

Cursillo News for May-June 2008

Calendar of Events

May 3, 2008	Secretariat Meeting , 9:30 am; Blessed John XXIII, Lincoln (9:00am Mass)
June 14, 2008	Secretariat Meeting , 9:30 am; Blessed John XXIII, Lincoln (9:00am Mass)
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 (9:00am Mass)
July 31 – Aug 3, 2008	National Encounter , at Catholic University of America, Washington, DC
August 8-10, 2008	School of Leaders (quarterly reunion)- St. James Parish, Cortland [in place of the regular SOL, the Diocese may host a Cursillo Leaders Workshop 1 (CLW-1) ... details to come ...]
August 10, 2008	Secretariat Meeting , following School of Leaders (see above) or during CLW-1
Sept 6, 2008	Secretariat Meeting , 9:30 am; location to be determined (9:00am Mass)
Sep 26-28, 2008	Region VI Fall Encounter – Omaha, NE hosting.
Oct 4, 2008	Secretariat Meeting , 9:30 am; location to be determined (9:00am Mass)
Nov 14-15, 2008	School of Leaders (quarterly reunion)-7:30pm Fri-3pm Sat, (Location TBA)
Nov 15, 2008	Secretariat Meeting (after SOL)
Dec 6, 2008	Secretariat Meeting , 9:30 am; location to be determined (9:00am Mass)
Jan. 2-3, 2009	Practice Weekend , Location to be announced
Jan 3, 2009	Secretariat Meeting , Location to be announced (following Practice Weekend)
Jan 8-11, 2009	Men’s Three Day Weekend , Location to be announced
Jan 15-18, 2009	Women’s Three Day Weekend , Location to be announced

From the Secretariat ...

• Ultreya Center Updates:

- ◆ The **David City/Shelby Ultreya Center** will be holding its monthly Ultreya on the third Sunday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in David City (St. Mary School, Didier Room).
- ◆ The **Beatrice/Crete/Hebron/Lincoln Ultreya Center** will continue holding its Ultreya on fourth Sunday of each month at 5:00 p.m. The rotation for the next couple of months will be: May 25 in Hebron; June 29 (Grand Ultreya at St. Ann Parish in Doniphan); July 27 in Crete; August 24 in Lincoln.
- ◆ The **Wahoo Ultreya Center** will begin holding its Ultreya on the second Sunday of each month, with the first one scheduled for June 8, from 7:00pm – 8:30pm, in Wahoo (St. Wenceslaus Church basement).

• Registration Fees

There have been price increases in the costs of Cursillo materials during the last year. When the application/registration fee was set, the intent was to at least cover the cost of supplies/Cursillo items that were being provided to the candidates on the Weekend. Because of the recent price increases, including the Pilgrim’s Guide, Crucifixes, Let’s Keep the Fourth Day Simple, and other booklets, the Secretariat decided that the Diocese should increase the fee from \$15.00 to \$20.00. As always, if a candidate and sponsor are financially unable to pay the fee, the candidate should still be encouraged to come to the Weekend.

• Planning Ahead -- Upcoming Cursillo activities include

Included below is the tentative/proposed schedule of Cursillo activities for the rest of 2008 in the Lincoln Diocese. The schedule includes activities from now through January 2009, with dates for upcoming Secretariat meetings, quarterly SOLs, Three Day Cursillo Weekends, and Regional and National Encounters, etc. The schedule is intended to provide you with as much advance notice as possible to allow you to plan to participate in Cursillo to the fullest extent possible. We also ask that you provide feedback to the Secretariat, as needed, so that this schedule might be adjusted if there are conflicts with other activities. To the extent possible, changes can then be communicated in a timely manner to allow all who would like to participate the opportunity to do so.

• Special Events

- June 29, 2008 – Grand Ultreya / Evangelization Walk at St. Ann, Doniphan (2:00pm Mass, Ultreya; 5:00pm potluck supper)
- July 31-Aug 3, 2008 – National Encounter, Catholic University, Washington DC
- Aug 8-10, 2008 – Cursillo Leaders Workshop–1 (CLW-1), St. James Parish, Cortland (see note above; if Region VI Service Team is not available, regular 3rd Quarter SOL)
- Sep 26-28, 2008 – Fall Regional Encounter -- **Omaha, NE** hosting.
- Apr 24-26, 2009 – Spring Regional Encounter (dates tentative)
- June 28, 2009 – Grand Ultreya / Evangelization Walk (location/time TBA)

• SOL

- Aug 8-10, 2008 (3rd Quarter) – at St. James Parish, Cortland [in place of the regular SOL, the Diocese may host a Cursillo Leaders Workshop 1 (CLW-1) ... details to come ... otherwise, regular SOL]
- Nov 14-15, 2008 (details TBA)

• Three Day Weekends

- Jan. 2-3, 2009 – Practice Weekend, Location to be announced
- Jan 8-11, 2009 – Men’s, Location to be announced
- Jan 15-18, 2009 – Women’s, Location to be announced
- Feb. ??, 2009 – Postcursillo Reunion (details TBA)

• Secretariat Meetings

- May 3, 2008 – 9:30am Secretariat Meeting (Blessed John XXIII Diocesan Center); 9:00am Mass.
- June 14, 2008 – 9:30am Secretariat Meeting (Blessed John XXIII Diocesan Center); 9:00am Mass.
- July 12, 2008 – 9:30am Secretariat Meeting (Blessed John XXIII Diocesan Center); 9:00am Mass.
- Aug 8-10, 2008 – Secretariat Meeting following SOL (see above) or during CLW-1
- Sept 6, 2008 9:30 am; location to be determined (9:00am Mass)
- Oct 4, 2008 9:30 am; location to be determined (9:00am Mass)
- Nov 15, 2008 TBA (after SOL)
- Dec 6, 2008 9:30 am; location to be determined (9:00am Mass)
- Jan 3, 2009 at Location to be announced (following Practice Weekend)

- **School of Leaders (SOL)**

The next SOL will be **August 8-10, 2008**, at **St. James Parish in Cortland, NE** (the registration form will be included in the July-August Newsletter). The Secretariat decided at the April 11th meeting that it would be good to host a Cursillo Leaders Workshop I (CLW-1) in our Diocese. The Diocese is planning to hold a CLW-1 on these dates, pending the availability of the Regional Service Team to facilitate the weekend.

- **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 to be announced
January 15-18, 2009	Women’s, Location to be announced

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 online forms have been updated to request the new application fee mentioned above). 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 ...**

- ◆ **Region VI Spring Encounter** ... The Spring Encounter was held the last full weekend in April and focused on Evangelization. The three technique talks were entitled: (1) Purpose, Method, and Strategy of the Cursillo Movement; (2) What is an Environment and Taking a Look at My Environment; and (3) Taking Responsibility for my Environment(s). The spiritual presentations included: (1) The Laity’s Call to Evangelization, and (2) Obstacles in Responding to the Call and the Example of St. Paul.

Several dioceses and language groups were represented. The Vietnamese community is trying to make plans to hold Cursillo Weekends in the Lincoln Diocese with the help of our Diocese and the Minneapolis/St. Paul Archdiocese. We pray for their success.

The Region VI Fall Encounter will be hosted by the Omaha Archdiocese, so mark your calendars now for September 26-28, 2008. Region VI is trying to consistently hold the Regional Encounters on the last full weekend in April and in September, in order to allow cursillistas to plan ahead.

- ◆ **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 ...

- ◆ **Grand Ultreya Planned for this Summer ...** Our annual Grand Ultreya will be held on Sunday, June 29th, at St. Ann Parish in Doniphan beginning at 1:30 p.m. Doniphan was chosen because of its central location. Details of the day are included on the inside cover of this newsletter. The day will 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 check out the flyer.

- ◆ **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. You may also register on-line at www.natlcursillo.org.

- **Reminder: Cursillo Web Address**

The 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.

From the Spiritual Advisor ...

During these months of May and June, we celebrate some special Solemnities: the Ascension of our Lord into Heaven (May 1), Pentecost (May 11), the Most Holy Trinity (May 18), the Body and Blood of Christ (May 25), the Sacred Heart of Jesus (May 30), the Birth of John the Baptist (June 24), and the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul (June 29). Each of these days gives us much to reflect on and can be opportunities for the deepening of our spiritual lives.

The month of May begins with the Solemnity of the Ascension of our Lord into Heaven. Then for the next nine days until Pentecost, the Church enters into a special Novena (nine days of prayer) following the command of our Lord to “pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit”. Yes, it is true that the Holy Spirit already came upon the Church (the Apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary) on that first Pentecost, and that the Holy Spirit already came upon all who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. However, we need to continually be aware of the importance of calling upon the Holy Spirit, as we do in the “Prayer to the Holy Spirit”, to “*fill our hearts*” and to “*kindle in us the fire of His love*”, so that through us He may “*renew the face of the earth*”.

As cursillistas, we pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit often, and it helps us to pray better if we slow down or pause to reflect on the words that we are praying. Reflecting on our need for the Holy Spirit in all that we do can help us to better respond to what the Holy Spirit is asking us to do. Just as the Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles and changed them from being fearful men into courageous witnesses of the Gospel, so also the Holy Spirit can fill us with the “*fire of His love*” ... so that we can “*instruct the hearts of the faithful*” ... so that we can be “*truly wise and every rejoice in His consolations.*”

One week after Pentecost, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. This is an opportunity to reflect on the dogma of the Trinity, which the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) calls “*the central mystery of the Christian faith and of the Christian life*” (CCC #234). We only know about the mystery of the Trinity because God has revealed to us that there are Three Persons in one God. These Three Persons are united together, yet distinct and separate ... lots to think about ... We who are baptized in the name of the Trinity should seek to better know, and then love, each of the Three Persons. Then we should help others come to a better understanding/relationship as well. We are privileged to share in the life of the Blessed Trinity, and we are called to strive to imitate and live out that unity in our daily lives.

In order to help us become more closely united to the Trinity and to one another, Jesus gave us the great gift of His risen and glorified Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in Holy Communion ... it’s our food for the journey. The more frequently we receive our Lord in Holy Communion, the more He will change us to be more like Himself. So, if we want to grow in holiness and become more Christ-like, the best way of doing that is to receive Him as often as possible, even daily, in Holy Communion.

In addition to receiving our Lord in Holy Communion, another great help to our spiritual lives is to spend time with your Lord truly present in the Blessed Sacrament in all the tabernacles in our Catholic Churches around the world ... we can rest with Him ... linger with Him ... pour out our hearts to Him and listen to His Sacred Heart as He speaks to us. This is what our Lord revealed to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque when He said to her (and to all of us): “See how much I have loved humans and how little love they have returned to me.” He waits for us to spend time with Him, so give Jesus the gift of your time ... show Him your love.

Continuing on in the month of June, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Birth of John the Baptist. He proclaimed the Word of God and prepared for the coming of the Word of God. He prepared the way for Jesus, and in humility, directed others to Jesus. We would do well to imitate him and live our lives so that “*He must increase; I must decrease*” (Jn 3:30).

Near the end of June, on Sunday, June 29th, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul. These two great apostles lived and died for Jesus and proclaimed His Gospel to the world in all that they did and all that they said. May we imitate them, too, and may we be faithful to them and to their successors, the Pope and Bishops. Pope Benedict XVI designated the year from June 29, 2008 – June 29, 2009 as the “Year of St. Paul”, and he encourages us to read the letters of St. Paul and strive to imitate him as he imitated Christ. May we all respond to the opportunities for spiritual growth in the areas of Piety, Study, and Action during these two months and during this year of St. Paul.

De Colores!!Fr. Mark Seiker

From the Lay Director ...

Is practicing your faith hard?

One thing God promises is that being Christian won’t be easy and I had an opportunity to reflect on this.

When I had first entered the Church, I thought that now that I am practicing my faith, my life would become easier – wrong! Then I started to establish a consistent prayer life, thinking that now life would be easier – wrong again! So then I said, “Okay, I will read and study what the Church teaches, and then life has to get easier” – still, wrong!

Well honestly, these things did help. But what really made life easier was exercising piety and studying what the Church teaches, and then applying that and putting it into action – that’s what made life easier. The desire to do what is good, and then acting on that desire makes my life more fruitful.

Chapter 19 in Fr. Frank Salmani’s book, **Fundamentals of Christianity** (the book we’ve been studying in School of Leaders), states: “*In order for the means to the Christian life to sustain us, our conversion to Christ must be complete. Our metanoia must involve a ‘conversion of the head, conversion of the feet, and conversion of the heart.’*” Fr. Salmani explains that our heads need to see things in a new light. Our feet need to be put into action, and our hearts are compelled to change the world for the better.

So how do we do this? We do this by nourishing our souls. That nourishment comes from Piety, Study and Action. And we must use all three to achieve the fullness of life offered to us by our Father in heaven.

Piety by itself is spiritualism. Study by itself is intellectualism, and to act in a good fashion is humanism and can be done by anyone. It is the balance of these three, as Cursillo teaches, that helps us to plan to do good things in a Christ-like manner, creating in us a conversion of the head, the feet, and the heart.

To say I am Catholic is external, but to evangelize one another, we must be Catholic in our hearts. When our faith is internal, our witness to what we proclaim will be passionate, enthusiastic, and joyful.

I pray that all who proclaim Christ experience that daily metanoia ... that conversion of mind and heart ... that will shine the light of Christ on all that God puts in our path each and every day! Amen!

De Colores!! Mark Pribyl