

**CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE**



**THE EVANGELIZER**



**July 2023**

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

**FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR DEACON WAYNE WEILER**

*“A Sower went out to sow.....But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred, or sixty, or thirtyfold.” (Mt 13:1-9)*

Dear Fourth Day,

I hope your summer is living up to your expectations of time spent with family, vacations, or just some simple time for relaxation. Many of you, I’m sure, find much summertime relaxation in gardening and working in the yard, while many in our diocese do the demanding work of the land for the benefit of us all. These hot July days surely bring challenges to your worthy efforts.

Lately, our Lord has given us images of seeds and soil. I read a story regarding the lifecycle of the Chinese Bamboo Tree. The story goes that it can take up to five years for the seed of the tree to show any growth above the ground. Then once it spouts, it grows to a massive height of eighty feet in just six short weeks. After years of preparation, of settling underground, in order to have access to plenty of food, it becomes visible, and begins to grow above ground. Then and only then does it flourish. I think it might be safe to say that after five years of not seeing any growth, most of us would give up on that plant!

Now, I’m no expert on the lifecycle of the Chinese Bamboo Tree, but the story may remind us of the benefits of nurturing and caring for something that seems hopeless, lifeless, or non-responsive to our good works. It is an example of how, once faith begins to grow, it beautifully blossoms to great heights. Haven’t we all witnessed this in the lives of the Cursillistas beyond their Weekends?

Jesus in His great wisdom would speak to the crowds about something they knew well - the disappointment of their efforts not taking root. Again, He’s teaching them about patience and not giving up. This is a lesson for us all. In our own faith journey, and that of those around us, we can often feel that our hard work is simply not bearing fruit. We can experience disappointment and become disheartened when the friend with whom we’ve been hoping to share the gifts of Cursillo can’t fit a Weekend in. Praise be to God for those who have said YES!

God doesn’t give up on us, and we shouldn’t give up on Him - or on that reluctant candidate. Time is never wasted or lost in cultivating the fruits of our faith journey.

Jesus, the great gardener of faith, hope, and charity invites us to continue to work the soil - to understand the conditions the seeds are in. When the seeds we sow do not flourish as we think they should, we’re asked to work and nurture the soil all the more.

De Colores!

Deacon Wayne



**FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR** CHERYL RAJSKI

As I write this, the Women's and Men's teams are preparing for the upcoming Weekends with many other members of the Fourth Day lending their support. As I am sure you can imagine, there are many challenges. I think often of the words attributed to St. Ignatius Loyola, "Pray as if everything depended on God and work as if everything depended on you." After we have done all we can, it is so very clear that all is in God's hands.

This Cursillo journey has taught me so many things about Jesus and his love. Right now, I most treasure the lessons to walk in faith and trust in the Lord. I would be a good and faithful servant! But when the day is done and we have worked with love against difficult odds, it is the words from Exodus that bring me peace. When Egypt's chariots were upon the Israelites and there seemed to be nowhere to go, Moses said "Fear not! Stand your ground, and you will see the victory the Lord will win for you today. These Egyptians whom you see today you will never see again. The Lord himself will fight for you; you have only to keep still!" What is your Egypt? Remember, the Lord himself is fighting for you!

God's grace is with us through all. I see this clearly in the efforts to fill the prayer vigil hours for the Weekends. Over 500 people are contacted to fill 146 prayer hours. One person could not do this. Twenty-seven people volunteered. (You know who you are! Thank you!!) Despite disconnected phones and bouncing emails, voice mailboxes full and calls not returned, all but a few of the prayer hours are filled and we will soon fill the rest. Most have two and some as many as five people praying! What a gift from the Holy Spirit working through his Cursillistas!

An even greater gift, though, is the many conversations between friends that came from those calls. It's not all a bed of roses. Not all calls were easy. Many need our prayers. As I write this, I see the names on the Prayer Vigil sheet and my eyes fill with tears. I see the names of many friends, fellow Christians who have taught me so much. I see the power of the Holy Spirit working thorough us to bring Jesus to this broken world. I am very grateful.

God bless you all! Thank you for your prayers for Cursillo.

Cheryl Rajski

**Late News Update:** The Secretariat and Rector made the difficult decision to postpone the Men's Weekend. We are working to reschedule to a date in February. Thank you for your prayers and support. I see the Holy Spirit's work in this delay.



**PRECURSILLO GARRY RANGE**

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

We continue to prepare for the upcoming Cursillo Weekends with our most important task - **prayer**. Continue to offer prayers for our Fourth Day, prayers for Secretariat and School of Leaders, the weekend team members 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 upcoming Cursillo Weekend dates are:

Women #44: Aug 3 – Aug 6, 2023

Application deadline: Jul 14, 2023

Men #40: Feb 15 – Aug 18, 2024

Application deadline: Jan 26, 2024

The Women’s weekend will be held at Toddhall Retreat Center in Columbia, Illinois. The Men’s weekend will be held at King’s House at the Shrine of our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, IL.

Current Candidates, their parish and sponsor for the upcoming weekends are:

**Women Candidates****Parish****Sponsor**

Mary Lou Anderson	Holy Trinity	Janelle Neff
Kim Cooper	St. Augustine	Dcn. Jim Law
Diane Crawford	Cathedral of St. Peter	Dcn. Wayne Weiler
Kimberly Dorsey	Sacred Heart-Du Quoin	Kelly Paxton
Janice Eischens	St. Mary-Mt Vernon	Pat Butler
Joanna Franscavitch	St. Mary-Mt Vernon	Beth Schrader
Carol Gass	St. Teresa	Mary Stephens
Carol Geluck	Holy Trinity	Janelle Neff
Ronda Gualdoni	St. Mary-Mt Vernon	Pat Yates
Julie Harris	Cathedral of St. Peter	Cheryl Rajski
Amy Mannino	St. Teresa	Mary Stephens
Wendy McKinney	St. Teresa	Mike Fietsam
Julie Neill	St. Teresa	Mary Stephens
Cathy Nesbit	St. Augustine	Mary Stephens
Amy Riesenberger	St. Mary	Mary Stephens
Marlene Rodriguez	Cathedral of St. Peter	Dcn. Wayne Weiler
Beth Schindelar	St. Teresa	Mary Stephens
Jacqueline Schmidt	St. Teresa	Mary Stephens
Elizabeth Thompson	Sacred Heart-Du Quoin	Margaret Born
Pat Werner	St. Teresa	Mary Stephens

**Men Candidates**

Mark Horstmann  
Robert Pierpoint  
Kevin Rademacher

**Parish**

Sacred Heart-Du Quoin  
St. Joseph  
St. Clare

**Sponsor**

Al Martin  
Tom Reaka  
Steve Schaefer

Please note the upcoming Men's #40 weekend originally scheduled for August 17-20, 2023 has been rescheduled for February 15-18, 2024 due to insufficient number of candidates by the application deadline of July 28, 2023. Please continue, or consider, to sponsor, your friend for the upcoming 2024 weekends.

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

<b><u>CURSILLO COMMITTEE</u></b> JOHN SCHABERG
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Dear Fourth Day Community:

The Cursillo "3-Day Committee" is entering the final preparations for our Weekend. Please be sure your seat backs and tray tables are locked in their upright position. I write this "on the fly," with so many things up in the air as we approach the landing site.

We are blessed with so many Angels who have stepped up to lead the Thursday and Sunday night meals, the Mañanitas, and the Prayer and Palanca commitments. They will all be thanked by name in our next edition.

I'd like to personally witness to the fact that they are the result of many, many prayers in the middle of the night. My faith is not strong enough to understand how the Holy Spirit guides and leads the Fourth Day Community, the adopted children of God, to know, serve, and love Him in so many ways.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

**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



**POSTCURSILLO** LINDA BAGSBY

As you probably know, we pray a special Cursillo novena prior to the Weekends. It was written many years ago by Father Robert Braun, OMI, who served for many years as the Spiritual Leader for the Belleville Diocese Cursillo. Praying the novena helps to ready our hearts and minds for formation and to help us in our Fourth Day to “Make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ.” There are two quotes from St. Julie in the prayer booklet. The quotes from the novena are:

*“Since the Holy Spirit makes of us his temples as soon as we have been baptized, he invites us necessarily to prayer and to follow his inspirations.”*

*“Do you know what is the great secret of the spiritual life? It is in keeping oneself in a continual disposition to be led by the Spirit of God. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit be in us the source of all our actions.”*

Whether you made your Weekend one year ago, 10 years ago, or 40 years ago, we must always keep ourselves in a continual disposition to be led by the Spirit of God. We must look for and help those around us to find Jesus in their lives. Make a Friend. Be a Friend. Bring that Friend to Christ.

I know how much we pray as Cursillistas! For me, my prayer life changed dramatically after my Weekend. Prayer is a very large part of my life now. As Cursillistas we do a lot of praying. We share our piety, study, and action in our Friendship Groups. We pray together in times of sadness and happiness and share our heart prayers at the end of the Ultreya. I recently was leafing through a book of St. Mother Teresa quotes, thoughts, and prayers called “In My Own Words,” and came across one that is very much like the St. Julie quotes:

*“Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at his disposition, and listening to his voice in the depths of our hearts.”*

Continue your Postcursillo, your Fourth Day! Put yourself in the hands of God! Come Holy Spirit, enkindle in us the fire of your love!

De Colores!

Linda Bagsby  
Women’s #29





**SCHOOL OF LEADERS ANNA FEURER**

During our recent School of Leaders meeting, we held Leaders' Group Reunions, sharing what spiritual aids have helped us to grow as leaders of the Cursillo. We shared Leader's Action either in Precursillo, the Cursillo Weekend, Postcursillo, or School of Leaders. We also shared our apostolic actions or failures. The Leaders' Group Reunion will guide us as we journey in faith and prepare for the upcoming Weekends.

Our Spiritual Director, Deacon Wayne Weiler, spoke to us about the book, "Field Hospital Catechesis." He shared that we should think of the Church as a field hospital for all people, that is, addressing their immediate needs. This also relates to our Cursillo Movement, as we want to meet the different needs and circumstances of Cursillistas throughout the Weekend and the Fourth Day, letting them know Christ is walking with them on their journey. We should always be prepared to give the hope within us and share it through friendship.

The School of Leaders has been studying the Essence, Purpose, and Mentality of the Cursillo Movement. Garry Range presented to the leaders in the school on Precursillo. Precursillo is the study of our environments and the searching for Christians within those environments. Precursillo is also responsible for the preparation of the people attending the 3-Day Cursillo. The best approach is to help the candidate come in contact with the community before making a Cursillo Weekend to help them to grow in these communities in Christian love and perfection. Friendship is very important in this preparation.

Please consider joining us at the School of Leaders, as we will next discuss the 3-Day Cursillo Weekend from the "Leaders' Manual."

De Colores!

Anna Feurer



<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

**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

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. 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.

**St. Agatha, New Athens/St. Joseph, Freeburg:** Monthly on the last Monday at 7:00 p.m. August 28th at St. Joseph, September 25th at St. Agatha, October 30th at St. Joseph.

**Ultreya at Sacred Heart Church Du Quoin** Saturday October 7th in Haeffner Hall 9AM to 12PM / Buffet Breakfast with Ultreya to follow / RSVP by September 30 to Kelly Paxton 618-927-5415 or Marie Schimanski 815-978-9419

### 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.



## SECRETARIAT MEMBERS

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(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  
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John Schaberg, Cursillo  
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