

JOLIET CURSILLO NEWSLETTER



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Assistant Spiritual Directors

Dcn. John Spiezio

Dcn. Tom Thiltgen

Lay Director

Tim Moore

Assistant Lay Director

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Mike Iozzo

Pre-Cursillo Chair

Open Position

3-Day Chair

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Treasurer

Ed Burjek

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Open Position

Communications Secretary

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Open Position

Database Coordinator

Elaine Torres Janus

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Jessica Felice

LAY DIRECTOR'S MINUTE

Greetings and God's blessings to my fellow Cursillistas who love and serve the Lord with whole hearts, minds, and souls; who practice the Cursillo method daily working on piety, study and action; and who are true disciples of Jesus Christ. May God be with you and your loved ones during this beautiful time of Lenten renewal.

As I step into the role of Lay Director I am reminded of and very grateful for the faithful women and men who have preceded me. Because of their "Yes" many good things have happened, many lives have changed and the *Good News* has been spread throughout our diocese. I and the members of the Secretariat thank them for their love of God and their service to the Joliet Cursillo Movement.

How did I get here? It is a 47-year long story. I was born into a Roman Catholic family and was raised in Joliet. In my senior year in high school I attended a

Kairos weekend which had a big impact on me. I met Kathy Walker while in school at the U of I in Champaign, IL, and we were married in June of '89. We have two children, Cara Ann and Matthew John. We now live in Naperville and belong to St. Elizabeth Seton Parish.

Around the turn of the millennium Kathy and I were looking for more in our faith life. She found Cursillo but I was hesitant. So she went on her weekend and what a difference it made in her. After about 4 years I wanted to "catch up" to her so in the Fall of '04 I made my Cursillo weekend. Without a doubt my life changed through that experience. I was most impressed by the idea that we need to bloom where we are planted so as to help in the mission of the Church to spread the *Good News*. Before my weekend I thought it was primarily the work of the clergy and religious or at the very least somebody besides me. Since my weekend I have followed the Cursillo method of piety, study and

action, have been in a friendship group reunion, worked on two weekends and have attended Ultreyas, workshops and the School of Leaders. I joined the Secretariat in Jan. 2009 as the Treasurer and then became Pre-Cursillo Chair this past summer.

But now becoming the Lay Director will be a stretch for me—moving me out of my comfort zone. Before I began this journey I had to put all my trust in God that He will be with me always. If there is anything that could be learned from my "Yes" it is that with God all things are possible. When He calls us to do something we can count on Him to give us what we need to do His will. Take this to heart when God wants to stretch you.

Please keep me and the members of the Secretariat in your prayers that we may faithfully execute the charism of the Joliet Diocese Cursillo Movement.

Peace be with you.

Tim Moore, Lay Director

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Deacon John Spiezio

Those of you who are in sales know what it's like to really believe in a product. You exude confidence—you're unrelenting, unstoppable. You know you have something that performs and works; something that has a history of success.

Every Lent for the first scrutiny we listen to the word of God from the 4th chapter of John. The Gospel writer uses some very convincing language with the story of Jesus and the woman at the well.

He says, "whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; we worship what we understand; you must worship in spirit and

truth." The words *never*, *understand*, and *truth* do not leave many options. At the beginning of the chapter, the woman seems timid. After Jesus speaks these powerful words and shares insights (never, understand, truth) she is transformed.

She independently evangelizes the entire town! This is what Christianity (and the Cursillo Movement) is all about—our baptismal responsibility of conveying the absolute and perfect truth of the Gospel. The woman at the well was set free with the truth. [Cont'd on page 2.]

We're on the web!

www.jolietcursillo.org

[Spiritual Director's Corner—
Cont'd from page one.]

Her spirit was set ablaze through that town, and she could not be stopped.

The Catholic Church, in its wisdom, gives us advent and lent (and palanca!) so that we can be formed. Help us Lord, to embrace this wisdom.

Been to an _ltreya lately?

The only thing missing is "U"!!!

Keep the flame of the Cursillo method burning. Attend a monthly Ultreya in the Joliet Diocese. There are now six Ultreyas every month across our diocese. You're sure to find one that works with your schedule.

Log on to:
www.jolietcursillo.org to see the Ultreya locations and schedules.

The Secretariat with help from the 4th Day has been busy reenergizing the Ultreyas. If you haven't attended in awhile, we welcome you back with open arms. Come be inspired by fellow 4th Day members who are changing the world for Christ and come share your personal stories of successes and struggles with people who accept and love you unconditionally.

Christ is present at every Ultreya. Come be with Him and your fellow 4th Day members. Share faith, friendship, fellowship and food!!!!

Sponsors—bring your candidates!

Bring a friend who is interested in Cursillo!

A REFLECTION ON PIETY Margaret Placek, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish

My original Cursillo weekend was a transforming experience, for which I am eternally grateful, and I would say that the most pivotal change was the ability to really open up my heart to God, and then to other people. A key factor was my introduction to the concept of what true piety is, instead of what I had perceived it to be. Most importantly, it was stressed that piety is natural, and that God does not ask, or want us to stop being who we are, but to use what we are to bring Him and his Love to others. Your piety should fit your life-style, and you should do what's natural to you; but at the same time, continue to challenge yourself to improve and to grow. You are unique, and your relationship with God is unique. And, you shouldn't compare yours to others'; no matter how inspirational they are.

Now, while one side of piety requires action to make it authentic, the other aspect

requires the need to just be STILL, to LISTEN, and to just BE. And, how difficult that is for us sometimes. Are we able to go to our center and open our hearts to God? Can we trust Him enough to give Him all of us – open our whole heart to Him and let Him love us for that – not for words, not for works? Can we be humble enough to let this be enough? Afterall, if we are always talking, anticipating, and doing, how do we have any ability to listen and enjoy God's presence with us, and in us, now? And, until you are able to accept the unconditional love of God into your heart for yourself, you are incapable of giving it to others.

Oftentimes what I find helpful is to go to a quiet area like a chapel, or a cozy corner in my own home, and just sit and BE with God; to just be STILL and to LISTEN. I find a connection that nourishes everything else. I just try and make sure that it is what feels right and not a "have to" activity. I try and remain open to what feels like it will truly bring me closer to the Father at that particular time.

"Until you are able to accept the unconditional love of God into your heart for yourself, you are incapable of giving it to others."

THE TURTLE

My steps are awkward – My steps are slow

Where I am going – I do not know.

The road is bumpy – the road is long

Some steps are safe, some steps are wrong.

My shell is heavy, my shell is hard.

My shell is scratched and chipped and marred.

I look at the heavens and the beautiful sky.

I look at the birds that fly so high.

I see the deer – so graceful – so quick.

The rabbit, the squirrel, the baby chick.

Each moving or soaring or running fast.

Each following a role in which he was cast.

Poor me – I keep saying – it's becoming a habit.

Why couldn't I have been a squirrel or a rabbit?

In life I too must fill a role.

How else can I gain peace of soul?

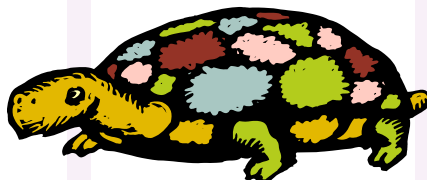
Why should gifts continually taunt?

What I do not have, do I really want?

My life is not for scurry or race.

But accepting myself... whatever the pace.

A special ideal to be moving toward.



Oh, please remember – I'm coming Lord.

With scratches and scars and heavy weight.

I'm coming Lord, I won't be late.

Lord, you say, "There is no race."

You've willed my life – my awkward pace.

Whatever the turmoil, together we'll cope.

For I do accept, I believe, and I hope.

My soul can soar – and all is well.

I accept myself; I accept my shell.

It matters not the road I trod.

What matters alone – is the will of God.

-Author Unknown

SECRETARIAT SPEAKIN'

We warmly welcome our newest 4th day members—the women who attended the Women's 113th Cursillo and the men who attended the Men's 123rd Cursillo in the Diocese of Joliet.

We congratulate our new Lay Director, Tim Moore. Tim has served as both Treasurer and Pre-Cursillo Chair on our Secretariat. He brings experience, thoughtfulness, strong faith and many talents to his new role.

We congratulate our new Assistant Lay Director, Marta Spiezio. Marta has led and served on many weekends and has been a member of Secretariat more than once over the years. Most recently Marta served in the capacities of Recording Secretary and Co-Three Day Chairperson. Marta is the Youth Minister at St. Joseph Parish in Downers Grove and belongs to St. Petronille Par-

ish in Glen Ellyn. Marta brings Cursillo experience, deep faith and much knowledge of our Catechism to her new role.



We welcome our new Assistant Spiritual Director, Deacon John Spiezio, from St. Petronille Parish. Deacon John is committed to living the Cursillo method and brings much Cursillo experience to the table. He has served on many Cursillo weekends, both men's and women's, as Spiritual Director. Deacon John will serve alongside Deacon Tom Thiltgen who is also an Assistant Spiritual Director for the

Joliet Diocese Cursillo Movement.

We congratulate our new Three-Day Chairperson, Donna Burke from St. Walter Parish in Roselle. Donna previously served as the Recording Secretary on the Secretariat. She has both led and worked many Cursillo weekends in our diocese and we know her meticulous attention to detail and love for Cursillo will serve our Movement well.

We congratulate Co-Lay Directors of the Spanish Cursillo Movement, Javier Aguilera and Barb Linek. Barb is a member of St. Dominic Parish in Bolingbrook. Barb also served on the English speaking Cursillo Secretariat in our diocese as Assistant Lay Director under the late Pat Millet. Javier is a member of Christ the King Parish in Lombard. Both Barb and Javier have been instrumental in reinstating the Spanish Movement in the Joliet Diocese.

We welcome with great appreciation our new Webmaster, Jessica Felice. Jessica is from Visitation Parish in Elmhurst. She has graciously volunteered her services to give the Cursillo website a facelift and is maintaining the site for us.

Check out the Joliet Cursillo website at www.jolietcursillo.org.

It's been redesigned and we think you'll find it much easier to navigate.

facebook

Like us on Facebook!

Thanks to Elaine Torres Janus of Divine Savior Parish in Downers Grove, the Joliet Diocese Cursillo Movement has a page on Facebook!

Want to add our page to your directory of Facebook "friends"? It's easy! Just go to our website at www.jolietcursillo.com and on the home page at the bottom left click on the icon that says "Like".

Please note: The Joliet Diocese Cursillo email distribution list is reserved solely for announcements that relate to Cursillo.

Our Facebook page allows you to post information about diocesan happenings, fundraisers, retreats, etc.

It's self-serve.

Spread the word. Tell all of your group reunion members to join our Facebook group.

May you and your family have a blessed Easter.

With Appreciation

The Secretariat would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our outgoing Lay Director, Patrick Kenny, from Our Lady of Peace Parish, Darien. Pat served as Lay Director from 2009-2012. His enthusiasm, strong faith and tireless energy helped to propel the success of our Movement within the Joliet Diocese.

We send our sincere and heartfelt thanks also to Pat's lovely wife, Debi Kenny, who also tirelessly served our Movement as both Co-Lay Director and Co-Three Day Chair over the past three years.

May the Holy Spirit bring abundant blessings to the two of you and your family.



ASK CRISTINA THE CURSILLISTA

Dear Cristina,

How do I find a group reunion?

Newbie

Dear Newbie,

You may ask your sponsor or any of the leaders from the weekend you attended to help you find a group reunion. Another way is to attend a monthly Ultreya. For Ultreya times and locations go to www.jolietcursillo.org. At an Ultreya you will hear a witness from a 4th day member who is living the Cursillo method in his/her environments. You will break into small groups to share piety, study and action. Ask the UCLs (Ultreya Community Leaders) who are running the Ultreya to help you find a group reunion.

DeColores,

Cristina



Dear Cristina,

I am frustrated that my group strays from the group reunion sheet. Is it important to stick to the sheet?

Grumpy Groupie

Dear Grumpy Groupie,

It is absolutely important to stick to the group reunion sheet. Though the group reunion should be based on true friendship and trust, it is formed to allow weekly Christian sharing. The purpose of the group reunion sheet is to keep our reunions structured so that Christ is always at the center of our conversation. We are sharing how Christ works in our lives. Sharing things not centered in Christ causes the group to be no different than any other social circle. The group reunion is only valid if the members share the three fundamental elements of piety, study and action. In piety, we share the aids that help us to stay in contact with Christ. In study, we share what has helped us to know Christ better and to understand better His will for us. In action, we share how we have evangelized our environments—home, work and community—during the past week. The group reunion members support each other by sharing not only successes, but failures. We rely on our groupies to help us up when we fall, to encourage us to keep going through sharing, prayer and palanca. Our apostolic plan for action becomes a real commitment when we share it with our groupies. The members of the group reunion should share a common desire to grow in personal conversion. When the group functions properly, the result is that we are helping each other to live out our Baptismal and Confirmation call. We are helping each other effect an apostolic transformation simply by living as authentic disciples of Christ.

DeColores,

Cristina

Dear Cristina,

I am a new Cursillista and I am not receiving email announcements from the Joliet Diocese Cursillo even though I was added to a roster during my weekend. Who should I contact to activate my subscription?

Hungry for News

Dear Hungry for News,

This situation is easily remedied. Just log on to our website at www.jolietcursillo.org and at the bottom right of the home page you will see a prompt that says, "Join the Joliet Cursillo Mailing List or Update Your Profile."

Follow the directions to activate your subscription to Joliet Diocese Cursillo news and events.

DeColores,

Cristina

FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY



About Prayer Requests

Prayer requests must be emailed to Mike Iozzo, Palanca Chair, at prayer@jolietcursillo.org

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 need to go to the website www.jolietcursillo.org and opt-in. Just follow the prompts at the lower right of the home page.

About Candidate Applications

Please download the latest application from the website www.jolietcursillo.org Click on "Weekends" in the menu bar on the home page, then scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "Download Cursillo Application Form". Our mailing address is:
PO Box 4247, Lisle, IL 60532-9247



*Make a friend,
Be a friend,
Bring a friend to Christ.*

The Joliet Diocese Cursillo Newsletter is published quarterly.

Co-editors: Patricia Simmons and Elaine Torres Janus

Please send submissions to: plscopy@comcast.net

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



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