

JOLIET CURSILLO NEWSLETTER



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LAY DIRECTOR'S MINUTE

Hello my dear friends in Christ!

Our Secretariat has been busy breathing new life into our Ultreyas and I would like to make you aware of some very positive changes. We believe strongly that the Precursillo, 3-Day Weekend and Post Cursillo feed each other and that the most important part of our Cursillo experience is how we live our 4th Day. Group Reunion and Ultreya are vital to sustaining and living the Cursillo method, yet over the years we have seen a dwindling of the number of Cursillistas who attend monthly Ultreyas and we are aware that only a small percentage of those who make their Cursillo weekend get into a regular Group Reunion. We want to change these sta-

tistics because we know the support of a like-minded community is so important when you are out in the world being Christ's disciples.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...Hebrews 10:24-25

We have created a new group of Cursillo leaders called Ultreya Community Leaders, or UCLs, to work within Parish Clusters. UCLs are committed Cursillo leaders who have agreed to run and grow existing Ultreyas, to form new Ultreyas around our diocese and to help the 4th Day get into regular Group Reunions. Clusters

are a group of parishes within close proximity of each other. A minimum of six UCLs work together within a Cluster to run an Ultreya and serve the 4th Day of that area. We are pleased to announce there are now six regular monthly Ultreyas in our Diocese. The newest is starting November 12th at St. Jude in Joliet after the 5:30 p.m. Mass.

Your UCLs will be reaching out to you each month with an email or a phone call inviting you to Ultreyas. Please accept their invitations and come out to support fellow 4th Day members, be inspired by a wonderful witness, or to have some food and fellowship. And, don't forget to bring a friend who may be interested in Cursillo! God bless and *Ultreya!* **Pat Kenny**

"Pray without ceasing...." by Deacon Tom Thiltgen

As the days get shorter and shorter, we find ourselves within the coziness of our homes. We aren't as active and often stop many of the outdoor activities we had enjoyed in warmer weather. There is a tendency to slow down a bit and to not be as physically active as we had been during spring and summer.

The increasing darkness of the fall and winter are times for laying by the fireplace, reading a book, watching a movie, having a hearty bowl of soup or maybe a cup of hot cider...just being a bit more lazy and relaxed.

One of the things we don't want to stop doing or slow down on is our *palanca*—our

prayer and sacrifice for our Cursillo Movement and our sisters and brothers. Our *palanca* is the most important thing we can do to strengthen and support Cursillo. It is the one thing that everyone can do, regardless of their circumstances or station in life.

Make these next months a time to increase your *palanca*...replacing the time we've spent in outdoor activities with time spent in prayer, sacrifice and good work for the Movement and our fellow Cursillistas and their families.

What a great opportunity to "*pray without ceasing....!*" *Ultreya!!!*

We're on the web!

www.jolietcursillo.org

Joliet Cursillo

Ultreya Schedule

St. Pius X, Lombard, 1st Sat. of the month, after 8:30 a.m. Mass

St. Walter, Roselle, 3rd Sat. of the month, after 8:15 a.m. Mass

St. Francis of Assisi, Bolingbrook, 3rd Monday of the month, at 7 p.m. for grouping, Mass at 7:30 p.m., then witness

Our Lady of Peace, Darien, 4th Sat. of the month, after 7:30 a.m. Mass.

St. Joseph, Downers Grove, 4th Wed. of the month, after 5:30 p.m. Mass. **Note: Nov. Ultreya will be on the 30th.**

NEW! St. Jude, Joliet, Sat. Nov. 12th, after 5:30 p.m. Mass. In the School.

A PRAYER

Oh Loving God

grant us

HEARTS

to love you,

MINDS

to know you,

HANDS

to do your work

& VOICES

to sing your praise

GROUP REUNION by Donna Burke

I belong to St. Walter's Parish and I am the Recording Secretary on the Joliet Diocese Cursillo Secretariat.

I made my weekend in November of 1980. Sorry to say, I did not find a group reunion for the first 2 years. I began grouping in 1982 and have been grouping quite regularly ever since.

There are seven members in my group. Most of us have been together for about 12 years and we have become Sisters in Christ.

We attend Saturday, 8:15 a.m. Mass together and then meet at a local restaurant which has changed its name a few times over the years. The food is not very good, but the location is convenient and the sharing is God sent.

I like to explain grouping as examining my conscience each Saturday morning in front of God and my friends. The group reunion keeps me accountable. We visit for a while, order our breakfast, and then join hands and be-

"Our group reunion is truly like sitting with the Lord."

gin with the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

After our prayer...we go around the table and we each take our turn reporting on our Piety, Study and Action. There is no cross talk - just smiles and nods and total attention to the speaker. After we have gone around the table, we close with "We give You Thanks" and an Our Father. Grouping takes us about an hour and a half. Once our "grouping" has closed - the chatter begins again with questions, suggestions and add-ons.

Over the years, we have shared much and watched each other grow in our spirituality and our relationships. We have laughed together, cried together and prayed together.

We are a group of women that can be totally honest with each other because we know each other so very well. We have shared some of our deepest and most difficult challenges in life, but we have also shared our most joyful experiences. We know each other's families and each other's worries. We do not try to solve them but instead we pray and support each other - in our life journey and our spiritual journey.

It is an amazing thing! To have a group of women that know you - the real you - and love you in spite of and because of who you really are. Our group reunion is truly like sitting with the Lord every Saturday morning. It sustains us through the week and carries us through its trials and its challenges.

The Cursillo method of Group Reunion and the women that the Lord sent to be in my group have truly been a gift to my life. I am glad that I unwrapped it and that I use it to its fullest potential.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Hi. I'm Ed Burjek and I took over as Treasurer for the Joliet Cursillo Movement this summer. I've spent a couple months getting acclimated to my new role and now I'm ready to move forward.

As you know, our Movement relies on donations to stay afloat. Donations are used to cover operating expenses such as yearly registration fees, web services, workshops, printing services, etc.

The room and board we collect for our 3-Day weekends goes to pay the pastoral facility and to cover the cost of "Pilgrim's Guides", crosses and "Our 4th Day" books.

Unfortunately, we are not always breaking even on these weekends because as you know, we do not require those candidates who are having financial hardships to pay the full amount. We cover the costs of candidates unable to pay with our treasury funds and we would like to continue to do so; therefore, I have been tasked with coming up with a few fundraising ideas.

If anyone has any ideas, please contact me: efburjek@aol.com

As a reminder, those who are working a team and are staying over the weekend at a pastoral center must also pay full room and board.

Please try to have your checks turned in to your team's "MOP" collection by the time of your commissioning. Things get hectic on a weekend and it's very easy to forget to pay.

As another reminder, we will have a "MOP" bucket out at all closings. Funds collected will be used to cover those candidates unable to pay the full amount of their weekend.

God bless you for your generosity in helping us to continue to give the gift of Cursillo.

Ed Burjek

PRECURSILLO NEWS & VIEWS

Hi. My name is Tim Moore. I am from St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Naperville. My Cursillo weekend was the Men's 106th in the fall of 2004. I married my wife Kathy in 1989 and we have two children, Cara Ann, a sophomore at U of I in Champaign, IL, and Matthew John, a senior at Naperville Central HS. I joined the Secretariat as the Treasurer in January 2009 and moved into the Precursillo position this past summer of 2011.

Each one of us would describe what Cursillo has meant to us differently and beautifully, but there would probably be some common threads. From the Study of the Charism (<http://www.orgmcc.org/study>) the "essence of the Cursillos is:

- The reality of Love

- The reality of Friendship
- The reality that Christ is my friend
- The Good News that God in Christ loves me."



I encourage you to consider what Cursillo has meant to you and to pray about those around you and what it could mean to them. Then invite them to a Cursillo weekend. Cursillo is a gift that we should share!

The schedule of upcoming weekends can be found at: http://www.jolietcursillo.org/Schedule_2011.html

The candidate application can be found at:

http://www.jolietcursillo.org/Downloads/Cursillo_application_091213.pdf

Please have all three pages of the application filled out and send it to our new address:

Joliet Cursillo
P.O. Box 4247
Lisle, IL 60532-9247

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions regarding Precursillo please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at:

Precursillo@jolietcursillo.org

May the Peace of Christ be with you and your loved ones always!

Tim Moore



IN MEMORIAM Our 5th Day

Larry Cowdry
John Davis
Mary Garla
Nancy Kohl
Pat Millet
Bonnie O'Toole
Nancy Reff



LOL

"No, I'm NOT TALKING ABOUT TWITTER. I LITERALLY WANT YOU TO FOLLOW ME" = JESUS

Join us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/pages/joliet-cursillo

Mark your calendars!

Ultreya Grande

February 17, 2012

St. Petronille Parish

Glen Ellyn

More details to come....

With Appreciation

The Secretariat would like to extend our appreciation to Phyllis Cowdry for the generous donation to the Joliet Diocese Cursillo Movement which was made in her late husband Larry's name. Larry Cowdry was an active member of Cursillo for many years. He will be missed.

3-DAY NEWS & VIEWS

This past August, 2011, over two million teens and young adults travelled to Madrid, Spain to meet with Pope Benedict XVI for the 13th International World Youth Day. Our Holy Father described this global event as a special occasion for young Catholics ... "to reflect, dialogue, exchange positive experiences and especially to pray together and to renew their commitment to living their lives rooted in Christ, our faithful friend." Isn't this exactly what we do as we accompany our Cursillo candidates on their 72 hour intimate journey with Jesus during "The 3 Days?" What a privilege it is to "walk with" the candidates as they discover the unconditional love of their most faithful friend, Jesus Christ!

All who are called to the team do indeed have the benefit of serving Our Lord in the candidates. However, every one of us in the 4th Day can also serve as leaders for *The 3 Days* every day, right where we are, even if we are not on a team. As we actively participate in "Making a Friend, Being a Friend and Bringing our Friend to Christ," we are in fact serving as leaders for *The 3 Days*!

Often weekends are extra blessed with an offsite Palanca Chapel. A goal of our movement could be to insure that we *always* have an offsite chapel! An ideal team size is 20 to 25 people. If teams are larger than recommended, "hospitality" team members could have a role as hosts for the offsite chapel. We have thousands of Cursillistas in the Joliet Diocese. Our offsite chapels could be filled to capacity every moment of the 72 hours if only a small percentage of us who are not on the team will commit to being an active part of *The 3 Days* in this way! Can you imagine how much more of a "lever" we can be if we FILL offsite chapels for every weekend? Additionally, let us all re-

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REFLECTIONS of a Rectora by Kerry O'Donnell

"Behold, I make all things new." Rev. 21:5 As I reflect on the sacred journey of being called to be the Rectora for the Women's 111th Cursillo in the Diocese of Joliet, my mind, heart and soul rejoice!

Each woman who came to serve on the Women's 111th brought so many unbelievable God-given gifts and talents to tap into for the weekend. We celebrated Mass together, prayed together, enjoyed great food and fellowship and grew in friendship as we built the body of Christ during Team Formation. God formed us to serve the Candidates coming to the weekend. It never ceases to amaze me how the talks we critique during Team Formation are exactly suited to what certain Candidates need to hear at this particular time in their lives.

God called 27 women to make the weekend. It was a weekend filled with the spirit of love and God's overflowing grace. We encountered ourselves, Christ and Christian Community within these 72 hours. The Holy Spirit was everywhere and God's unconditional love was palpable. It was so exciting to see our new Cursillista's response to the warm welcome of the 4th Day as they walked into the church for the Closing! As each witnessed to her experience, I could sense God smiling and knew He was so happy we all took the time to say; "YES," we will come and "BE STILL AND KNOW THAT YOU ARE GOD" Psalm 46:10. I continue to pray for the women of the 111th Cursillo and look forward to seeing them at Ultreyas and Closings!

Do you know a 4th Day member who isn't receiving the Joliet Cursillo Movement Announcements and would like to?

To be added to our email list, go to: www.jolietcursillo.org and follow the prompts in the middle of the home page.

You will be asked a few questions about which mailing list you would like to be added to. You will also be added to the main database.

Please print this newsletter and pass it along to a 4th Day member who does not subscribe to Internet service.

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new our commitment to offer specific prayer and “concrete” palanca for our potential candidates; for our new Cursillista brothers and sisters; and for those in the 4th Day who give their time, their talents, their self surrender and spirit of charity (sound familiar?) as they serve on teams.

And, if you need a reminder of just how potent a dose of the unconditional love of Jesus Christ can be, attend a closing! We look forward to seeing you at Ultreyas and Closings in 2012. *De Colores!*

Marta Spiezio and Debi Kenny

COMMUNICATIONS BULLETIN BOARD

About Prayer Requests

Prayer requests must be emailed to Mike Iozzo, Palanca Chair, at: prayer@comcast.net

Please remember that Mike can only post prayer requests and not other types of announcements to the prayer request distribution list. Cursillo-related announcements, other than prayer requests, must be emailed to Patricia Simmons, Communications Secretary, at plscopy@comcast.net

In the interest of protecting privacy, please do not include last names and intimate details in the prayer requests. The communications committee reserves the right to edit submitted content.

Prayer requests are published once daily at 8:30am unless we receive an emergency request later in the day that needs immediate publishing.

We are unable to add logos, clip art or graphics to the prayer requests.

Important: The prayer request is an opt-in service, so those coming off the weekend will not automatically receive the prayer requests. Those desiring prayer requests must go to the website www.jolietcursillo.org and opt-in or they may send an email to Elaine Janus, Database Coordinator, at etjanus@comcast.net

About Ultreya Announcements

Ultreya announcements are published on Wednesdays and Sundays of each week. Ultreya Community Leaders (UCLs) must email Patricia Simmons, Communications Secretary, the names of witness speakers, by the 4th Friday of the month prior to guarantee inclusion in the first monthly announcement. These are set up on an automatic publishing schedule; therefore, if you miss the deadline we cannot guarantee a timely announcement of your witness speaker's name.

About Candidate Applications

Please download the latest application from the website www.jolietcursillo.org under the *information tab* since we update the form occasionally as needed.

Please try to have all candidate applications to Tim Moore, PreCursillo Chair, by the Monday prior to the weekend's start date.

Don't forget! Our new mailing address is: **P.O. Box 4247, Lisle, IL 60532-9247**



We are praying for you
and your loved ones to
have a blessed and
peaceful
Thanksgiving.

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Co-editors: Elaine Torres Janus

Patricia Simmons

Deadline for submissions:

Jan. 1st, April 1st, July 1st, Oct. 1st

We reserve the right to edit copy for length/clarity.

