

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER

Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska

March 2020



Calendar of Events

- ~~April 17-19, 2020~~ **Cancelled Due to COVID-19** ... **Cursillo Region VI Spring Encounter**, hosted by the Dodge City, KS – Spanish Cursillistas.
- Postponed Due to COVID-19** April 30 – May 3, 2020 **Women’s Three Day Cursillo Weekend** – Sacred Heart Parish, Hebron.
- Cancelled** April SOL
- May 9, 2020 **Secretariat Meeting**, via ZOOM -
- June 11 – 14, 2020 **Men’s Three Day Cursillo Weekend** – St. Ann Parish, Doniphan.
- June 27, 2020 **SOL** – Location to be decided possibly Hastings or Doniphan.
- July 18, 2020 **Secretariat Meeting**, via ZOOM - 9:30am Meeting
- July 23-26, 2020 **Cursillo National Encounter**, Creighton University, Omaha, NE. *National Encounters do not get any closer than this ... make plans to participate.*
- August 8, 2020 **SOL** – Location to be decided possibly Hastings or Doniphan.
- September 25-27, 2020 **Fall 2020 Region VI Encounter** – Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, Wayzata, MN 55391

Upcoming Three Day Weekends

The Women’s Weekend scheduled for Sacred Heart Parish in Hebron – **April 30 – May 3, 2020 has been postponed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.** The Men’s Weekend is still scheduled at St. Ann Parish in Doniphan – **June 11 – 14, 2020 at the present time.** There is much uncertainty right now as to when the Pandemic will be brought under control to allow for public gatherings. Begin / continue to pray and think about which of your friends you should invite to be a candidate. Registration forms/information to give the candidates about the Weekend can be found on the Lincoln Diocese Cursillo webpage [<http://www.seas-np.org/cursillolincoln.html>]. If you are planning to sponsor a candidate, please contact the Coordinators: Women’s Weekend (Kathy Springer) and Men’s Weekend (Greg Vandenberg) for the Sponsor Form. If candidates need a ride, contact a Secretariat member to see who else might be headed to the Weekends. Please continue to invite candidates. Flexibility is a must with the uncertainty of a new date for the women’s weekend. Be excited and joy-filled and enthusiastic ... if you aren’t, why should they be? And remember to “speak to God about your friend before you speak to your friend about God.” God relies on you to be His voice ... invite!

Palanca for the Upcoming Three Day Weekend Candidates ... Christ is counting on YOU!! Please offer PALANCA for the spiritual success of the Upcoming Weekends 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. Offer your Palanca for those friends that you are praying about inviting to the Weekends.

Report on School of Leaders (SOL)

We have been studying/discussing the book *Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló - 100 years – Biography & Mentality*. This book contains lots of previously unknown information about the life of our founder and his mentality as well as the history of Cursillos in Christianity. Many of Eduardo's quotes are very good for reflection and useful in living the 4th Day fully and joyfully! At the February 8, 2020 SOL we continued this study, and will do so at the June 27 SOL.

Our next SOL is scheduled for June 27, 2020 in either Doniphan or Hastings. Please join us if you are able.

Region VI Spring Encounter (~~April 17-19, 2020~~)

The Region VI Spring Encounter that was scheduled for April 17-19, 2020 in Dodge City, KS **has been CANCELLED due to the COVID-19 Pandemic**. All of the Regional Encounters across the country have either been cancelled or postponed. The Fall 2020 Region VI Encounter, is scheduled for September 25-27, 2020 at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, 155 County Rd 24, Wayzata, MN 55391. Additional information (including fee and registration form) will be available as we get closer to the Fall Encounter on the Regional webpage <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/region6/>. It's a great way to meet other cursillistas from our Region and enjoy time spent focused on building His Kingdom through friendship.

From the Lay Director

De Colores!

March 28, 2020 – St. Teresa of Avila's birth date.

Odd, right, that during a World-wide Pandemic while complying with the stay-at-home recommendation to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus, I would find myself authoring Lay Director comments for a Cursillo Newsletter. Odd too that I am doing so on the birth date of St. Teresa of Avila the Patron Saint of Headache sufferers and writers. No, I don't suffer from headaches, but there is cause for one given the current National crisis. She is also known as the Patron Saint of: People in need of grace, sick people and sickness. So, in addition to her being a reformer and Doctor of the Church, she is clearly a Saint for our current time.

And she is a great source of wisdom worth reflecting on during this Season of Lent and time of trial; *"In light of heaven, the worst suffering on earth will be seen to be no more serious than one night in an inconvenient hotel. Let nothing perturb you, nothing frighten you. All things pass. God does not change. Patience achieves everything."* - Saint Teresa of Avila

As we persevere through this desert with no public Masses, no public gatherings, social-distancing and what seems to be new recommendations every day on how to stop the spread of a highly contagious disease with no cure, there is more than a temptation to withdraw and be with ourselves. St. Teresa reminds us; *"Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands now but yours, no feet now but yours. Yours are the eyes through which His compassion looks out to the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which he is to bless His people."*

Though the Women's Weekend has been postponed out of an abundance of caution due to the Pandemic, and we will let you know when it will be rescheduled. There is still a place for your support through Adoration, Prayer and Sacrifice – Palanca, for the success of the Women's Weekend. Prayerfully consider helping with Cursillo activities as they become available if your schedule allows.

In addition, sponsoring a candidate for the Weekend is a wonderful means of bringing a friend closer to Christ, and at the same time, helping to sustain Cursillo. Or, consider providing food or snacks for the weekend in order to use your body...to go about doing good...to bless His people. *"We can only learn to know ourselves and do what we can - namely, surrender our will and fulfill God's will in us."* - Saint Teresa of Avila

Stay well with God's grace! –**Greg Vandenberg, 308-530-7587, glvandenberg@charter.net**

From the Spiritual Advisor

For the last week and a half (since March 16/17), most of our schedules have been adjusted in many different ways due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic. Now, many of us are connecting with or interacting with other persons through technology rather than in person in order to preserve or establish the proper social distancing. It is important that we are faithful and obedient to these suggestions and requirements and that we make very prudent choices in regards to our physical health.

It is also important that we make very prudent choices in regards to our spiritual health. As part of our making good choices for our spiritual health, we are journeying with the entire Church through the holy season of Lent. During the past Sundays of Lent, we have heard about our Lord being tempted, His transfiguration, His discussion with the Samaritan woman at the well, His restoring sight to the man born blind, and His raising Lazarus from the dead. In each of these Gospel passages, Jesus (*who shares our human nature in all things but sin*) shows us through the events of His life how we are to live our lives.

We are to remember God's Words found in the Scriptures during times of temptation ... remembering God's faithfulness to His people of all times. We are to look for ways to see Jesus' divinity shine through His humanity, through our humanity, and through the humanity of other persons in our lives. When we strive to open our hearts and minds to allow God's graces to direct our words and actions, it transform us to into the persons He wants us to become. By allowing God's graces to transform us, we allow His grace to strengthen us and give us hope during the difficult and challenging times of suffering and the cross.

We are invited to look for opportunities to interact with other persons (*even from a "social distance" and through technology*) that the rest of the world might consider as social outcasts or persons not worth our investment of time. In our conversations with these persons, we invite them to talk on a level deeper than the usual physical or social topics, and share our faith in God and share our hope. Our deeper and more personal conversations, with God's grace, can encourage them to see themselves differently and might even lead them to be willing to speak to others in a deeper, more faith filled way.

We are invited to really notice people that we meet, and observe what they are saying and doing and what they are not saying and not doing. With eyes of faith, we are invited to interact with them on a personal level and a faith level and with God's grace to lead them to see the events of their life in a way that encourages them to see God's presence in their life and to hope for something better and more than just what is offered by the world. Doing this is also an opportunity for us to allow God to sharpen and clarify our own spiritual sight and how we see others and the events around us.

Finally, we are invited to allow the Lord to help us take a good deep look at ourselves and at areas of our life that might be spiritually dead or burdens that we have been carrying that have killed our spiritual lives. The Lord wants us, during this season of Lent and even during this pandemic, to allow Him to redirect and correct our habits, our weak spiritual sight, our conversation, and to reflect on our choices of where we go and what we do and how we spend our time.

May each of us choose to spend more time in prayer, allowing the Lord to deepen our response to His offer of friendship with us. Then after choosing to spend our time with our Best Friend (Jesus), we will be strengthened and encouraged with His grace and to spend time deepening our friendship with others. First spend time with Jesus. Then look for Jesus in your friends and ways to bring your friends closer to Jesus.

Perhaps during these challenging and unprecedented times, it would be good to remember the words of Saint Paul to the Romans (written during a time of great trial): "*What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? As it is written: 'For your sake we are being slain all the day; we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered.'* In all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom 8:35-39).

I invite you to spend time with Jesus, spend time with your friends, and lead your friends closer to Jesus ... through your friendship, discussions, and also invite them to experience a Three Day Weekend. Remember that Christ is counting on you.

De Colores!! Fr. Mark Seiker

2020 National Encounter (July 23-26, 2020)

With caution, we remind you that the 30th National Encounter will be at Creighton University in Omaha, NE on July 23-26, 2020 provided that international travel and assembly of large groups is no longer prohibited. National Encounters do NOT get any closer than this ... start now to make plans to participate. There will be hundreds of Cursillistas participating, including both clergy and laypersons from multiple language groups including English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Filipino, Portuguese, Korean, and Chinese. It will be a great opportunity to experience the unity and the diversity of the Cursillo Movement across the world. Registrations are now being accepted on the National Cursillo website: www.natl-cursillo.org.

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

Beatrice-Hebron-Crete:

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

- April Ultreya – (April 5) – CANCELLED
 - May Ultreya (tentatively scheduled for May 17) – Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Crete
 - June Ultreya – In place of the June 14 Ultreya, please plan to attend the Men’s Closing at 5:00pm on June 14, at St. Ann Parish Hall, Doniphan
- Contacts: John/Kathy Springer (402) 826-2699

Southwestern Nebraska (McCook-Imperial-North Platte):

Location alternates (usually 2nd Sunday of month)

- Combined April – May Ultreya – (April 26) – 3:30pm CT – St. Patrick Church Basement, McCook
 - June Ultreya – In place of the June 14 Ultreya, please plan to attend the Men’s Closing at 5:00pm on June 14, at St. Ann Parish Hall, Doniphan
- Contacts: Helen Bieker (308) 340-0268

Lincoln – Vietnamese Language Group:

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lincoln

- 1st Sunday of each month after 9:00am Mass (about 10:15am) *[please notice the change from 2nd Sunday to 1st Sunday]*
- Contacts: Diep Van Nguyen (402) 474-9588, Canh Nguyen (402) 435-0921, Thai Nguyen (402) 580-7587.

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

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