

**CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE****THE EVANGELIZER****October 2023****Website: [www.BellevilleCursillo.org](http://www.BellevilleCursillo.org)****FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR DEACON WAYNE WEILER***“Come Holy Spirit, Fill the Hearts of Your Faithful.....And You Shall Renew the Face of the Earth”*

Dear Fourth Day,

I hope you are enjoying this beautiful season of autumn, with the milder weather, cool mornings, and the wonderful artwork that God once again gives us in the colorful foliage of the forests. This is yet another example of how much God loves us through the wonders of creation, so visible in the ever-changing time of the seasons.

While change is always before us, our own Cursillo leadership team is also in a time of change. September marked the end of Cheryl Rajski’s tenure as our Lay Director. I think it’s important to recall some of the many impactful and long-lasting effects that Cheryl has had on our Cursillo Movement. She was instrumental in the implementation of the Cursillo National’s directive to restore the original format for the 3-Day Weekend, what we know as “Step-By-Step.” She played a significant role in obtaining a diocesan grant for bilingual, Spanish-speaking scholarships, in the hope that these Cursillistas will one day serve as team members on a Spanish-speaking 3-Day Weekend in the diocese. And lastly, Cheryl led several listening sessions of Cursillistas as part of the Church’s input to the Synod in Rome. The information shared from these sessions became part of the diocese’s response to the Vatican’s call to “listen” more attentively to the flock. I know there is more, too much to cover here. Thank you, Cheryl!

We say thank you also to Garry Range whose tenure as Precursillo comes to an end. Garry has led this important office of the Secretariat with faithful oversight and diligent attention to detail to ensure our candidates and sponsors are well prepared for their Weekend encounter with Christ. He did so with much grace while enduring some of his own physical hardships. Thank you, Garry!

And to conclude, Marvin Winkeler’s term as Secretariat Treasurer will also soon come to an end. Marvin has skillfully ensured the accurate accounting of the scarce resources entrusted to us. Marvin’s oversight helped us carry out Christ’s ongoing mission with the generosity of God’s gift of treasure. Marvin also had a significant role in obtaining the scholarship grant I mentioned above. Thank you, Marvin!

These three faithful pilgrims have led these and so many other behind-the-scenes efforts, all to ensure our Movement remains a viable source for evangelizing our communities and bringing Christ’s gospel message to a troubled world. We owe them all a debt of gratitude for their service, we’re grateful for their talents, and more than anything, we’re thankful for their friendship! But they’re not going anywhere, they will be a valuable help to those who take over these essential leadership roles. And their successors are: Margie Reaka, Lay Director; Debbie Blume, Precursillo; and the Treasurer to be named soon. Guided by the Holy Spirit, and with the help of the Fourth Day, they, too, will do many great things for the Diocese of Belleville Cursillo Movement and for Christ and His Church.

We know the turmoil that surrounds us, with so many troubling signs and events occurring on the world, national and local stage. We should never underestimate the importance of the work of the Cursillo, for each and every one of us has a role to play. With each new Cursillista, drawn closer to the Trinitarian God from their Weekend, the power of the Holy Spirit becomes visible in word and deed. I can't recall a time when our prayer to the Holy Spirit to "RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH" is needed more.

De Colores and God Bless!

Deacon Wayne



**FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR CHERYL RAJSKI & MARGIE REAKA**

*From Cheryl Rajski*

September 30, 2023, marked the end of my three-year tenure as Lay Director. Many thanks to Margie Reaka for answering God's call to serve as Lay Director. She will do very well!

The past three years in this role brought so many gifts from God. Thank you for your support and for your patience with me. Thank you for all you have taught me by your witness.

Most especially, thanks to God. He turned my "yes" to serve Him into abundant, overflowing blessings. It is impossible to out-give God, but it's fun to keep trying! God bless you all.

De Colores,

Cheryl

*From Margie Reaka*

A huge thank you to Cheryl Rajski, Lay Director for the Belleville Diocesan Cursillo from October 2020 through September 2023. Through COVID, cancelled Weekends, Weekend venue changes, and ongoing rector/rectora updates from National, Cheryl remained prayerfully dedicated to the success of the Cursillo movement. She leaves a legacy that is tough to follow.

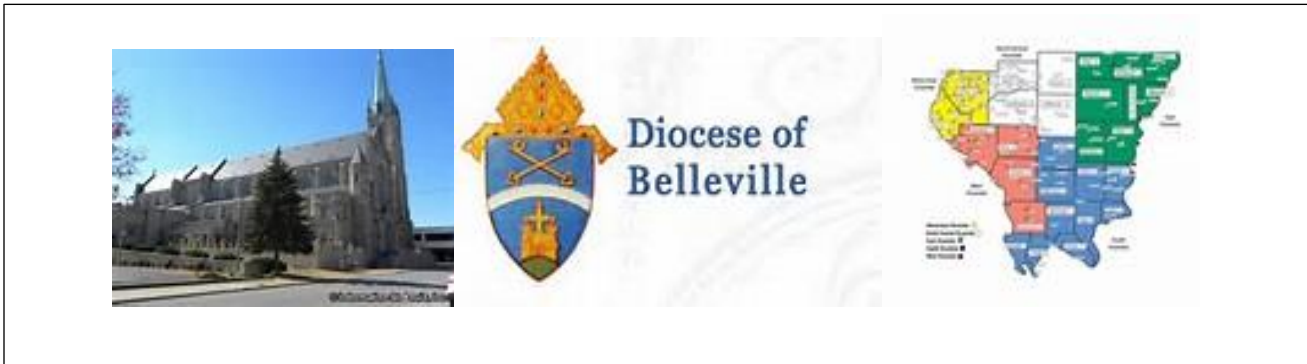
I feel blessed to serve as Lay Director for Belleville Diocesan Cursillo for the next three years. I ask you for your prayers, support, and assistance so that we can work together to continue strengthening the Cursillo movement in our diocese.

This past August at Women’s #43, I was asked to present the rollo, “Study of the Environment.” Preparing this rollo reminded me that we all must be aware of the diverse environments in which we live and be ready to evangelize our faith by making a friend, being a friend, bringing a friend to Christ – and then bring your friend to a Cursillo Weekend.

We are so excited about the upcoming Men’s Weekend at King’s House, February 15-18, 2024. Please join us in prayer for the success of the Weekend, and ask a friend to attend.

De Colores,

Margie



**PRECURSILLO** GARRY RANGE

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

We continue to prepare for the 2024 Cursillo Weekends with our most important task – **prayer and Palanca**. 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 deeper relationship with Christ by starting their Cursillo journey.

The 2024 Cursillo Weekend dates are:

Men #40:	Feb. 15 – Feb. 18, 2024	Application deadline: Jan. 26, 2024
Women #45:	To Be Determined (TBD)	Application deadline: TBD

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 2024 Weekends are:

**Women Candidates**

Cathy Nesbit

**Parish**

St. Augustine

**Sponsor**

Mary Stephens

**Men Candidates**

Mark Horstmann

**Parish**

Sacred Heart-Du Quoin

**Sponsor**

Al Martin

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



**CURSILLO COMMITTEE JOHN SCHABERG**

Dear Fourth Day Community:

We are praying for more friends who want to make their Men's 3-Day Weekend, February 15-18, at Kings House at the Shrine.

Please join me in Palanca - prayer and fasting - to "lever" that effort. If you are willing and able, I'd like to challenge everyone in the Fourth Day to pick one day for prayer and fasting in the next month, or one day each month, or one day each week, to move us towards the goal of having enough men for a Weekend. For suggestions, this "fasting" can be fasting for a day, skipping one or two meals, abstaining from some type of food or drink, avoiding some activity or habit, or taking some other Action or almsgiving, to magnify the commitments and petitions in your prayers. Listen to the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire your efforts in your Palanca.

If you are one of our new Cursillistas, consider asking the men in your life - husband, brother, son, grandson, fiancée, boyfriend, or just a friend - share with them the joy that is the Cursillo Weekend! Journey together. Take that first step. Talk to God about your friend, then talk to your friend about God. And use Palanca!

If you are a "seasoned" Cursillista, please read the sentence above. Ask the Holy Spirit if the men in your life should be invited to join you in your journey. And use Palanca!

In addition to Palanca before the Weekend, you may also be getting phone calls or email requests in the next month or two, asking you to participate in the Prayer Hours during the Weekend. The Prayer Angels are getting organized, and if you are willing to make some of these phone calls, please let me know.

**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**

The 2023 Fall Grand Ultreya/Reunion was held on Saturday, October 7, at Sacred Heart Parish in DuQuoin. It was a wonderful morning of sharing, friendship, and listening to witnesses from the Fourth Day, both lay and religious. More than 50 Cursillistas from across the diocese attended and gave a warm welcome to our newest Cursillistas from Women's #44. A huge thank you to Sacred Heart Cursillistas for hosting, to our witness speakers, Al Martin and Deacon Wayne Weiler, to Fr. Carl Schrage for his spiritual presentation, and to Nancy Myerscough, our guest facilitator.

Our 2024 Spring Grand Ultreya/Reunion is being planned for April. More details will be available in the next Evangelizer and via email.

Please continue to keep the Fourth Day in your prayers, especially those who are struggling with illness and those who are providing care to the sick.

May God bless and protect you all!

Linda Bagsby



## **SCHOOL OF LEADERS ANNA FEURER**

During our last couple of School of Leaders meetings, we were filled with a greater knowledge of the 3-Day Cursillo as we discussed Chapter 10 of the Leaders' Manual.

The Cursillos in Christianity is a method which enables living the true Christian life in the light of our baptismal commitment, offering us a way to encounter what is fundamental (the basics) of Christian living. To experience a Cursillo is a marvelous grace and a joyful proclamation of being Christian, helping us to have a continuous conversion of heart, joining our lives more fully to God in communion with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

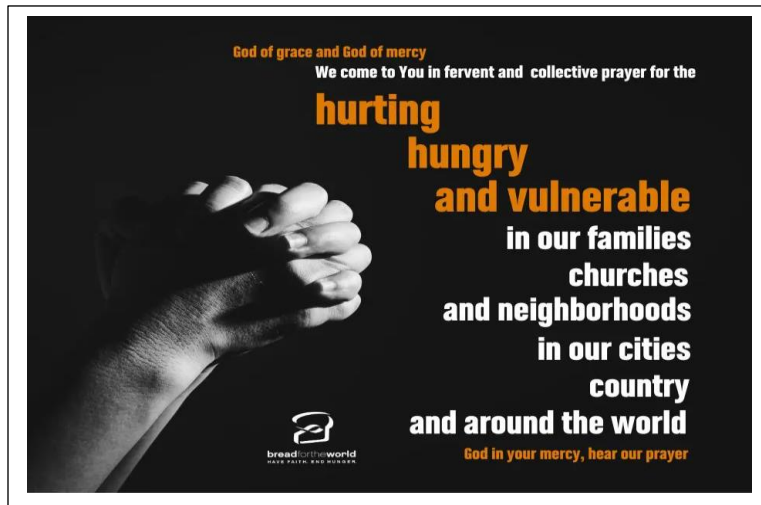
Our Spiritual Director, Deacon Wayne, shared with us a message of Christian doctrine from Pope Francis's letter on "The Call to Holiness in Today's World" (paragraph 117). Pope Francis highlighted St. John of the Cross: "It is not good when we look down on others like heartless judges, lording it over them and always trying to teach them lessons. This is a subtle form of violence." St. John of the Cross proposed a different path: "Always prefer to be taught by all, rather than to desire teaching even the least of all." Pope Francis added advice on how to keep the devil at bay: "Rejoice in the good of others as if it were your own, and desire that they be given precedence over you in all things. By doing this you will thereby overcome evil with good, banish the devil, and possess a happy heart. We will then attain charity or make progress in it."

Deacon Wayne shared his thoughts on the Pope's message: "He stated that looking around our own communities/environments, our country, and our world, we all too often see the effects of a lack of holiness, humility, listening, and a lack of forgiveness. This creates indifference and hatred. As Cursillistas, may our prayer be for the , as seen through the Gospel and the eyes of Jesus."

Please join us at the School of Leaders meetings on the second Tuesday of the month, via Zoom. Thank you.

De Colores,

Anna Feurer



## **WOMEN'S WEEKEND RECTORA KAREN DAVIDSON**

On August 3-6, 2023, the Diocese of Belleville Cursillo in Christianity welcomed 20 new faithful and loving Cursillistas to our movement, 19 women and one monsignor. It was a wonderful experience watching the new Cursillistas begin their journey towards a closer relationship with Our Lord.



The new Cursillistas are as follows: Mary Lou Anderson (Holy Trinity), Kim Cooper (St. Augustine), Diane Crawford (St. Peter's Cathedral), Kimberly Dorsey (Sacred Heart), Janice Eischens (St. Mary/Mt. Vernon), Joanna Franscavitch (St. Mary/Mt. Vernon), Carol Gass (St. Teresa), Carol Geluck (Holy Trinity), Ronda Gualdoni (St. Mary/Mt. Vernon) Julie Harris (St. Peter's Cathedral), Amy Mannino (St. Teresa), Wendy McKinney (St. Teresa), Julie Neill (St. Teresa), Cathy Nesbit (St. Augustine), Amy Riesenberger (St. Mary/Belleville), Marlene Rodriguez (St. Peter's Cathedral), Beth Schindelar (St. Teresa), Jackie Schmidt (St. Teresa), Beth Thompson (Sacred Heart), Pat Werner (St. Teresa) & Monsignor Dan Jurek.

The Women's #44 team had many challenges to overcome to make the Weekend a success. It was decided that the Weekend would take place at the Todd Hall Retreat Center in Columbia, Illinois. It took several trips to the location to work out the schedule to accommodate the lounging arrangements, coordination of meals, rollos, Mañanitas, and the closing. Everyone agreed that Todd Hall was a wonderful place to hold the Cursillo Weekend. The grounds were surrounded with woods, and we even saw a deer or two. The chapel was small but quant, the rollo room was large enough to give the rollos and share our posters, and the food was delicious.

We started something new with the formation schedule, and instead of meeting every week for six weeks before the Weekend, we began formation in May and then met every other week or so. Formations were also held at different locations switching between Freeburg and Pickneyville. I personally loved doing formations this way because it didn't commit you to every Sunday for six weeks straight.

Another "something new" was the way the novenas were prayed before the Weekend began. For nine consecutive weeks, the novenas were held on Sunday's at 1 p.m. at four different churches and many Cursillistas prayed the novenas in the privacy of their homes. Thank you, Fourth Day for participating in the novenas.

Our candidate count had a slow start. However, after the nine-week novenas began, the candidates started rolling in. Suddenly, we had 20 candidates. A week before the Weekend was scheduled to start, our Spiritual Advisor had to step down due to a new commitment, but he found us a replacement, Monsignor Dan Jurek.

Monsignor Dan had never made a Cursillo or been a part of a Cursillo Weekend, but he did a wonderful job celebrating the masses, giving the rollos, and hearing confession. And to my surprise, Monsignor Dan made his Cursillo on the Women's #44 Weekend bringing our total to 20 candidates! God is so good!

The Weekend was full of prayer, joy, love, fun, and laughter. The 20 new Cursillistas were very attentive while listening to the rollos, participating in their summaries and posters, and in sharing their Catholic faith with one another. The new Cursillistas are kind, loving, and understanding, and it was a joy for us to watch them change in their spiritual growth.

The Women's #44 Weekend would not have been a success without the hard work and support from the team. A huge thank you to our Spiritual Directors, Monsignor Dan Jurek, Deacon Corby Valentine, and Deacon Jim Law. We will always remember the reverence at the masses, the thought-provoking meditations and rollos. We will also remember the good times they gave us when they critiqued those creative posters. We are blessed that you all said "Yes" to being a part of the team, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you do as priests and deacons in our community.

A big thank you as well to the assistant rectora, Michelle Massey, who was a great help to me, as well as serving as a table leader. The head steward, Anna Feurer, and her assistant, Mary Stephens, did an awesome job providing the team and candidates with everything they needed. Thank you for all your

hard work and long hours! And to all the team members who gave heartfelt rollos and did an excellent job in corridor work: Margie Reaka, Linda Bagsby, Nancy Meyerscough, Mary Beth Lang, Mitchelle Calderon, Debbie Blume, Pat Butler, and Jamie Schrader. Carol Schlitt came in to play music for our masses. Thank you all for your commitment to the movement and for all you did in making the Women's #44 Weekend a success.

I would also like to thank the Fourth Day community who prayed for us through heartfelt prayers, novenas, Palanca, participated in the Mañanitas, helped with the Thursday night meal, and for setting up and taking down the closing and the potluck. May God continue to Bless you.

Love, Joy, Peace,

Karen Davidson, Rectora  
Women's #44 Weekend



**Top Row** - Left to Right: Kim Cooper, Nancy Meyerscough, Margie Reaka, Mary Stephens, Julie Harris, Beth Schindelar, Anna Feurer

**Second Row** - Jamie Schrader, Linda Bagsby, Janice Eischens, Jackie Schmidt, Kim Dorsey, Joanna Francavitch, Pat Werner, Amy Riesenberger, Carol Gass, Diane Crawford, Beth Thompson.

**Third Row** - Deacon Jim Law, Deacon Corby Valentine, Monsignor Dan Jurek, Michelle Massey, Karen Davidson, Ronda Gualdoni, Mary Beth Lane, Mary Lou Anderson, Carol Geluck.

**Bottom Row** - Debbie Blume, Amy Mannino, Julie Neill, Marlene Rodriguez, Mitchelle Calderon, Wendy McKinney



<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 Notre Dame Academy cafeteria. 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.

**Sacred Heart Church Du Quoin** Contact 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

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

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

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)

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

## SECRETARIAT AD HOC COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Kent Jeanneret, Evangelizer Newsletter / Cursillo Roster  
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62864; (618)-204-0167; [patbutler007@gmail.com](mailto:patbutler007@gmail.com)