

# CURSILLO NEWSLETTER

Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska

May 2019



## Calendar of Events

June 15, 2019	<b>Fourth Day Retreat</b> - 9:00am – 4:00pm (Mass at 8:30am), St. Ann Church, Doniphan. <b><u>NO Grand Ultreya</u></b> – this year due to Fourth Day Retreat on June 15.
July 13, 2019	<b>Secretariat Meeting</b> , at St. Joseph Church, York - 9:30am Meeting (9:00am Mass)
July 18-21, 2019	Cursillo National Encounter, University of Scranton, Scranton, PA.
August 10, 2019	<b>SOL</b> - 9:30am – 1:30pm (Mass at 9:00am) at St. Ann Church, Doniphan.
Sept 13-15, 2019	<b>Fall 2019 Region VI Encounter</b> – Wichita, KS Diocese Spanish to host.
Sept 21, 2019	<b>Secretariat Meeting</b> , at St. Joseph Church, York - 9:30am Meeting (9:00am Mass)
October 24-27, 2019	<b>Possible Three Day Cursillo Weekend</b> – Sacred Heart Parish, Hebron.
November 7-10, 2019	<b>Possible Three Day Cursillo Weekend</b> – Sacred Heart Parish, Hebron.

**A Fourth Day Retreat** is for those who have already lived a Three Day Weekend. The Retreat is intended to provide participants with a deeper understanding and a living experience of what is essential in Cursillo and in living our Catholic faith. A retreat is a time to reflect and and come to better know God's will in your life!

Given that the goal of Cursillo is to communicate God's love through friendship in that place where God has placed you at this exact moment, this retreat is one more opportunity to discover the possibilities that Cursillo offers each of us and the Church. All you need to bring is you ...

The retreat will begin at 9:00am (8:30am Mass) and should end at approximately 4:00pm. The retreat is a great opportunity for renewing old friendships and making new ones, while at the same time continuing to help us better understand the great gift that Cursillo is. In addition to a deeper knowledge of Cursillo, we learn from each other, and that helps to deepen the three essential encounters with self, Christ, and others that we discovered during the Cursillo Weekend. Christ is still counting on you!

## **Upcoming Three Day Weekends**

Notice above that the next set of Three Day Weekends are tentatively scheduled to be held at Sacred Heart Parish in Hebron – **October 24-27, 2019**, and **November 7-10, 2019**. **If you would want to help with the Weekends, please contact one of the members of the Secretariat.** Begin / continue to pray and think about which of your friends you should invite to be a candidate ... remember to allow time for your friend to prepare. Then as you continue to work with your friend/candidate, be excited and joy-filled and enthusiastic ... if you aren't, why should they be? As we go about the day-to-day work of the Precursillo, we are always aware that a big part of the work can be very slow and time-consuming (it can quite literally take years) ... but if you don't ever begin, quite literally, it won't come to fruition.

### **Palanca Calendar**

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



## **Report on School of Leaders (SOL)**

At the October 20, December 15, and April 13, SOL, we have been studying and discussing a new book entitled: *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!

Our next SOL is scheduled for August 10, 2019 at St. Ann Parish, Doniphan. Please join us if your schedule allows. The books will be available for purchase (\$9).

## **Report on Region VI Spring Encounter (March 15-17, 2019)**

The Region VI Fall Encounter was hosted by the Spanish community of the Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS at Savior Pastoral Center Retreat and Conference Center on March 15-17, 2019. There were 40 English speaking cursillistas and about 140 Spanish speaking cursillistas present, including 5 from the Lincoln Diocese. The topics covered dealt with the new "Step by Step" Manual for Cursillo Weekends. This new manual is an English translation of the Manual written by Eduardo Bonnín (the founder of Cursillo) and used in the Cursillo Movement in Mallorca. It was a very good Encounter.

## **2019 National Encounter (July 18-21, 2019)**

The 29<sup>th</sup> National Encounter will be held on July 18-21, 2019 at the University of Scranton, in Northeast region of Pennsylvania. We will joyfully celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the First Cursillo in Mallorca at this special Encounter! It is expected to be a fully packed event with special guests from Mallorca, hundreds of Cursillistas, both clergy and laypersons, from the United States' Cursillo multiple language groups of English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Filipino, Portuguese, Korean, and Chinese. Please consider participating in this National Encounter ... you'll be glad you did!

## **From the Lay Director**

De Colores!

Tuesday, the Second Week of Easter

Today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles and a meditation in the monthly "Word Among Us" serves as inspiration for my comments as your Lay Director. Specifically, one verse is in complete harmony with the Cursillo Method: "*The community of believers was of one heart and mind.*" (Acts 4:32) Because we have completed a Cursillos in Christianity three-day weekend, our hearts and minds have come to understand that God in Jesus Christ LOVES US! What could be better than that? Well, sharing Christ's love with other fourth dayers and the far away.

Why are we of one heart and mind? Because God wills it. Through the Holy Spirit He called us into community, into families, Decurias if you will, to better understand His will for us and each other.

In what follows is paraphrased from the April 30 "Word Among Us" meditation because the words are apropos.

Like the first followers of Jesus, God wants us to live in unity — in unity with our spouses, in our families, in our parishes and with each other to advance the Cursillo movement. This unity can be hard to attain, even when we really desire it.

Where can there be more unity in our life? Join me in taking a few moments to pray for unity. Even a simple prayer such as "Come, Holy Spirit; bring us together in unity" can make a difference. We probably aren't called to live the way the early Christians did, but we can still strive to have "one heart and mind" with one another.

"Holy Spirit, show me how I can be an instrument of unity for advancement of the Lincoln Diocese Cursillo movement." Ask Jesus if He would be pleased by your attendance at the upcoming Fourth Day Retreat, or if He would be gratified to give you the grace necessary to assist with an upcoming Three-Day Weekend. Then quiet yourself and listen to what Jesus may say to you. – **Greg Vandenberg**

## From the Spiritual Advisor

I lived my Cursillo Weekend in March of 1987. In the first weeks after my Weekend, I began grouping with a group of men in the parish where I was assigned. I met weekly with my Group Reunion, and found it a great help to my spiritual life, until I was transferred to another parish.

There were not any cursillistas in the new parish to which I was assigned, and thus I did not meet in a Group Reunion for three years. I was transferred to another parish, and after half a year, men from that parish lived a Cursillo Weekend and I began meeting weekly in a Group Reunion for the next 2 ½ years. Again, I found meeting with the other men a great help to my spiritual life. I was transferred to another parish, and after a few months began meeting with a group of men in a Group Reunion for the rest of the years I was at that parish and also in the other successive parishes to which I was transferred, and continued to find my involvement in weekly Group Reunion a vital part in my spiritual life. However, it is important to notice that though I found meeting in a weekly Group Reunion important for the first year, when there were not any cursillistas in the Parish or nearby in the area to which I was moved, I did not work very hard to find other men to meet with in a Group Reunion, and did not meet in a Group Reunion for three years.

Another important aspect of my involvement in Cursillo, is that only five months after I lived my Three Day Weekend, I was asked by another Priest to assist him in working on the Rollo Team for a Three Day Weekend, which helped me to better understand the Three Day Weekend that I had experienced. It also helped me to understand the Cursillo Movement ... at least the Three Day Weekend phase. Over the years, I have helped on the Rollo Team or Service Team on many of the Weekends in our Diocese.

However, as I look back over the years that I have been involved in Cursillo, I notice that for the first seven years as a cursillistas I only grouped for half of those years, and yet I continued to work on Rollo Teams. After being a cursillista for 7 years, I was appointed by our Bishop as the Spiritual Advisor for our Diocesan Cursillo Movement, because the current Spiritual Advisor was being moved to an assignment away from the Diocese.

For the next 7 years, the main focus of Cursillo in our Diocese was planning and holding Three Day Weekends. I don't remember much being discussed about the Precursillo or Postcursillo phases. There was an attempt to have School of Leaders (SOL) for about a year. However, SOL was not very strong or well understood, and because there was an attempt to schedule the SOL either before or after the monthly Ultreyas, the SOL and the Ultreyas both became less viable, and floundered. However, we continued to plan and schedule Three Day Weekends.

After being a Cursillista for 14 years, working on many Three Day Weekends, and meeting only about three-fourths of those years in Group Reunions, I was asked by a cursillista who moved into our Diocese to attend a Cursillo Regional Encounter. I remember asking "why would I want to do that?" The cursillista responded that it was important to understand all of the phases of the Cursillo Movement and not just the Three Day Weekend phase. It was also important to learn about how Cursillo was working in other areas of the world. I reluctantly went to my first Regional Encounter mainly because the cursillista who asked me was a friend ... the importance of friendship! Since then, I have been participating in Regional Encounters (two times a year) and a National Encounter every year but one.

In addition to participating in the Regional and National Encounters, I started to meet and study with Cursillo friends, and after a few years we re-started the SOL's in our Diocese. I remembered hearing in one of the Rollos on the Three Day Weekend, "*An isolated Christian is a paralyzed Christian*" and "*An isolated Group Reunion is a paralyzed Group Reunion.*" When I heard those lines on the Weekends, I am pretty sure that I did not understand them. After years of not meeting in a Group Reunion followed by years of study of the Cursillo Movement, I can better recognize that if a cursillista does not meet in a Group Reunion, they are not going to grow as much as if they did meet regularly in a Group Reunion. Similarly, if the members of a Group Reunion do not participate in a monthly Ultreya (with other cursillistas outside of their regular Group Reunion), they will not grow as much as if they participate in Ultreya.

It all reminds me of the challenge to the cursillista at the closing: "Christ is counting on you!" ... and the cursillistas' response: "And I am counting on Him!" I encourage you to learn from the strengths and weaknesses of others, like me ... and maybe yourself, and choose to participate regularly in a weekly Group Reunion and a monthly Ultreya. I also invite you to participate in School of Leaders (SOL). Perhaps a great way to begin is to come to the Fourth Day Retreat scheduled for Saturday, June 15, 2019.

*De Colores!!* Fr. Mark Seiker

## Upcoming Ultreyas

### Beatrice-Hebron-Crete:

Location alternates (2:00pm; usually 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of month)

- June Ultreya (June 9) – Sacred Heart, Crete
- July Ultreya (July 14) – St. Joseph Parish Center, Beatrice
- August Ultreya (August 11) – Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Hebron
- September Ultreya (September 8) – Sacred Heart, Crete
- October Ultreya (October 13) – St. Joseph Parish Center, Beatrice

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

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

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

- June Ultreya (June 9) - 2:30pm MT – St. Patrick Parish Hall, Imperial
- July Ultreya (July 14) - 3:30pm CT – St. Patrick Church Basement, McCook
- August Ultreya (August 11) - 2:30pm MT – St. Patrick Parish Hall, Imperial
- September Ultreya (September 8) - 3:30pm CT – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Hall, North Platte

Contacts: Helen Bieker (308) 340-0268

### Lincoln – Vietnamese Language Group:

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lincoln

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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*]

- 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. Mark Seiker (308) 534-5461

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER  
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**Fourth Day Retreat  
St. Ann Parish, Doniphan  
June 15, 2019**

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Permit No. 363

# Fourth Day Retreat June 15, 2019

**St. Ann Church, Doniphan, NE**

“The community of believers was of one heart and mind.” *(Acts 4:32)*  
Please come ... you'll be glad you did!



**Eduardo Bonnin Aguilo**

*(picture copied from 100 Years Biography - Mentality)*

**FOURTH DAY RETREAT  
REGISTRATION FORM  
June 15, 2019 (9:00am-4:00pm; Mass at 8:30am)  
St. Ann Parish, Doniphan, Nebraska**

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Please come to:

- See friends you haven't seen in awhile and to make new friends as well
- Deepen your commitment to Christ
- Make the most of each Fourth Day as you bring Christ to others in your everyday encounters
- Better understand and live what is fundamental for being Christian

Registration and payment are required by **Tuesday, June 11, 2019** (to allow for proper planning of meals).

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need any special accommodations? (dietary/physical/walking/etc?)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date you lived your Cursillo and where: \_\_\_\_\_

**Suggested donation:** \$20.00 per person (to cover costs). Make checks payable to "Cursillo of Lincoln" and send completed registration form with payment to:

Greg Vandenberg  
3101 Meadow Ct.  
North Platte, NE 69101-6884

If you have any questions, please contact:

Greg Vandenberg (glvandenberg@charter.net; phone: 308-530-7587), or  
John or Kathy Springer (jejspringer@windstream.net; phone: 402-826-2699 or 402-580-1367).