

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER

Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska

May 2017



Calendar of Events

May 20, 2017	Secretariat Meeting , St. Joseph Church Basement, York – 9:30am (9:00am Mass).
June 10, 2017	SOL - 9:30am – 2:00pm (Mass at 9:00am) at St. Ann Parish, Doniphan.
June 25, 2017	Grand Ultreya , St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, North Platte, NE – 2:30pm Mass; Ultreya at 3:30pm, followed by potluck dinner (see details inside).
July 8, 2017	Secretariat Meeting , St. Joseph Church Basement, York – 9:30am (9:00am Mass).
July 27-30, 2017	Cursillo National Encounter, Trinity University, San Antonio, TX.
August 12, 2017	SOL - 9:30am – 2:00pm (Mass at 9:00am) at St. Ann Parish, Doniphan.
Sept. 29 – Oct. 1, 2017	Fall 2017 Region VI Encounter – Bismarck, ND to host.

Welcome New Fourth Dayers

The new 2017 Fourth Dayers are Br. Angelo Marie, Br. James Mary, Br. Julian Mary, Br. Augustine Marie, Br. Joseph Maria, Br. Maximilian Maria, Joan K Craig, Elizabeth Cuellar, Julie Foster, Jennifer Hinze, Rob Hinze, Ramon Rodriguez, Andrew Weber, Fr. Lothar Gilde, Brenda S. Miller, Jorge Ortega, Van Ortega-Nguyen, Kay Portillo, Kathy Salsman, Julie Sestak, and Cheri Sis.

Hopefully, all are part of a Group Reunion and participating in Ultreya. If you haven't found a group or simply haven't started to group yet, go to your area's Ultreya or contact your sponsor or a team member from the Weekend (there was a roster in your take-home packets) – they can help you find a Group Reunion. 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.

The Three Phases of the Cursillo Movement:

- In the **Precursillo**, the person seeks Christ.
- In the **Three-Day Cursillo**, the person encounters Christ.
- In the **Postcursillo** (which is what all of us are now living), the person follows Christ. It is here that we daily live what is fundamental for being Christian.

To learn more about Cursillo (including about the three phases of the Movement), come to SOL (see SOL heading below) explore the National Cursillo Resource Center on the National website: <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/resource-center/> There is a wealth of information that will help you grow in your faith life.

2017 National Encounter (July 27-30, 2017)

The 27th National Encounter is being hosted by the Archdiocese of San Antonio, TX at Trinity University, San Antonio, TX on July 27-30, 2017, and is celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Cursillo in the United States. A registration form for the 27th National Encounter is available on the National Cursillo webpage (<http://www.natl-cursillo.org/>) for more details (i.e., speakers, etc.).

Grand Ultreya

Sunday, June 25, 2017

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in North Platte, NE

The Grand Ultreya is a **FAMILY** event!!

What is a Grand Ultreya?

- † This is a diocesan-wide, family-oriented event where cursillistas from throughout the Lincoln Diocese (and sometimes other dioceses) gather to renew friendships, since friendship is the very heart of Cursillo.
- † It will last from approximately **2:30pm (Mass) – 5:30/6:00pm** (3:30pm Ultreya followed by potluck supper). The Mass fulfills the Sunday obligation. If you have already gone to Mass and/or need to leave after the Ultreya, that works, too ... come for whatever part you can.
- † This will be a **potluck dinner**, so each family should bring a dish to share.
- † The Secretariat will bring plates, napkins, glasses and plastic-ware; coffee/iced tea/water will be provided.

Where will it be held?

- † **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Hall, 3301 Echo Drive, North Platte, NE**
- † We will gather for the 2:30pm Mass in the Church, then move to the Parish Hall for the Grand Ultreya and meal. Therefore, the event will go on ... rain or shine.

Why have a Grand Ultreya?

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

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

School of Leaders (SOL)

What is the School of Leaders (SOL)?

The SOL is where the work of the Movement is planned, shared and carried out. It is NOT a school in the sense of someone learning to be a leader ... all of us are already leaders in those environments in which our Lord has placed us (home, work, parish, social groups, etc.) ... it is more a community of leaders.

Essentially, the School is made up of cursillistas who have a desire to do what is necessary to insure the Movement remains vibrant and authentic ... leaders who are willing to give their time, talent, and treasure to the Movement as needed. Cursillo calls each of us to evangelize those environments in which God has placed us; Cursillo leaders (via the SOL), however, evangelize the environment of the Cursillo Movement itself. The School is essentially a close-knit community, similar to a friendship group (Group Reunion), that gathers to share our faith journeys and make plans about how to help others come to know Christ better through Cursillo.

The next SOL will be held at St. Ann Parish in Doniphan on June 10, 2017. The talks have been from the book *Whom Shall I Send? (Discerning the Will of God)* by Fr. Frank Salmani (the books are available for purchase at SOL for \$8.00). Each chapter presents a stand-alone discussion of a particular topic related to discernment. The Prologue of the book says, in part: “This book addresses two basic questions: First, What does God want from me right now? And second, Is God calling me to be a Cursillo leader or some other work? Every Christian needs to know what God’s will is for him or her. This book is a process to help discern the Lord’s call. The book does not attempt to tell anyone where they should be or what they should be doing. That is up to the individual. What the book does tell us is what God expects of anyone who commits themselves to Him in any way. The specific nature of the call is up to each individual to discern.”

The **June SOL** (all language groups are invited) will be held on **June 10, 2017**, at **St. Ann Parish in Doniphan**. As usual, there will be a 9:00am Mass for those who would like to participate, followed by the actual SOL beginning at 9:30am. The technique talks will be from Fr. Salmani's book, "**Whom Shall I Send?**" The doctrinal talks will come from Pope St. John Paul II's encyclical *Veritatis Splendor* ("Splendor of Truth").
Come ... Christ is counting on you ...

Volunteerism and Commitment (Greg Vandenberg, SOL Chair)

For the past several months, the Lincoln Diocese School of Leaders (SOL) has been studying the National Ultreya Publications book *Whom Shall I Send? Discerning The Will of God* by Fr. Frank S. Salmani. At our last SOL, Chapter 15, entitled "Volunteerism and Commitment", had a profound effect on me. It's been many years since I've authored a book report, but I wanted to share some points that resonated with me.

Chapter 15 begins powerfully reminding the reader of Jesus' question to His apostles after the Bread of Life discourse; "Do you also want to leave?" Fr. Salmani offers that Jesus took a risk in posing that question because there was really nothing keeping the apostles at his side. "In fact, while the apostles were *chosen*, they still had the choice to walk away. Fortunately, their status as *volunteers* didn't at all influence their commitment to Jesus. In effect the apostles were *volunteers*," continues Fr. Salmani.

I had to agree with the author when he asked me to consider whether the term "just a volunteer" really means, "Don't expect too much from me. You're lucky I'm doing what I'm doing." The author opined that even as Cursillo leaders we might see our level of commitment to the Cursillo Movement as simply another volunteer activity.

Remembering that *Whom Shall I Send?* was written to aid in the discernment of what does God want from me right now, I had to carefully consider the paragraphs that followed addressing **volunteerism** and **commitment** from a Cursillo perspective.

Fr. Salmani proposed that "what someone *can* give to a particular community is not what is always needed; or what someone *wants* to give is not what is always needed." By focusing too much on being a **volunteer**, a Cursillista runs the risk of changing the focus of his/her **commitment** to Christ (Christ is counting on you) from the work to be done to the individual who is **volunteering**. Like the apostles, we learned on our Three Day Weekend that Christ, through the Holy Spirit, **called** us to the Weekend. As Fr. Salmani wrote; "...the servants cannot set the tone for the Master. It is the Master who chooses and sets the scope of the apostolate." Although it is true that God does not force us to follow Him, if we believe He has **called** us, we don't set the terms of the covenant. Through Baptism we were given a calling, a vocation. That calling is to be Christ's disciples, to proclaim the Good News. We are free to say yes or no. "If the answer is yes," as Fr. Salmani puts it, "we cannot set our own agenda."

"The Cursillo is a specific calling to do God's work. We are free to answer the call or find something else. If we say yes to the work of a Cursillo leader, and everyone reading this newsletter is a Cursillo leader, we have to follow the agenda of the Cursillo Movement, which follows the mission of the Church, which is the extension of Christ's mission." These were further insights of the author that rang all too true.

Fr. Salmani offered this analogy. "We are too often plagued in the Catholic Church with the *pick and choose religion* disease. I am a Catholic, but the Catholic Church cannot tell me how to live. We cannot pick and choose. If we want to be an authentic Cursillo leader, we cannot complain about the Cursillo [Method] *imposing* too many rules or guidelines. If we answer the call to do the Lord's work, in a particular capacity, then we cannot set our own conditions."

Fr. Salmani ends the Chapter by reminding the reader that our calling to be apostles and the conditions for that discipleship come from Jesus. The call must be accepted all or nothing. The call to discipleship is not our own choice and neither is the scope or place of our work. No one ever says to Jesus, "You're expecting too much, after all, I'm just a **volunteer!**" Jesus' response is simple: "Do you want to leave also?" Jesus calls. If we accept His call, we must be serious about our commitment to Him. Besides, to whom can we go? Only Jesus has the words of everlasting life!

Christ is counting on you! Come join us at the next School of Leaders and count on Him – Saturday, June 10, in Doniphan (see specific details in the Newsletter). **Volunteer** with us. During prayerful reflection on this little snippet concerning **Volunteerism and Commitment** ponder this question: Does being compensated for our work make us better workers? De Colores!

From the Lay Director

De Colores!

As we enter the summer season, we spend a lot of time preparing for vacation, trips, reunions with family, special events, time with kids and grandkids, gardens, and a whole lot of other things that we can't wait to do. Summers are a time of renewal, a time to catch up on things put off, a time to do some of the things we are unable to do the rest of the year. Even with all of this, it is important that our faith lives are not put on hold or shelved while we do all these other things.

God still has this mission for us. He still wants us to spread the good news, the best news, that He loves us. No matter where we go or what we do, we are still in the world that God has given us, and as our environments (our "movable square meter" or our "bubble") changes, He continues to ask us to "go forth and bear fruit". We must always try to live in a way that shows others that we see Jesus in them and to let them know that God loves all of us and wants each of us to be with Him forever. So, as we fill our summers and try to do all the things we hope to do, we need to remember that Christ walks with us and He is always with us in each of our daily encounters.

Following the Cursillo Weekends in March, I hope and pray that not only the new Fourth Dayers, but all Cursillistas, are in Group Reunions and are participating in Ultreya as they are able. The Cursillo can have a profound effect on us if we let it ... if we live it. Unfortunately, many fall into old routines and, even after they start using a method (for us, the Cursillo Method of Group Reunion and Ultreya) to grow, they slip back. Grouping is so important, as we can share all our joys and struggles ... and life, really ... with someone else. Jesus never wants us to walk alone. He is with us, but He wants others to be with us, too. If you are not grouping or sharing your faith, know that there are many out there who are looking for someone to share their faith journey with also. All it takes is a phone call, a conversation after Mass, a meeting after a meeting. Reach out, don't quit rowing and letting the current take you where it will. My prayer daily is for all Cursillistas to embrace the love of Christ and desire to be part of the community they experienced on the Three Day Weekend. May God bless you!

De Colores!! John Springer

From the Spiritual Advisor

On May 13, 1917, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three children, (Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco) in Fatima, Portugal. The children (between the ages of seven and ten years old) chose to pasture their sheep in an area that was known as the Cova da Iria, or Cove of Irene. As the sheep grazed, the children played in the pasture. After they finished eating their lunch, around noon, they decided to pray a Rosary. However, they prayed the prayers in a truncated fashion, saying only the first words of each prayer. They prayed just the words "Our Father", "Hail Mary", and "Glory Be", instead of praying each of the complete prayers.

After a flash of "lightening in a clear sky", the Blessed Virgin appeared to them. Some of the words that Mary said to them during that first apparition on May 13, 1917 are recounted by Lucia:

- **"Please don't be afraid of me, I'm not going to harm you."**
- **"I come from heaven."**
- **"I want you to return here on the thirteenth of each month for the next six months, and at the very same hour. Later I shall tell you who I am, and what it is that I most desire. And I shall return here yet a seventh time."**
- **"Say the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war."**

It would be good for us to remember that the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to the three children over a period of six months. As we celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of Fatima, this year, it is important for us to remember that it wasn't just one appearance on one day. We can celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary's appearance all year long.

We might also reflect on the way that the children were praying right before the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to them. They were "shortening" the prayers ... perhaps because they wanted to "get their prayers finished" so they could do something else that they wanted to do that they thought was more important than praying the Rosary. Is our prayer life a little like that of the children? Are we praying words, even shortening our prayers, just to "get our prayers done" so that we can get on to something more important?

As each of us lives our Fourth Day, may we recommit ourselves to a deeper relationship with Jesus who is counting on us. May we "go to Jesus through Mary", and intercede for others.

De Colores!! Fr. Mark Seiker

Palanca Calendar

The Palanca calendar is available for download from the Lincoln Diocese Cursillo webpage:
<http://www.seas-np.org/cursillolincoln.html>



Upcoming Ultreyas

Beatrice-Hebron-Crete-Lincoln:

Location alternates (2:00pm; usually 4th Sunday of month)

- **May Ultreya (May 21)** – John XXIII Diocesan Center (Conference Room), **Lincoln**
- **June Ultreya (June 25)** – Grand Ultreya at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, **North Platte** (see details inside, in place of regular June Ultreya)
- **July Ultreya (July 23)** – St. Joseph Parish Center, **Beatrice**

Contacts: John/Kathy Springer (402) 826-2699

Southwestern Nebraska (McCook-Imperial-North Platte):

Location alternates (usually 2nd Sunday of month)

- **Combined April/May Ultreya (May 21)** - 2:30pm MT – St. Patrick Parish Hall, **Imperial**
- **July Ultreya (July 9)** - 3:30pm CT – St. Patrick Church Basement, **McCook**
- **August Ultreya (August 13)** - 2:30pm MT – St. Patrick Parish Hall, **Imperial**

Contacts: Helen Bieker (308) 340-0268

Lincoln – Vietnamese Language Group:

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lincoln

- 2nd Sunday of each month after 9:00am Mass (about 10:15am)

Contacts: Diep Van Nguyen (402) 474-9588, or Canh Nguyen (402) 435-0921

Not Currently Having Ultreyas [*Please participate in a neighboring Ultreya*]

- Doniphan-Hastings-Holdrege-Minden
- Plattsmouth-Nebraska City
- Weston-David City-Shelby-Wahoo

For more information, contact John Springer (402) 826-2699, Lay Director

Secretariat Mail

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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

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CURSILLO NEWSLETTER
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GRAND UL'TREYA 2017
Sunday, June 25, Seton
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North

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