

# CURSILLO NEWSLETTER

Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska

March 2022

## Calendar of Events



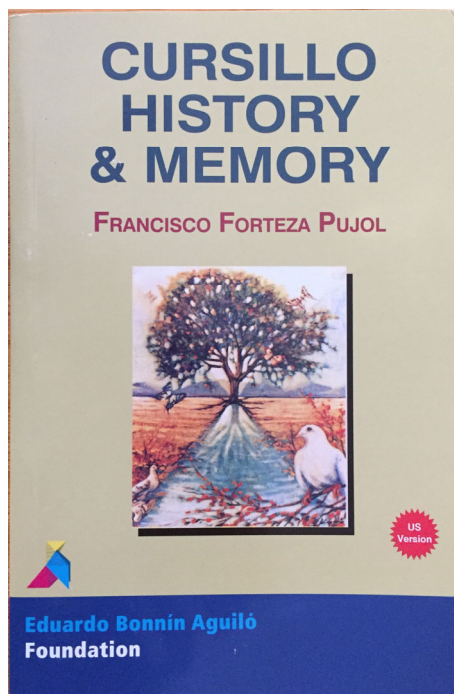
**The scheduling for in-person Cursillo gatherings will continue to be evaluated relative to restrictions prompted by COVID-19**

- April 9, 2022      **Secretariat Meeting**, via ZOOM – beginning at **9:30am**
- May 14, 2022      **SOL - 9:00am** (in person at St. Mary Church, Aurora or via ZOOM)  
➤ To participate in SOL or Secretariat Meeting, start your Zoom app, and enter the **Meeting ID: 629-734-5912**
- April 22-23, 2022      **Spring 2022 Region VI Encounter**, Dodge City, KS – The Registration Form is included in this mailing
- July 21-24, 2022      **2022 National Cursillo Encounter**, Chapman University, Orange County, CA.

### **Region VI Spring Encounter, April 22-23, 2022, Dodge City, Kansas**

The Region VI Spring Encounter will be held April 22-23, 2022, in Dodge City Kansas. See the flyer included in this newsletter. It will be hosted by Dodge City Spanish. Presentations will be in both English and Spanish. De Colores!

**School of Leaders (SOL) ... May 14, 2022 - 9:00am** (NOTE the time change to 9:00am), in person at St. Mary Church, Aurora or via ZOOM. (To participate in SOL or Secretariat Meeting, start your Zoom app, and enter the Meeting ID: 629-734-5912.)



The lay presentations are coming from the book pictured on the left (Cursillo History & Memory). This book can be ordered at the National Cursillo website: <https://tinyurl.com/y5fe72be>

The spiritual presentations are coming from Pope Francis' encyclical "*Fratelli Tutti*" (meaning "All Brothers"), available from the Vatican website at [https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20201003\\_encyclica-fratelli-tutti.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_encyclica-fratelli-tutti.html)

## **From the Spiritual Advisor**

As we celebrate this “Year of the Family” all the way to the 26th of June 2022, our good Holy Father, Pope Francis, is calling us to encounter each other and create a “Culture of Encounter” (Fratelli Tutti paragraph 205). Wisdom, speaking through our Holy Papa, says to us all, “Life, for all its confrontations, is the art of encounter.” (Fratelli Tutti paragraph 215) !!! That is us, brothers and sisters of the Cursillo de Cristiandad! Encounter creating friendship in our weekly Group Reunion and monthly Ultreya is exactly what our Pope Francis is calling all the world to enter into and we have what he is calling for. Let us stand up and live the “art of encounter” and witness the love of Jesus Christ to our environment!!! This is our pope, singing our song, with all the joyful colors God has bloomed in our world that we need to gather into the love of God’s kingdom. Please read Pope Francis’s Encyclical “Fratelli Tutti”.

The joy of Love that is the fruit of a holy family, will bloom in our world, if we can witness to our waiting world the “Culture of Encounter” that Jesus offers us in the Cursillo community!

Joyfully offered to you by your Diocese of Lincoln Spiritual Advisor,

***De Colores!! Fr. Bernard Lorenz*** [fr.bernard-lorenz@lincolndiocese.org](mailto:fr.bernard-lorenz@lincolndiocese.org)

## **Comments from Cursillistas Around the Diocese**

Cursillo: the start of a basic outline for the journey - how do I get to heaven.

Grouping: sharing with others, helping each other get to heaven. The Lord would teach His apostles, and then send them out in groups for the strength of each other.

Piety, study, and action: knowing Him, loving Him, and serving Him. This is our mission on earth. And that is my real mission in life.

Christ is counting on us! ***JC***

Ah yes, Ultreya. The wonderful once-a-month meeting together of friends, from near and far, who want the same thing in life. We all want to get closer to Christ, learn more about our faith and bring others along so we can work toward the goal of one Catholic Church for all.

Every Ultreya is different, but the same. Some of the same people and some new ones and the same schedule, but different ideas and findings expressed. Ultreya makes us feel comfortable in our group and the group encourages us to go out and learn more and be more for Christ while we ask others to join us. I love Ultreya because it always helps me to be a better person and who doesn't want to be a better person? ***CM***

At first I was not sure what was expected. I felt I was bragging about the things I do for the church and school. But that is not what I have taken away now. I have gotten ideas for religious books that have helped me to grow in my faith. The group gatherings have helped me to put Christ first. I was asked by a friend to come to Ultreya and I have developed many more good friends since. ***BB***

Sometimes I don't want to go to Ultreya – a long drive, middle of the day, would like to just stay home and rest. That feeling goes away quickly because I know that Ultreya is one of the brightest and most enjoyable events of the month. So my feeling becomes anticipation - just seeing such good friends makes my day, sharing with someone I haven't seen in a month – or longer. Listening to the witness and hearing comments and just knowing that everyone there is a dear friend and we are all helping each other grow in our faith. There is no better fellowship. It is really a joy! ***JS***

Our little “group” has met on a fairly regular basis every Sunday for several years now. We were friends already, but I dare say, we have become “better” friends. We have become sounding boards for the struggles in our lives, a reservoir of encouragement or even guidance and in some cases, correction. Our friendship has deepened my love for God, Our Lady and the Church for my family and assisted me in developing my purpose as a Catholic husband and father and friend and, even citizen. On those infrequent Sundays I am unable to group, my day seems a little less complete. The opportunity to group provides me with an anchor in a world which has definitely lost its moorings and of course, that true anchor is Jesus Christ! ***ER***

## Comments from Cursillistas Around the Diocese (cont'd)

The Cursillo Method of Friendship Grouping and Ultreya are important to me because, being a human being, I need to be touched in a physical and spiritual way to keep me grounded in my spiritual walk. I need someone with "skin on" to remind me of the importance of staying united with our Savior ... to talk about how we do that and to develop an accountable strategy to stay there. I find that these friendships are not centered on the three temptations in the Gospel from the First Sunday of Lent (of physical, power and glory), but rather on becoming closer to Jesus in our daily walk as we share our journey. **HB**

True friendship is sometimes hard to find. But in Groupings, Ultreyas, and Cursillo School of Leaders I have found some deep friendships.

I have discovered that friendships having Christ as the cornerstone are different than other friendships. There is a deeper bond when friends share:

- a) their spiritual life by describing how God is an integral part of their prayer life,
- b) what they are studying and learning and
- c) how they are putting their faith in action.

My favorite part of these friendship groups however is sharing with my friends and having them share with me, "Our moment closest to Christ." This has heightened my awareness of the many revealed ways our God blesses us with surprises. I have found that His graces are abundant, and I notice the many ways my loving Father is generous in kindness beyond my imagination. Each day, I eagerly anticipate the ways I will see His love for my friends and me.

Walking through life with my Cursillo friends has assured me that I will never walk alone. It is my prayer that they will have the same blessed assurance. **MK**

We have been meeting for a few years, since my Cursillo Weekend, and although I can't make it as much as I would like, it is always great to get together. Our Group is a great way to hold yourself accountable and have friends to support and encourage each other. As we talk in our group, Jesus is constantly giving us opportunities to grow in our faith and we just have to have the courage to accept his gifts. **CB**

The benefits of Ultreya for me include:

1. Spending more time in personal prayer.
2. Friendships with like-minded Christians.
3. Grouping has made me more accountable to study and learn.
4. Trying to make an apostolic action plan. **JT**

I look forward so much to our grouping on Tuesdays. The sharing that comes from the group, inspires me to live my week getting closer to God and doing what I can to help those around me. **CH**

"We need the fellowship!" **JM**

I have been meeting with the same Tuesday group reunion for years. These friends help me live to in Christ friendship and grace by encouraging me, holding me accountable and lifting me up in prayer. The Ultreya allows me to visit others who also love Christ. I get to hear witness talks on how different people put the Cursillo method into action. I learn a great deal from these talks. When I hear individuals, who are living in their 4th day, say how hard it is to find time for these activities, I lovingly ask; why? Answers differ however the underlying fact is, it's not a priority. I tell these folks, try grouping for just one month, you will see and feel how important it is because it will draw you closer to Christ. De Colores! **KP**

## **From the Lay Director**

On Ash Wednesday, Matthew Kelly, in his Best Lent Ever series, *Difficult Teachings: The 40 Most Challenging Teachings of Jesus*, posed this question to his listeners; “Have you ever done anything wholeheartedly? Have you ever made a wholehearted attempt to live the teachings of Jesus? What do you have to lose? What’s the worst that could happen?”

The greatest of the commandments, Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (Matthew 22: 36-38), requires a whole-hearted effort. Difficult and challenging, of course! Matthew Kelly went on to say, “the easier we try to make life, the harder life becomes.” He said that this first difficult teaching, “was about commitment.”

He offered that we all struggle with commitment. That we’d like to keep our options open. I’ve found myself waiting to commit to an invitation or a block of time just in case something better comes along. If I submitted to that temptation, then I found myself wondering whether the first invite would have been more fulfilling. “Have you been taught to prioritize options”, he asked. BUSTED! Yep, that’s how I was trained, my entire adult life. It’s a constant battle over what’s most important and what’s most urgent. The life and death considerations have passed now that I’m retired, but it is still a struggle some days. Matthew went on to say; “The more options and opportunities you have, the harder it is to commit, and we live in a world of almost limitless options and opportunities.”

The best things in life require commitment, deep relationships, personal development, mastering a craft or career and spiritual growth all require commitment, commitment costs in the short term, but in the long term it bears amazing fruit,” Kelly went on to say.

“Why are we so allergic to commitment? Because it turns our lives upside down,” Matthew said. “Commitment rearranges priorities and turns your life upside down, but in the most wonderful ways.”

“Here’s the thing, great joy is often the result of great effort. Throw yourself into something wholeheartedly, and miracles will happen. Somewhere deep inside, we are all yearning to throw ourselves into something wholeheartedly. This is the right thing, a difficult thing, but the right thing.”

I’m suggesting that you throw yourself into weekly Group Reunion and monthly Ultreya. On the Cursillo Weekend we discover that it is possible to live Christianity in the world to the fullest degree by means of the Cursillo method. This method proposes that we discover a small group of friends with whom we can share the lives we individually lead as Christians. The Cursillos in Christianity is a method which enables living the true Christian life in the light of our baptismal commitment.

Many people leave the Cursillo Weekend with enthusiasm, after having had the opportunity to encounter self, Christ, and others. To use the method to persevere by seeking a group of friends and making a commitment to them to share the Christian way of life together will fortify the three encounters initiated in their Cursillo.

Group Reunion is a voluntary weekly meeting together of friends and under the common denominator of grace and in the name of Christ. Inspired and strengthened by the Holy Spirit, they share with idealism the active and conscientious responsibilities of living Christianity. Its members have a common purpose, willingness to share and a commitment to the Lord. Stable Group Reunions are an integral part of all phases of the Postcursillo; therefore, they are essential to the Cursillo method.

If you have drifted away from your Group Reunion or Ultreya, consider taking that commitment on during this Lent. Throw yourself wholeheartedly into that commitment and miracles will happen.

– Greg Vandenberg

## Upcoming Ultreyas

### Beatrice-Hebron-Crete:

Location alternates (2:00pm; usually 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month)

- April Ultreya (April 10, 2:00pm) – Beatrice, St. Joseph Parish Hall.
- NO May Ultreya – due to Mother's Day/graduations/etc.
- June Ultreya (June 12, 2:00pm) – Crete, Sacred Heart Parish Hall.

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

### Southwestern Nebraska (McCook-Imperial-North Platte):

Location alternates (usually 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month)

- April Ultreya – (April 10, 1:30pmCT) – In-person & ZOOM (St. Elizabeth Parish Hall, North Platte)
- May Ultreya – (to be determined, 1:30pmCT) – In-person & ZOOM (St. Patrick Church Basement, McCook)
- June Ultreya – (June 12, 12:30pmMT) – In-person & ZOOM (St. Patrick Parish Hall, Imperial)

Contacts: Helen Bieker (308) 340-0268

### Lincoln – Vietnamese Language Group:

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lincoln

- Normally 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.seas-np.org/cursillolincoln.html)

Region VI WebPage: [www.natl-cursillo.org/region6](http://www.natl-cursillo.org/region6)

National WebPage: [www.natl-cursillo.org](http://www.natl-cursillo.org)

### Secretariat Members

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

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***Cursillo Comments  
Includes Cursillistas  
from the Diocese  
around the***

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Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska

March 2022

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

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## SPRING ENCOUNTER REGION VI

April 22-24, 2022

Dodge City Retreat Center

805 Avenue J, Dodge City, KS 67801

**Please register before April 10.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_ Diocese \_\_\_\_\_

Men \_\_\_\_\_ Women \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or any health condition? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need special sleeping accommodations? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you planning to sleep at the Retreat Center? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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

Registration \$60.00 per person, include two nights, meals and sack lunch. If **NOT** planning to sleep at the retreat center on the next page you will find a list of hotels available at your own expense.

You need to bring your own personal items including sleeping bag, pillow and towels.

Please arrive on Friday between 5:00-7:00pm. If you arriving late, please let us know. For emergency or any questions, please call **Carlos Benitez (620)937-0608**.

\$90

**Holiday Inn Express & Suites Dodge City**

201 4th Avenue, Dodge City, Kansas 67801

Indoor pool

Free parking

\$41

**Dodge House Hotel & Convention Center**

2408 W Wyatt Earp Blvd, Dodge City, KS 67801-3003

19% less than usual

**DEAL**

\$109

**Hampton Inn & Suites Dodge City**

4002 West Comanche St, Dodge City, KS 67801

Free parking

Free Wi-Fi

\$78

**TownePlace Suites by Marriott Dodge City**

2800 W Wyatt Earp Blvd, Dodge City, KS 67801

Outdoor pool

Spa