

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE



THE EVANGELIZER



March - May 2026

Website: www.BellevilleCursillo.org

FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR DEACON WAYNE WEILER

*"When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth."
(Psalm 104:30)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Fourth Day,

I hope the remaining spring days are filled with gratitude for the many gifts we celebrate at this time of year. These days bring us to the end of a school year, graduations, confirmations, Mother's Day, and certainly the great Feast of Pentecost - the birthday of the Church!

All of these are reminders of the many blessings God has granted us, and the assurance of His continuing presence always with us through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit enables us to continue to do the work Jesus calls us to each and every day.

One of the many blessings of the Cursillo Movement is our focus on the third person of the Holy Trinity. The Prayer to the Holy Spirit is a prayer we have come to know well. It is such an important part of our lives as we call upon Him in so many circumstances of life. This is not by accident; this is one of the many graces of Cursillo.

When we need help and guidance, "Come Holy Spirit." When we are in trouble, "Come Holy Spirit." When we seek answers to what may seem impossible, "Come Holy Spirit." When life's burdens or struggles seem too heavy to bear, "Come Holy Spirit." When we are tempted, "Come Holy Spirit." When we are grateful, "Come Holy Spirit." So many know and continue to call upon the Holy Spirit. May we always find this enduring help, so generously offered by a loving and generous God.

"Come Holy Spirit, Fill the hearts of your faithful," - you know the rest! May this beautiful and impactful prayer be a source of comfort, and lead us closer to the Love, Joy, and Peace of the Holy Trinity.

De Colores

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



FROM THE DIOCESAN CURSILLO COORDINATOR MARGIE REAKA

Welcome to summer! For the Belleville Diocesan Cursillo, as it has been for the last several years, summer signifies the Cursillo Weekends are quickly approaching. Formation for 2026 Men's Team and 2026 Women's Team begins May 31. Our Novena begins the same day.

In the last issue of *The Evangelizer*, I shared information about the Precursillo Phase, including who should go and who should not go to Cursillo, and, what a sponsor can and cannot share with their candidates. Today I'm sharing information about The 3-Day Cursillo.

When our Cursillo Founder, Eduardo Bonnin, developed The 3-Day Cursillo, he structured the overall techniques to create a climate with three essential encounters:

- 1st Day - Encounter with Self (Friday)
- 2nd Day - Encounter with Christ (Saturday)
- 3rd Day - Encounter with Others (Sunday)

When I was making my Weekend, I definitely did not realize how perfectly Eduardo crafted these three days. Each meditation, each rollo, singing De Colores, visits to the Blessed Sacrament, actually, every hour of the Weekend is in an order to help remove barriers and obstacles so the Cursillo message reaches each candidate's mind and heart. In this article, I especially want to focus on the 3rd Day - Encounter with Others.

All of us have two opportunities on Sunday, the 3rd Day of the Cursillo, for our newest cursillistas to "Encounter Others" – participating in Mañanitas in the morning and coming to the Closing in the late afternoon. I've been attending Mañanitas since it was introduced in our diocese. I have seen looks of surprise, joy, and love, along with tears from both the men and women when, in the early morning on Sunday, 25 to 30 members of the 4th Day serenade them. We don't talk to these new cursillistas or hug them, we simply support them through our presence and song, then leave quietly. I invite you to join Mañanitas on the Sunday of each Weekend (August 9 for the women and August 23 for the men). We meet at the King's House at Our Lady of the Snows parking lot about 7a.m., review the songs, and typically are serenading our newest friends at 7:30 a.m.

That same evening, we gather for closing at 4:30 p.m., and again share our presence, hear about the Cursillo Weekend experiences, and welcome our newest cursillistas to the 4th Day Community. As is the tradition of the Belleville Diocesan Cursillo, we enjoy each other's company during a potluck dinner.

As a reminder, the 4th Day holds a Prayer Vigil for the entire Weekend, which starts at 5 p.m. on Thursday and ends at 5 p.m. on Sunday. I remember seeing the Prayer Vigil Board on the Palanca Table during my Cursillo Weekend – I felt not only very blessed, but very overwhelmed that so many people would be praying during the day and through the overnight hours, for 72 hours straight. A group of volunteers will be making calls in June, and we ask that each 4th Day take one hour and pray for the team and candidates.

May the spirit of the Cursillo be with all of you, with the teams, and all who are discerning a Cursillo in 2026.

Peace, love, and joy,

Margie Reaka
Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator



PRECURSILLO DEBBIE BLUME

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

Those words are more than just a motto to Cursillo. Those words are what we are all called to do by Christ. Christ sent out his disciples to all the lands to tell the Good News. We are disciples also; we need to spread the Good News!

We have been called and we have been chosen by Christ himself to bring others to Christ. The easiest way to bring someone to Christ is by being their friend. Through our friendships, they will see how important it is to have Christ at the center of our lives.

We, as 4th Day, had a fire lit in us on our Cursillo Weekend. I hope you will keep that flame growing and invite someone to the upcoming Cursillo Weekends. Pray about your friends and family - who is ready to deepen their walk with Christ?

The women will have their Weekend from August 6-9, and the men will have their Weekend from August 20-23. Both Weekends will be held at King's House at Our Lady of the Snows. The applications are on our website at bellevillecursillo.org.

I believe that great things happen with prayer, and I hope that you will be able to join in our Novenas for the Cursillo Weekends. Please watch for Flocknotes in your e-mail as to locations around the dioceses. The Women's Novena will begin on May 31 and will be said every week for nine weeks before the Weekend.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 618-806-6951 or deblu@sbcglobal.net.

De Colores!

God Bless,

Debbie Blume

Precursillo



Sponsor a Friend for 2026

FROM THE DIOCESAN CURSILLO COORDINATOR MARGIE REAKA

2026 Prayer Vigil for the Women's and Men's Cursillo Weekends

During our 2026 Women's and Men's Cursillo Weekends, the 4th Day will again hold a 72-hour Prayer Vigil. You do not need to go anywhere to pray, say your prayers where you are most comfortable.

This year we are excited to offer you first choice of dates and times for both the Women's and Men's Prayer Vigils by signing up through Flocknotes.

Please click on the URL link (one each for the women and one for the men) and choose your preferred hour to pray. When you enter the signup page, click on the "Join/Login" icon, enter your email address, then click "Next." You will immediately receive a 4-digit authentication code by email. After entering the code, scroll to choose your hour to pray and click to select the date and time. You will receive a confirmation email shortly after you sign up. You will also receive an e-mail reminder a few days before your scheduled time.

Flocknotes signup will be available through June 15. The dates and times for the prayer vigils, along with the URL links are below. We ask that you consider praying an hour for each Weekend.

For our 4th Day who prefer someone to call to schedule your prayer hours, volunteers will begin making those calls June 22.

Women's Weekend Prayer Vigil:

Thursday, August 6, beginning at 5 p.m. through

Sunday, August 9, ending at 6 p.m.

<https://bellevillecursillo.flocknote.com/signup/260619>

Men's Weekend Prayer Vigil:

Thursday, August 20, beginning at 5 p.m. through

Sunday, August 23, ending at 6 p.m.

<https://bellevillecursillo.flocknote.com/signup/261407>

FROM THE DIOCESAN CURSILLO COORDINATOR MARGIE REAKA

2026 Annual Fund Update

This past March, the Belleville Diocesan Cursillo launched their second Annual Fund Appeal to help defray the rising costs of the Cursillo Weekends. As you may be aware, we invite our spiritual advisors to be on teams at no cost to them, and we discount the cost for each team member, as they are not only expected to pay their room and board, but also give up many, many hours of their summer to prepare for the Weekends. We are blessed to have the dedication of our spiritual advisors and team members.

The response to our Annual Fund has been overwhelming! While we had an internal goal of \$5,000, we have reached 87% of that goal! We have the funds to pay for our spiritual advisors' room and board for the 2026 Weekends and can offset some team members' costs as well.

A huge THANK YOU to those who contributed, those who prayed, and those who are sponsoring a candidate this year. Your support is immeasurable.

With our sincerest gratitude,

Margie Reaka
Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator

Deacon Wayne Weiler
Spiritual Director

(If you would still like to make a donation, you can mail it to Belleville Cursillo in Christianity, P.O. Box 22, Freeburg, IL, 62243, Venmo to @belleville-cursillo, or use the QR code below.)



Venmo - Belleville Cursillo QR Code

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 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. 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 Wayne Weiler, Spiritual Director

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

Margie Reaka, Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator

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Anna Feurer, School of Leaders / Prayer Requests

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Michelle Massey, Flocknotes

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