

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

**THE EVANGELIZER****September – October 2024****Website: www.BellevilleCursillo.org****FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR DEACON WAYNE WEILER**

“Then one of the elders spoke up and said to me, “Who are these wearing white robes, and where did they come from?” (Revelation 7:13)

Happy November! November is a special month for the Church. As we know, it begins with the Solemnity of All Saints and is immediately followed by The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed. Yet again, these autumn days of prayer offer us opportunities to reflect on what God calls us to, but more so on what He promises to all who trust in and dedicate themselves to Him.

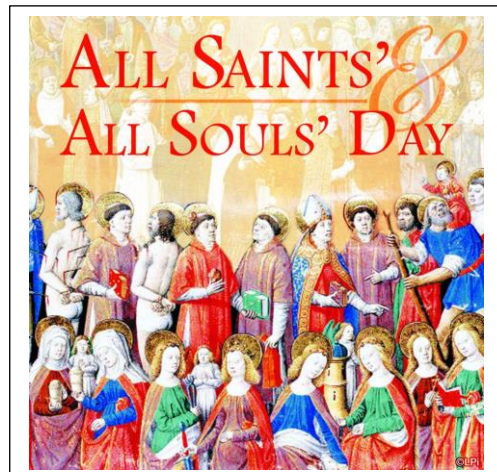
The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that by our baptism we are sealed with the indelible spiritual mark (character) of belonging to Christ, (CCC 1272). It follows, then, that by this mark we too have been given the grace to walk by His light and become what God calls us to be - counted among the saints. Through His Church, by our baptism, we too have been marked and have all we need to become saints. It is our cooperation in His grace that can make it so. The lives of the saints and the Holy Martyrs are our examples of what that cooperation looks like.

The white garment at baptism signifies the new life in Christ given at baptism and is a sign of our Christian dignity. The baptismal rite asks that, with the help of family and fellow Christians we bring that garment unstained to God for our eternal reward with Him in heaven. As Cursillistas, our friendship groupings are our opportunity to help our brothers and sisters in Christ stay focused on what we’ve been called to do on this earthly pilgrimage back to Him.

These two holy days, All Saints Day and All Souls Day, and the entire month of November, are then reminders of what God has called us to be, and what He promises for those who die in the hope of the resurrection. May we continue asking our saints to intercede for us, and to pray for the souls of our loved ones, and all Cursillistas who have gone before us.

Continued Blessings!

Deacon Wayne Weiler
Spiritual Advisor, Diocese of Belleville



FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR MARGIE REAKA

There have been a few new happenings for Belleville Cursillo, and I'd like to take this opportunity to share them with the entire Fourth Day.

The 2025 Women's and Men's Weekends will again be held in February. Women's #46 will be February 6 - 9 at Toddhall Retreat Center in Columbia led by Cheryl Rajski, Rectora. Men's #41 will be February 13 - 16 at the King's House at Our Lady of the Snows led by Francisco (Fez) Flores, Rector. Please keep Cheryl and Fez and their teams in your prayers as they prepare for the Weekends.

We are excited to have received a grant from Catholic Services and Ministry Appeal (CSMA). The money will be used to help offset the cost of the Women's and Men's Weekends, to purchase the 2023 *Rector's Guides* for the teams, and to enhance communications with all of you.

Rector's Guides have been purchased, and this month we are kicking off "Flocknotes," our communications that will be used to announce Cursillo events. Flocknotes are used by many parishes in our diocese, and we are thankful to CSMA for giving us the opportunity to use a more enhanced communications approach. There will be no changes to prayer requests, you will continue to send and receive prayer requests through prayersrequested@bellevillecursillo.org.

As in any organization, it takes many volunteers to maintain Belleville Cursillo. And like other organizations some of the volunteer duties involve technical skills, some organizational skills, and some who like talking with people.

Michelle Massey has volunteered to administer and send Flocknotes and would like an assistant. Garry Range handles the technical side of our emails and website and also needs an assistant. Additional technical opportunities are a web designer to enhance and maintain www.bellevillecursillo.org and someone knowledgeable in Excel to help prepare spreadsheets for the Prayer Vigil calls that are made about a month before the Weekends.

Karen Davidson is our Palanca Chairperson and would like an assistant who is comfortable sending emails with attachments.

Other volunteer opportunities are for Cursillo Weekends such as organizing the Thursday evening dinner for the team and candidates or organizing the Sunday closing dinner that so many of our Fourth Day enjoy. In addition, preparing the Prayer Vigil takes many volunteers to make phone calls.

I'm sharing opportunities as some of you may not be aware. Anyone who would like more information or to volunteer for one of these roles mentioned above, please contact me at 618-581-7355 or laydirector@bellevillecursillo.org. A huge thank you to all those who volunteer now and have in past years. Belleville Cursillo could not continue without your spirit and dedication.

May you all have peace, love, and joy throughout the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons!

Margie Reaka
Lay Director/Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator



Diocese of
Belleville



PRECURSILLO DEBBIE BLUME

Make a friend, Be a friend, Bring a friend to Christ!

I am so happy to let everyone know we are preparing for our 2025 Weekends for the men and women! We have been working hard on getting sites around the diocese for a novena before the Weekends; they will start the first weekend in December. More information about locations and times will be coming soon. I hope you will all be able to come to as many of the novenas as possible.

We are having the Weekends back-to-back this year. The Ladies will have their Cursillo Weekend on February 6 - 9, 2025, at Toddhall Retreat Center in Columbia, Illinois. The men will have their Cursillo Weekend at the King's House at Our Lady of the Snows on February 13 - 16, 2025.

Now we need your help to find candidates for the Weekends. You can find the applications on the Belleville Cursillo website at bellevillecursillo.org or contact me at precursillo@bellevillecursillo.org.

De Colores!

Debbie Blume
Precursillo

**CURSILLO COMMITTEE JOHN SCHABERG / FEZ FRANCISCO**

Dear Fourth Day Community:

I consider myself a man of few words, and this month I'd like to add my few words: "Thanks be to God!!!" and "Hooray!!!"

Alright, I have to add more words: I am very happy to say that, with the help of God, we have finally found a way to host our Weekends in the "sweet spot" of pre-Lenten February!!! The Women's Weekend will happen at Toddhall Retreat Center on February 6 - 9, 2025, and the Men's Weekend will be at King's House at Our Lady of the Snows the following weekend, February 13 - 16, 2025.

This gives us the benefits of finding priests and deacons more readily before Lent; of finding candidates who will say "Yes!" outside of the summer vacation and the back-to-school time of year; of being able to hold one combined novena and overlapping formations; and the efficiency of joint phone calls to schedule prayer angels, Palanca, and food angels.

If YOU would like to be an angel to "*set the table and bring the meal,*" here is your opportunity to earn your wings! We are trying to line up a standing sub-committee of angels to make the prayer phone calls for upcoming Weekends. It would be a true joy to have a "standing" (or hovering?) group of angels ready to go for the Weekends, instead of having to recruit them for each and every Weekend down the road. Each angel would make a few phone calls or emails to the Fourth Day in their parish or community, with a script and sign-up details for the Palanca, and find out who is planning to attend the Mañanitas and closing. We will also need angels to actually "set the table" for Thursday evenings and Sundays after closing.

If you are feeling a call to serve in any of those roles (vocations?) please let us know. Of course, this is not a contractual obligation and has no permanent term of service, it's for just as long as you feel the calling, or whenever you are available. It will save a lot of time and anxiety, however, to know that angels are standing by, ready to hit the phones when needed.

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 KAREN DAVIDSON

Dear Fourth Day,

I'd like to thank everyone who attended the Grand Ultreya on September 28 in New Athens. We had a wonderful time meeting the women who made their Cursillo Weekend on August 1 at the King's House at Our Lady of the Snows, as well as sharing our journey with Christ in our friendship grouping, and a delicious potluck lunch.

Janelle Neff gave an enlightening witness talk on how to keep your relationship with Jesus strong and productive by sharing with us some of the ways she keeps on track since she made her Cursillo 10 years ago. She shared scripture readings and reflections from several different magazines, like The Word Among Us, and different prayers that she tapes to the mirror so she can pray them every day. I especially liked it when she showed us her stained teacup, reminding us that we have to clean the inside of ourselves so others can see our beauty from the inside as well as the outside. Good advice!

I'd also like to thank my angels, Julie Davenport, Wendy and Doug McKinney, and Mary Stephens, who stepped in at the last minute when Kim Cooper was taken ill. They worked hard on the planning, setup, and take down for the Grand Ultreya. Anna Feurer and Elaine McClure also did a great job filling the snack bowls before the event. I could not have held this event without them and everyone who pitched in.

A big thank you as well to Mike Fietsam, our musician, and Nancy Myerscough, who led us in our songs for the day!

That's all for now, and may the love, joy, and peace of the Lord be with you all!

Karen Davidson,
Postcursillo



SCHOOL OF LEADERS ANNA FEURER

At our most recent School of Leaders Meeting, the last paragraph of the Leader's Prayer was discussed by all in attendance.

“Help us to maintain at a high level the meaningful supernatural and mutual charity among ourselves, so that each one will seek by preference the most humble tasks and will rejoice at the good performed by others, so that all our spirits united in a common purpose will have one single spirit, Yours Jesus, and that this spirit may let us see Your attractive goodness marked in all our faces, Your warm accents in our words, and in our lives something superior to the world, something that proclaims Your Living Presence among us. Amen.”

This paragraph continues to ask us to pray to maintain an intense level of meaningful supernatural charity among our community, always seeking out the tasks needed with God's help and rejoicing at the deed's others perform, joining together in one common spirit. This single spirit will reflect the face of Jesus and his goodness. May the words that we share be warm and felt by others. That we live our lives admiring everyone and proclaiming Jesus' presence everywhere.

Our plan for our next School of Leaders Meeting is for each attendee to check out the National Cursillo website, and the Resource Center section on the website exploring what is of interest to us to discuss at future meetings. The other challenge is for each of us to invite a Cursillista from our friendship group to the next meeting, so that they may become more aware of what School of Leaders can share with each Cursillista.

Please join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. All are welcome.

De Colores!

Anna Feurer
School of Leaders Chairperson



School of Leaders

• Make a Friend. Be a Friend. Bring a Friend to Christ.

UPCOMING CURSILLO EVENTS MARGIE REAKA

(Please print this page for quick reference)



2025 Belleville Diocesan Cursillo Weekends

Men's Weekend #41 (Applications are available online)
February 13 - 16 - King's House at Our Lady of the Snows
Women's Weekend #46 (Applications are available online)
February 6 - 9 - Toddhall Retreat Center, Columbia

Ultreyas in the Belleville Diocese

St. Joseph/St. Agatha Partnership (Last Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.)
November 25, 2024 - St. Agatha Parish Center
December 2024 - no Ultreya due to the Christmas Holiday
January 27, 2025 - St. Agatha Parish Center

Cathedral Ultreya

Postponed. Please watch for updates.

If anyone is interested in starting an Ultreya at your parish or partnership contact Margie Reaka at laydirector@bellevillecursillo.org

Meetings Belleville Diocese

School of Leaders (2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom)
November 12, 2024, December 10, 2024, January 14, 2025
Zoom Link shared via email sent from Schoolofleaders@bellevillecursillo.org

Secretariat (St. Joseph Parish Center)

November 19, 2024, January 28, 2025

Region IV and National

2024 Fall Encounter (Diocese of Indianapolis/Lafayette, Indiana)
November 15 to 16 – Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, Indianapolis, Indiana
For information contact Margie Reaka at laydirector@bellevillecursillo.org

LOOKING FOR A FRIENDSHIP GROUP REUNION?

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 1st and 3rd 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.

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

NOTE: Prayersrequested@bellevillecursillo.org is read late each day. All prayer requests from this email address are gathered into one email and sent via Cursilloroster <cursilloroster-bounces@bellevillecursillo.org>. We are allowed one mass distribution email per day. (Note that any prayer requests sent to any other address 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

Secretariat Meetings

Watch the Website calendar for meeting dates 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: Postponed, please watch for updates

St. Agatha, New Athens/St. Joseph, Freeburg: Monthly on the last Monday at 7 p.m. August 26th at St. Joseph, September 30th at St. Agatha, October 28th 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 the following information: name of Friendship Group, meeting times, contact information, and location.

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS

Deacon Wayne Weiler, Spiritual Director
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Debbie Blume, Precursillo
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Michelle Massey, Secretary
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Nancy Myerscough, Treasurer
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Karen Davidson, Palanca
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Kent Jeanneret, Evangelizer Newsletter / Cursillo Roster
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Amy Mannino, Prayer Requests
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Mike Fietsam, Prayer Requests
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Pat Butler, Prayer Requests
62864; (618)-204-0167; patbutler007@gmail.com