

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE



THE EVANGELIZER



July – August 2025

Website: www.BellevilleCursillo.org

FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR DEACON WAYNE WEILER

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Fourth Day,

“Yours the day and yours the night too; you set the moon and sun in place. You fixed all the limits of the earth; summer and winter you made.” Psalm 74:16-17

I hope everyone has had some time to take in the joys of the summer season to unwind and relax, if only for short while. It seems hard to imagine that summer’s end is upon us. It’s another amazing sign of our journey through the seasons that God has so generously blessed us with.

The changing of the seasons give us opportunities to reflect back and to look forward; reflect on passed events, while also anticipating what awaits us. I see these opportunities of reflection and anticipation as a mirror of what we have all experienced on our Three-Day Cursillo weekends. There, we are asked to focus on knowing self, Jesus, and our church community more closely; all in order to develop and keep a true friendship with Christ alive and burning in our hearts.

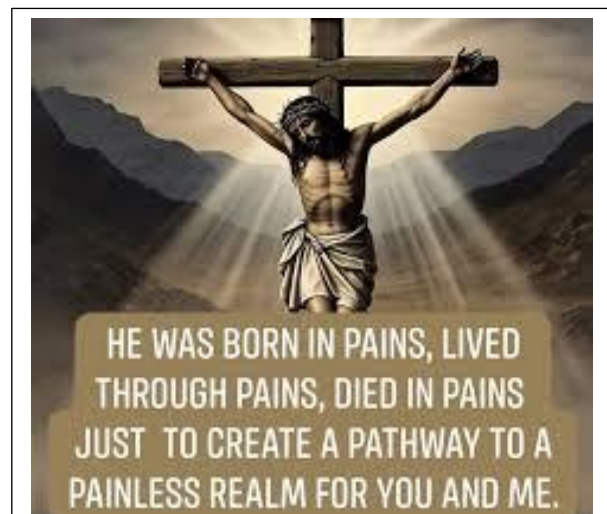
Our Fourth Day community has much to reflect on and much more to anticipate through our lived and shared witness of Him in our environments, wherever they may be. We can certainly reflect on the many answered prayers and Palanca that made our recent Women and Men’s weekends such spirit-filled experiences. The candidates and team members saw firsthand the power of the Holy Spirit in action. Now, we joyfully anticipate our new Cursillistas, our new friends in Christ, doing amazing things for Him, themselves, and others, through His Holy Church.

We reflect too in gratitude for the many hours of preparation on the part of the teams that made these weekends possible. To Cheryl Rajski, Rectora and John Schaberg, Rector, we can’t thank you enough for your dedication to the Cursillo Movement of the Belleville Diocese. You and your teams were far more than facilitators of a great weekend, you were *animators* of Christ’s Love, Joy, and Peace.

May this, and all our seasons, be filled always with God’s living Hope found in Jesus!

De Colores

Deacon Wayne Weiler
Spiritual Advisor to the Cursillo Secretariate
Diocese of Belleville



FROM THE DIOCESAN CURSILLO COORDINATOR MARGIE REAKA

Happy New Year! No, you didn't miss Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas; I'm referring to a Cursillo New Year. Let me explain...

In our everyday life we use the Gregorian Calendar – starting each New Year on January 1.

Many businesses use a Fiscal Year calendar – starting their New Year on July 1.

As Christians and Catholics we use a liturgical calendar – starting the New Year on the first Sunday of Advent.

I'm proposing a Cursillo calendar – starting a New Year the month following completion of the Men's and Women's Weekends; this year it is September. I like that it gives us cause to review and reflect on what we accomplished and look forward to a new year filled with faith, friendship and evangelization.

Looking back over the past year...

- **New Cursillistas:** The 4th Day welcomed 30 new cursillistas from 15 parishes across the Belleville Diocese. Cheryl Rasjki, Rectora, and her team led 19 women and Father Harold Fischer, (on team as Spiritual Advisor) to make their Cursillo. John Schaberg, Rector, and his team led 11 men, including Deacon Arthur Hampton, making their Cursillo. In addition to the teams, about 50 angels from the 4th Day Community helped with the Prayer Vigil calls, Thursday evening dinners, Mananitas, and the Closing Potlucks.

We are so excited to have our newest cursillistas as part of our 4th Day! WELCOME!

- **Ultreyas:** Karen Davidson, Postcursillo Chairperson, organized two Grand Ultreyas this past year (September 28, 2024 and March 29, 2025) where many of the 4th Day came together to pray, hear a 4th Day witness, and share their friendship.

An Ultreya Committee was formed and they successfully revived the Cathedral Ultreya, which is now known as the Belleville Area Ultreya. The Belleville Area Ultreya, which began in April, is held monthly on the second Tuesday at St. Teresa Parish immediately following 5:30pm Mass.

The St. Agatha/St. Joseph Ultreya has become the St. Agatha/St. Joseph/St. John the Baptist Ultreya as St. John the Baptist, Smithton, began sharing hosting responsibilities. This Ultreya meets on the last Monday of the month at 7pm, alternating locations.

- **School of Leaders:** Under the leadership of Anna Feurer, School of Leaders meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 7pm. The majority of the year was spent reviewing National Cursillo articles on *Friendship*. Those who attended (ranging from long-time cursillistas to those who very recently made a Cursillo) were amazed at what they learned during the discussions.

- **Synodal Listening Session:** On August 20, xx 4th Day met at St. Agatha, New Athens to share and discuss their thoughts on the future of the Belleville Diocese from the perspective of Cursillistas. We were pleased to be a part of this diocesan initiative.
- **Prayer Requests:** Our Prayer Request Team sent out more than 100 prayer requests this past year. Our 4th Day who request prayers for their loved ones are comforted knowing more than 500 cursillistas are praying for their intentions.
- **Flocknote Emails:** In November 2024, we began sending Cursillo event notices to the 4th Day via Flocknotes. Michelle Massey creates and sends colorful, easier-to-read emails. We hope you are enjoying the new format.
- **CSMA Grant:** The Belleville Diocesan Cursillo was granted \$2100 from the Belleville Diocese Catholic Services and Ministry Appeal. The money was used to purchase updated Rector's Guides for team members' use, pay monthly Flocknote fees, and help with some Cursillo weekend costs.
- **Fundraising:** With increasing costs to Retreat Centers, the Secretariat launched a fundraising campaign in January to supplement some of the cost of the weekend for team members and religious. Thanks to many 4th Day who contributed as we raised more than \$2,500.
- **The 4th Day:** Throughout the year many of our 4th Day helped with setting up and bringing food to Grand Ultreyas, facilitating the monthly Ultreyas, sending prayer requests, sponsoring candidates, praying for our candidates, attending Mananitas and Closings, and continuing to spread information about Cursillo. There are too many to mention by name (and I hesitate to mention names as someone may be inadvertently missed). Please know, we couldn't do it without you.

The upcoming year:

The Secretariat has several initiatives for the upcoming year, with the most important being the Men's and Women's Weekends. We are pleased that both 2026 weekends will be held at the King's House at Our Lady of the Snows.

Women's #47 – August 6 to 9, 2026

Men's #42 – August 20 to 23, 2026

The Ultreya committee is committed to adding one or two ultreyas in the southern regions of our diocese as well as in Clinton County and plans are well underway for a Grand Ultreya on October 18, 2025.

School of Leaders is anxious to study *Whom Shall I Send; Discerning the Will of God*, beginning in October. This study came highly recommended by our Region IV Coordinator.

The Secretariat is working hard to continue various opportunities for the 4th Day regardless of where you are located in the diocese. The Secretariat realizes the constraints of living many miles from the Belleville Area (the seat of the Belleville Diocese) and the challenges making everyone feel connected.

If you would like to be a part of any of these initiatives or have ideas on other initiatives for the Secretariat to consider, please contact me at 618-581-7355.

Peace, love and joy,
Margie Reaka, Belleville Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator



POSTCURSILLO KAREN DAVIDSON

Dear 4th day,

How wonderful it was to greet the 19 women and 11 men who made their Cursillo weekends on July 17 and August 8th. I'd like to say welcome to these new 4th day members and share that I enjoyed listening as you witnessed and how it will make a difference in your life. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide you on this new journey.

I invite all 4th day, new and old to attend the Grand Ultreya/Reunion

When: Saturday, October 18th, 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Place: Corpus Christi Catholic Church
205 Rasp Street
O'Fallon, IL 62269**

There will be a witness talk (tba), a group reunion, and of course, a delicious potluck.

- ATTENTION NEW 4th day members: This event is to welcome YOU so please do not bring a dish! Just come and enjoy your friendship with us.

Food list for all other 4th day members:

A-H Casseroles/Meat Dishes

I-S Desserts/Cheeses/Bread

T-Z Fruits/Vegetables/Dip/Salads/Pasta Dishes

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in October at the Grand Ultreya/Reunion. I'll be sending out a reminder through the Cursillo Flock Note prior to the Event.

May God's peace be with you!

Love, Joy, Peace,
Karen Davidson
Post Cursillo



MEN AND WOMEN WEEKENDS JOHN SCHABERG AND CHERYL RAJSKI**Welcome our Newest Cursillistas**

The Diocese of Belleville *Cursillo in Christianity* welcomed 31 new Cursillistas - 19 women and one man (a Priest) in July, and 11 men in August. We have all received abundant and amazing graces from our most gracious and loving God concerning the Men's and Women's Weekends.

The new Women (and a priest!) Cursillistas are **Ami Assogba**, *St Luke/Belleville*; **Amy Uptergrove**, *Holy Childhood/Mascoutah*; **Karen Kalous**, *St. Nicholas/Pocahontas*; **Lisa Riess**, *St Augustine/Belleville*; **Kris Hoppenjan**, *St Luke/Belleville*; **Michelle Lucker**, *Holy Trinity/Fairview Heights*; **Debbie Nash**, *Holy Trinity/Fairview Heights*; **Tiffany Fusek**, *St John/Smithton*; **Jenny Hamilton**, *St John/Smithton*; **Lauren Robinson**, *St Teresa/Belleville*; **Terry Kessinger**, *St Andrews/Murphysboro*; **Nicole Green**, *St Teresa/Belleville*; **Jennifer McGuire**, *Cathedral/Belleville*; **Licia Rowe**, *St Teresa/Belleville*; **Beth Thurman**, *St Teresa/Belleville*; **Mary Jo Huettnner**, *Cathedral/Belleville*; **Kathy Conner**, *St Charles Borromeo /Dubois*; **Cindy Courtney**, *Holy Spirit/Carterville*; **Pamela Nicita-McDonald**, *Holy Spirit/Carterville*; **Fr. Harold Fisher**, *Holy Rosary, Fairmont City*

The new Men Cursillistas are **Kevin Bouse**, *St. Teresa/Belleville*; **Michael Brand**, *St. Bruno/Pinckneyville*; **Sean Ditch**, *St. Dominic/Breese*; **Stephen Dunn**, *St. Teresa/Belleville*; **Mark Gass**, *St. Teresa/Belleville*; **Doug Hamilton**, *St. Teresa/Belleville*; **Ronald Hamilton**, *St. John the Baptist/Smithton*; **Deacon Arthur Hampton**, *Queen of Peace/SAFB*; *Holy Trinity/Fairview Heights*; **Stephen/Caseyville**; **Jim Myerscough**, *St. John the Baptist/Smithton*; **Thomas Spittler**, *Holy Childhood/Mascoutah*, and **Christopher Stuhldreher**, *Corpus Christi, Shiloh*.

Women's #46 was held July 17 through July 20 at Toddhall Retreat Center in Columbia, IL. The Women's #46 team: Cheryl Rajski, Rectora; Debbie Blume, Assistant Rectora; Spiritual Advisors: Fr. Harold Fisher, OMI, Dcn. Wayne Weiler and Dcn. Jim Law; Stewards: Anna Feurer, Debbie Ecker and Carol Geluck; Table Team Leaders and Assistants: Kim Cooper, Karen Davidson, Michelle Massy, Marlene Rodriguez and Mary Stephens; Musician for Sunday mass and Closing: Jean Reinneck.

Men's #41 was held August 7 through 10 at King's House at the Shrine of our Lady of the Snows. The Men's #41 team: John I. Schaberg, Rector; Bob McCormack, Co-Rector; Fr. Nick Junker, Dcn Wayne Weiler and Dcn. Corby Valentine, Spiritual Advisors; Guy "Hawk" Hawkins and Rich Majewski, Stewards; Aaron Augustine, Andrew "Randy" Ganey, Angelo "Paul" Numi, Jim Ruppel, Steve Schaefer, Table Team Leaders and Assistants; Angelo "Paul" Numi, Musician for De Colores, Mass and Closing.

We would like to thank the 4th Day for attending weekly novenas, doing Palanca, writing letters, maintaining the prayer vigil, sponsoring Candidates, getting Candidates to the right place at the right time, providing Thursday dinner and Sunday potluck, serenading the Weekends with Mananitas, attending Closings, and keeping the Teams and Candidates in their prayers throughout Formation and the Weekends.

Let us give thanksgiving, praise, glory, blessing and adoration to our almighty God for all the benefits he has given us. We count on the Holy Spirit which Jesus gives to us. Christ is counting on us, and we are counting on Him.

Peace and De Colores,
 Cheryl Rajski – Rectora, Women's #46
 John Schaberg – Rector, Men's #41



Front Row: Michelle Lucker, Karen Davidson, Debbie Ecker, Marlene Rodriguez: **Second Row:** Carol Geluck, Mary Stephens, Dcn. Wayne Weiler, Cheryl Rajski, Debbie Blume, Dcn. Jim Law, Michelle Massey, Kim Cooper: **Third Row:** Tiffany Fusek, Kris Hoppenjans, Jenny Hamilton, Cindy Courtney, Beth Thurman, Mary Jo Huettnner, Jeni McGuire, Pamela Nicita-McDonald, Lisa Riess, Ami Assogba, Anna Fuerer: **Fourth Row:** Kathy Conner, Terry Kessinger, Debbie Nash, Licia Rowe, Lauren Robinson, Amy Uptergrove, Karen Kalous, Nicole Green



Front row (left to right): Dcn Arthur Hampton, Guy “Hawk” Hawkins, Bob McCormack, Angelo “Paul” Numi, Michael Brand, Kevin Bouse, Jim Ruppel, Fr. Nick Junker; **Back rows:** Dcn. Wayne Weiler, Dcn. Corby Valentine, Doug Hamilton, John Schaberg, Mark Gass, Thomas Spitler, Sean Ditch, Jim Myerscough, Rich Majewski, Christopher Stuhldreher, Andrew “Randy” Ganey, Stephen Dunn, Ronald Hamilton, Aaron Augustine, Steve Schaefer.



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 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 / 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, Cursillo
(843) 553-7077; faflores1@hotmail.com

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Nancy Myerscough, Treasurer
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