

## CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE



## THE EVANGELIZER



January 2024

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

**FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR** DEACON WAYNE WEILER

*“And you will be my witnesses....”* Acts of the Apostles 1:8

Dear Fourth Day,

I hope all are enduring these cold winter days, but spring is on the way, right? I suppose we'll just have to wait and watch for what the groundhog sees! As fun as it may be to speculate on whether or not Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow on February 2, we know it is an entertaining, yet highly unreliable, folk tale.

However, something that is totally reliable is our ability to be an ongoing, faithful, and authentic witness to the saving mission of Jesus. To be a witness for our faith, to be a living example of what it looks like to be a disciple of Our Lord, is such an important part of what makes being Christian a real factor in our environments. The Cursillo Movement is a great help to us on our walk and witness.

Our living good example is surely the best way to give witness to the life of Christ. But our coming together to share our joys and victories, as well as our struggles and failures, on this journey's walk is what helps to keep us joined and encouraged in our mission to evangelize wherever we find ourselves.

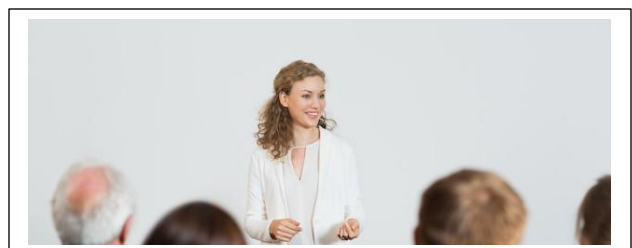
I know full well the challenges of weekly or even bi-weekly grouping, and attending Ultreya is often even more challenging. Life is busy. Some may think meeting weekly or giving a witness talk, “is just not for me,” or “I really have nothing to say or share.” I would ask anyone who may have these thoughts to please reconsider, because *if Jesus is on your mind, if you helped someone in need, even your immediate family, if you encouraged someone in their hardship, if prayer comes easy to you or if it doesn't, if you have forgiven or struggle to forgive someone, or have been forgiven - the list goes on and on* - if any of these describe you, **YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY!** You would be an inspiring friendship group member and a great witness speaker at some future Ultreya gathering.

As wonderful as our 3-Day Weekends were for all of us, it is in the Fourth Day where the fruits of our Catholic experience and our walk with Christ come to bear and are more fully made known. If asked, please prayerfully consider joining a group or giving a witness talk - your story matters!

May we not so much focus on unreliable folk tales, our unproven methods, but rather refocus on what we know to be true and reliable - our friendship with Jesus, the first and preeminent witness to the Father's Love and Mercy!

De Colores and God Bless!

Deacon Wayne



**FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR** MARGIE REAKA

We are so excited that both the 2024 Men's Weekend, February 15-18, and Women's Weekend, August 1-4, will be held at King's House at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows. We are pleased to have a Catholic home for our Weekends and pray this relationship will last for many years.

Many thanks to Garry Range, Chair of Precursillo, and to Marvin Winkeler, Treasurer, who recently completed their three-year terms of service to Secretariat. Each of them added so much to the Belleville Cursillo Movement through their experience and willingness to help. Garry will continue serving, as he maintains our website and email accounts.

We are pleased to welcome Debbie Blume as Chair of Precursillo, and Nancy Myerscough as Treasurer. Thank you both for your willingness to accept the call to serve!

Before I start writing something for Cursillo, such as a rollo, an article for the *Evangelizer*, or even an email, I say a prayer to St. Paul, the greatest writer of all time, for his guidance and inspiration. So, for the last few weeks, I've been praying for help with this article - and all I keep hearing is the word PRAYER.

*Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7*

We are blessed to offer prayers and sacrifices for Men's #40 candidates and team. The Weekend begins the day after Ash Wednesday. How timely for the team and candidates to begin their Lenten season with a Cursillo. Please keep them in your prayers now, throughout their Weekend, and as the new Cursillistas begin their Fourth Day.

We hope to see many of you at Mañanitas and Closing for the Men's Weekend on Sunday, February 18. See the Postcursillo article for details.

Peace, love, and joy,

Margie Reaka

Lay Director



**PRECURSILLO DEBBIE BLUME**

*“Make a friend, be a friend, bring your friend to Christ” - The Cursillo Mission!*

We are preparing for the 2024 Men’s Cursillo Weekend 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 2024 Weekend dates are:

Women #45: Aug. 01 - 04, 2024

Application deadline: July 12, 2024

Men #40: Feb. 15 - 18, 2024

Application deadline: Feb. 2, 2024

The Women’s Weekend will be held at King’s House at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, IL. We currently have one woman attending.

The Men’s Weekend will also be held at King’s House at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, IL. We currently have eight men attending.

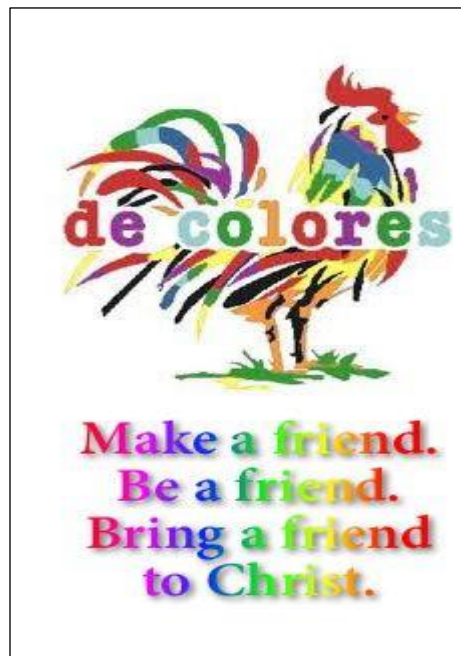
The Cursillo Weekend Package will be available at [www.bellevillecursillo.org](http://www.bellevillecursillo.org) when pricing for the weekends is finalized. This package includes the Sponsor Guidelines, Sponsor Form, and Candidate Application. As a reminder, all paperwork and the registration deposit 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 Debbie Blume, Precursillo Chairperson (email: [precursillo@bellevillecursillo.org](mailto:precursillo@bellevillecursillo.org); cell: 618-806-6951).

St. Paul, Patron of Cursillo, pray for us.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, pray for us.

De Colores!

Debbie Blume



**CURSILLO COMMITTEE** JOHN SCHABERG

Dear Fourth Day Community:

We are praying for more friends who want to make their Men's 3-Day Weekend on February 15-18 at King's House at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows.

Please join the Fourth Day in the Novena at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 4, and Sunday, Feb. 11, at these churches: Sacred Heart (Du Quoin), St Joseph (Freeburg), and Corpus Christi (Shiloh).

Other important events to mark on your calendars for the Men's Weekend include:

- **Mañanitas** – Sunday morning, bright and early, to serenade our new Cursillistas from their slumber
- **Weekend Closing – Sunday evening at the Shrine**

Watch your Prayer Request emails for the details, if they have not already been explained by our Prayer Angels.

If you are one of our new Cursillista Women, 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 re-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 will be getting phone calls or email requests in the next week or two, asking you to participate in the Prayer Hours during the Weekend. The Prayer Angels are in action!

I am recruiting Dinner Angels for Thursday night (manage carry-in pizza/sandwiches and clean-up) and Sunday potluck (manage helpers setting up and cleaning up). By the time this is published, we should have everyone in place.

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

De Colores and Peace!

John I Schaberg  
Chair, Cursillo Committee



**POSTCURSILLO** LINDA BAGSBY

The Men's #40 Cursillo Weekend is being held February 15-18 at King's House at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, and we have two very special events on the last day. We hope that you will be able to attend these special events – Mañanitas and the Closing/Potluck Dinner.

**Mañanitas**

Mañanitas is a Spanish folk song. In the Cursillo tradition, it is sung as an early morning serenade to the new Cursillistas on the last day of a Cursillo Weekend as they begin to look forward to their Fourth Day. We invite all the Fourth Day to gather on Sunday morning, February 18, at 7 a.m. to take a few minutes to learn this song (in English), then proceed to the chapel singing. It's fun to come dressed in bright Cursillo colors!

We will meet in the Visitor's Parking Lot at King's House at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows. Please do not enter the building until you are directed – the new Cursillistas are totally unaware of this event.

**Closing/Potluck Dinner**

The Fourth Day will gather for the Closing of the Belleville Men's Cursillo Weekend, followed by a potluck dinner. Come and be a sign of friendship in Christ for our newest Cursillistas.

Please bring a dish for the potluck dinner. Suggestions are by last name; however, if you have a favorite dish you would like to share, please do!

- A-G: Desserts/Cheeses/Breads
- H-N: Fruits/Vegetables/Dip/Salads/Pasta Dishes
- O-Z: Casseroles/Meat Dishes

Arrive at the Visitor's Parking Lot at King's House at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows on Sunday, February 18, at 4:15 – 4:50 p.m. Closing will begin at 5 p.m. Someone will be in the parking area to direct you. We hope to see you there!

Plans are underway for the Spring Grand Ultreya/Reunion which will be held on Saturday, April 20, at St. Teresa Parish Center, Belleville. This will be a morning event, beginning with a breakfast potluck at 8:30 a.m. Please watch for emails with details about the event. We hope many of you can join to share with the Fourth Day and welcome our newest Cursillistas from Men's #40.

May God bless and protect you all!

Linda Bagsby





**SCHOOL OF LEADERS ANNA FEURER**

We had a great discussion at the last School of Leaders meeting on the importance of Palanca. Everything in the Cursillo is the work of God's grace through prayer and many sacrifices for the apostolic success of the Movement.

As we know, sacrifice is part of the Christian life. Palanca should not be limited to the 3-Day Cursillo Weekends. Palanca is not a tool to assist just the candidates at the Weekend, it is a tool to assist the entire Cursillo Movement, and the Church. It is essential for Precursillo and is needed even more during the Postcursillo. Palanca shows ecclesial community, mindful of the salvation of the group making the Weekend, a community that feels committed. It is a reflection of Christ the Savior in the community.

Please consider joining us in March for our next School of Leaders meeting to share and learn with other Fourth Day Cursillistas.

De Colores!

Anna Feurer



**UPCOMING CURSILLO EVENTS** MARGIE REAKA

**Upcoming Cursillo Events**  
*(Please print this page for quick reference)*



**2024 Belleville Diocesan Cursillo Weekends**

**Men's Weekend #40** (Applications closed as of January 26)

*February 15 to 18 – King's House at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows*

Mañanitas – Meet at Visitor Parking Lot at 7 a.m. on February 18

Closing – Meet at the Visitor Parking Lot at 4:30 p.m. on February 18

**Women's Weekend #44** (See [Bellevillecursillo.org](http://Bellevillecursillo.org) for applications)

*August 1 to 4 – King's House at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows*

**Ultreyas in the Belleville Diocese**

**Grand Ultreya/Reunion** (More information will be sent via prayer requests)

*April 20 – 8:30 a.m. at St. Teresa, Belleville*

**Cathedral Ultreya** (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m.)

*February 9, March 8, April 12 – Notre Dame Grade School Cafeteria (at the Cathedral)*

**St. Joseph/St. Agatha Partnership** (Last Monday of the month at 7 p.m.)

*February 26 – St. Joseph Parish Center*

*March 25 – St. Agatha Parish Center*

*April 29 – St. Joseph Parish Center*

If anyone is interested in starting an Ultreya at your parish or partnership contact Margie Reaka at [laydirector@bellevillecursillo.org](mailto:laydirector@bellevillecursillo.org)

**Meetings in the Belleville Diocese**

**School of Leaders** (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m., via Zoom)

*February (cancelled), March 12, April 9*

Link shared via email sent from School of Leaders

**Region IV**

**Spring Encounter** (Diocese of Springfield/Cape Girardeau, Missouri)

*April 12 to 13 – Pinecrest Camp and Conference Center, Fredericktown, MO*

For information contact Margie Reaka at [laydirector@bellevillecursillo.org](mailto:laydirector@bellevillecursillo.org)

<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)

Debie Blume, Precursillo  
(618)-806-6951; [deblu@sbcglobal.net](mailto:deblu@sbcglobal.net)

John Schaberg, Cursillo  
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Linda Bagsby, Postcursillo  
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Michelle Massey, Secretary  
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Nancy Myerscough, Treasurer  
(618)-830-6322; [mrmrsm64@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mrmrsm64@sbcglobal.net)

## SECRETARIAT AD HOC COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

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62864; (618)-204-0167; [patbutler007@gmail.com](mailto:patbutler007@gmail.com)