

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER

Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska

January 2021



Calendar of Events

The scheduling for in-person Cursillo gatherings will continue to be evaluated relative to restrictions prompted by COVID-19

- February 20, 2021 **Discover / Rediscover Cursillo ... 9:30am – 2:30pm. (via ZOOM)**
To participate, start your Zoom app, and enter the Meeting ID: 629-734-5912
- March 13, 2021 **Secretariat Meeting, via ZOOM - 9:30am**
- April 10, 2021 **SOL - 9:30am – 1:30pm (via ZOOM)**

Discover / Rediscover Cursillo (to be held virtually Saturday, February 20, 2021)

This event is for anyone -- those who have already lived a Three Day Weekend as well as those who might be interested in learning more about Cursillo. It is intended to provide a deeper understanding and a living experience of what is essential in Cursillo and in living our Catholic faith. It's an opportunity to reflect on and better know God's will in your life.

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 event is a great way to discover the possibilities that Cursillo offers each of us and the Church to better live our faith. To participate, start your Zoom app, and enter the Meeting ID: 629-734-5912.

This event will begin at 9:30am and should end at approximately 2:30pm. In addition to a deeper knowledge of Cursillo, we learn from each other, and that helps to deepen the three essential encounters with self, Christ, and others that we learn about during a Cursillo Weekend. Since the Cursillo newsletter only goes to cursillistas, please reach out to those who have shown interest in knowing more about Cursillo, and other friends as well, to let them know about this great opportunity. Christ is counting on you!

Resources from the 2020 Virtual National Encounter (July 24-25, 2020)

To see presentations given at the 30th National Cursillo Encounter held virtually July 24-25, 2020, go to <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/resource-center/2020-national-cursillo-encounter-sessions-2/>. There you will find videos, audio, and text files from the Virtual National Encounter.

Men's & Women's Three Day Weekends ... We will continue to monitor current restrictions for public gatherings and we will schedule Three Day Weekends as soon as possible / prudent.

Ongoing Palanca is requested for Cursillo on all levels ... Christ is counting on YOU!! Please offer PALANCA for all Cursillo activities. 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.

Group Reunion in a Pandemic

Several years ago, I formed a group reunion with two very close friends. We had a few challenges to overcome. One lived 80 miles away and was mostly homebound. The other was an over-the-road trucker and during the week could be anywhere between Nebraska and California. Weekends weren't an option, so we solved our dilemma by using the 3-way calling feature on my mobile phone (I think every phone has this). We picked a day of the week and a time that was convenient (and safe) for all three of us. So, every week at the appointed day and time, I initiated the calls and we connected. It was a joy to be able to group, and was not inconvenient in any way. Because of our friendship, our sharing was the same as if we were actually together. This went on for quite a while until we had to stop because of the health of one member of our group (who has since passed away). The other person no longer drives across the country and we are now able to group in person.

There are a many out there who long for personal contact – pandemic or not. How easy it is to pick up the phone and make a call. And better yet, make it part of your weekly routine – same day, same time. You and whoever you are calling will look forward to the visit and you will receive great blessings just for sharing time with someone. God will always be present, and He will steer the conversation to something related to faith. We need Him in all we do, He just needs to be let into our lives.

Do you know someone out there that you could reach out to? Perhaps it is another cursillista who may want to group. They may just be waiting for the right person to ask, and that could be you. Grouping is one of the highlights of my week. And social distancing is not a problem as one of our group members has moved out of state. We phone him in and put him on speaker and it is as if he is right with us in person. We are all blessed and leave our grouping with prayers and virtual hugs.

As we near the Lenten season, maybe one of our goals, one of our resolutions to strengthen our faith lives, could be to reach out to someone. Maybe form a group reunion or invite someone to join your group reunion. With today's technology, grouping is absolutely possible by way of phone or internet (Skype, Messenger, Zoom, or other audio/video programs). Phone is the easiest way to connect. Your friend is waiting. God is waiting for all of us to make that next step. May He bless all of us!

De Colores! John Springer

From the Spiritual Advisor

The Gospel for Sunday Mass on January 17, 2021 was Jn 1:35-42, where two disciples of John the Baptist spend time with Jesus. Here are a few of the verses from that Gospel passage: *“Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’ They said to him, ‘Rabbi’ — which translated means Teacher —, ‘where are you staying?’ He said to them, ‘Come, and you will see.’ So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon.”*

Jesus' invitation to the two disciples is also His invitation to us ... “Come and you will see”. Jesus invites us to spend time with Him in prayer ... to “remain” with Him. When we follow the example of these two disciples and choose to “remain” with Jesus and spend time with Him, Jesus changes our lives. It is important to notice that the Gospel passage describes this time with Jesus with the words: “It was about four in the afternoon.” Because Scripture notes the specific time of the encounter, it's evident just how significant and life changing this time with Jesus must have been.

In a reflection on this Gospel passage in the Magnificat, Bishop Robert Barron writes: *“A serious problem that I have noted for the whole of my priesthood is a sort of pastoral activism that puts an almost exclusive stress on the “work” of the Church. But we notice that, before they commence to minister with Jesus, these two disciples stay with him. We should imitate them.”*

I invite you to continue to give the Lord your time through your acts of Piety. I also invite you to respond to Jesus' invitation “Come and See” by joining in the Discover / Rediscover Cursillo event on Saturday, February 20, 2021. The entire event will be virtual through the ZOOM platform from 9:30am – 2:30pm. See the information about connecting through ZOOM in the article on the first page of this newsletter. Hope to “see” you there!!

De Colores!! Fr. Mark Seiker

From the Lay Director

De Colores!

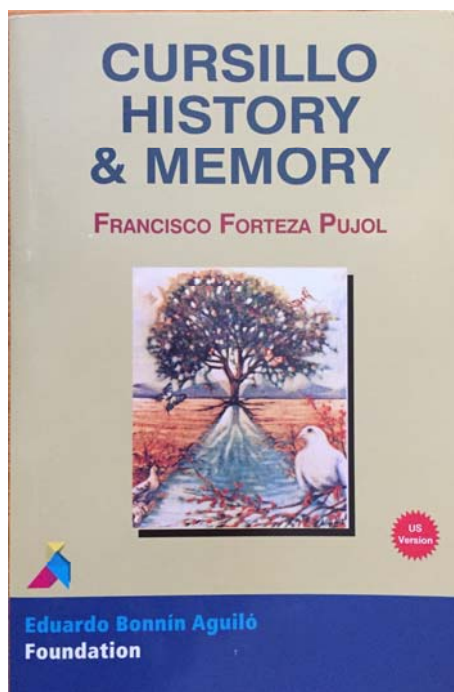
Friday, January 22, 2021

I hope this finds you well, not only physically, but mentally and spiritually as well. We've been social distancing now for nearly a year and yet stopping the spread of the Coronavirus is still a moving target. Virtual friendship grouping and Ultreyas have enriched my Fourth Day while honoring the safety concerns for those sharing their Piety, Study and Action. Focusing on the Good News that God in Christ LOVES us has served to help us remain joyful through a most unusual Advent and Christmastide. It was unusual on the outside, but all the more meaningful perhaps interiorly, as I was able to identify more than ever the aloneness and isolation experienced by the Holy Family on their journey to Bethlehem. Yet, I was able to realize that Jesus was with me every moment of every day of the joyous season. The gift of the Cursillo Method and the reward in maintaining friendships, developing new ones and striving to keep my tripod balanced helped me overcome concerns that so many outside of the Cursillo Movement struggled with.

In a few short weeks, Saturday, February 20, you and I will have the opportunity to gather together for a virtual Discover / Rediscover Cursillo event from 9:30am to 2:30pm via Zoom. This time together as Cursillistas and friends allows for sharing with a larger group how Christ's presence in our lives has helped each of us not only cope with the pandemic mitigation restrictions, but to thrive while winning our environments for Christ. Yes, you are encouraged to invite your friends who have shown interest in your invitation to learn more about Cursillo. There have been many obstacles the past couple of years in having weekends. During the interim, inviting your friends to learn a bit more about Cursillo should have the effect of moving their interest to commitment, so when we are able to hold a weekend, we'll have a supply of applicants eager to participate.

You'll also find an envelope included in this newsletter soliciting donations. It's always tough making that ask, but given how your donation will be used to spread the good news through the efforts of Cursillo makes it easier. Even though we haven't been able to hold weekends and there is little expense in holding virtual events, there are still expenses – Regional and National dues, newsletter mailings, and creating the reserve that will be need to buy food and supplies for future weekends when health – related restrictions allow are a few of those expenses. Let me offer a BIG THANK YOU to those that responded to last appeal. Your sacrificial offerings were most appreciated. If everyone reading this newsletter was to donate \$5.00 it would help considerably. Please consider doing so. Your act of Charity will glorify the Lord and ease the burden as we yoke together to serve Christ. Remember, He is counting on you.

– **Greg Vandenberg**



The picture on the left is the book (Cursillo History & Memory) that we will be studying at upcoming School of Leaders (SOL) sessions. Our next session is scheduled for April 10, 2021, from 9:30am – 1:30pm (via ZOOM). This book can be ordered at the National Cursillo website: <https://tinyurl.com/y5fe72be>

Upcoming Ultreyas Subject to Cancellation or Postponement due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Beatrice-Hebron-Crete:

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

- February Ultreya – (February 14, 2:00pm) – Beatrice, St. Joseph Parish Hall
- March Ultreya – (March 14, 2:00pm) – Hebron, Sacred Heart Parish Hall
- April Ultreya (April 11, 1:00pm) – *Note the time change – 1:00pm instead of 2:00pm.* Crete, Sacred Heart Parish Hall. *Join us at 3:00pm for the Divine Mercy celebration of the Hour of Mercy!!*

Contacts: John/Kathy Springer (402) 826-2699

Southwestern Nebraska (McCook-Imperial-North Platte):

Location alternates (usually 2nd Sunday of month)

- February Ultreya – (February 14, 3:30pm) – In-person (St. Patrick Parish Hall, **Imperial** and Virtual via ZOOM)
- March Ultreya – (March 14, 2:30pm MDT) – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Hall, **North Platte** and Virtual via ZOOM)
- April Ultreya – (April 11, 3:30pm) – In-person (St. Patrick Parish Hall, **McCook** and Virtual via ZOOM)

Contacts: Helen Bieker (308) 340-0268

Lincoln – Vietnamese Language Group:

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lincoln

- Normally 1st Sunday of each month after 9:00am Mass (about 10:15am); however, not currently meeting due to COVID

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. Mark Seiker (308) 534-5461

