counting on Christ and Christ is counting on us. The Belleville Diocese did a beautiful job of hosting the event. Many hands did make light work. We welcomed sixty participants from across the region and that was precisely the maximum allowed. The Holy Spirit showered us with so many blessings.

Bishop McGovern officiated at mass with a thought-provoking homily about the three people Christ raised from the dead. He joined us for dinner. As he left, he asked for our prayers. I know you are powerful in your prayers and palanca. Please hold Bishop McGovern in your daily prayers.

A special thanks to Margie Reaka for her work as head of School of Leaders. She beautifully led us into a deeper understanding of the Cursillo movement in her three-year term. Anna Feurer is our new leader and we thank her for stepping into this important role. John Charlton has agreed to be on the School of Leaders team. Look for more information on these opportunities to be part of the Cursillo movement at future School of Leaders meetings.

The teams are in place for the Men's and Women's Weekends. We have been blessed with wonderful spiritual advisors and lay team members. Please keep them in your prayers and pray for the sponsors and candidates as well.

There has been much to lift to our Lord from the Cursillo prayer request ministry. I have felt the strength of your prayers and have heard the same from other Cursillistas. It is so very good to travel life with friends in Christ.

God bless you and keep you,

Cheryl Rajski



**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 deep relationship with Christ by starting their Cursillo journey.

The 2023 Weekend dates are:

Women #44: August 03 - 06, 2023

Application deadline: July 14, 2023

Men #40: August 17 - 20, 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.

Current candidates, their parish, and sponsor for the upcoming 2023 Weekends are:

**Women Candidates**

Carol Gass

Cathy Nesbit

Jackie Schmidt

**Parish**

St. Teresa

St. Teresa

St. Teresa

**Sponsor**

Mary Stephens

Mary Stephens

Mary Stephens

**Men Candidates**

None to date

**Parish**

**Sponsor**

The Cursillo Weekend Package is available at [www.bellevillecursillo.org](http://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](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

The Easter season is here! The Lord has Risen! Alleluia!

I enjoy the readings this time of year because I feel that, by hearing the words of the apostles and Jesus during that time when Jesus walked among the disciples before the Ascension, I am also “walking” with them. As Thomas said, “My Lord and My God” when he saw Jesus and touched his side, we believe and have faith in Jesus and his works and those that have followed him.

We are “Companions on the Journey,” as noted in the story of the two travelers to Emmaus. As their eyes were opened and Jesus was revealed to them in the breaking of the bread, we also have our eyes and hearts opened in the Eucharist. As Jesus said, “I am the bread of life.”

We need to look around and see those that perhaps need to also have their eyes opened, and really understand the words we hear every week at Mass. Many come to Mass, but don’t really understand. I think Cursillo helped me to “see.” The years of being in Cursillo, helping with Weekends, grouping with friends, and attending Ultreyas have brought me closer to my faith.

As we look around ourselves in the next few weeks, try to “see” those that you are friends with and ask them about Cursillo. And when you meet your friends in your groups, pray about candidates. Invite possible candidates to a grouping and an Ultreya. By doing this you are showing them that Cursillo isn’t just a Weekend, but a part of their lives - small friendship groups and Ultreyas. Let them know that you, as their sponsor, will help them along the way.

“Make a friend, be a friend, bring that friend to Christ.”

Thank you!

Linda Bagsby



**SCHOOL OF LEADERS** ANNA FEURER

I would like to share some of the details from the Technique Presentation by John Charlton, co-chairperson of the School of Leaders. John spoke to the group on the topic “School of Leaders,” giving us a refresher on what the School is in the Cursillo Movement. School of Leaders is a gathering of friends in a group environment. It is a school of thought and understanding, as we are all called to study and learn together for our spiritual growth.

There was discussion that the School of Leaders has more attitude than structure. It is a vocation always building on it. The School accentuates the Cursillo Movement because its leaders are natural leaders in Christianity. We are all training for the Weekend.

Next month we will begin with prayer and have a Leaders Group Reunion, as we share our Piety, Study, and Action in preparing for the upcoming Men and Women’s Cursillo Weekends. Please join us, for the School is to the community (Ultreya) what the leaders (the team) are to the Cursillo Weekends.

God Bless and De Colores!

Anna Feurer

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

**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

**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 Anna Feurer (618) 779-1388.

### Ultreyas

**Belleville Area:** Monthly on the second Friday (unless otherwise noted) at 7:30 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

Deacon Wayne Weiler, Spiritual Director  
(618) 277-3824; [wlweiler@gmail.com](mailto:wlweiler@gmail.com)

Cheryl Rajski, Lay Director  
(618) 334-0135; [cedete@charter.net](mailto:cedete@charter.net)

Anna Feurer, School of Leaders / Prayer Requests  
(618) 779-1388; [annafeurer56@gmail.com](mailto:annafeurer56@gmail.com)

Garry Range, Precursillo / Website  
(618) 401-9677; [g.range@charter.net](mailto:g.range@charter.net)

John Schaberg, Cursillo  
(618) 420-2670; [johnschaberg@gmail.com](mailto:johnschaberg@gmail.com)

Linda Bagsby, Postcursillo  
(618)-960-1023; [lbagsby@gmail.com](mailto:lbagsby@gmail.com)

Michelle Massey, Secretary  
(636)-288-6784; [michelle.caito@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.caito@gmail.com)

Marvin Winkeler, Treasurer  
(402)-214-1155; [mewinkel51@gmail.com](mailto:mewinkel51@gmail.com)

### SECRETARIAT AD HOC COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Gail Kostel, Publicity  
(618) 234-8010; [tgk1030@yahoo.com](mailto:tgk1030@yahoo.com)

Karen Davidson, Palanca  
(618) 670-8383; [kraul16@yahoo.com](mailto:kraul16@yahoo.com)

Kent Jeanneret, Evangelizer Newsletter / Cursillo Roster  
(618) 531-8855; [jeannerk@charter.net](mailto:jeannerk@charter.net)

Sean Nolan, Prayer Requests  
(618) 972-5063; [sean.nolan@yahoo.com](mailto:sean.nolan@yahoo.com)

Margie Reaka, Prayer Requests  
(618) 581-7355; [margiereaka@gmail.com](mailto:margiereaka@gmail.com)

Mike Fietsam, Prayer Requests  
(618) 910-4633; [mfietsam@gmail.com](mailto:mfietsam@gmail.com)

Pat Butler, Prayer Requests  
62864; (618)-204-0167; [patbutler007@gmail.com](mailto:patbutler007@gmail.com)