

Cursillo News for Jan. – Feb. 2013

Calendar of Events

- January 12, 2013 SOL - 9:30am – 2:30pm (Mass at 9:00am). St. Ann Parish, Doniphan.
- February 15-16, 2013 **Practice Weekend**, at St. John the Baptist, Minden.
Secretariat Meeting, following the Practice Weekend (approx. 1:00pm).
- February 21-24, 2013 **Men's Three Day Weekend**, at St. John the Baptist, Minden.
- February 24, 2013 **Men's Closing**, 5:00pm at St. John the Baptist, Minden (no longer a 4pm Fourth Day Mass prior to the Closing, but please come to the Closing to welcome the new cursillistas).
- March 7-10, 2013 **Women's Three Day Weekend**, at St. John the Baptist, Minden.
- March 10, 2013 **Women's Closing**, 5:00pm at St. John the Baptist, Minden (no longer a 4pm Fourth Day Mass prior to the Closing, but please come to the Closing to welcome the new cursillistas).
- April 13, 2013 SOL - 9:30am – 2:30pm (Mass at 9:00am). IHM Parish in Lincoln.
Secretariat Meeting, afternoon work session of SOL (approx. 1:00pm)
- April 26-28, 2013 Spring 2013 Region VI Encounter – Dodge City, KS (details later).
- June 8, 2013 SOL - 9:30am – 2:30pm (Mass at 9:00am) at St. Ann Parish, Doniphan.
- June 30, 2013 **Grand Ultreya** – Location to be announced.

[Due to the February/March Weekends and the busy-ness of May in terms of graduations, etc., there have been some adjustments in the normal scheduling of SOL and Secretariat meetings. That said, SOL is generally the second Saturday of the even numbered months (Feb., April, etc.), and Secretariat meetings are generally the second Saturday of the odd numbered months (Jan., March, etc.).]

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*See pages 5-8 for an article
 about how Cursillo came to be ...*

***Christmas Blessings!! May your New Year
 be one continuing Encounter with Christ!!***

Christ is counting on YOU!! Please offer Palanca for the spiritual success of this and every Cursillo activity. After all, Palanca is the backbone of the Cursillo Movement and essential for each spiritual success - on Weekends as well as in every Fourth Day. As the candidates are living their Three Day Weekend, your spending time with our Lord before the Blessed Sacrament is the best means of helping them encounter Him. Please make sure the assigned hours are covered according to the locations listed below, or contact a neighboring Ultreya Center for assistance ... He IS counting on you!!!

*Please come to
 the Men's Closing
 (5:00 pm) and
 Women's Closing
 (5:00 pm) to welcome
 the new 4th Dayers.*



Lift them up in prayer ...

***Send Palanca to:
 St. John the Baptist
 Attn: Cursillo Palanca
 P.O. Box 245,
 Minden, NE 68959***

PALANCA (by Ultreya Center) for the February-March 2013 Minden Weekends

Thursday, 7:00pm - Friday, 1:00am	David City/Shelby/Wahoo/Weston
Friday, 1:00am - 7:00am	Beatrice/Crete/Hebron
Friday, 7:00am - 1:00pm	Lincoln Vietnamese and English
Friday, 1:00pm - 7:00pm	Southwestern Nebraska (McCook/Imperial/Grant)
Friday, 7:00pm - Saturday 1:00am	Nebraska City/Plattsmouth
Saturday, 1:00am - 7:00am	David City/Shelby/Wahoo/Weston
Saturday, 7:00am - 1:00pm	Beatrice/Crete/Hebron
Saturday, 1:00pm - 7:00pm	Southwestern Nebraska (McCook/Imperial/Grant)
Saturday, 7:00pm - Sunday 1:00am	Lincoln Vietnamese and English
Sunday, 1:00am - Sunday, 7:00am	Nebraska City/Plattsmouth
Sunday, 7:00am - 5:00pm	Hastings/Holdrege/Minden

1. Ultreya Center News:

Details regarding upcoming Ultreyas are included on the next page and on the outside cover of each Newsletter and are also available on the diocesan webpage:

<http://www.seas-np.org/cursillolincoln.html>

- The **Beatrice/Crete/Hebron/Lincoln Ultreya Center** continues its rotation of locations ... The **January** Ultreya will be held on Sunday, January 27, at **3:00pm** at Sacred Heart Parish Hall in Hebron. **PLEASE NOTE** –Ultreyas now begin at **3:00pm** (rather than ~~5:00pm~~ as they have in the past). The **February** Ultreya would normally be held at 3:00pm on **February 24, 2013**. However, since this is the date of the **Men's Closing** in Minden, ALL cursillistas in the Lincoln Diocese are encouraged to come to the Closing and welcome the new cursillistas into the Fourth Day (rather than have Ultreyas).

- The **Southwest Ultreya Center** will continue to rotate its Ultreya location between McCook and Imperial. The **January** Ultreya will be held **January 13** at 3:30pm CT in the St. Patrick Church Basement in McCook. The **February** Ultreya will be held **February 10** at 2:30 pm MT in the St. Patrick Parish Hall in Imperial.
- The **Hastings-Holdrege-Minden Ultreya Center** is holding quarterly Ultreyas. The next Ultreya will be **Feb. 10, 2013**, at **2:30pm** at **St. John the Baptist Church, Minden**.
- The **Plattsmouth/Nebraska City Ultreya Center** – Contact Mary Lou Salazar or Terry Little for more information.
- The **Weston-Wahoo Ultreya Center** is currently not having Ultreyas. Please participate in Ultreya in one of the other Ultreya Centers (Lincoln is close).
- The **Vietnamese-language Ultreya** continues to be held the fourth Sunday of each month at 3:30pm at **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Lincoln**.

2. **Precursillo and Three Days**

Realizing that Cursillo didn't just spring into being (see the article under "Postcursillo" that gives Cursillo's history), we should truly **USE** (open it) this gift that we have been given. As has been said before, the work of the Precursillo is NOT about preparing friends to live a Three Day Weekend; rather, it is about making friends, being friends, and bringing our friends to CHRIST. Preparing candidates/friends to live a Three Day Weekend IS, however, one part of the work of the Precursillo. With Weekends fast approaching, it is an opportune time to extend an invitation to a friend who has indicated to you that he/she wants to deepen his/her faith ... to someone who is hungry to know our Lord and the Catholic faith better. "He has no hands but yours ... no voice but yours ..."

The next set of Three Day Weekends are scheduled to be held at St. John the Baptist Parish in Minden – February 21-24, 2013, for Men and March 7-10, 2013, for Women. Please try to get applications in early so that the candidate has time to prepare, as do we. Then as you continue to work with your friend/candidate, find ways to continue reminding about the upcoming opportunity to grow in faith. Be excited and joy-filled and enthusiastic ... if you aren't, why should they be?

As we go about the day-to-day work of the Precursillo, we are always aware that a big part of the work can be very slow and time-consuming (it can quite literally take years) ... but if you don't ever begin, quite literally, it won't come to fruition. There is a lot of work to do in the Precursillo (making a friend, being a friend, and bringing your friend to Christ), but the key is to begin the work, always in a spirit of Palanca (talking to God about your friend before talking to your friend about God), and with a mind/heart/will set "to the highest level" to persevere in winning this person for Christ.

And maybe, this person might even be interested in ratcheting up his/her faith by living a Cursillo Weekend!! For your convenience, we have included in this Newsletter a current application form (with a separate information sheet about these specific Weekends) and an information sheet about Cursillo itself that includes comments from recent Popes and Bishop Emeritus Bruskewitz. If you need more than one application, please make copies, or go to the Lincoln Diocese Cursillo webpage <http://www.seas-np.org/cursillolincoln.html>.

3. **Postcursillo**

Report on Region VI Fall Encounter (September 28-30, 2012)

The Region VI Spring 2013 Encounter will be hosted by the Dodge City, KS Diocese on April 26-28, 2013. As details become available, we will keep you updated. Regional Encounters are a great place to spend time with our brothers and sisters in Christ (our friends) from around the Region ... and it's a great opportunity to continue discovering all that can be accomplished as we come to a deeper understanding of the simplicity and gift that we have in Cursillo.

Upcoming Region VI Encounters are scheduled as follows:

- Spring 2013 – April 26-28, 2013; Dodge City, KS Diocese.
- Fall 2013 – September 27-29, 2013; Duluth, MN Diocese.
- Spring 2014 – April 25-27, 2014; Fargo, ND Diocese (in Hankinson, ND).
- Fall 2014 – September 26-28, 2014; Kansas City, KS Archdiocese.
- Spring 2015 – April 24-26, 2015; Salina, KS Diocese.
- Fall 2015– September 25-27, 2015; Rapid City, SD Diocese.

4. **School of Leaders (SOL)**

The December SOL was held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Lincoln on December 1, 2012. The Technique Talks came from the first two chapters of *The Leaders Manual*. The first talk was on "**The Evolution of the Cursillo Movement**"; see Greg Vandenberg's summary below. The second talk was on "**The Essence, Purpose and Mentality of the Cursillo Movement**". Both talks provided good insight and discussion into both the "why" and the "how" of Cursillo, and helped us better understand why Cursillo exists and how it operates. The Doctrine Talks came from the first two sections of Pope Benedict XVI's Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Verbum Domini* ("**On the Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church**"). The work sessions were used to prepare for the upcoming Three Day Weekends. There was wonderful sharing of friendship and thoughts and ideas ... please consider coming.

The next SOL (open to both English and Vietnamese) will be held on **January 12, 2013**, at **St. Ann Parish in Doniphan**. Note that this date is one month earlier than the usual 2nd Saturday of the even numbered months (in this case, February); the change was made because the Practice Weekend and Men's Three Day Weekend are also scheduled in February. In upcoming SOLs, we will continue to review *The Leaders Manual*; it has been several years since we last took an in-depth cover-to-cover look at this resource, and there has been a new edition since we last reviewed it. This will be a good way to deepen our understanding of Cursillo, since we understand it better and better every time we study any of the Cursillo literature. The Doctrinal Talks will continue to come from Pope Benedict XVI's Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Verbum Domini* ("*On the Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church*").

For information about the Vietnamese language SOL, please contact Canh Nguyen (402-435-0921) or Juliana Tran (402-436-1998) or Diep Nguyen (402-474-9588).

Summary of Leaders' Manual – Chapter One

The Evolution of the Cursillo Movement

by Greg Vandenberg, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, North Platte

The genesis of the Cursillo Movement was no accident. It was actually a series of events, none of which were focused specifically on developing A Cursillo Movement, but which together led to its development. Looking at these events is an opportunity to recognize that the Cursillo Movement didn't just happen – God willed it to be!

Cursillo began in Spain, but Why and How?

It is said that we are products of our environment, so what did the environment in Spain look like prior to Cursillo's beginning? Spain was just recovering from the 1936-1939 Spanish Civil War between Religious and political Catholics. It began because of a strong anti-clerical atmosphere in Spain. In all, the conflict took the lives of 4,184 Diocesan Priests and Seminarians; 2,365 Religious clergymen (i.e., those belonging to religious orders); 283 Nuns -- a total of 6,832 Catholics, or nearly 10% of the 72,500 persons killed by those in power. This was the environment or world that the founder of Cursillo knew.

Pope Pius XII

On February 6, 1940, the Pope Pius XII challenged Church Leaders to make every effort to bring people back to Christian values. The Holy Father's words deeply affected Eduardo Bonnín (the founder of the Cursillo Movement), inspiring him to conduct an in-depth, systematic study of the environment and atmosphere existing in Spain at that time. His study of the environment was the development of a plan on how to reach people in each environment so it might be transformed into a Christian environment.

Eduardo's Challenge

Historically Spain had contributed much to the Roman Catholic Church. Saints such as St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Teresa of Jesus (Avila), St. John of the Cross, St. Peter

Claver, and others all hailed from Spain. In the spirit of keeping the faith alive and vibrant, in 1941, Young People in Catholic Action gathered 100,000 young men who lived in God's grace for a Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela (Shrine of St. James the Apostle). The spirit of the Pilgrimage was one of restlessness, dissatisfaction with the way things were, and an intent to conquer spiritual lukewarmness. It was a spirit of moving onward ... to keep going ... or, as expressed in Spanish – ULTREYA!! It was a brotherhood of pilgrims with the goal that life be fully given to the love of God and man ... a style that marks much of the spirituality of the Cursillo Movement.

In making preparations for the Pilgrimage, there developed a strong interest in finding effective ways to work apostolically. Courses needed to be developed to train leaders and participants. Week-long Cursillos ("short course") of Pilgrim Leaders were developed and presented twice a year, at Christmas and at Easter, because these were the only times employers would tolerate a week-long absence from work.

Encouraged by Jose Ferragut, the president of the youth "Catholic Action of Majorca," Eduardo attended the 2nd Cursillos of Pilgrim Leaders in 1943. Eduardo concluded that something similar, but at the same time different, would ASSURE the message of Pope Pius XII was carried out – to obtain Christian dynamism in the world ... in environments just as they are. The result of Eduardo's reflecting on the reality of Spain as it was, in conjunction with the Holy Father's challenge to bring people back to Christian values, led him to develop the "Study of the Environment" rollo for the next Cursillos of Pilgrim Leaders.

In November 1944, Eduardo became president of "Catholic Action of Majorca." As president, Eduardo worked to develop an entire method that would serve to ferment Christianity in distant persons and environments, but one that would also revitalize in depth those closest to God. The week-long courses ("Cursillos") were replaced with three-day courses, which came to be known as "*Cursillos in Christianity*." It was easier for people to get three days off of work than an entire week, so the experience became more accessible to the common person. The goal was to achieve, by God's grace, a spreading of the Good News of the Gospel, so as to reach the men and women of today – "*the normal, common person who falls asleep in front of the TV receiving nothing that serves as an answer to the important problems and situations of and in their lives.*" Eduardo had to defend his method to many, but he persevered. Finally, in 1948, seven years after the idea of making a pilgrimage was first discussed, the National Pilgrimage of Youth to the Shrine of St. James the Apostle (Santiago de Compostela) took place.

Defining the Cursillo Movement

The most formative period for the Cursillo Movement was between the years 1944 and 1948. The first *Cursillos in Christianity* was held in August 1944, with a total of six three-day weekends being held between 1944 and 1948. In addition to Eduardo as founder, there emerged three champions of Cursillo – Bishop Hervas, Sebastian Gaya (author of the Pilgrim's Guide), and Fr. Juan Capo (who provided a theological

perspective of the rollos). With Bishop Hervás' help, Cursillo entered through the main door of the Catholic Church.

Although the Group Reunion and *Cursillos in Christianity* already existed in 1944, they were only presented to (available to) those in Catholic Action. It wasn't until 1949 that the experience became more available to everyone. The *Ultreya* (a sharing of everyone with everyone) developed to lend encouragement to those united in the same pilgrimage, and was officially adopted in 1951. The *School of Professors* (or Leaders) followed.

Separation – Cursillos in Christianity Becomes Independent

In 1950, Eduardo Bonnin resigned as the President of Catholic Action in favor of the position of Chairman of *Cursillos in Christianity* – an activity *within* Catholic Action. *Cursillos in Christianity* were held monthly, with the January 7-10, 1949, designated as *Cursillos in Christianity* #1 (in spite of its actually being the seventh *Cursillos in Christianity* historically). [Hereafter, we refer to *Cursillos in Christianity* as simply *Cursillos*, not to be confused with the week-long *Cursillos* referred to in the beginning]. Eduardo was the Rector of Cursillo #1. The real significance of Cursillo #1 was Fr. Juan Capo's addition of the meditations to the Weekend. Fr. Capo had returned to Majorca in 1948 and directed the "spiritual retreat" of Cursillo #1, giving new outlines and a new focus to the three meditations that formed the retreat. From there on, and due to the great success that these meditations had in this Cursillo, they were incorporated as part of the "method."

In 1954, the first Diocesan Secretariat for Cursillos was established. There was opposition (especially in regard to its separation from Catholic Action), and this prompted the *Cursillos in Christianity* founders to clarify their thoughts and avoid deviations. Ultimately, it caused the founders to produce the first written Cursillo literature.

Toward the end of the first period of the Cursillo Movement, Cursillos spread from Majorca to the mainland (the rest of Spain). Because there was no Leaders Manual (only mimeographed instructions and magazine articles), the growth led to variations in presentation and methods. "*Those giving Cursillos gave them without a great deal of knowledge and were not concerned for its original content or for its mentality. They frequently adapted them, sometimes producing something quite different from what had been done in Majorca.*" Further, when Bishop Hervás was transferred out of Majorca, the original group dispersed and the new bishop, who was not in favor of the Movement, suspended Cursillos in Majorca for a couple of years.

Despite the setbacks, Cursillos continued to spread throughout the world, to six of the seven continents (not to Antarctica). The Movement came to the United States in 1957. Two airmen (Bernardo Vadell and Agustin Palomino) from Spain were sent to Waco, TX. There they met Fr. Gabriel Fernandez, who had also experienced Cursillo at Majorca. The trio held two weekends in Waco, also forming a School of Leaders. By

1959, eighteen Cursillo Weekends were held (in just two years!). The airmen were later transferred to Mission, TX and new Cursillos were held there. In 1959, the Cursillo spread throughout Texas and to Phoenix, AZ. In August 1959, the first National Convention of Spiritual Directors was held and the **Ultreya Magazine** began publication. In 1960, the growth of Cursillo accelerated in the Southwest U.S. and weekends were held for the first time in the East (New York City and Ohio). Prior to 1961, all Cursillos were presented in Spanish; the first English Cursillo was held in 1961 in San Angelo, TX. From there, the Movement spread rapidly throughout the U.S., with the formation of a National Organization in 1965. By 1981, Cursillos had been presented in nearly all of the then-existing 160 dioceses in the U.S. Cursillo is officially joined to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) through a Bishop (currently Bishop Eusebio Elizondo of Seattle, WA) who acts as its official liaison.

The Cursillo Movement was born in the period of renewal that preceded the Second Vatican Council. Vatican II was itself born out of a spiritual effort and of the pastoral renewal which had been developing for years before the Council was officially called. Over the years, men have been seeking to find ways of bringing the Church to life in the hearts of men ... the Cursillo Movement came from the work of such men.

From the Lay Director

Advent, like Lent, is for me a period of reflection and an opportunity to try to grow closer to Jesus. Like this time every year, however, so much seems to be happening that any inner retreat I would like to have can only be done in short periods and at odd moments. Because we have been spending a great deal of time with three of our very young grandchildren, any lack of time has been replaced with the chance to see the carefree joy of little children. With these three little ones, I find myself re-living both my childhood and the raising of our own children. The Christmas season is very dear in my memory as a young boy growing up on a farm in Wisconsin – trudging through the snow to get the right tree and putting it up, but waiting to decorate it until just a few days before Christmas; laying on the floor in a blanket watching the lights and dreaming of presents I hoped to get; midnight Mass; eggnog; and all the programs and crafts we made at St. Mary's grade school. With our children, we lit the candles on the Advent wreath and prayed the rosary each night, ending with Christmas songs we took turns choosing. There were Christmas programs, plays, projects, and so many other activities to also help make Advent special. And now with the three little ones, we see how they are so fascinated with the lights, asking to look at the baby Jesus Who is not in the stable yet (He is hidden behind a picture waiting to be "born" on Christmas Eve), learning Christmas songs, and so on. They are only four and younger, so there is a lot that they don't understand yet, but the anticipation is still there. All of this is such a blessing.

In reflecting over the past year related to Cursillo, there is also so much to be thankful for - returning to Weston last March for the Cursillo Weekends, joining with the Vietnamese community for School of Leaders and the many friendships that have been and are being formed, Region VI Encounters in Elkhorn and Kansas City, the Grand Ultreya in Hebron, the National Encounter in Cincinnati at Xavier University, and the 4th Day Retreat in Imperial. We are also thankful for all who faithfully group, participate in Ultreya, and/or keep Cursillo in prayer and offer Palanca for the Movement.

I continue to ask that, if not already going, you please consider being part of School of Leaders. Cursillo needs us (you and me) to remain strong and functioning in our Diocese. Please participate in your Ultreyas. If you are not grouping, find someone and get back in a group. Please continue to pray for the Cursillo Movement and pray for leaders in our Diocese to come forward and give some time to keep the Movement alive and faithful. May your Advent draw you closer to Christ Jesus and strengthen your faith, and may your Christmas be filled with joy and peace, and may God bless you!

De Colores!! John Springer

From the Spiritual Advisor

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued a Note with pastoral recommendations for the Year of Faith on January 6, 2012. In this Note, there were recommendations given for living this Year of Faith as a time of grace. The recommendations were on various levels: (1) for the Universal Church; (2) for the Conferences of Bishops; (3) for the dioceses; and (4) for the parish, community, association, and/or movement level. The recommendations for the last level are included at the end of this article, and you are encouraged to prayerfully review them in order that you might apply them in your own life. (I added the bold font and underlines.)

In the last newsletter you were encouraged to read the Apostolic Letter *Porta Fidei* by Pope Benedict XVI. You are also encouraged to intensify your celebration of the faith in the liturgy. For the Cursillo Movement, recommendation #9 is an encouragement to all cursillistas to better understand the charism of Cursillo. One way to do this is to participate in School of Leaders. In addition, recommendation #10 encourages us to “renew the gift of faith ... to communicate their [our] own experience of faith and charity to their [our] brothers and sisters of other religions, with those who do not believe, and with those who are just indifferent. In this way, it is hoped that the entire Christian people will begin a kind of mission toward those with whom they live and work, knowing that they ‘have welcomed the news of salvation which is meant for every man.’” That sounds like the work of Cursillo, “to make a friend, to be a friend, and to bring your friend to Christ.”

De Colores!! Fr. Mark Seiker

Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith

IV. At the level of the parish / community / association / movement

1. In preparation for the Year of Faith, all of the faithful are invited to read closely and meditate upon Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Letter, **Porta fidei**.
2. The Year of Faith “will also be a good opportunity to intensify the celebration of the faith in the liturgy, especially in the Eucharist.”[31] In the Eucharist, mystery of faith and source of the new evangelization, the faith of the Church is proclaimed, celebrated and strengthened. All of the faithful are invited to participate in the Eucharist actively, fruitfully and with awareness, in order to be authentic witnesses of the Lord.
3. Priests should devote greater attention to the study of the documents of Vatican Council II and the **Catechism of the Catholic Church**, drawing from them resources for the pastoral care of their parishes – catechesis, preaching, Sacramental preparation. They should also offer cycles of homilies on the faith or on certain specific aspects such as, for example, **“the encounter with Christ”**, **“the fundamental contents of the Creed”**, and **“faith and the Church.”**[32]
4. Catechists should hold more firmly to the doctrinal richness of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and, under the direction of their pastors, offer guidance in reading this precious document to groups of faithful, working toward a deeper common understanding thereof, with the goal of creating small communities of faith, and of giving witness to the Lord Jesus.
5. It is hoped that there will be a renewed commitment in parishes to the distribution of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and of other resources appropriate for families, which are true domestic churches and the primary setting for the transmission of the faith. This might be done, for example, during the blessing of homes, the Baptism of adults, Confirmations and Marriages. This can contribute to the deepening of Catholic teaching “in our homes and among our families, so that everyone may feel a strong need to know better and to transmit to future generations the faith of all times.”[33]
6. The promotion of missions and other popular programs in parishes and in the workplace can help the faithful to rediscover the gift of Baptismal faith and the task of giving witness, knowing that the Christian vocation “by its very nature is also a vocation to the apostolate.”[34]
7. During this time, members of Institutes of Consecrated Life and of Societies of Apostolic Life are asked to work towards the new evangelization with a renewed union to the Lord Jesus, each according to their proper charism, in fidelity to the Holy Father and to sound doctrine.
8. Contemplative communities, during the Year of Faith, should pray specifically for the renewal of the faith among the People of God and for a new impulse for its transmission to the young.
9. Associations and **Ecclesial Movements** are invited to promote specific initiatives which, through the contribution of their proper charism and in collaboration with their local Pastors, will contribute to the wider experience of the Year of Faith. The new Communities and Ecclesial Movements, in a creative and generous way, will be able to find the most appropriate ways in which to offer their witness to the faith in service to the Church.
10. **All** of the faithful, called to renew the gift of faith, should try to communicate their own experience of faith and charity[35] to their brothers and sisters of other religions, with those who do not believe, and with those who are just indifferent. In this way, it is hoped that the entire Christian people will begin a kind of mission toward those with whom they live and work, knowing that they “have welcomed the news of salvation which is meant for every man.”[36]

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Postcursillo/School of Leaders Monica Buster 402-365-7682
Secretary / Treasurer..... Kathy Springer 402-826-2699

Ultreya Center Representatives/Contacts

Beatrice/Crete/Hebron/Lincoln John/Kathy Springer 402-826-2699
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Hastings/Holdrege/Minden Mary Ann Connelly 308-381-8926
Lincoln – Vietnamese Language Juliana (Hang Bui) 402-436-1998
Southwestern NE..... Bill & Elaine Swanson 308-962-7247
Southwestern NE..... Helen Bieker 308-345-4870
Plattsmouth/Nebraska City..... Terry Little 402-296-4170
Weston/Wahoo/David City..... Fr. Chris Goodwin 402-642-5245

Ultreya Centers

- 1) **Beatrice-Crete-Hebron-Lincoln** – Location alternates.....
(usually 4th Sunday of month, 5:00pm)
January 27 – Sacred Heart Parish, Hebron (3:00pm)
February 24 – Men’s Closing, Minden (5:00pm)
March 10 – Women’s Closing, Minden (5:00pm)
- 2) **Hastings-Holdrege-Minden** – Contact Mary Ann Connelly
February 10 at 2:30pm at Minden (St. John the Baptist Church Hall)
February 24 – Men’s Closing, Minden (5:00pm)
March 10 – Women’s Closing, Minden (5:00pm)
- 3) **Lincoln – Vietnamese Language Group**
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lincoln
4th Sunday of month, 3:30pm
- 4) **Plattsmouth-Nebraska City**
Check parish bulletin at www.holyspiritplattsmouth.com,
or contact Terry Little or Mary Lou Salazar
- 5) **Southwestern Nebraska**
Location alternates: McCook/Imperial; Usually 2nd Sunday of month
January 13 – McCook (Church Basement) (3:30pm CT)
February 10 – Imperial (Parish Hall) (2:30pm MT)
- 6) **Weston/David City/Shelby/Wahoo**.....
Not currently having Ultreya; please participate in a neighboring Ultreya

Secretariat Mail

John Springer.....Lay Director
1410 E. 15th St. Crete, NE 68333
Newsletter published: Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov

Lincoln Diocese Cursillo WebPage
<http://www.seas-np.org/cursillolincoln.html>
Region VI WebPage: <http://www.cursillo.org/region6>
National WebPage: www.natl-cursillo.org

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER

Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska

January – February 2013



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

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER
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North Platte, NE 69101-9608

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**Three Day Applications
for upcomg Weekn 2013
Men: March 24, 0, 2013
Women: March 21-7-10, Minden
St. John the Baptist,**

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER

Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska

Jan. – Feb. 2013



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

School of Leaders

*January 12, 2013
202 N 5th Street (5th and Cedar Streets)
St. Ann Parish, Doniphan, NE*

***EVERY Cursillista is invited and welcome ...
The Cursillo Movement needs your
participation ... will you help?***

School of Leaders Agenda:

- 9:00am --- Mass (for those who wish to assist)
- 9:30am -- Group Reunion, Session #1, Lunch, Session #2, Visit to Blessed Sacrament, Depart.
- 2:30pm --- Clean up and departure (*estimated time* ... may be slightly earlier ... may be slightly later ...).

Topics of Talks

The Technique Talks will come from chapters in **The Leaders Manual**. This will be a good way to deepen our understanding of Cursillo, since we understand it better and better every time we study any of the Cursillo literature. The Doctrinal Talks will be from Pope Benedict XVI's Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation "***Verbum Domini***" ("***On the Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church***").

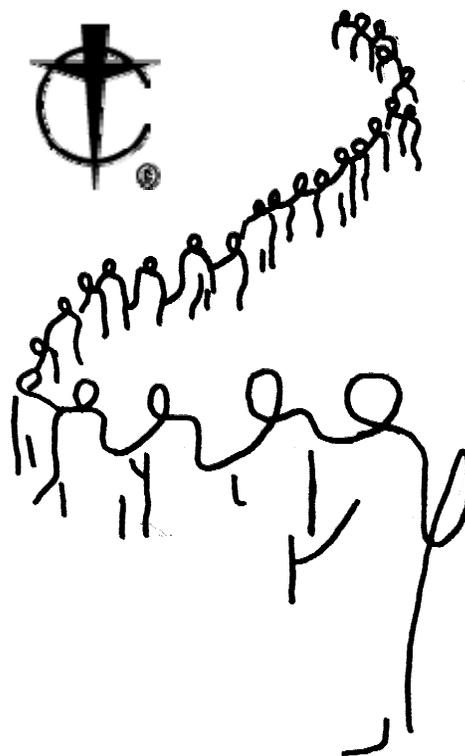
Please bring the following with you to the SOL (if you have them):

- ◆ **BRING YOUR OWN SACK LUNCH** (to save on time preparing and cleaning up, etc.)
- ◆ **Leaders' Manual**, if you have one (available for purchase at SOL)
- ◆ *We ask that you consider making a donation to help cover a donation for use of the facility.*

The Cursillo

*A Method to
Find,
Form,
Sustain
and
Link
Lay Leadership for Christ
and His Church.*

*One Means of Supporting
Christian Community.*



(Reprinted with permission from The National Cursillo Center) 4/3/94

Bishop Fabian Bruskwitz (Bishop Emeritus of Lincoln)

April 8, 2003 Pastoral Bulletin to Diocesan Priests

“Cursillo began in Spain in the 1940’s, and has since spread throughout the world (it was also the catalyst for such movements as Marriage Encounter, Teens Encounter Christ (TEC), Christians Encounter Christ, Residents Encounter Christ, and KAIROS, each of which addressed the needs of a specific group.) Through regular reflection on personal growth in the areas of holiness, formation, and evangelization, the Cursillo Movement offers Catholics an authentic means of helping the Church fulfill her mission of bringing the Gospel to the world.

“The Cursillo Movement first came to the Lincoln Diocese in 1965, and has since continued in its efforts to bear fruit in the spiritual lives of those involved, as well as in the environments these persons were sent by God to Christianize (family,

neighborhood, parish, work). Cursillo is a solidly authentic method of deepening a relationship with Christ, a means of putting on the mind of Christ. It is one way to assist Catholics to teach others to do the same.

“The Cursillo Movement is strongly recommended for its authenticity in promoting holiness, formation and evangelization in the spiritual lives of those who faithfully participate and persevere in living the Cursillo Method, especially to the leaders in every environment within the Diocese. The Lincoln Diocese Cursillo Movement enjoys the full endorsement and support of the Bishop and of Pope John Paul II who publicly thanked the Lord for all He has done and never ceases to do in the Church through Cursillo.”

Pope John Paul II

July 29, 2000 Jubilee Address to Cursillistas, Rome

“Your presence here, so varied and festive, shows that the tiny seed planted in Spain more than 50 years ago has become a great tree laden with fruits of the Spirit. Indeed, it continues to be a successful response to the question asked by my venerable Predecessor Pope Paul VI at the first world Ultreya in Rome: ‘Can the Gospel still win over the mature person ... in urban and rural cultures?’ You transform the world by becoming new men and women. I am therefore delighted to join in your thanksgiving to the Lord for all He has done and never ceases to do in the Church through the Cursillos de Cristiandad. The theme of this world Ultreya – *Evangelizing the Milieus of the Third Millennium: A ‘Challenge’ for the Cursillos de Cristiandad* – demonstrates your efforts to repropose the experience of Christ to the men and women of the 21st century with new means and enthusiasm. This has become ever more urgent, since whole countries and nations, where religion and the Christian life were formerly flourishing and capable of fostering a viable and working community of faith, are now put to a hard test ... as a result of the constant spread of indifference to religion, of secularism and atheism.”

“In view of this situation which challenges believers to remake the Christian fabric of the ecclesial community, the Cursillo method aims at helping to transform in a Christian way the milieus where people live and work through the involvement of ‘new men and women’ who have become such from their encounter with Christ. This is the goal of the three-day ‘little course’ on Christianity, in which a team of priests and lay people, supported by the prayer and sacrifices of the movement’s other members, communicate the fundamental truths of the Christian faith in an especially ‘living’ way. When presented in this way, the message of Christ almost always opens participants in a Cursillo to the gift of conversion and to a deeper awareness of the Baptism they have received and of their own mission in the Church. They feel called to be the prophetic ‘leaven’ which

is kneaded into the dough so that the whole mass will rise to be the ‘salt of the earth’ and the ‘light of the world’ to proclaim to everyone they meet that only in Jesus Christ is there salvation and that it is only in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of man truly becomes clear.”

“... This is your apostolate, carried out in constant harmony with the Church, to show the ‘strength of communion’ which is at once the style and the very essence of the People of God. As you face the various forms of individualism which fragment and divide your evangelizing ability and resources, join your missionary forces with those of the various ecclesiastical groups raised up by the Spirit in the Church of our time. Endeavor to restore the beauty of the first Christian communities, which prompted pagans to say with admiration: ‘See how they love one another!’ And always be docile to the directives of the Magisterium. No charism, in fact, dispenses you from referring and submitting to the Pastors of the Church, whose discernment is a guarantee of fidelity for the charism, itself. May the Jubilee celebration instill in all of you a renewed fidelity to your original inspiration and a firmer ecclesial communion. Many people are looking to you for the light of faith.”

“... During the days of a Cursillo, the words of [a] popular Spanish song help the participants to reflect on the multifaceted beauty of creation. In encountering Christ, you have learned to look with new eyes at others and at nature, at everyday events and at life in general. You have experienced that true happiness is found in following the Lord. This personal and community experience must be passed on to others. Many men and women of our time, who unfortunately turn away from God, expect from you the light of faith that will help them rediscover the colors of life and the happiness of feeling loved by God.”

Pope John Paul II
July 29, 2000 Jubilee Address to Cursillistas, Rome

Pope Paul VI

- **May 28, 1966 Address to First World Ultreya, Rome**

“Cursillos de Cristiandad, that is the word, purified through experience, affirmed by its fruits, that today travels with citizenship papers throughout the world ...”

“Whether some methods become obsolete, whether new manifestations of the Spirit arise, the permanent task of the layman will continue to be the infusion of Christianity into life through the encounter and personal friendship with God and in communion with his brothers. The layman, upon forming himself in Christianity, reforms his mentality and conforms his life to Christ’s image by means of faith, hope and charity; acting with complete responsibility, he transforms the temporal structures in which he is immersed; guided in his action by the glance of Christ, he continually tries to remake the world according to God’s plan and design ...”

“We know that in your plan of spirituality and apostolate in the Cursillo Movement the ‘Sensus Ecclesiae’ (mind of the Church) is the guiding light that orients you ...”

“Beloved sons and daughters: Our soul is so oppressed by the vision of the evils which afflict the Church and mankind. But permit us to express our overwhelming joy that at this moment floods our soul before the immense

chorus of your manly faith in Christ, your fidelity to the Church, your fervent loyalty to this Chair of Peter and to the ministry of the episcopal hierarchy.”

“Cursillos de Cristiandad! Christ, the Church, the Pope, are counting on you!”

- **Dec. 8, 1975 Apostolic Exhortation on Evangelization in the Modern World**

“TAKE A CHRISTIAN or a handful of Christians who, in the midst of their own community, show their capacity for understanding and acceptance, their sharing of life and destiny with other people, their solidarity with efforts of all for whatever is noble and good. Let us suppose that, in addition, they radiate in an altogether simple and unaffected way their faith in values that go beyond current values, and their hope in something that is not seen and that one would not dare to imagine. Through this wordless witness these Christians stir up irresistible questions in the hearts of those who see how they live: Why are they like this? Why do they live in this way? What or who is it that inspires them? Why are they in our midst? Such a witness is already a silent proclamation of the Good News and a very powerful and effective one.”

What is Cursillo?

CURSILLOS IN CHRISTIANITY

In today’s world, can Christianity penetrate the many areas of secular life? Can it live there? Can it grow there? Can it transform the world in a way that is more fruitful than the past and in keeping with the times? The Cursillo Movement thinks so. It proposes no new type of spirituality, but simply a method through which one’s spirituality may be developed, lived and shared in any area of human life where there are Christians willing to dedicate their lives to God in an ongoing manner.

Cursillo teaches that the Gospel should be proclaimed in very natural ways; i.e., we should be Christ-like as we go about our daily activities, right where God put us. Unfortunately, while most people would like to live their lives in a Christ-like manner, the pressures of the world often make this difficult. Cursillo provides a method (with tools) to meet the challenges and respond to the opportunities presented each day. The method is introduced by a little course.

FORMAT OF THE EXERCISES

Cursillo (pronounced **kur-see-yo**) is a Spanish word meaning “little, or short, course.” It begins on a Thursday evening and ends the following Sunday evening. During the three days, those attending live and work together listening to talks given by priests and laypersons. They also share the Eucharist and pray together.

Titles of the talks indicate their content: Ideal, Habitual Grace, the Layperson in the Church, Actual Grace, Piety, Study, Sacraments, Action, Obstacles to a Life of Grace, Leaders, Study of the Environment, Life in Grace, Christianity in Action, the Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo, and Total Security. Each talk is followed by a discussion period.

THE FOURTH DAY

Cursillo recognizes the importance of persevering beyond the Weekend itself, so its design includes a method for increasing and continuing the conversion process beyond the Three Days by providing a means for living the “fourth day” (each day after the Three Day Weekend is referred to as the “fourth day”). In the Cursillo Movement, the community spirit is continued in the fourth day through a monthly gathering or reunion called “Ultreya”, during which we encourage one another to continue to grow in Faith, Hope, and Love (Ultreya means “onward”; we encourage one another onward ... to continue/persevere). In addition, reunions of smaller groups of friends (Group Reunion) are available weekly for fostering spiritual growth in the individual members, helping each to better take Christ out into the world.

CHRISTIANIZING ENVIRONMENTS

Correctly applied and overseen, the Cursillo Movement can have very positive results in the spiritual revitalization of the world. The Christ-likeness in a few good people is contagious. The transference of Christ’s values to others in one’s family, school, place of business, etc., is the Christianizing of environments the Cursillo promotes.

The goal of the Cursillo Movement is that Christ be the prime influence in society. Its primary objectives are to develop in adult Christians a consciousness of their power and mission to become leaders in the work of Christian renewal, and to sustain them as they provide a Christian leaven in civic, social and economic life. This “Christianizing of environments” is what the Cursillo Movement is all about.

CURSILLO

Cursillistas (persons who have lived a Three Day Cursillo Weekend) believe that Christianity CAN penetrate the many areas of secular life. Cursillo is not a new type of spirituality, but simply a method through which our spirituality is developed and lived – right where we are!!

A Cursillo Weekend’s aim is to concentrate closely on the Person and teachings of Jesus Christ. Truly, a Cursillo is an encounter with Christ ... a real meeting with Christ. Cursillo gives those who participate a living understanding of basic Catholic truths and the desire to serve the Church. What’s more, it provides a means to continue the Christian formation that begins on the Weekend.

Interested? You are invited ... Come and see!!

For More Information, Contact:

Ultreya Center	Office/Position	Name	Phone
Beatrice / Crete / Hebron / Lincoln	Lay Director	John Springer	402-826-2699
Southwestern NE	Spiritual Advisor	Fr. Mark Seiker	308-534-5461
Beatrice Crete Hebron Lincoln	3 Day Weekend	Mark Pribyl	402-641-7199
	Secretary/Treasurer	Kathy Springer	402-826-2699
	Precursillo	Roddy Spangler	402-239-0086
	Postcursillo / School of Leaders	Monica Buster	402-365-7682
Hastings/Holdrege/Minden	Representative	Kathy Rowell	308-876-2271
	Representative	Mary Ann Connelly	308-381-8926
Lincoln Vietnamese Language	Representative	Juliana Hang Bui	402-436-1998
Southwestern NE	Representative	Bill/Elaine Swanson	308-962-7247
	Representative	Helen Bieker	308-345-4870
Plattsmouth/Nebraska City	Representative	Terry Little	402-296-4170
	Representative	Mary Lou Salazar	402-296-2419
Weston/Wahoo/David City	contact:	Fr. Chris Goodwin	402-642-5245

Cursillo Application Form

Diocese of Lincoln, NE

(Give completed Application Form to your Sponsor or to your Pastor.)

Name:	Parish (include town)	
Street Address:		
City, State, Zip:	Birth Date	Gender: M F
Email Address:	<u>Current Marital Status</u> (circle one): Married Widowed Divorced Separated	
Home Phone:	Single Religious Priest	
Work Phone:	Spouse's Name:	
Cell Phone:	Is spouse Catholic? Yes No	
Occupation:	If not Catholic, what Religion?	
	Spouse's Occupation:	

Why do you wish to make Cursillo Weekend?	
Are you able to receive the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion? Yes No	
Has your spouse made a Cursillo? Yes No	If Yes, where and when?
Activities you are currently involved in (Church, Civic, Professional, Hobbies, etc.):	
FYI -- Sleeping arrangements are generally foam mats / mattresses on the floor ... cots may be available.	
Do you have any conditions that would require special attention (health, diet, disabilities, allergies, problems with stairs, etc.)? No Yes / explain:	
<u>Emergency Contact</u>	
Name:	Phone:
Do you have questions about the Weekend that your sponsor has not been able to answer? If so, what are they?	
Has the recommended follow-up program of Group Reunion and Ultreya been explained to you? Y N	

Your Signature _____ Date _____

Sponsor's Name _____ Sponsor's Address _____

You must have a sponsor in order to register for the Weekend; if you have questions about a sponsor, please contact the Lay Director* or ask your Pastor.

Sponsor's Signature _____ Date _____

(Sponsor: Remember to attach a Sponsor Sheet.)

A \$20.00 non-refundable application fee should be submitted with the application. During the Weekend, you will be invited to make a donation to help cover the expenses associated with the Weekend. Those who cannot afford the requested application fee and/or donation should attend and contribute what they can. Checks should be made payable to "Cursillo of Lincoln" and mailed to the **Lay Director**:

➤ Send to: John Springer, 1410 E 15th St, Crete, NE 68333; 402-826-2699

Revised 12/10/2009

Additional Information for Candidates re: the Cursillo Weekend (Feb-Mar 2013)

The Coordinators for the upcoming Cursillo Weekends are John Springer (402-826-2699) for the Men's Weekend (February 21-24, 2013) and Roddy Spangler (402-239-0086) for the Women's Weekend (March 7-10, 2013). Cursillo Weekends are held in various locations around the Diocese. This one is being held at St. John the Baptist Parish, (624 North Garber Ave) in Minden, NE (a phone number in case of emergencies during the Weekend is 308-832-1245).

The purpose of this note is to pass along some helpful information, based on questions we've had. If other questions arise, please do not hesitate to call John or Roddy (see contact information below).

- ✠ The weekend will start at approximately 7:30 p.m. on Thursday ... it is best to plan to arrive between 7:00 and 7:30 p.m. The Weekend concludes about 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. on Sunday.
- ✠ Someone will be there to meet you, greet you, and help you with your things.
- ✠ Please let us know if you have any special dietary (or other) needs.
- ✠ All meals, snacks, and drinks (tea, soda, water, coffee, etc.) are provided.
- ✠ You will need to bring a pillow and sleeping bag (or sheets and a blanket). We have foam mats and mattresses to put underneath your sleeping bag (these are surprisingly comfortable), and we do have a few cots and rollaway beds available.
- ✠ You may want to bring ear plugs if "background" noise bothers you at night.
- ✠ Bring comfortable clothing and any personal items you need (towels/washcloth, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, a couple of hangers for towels and clothes, flashlight, prescription medications, etc.).
- ✠ Dress is very casual, as most wear jeans and shirts/sweaters/sweatshirts, although we usually dress up a little nicer for the Lord's Day.
- ✠ Don't worry if you forget something, as we can get whatever you need.
- ✠ **Cursillo has portable** (meaning we bring them with us and take them when we leave) **showers that will be available throughout the weekend.**
- ✠ There is usually time for sharing jokes, so please bring a number of your favorite clean jokes with you to share.
- ✠ You may want to bring a Rosary (if you have one) and a Bible.
- ✠ Was it mentioned that we have food?!?!?!?
- ✠ The Lincoln Diocese Cursillo Website is: <http://www.seas-np.org/cursillolincoln.html>

We look forward to spending the Cursillo Weekend with you in the company of our Lord.

John Springer
1410 E. 15th Street, Crete, NE 68333
(402-826-2699)
Email: jejspringer@windstream.net

Roddy Spangler
701 N 11th St Apt 10, Beatrice, NE 68310
(402-239-0086)
Email: roddyspangler@yahoo.com