

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE



THE EVANGELIZER



April 2025

Website: www.BellevilleCursillo.org**FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR** DEACON WAYNE WEILER

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Fourth Day,

“Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples.” (Matthew 28:8)

What horrifying emotion the women must have felt upon hearing from the angel that Jesus was not in the tomb where they had personally laid him to rest. They most surely were afraid of what His missing body meant, while at the same time being overwhelmed by the possibility that what He had promised may have actually happened. They are in a time between fear and joy, in a time between uncertainty and answers.

Don't we also experience these feelings? We can find ourselves with these same emotions when we receive news that is too hard to handle on our own, when our doubt overtakes our faith, or when our frustrations get the better of our joy.

It is in the midst of these times, between fear and joy, when we must put our trust in God the most. Because isn't this where we come to know His immense love, where our faith grows stronger, and where our hope in Him is found? For in that hope, we rise from the tomb of anxiety and despair and all that gets in the way of our joy. The Easter message is on full display in our unwavering hope.

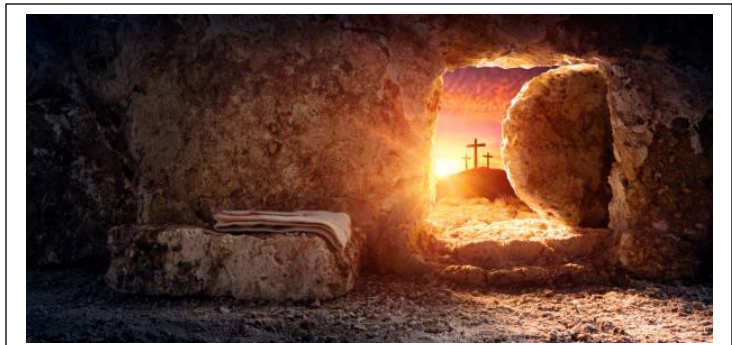
The Cursillo journey is one of hope, enhanced by our piety, study, and action. It is, in a real way, an experience of resurrection, of sharing our own dying and rising in the circumstances of daily living. This is why our friendship groups are so important - we need one another, all of us, to help carry one another's burdens and share in our joys.

In his prayer for this Jubilee Year, Pope Francis asked us to be “Pilgrims of Hope.” He gave us these wonderful words of prayer, “Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed **hope** for the coming of your Kingdom.” May he rest in Peace!

May we never lose sight of this Hope!

Blessed Eastertide to all, and De Colores!

Deacon Wayne



FROM THE DIOCESAN CURSILLO COORDINATOR/LAY DIRECTOR MARGIE REAKA

“I started my Cursillo Journey at Belleville Women’s #34, and I sat at the Table of St. Bernadette.”

My Cursillo Weekend was in February 2012, and still, when I introduce myself at any Cursillo event, I get emotional as I reflect on so many things that happened that Weekend. What do you remember about your Weekend that helps keep you on fire?

Was it one or two of the rollos given by team members?

Was it one of the meditations given by spiritual advisors?

Or maybe you had an opportunity to go to confession?

Or was it the friends or the table leader at your table?

Or was it receiving your Cursillo Cross and Service Sheet?

How about singing De Colores?

Maybe the fiesta or a special dinner?

What about your visits to the Blessed Sacrament?

Was there something said in one of the homilies that you still remember?

(For newer Cursillistas) Was it the 4th Day singing Mañanitas early on Sunday?

Or was it the Closing Ceremony/Closing Dinner with the 4th Day on Sunday evening?

Now that you’ve had a chance to think about your special moments, I’ll share mine. My most influential moments from my Weekend were the *Study Rollo* (I thought only non-Catholics studied the Bible or other religious books) and *Total Security Rollo*, the meditations, visits to the Blessed Sacrament, receiving my Cursillo Cross and Service Sheet at Closing and the many 4th Day who attended, the hymn – *The Summons* (still makes me cry), and last but not least, the many friends I made that Weekend and the opportunity to meet and become friends with so many Cursillistas over the past 13 years.

What a beautiful gift each of us has been given. I’ve shared this gift with friends, encouraging many and sponsoring some, and will be a sponsor again this year. Whom do you know that you can share the gift of Cursillo with? Who will you sponsor?

Love, Joy and Peace,

Margie Reaka

Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator/Lay Director



Diocese of
Belleville



PRECURSILLO DEBBIE BLUME

Jesus said to his disciples, "I will make you fishers of men."

That is what Christ is asking all of us to do right now as the teams start preparing for the upcoming Weekends, to go out and become fishers of men. We are all called and chosen to spread His word to others.

The women will have their Weekend from July 17-20, 2025, at the Toddhall Retreat Center in Columbia, Illinois, and the men will have their Weekend from August 7-10, 2025, at Kings House at the Shrine. The Weekends will only happen if you bring a friend to the Weekend.

I ask that you keep the teams in your prayers as they prepare their hearts and talks for their respective Weekends. We currently have four men and four women who are committed to being candidates, I ask that you pray for them as they prepare their hearts for the experience that awaits them. Pray also for those who are in your heart to be a possible candidate for the Weekend that they say, "Yes!" to the Weekend.

The applications for the candidates and sponsors can be found online at bellevillecursillo.org. Please feel free to contact me anytime if you have any questions (618-806-6951).

Remember to "Make a friend. Be a friend. Bring a friend to Christ."

De Colores!

Debbie Blume
Precursillo Chairperson



POSTCURSILLO KAREN DAVIDSON

Hello Friends in Christ,

Hope everyone had a wonderful Easter celebrating the resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is though His death and resurrection that we are blessed with the life He has given us. May we continue to use this life wisely by always putting God first! Then everything else will fall into place.

This is the way I felt as I prepared for the Grand Ultreya which was held on March 29 at St. Peter's Cathedral undercroft in Belleville. There were many decisions that had to be made and there were many hiccups along the way. But with the guidance from my 4th Day friends, the event was a huge success.

I am ever grateful to Nancy Nuernberger who said "YES" to give a witness talk. She is a true inspiration to all by the way she has lived her 4th Day. God called her to do many acts of service for him and she went above and beyond.

A big thank you as well to seminarian Casmir Cozzi who gave a talk on friendship, which was the theme for the Grand Ultreya. He compared Adam and Eve's relationship with God in the Garden of Eden as being the same as our relationship that we have with God today. Very enlightening. May God continue to bless him.

This event would not have been a success without the Cursillo angels who helped me bring everything together. So, I'd like to thank Juile Weber who was our musician for the event. She always does an amazing job. I'd also like to thank Kim Cooper, Mary Stephens, Rebecca Miller, and Loretta Kramer. These ladies were there for the setup before the event started, helped with food and grouping during the event, and helped clean up after the event. I am ever so grateful to all of you.

The next Grand Ultreya will be held sometime in the fall. Hopefully, it will include a reunion for those men and women who will make their Cursillo Weekends in July and August of 2025. More details will be sent closer to the date.

May God's love be with you.

Love, Joy, Peace,

Karen Davidson
Postcursillo



SCHOOL OF LEADERS ANNA FEURER

The School of Leaders has continued to discuss Friendship in the Cursillo, that is the Cursillo Weekend. We talked about how the second phase of the Foundational Charism's methodology is the Cursillo Weekend.

Friendship and love of God in Jesus Christ is the center of what is fundamental for being Christian, and in the Cursillo Weekend. Friendship is the best method to share Jesus' friendship and love to all Cursillistas.

Friendship, prayer, and sacrifice affect the apostolic success of the Cursillo Weekend. We need to reflect on how friendship affects the team serving on the Cursillo Weekend, our spirituality and loyalty to the Charism is of most importance along with all the planning of the Weekend and then the needs of the new Cursillistas after the Weekend. Palanca (prayers and sacrifices) is essential for the effectiveness of the Weekend by so many of the 4th Day.

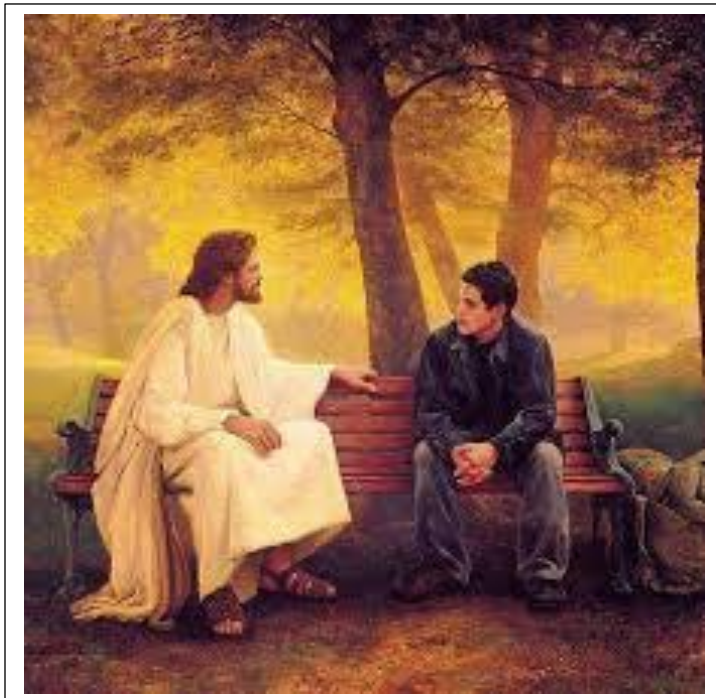
Deacon Wayne shared a thought from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Friendship represents a great good for all. It leads to spiritual communion." (CCC 2347)

Friendship, when Christ is at the center of it, helps us to better recognize his presence with us through that friendship, and our desire to be in union with him. This is the great beauty of Cursillo. It draws us all closer to Jesus through Christian friendship with one another. This, too, is spiritual communion.

At the next School of Leaders meeting we will discuss Friendship in Postcursillo. Please join us on the second Tuesday of the month.

De Colores!

Anna Feurer
School of Leaders Chairperson



UPCOMING CURSILLO EVENTS MARGIE REAKA

(Please print this page for quick reference)



2025 Belleville Diocesan Cursillo Weekends

Women's Weekend #46 (Applications are available online: <https://bellevillecursillo.org>)

July 17-20 – Todd Hall, Columbia

Men's Weekend #41 (Applications are available online: <https://bellevillecursillo.org>)

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

As the weekends approach, please watch Flocknotes/Emails for information about Prayer Vigil, Mananitas, and Closing.

Ultreyas in the Belleville Diocese

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

May – not held due to Memorial Day

June 30 – St. Joseph Parish Center

July 28 – St. Agatha Parish Center

Belleville/O'Fallon Area Ultreya (Third Tuesday of the month following 5:30 pm Mass)

May 20 – St. Teresa Rectory Basement

June 17 – St. Teresa Rectory Basement

July 15 - St. Teresa Rectory Basement

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

Meetings in the Belleville Diocese

School of Leaders (2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm, via Zoom)

May 13, June 10, July 8

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

Secretariat (St. Joseph Parish Center)

May 27, July 29

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

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 Deacon 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 Krisfaluzzy (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 / O'Fallon Area: Monthly on the third Tuesday following 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Teresa rectory basement in Belleville

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
(618) 277-3824; wlweiler@gmail.com

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

Anna Feurer, School of Leaders / Prayer Requests
(618) 779-1388; annafeurer56@gmail.com

Debbie Blume, Precursillo
(618) 806-6951; deblu@sbcglobal.net

Francisco “Fez” Flores, Co-Cursillo Chair
(843) 553-7077; faflores1@hotmail.com

Karen Davidson, Post Cursillo
(618) 670-8383; krau16@yahoo.com

Christie Reyling, Secretary
(618)-580-4471; tcreyling@yahoo.com

Nancy Myerscough, Treasurer
(618) 830-6322; mrmrsm64@sbcglobal.net

SECRETARIAT AD HOC COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

Karen Davidson, Palanca
(618) 670-8383; krau16@yahoo.com

Kent Jeanneret, Evangelizer Newsletter / Cursillo Roster
(618) 531-8855; jeannerk@charter.net

Garry Range, Website
(618) 401-9677; g.range@charter.net

Amy Mannino, Prayer Requests
(618) 979-5067; amy.mannino@att.net

Mike Fietsam, Prayer Requests
(618) 910-4633; mfietsam@gmail.com

Pat Butler, Prayer Requests
62864; (618)-204-0167; patbutler007@gmail.com