# Cursillo News for May – June 2014

### **Calendar of Events**

May 3, 2014*	<b>Secretariat Meeting,</b> Blessed John XXIII Diocesan Center, Lincoln – 9:30am (9:00am Mass) <i>One week early due to May graduation schedules]</i>
June 14, 2014	SOL - 9:30am – 2:30pm (Mass at 9:00am) at St. Ann Parish, Doniphan.
June 29, 2014	<b>Grand Ultreya – St. Joseph Parish in Alma;</b> begins with 11:00am Mass (details in the Postcursillo Section of the newsletter)
July 11, 2014	<b>Secretariat Meeting,</b> Sacred Heart Church, Hebron – approximately 7:30pm (meeting precedes the Fourth Day Retreat on Saturday)
July 12, 2014	<u>FOURTH DAY RETREAT</u> – Sacred Heart Parish, Hebron, NE (Friday night Secretariat Meeting). Some details are included in the Postcursillo section of this Newsletter; the registration form with specific details will be in the July/August Newsletter, which will come out toward the end of June.
July 31 – Aug 3, 2014	2014 National Cursillo Encounter, Chapman University, Orange County, CA. (Registration forms are available online –https://www.natl-cursillo.org/encounter/)
September 13, 2014	Secretariat Meeting, Location TBA – 9:30am (9:00am Mass)
September 26-28, 2014	Fall 2014 Region VI Encounter – Archdiocese Kansas City, KS to host (details later).

\* SOL and Secretariat meetings are sometimes adjusted from the normal schedule of having SOL on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of even months (Feb., April, etc.), and Secretariat meetings on the 2nd Saturday of odd months (Jan., March, etc.).

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### **Welcome New Fourth Dayers**

The new 2014 Fourth Dayers are Meghan Carnahan, Rose Gonderinger, Barb Janda, Susan Janda, Rita Luongo, Marcie Minchow, Bridget Mohr, Evan Mohr, Judith Snider, Janis Stenka, Kurt Stenka, Sydney Weyers, and Linda Wiedel. Hopefully, all are part of a Group Reunion and participating in Ultreya. If not, go to your area's Ultreya or contact your sponsor or a team member from the Weekend (you were given a roster in your take-home packets), and they can assist. It is in sharing with your brothers and sisters in Christ about your attempts to grow in Piety, Study, and (apostolic) Action that you will persevere and progress in the spiritual life ... that's where you will find "total security"!! Remember that **Christ is counting on you**, and you said that you would count on Him. He gave you the gift of the Cursillo Method of Group Reunion and Ultreya to help you in the Fourth Day; these tools will help you live each day in a more focused way, that focus being Christ.

### 1. <u>Ultreya Center News</u>:

Details regarding upcoming Ultreyas are included on the next page and on the outside cover of each Newsletter and are also available on the diocesan webpage:

http://www.seas-np.org/cursillolincoln.html.

- The Beatrice/Crete/Hebron/Lincoln Ultreya Center continues its rotation of locations .... The <u>April</u> Ultreya was moved to <u>May 4</u> (still scheduled for 3:00pm at St. Joseph Parish Center, Beatrice). The <u>May</u> Ultreya is scheduled for 3:00pm on May 25 and will be held at Sacred Heart Church, Hebron. The <u>June</u> Ultreya will be the Grand Ultreya on June 29 at St. Joseph Parish in Alma (see insert on page 4).
- The Southwest Ultreya Center will begin a rotation among three locations McCook, Imperial, and now North Platte. The <u>Combined April/May</u> Ultreya will be <u>May 4</u> at 3:30pm CT at St. Patrick Church Basement in McCook. The <u>June</u> Ultreya will be <u>June 8</u> at 3:30pm CT at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Hall in North Platte. The Grand Ultreya on June 29 will be at St. Joseph Parish in Alma (see insert on page 4).
- The **Hastings-Holdrege-Minden Ultreya Center** is holding quarterly Ultreyas. The next Ultreya will be **May 18** at **2:30pm** at **St. John the Baptist Parish, Minden**.
- The **Plattsmouth/Nebraska City Ultreya Center** Contact Mary Lou Salazar or Terry Little for more information.
- The **Weston-Wahoo Ultreya Center** is currently not having Ultreyas. Please participate in Ultreya in one of the other Ultreya Centers (Lincoln is close).
- The **Vietnamese-language Ultreya** holds its Ultreyas on the fourth Sunday of each month at 3:30pm at **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church** in **Lincoln**.

### 2. Precursillo and Three Days

<u>NOW</u> is the time for the work of the Precursillo!! Actually, the work of Precursillo is never done ... we should always be working on friendships with those around us (and sometimes those we have yet to encounter), in order that we might help those we come in contact with on a daily basis to become friends of Christ. A big part of Precursillo work (and that work isn't just about inviting someone to a Cursillo Weekend) can be very slow and time-consuming (it can literally take years) ... but if you don't begin, then will that person ever come to know Christ as a Friend? We should especially be alert for the "far away" (those who don't know God well or don't know Him at all).

There is a lot to do in the Precursillo (making a friend, being a friend, and bringing your friend to Christ). But the key is to begin the work, always in a spirit of Palanca (talking to God about your friend before talking to your friend about God). Your mind/heart/will should be set "to the highest level" to persevere in winning this person for Christ. As we are in the midst of the Easter season, we were all reminded at Easter of our Baptismal promises ... may we ALL accept our Baptismal commitment to live the Gospel and do our part in building up the Body of Christ!! Living Cursillo is a great way to do just that ... when an opportunity presents itself, rely on your growth in Piety and Study to help you be apostolic (Action). After all, you and Christ are an overwhelming majority!!

### 3. Postcursillo

◆ **Grand Ultreya** ... See separate insert on page 4.

### **♦ Lincoln Diocese Fourth Day Retreat (July 12)**

In place of the August SOL, the Lincoln Diocese is holding a **Fourth Day Retreat** for **ALL cursillistas** on **July 12, 2014**. Because the retreat begins with Morning Prayer and Mass first thing in the morning, and because many cursillistas have a distance to travel, the facility will be open Friday evening (July 11) for arrivals between approximately 8:00-9:00pm. There will be a Secretariat meeting going on, which begins at approximately 7:30pm. Following the Secretariat meeting, there will be Night Prayer for those who arrive on Friday evening; visiting may follow. There will be more details in the July/August Newsletter, which will be sent in mid- to late-June. It will be a wonderful opportunity to re-kindle the fire of your apostolic zeal and renew old friendships (and make new ones). Put it on your calendar now ... details to come!

# Grand Ultreya

## Sunday, June 29 St. Joseph Parish in Alma, NE

(Fr. Baker is retired here and will be praying the Mass).

The Grand Ultreva is a FAMILY event!!

### What is a Grand Ultreya?

- † This is a diocesan-wide, family-oriented event.
- † It will last from approximately **11am** (Parish Mass) **4pm**.
- † This will be a **potluck lunch**. Each family should bring a dish to share.
- † The Secretariat will bring paper plates, napkins, glasses and plastic-ware; iced tea/water/orange drink will be provided.

### Where will it be held?

- † St. Joseph Parish Hall, 810 4th Street, Alma, NE
- † We will participate in the parish's 11:00am Mass, then gather in the parish hall following Mass. The Grand Ultreya and meal will be in the Parish Hall, so the event will go on ... rain or shine.

### Why have a Grand Ultreya?

- † Our diocese is widespread geographically and it is rare that cursillists from the east and west all get together.
- † This is a time for cursillistas AND THEIR FAMILIES to take part in a Cursillo event.

Past years have been great fun – Please come and renew friendships ... or make new ones!

### ♦ Region VI Spring Encounter (April 25-27, 2014)

Last weekend (April 25-27, 2014), the Region VI Spring 2014 Encounter was hosted by the Fargo, ND cursillistas in Hankinson, ND. The focus of the English lay rollos was on the Chapter 2 of the <u>Cursillo Manual</u>, as well as on the operational structures of Cursillo (Secretariat and School of Leaders). The purpose was to help the group better understand the Cursillo Movement by digging deeper into its method and mentality. Approximately 65 cursillistas participated from the 8-state region, including representatives from Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Missouri (Iowa and Wisconsin were not represented).

The Encounter provided an opportunity for the various dioceses to share about the work of Cursillo in their areas. Many dioceses are geographically challenged as we in the Lincoln Diocese are, so it's good to hear what works and doesn't work in other areas. The best part is coming away renewed and energized to continue work in the vineyard. Planning ahead -- The **Region VI Fall Encounter** will be hosted by the Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS on **Sept. 26-28, 2014**. As more information becomes available, it will be shared.

### 4. School of Leaders (SOL)

The **April 12, 2014, SOL** was held from 9:30am-1:00pm at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Lincoln. Both English-speaking and Vietnamese-speaking cursillistas participated.

Following are summaries of the two Technique Talks given by Greg Vandenberg from Chapters 12 (Palanca) and 14 (Mass) of <u>The Leaders Manual</u>.

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### **PALANCA**

Because the Cursillo movement is engaged in the work of conversion and Christian renewal, it is necessary that our human efforts be built upon the grace of God, grace sought through constant and humble prayer. We have heard during the Cursillo that without God we can do nothing, and with Him "Christ and I are an overwhelming majority!" A characteristic mark of the Cursillo methodology that brings God into our efforts and activities is our prayers, sacrifices, and acts of mercy, that is, Palanca.

In his pastoral letter on the Cursillo, Bishop Hervás noted: "We should have the intimate and absolute conviction that everything in the Cursillo is the work of God's grace. It is necessary, therefore, to pray and make sacrifices for its apostolic success. The miracles of God's grace are granted by trusting prayer, accompanied by sacrifice; not by knowledge or experience."

A local Movement can be measured in part in its attitude toward Palanca and how Palanca incorporates its spirit in the lives of the Spiritual Advisors and lay leaders. Developing a spirit of prayer and sacrifice should be a priority.

The term Palanca must not be misunderstood. Palanca is prayers, sacrifices, and acts of mercy. It is NOT colorful posters, banners and letters, food, or good wishes (a collection of pleasant things). All a letter does is communicates that Palanca was or is currently being done. Prayer and sacrifice are more effective in securing God's grace, the grace needed to further His will. It is this sacrifice that assures the Christ-centeredness of the Cursillo Movement and maintains our spirituality. Palanca, or prayer and sacrifice, can be done for a particular purpose. All cursillistas need Palanca offered on their behalf to assure the receipt of grace so their efforts are effective; a letter in not necessary.

Palanca is necessary not only for the Three Day Weekend, but even more so for activities in the Fourth Day. The selection and preparation of candidates, study of environments, the growth of Group Reunions, Ultreyas, and the work of the Secretariat and the School of Leaders depend on authentic and generous Palanca.

In the Precursillo, Palanca is essential. There is much work in this area. The importance of prayers and sacrifices for the sponsors and their candidates during the selection and preparation processes cannot be overstated. Palanca is needed to support the candidates as they make plans to attend the Cursillo Weekend.

We read in the "Ideario" (original writings of the Movement), "The love of God by all Christians is witnessed by the innumerable cards and documents ... [indicating] that Palanca is done by the cursillistas. The Palanca should certainly be presented in the Cursillo, but without treating it as a 'trump card,' and without dramatizing it. To the contrary, it should be considered very normal for persons to make sacrifices for others, even if they do not know them, because through their experience they know that with their prayers and sacrifices others will be helped spiritually." During the Three Day Cursillo the role of the Fourth Day community is to offer Palanca. "Historically, during the Three Day Cursillo, Palanca has been seen as intense prayer and personal sacrifice offered by the community and outside leaders. Palanca is crucial for the spiritual success of the Cursillo."

In 1968, Bishop Hervás observed; "The spiritual presence of these communities should be communicated to the cursillistas, but without drama. ... it should be made apparent that it is normal for Christians to pray and sacrifice for others. ... Palanca shows the ecclesial community as a community mindful of the salvation of the group making the Weekend; a community that feels committed to this group. They are a reflection of Christ." The emphasis should be on the Palanca in general, with the outside community offering

prayer and sacrifice for the community that is living the Cursillo experience. Personal Palanca letters received during the Weekend should be limited to the sponsor, an immediate family member, or a relative. It is a great blessing, however, for the new Fourth Dayer to find in his/her take-home packet personal Palanca letters that members of the Fourth Day community sent encouraging them to persevere as they are sent back to their environments; the letters may be even more important after the Weekend than during the Weekend.

Palanca must not end upon the completion of the Cursillo Weekend. Palanca is needed even more during the Postcursillo. As mentioned above, the newly converted cursillistas are going to be leaving the cloistered, Christ-centered atmosphere of the Weekend and returning to daily pressures and concerns, to their environments. They need our Palanca - prayers, sacrifices, love, and support - more now than they did during the Weekend.

Finally, Palanca is not only for the Cursillo Movement, but for the universal Church, of which we are all a part.

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### MASS

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us: "The Mass is at the same time, and inseparably, the sacrificial memorial in which the sacrifice of the cross is perpetuated and the sacred banquet of Communion with the Lord's Body and Blood. But the celebration of the Eucharistic sacrifice is wholly directed toward the intimate union of the faithful with Christ through Communion. To receive Communion is to receive Christ Himself Who has offered Himself for us."

The Cursillo Movement has always maintained the centrality of the Mass (Eucharistic Celebration) in the life of the cursillista. One of the key elements of the Three Day Cursillo is participation in the Eucharistic celebration each day. The Mass on Friday morning signals the end of the retreat phase of the Weekend and serves as a community builder between the team and the candidates. The Mass begins the proclamation phase of the Cursillo. Remember that it was the First Mass which signaled the end of Christ's earthly proclamation and the beginning of the Apostles' proclamation. And just as the Apostles must have wondered what was coming next, so do most of the candidates during their first Mass of the Cursillo Weekend.

Sunday's Mass provides an opportunity for the team and the candidates to enjoy that one last Eucharistic celebration as a community. It is an opportunity to reflect on the journey that they have traveled together. It is also a time to feel a bit of anticipation and anxiousness as they begin to think again about life beyond the Cursillo Weekend. This is a very personal time for all the participants because of the community that has been established during the Weekend. This is the reason the team and candidates spend the Three Day Weekend cloistered without interference from the Fourth Day community.

Mass is not part of the Closing (Clausura), as the Fourth Day community should take part in the celebration of the Eucharist in their own parishes. For similar reasons, in the Postcursillo, Mass is generally not a part of the Ultreya or the School of Leaders (some dioceses try to plan these events near a scheduled Mass so that those who wish to assist may do so). An exception might be for special Ultreyas in a diocese – e.g. a Grand Ultreya (a reunion of all the Ultreya communities in a diocese), when it is acceptable for Mass to be part of the celebration itself.

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The Doctrine Talk came from the final section of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation "*Evangelii Gaudium*" (*The Joy of the Gospel*). One of Pope Francis' infamous observations in this regard is that we shouldn't go about looking like we just came back from a funeral!!

The next SOL (open to both English and Vietnamese) will be held on <u>June 14, 2014</u>, at **St. Ann Parish in Doniphan.** In upcoming SOLs, we will continue to review *The Leaders Manual*. Thus far, this study has proved to be very valuable and energizing in terms of understanding how we can make the best use of the tools given us in Cursillo to better carry out the joyful work of helping to build God's Kingdom here on earth.

### **From the Lay Director**

I was listening to a re-airing of a 2007 Lenten Mission by Father John Riccardo on Ave Maria Radio and heard him mention that his spiritual director told him that every priest really has only one homily in life, it is just re-packaged and re-delivered. He went on to say that Jesus has only one homily, His Father, Who is mercy, love, caring, and faithfulness. And we too have one "homily" as teachers, catechists, parents, and so on. As I reflected on this, I thought of the Ideal rollo, which causes us to examine what our ideal is and where our life is going. How we live our life, who we are, and what we say/do, is our "homily."

I have shared some thoughts previously on parts of Mathew Kelly's book, "The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic." In reference to the "homily" we give on who we are, the section of the book on the second sign, Study, discusses choices we make in life. We are

pretty much a result of the choices we make each day, and each choice either takes us closer to God or moves us away from God – like the analogy of rowing a boat against the current (if we stop rowing and we are immediately carried backwards with the current). As we heard in the "Study" rollo during our Three Day Weekend, we have a choice on what to study and we should choose only the best. Our study has a great impact on our spiritual life, and to be successful, we need to establish a routine and keep at it until it becomes a part of our normal day.

Now, if we have worked on Piety and our relationship with God (the first leg of the tripod) and have established an ongoing habit of good Study (the second leg of the tripod), we unknowingly have been preparing our "homily," which is our Action (the third leg of the tripod). Everything I do is a "homily," and my life reflects who I am. This is something we don't think about enough (at least I don't). I have often read that at least three times a day we should stop and do a short examine – how have I lived this day so far, what did I do well and what did I not do well, what should I have done, and so on. Maybe the next part of my "homily" will be more pleasing to God for my having stopped to reflect. I need to continually work on my "homily."

Please pray and offer Palanca for the purpose of keeping Cursillo alive and vibrant in our Diocese. Are you being called to help? Pray about it. Listen to what Jesus is saying. I was challenged once when I heard "if you don't do it, who will?" Many of us say that "someone else will be there, to I don't need to." Wonder if no one goes? Please go to your Ultreya, someone there needs to see you. You can never know the great impact this small gesture has on others. Take note of when the School of Leaders is and try to come, you will be glad you did – the School of Leaders is for ALL cursillistas, from the newest to the not so new. Cursillo needs all of us ... Cursillo needs you!! May God bless you! and *De Colores!!*John Springer

### From the Spiritual Advisor

We are journeying through the Easter Season. We proclaim that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, Alleluia! If Christ is not risen from the dead, then our faith is useless. If He is not risen, then His teachings, His miracles, and everything else is not of much value because He would still be dead (therefore, not God). Since He IS Risen, we know that He is God.

The same God who created us and redeemed us is still alive (He always IS ... He had no beginning and He will have no end), and He continues to work in and through the Church today. God revealed Himself in the Old Testament, and He perfectly revealed Himself in the New Testament in the person of Jesus Christ. He took on our human

nature in the womb of the Blessed Virgin May and was born, suffered, and died to take away our sins. He then rose from the dead to destroy death. Jesus Christ is present in the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church which He started, and He continues to teach through the Pope and the Bishops of the Church.

This same Jesus, with God the Father, sent the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary at Pentecost. Not only did the Holy Spirit empower and give courage to the early Church leaders at Pentecost, but that same Holy Spirit continues to sanctify (to make holy) the members of the Church today, especially through the Sacraments.

The Apostles (the twelve who were "sent out" into the world) and the disciples (the "students" or "learners" who heard Jesus preach and followed Him during the three years of His public ministry) encountered Jesus in a very personal way. When they encountered Him, they had to make a choice. They had to choose to believe Him and follow Him, or to reject Him and continue to live their lives as they had always done before. There really was not a "middle of the road option".

Jesus continues to reveal Himself to human persons through the Church and through the power of the Holy Spirit in our world today. All those to whom our Lord reveals Himself today must also make a choice to believe Him and follow Him, or to reject Him and continue to live their lives as they have always done. In deciding to follow Jesus, we are making the decision to be what is referred to as "intentional disciples."

When you lived your Three Day Weekend, there were three encounters: (1) the encounter with yourself (on Thursday night and Friday), (2) the encounter with Christ (on Saturday), and (3) the encounter with others (on Sunday). After your Three Day Weekend (during your Fourth Day), you are still called to encounter yourself, Christ, and others. You are called to be an "intentional disciple." I encourage you to make a choice each day to: intentionally choose to spend time in prayer with God; to intentionally choose to spend time studying (the Scriptures, something related to our holy Catholic faith, or the lives of the saints); and to intentionally choose to spend time joyfully announcing to all those you meet, the Good News that Jesus suffered and died for our sins, and that He is risen from the dead ... that He loves us!

Intentionally choose to live the Cursillo Method of Group Reunion and Ultreya, and choose to make a friend, be a friend, and bring your friend to Christ. Help your friend to encounter Christ by being a good disciple ... intentionally.

De Colores!! Fr. Mark Seiker

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Ultreya Centers				
1) Beatrice-Crete-Hebron-Line				
(USU	(2.00pm)			
(April Ultreya) May 4 – St. Joseph Parish Center, Beatrice (3:00pm)  May 25 – Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Hebron (3:00pm)				
June 29 – Grand Ultreya at St. Joseph Parish (Alma; 11:00am)				
(in place of regular 5:00pm Ultreya)				
2) Hastings-Holdrege-Minden – Contact Mary Ann Connelly				
May 18 at 2:30pm, Minden (St. John the Baptist Parish)				
3) Lincoln – Vietnamese Language Group				
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lincoln 4th Sunday of month (3:30pm)				
4) Plattsmouth-Nebraska City				
Check parish bulletin at www.holyspiritplattsmouth.com, or contact Terry Little or Mary Lou Salazar				
5) Southwestern Nebraska				
Location alternates: McCook/Imperial; Usually 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month				
April/May May 4 – McCook (Church Basement) (3:30pm CT)				
June 8 – Norti	h Platte (Parish Hall) (3:30pm CT)			
June 29 – Grand Ultreya at S	St. Joseph Parish (Alma; 11:00am)			
6) Weston/David City/Shelby/V				
Not currently having Ultreya; please	participate in a neighboring Ultreya			
Secretariat Mail				
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# **CURSILLO NEWSLETTER**

Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska

**May – June 2014** 



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

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Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska

**May – June 2014** 



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