

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER

Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska

May 2026

www.seas-np.org/cursillolincoln.html



Calendar of Events

- August 6-9, 2026 **Women's Three Day Cursillo Weekend** – Good Counsel Retreat House, Waverly.
Closing for the Women's Weekend will be 5:00pm August 9, 2026.
- August 13-16, 2026 **Men's Three Day Cursillo Weekend** – Good Counsel Retreat House, Waverly.
Closing for the Men's Weekend will be 5:00pm August 16, 2026.
- June 13, 2026 -- **Secretariat Meeting, 9:00amCT via ZOOM (Tentative)**
➤ To participate in Secretariat, start your Zoom app, and enter the **Meeting ID: 731-820-8877**
- July 11, 2026 -- **SOL - 9:00am** at St. Mary Church, Aurora (In person AND via ZOOM)
➤ To participate in SOL, start your Zoom app, and enter the **Meeting ID: 629-734-5912**
➤ Optional 8:00am Parish Mass if you are participating in person.
- July 23-26, 2026 Cursillo National Encounter, Cursillo National Encounter at Wheaton College (suburb of Chicago, IL).

Invitation To Offer YOUR Palanca

You might recall the powerful Palanca you received from all over the world during your Three Day Weekend. We invite you to join in the on-going Palanca the Lincoln Diocese offers for Cursillo events taking place in all parts of the world. The first paragraph sent to a Diocese having a Three Day Weekend is included below to provide ideas / examples of what you might offer for another diocese's Cursillo event.

“The Lincoln, Nebraska, Diocese Cursillo Community would like to send encouragement and prayer for your Three Day Weekend!! Our Diocesan Cursillo Secretariat and School of Leaders has as its *Mass intention each Friday* all of the Cursillo activities going on around the world. In addition, we pray a Divine Mercy Chaplet daily that fruit might come from the many personal contacts you make during your Cursillo Weekend. Individual cursillistas throughout the Diocese are offering *Masses, Visits to the Blessed Sacrament, Rosaries, Chaplets of Divine Mercy, fasting, and daily prayers* that you might come to know our Lord as Friend.”

Please consider adding your Palanca!!



From the Spiritual Advisor

Dear Friends and fellow disciples in Christ Jesus: Come Holy Spirit be with us, fill us with life, light, hope and peace in the missionary discipleship of Jesus in His Holy Church. Jesus needs sponsors in Christianity. If you are a Cursillista, you are a Sponsor. Be a Sponsor! Be a friend of Jesus every day. Be faithful at your Friendship Reunion. Share the love of Jesus with your friends. Be a friend like Jesus. Invite and be a Sponsor to your friends that are eligible to live a weekend encounter in Waverly and make 2026 the best year of your life and their life. Be a Sponsor and register your friends for the upcoming Waverly Cursillo weekend. God and they will thank you into eternity. Let the Holy Spirit Pentecost you. Let's Rise with the Risen One to the occasion at hand, the mission that we were all Baptized for.

De Colores!! Fr. Bernard Lorenz

From the Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator

The three great parts which compose the work of the Cursillo are the Precursillo, the 3-Day Cursillo and the Postcursillo. Precursillo is the study of environments and the searching for influential persons within those environments as possible candidates for the 3-day Cursillo. Precursillo activities include the responsibility of preparing the persons who will attend the 3-day Cursillo, with a view toward a perennial living of the Cursillo in the Postcursillo. During the Precursillo, individuals are prepared for the 3-day Cursillo and the Postcursillo. They should be prepared in such a way that they will be ready to understand, live and accept the message of the three days.

With the announcement of planned 3-day Cursillo weekends in August, we find ourselves living the Precursillo part of the work of the Cursillo Movement.

To attend a Cursillo Weekend, a woman or man will need the sponsorship of a Cursillista. Anyone who has already lived a Cursillo weekend is a qualified sponsor. As a sponsor you should meet with your 3-day Cursillo weekend candidate, answer any questions they may have about the weekend, and assist them with the application. The \$20 application fee should accompany the application. The application fee is shown on the registration form included in the newsletter.

To assist your friend, as a sponsor, you should consider transporting your candidate to and from the weekend (bring your friend to Christ) and accompany them to Group Reunion and Ultreya after their weekend. This will help deepen your friendship, establish them with a weekly Group Reunion, and ensure their fourth day is as fruitful as possible.

The 3-day Cursillo Weekend is just the beginning of forming a close relationship with self, Christ and others. It is what happens after the weekend that is crucial to maintaining and deepening what is almost certainly a different relationship than before the triple encounter. Sponsors need to take a special interest in the applicant before and after the weekend.

As a sponsor, do these things before the weekend: Talk with God about your friend, before talking to your friend about the Cursillo. Explain the weekend format, including eating and sleeping arrangements, the talks and the sacraments given. It is important that an applicant be able to receive the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion. Explain the weekend in such a way that they will become enthusiastic. Your goal is to help them see the Cursillo Movement as a means for attaining their desires. In this way, they will be Cursillistas by desire before attending. Support your applicant with prayer and Palanca and ask if you can be of help with family arrangements and logistics during the weekend so it is a carefree experience. Again, strongly consider providing transportation to and from the Cursillo site. Your pre-Cursillo efforts will go a long way toward thwarting any resistance to accepting your invitation and follow through.

Are there any restrictions on who can come to a Cursillo weekend?

Other than sponsorship, it is strongly suggested that both spouses of a married couple participate and that both should be Catholic. Personal changes, after attending a Cursillo weekend, are best understood and accepted when both have shared the triple encounter experience. Persons recently divorced or grieving over the loss of a loved one should wait an appropriate length of time before living a weekend, perhaps a period of one year. Persons who are hurting for whatever reason should wait for a less stressful time. The Sacraments are an important part of the Catholic Weekend. For this reason, Christians of other faiths are encouraged to attend a Cursillo of their own faith.

As Father Lorenz has pointed out in his article; "...make 2026 the best year of your life and their life" by sponsoring a candidate to one of the upcoming 3-day Cursillo weekends.

De Colores!! Greg Vandenberg

Upcoming Cursillo Weekends ... and We Need Your Help

A Women's Cursillo Weekend is planned for August 6-9, 2026 (Julie Foster - Rectora), and a Men's Cursillo Weekend is planned for August 13-16, 2026 (Greg Vandenberg – Rector). Both Weekends will be held at Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House in Waverly. This is a great blessing, but it also presents challenges that we haven't had in the past, mainly in terms of finances. It would be a shame that anyone would decide not to participate in Cursillo because of cost ... more about that later.

Included in this Newsletter are Registration Materials for you to give to those persons who come to mind when you think of someone who is hungry to know Christ better, and who deeply desires to find out how to integrate their Catholic faith and Baptismal vows in a more dynamic and joyful manner into their daily everyday lives. Please help others to encounter self, Christ, and others as **you** did on **your** Weekend and beyond ... invite them to live a Cursillo Weekend. It's life-changing, not only for the person who lives the Weekend, but for all those who come into contact with that person. A friend once commented about how Cursillo helped her deal with her father in his later years and through his dying process: "My father will never live a Cursillo Weekend, but he lived Cursillo through me." Be the person to encourage someone with a spark and zest to come to know self, Christ and others through Cursillo!!

We are all on a pilgrimage ... we are journeying through Christ ... to the Father ... under the guidance of the Holy Spirit ... with the help of Mary and all of the saints ... as we seek to bring our brothers and sisters along with us. On our Cursillo Weekends, we learned that that was our **Ideal**. We need to help others discover this Ideal ... help others to encounter self, Christ, and others in order to best make their life's pilgrimage back to the Father, bringing many along with them. We do it simply by making a friend, being a friend, and bringing our friend to Christ. A Cursillo Weekend is a perfect way to help others discover or rediscover their mission in life as given them by God ... it's a great way to awaken their faith in a new and vibrant way.

We Need Your Help.

First and foremost, please offer Palanca!! Everything Cursillo begins, then continues, with God!!

In addition:

- (1) ***Please consider making a donation to help cover the costs of the Weekend for someone who can only afford a small donation to live a Cursillo.*** Rather than making a nominal donation to a parish for use of its facilities as we've done in the past, holding the Cursillos at the Retreat House will entail paying a specific per-person fee for each person staying on site. This includes the rollo team (both priests and laypersons), the service team, as well as each candidate. We have been working with the Retreat House to find ways to reduce the per-person cost, and they've been very accommodating. To reduce costs: (1) since Cursillo provides the priests, there is not a speaker fee (although sometimes we pay coverage while the priest is away from his parish); (2) we will do the "pre-check-in" room check prior to the arrival of the candidates; (3) we will prepare the meals (and snacks) in advance using roasters, crock pots, etc.; otherwise, there is a per-day per-person fee for meals (because of health department rules, we cannot use the kitchen to prepare meals ourselves, so we will need to bring the food in); and (4) Cursillo is handling all registration and payment for the Weekend. Yes, we've gotten the per-person retreat fee reduced, but it still comes to more than most people donate for their Weekend. As we've done on prior Weekends, we are not collecting a set fee up front, but rather we ask for a donation on Sunday after lunch. The per-person fee the Retreat House is requesting is more than most donations have been in the past. ***So please, consider making a donation to help cover the costs of the Weekend for someone who cannot otherwise afford it (any donation would be appreciated).***

(Continued on next page)

- (2) In addition to the retreat house fee, (a) food donations are always greatly appreciated (snacks, desserts, soda/drinks, fruits, vegetables, nuts, chips/dip, etc.); (b) monetary donations to prepare meals would be most welcome – it’s hard for most people to bring food/meals to the Weekend; (c) all supplies and materials used on the Weekend; and (d) coverage for the priests (for each Weekend, 2 priests assist).
- (3) Finally, we need volunteers. There is usually a small service team whose primary responsibility is to get meals ready. But we also need help setting up, putting stuff away at the end of the Weekend, and cleanup. You don’t have to be there the whole weekend – consider working even one day or part of a day. If you are interested in helping, please let the Rector/Rectora know, and they will put you in touch with the service team coordinator.

AND we need people at the Closings to welcome the new cursillistas into the Fourth Day!! This is really important ...

If you are able, please consider making a tax-deductible monetary donation in any amount to **“Cursillo of Lincoln”** ... donations may be mailed to the Diocesan Treasurer: Kathy Springer, 1410 E. 15th St., Crete, NE 68333. Even if you cannot make a monetary donation, please pray for the work of Cursillo ... consider sending a food donation, or help in some other way.

May our Lord bless each and every one of you in a very special way!!!! Ultreya!! Onward!!!

Ultreyas

Beatrice-Hebron-Crete:

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

- June Ultreya (June 14, 2:00pm) – Crete, Sacred Heart Parish Hall.
- July Ultreya (July 12, 2:00pm) – Beatrice, St. Joseph Parish Hall.
- August Ultreya – Come to the Women’s and Men’s Closings (August 9 and 16 at 5:00pm).

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

Southwestern Nebraska (McCook-Imperial-North Platte):

Location alternates (usually 2nd Sunday of month)

- June Ultreya (June 14, 1:30pmCT) – In-person & ZOOM (St. Patrick Parish Hall, Imperial)
- July Ultreya (July 12, 1:30pmCT) – In-person & ZOOM (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Hall, North Platte)
- August Ultreya – Come to the Women’s and Men’s Closings (August 9 and 16 at 5:00pm).

Contact: Kay Portillo (308) 227-1231

Lincoln – Vietnamese Language Group:

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lincoln

- Normally 1st Saturday of each month after the morning Mass

Contact: Canh Nguyen (402) 435-0921.

Secretariat Members

Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator
School of Leaders / Secretary
Treasurer
Spiritual Advisor

Greg Vandenberg (308) 530-7587	(glvandenberg@charter.net)
John Springer (402) 826-2699	(johnspringer523@gmail.com)
Kathy Springer (402) 826-2699	(ks90710@windstream.net)
Fr. Bernard Lorenz (308) 414-1195	(fr.bernard-lorenz@lincolndiocese.org)

Cursillo Registration Form

Diocese of Lincoln, NE

(Give completed Registration Form to your Sponsor)

Name:	Parish (include town)	
Street Address:		
City, State, Zip:	Birth Date	Gender: M F
Email Address:	Current Marital Status (circle one): Married Widowed Divorced Separated	
Home Phone:	Single Religious Priest	
Work Phone:	Spouse's Name:	
Cell Phone:	Is spouse Catholic? Yes No	
Occupation:	If not Catholic, what Religion?	
	Spouse's Occupation:	
Why do you wish to make a Cursillo Weekend?		
Are you able to receive the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion? Yes No		
Has your spouse made a Cursillo? Yes No <i>(answer follow-up question to the right)</i>	If Yes, where and when? If No, has there been a meeting to explain Cursillo to both spouses? Yes No <i>(this is required regardless of which spouse goes first)</i>	
Activities you are currently involved in (Church, Civic, Professional, Hobbies, etc.):		
Do you have any conditions that would require special attention (health, diet, disabilities, allergies, etc.)? No Yes / explain:		
<u>Emergency Contact</u> Name:	Phone:	
Do you have questions about the Weekend that your sponsor has not been able to answer? If so, what are they?		
Has the recommended follow-up program of Group Reunion and Ultreya been explained to you? Yes No		

Your Signature _____ Date _____

Sponsor's Name _____ Sponsor's Address _____

If you have questions about a sponsor, please contact those listed below.

Sponsor's Signature _____ Date _____

A **\$20.00** non-refundable registration fee should be submitted with the registration. During the Weekend, you will be invited to make a donation to help cover the expenses associated with the Weekend. Those who cannot afford the requested registration fee and/or donation should attend and contribute what they can. Checks should be made payable to "Cursillo of Lincoln" and mailed to:

- Women: Julie Foster, 905 Boswell Ave, Crete, NE 68333; 402-326-2098
- Men: Greg Vandenberg, 3101 Meadow Court, North Platte, NE 69101; 308-530-7587

Additional Information for Candidates re: the Cursillo Weekend (2026)

The Coordinators for the upcoming Cursillo Weekends are Julie Foster (402-326-2098) for the Women's Weekend (August 6-9, 2026) and Greg Vandenberg (308-530-7587) for the Men's Weekend (August 13-16, 2026). Weekends are held in various locations around the Diocese. This one is being held at Good Counsel Retreat House, 7303 N. 112th St.; Waverly, NE 68462 (phone number in case of emergencies during the Weekend is 402-580-1367).

The purpose of this note is to pass along some helpful information, based on questions we're commonly asked. If other questions arise, please do not hesitate to call Julie or Greg (see contact information below).

- † The weekend will start at approximately 7:00 p.m. on Thursday ... it is best to plan to arrive between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m. The Weekend concludes about 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. on Sunday.
- † Someone will be there to meet you, greet you, and help you with your things.
- † Please let us know if you have any special dietary (or other) needs.
- † All meals, snacks, and drinks (tea, soda, water, coffee, etc.) are provided.
- † Each person has his/her own room including bathroom and shower. Bedding is provided, but if you have a favorite pillow, you may want to bring that with you.
- † You may want to bring ear plugs if “background” noise bothers you at night.
- † Bring comfortable clothing and any personal items you need (towels/washcloth, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, a couple of hangers for towels and clothes, flashlight, prescription medications, etc.).
- † Dress is very casual, as most wear jeans and shirts/sweaters/sweatshirts, although we usually dress up a little nicer for the Lord's Day.
- † Don't worry if you forget something, as we can get whatever you need.
- † There is usually time for sharing jokes, so please bring a number of your favorite clean jokes with you to share.
- † You may want to bring a Rosary and a Bible.
- † One final note – Rather than having a set fee for the Cursillo Weekend, on Sunday we will ask for a donation to help cover the expenses of the Weekend (meals, materials, priest coverage, per-person per-night retreat house room fee, etc.). We don't specify a Weekend fee because we don't want anyone to choose not to come because of cost. We all do what we can – some are able to give more than others, so we ask that you give what you are able or feel comfortable with. Thus, you may want to bring your checkbook to the Weekend.
- † The Lincoln Diocese Cursillo Website is: <http://www.seas-np.org/cursillolincoln.html>

We look forward to spending the Cursillo Weekend with you in the company of our Lord.

Julie Foster
905 Boswell Avenue
Crete, NE 68333
Cell Phone: 402-326-2098
Email: julie.foster88@gmail.com

Greg Vandenberg
3101 Meadow Ct
North Platte, NE 69101
Cell Phone: 308-530-7587
Email: glvandenberg@charter.net

What is Cursillo?

CURSILLOS IN CHRISTIANITY

In today's world, can Christianity penetrate the many areas of secular life? Can it live there? Can it grow there? Can it transform the world in a way that is more fruitful than the past and in keeping with the times? The Cursillo Movement thinks so. It proposes no new type of spirituality, but simply a method through which a person's spirituality may be developed, lived and shared in any area of human life where there are Christians willing to dedicate their lives to God in an ongoing manner.

Cursillo teaches that the Gospel should be proclaimed in very natural ways; i.e., we should be Christ-like as we go about our daily activities, right where God put us. Unfortunately, while most people would like to live their lives in a Christ-like manner, the pressures of the world often make this difficult. Cursillo provides a method (with tools) to meet the challenges and respond to the opportunities presented each day. The method is introduced by a little course.

FORMAT OF THE EXERCISES

Cursillo (pronounced **kur-see-yo**) is a Spanish word meaning "little, or short, course." It begins on a Thursday evening and ends the following Sunday evening. During the three days, those attending live and work together listening to talks given by priests and laypersons. They also share the Eucharist and pray together.

Titles of the talks indicate their content: Ideal, Habitual Grace, The Layperson: A Christian in the World, Actual Grace, Piety, Study, Sacraments, Action, Obstacles to a Life of Grace, Leaders, Study of the Environment, Life in Grace, Christianity in Action, the Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo, and Total Security. Each talk is followed by a discussion period.

THE FOURTH DAY

Cursillo recognizes the importance of persevering beyond the Weekend itself, so its design includes a method for increasing and continuing the conversion process beyond the Three Days by providing a means for living the "fourth day" (each day after the Three Day Weekend is referred to as the "fourth day"). In the Cursillo Movement, the community spirit is continued in the fourth day through a monthly gathering or reunion called "Ultreya", during which we encourage one another to continue to grow in Faith, Hope, and Love (Ultreya means "onward"; we encourage one another onward ... to continue/persevere). In addition, reunions of smaller groups of friends (Group Reunion) are available weekly for fostering spiritual growth in the individual members, helping each to better take Christ out into the world.

CHRISTIANIZING ENVIRONMENTS

The Cursillo Movement can have very positive results in the spiritual revitalization of the world ... the "New Evangelization." The Christ-likeness in a few good people is contagious. The transference of Christ's values to others in one's family, school, place of business, etc., is the Christianizing of environments the Cursillo promotes.

The goal of the Cursillo Movement is that Christ be the prime influence in society. Its primary objectives are to develop in Christians a consciousness of their power and mission to become leaders in the work of Christian renewal, and to sustain them as they provide a Christian leaven in civic, social and economic life. This "Christianizing of environments" is what the Cursillo Movement is all about.

CURSILLO

Cursillo believes that Christianity CAN penetrate the many areas of secular life. Cursillo is not a new type of spirituality, but simply a method through which our spirituality is developed and lived – right where we are!!

A Cursillo Weekend's aim is to concentrate closely on the Person and teachings of Jesus Christ. Truly, a Cursillo is an encounter with Christ ... a real meeting with Christ. Cursillo gives those who participate a living understanding of basic Catholic truths and the desire to serve the Church. What's more, it provides a means to continue the Christian formation that begins on the Weekend.

Interested? You are invited ... Come and see!!

For More Information, Contact:

Greg Vandenberg, Diocesan Cursillo	
Coordinator	308-530-7587
John and Kathy Springer	402-826-2699
	or 402-580-1367
Kay Portillo	308-227-1231
Julie Foster	402-326-2098
Thai Nguyen	402-580-7587
Fr. Bernard Lorenz (Spiritual Advisor)	308-414-1195
Fr. Mark Seiker	402-694-3427

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<http://www.seas-np.org/cursilloincoln.html>

The Cursillo

*A Method to
Find,
Form,
Sustain
and
Link
Lay Leadership for Christ
and His Church.*

*One Means of Supporting
Christian Community.*

(Reprinted with permission from The National Cursillo Center) 4/3/94



Bishop James Conley (Bishop of Lincoln)

February 8, 2014

“The Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Lincoln has my blessing and full support. For many, making a Cursillo retreat can be a trigger moment for a deeper conversion of life and a greater commitment to discipleship in the Lord. The Church is gifted with disciples from the Cursillo Movement who are true evangelists. As Pope Francis stated in *Evangelii Gaudium*, “Jesus wants evangelizers who proclaim the good news not only with words, but above all by a life transfigured by God’s presence” (EG 259). Cursillo retreats provide the opportunity for a heart to heart encounter with Christ, whose abundant love and mercy is transformative. Once transformed by a deep encounter with Christ, those involved in the Cursillo movement persevere in this grace through a life of prayer, regular participation in the Sacraments, and fidelity to the “fourth day.” The ready support of fellow Cursillo members and attendance at community reunions are a tremendous help as well. May God grant the Diocese of Lincoln many fruitful Cursillos and a great harvest of souls who have their hearts set on our Lord Jesus!”

Bishop Fabian Bruskwitz (Bishop Emeritus of Lincoln)

April 8, 2003 Pastoral Bulletin to Diocesan Priests

“Cursillo began in Spain in the 1940’s, and has since spread throughout the world (it was also the catalyst for such movements as Marriage Encounter, Teens Encounter Christ (TEC), Christians Encounter Christ, Residents Encounter Christ, and KAIROS, each of which addressed the needs of a specific group.) Through regular reflection on personal growth in the areas of holiness, formation, and evangelization, the Cursillo Movement offers Catholics an authentic means of helping the Church fulfill her mission of bringing the Gospel to the world.

“The Cursillo Movement first came to the Lincoln Diocese in 1965, and has since continued in its efforts to bear fruit in the spiritual lives of those involved, as well as in the environments these persons were sent by God to Christianize (family,

neighborhood, parish, work). Cursillo is a solidly authentic method of deepening a relationship with Christ, a means of putting on the mind of Christ. It is one way to assist Catholics to teach others to do the same.

“The Cursillo Movement is strongly recommended for its authenticity in promoting holiness, formation and evangelization in the spiritual lives of those who faithfully participate and persevere in living the Cursillo Method, especially to the leaders in every environment within the Diocese. The Lincoln Diocese Cursillo Movement enjoys the full endorsement and support of the Bishop and of Pope John Paul II who publicly thanked the Lord for all He has done and never ceases to do in the Church through Cursillo.”

Pope Francis (formerly Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio)

June 13, 2011 Letter to the Cursillistas of the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires

My dear Cursillistas:

“The good seed are the children of the kingdom.” (Mt. 13:38)

“As we approach the celebration of the feast of Saint Paul, your patron and model of how to live “de colores”, we give thanks to God for all the fruits that the Cursillos in Christianity Movement has generously given the Church.

“Your service of proclaiming Christ by being his witnesses in your everyday environments, is an embodiment, a concrete renewal of the Baptism that we have received in Him and makes you disciples and missionaries of the Word, as this was expressed in the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church: “Through their baptism and confirmation all are commissioned to the apostolate by the Lord Himself” (Lumen Gentium no. 33).

“I write to you conscious of the challenge that today’s society presents to the enculturation of the Gospel; but I trust that your audacity and apostolic fervor - born of a personal encounter with self and with Christ - will lead you to make history for the good of all. So that, many brothers and sisters, marginalized or not, who live on the fringe may feel embraced by the love of Jesus.

“To be a pilgrim in our City means not becoming comfortable, but to be open to life and to pay attention to what is happening in our heart - like a good Samaritan confronted with the difficult circumstances of so many brothers and sisters.

“It is necessary that the Cursillos in Christianity Movement, through the participation of everyone, continue its journey of pastoral conversion as proposed at Aparecida (Cf. 5th General Conference of the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean, “Disciples and Missionaries of Jesus Christ”)

“As Cursillistas living through difficult times you need to ask God for the Grace to have many candidates, to have an ongoing precursillo, so as not to fall into the hopelessness that paralyzes and causes anguish. The gift of the Kerigma that you received in your Cursillo sends you on mission as proposed by the tripod of piety, study and action.

“As an Archdiocesan Church, we need the unity of all in Christ, so that He, and only He may reign in our hearts and we may thus be able to recognize him like the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

“In thanking you for your journey as a Cursillista, I ask you not to stop renewing your apostolic zeal and dedication and that of your brothers and sisters in your Group Reunion before Jesus in the Eucharist.

“Today more than ever we need that your nearness in the environments be a source of light and joy for so many brothers and sisters who do not yet know that God is a Father who loves them tenderly.

“Today more than ever we need your presence so that many families may encounter the transcendent love of Christ - a new and greater dimension of human love.

“Today more than ever we need you and your witness at the Ultreyas, so as to go “onward”, to go beyond, in the proclamation and experience of the Kerigma.

“I ask that you pray for me. May Jesus bless you and Our Lady, Mother of Divine Grace, keep you.”

Affectionately, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio SJ,
Archbishop of Buenos Aires

Saint Pope John Paul II

July 29, 2000 Jubilee Address to Cursillistas, Rome

“Your presence here, so varied and festive, shows that the tiny seed planted in Spain more than 50 years ago has become a great tree laden with fruits of the Spirit. Indeed, it continues to be a successful response to the question asked by my venerable Predecessor Pope Paul VI at the first world Ultreya in Rome: ‘Can the Gospel still win over the mature person ... in urban and rural cultures?’ You transform the world by becoming new men and women. I am therefore delighted to join in your thanksgiving to the Lord for all He has done and never ceases to do in the Church through the Cursillos de Cristiandad. The theme of this world Ultreya – *Evangelizing the Milieus of the Third Millennium: A ‘Challenge’ for the Cursillos de Cristiandad* – demonstrates your efforts to repropose the experience of Christ to the men and women of the 21st century with new means and enthusiasm. This has become ever more urgent, since whole countries and nations, where religion and the Christian life were formerly flourishing and capable of fostering a viable and working community of faith, are now put to a hard test ... as a result of the constant spread of indifference to religion, of secularism and atheism.”

“In view of this situation which challenges believers to remake the Christian fabric of the ecclesial community, the Cursillo method aims at helping to transform in a Christian way the milieu where people live and work through the involvement of ‘new men and women’ who have become such from their encounter with Christ. This is the goal of the three-day ‘little course’ on Christianity, in which a team of priests and lay people, supported by the prayer and sacrifices of the movement’s other members, communicate the fundamental truths of the Christian faith in an especially ‘living’ way. When presented in this way, the message of Christ almost always opens participants in a Cursillo to the gift of conversion and to a deeper awareness of the Baptism they have received and of their own mission in the Church. They feel called to be the prophetic ‘leaven’ which

is kneaded into the dough so that the whole mass will rise to be the ‘salt of the earth’ and the ‘light of the world’ to proclaim to everyone they meet that only in Jesus Christ is there salvation and that it is only in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of man truly becomes clear.”

“... This is your apostolate, carried out in constant harmony with the Church, to show the ‘strength of communion’ which is at once the style and the very essence of the People of God. As you face the various forms of individualism which fragment and divide your evangelizing ability and resources, join your missionary forces with those of the various ecclesiastical groups raised up by the Spirit in the Church of our time. Endeavor to restore the beauty of the first Christian communities, which prompted pagans to say with admiration: ‘See how they love one another!’ And always be docile to the directives of the Magisterium. No charism, in fact, dispenses you from referring and submitting to the Pastors of the Church, whose discernment is a guarantee of fidelity for the charism, itself. May the Jubilee celebration instill in all of you a renewed fidelity to your original inspiration and a firmer ecclesial communion. Many people are looking to you for the light of faith.”

“... During the days of a Cursillo, the words of [a] popular Spanish song help the participants to reflect on the multifaceted beauty of creation. In encountering Christ, you have learned to look with new eyes at others and at nature, at everyday events and at life in general. You have experienced that true happiness is found in following the Lord. This personal and community experience must be passed on to others. Many men and women of our time, who unfortunately turn away from God, expect from you the light of faith that will help them rediscover the colors of life and the happiness of feeling loved by God.”

Pope John Paul II

July 29, 2000 Jubilee Address to Cursillistas, Rome

Saint Pope Paul VI

• ***May 28, 1966 Address to First World Ultreya, Rome***

“Cursillos de Cristiandad, that is the word, purified through experience, affirmed by its fruits, that today travels with citizenship papers throughout the world ...”

“Whether some methods become obsolete, whether new manifestations of the Spirit arise, the permanent task of the layman will continue to be the infusion of Christianity into life through the encounter and personal friendship with God and in communion with his brothers. The layman, upon forming himself in Christianity, reforms his mentality and conforms his life to Christ’s image by means of faith, hope and charity; acting with complete responsibility, he transforms the temporal structures in which he is immersed; guided in his action by the glance of Christ, he continually tries to remake the world according to God’s plan and design ..”

“We know that in your plan of spirituality and apostolate in the Cursillo Movement the ‘Sensus Ecclesiae’ (mind of the Church) is the guiding light that orients you ...”

“Beloved sons and daughters: Our soul is so oppressed by the vision of the evils which afflict the Church and mankind. But permit us to express our overwhelming joy that at this moment floods our soul before the immense

chorus of your manly faith in Christ, your fidelity to the Church, your fervent loyalty to this Chair of Peter and to the ministry of the episcopal hierarchy.”

“Cursillos de Cristiandad! Christ, the Church, the Pope, are counting on you!”

• ***Dec. 8, 1975 Apostolic Exhortation on Evangelization in the Modern World***

“TAKE A CHRISTIAN or a handful of Christians who, in the midst of their own community, show their capacity for understanding and acceptance, their sharing of life and destiny with other people, their solidarity with efforts of all for whatever is noble and good. Let us suppose that, in addition, they radiate in an altogether simple and unaffected way their faith in values that go beyond current values, and their hope in something that is not seen and that one would not dare to imagine. Through this wordless witness these Christians stir up irresistible questions in the hearts of those who see how they live: Why are they like this? Why do they live in this way? What or who is it that inspires them? Why are they in our midst? Such a witness is already a silent proclamation of the Good News and a very powerful and effective one.”

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**~*~*~
Cursillo Weekends 2026
August 6-9, 2026
Waverly
~*~*~
Women: August 13-16, 2026
Men: August 13-16, 2026
~*~*~
Counsel Retreat House,
Waverly
~*~*~
Good Counsel**

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER

Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska

May 2026



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