

Cursillo News for March-April 2008

Calendar of Events

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| March 15, 2008 | Secretariat Meeting , 9:30am; before Postcursillo Reunion (Minden, NE) |
| March 15, 2008 | Postcursillo Reunion , 1:00pm following Secretariat meeting (Minden, NE) |
| April 11-12, 2008 | School of Leaders (quarterly reunion)-7:30pm Fri-3pm Sat, (St. Ann Parish, Doniphan) |
| April 12, 2008 | Secretariat Meeting , following School of Leaders (see above) |
| April 25-27, 2008 | Region VI Spring Encounter – Belle Prairie, MN (St. Cloud Diocese) |
| May 3, 2008 | Secretariat Meeting , 9:30 am; Blessed John XXIII, Lincoln |
| June 7, 2008 | Secretariat Meeting , 9:30 am; Blessed John XXIII, Lincoln |
| June 29, 2008 | Grand Ultreya (2:00pm=Mass; Ultreya; 5:00pm=supper; St. Ann Parish, Doniphan) |
| July 12, 2008 | Secretariat Meeting , 9:30 am; Blessed John XXIII, Lincoln |
| July 31 – Aug 3, 2008 | National Encounter, at Catholic University of America, Washington, DC |
| August 22-23, 2008 | School of Leaders (quarterly reunion)-7:30pm Fri-3pm Sat,(St. James Parish, Cortland) [in place of regular SOL, may host Cursillo Leaders' Workshop 1 (CLW-1)] |
| August 23, 2008 | Secretariat Meeting , following School of Leaders (see above) |

Welcome New Fourth Dayers (February 2008, St. John the Baptist Parish, Minden)

Welcome to the 4th Day! *** We welcome Nick Hein, Pat Hoban, Brian Jakub, Harold Lempka, and Buck Wood and Becky Deaver, Anne Dorn, Patricia Pettz, Nancy Terryberry, Lois Thom to the Fourth Day!. Have you found a Group Reunion? ... Are you participating in Ultreya? Just as during the Three Days, it is in being a community and sharing about your attempts to grow (in baby steps, at first) in holiness, formation, and evangelization that you will persevere and progress in the spiritual life. Remember that **Christ is counting on you**, and you said that you would count on Him ... He gave you the gift of Cursillo to help you ... and He wants you to use it!!

From the Secretariat ...

• Ultreya Center Updates:

- ◆ The **David City/Shelby Ultreya Center** will be holding its next Ultreya on Sunday, March 30th, at 1:30 p.m. in David City (St. Mary School, Didier Room).
- ◆ The **Beatrice/Crete/Hebron/Lincoln Ultreya Center** will be holding its next Ultreya on Sunday, March 30th, at 5:00 p.m. at the Blessed John XXIII Diocesan Center (3700 Sheridan Blvd) in Lincoln. The Ultreya is scheduled for Dawson Hall at 5:00 p.m. Ultreyas are usually the 4th Sunday of each month, but this year, March 23 (the 4th Sunday) is Easter Sunday.

• Cursillo Web Address Changing Yet Again!!

The new address for the Cursillo web page is:

<http://webpages.charter.net/seas/cursillolincoln.html>

To allow cursillistas time to update bookmarks, the Lincoln Diocese Cursillo Movement web page may be accessed by using either the new address or the old address at least until the end of June.

• Precursillo/Three Day Weekend

One of the charges given all of us on our Cursillo Weekend was to study those environments in which God has currently placed us. Have you identified any “agents of change”? Is our Lord asking you to begin the process of “making a friend, being a friend, and bringing that friend to Him”? Would the persons identified as “agents of change” profit from an understanding of the Cursillo Method? Continue to offer Palanca, that God might give you eyes to see and ears to hear how He wants you to evangelize your environments ... now is the time to be studying environments in search of persons who can Christianize them ... now is the time to be talking to the “agents of change” about Cursillo ... **He’s counting on you!!!**

Tentative dates for the next Weekends are:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| January 8-11, 2009 | Men’s, Location TBA |
| January 15-18, 2009 | Women’s, Location TBA |

Remember that Cursillo applications/informational flyers are available online. In registering candidates for Weekends, the most recent application forms are available from the website. The Application Form and Informational Flyer may be printed off directly, and the Sponsor Form must be requested by email and will be sent (via email) directly to you. The Sponsor Form is treated differently because the sponsor fills out this form separately and then gets the pastor’s signature.

• Postcursillo ...

◆ Continue to offer Palanca ...

- ◆ **EACH WEEK** for Three Day Weekends going on in our Diocese and throughout the world. The recent Three Day Weekends in our Diocese are a powerful reminder that Palanca is the lever of the apostles. Remember that cursillistas in our Diocese agreed to assist at Mass each Friday and offer Holy Communion for the intention of all Cursillo Weekends taking place throughout the world, and, in addition, to pray an extra decade of the Rosary on Sundays. You are also encouraged to offer additional personal prayers and sacrifices to the spiritual bouquet our Diocese offers to other dioceses.
- ◆ Included in this Newsletter is a Palanca calendar (purple sheet) for our Diocese. For those of you who are new to Cursillo or just never knew why we included the Palanca calendar with each Newsletter, it includes intentions specific to our Diocese, for our Region (Region VI), and for the Cursillo Movement as a whole. The calendar always includes the Three Day Weekends that will be going on in Region VI, and it also includes other general intentions that are good to keep in mind. We encourage you to keep the calendar in a place you will see it each day and to offer some type of Palanca daily for the suggested intentions or for intentions of your own choosing. *“For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there I am in the midst of them”* ... Even if there is distance that separates us ... we are united in prayer for common intentions ...

- ◆ **Spring Region VI Encounter** ... The Spring Encounter is scheduled for April 25-27, 2008, at **Belle Prairie, MN** (St. Cloud Diocese). A registration form is included in this mailing for your convenience. It is always a blessing to spend time with cursillistas who come from other areas of our 8-state region, as we learn so much from each other.
- ◆ **18th National Cursillo Encounter** ... This year's National Encounter will be hosted at Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, from July 31-August 3, 2008. The theme for the Encounter is "***Christ Is Our Light***". Masses during the Encounter will be held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, which is located on the campus of Catholic University of America. The major presentations will include: (1) Mentality of the Cursillo Movement, and (2) the Three Encounters. Workshops topics include: (1) Total Security, (2) Sponsorship – What Is It?, (3) School of Leaders – Why?, and (4) Study of the Environment. The registration form for the National Encounter is included in this mailing.
- ◆ **Grand Ultreya Planned for this Summer** ... Plans are being made to hold our annual Grand Ultreya this summer at St. Ann Parish in Doniphan on Sunday, June 29th. Doniphan was chosen because of its central location. The day will tentatively include Mass at 2:00 p.m. (which fulfills the Sunday obligation), followed by an Ultreya (a grand Ultreya!), and potluck dinner/picnic at 5:00 p.m. This is an event for the entire family ... so mark your calendars now and watch for more details in the May-June Newsletter.

• **School of Leaders (SOL)** ...

Cursillistas from across the Diocese will continue to gather to deepen their understanding of their faith and of the Cursillo Movement. ***ALL ARE INVITED ... those new to the Movement, those who have been living the Method, and those who would like to get back to living it!*** In working and studying and praying together, we discover ways of doing that to which our Lord calls each of us (not only in Cursillo, but more importantly, in our everyday lives) ... and there is great joy in being together and working as a community toward the goal of Christianizing our world.

The next SOL will be **April 11-12, 2008, at St. Ann Parish in Doniphan, NE** (registration form included in this Newsletter). As usual, SOL begins on Friday evening with a retreat phase (Mass, meditation, Confessions, and food/fellowship, but not dinner); and continues into Saturday (we are usually finished by about 3:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon). You can come for whatever part you are able – Friday or Saturday or both. You will come away with a deeper love for God and better know His love for you ... **ALL** are invited to participate.

From the Spiritual Advisor ...

As I write these thoughts, we are in the middle of Lent. During the months of March and April, we journey through the remaining days of Lent, celebrate the Sacred Triduum, and begin the holy season of Easter. Between the season of Lent and the season of Easter are those holy three days of the Sacred Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil / Easter Sunday). Lent prepares us to celebrate the Sacred Triduum, and having celebrated the Sacred Triduum, we are then to live new lives in the Easter Season.

The Paulist Press Ordo states: "*The liturgies of these days do not 'take us back' to the upper room or the path to Calvary. Their ultimate purpose is not to retrace or relive the last hours of Jesus' life – nor to catch sight of Him emerging from the tomb at Easter's dawning. They celebrate not what once happened to Jesus but what is now happening among us as a people called to conversion, gathered in faith, and gifted with the Spirit of holiness. They celebrate God's taking possession of our hearts at their deepest core, recreating us as a new human community broken like bread for the world's life – a community rich in compassion, steadfast in hope, and fearless in the search for justice and peace.*"

With each passing year as we celebrate Lent, the Sacred Triduum, and Easter, we should be deepening our spiritual lives through authentic ongoing conversion ... metanoia. We should be continually moving closer to the Lord and to one another. Our relationship with Christ is not static ... we are in a living encounter with Him. So, we should be always growing closer to Him ... each year ... each day ... each minute.

When we hear the term "the three days", some cursillistas might think about the "three days" of the Cursillo Weekend. But, just as we can't look at the Sacred Triduum as divorced from the rest of the year (we must daily live the dying and rising of our Lord), so too, we can't look at the Three Days of the Cursillo Weekend in a historical sense (as having happened and that's it). We are called to daily live our encounter with Christ and to daily experience a deeper conversion in the Eucharist and in our relationship with our brothers and sisters as we live our Fourth Day. And it is in using the tools of Cursillo in the Fourth Day (the Cursillo Method of Group Reunion and Ultreya that we were introduced to during the Three Days) that we will encounter Jesus in this new way.

I encourage you to do some special preparation for the Sacred Triduum this year. One way to deepen your experience of the Sacred Triduum is to reflect on the last words of Jesus to His Apostles in the upper room on Holy Thursday evening (which we find in John's Gospel, Chapters 14 – 17). These are words He is also speaking to us ... take them to heart ... reflect on them ... live them ...

May our encounter with Jesus during the Sacred Triduum this year be the occasion of allowing Him to take a little more possession of our lives, our hearts, our souls, and our wills. In our surrendering to Him, may He use us to bring His Easter message to the world ... may He use us to Christianize the world ... may He use us to bring Him to those environments in which He has placed us.

De Colores!!Fr. Mark Seiker

From the Lay Director ...

Lent is a great time to reflect on what Christ did for us by His life, death and resurrection. It is good opportunity to work at exercising the virtues of patience and understanding. Being as honest as we can with ourselves, trying to recognize areas in our spiritual life that could use some work.

I just made two trips out to California. They were, more than likely, two of the most challenging trips that I have taken in quite awhile, in more ways than one. The obvious was, of course, the weather. But, as Cursillo teaches us, we take the happenings of our present lives and discern what God is trying to tell us. As always, I had a deadline to meet. But because of the weather, either they would close the road on me, or they would require me to slow down because they didn't want me breaking up the pavement with the chains on my tires. Well, I made the delivery much later than was intended, but at least I got there before the boat on which my cargo was supposed to be on left the dock. A small miracle, I have no doubt! I took a little time and meditated on how, if I just trusted in God, it would all turn out, and it did.

At one point in one of the trips, the road was closed. Being tired and frustrated, I was just moping around waiting for the road to open. It was noon and I thought, "I have not done any praying yet today". I try to pray and read my Magnificat each and every day, but I had not done anything, except sit and wait for the road to open all morning. So I started reading and praying, and the road opened up at 2:30 p.m., shortly after I had finished ... thank You, Jesus!

This was the Practice Weekend for the upcoming Cursillo Weekends in Minden, and I experienced a close moment as I looked out at all the activity, preparation, and enthusiasm as we were all doing different things in preparation for the Weekend ... and what a great joy I felt in knowing that this was exactly what God had wanted me to be doing right then and right there.

Christ suffered for us, died for us, and then returned to the Father, so that the Spirit of God would come and help us toward holiness. The Spirit helped me to be patient, to trust, to be obedient, and much more.

Take a little time to evaluate your spiritual life this Lenten season and try to recognize those close moments that Christ has blessed you with. And I pray that your heart, your soul and your mind might experience as I have, that when we cooperate with the Grace of God, we are filled with a joy that can't help but proclaim Christ to all who are around us.

De Colores!! Mark Pribyl

The Prayer of the Cursillista (from the Pilgrim's Guide)

Lord, help us to use our time,
our talents, our lives
for the building up of Your Kingdom.
Instill courage into our initiatives,
good judgment in our choice
of the proper means,
and that determination which assures success
even in times of seeming failures.

Move us above all discourtesy,
sensitivities, and rivalries,
which not only discourage and divide us,
but lead us away from loving You and each other.

Help each one strive for the gift
of Your unselfish love
that will embold us to prefer
the more humble tasks
and rejoice in the good done by others.

Lord, let all see Your attractive goodness
marked on all our faces,
Your warm accents in all our works
and in our community,
a unity and a holiness that proclaims
Your living presence in our midst.
Amen.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, patron of the Americas. Pray for us!

St. Paul, patron of Cursillo. Pray for us!