

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER

Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska

June 2021



Calendar of Events

The scheduling for in-person Cursillo gatherings will continue to be evaluated relative to restrictions prompted by COVID-19

July 10, 2021 **Secretariat Meeting**, via ZOOM – beginning at 7:30pm
July 23-24, 2021 **National Cursillo Encounter**; see registration information below.
August 14, 2021 **SOL** - 9:30am – 1:30pm (via ZOOM)
Late Summer/Early Fall **Diocesan Gathering ...** Watch for future announcements
To participate in SOL or Secretariat Meeting, start your Zoom app, and enter the **Meeting ID: 629-734-5912**

31st National Encounter is Virtual Again! (July 23-24, 2021)

Register at <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/encounter2021/>. Log in from your cell phone, PC, tablet etc. The registration fee is \$50 per person; registration will close Monday, July 19. National Cursillo is unable to guarantee attendance after July 19, 2021.

Men's & Women's Three Day Weekends ... We will continue to monitor current restrictions for public gatherings and we will schedule Three Day Weekends as soon as possible / prudent.

Ongoing Palanca is requested for Cursillo on all levels ... Christ is counting on YOU!! Please offer PALANCA for all Cursillo activities. After all, Palanca is the backbone of the Cursillo Movement and essential for each spiritual success – on Weekends as well as in every Fourth Day.

Report on Region VI Virtual Spring Encounter, May 1, 2021

The Region VI Spring Encounter was held virtually on May 1, 2021. The focus of the Encounter was better understanding Cursillo and how Cursillo functions in a Region and a Diocese. It began with Mass (virtual for those on Zoom) celebrated by Father Mark Seiker at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, North Platte. After Mass, the Zoom meeting split into English and Spanish for the talks and then combined again at Ultreya.

Beth Schroeder, the Region VI English Coordinator, started the English encounter with an overview of the levels of Cursillo (*cursillista, diocesan, regional, national, and world*). Each level is served by the levels below – the cursillista is served by the diocese, the diocesan Cursillo is served by the region, and so on – forming an inverted pyramid with the cursillista on top. The other two talks (*Diocesan School of Leaders and Secretariat, and Regional structure and function*) provided an overview of how Cursillo functions within these structures. Deacon Shane Voyles (*Blue Spring, Missouri*) gave an inspirational spiritual witness on his path to the permanent diaconate and the challenges we face as Christians today. Each of the talks was followed by a virtual breakout session for discussion. English and Spanish came back together and the Encounter ended with Ultreya (*small group via breakout sessions, witnesses in both languages, echoes, and spiritual wrap-up*).

Six Cursillistas from the Lincoln Diocese participated. Being able to see friends again (albeit virtually) from other dioceses across our region was a real treat, and how wonderful to come together to share our faith as a Cursillo community. Please consider joining other virtual events such as School of Leaders, the National Encounter (July 23-24, 2021), and other Region VI events. It is a joy to share, learn, and be in community with other Cursillistas. ***De Colores to all!***

Forever De Colores Eduardo!

In honor of Eduardo Bonnin's 104th birthday, the **Eduardo Bonnin Aguiló Foundation** of Mallorca (FEBA-Mallorca) celebrated a week of our founder's words and thoughts. Each day from April 29 through May 4 of this year, FEBA posted short video clips and copies of some of Eduardo's note cards. The video clips had English captions and the note cards included English translations. On May 4, there was a Zoom birthday celebration, with each participant having some type of cake with a candle that could be blown out (mine was a rice cake!) and a glass of something to toast Eduardo in a gesture of recognition of a fruitful life. There were approximately 170 people from around the world who participated in the Zoom gathering. It was really a blessed week and such an opportunity to know our founder better (which then helps us understand Cursillo better).

In addition to the birthday celebration itself, various daily themes included: (1) "Welcome"; (2) "Person"; (3) "Christ"; and (4) "Friendship", as well as "Ultreya". There were SO MANY good things to reflect on!! The following paragraphs include but a sampling.

Reflection: "The Christian who honestly seeks that Christ is at the axis of his person, motivates, energizes and orbits his being and all his actions. Humanity has been thought, created and redeemed by God, by and for love. The cornerstone of life, of all life, is Christ. Christ is the living, normal and close manifestation that God loves all men in general and everyone in particular. The encounter with God is an encounter with His person, with the person of the living, normal and close Christ. There is nothing greater than experiencing the love of God from the reality of oneself, and this is meeting Christ."

Reflection: "The main thing is man ... Christ wants to be seen in the faces of all Christians. He is on earth through His Christians. Discovering yourself as a person is the journey from individual to person ... accepting yourself as you are, understanding that you can be better ... and making the journey in company, striving to live in a Christian way. God gives us the qualities for those things we are called to. The main thing is that we use them and feel we are protagonists of what is Christian in the place where the Lord has placed us. We must carry our own crosses ... the ones He gives US, not the cross He gave your neighbor. Christ is the creator of persons, not a manufacturer ... there must be this diversity in persons. The main thing is the reaction of the Christian – to the originality of each one, in the creativity of each one, and in the uniqueness of each one – and then we truly see that what Christ creates is marvelous. In the encounter with oneself, one discovers a phenomenal treasure. We must discover ourselves as persons, individuals and permanent sources of living values ... someone singular, unique, unrepeatable, unexchangeable, non-transferable, living, conscious, dynamic, real, open to one's own value and that of other ... someone unique, capable of unique possibilities that only he can realize fully and with meaning. He is aware of himself, of his living, of his responsibility, of his mission, and of his greatness. These internalized realities, personalized, reflected upon, prayed, and above all, lived lead to a healthy self-esteem, which makes us able to value ourselves with boasting, and to value and understand others."

Reflection: "The lack of communication between people, despite the fact that today we are more communicated than ever, is possibly one of the things that most nullifies the potential of the person of our time. Friendship is the best channel of rapprochement and understanding of the person. It is the deepest form of coexistence and the one that makes coexistence joyful. The friendship relationship is the genuinely human and genuinely evangelical form of communication between all people. It is the same way that God has of relating to humanity, and the best that humanity can have of relating both to God and to other people."

Reflection: "The Lord inspired the Group Reunion and attendance at the Ultreya. We saw that the person has two poles, one personal and the other social. The Group Reunion takes care of the personal pole, and the social is achieved by attending the Ultreya. The Cursillo de Cristiandad pursues a single purpose: that the Spirit of the Lord meets in Christ with the freedom of the human persons and that the latter, upon discovering that they each are loved by God, change their horizons and perspectives, because they have become aware that God takes them into account."

There was much more, but there is a richness in Eduardo's thoughts and words ... it has been a great blessing to be studying in our School of Leaders (every other month) more about Eduardo's life and the explanations of how Cursillo came about. The next School of Leaders will be held virtually via Zoom on Saturday, July 10, beginning at 9:30am. Consider taking part in these very worthwhile gatherings ... it's so good to be with friends who love God so much!!

Father Rudy Oborny, February 5, 1945 – May 14, 2021

On May 14, 2021, a “holy man of God” and a close friend to many of us entered into eternal life – Father Rudy Oborny. Many of us knew Fr. Rudy for many years and will feel his absence. But we go on, as Father Rudy would want us to, to carry on as he would want us to. He was so faithful to Cursillo (you may have worked a weekend with him) and wanted to have one more Cursillo in Hebron before he retired. The weekends (both men’s and women’s) were all set for the Fall of 2019 and later in 2020, but Covid hit and the rest is history.

We can still talk to him, pray for him, ask for his prayers. We all remember how he would greet us with “holy woman / holy man of God” and we knew he was the holy one. Now we can think of all the Group Reunions and Ultreyas he will have with other good friends who have passed – they certainly have open arms to welcome him. He will always be missed and loved. May he rest in peace.

From the Spiritual Advisor

On Sunday, May 23, 2021, we celebrated the Solemnity of Pentecost. We prayed: “*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.*” As we enter into Ordinary Time, we seek to open our hearts to the grace of the Holy Spirit. Pause to remember how the Holy Spirit has been active in your life. Allow the Holy Spirit to continue to fill you and stir you to live your Fourth Day counting on the grace of the Holy Spirit as you also count on Christ. Pray that all Cursillistas and all Catholics may open their hearts and their wills to be stirred by the grace of the Holy Spirit, so that all of us may be formed into the image and likeness of Christ.

In our daily lives, God invites each of us meet new persons each day. He invites us to make friends with those we meet, be friends, and then introduce our new friends to our best Friend, Jesus. May we pray for each other daily (offering Palanca for our friends in the Cursillo Movement). I ask your prayers for me. Many of you have already noticed that on April 27, Bishop Conley appointed me as the Pastor of St. Mary Parish in Aurora and St. Joseph Parish in Giltner (effective June 14, 2021). This is an opportunity for me to make new friends with whom to share our pilgrimage through this time and space, being open to God’s graces, so that the fire of His love may burn away anything that is not worthy of Him and He may purify all with the warmth of His love. I encourage you to participate regularly in a weekly Group Reunion and a monthly Ultreya either in person, or over the phone or via ZOOM, if possible.

I also invite you to participate in the Virtual Cursillo National Encounter and any events offered at the Regional and/or Diocesan level.

De Colores!! Fr. Mark Seiker

From the Lay Director

De Colores!

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

First let me wish you a grand summer as we prepare for presenting a Diocesan Gathering later this year. With the Governor announcing that we are ready to get back to normal, perhaps you’ll feel more comfortable moving about and gathering with others. I know I’m ready! I also want to take this opportunity to thank the many who made donations to the Lincoln Diocese Cursillo Movement in response to the appeal in the last newsletter. Your precious gifts of your treasure have put us in a better position financially. I want to encourage you to participate in our next School of Leaders on August 14. We are studying the book *Cursillo History & Memory* which is providing much insight into the early years of Cursillo. The struggles and the graces during that time serve as inspiration for our ongoing work in the vineyard. Christ is counting on us! – **Greg Vandenberg**

Upcoming Ultreyas **Subject to Cancellation or Postponement due to COVID-19 Pandemic**

Beatrice-Hebron-Crete:

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

- **June Ultreya – (June 13, 2:00pm) – Beatrice, St. Joseph Parish Hall**
- **July Ultreya – (July 11, 2:00pm) – Hebron, Sacred Heart Parish Hall**
- **August Ultreya (August 8, 2:00pm) – Crete, Sacred Heart Parish Hall.**

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

Southwestern Nebraska (McCook-Imperial-North Platte):

Location alternates (usually 2nd Sunday of month)

- **June Ultreya – (June 13, 3:30pm) – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Hall, North Platte and Virtual via ZOOM)**
- **July Ultreya – (July 11, 3:30pm) – In-person (St. Patrick Church Basement, McCook and Virtual via ZOOM)**
- **August Ultreya – (August 8, 2:30pm MDT) – In-person (St. Patrick Parish Hall, Imperial and Virtual via ZOOM)**

Contacts: Helen Bieker (308) 340-0268

Lincoln – Vietnamese Language Group:

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lincoln

- **Normally 1st Sunday of each month after 9:00am Mass (about 10:15am); however, not currently meeting due to COVID**

Contacts: Diep Van Nguyen (402) 474-9588, 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

Region VI WebPage: www.natl-cursillo.org/region6

National WebPage: 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

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***2021 National Cursillo Encounter
Virtual 2021
July 23-24, 2021
See Details Inside-***

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June 2021



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