

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE



THE EVANGELIZER



January 2025

Website: www.BellevilleCursillo.org**FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR** DEACON WAYNE WEILER*"I have called you friends" John 15:15*

"Make a Friend, Be a Friend, Bring a Friend to Christ" At each of our weekends we have all heard these words. These are truly meaningful words for all Cursillistas and they are more than just the Cursillo Movement's motto or a catchy tagline. These few words are central to the continued success of the Cursillo Movement. They are meaningful, because they remind us of how Jesus himself invited His apostles to follow Him and join in his mission. Our weekends are our invitation to a closer walk with Jesus--joining Him on His mission in a true sense of friendship. This time of the Fourth Day beyond our weekend, is our opportunity to build upon that friendship, and to help others to share in the Joy of a closer union with the Most Holy Trinity; friendship is the means toward that closer union.

There are many ways to keep that friendship spirit alive. We do so in our friendship groups, in our ultreyas, and in our personal contact with those we feel might benefit from a Cursillo weekend. A few examples might include, bringing a friend to your group or to an ultreya, invite them to lunch or dinner, share Cursillo literature with someone, and try to offer a Holy Hour or pray a decade of the rosary, often for the person you're considering for a weekend. ***But above all, by your everyday lived witness to Jesus, let them see Him through you by your words and deeds--in your authentic piety, in your fervent study, and in your charitable actions.*** In doing so, we make friends for Christ and for ourselves, one person at a time!

I hope all might prayerfully rededicate ourselves to find that Joy we felt on the Sunday afternoon of our own Cursillo weekend and reach out to share it with others. Cursillo makes a difference in the lives of many, may we find Joy in our new and enduring friendships--with Christ at the center of them all.

Make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ!

De Colores

Deacon Wayne



FROM THE DIOCESAN CURSILLO COORDINATOR/LAY DIRECTOR MARGIE REAKA

In August 2015 my husband, Tom and I took our first trip to Europe – we visited England and Ireland. We didn't have a travel agent, rather we planned everything ourselves through lots of research, website searches and determination. During our travels we met with a friend in Bathe, England, then flew to the southern part of Ireland, rented a car (drove on the wrong side of the road) and eventually took a train to meet friends in Dublin, Ireland. I felt so confident in our plans, until we got to Ireland and realized we weren't world travelers – just an excited couple exploring a new country. Throughout our time in England and Ireland, we met our share of challenges, but each time we were challenged, we persevered and somehow got through it. And each time we successfully met a challenge, we said, "God is good all the time, all the time God is good."

Belleville Cursillo has been challenged this year, as you probably have heard, the 2025 Cursillo weekends have been postponed. We persevered and we got through it. We found out unexpectedly there are weekends available this summer – July 17 to 20 for the Women at Toddhall and August 7 to 10 for the Men at the King's House. Yes, "God is good all the time, all the time God is good."

We are fortunate that most team members from the February weekends have already agreed to serve on the July/August weekends. We ask the 4th Day to continue with their prayers, friendships, and perseverance for those who are discerning the weekend as well as for the teams. May God send His graces upon all.

And a huge THANK YOU to those who worked so hard these past months preparing for the weekends. Cheryl Rajski, Rectora and her team, Francisco Flores, Rector and his team, and all those who made calls to fill the prayer vigils.

On another note, two members of the Secretariat have completed their terms. We are blessed to have had both John Schaberg, Cursillo Chairperson, and Michelle Massey, Secretary, serve for four years. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for the Belleville Cursillo movement! We are pleased to welcome Francisco Flores as Cursillo Chairperson and Christie Reyling as Secretary. Both will join the Secretariat on March 1, 2025 and serve for three years.

Moving forward towards our July/August weekends and welcoming our new Secretariat members, I am reminded of Romans 8:28 – "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

Love, Joy and Peace,

Margie Reaka
Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator/Lay Director



PRECURSILLO DEBBIE BLUME

Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ!

There is so much happening to prepare for our upcoming weekends.

Our Men's and Women's team are hard at work preparing for the upcoming weekends. The Women are having their weekend July 17-20, 2025. The women will hold their weekend at Todd Hall Retreat center in Columbia, Ill. The Men's weekend will be August 7-10, 2025 at Kings House at the Shrine.

The Angels are also working hard on preparing the meals for both weekends. They are busy planning for our Thursday night welcome meal as well as organizing the closing meals for our new Cursillistas and all 4th day who can make it to the closing.

There have been many coming out to pray a special Novena for the weekend for the past few weeks.

There have been phone calls being made for prayers during both weekends. I would like to say thank you to all who will be praying for our teams and new candidates during the weekends.

Both the men and women have been blessed to have wonderful Spiritual Advisors who have made the time in their schedules to be with the teams and new candidates.

No matter how much preparation there is getting ready for the weekend, the weekend would not be possible without our sponsors and new candidates. Thank you to our sponsors for bringing a friend to Cursillo and thank you to the candidates for saying yes to Cursillo.

You can find the applications on the website at bellevillecursillo.org.

De Colores!

Debbie Blume
Precursillo



CURSILLO COMMITTEE JOHN SCHABERG / FEZ FRANCISCO

Dear 4th Day Community:

I was prepared to write this, **my last column** (*Hooray, says everyone!*), on the subject of sacrifice. But then disappointment came flooding in.

Sacrifice:

- We were planning the Women's Weekend for Feb. 6th through Feb. 9th, and we had a few folks mention that the 9th is **Super Bowl Sunday**. That would raise an apparent conflict with the Women's Closing, and perhaps cause some to turn down the invitation to Cursillo this time around.
- We were also planning to have the Men's Weekend on Feb. 13th through 16th, and some men and women mentioned that this would require the Men to miss **Valentine's Day** on the 14th. Again, this might cause some to say "No" this time around.
- My column was going to say that, **without sacrifice, there cannot be love**. Love requires sacrifice, and Love makes sacrifice worthwhile. Love is Action for the Good of the Other, and acting out of love requires sacrifice.
- **The Teams and New Cursillistas were prepared to make the sacrifice of Super Bowl and Valentine's Day for the love of Jesus and for the good of the others.**

Disappointment:

- Well, turns out we didn't have to make those sacrifices! In a sense, **we sacrificed the Weekends for the good of the others**, those who **could not make their Cursillo Weekends** at this time, and those who **would not experience the full encounter with others**, if there were not enough men or women to fill the tables. But perhaps, **with prayer and palanca, they can make it next time.**
- So, although the Teams and Secretariat are crestfallen, we are also warmly **optimistic** and filled with faith that the **Holy Spirit is working:**
 - by **requiring sacrifice**, and
 - by making us **face our disappointment** with resolve to **Make a Friend, Be a Friend, and Bring that Friend to Christ!**

We should **continue the process of inviting our friends** to the July and August Weekends **now**, instead of waiting until June to fill our tables. **Prayer and Palanca, Palanca and Prayer!** Faith delayed is not faith denied, but **Action delayed is Action not taken!**

I sincerely want to express my **thanks to Francisco (Fez) Flores** for his service as Rector for the 2024 and 2025 Men's Weekends Teams, and for accepting the Chair of the Cursillo Committee effective Feb. 28th. Also thanks to **Margie Reaka, Cheryl Rajski, Sharon Gugliotta, and all those Cursillistas** who took up the search for Angels for our Weekends in the past 4 years, leading the Prayer Angels and the Dinner and Closing Angels. And thanks to the Angels who accepted those tasks. You all helped bring our friends to Christ during some very challenging times – Venues closing, Covid, Zoom meetings, and the list goes on. And Thanks Be to God for such willing and loving servants!

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

Hello Friends in Christ,

I hope you are all doing well on your Cursillo journey. Sometimes this journey can be challenging and difficult decisions need to be made. And as most of you may already know, we had to postpone the women's and men's weekends due to lack of candidates.

The next women's weekend will be held on July 17th-20th at Todd Hall and the men's weekend will be August 7th-10th. I pray that we all will reach out to our friends and invite them to make a Cursillo Weekend. Make a friend, Be a friend and Bring that friend to Christ.

We will still have a Grand Ultreya which is scheduled for Saturday, March 29th. The event will be held at the Cathedral Undercroft and it will include a potluck lunch, friendship grouping, and Nancy Nuernberger will give her witness talk. Nancy is a dedicated 4th day member and I know her witness will be an inspiration to us all.

The Grand Ultreya will begin at 12:30 p.m but the doors will open at 12:00 p.m. if you want to bring your potluck dish a little early. That way we can begin the luncheon at 12:30 p.m. sharp.

We will conclude around 3:45 p.m. so that we can attend the 4:00 p.m. mass at the Cathedral. I hope you can fit the Ultreya and mass into your hectic schedule because I feel it would be a wonderful experience if we could all attend mass as a group.

I read a reflection that stated: When you don't feel like being with other Christians, that is when you need your Christian brothers and sisters more than ever. "Where a lone man may be overcome, two together can resist. A three-ply cord is not easily broken" (Eccl 4:12).

I will be sending out a reminder for the Grand Ultreya through the Cursillo Flock Note prior to the event. I will include a list of food that is needed so you can bring your favorite dish to share with your fellow 4th day members.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Grand Ultreya so we can share our faith with one another. May the Love of God be with you all.

Love, Joy, Peace,
Karen Davidson



SCHOOL OF LEADERS ANNA FEURER

During the past few months of School of Leaders, we decided to explore the National Cursillo website. We chose to discuss Friendship in the Cursillo, and the importance of this friendship for our Cursillo Movement.

The Cursillo is a method of growing closer to Jesus Christ. The Cursillo in Christianity approaches the conversion of these friends by three distinct phases: Precursillo, Cursillo and Postcursillo.

This method, if understood and lived, is the path the cursillistas follows to go beyond from where he or she is to where God wants them to be. Cursillo is the method, the path it follows to achieve its purpose; is the friendship between people. Making friends, being friends, and making those friends, friends of Jesus Christ.

We began our discussion on friendship in Precursillo. When speaking of Precursillo, we think of those Christians who can, who should or who should not live the experience of Cursillo. Precursillo is directed towards those who invite others to live the Cursillo experience and the group of leaders who will serve in the Cursillo. The witness of those who invite (sponsors) and the work of the leaders are like the Sower of the seed; preparing the ground and taking care of the seed. The seed will then produce much fruit.

We will continue to discuss in our upcoming School of Leaders on friendship in Cursillo and in Postcursillo. Please consider joining us on the second Tuesday of the month.

DeColores!

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

(The 2025 weekends were postponed from February)

Women's Weekend #46 (Applications are available online)

July 17-20 – Todd Hall, Columbia

Men's Weekend #41 (Applications are available online)

August 7-10 – King's House at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows

Ultreyas in the Belleville Diocese

Grand Ultreya

March 29 at 12:30pm – Cathedral Undercroft

St. Joseph/St. Agatha Partnership (Last Monday of the month at 7:00pm)

February 24 – St. Joseph Parish Center

March 31 – St. Agatha Parish Center

April 28 – St. Joseph 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 7:00pm, via Zoom)

March 11, April 8, May 13

Zoom Link shared via email sent from Schoolofleaders@bellevillecursillo.org

Secretariat (St. Joseph Parish Center)

April 1, May 27

Region IV and National

2025 Spring Encounter (Diocese of Memphis, Tennessee)

April 25-27 -- Our Lady Queen of Peace Retreat Center, Stanton Tennessee

November 15 to 16 – Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, Indianapolis, Indiana

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 Krisfaluzy (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. February 24 at St. Joseph, March 31 at St. Agatha, April 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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