

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER

Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska

August 2023

Calendar of Events



September 9, 2023 -- **FOURTH DAY RETREAT - 9:00am** at St. Mary Church, Aurora (In person AND via ZOOM) Optional 8:00am Parish Mass if you are participating in person.

➤ To participate in SOL, start your Zoom app, and enter the **Meeting ID: 629-734-5912**

September 22-24, 2023 -- **Fall 2023 Region VI Encounter**

at Camp Horizon, 30811 Horizon Dr, Arkansas City KS 67005 (Hosted by the Wichita, KS Diocese)

October 3, 2023 -- **Secretariat Meeting, 6:00pmCT via ZOOM (Tentative)**

November 11, 2023 -- **SOL - 9:00am** at St. Mary Church, Aurora (In person AND via ZOOM)

Fourth Day Retreat – Saturday, September 9, 2023

In order to better live Cursillo, it's good to occasionally step away from the normality of our lives in order to: (1) reflect on how we're doing and (2) deepen our understanding that "to live Cursillo is to live the Gospel." We are planning a day of Retreat to do just that! This invitation is open to ALL cursillistas. It will be a wonderful opportunity to re-ignite the fire of your apostolic zeal and renew old friendships (and make new ones).

A retreat allows us to reflect on our lives without distraction and come to better know God's will for us! Given that the goal of Cursillo is to communicate God's love through friendship in that place where God has placed you at this exact moment, this retreat is one more opportunity to discover the possibilities that Cursillo offers each of us and the Church.

The event is being held at St. Mary Parish in Aurora, NE, and will begin at 9:00am. The parish has an 8:00am Saturday morning Mass for those who would like to assist at Mass prior to the Retreat. The day will include talks given by both priests and laypersons, prayer, meditation, and reflections. Retreat activities will conclude at approximately 4:30pm. St. Mary Parish has a 5:00pm anticipatory Mass for those who would like to attend prior to returning home.

Lunch on Saturday will be pot-luck style, so please bring something to share if you are able. We are not asking for a registration fee, but would appreciate a donation if you are able. If you are not able to bring food, come anyway ... there is always enough!!

Eduardo Bonnin (founder of Cursillo) once said: "Because everyone has a different perspective, what we have to achieve is that the Christ of each person be the person of Christ." May it be so!!

Hope to see you there ... De Colores!!

Region VI Fall Encounter, September 22-24, 2023

The Region VI Fall Encounter will be held September 22-24, 2023, at Camp Horizon, 30811 Horizon Dr, Arkansas City KS 67005 (Hosted by Wichita, KS Diocese) ... Registration Form on back page of newsletter cover. Please come. Eleven persons from the Lincoln Diocese participated in the last Regional Encounter in Kansas City. The sharing was very good. Everyone participating had a great time and learned a lot.

From the Diocesan Coordinator

De Colores!

Cursillista in name only? “In name only” is a phrase used to describe a person, thing, or action that does not have the qualities that its name suggests.

Are WE cursillistas in name only? Trying to be a cursillista without truly understanding Cursillo and all it offers to help us live as God would have us is like trying to grow a tree without water. It doesn't work. If we're growing as cursillistas ... i.e., growing in the Fourth Day ... we should be moving from Bystander to Steward ... from Follower to Apostle/Leader. You can take a vacation from your job, but you cannot take a vacation from your vocation ... from your calling. Can you take a vacation from Cursillo? Cursillo has always been intended as a way of life.

We are called to be Catholic Christians, not just do Christian things. In his talk at the July 2023 National Cursillo Encounter at Creighton University in Omaha, Steve Krause commented: “Be open to serving the Church through the Cursillo movement. Be a servant leader in your environments. You've seen how it changes lives and there is JOY in service. Cursillo is a way of life. We should live the Cursillo at all times. Live servant leadership. You've been commissioned: ‘For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.’”

In his book, “*Whom Shall I Send?*”, Fr. Frank Salmani says: “In order to discern God's call and answer that call properly, we need three things: Idealism, Self-Surrender, and Charity. God wants only the best for us, so we owe it to God not to give Him a half-hearted effort. We have to be open to His call, to listen to Him and not to come to Him with our agenda ... Is this what God wants me to do right now? We can only answer this if we are honest with ourselves and listen to God's agenda for us.”

The upcoming Fourth Day Retreat on September 9 in Aurora will provide an opportunity to reflect on how you've been doing in terms of conversion and living the life God wants for you. Please prayerfully consider setting aside this time to listen to Him with your heart, as you gather with like-minded brothers and sisters in Christ. He loves us SO much ... and He's counting on us!! **-Greg Vandenberg**

From the Spiritual Advisor

Prayer is encountering God. “Prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy” (CCC #2558, St. Therese of Lisieux). Jesus said, “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them” (Mt.18:20). As Cursillistas we joyfully encounter God in loving obedience to His command to gather in His name, and then with Him present, we pray.

In the weekly Friendship reunion, we hear God speaking in the voice of our friends. We LISTEN to the very voice of God. We live now and forever to LISTEN to God. We encounter God when we live in a listening posture. We are saved when we receive the words of God with a willing heart. O how blessed are those who gather in the Name of the Lord and listen to Him through friends! We live this disciple's life and share it with others daily. This is preparation for Heaven. AND in Mark 6:31-33, Jesus tells us to come away with Him to a listening place and be rejuvenated!

A retreat is an essential part of our preparation for Heaven. An annual retreat is what disciples of Jesus do. They follow Him into the desert to listen to Him with less distractions. I pray that every person attends an annual retreat.

Our weekly Friendship reunion is a mini retreat. Our School of Leaders (SOLs) and Ultreyas are mini retreats. The most important thing we do on a retreat is listen to God speak. I highly recommend taking a pencil and paper into prayer (Revelation 1:11) so that when God speaks you can quickly write it down after prayer so the devil will not snatch it away (Mt. 13:19).
(continued on next page)

After attending two Ignatian Retreats in recent years, I love to share what God said to me in prayer. I plan to share some of these in the upcoming “Fourth day Retreat”. I would love to hear what you have received from the voice of God or the saints in prayer. What a joy of uniting us it would be to share with each other what the good God of Heaven is saying to our hearts in prayer. *De Colores!!* **Fr. Bernard Lorenz**

Report on the 2023 National Encounter (July 20-23, 2023)

The 33rd National Encounter took place at Creighton University in Omaha on July 20-23, 2023 (Thursday-Sunday). Over 475 cursillistas participated, including both clergy and laypersons from multiple language groups including English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Filipino, and Korean. It was a great opportunity to experience the unity and the diversity of the Cursillo Movement across the United States, and even across the world as there were three cursillistas from Mallorca, Spain (the birthplace of Cursillo). Our region (Region VI) was the host of this Encounter and coordinated most of the logistics, setup and preparation with Omaha Spanish taking the lead.

Eight from the Lincoln Diocese attended, and several helped with preparing for and registering participants, including those from our Lincoln Vietnamese Cursillo community to help with Vietnamese speaking cursillistas.

The Encounter began Thursday evening with a welcome and an overview of the weekend, followed by a Marian Procession, an Apostolic Hour (with Exposition), and confessions. For the Marian procession, the Lincoln Diocese contributed Our Lady of La Vang (Vietnamese) and Our Mother Thrice Admirable (from the Schoenstatt shrine near Crete).

Friday morning started with Morning Prayers, followed by the spiritual keynote, which was given by Father Jacob Carlin (Wichita Diocese), entitled “To Live Cursillo is to Live the Gospel”. Father broke down the three pillars of Cursillo (piety, study, and action) as well as accountability and growth via Cursillo’s structure (Group Reunion, Ultreya, and School of Leaders).

After Mass and lunch, the lay keynote was given by two Mallorcans, Margarita Rado and Loren Marián. They spoke about FEBA (in English, the Foundation for Eduardo Bonnín Aquiló) which works on the cause for canonization of the founder of Cursillo, Eduardo Bonnín. FEBA needs all of our help to keep the work of FEBA going. They also spoke about the charism of Cursillo and the “trident” structure of Christ, the person, and friendship. The day ended with a workshop session by Steve Krause (president of NACG – the North American Caribbean Group of Cursillo), “Operational Structure of the Cursillo Movement”. Steve showed that we all are part of the world Cursillo and where we fit. The Movement is a movement of people – it is alive. All levels of the Cursillo are responsible to promote and protect the foundational charism of the Movement, summed up as “the best reality of the best news that God in Jesus Christ loves us, all communicated by the best means, friendship.” The day ended with Ultreya (group reunion, witness, echo, and spiritual wrap up).

Saturday had two language breakout sessions, English – “A Journey Through the Cursillo Rector’s Guide Rollos” (given by Bernadette Charlton, Region 4 Lay Coordinator), and “Gifts and Responsibilities of the Cursillo Christian Leader” (given by the National Cursillo Service Administrator, Nadia Lopez). We are called to be Catholic Christians, not just do christian things. Cursillo is a way of life, we should live the Cursillo at all times. Regional meetings followed (the Lincoln Diocese is in Region VI). Our region had 14 diocesan movements present. Two items to put on our calendars are the 2023 Fall Region VI Encounter (September 22-24, 2023) in Arkansas City, KS, and the 2024 Spring Region VI Encounter (April 26-28, 2024) in Dodge City, KS.

Saturday evening closed the Encounter with a fiesta where many of the language groups put on skits, danced, sang, and provided a fun-filled entertaining evening.

We were truly blessed to have the National Encounter in Omaha. So many friendships were renewed and many new friendships were made. De Colores!

Upcoming Ultreyas

Beatrice-Hebron-Crete:

Location alternates (2:00pm; usually 2nd Sunday of month)

- September Ultreya (September 10, 2:00pm) – Crete, Sacred Heart Parish Hall.
- October Ultreya (October 8, 2:00pm) – Beatrice, St. Joseph Parish Hall.
- November Ultreya (November 12, 2:00pm) – Hebron, Sacred Heart Parish Hall.
- December Ultreya (December 10, 2:00pm) – Crete, Sacred Heart Parish Hall.

Contacts: John/Kathy Springer, (402) 826-2699 or (402) 580-1367.

Southwestern Nebraska (McCook-Imperial-North Platte):

Location alternates (usually 2nd Sunday of month)

- September Ultreya (September 10, 12:30pmMT) – In-person & ZOOM (St. Patrick Parish Hall, Imperial)
- October Ultreya (October 8, 12:30pmMT) – In-person & ZOOM (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Hall, North Platte)
- November Ultreya (November 12, 12:30pmMT) – In-person & ZOOM (St. Patrick Parish Hall, McCook)
- December Ultreya (December 10, 12:30pmMT) – In-person & ZOOM (St. Patrick Parish Hall, Imperial)

Contact: Kay Portillo (308) 227-1231

Lincoln – Vietnamese Language Group:

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lincoln

- Normally 1st Sunday of each month after 9:00am Mass (about 10:15am)

Contacts: Diep Van Nguyen (402) 474-9588, Canh Nguyen (402) 435-0921.

Not Currently Having Ultreyas [Please participate in a neighboring Ultreya]

- Lincoln
- Doniphan-Hastings-Holdrege-Minden
- Plattsmouth-Nebraska City
- Weston-David City-Shelby-Wahoo

For more information, contact Greg Vandenberg (308) 530-7587, Lay Director

Secretariat Mail

Lay Director – Greg Vandenberg; 3101 Meadow Court, North Platte, NE 69101
(glvandenberg@charter.net)

Newsletter is currently published as needed.

Lincoln Diocese Cursillo WebPage: www.seas-np.org/cursillolincoln.html

Region VI WebPage: www.natl-cursillo.org/region6

National WebPage: www.natl-cursillo.org

Secretariat Members

Lay Director.....	Greg Vandenberg (308) 530-7587
Precursillo	
Three Day Weekend	
Postcursillo	
School of Leaders / Secretary.....	John Springer (402) 826-2699
Treasurer.....	Kathy Springer (402) 826-2699
Spiritual Advisor	Fr. Bernard Lorenz (308) 414-1195



REGION VI FALL ENCOUNTER
September 22-24, 2023
Camp Horizon
30811 Horizon Dr
Arkansas City, KS 67005
This is a NO Tobacco Use Facility

Please register before Friday, September 15th.

Name _____

Spouse, if attending _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Parish _____ Diocese _____

Male _____ Female _____

Allergies or any health condition to be considered? _____

Do you need special sleeping accommodations? _____

Are you planning to sleep at Camp Horizon? Yes _____ No _____

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Please send the form to the treasurer of Region VI, Marlene Bannwarth. 2812 Rolling Green, Independence, KS 67301. (785)580-7356. Make you check to Reg 6 Cursillo.

Registration \$80.00 per person, includes two nights, light meal Friday evening, 4 meals and sack lunch. You need to bring your own personal items.

Please arrive on Friday between **6:00-8:00pm**. For emergency or any questions, please call

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER
PO Box 291
Aurora, NE 68818-0291

Forwarding Service Requested

Retreat
Fourth Day 9, 2023
September 9, 2023
St. Mary Church, Aurora

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