

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

**THE EVANGELIZER****June-August 2026****Website: www.BellevilleCursillo.org****FROM THE CURSILLO SECRETARIAT SPIRITUAL ADVISOR DEACON JIM LAW**

Our Men's and Women's Weekends are over; we've left the friendly confines of the King's House at Our Lady of the Snows. Lives have changed, and yet we have returned to our regular lives. But **how** did we return?

The first Monday after each Weekend was a feast day, a day the Church remembers a particular saint. It is in each one of these saints that we can see ourselves. St. Lawrence's feast day followed the Women's Weekend. St. Lawrence was a deacon; he was also martyred. He died by being put on a gridiron over an open fire; so, in fact he was grilled to death. But what is interesting, and applies to each of us, is that a martyr is said to die twice: the first is in their total surrender of self, and the second is a physical death. In a sense, we are martyrs. Our Cursillo Weekend made us more aware of our "dying to self." We can serve others better because we are no longer focused on ourselves. It is Christ who gives us the strength to let go.

The saint whose feast day followed the Men's Weekend was St. Bartholomew. We probably know him better as Nathanael, from John's Gospel. He's the one who, at being made aware of the Good News, asks "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Yes, he was skeptical. I see in all of us, me included, that we were skeptical about coming to our Weekend; yet the invitation of "Come and see" is an invitation we couldn't resist.

Jesus' presence in both of these saints' lives is undeniable. Because of Christ, they were able to do things that, on their own, they would never have accomplished. We have come to know Christ in a more intimate way than we did before our Weekend started. Our lives are changed. Let us go forth and invite others to "Come and see" so that they, too may live for Christ.

Deacon Jim Law
Spiritual Advisor to the Cursillo Secretariat
Diocese of Belleville



FROM THE DIOCESAN CURSILLO COORDINATOR MARGIE REAKA

A very warm welcome to the 17 women and 10 men who began their Cursillo journey in August. We are blessed that you said yes to the call and look forward to sharing your 4th Day journey. Special thanks to Debbie Blume, Rectora, and John Schaberg, Rector, as well as the sponsors, the teams, the angels who helped in the background, and all those who took part in our Prayer Vigil. In total for the two Weekends, there were 412 hours of prayers by our 4th Day, an average of three people praying each hour, keeping a continuous 72-hour prayer vigil for both the Women's and Men's Weekends! We are so blessed to have such an active 4th Day in our Belleville Cursillo Community that help make our Weekends and events successful.

New cursillistas, you may be wondering what all the "4th Day" talk is about. To simply state, the first three days of your Cursillo were the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of your Weekend. When you left the Cursillo on Sunday, you began your 4th Day, which is for the rest of your life. Additionally, we consider 4th Day as everyone who has made a Cursillo. It's the entire Cursillo Community. Being active in your 4th Day is the only method to preserve the feeling of closeness to the Holy Spirit that you felt during your Weekend. While you all learned about the Cursillo method at your Weekend, I'll share a quick overview. I can assure you this has kept my fire alive since 2012.

- ☆ Meet regularly with your Friendship Group
- ☆ Attend monthly Ultreyas in your area
- ☆ Attend the Belleville Diocesan Grand Ultreyas in Spring and Fall
- ☆ Become a member of the School of Leaders

To keep our 4th Day informed of these events and to share requests for prayers from our 4th Day for those in need, we communicate through email.

- ✠ You will receive event notifications from **Belleville Cursillo**. A monthly event calendar is emailed around the first of each month. Additional details may be sent closer to the event as a reminder.
- ✠ You will also receive prayer requests from **Cursillo Prayer Request** (prayersrequested@bellevillecursillo.org). You may also request prayers using the same email address.

And just once a year we call each of our 4th Day. Calls are made to invite participation in our Prayer Vigil for both the Men's and Women's Weekends. These calls are made about six weeks prior to the Weekends.

If anyone knows of a 4th Day who is not receiving emails, please contact me (618-581-7355, margiereaka@gmail.com) so I can confirm their most up-to-date contact information. Some 4th Day who made their Cursillo ten or more years ago may have provided a landline or may not have shared an email address. While we strive to keep our database accurate, we need you to let us know when something changes.

May the Holy Spirit continue to shine His light on each of you, whether you just made your Weekend or made your Weekend many years ago. As 4th Day we pray together, *Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful and enkindle in us the fire of Your love.*

Peace, love, and joy,

Margie Reaka
Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator



Diocese of
Belleville



POSTCURSILLO KAREN DAVIDSON

Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to welcome our new cursillistas to the 4th Day on their Cursillo journey. It was wonderful to hear the 17 women, and 10 men witness how the Cursillo Weekend has enlightened their relationship with the Lord and how they are excited to bring others to Christ.

I know that we can all relate to how they are feeling, because I'm sure we all remember our own Cursillo Weekend. May we all continue to grow in our Piety, Study, and Action to help us on our journey with the Lord. The best way to do this is through Friendship Grouping. I can't stress enough how important it is to group on a regular basis. It is the key to keeping you on track so the fire of Jesus will remain in your hearts. If you are looking for a Friendship Group, please reach out to your sponsor to help you find a group or contact me at kraul6@yahoo.com. We are all here to guide you and encourage you in strengthening your relationship with the Lord.

Another way to stay involved with the Cursillo Movement is to attend the Ultreya's. You will receive information on those events through Flocknotes.

We will have a Grand Ultreya/Reunion to welcome the new 4th Day members. The event will include a Friendship Group Reunion, witness talk, and a delicious potluck. More information will be sent out through Flocknotes.

Date: Saturday, October 3, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Place: Holy Childhood of Jesus Catholic Church
419 E. Church Street
Mascoutah, IL 62258**

Looking forward to seeing all of you soon.

Love, joy, and peace,

Karen Davidson
Postcursillo



WOMEN'S WEEKEND #47 Rectora DEBBIE BLUME

The Holy Spirit was with all the new cursillistas and the team of Women's Cursillo #47!

The team of Women's Cursillo #47 started meeting in May of this year to prepare for the Weekend, which was held August 6-9, 2026. They brought their dedication, enthusiasm, and love for Christ with them. They all jumped in and did whatever needed to be done. The bonds of sisterhood only grew with the smiles and love they brought to every formation. The team consisted of:

Rectora – Debbie Blume

Assistant Rectora - Kim Cooper

Table Leaders - Michelle Massey, Karen Davidson, Marlene Rodriguez, Mary Stephens,
Carol Geluck, and Christie Reyling

Head Steward - Anna Feurer, Stewards - Charlotte Feathers and Diane Sciuto

Spiritual Directors - Father Nick Junker, Deacon Jim Law, and Deacon Corby Valentine

This was an amazing team to work with; they were always positive and brought the Holy Spirit with them in whatever they did.

The Team was blessed to work with 17 ladies who began their Cursillo journey with us on the Weekend. These 17 ladies also had amazing Spirit-filled sponsors who brought them to the Weekend. They are:

<u>New Cursillista</u>	<u>Parish</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Lee Anheuser	Sacred Heart	Mary Beth Lane
Christina Brown	Holy Trinity	Carol Geluck
Helen Essenpreis	St. Dominic	Janelle Neff
Nancy Furlow	St. Teresa	Mary Stephens
Mara Haake	St. Teresa	Amy Mannino
Sister Sarah Harbaugh	ASC	Michelle Massey
Cindy Ingold	St. Joseph	Karen Davidson
Dawn Kellerman-Smith	St. Bruno	Marcia Haake
Allison Kern	Corpus Christi	Debbie Blume
Tana Mauser	Cathedral	Mary Jo Huettner
Arieal Moll	Holy Trinity	Carol Geluck
Cynthia Straub	St. John	Nancy Myerscough
Diane Vogel	St. Joseph	Bernadette Charlton
Melanie Gniewek	Cathedral	Bobbi Schaefer
Mary Williams	St. Augustine	Mary Stephens
Carol Loyet	St. Nicholas	Charlotte Feathers
Dinah Sudholt	St. Dominic	Amy Riesenburger

As 4th Day, I'm sure you remember that, on the first night of the Weekend, we ask that the new cursillistas bring their enthusiasm, dedication, and spirit of love. They all did just that! There were deep conversations, laughter, hugs, and love shared on the Weekend. More importantly, new friendships were made, but most importantly is the deeper commitment to our faith that came from the Weekend.

Two lovely Angels brought food to us on Thursday evening, a very heartfelt thank you to Janelle Neff and Nancy Myerscough for dinner. Bernadette Charlton was our Mañanitas Angel; she did a fantastic job, and I am so grateful to her. I also want to thank all the talented 4th Day singers who came out to

serenade the new cursillistas. You are all amazing! Our Closing Angels, Amy Mannino and Mary Lou Anderson, did an amazing job organizing the wonderful goodies that were brought to the dinner.

Prayer is so powerful. The prayers that were prayed before the Weekend and during the Weekend were felt by all in attendance. I am blessed to be a part of the Cursillo Community - such a faith-filled group of people. The Weekend was an amazing experience, and it was only possible because of our wonderful Lord and you.

Thank you for all of your continued love and support to the Cursillo Movement.

De Colores!

Debbie Blume

Rectora, Belleville Women's Cursillo #47

(In May we had six ladies registered for the Weekend. We started praying a Novena for the Weekends and, as you can see, God most definitely answered those prayers.)



Front Row (left to right): Mary Stephens, Karen Davidson, Michelle Massey, Marlene Rodriguez, Kim Cooper, Debbie Blume, Mary Williams, Carol Loyet, Dinah Sudholt

Second row (left to right): Diane Sciuto, Anna Feurer, Carol Geluck, Arieal Moll, Helen Essenpreis, Christina Brown, Mara Haake, Cynthia Straub, Tana Mauser, Nancy Furlow, Dawn Kellerman-Smith, Cindy Ingold, Allison Kern

Third Row (left to right): Melanie Gniewek, Lee Anheuser, Sister Sarah Harbaugh, Deacon Jim Law, Father Nick Junker, Deacon Corby Valentine, Diane Vogel, Christie Reyling, Charlotte Feathers

MEN'S WEEKEND #42 RECTOR JOHN SCHABERG

The Diocese of Belleville *Cursillo in Christianity* welcomed 10 new men as cursillistas in August 2026. We have all received abundant and amazing graces from our most gracious and loving God concerning the Men's Cursillo Weekend.

The new men cursillistas are **Isaac Beck** (Holy Childhood Parish, Mascoutah), **Terry Grime** (St. Teresa Parish, Belleville), **Lyndon Joost** (St. Clare Parish, O'Fallon), **Matthew Lands** (St. Clare Parish, O'Fallon), **Michael Langley** (Newman Center Parish, Carbondale), **Mason McGuire** (Cathedral Parish, Belleville), **Father Longenus Odum** (Sacred Heart Parish, DuQuoin), **Deacon Randy Riesenberger** (St. Mary Parish, Belleville), **Michael Vogel** (St. Joseph Parish, Freeburg), and **Dennis Wagner** (Cathedral Parish, Belleville).



Front row (left to right): Deacon Randy Riesenberger, Mason McGuire, Terry Grime, Father Longenus Odum, Dennis Wagner, Matthew Lands, Michael Langley, Lyndon Joost, Michael Vogel, Isaac Beck

Back row (left to right): Kevin Rademacher, Randy Ganey, Father Harold Fischer, Deacon Dan Cozzi, Greg Crook, Marvin Winkeler, John Schaberg, Terry Kostel, Thomas Spitler, Guy Hawkins, Steve Schaefer, Chuck Weyhaupt, Sean Ditch, Doug Hamilton (*Not pictured:* Deacon Wayne Weiler)

Men's Cursillo #42 was held August 20-23, 2026, at King's House at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows. The Men's Cursillo #42 team: John I. Schaberg, *Rector*, Marvin Winkeler, *Assistant Rector*; Thomas Spitler, "*Regional Assistant to the Assistant Rector*;" Fr. Harold Fischer, Deacon Wayne Weiler and Deacon Dan Cozzi, *Spiritual Advisors*; Guy "Hawk" Hawkins and Greg Crook, *Stewards*; Sean Ditch, Andrew "Randy" Ganey, Doug Hamilton, Terry Kostel, Kevin Rademacher, Steve Schaefer, *Table Leaders and Assistants*; Charles Weyhaupt and Terry Kostel, *Musicians* for De Colores, Mass, and Closing. *Thursday Dinner Angels* were Debbie Blume and Janelle Neff. *Prayer Vigil Angels* were Margie Reaka and Friends. *Mañanitas Angels* were John and Bernadette Charlton, and *Sunday Closing Angels* were Debbie Blume, Karen Davidson, Anna Feurer, and Cheryl Rajski.

We would like to thank the 4th Day for attending weekly novenas, offering 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 Weekend with Mañanitas, attending Closing, and keeping the team and candidates in their prayers throughout formation and the Weekend.

Let us give thanksgiving, praise, glory, and adoration to our almighty God for all the benefits he has given us. *Christ is counting on us, and we on Him.*

Peace and De Colores,

John Schaberg
Rector, Belleville Men's Cursillo #42



Welcome to
your 4th Day

The rest of your life with the Son as its center.

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

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. held at Corpus Christi Parish Center or via Zoom (watch for announcement in 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 / St. John the Baptist, Smithton: Monthly on the last Monday at 7 p.m. Watch for Flocknote emails for venue.

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 Jim Law, Spiritual Advisor

(618) 406-5709; deaconjlaw@gmail.com

Margie Reaka, Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator

(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

TBD, Cursillo

Karen Davidson, Postcursillo

(618) 670-8383; kraul6@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

Karen Davidson, Palanca

(618) 670-8383; kraul6@yahoo.com

Kent Jeanneret, Evangelizer Newsletter / Cursillo Roster

(618) 531-8855; jeannerk@charter.net

Garry Range, Website

(618) 401-9677; g.range@charter.net

Michelle Massey, Flocknotes

636-288-6784; michelle.caito@gmail.com

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

(618)-204-0167; patbutler007@gmail.com