

Cursillo News for Sept.-Oct. 2006

Calendar of Events

Sept 15-16, 2006	School of Leaders (quarterly reunion) – St. Ann Parish, Doniphan, NE. Begins Fri. evening at 7 pm with Mass for the Postcursillo Reunion ; ends at 3 pm Sat (<i>as usual, SOL sessions will be held Saturday</i>).
Sep 29 – Oct 1, 2006	Region VI Fall Encounter - Fairmont, MN (registration form included)
October 7, 2006	Secretariat Meeting - 9:30am, Blessed John XXIII Diocesan Center
November 4, 2006	Secretariat Meeting - 9:30am, Blessed John XXIII Diocesan Center
November 17-18, 2006	School of Leaders (quarterly reunion) - 7:30 pm Fri–3 pm Sat; location TBA
December 2, 2006	Secretariat Meeting - 9:30am, Blessed John XXIII Diocesan Center
January 5-6, 2007	Practice Weekend , St. Mary School, David City, NE
January 11-14, 2007	Men’s Weekend , St. Mary School, David City, NE
January 14, 2007	Men’s Closing , 5:00pm (4pm Mass) St. Mary Church, David City, NE
January 18-21 2007	Women’s Weekend , St. Mary School, David City, NE
January 21, 2007	Women’s Closing , 5:00pm (4pm Mass) St. Mary Church, David City, NE

Welcome New Fourth Dayers (Summer 2006, All Saints, Holdrege)

July 30, 2006: Ken Else, Bernard Matulka, and Gregg Wiedel

August 6, 2006: Pat Burkey, Kathy Burr, Pat Heinemann, LaTisha Jones, Sarah Morse, Kathy Rowell, Maryann Spahni, Diana Tate, and Maria Wendland.

***** Welcome to the 4th Day! ***** As you returned to your environments (which were just as you left them), have you found a Group Reunion? ... Are you participating in Ultreya? Just as during the Three Days, it is in being a community and sharing about your attempts to grow (in baby steps, at first) in holiness, formation, and evangelization ... Remember that **Christ is counting on you**, and you said that you would count on Him ... He gave you the gift of Cursillo to help you ... and He expects you to use it!!

News From the Secretariat ...

• **Region VI Fall Encounter ...** The Region VI Fall Encounter will be the weekend of **Sept 29–Oct 1, 2006** in Fairmont, MN (it’s only 300 miles from Lincoln to Fairmont ... the registration form is included in this Newsletter). The topic will be “*School of Leaders*” ... **plan now to be there!!**

• **School of Leaders (SOL) ...** is another opportunity to form/share community ... the hallmark of Cursillo!! It is where we continue to deepen our understanding of the Cursillo Movement ... together ... **ALL ARE INVITED!** Being a part of SOL doesn’t obligate you to do anything you don’t want to do ... it’s not about finding more people to give rollos on Weekends ... it’s about doing the Lord’s work through the vehicle (Method) of Cursillo ... it’s figuring out how we might best share the gift of Cursillo with others ... and the joy and peace that comes from doing that to which our Lord calls us (our Lord is waiting for us to respond to His question: “What did you do with the gifts I gave you?” ... and how will you respond?). The next SOL will be **Sept. 15-16, 2006**, at **St. Ann Parish in Doniphan, NE** (registration form included in Newsletter). SOL

normally begins on Friday evening with a retreat phase (Mass, meditation, Confessions, and food/fellowship); however, this SOL will begin with the Postcursillo Reunion (7 p.m. Mass ... remember the Communion fast ...) for the Summer Weekends that were lived in Holdrege ... **ALL** are invited to participate.

• **Precursillo ... NOW** is the appropriate time to be preparing and inviting candidates ... You know how long (how much talking and praying) it takes to help candidates get to “yes” when invited ... help them get the dates of the January Weekends put on their calendars NOW, and then continue to keep in touch with them (personal contact ... another hallmark of Cursillo) up to the dates of the Weekends ... *Make a friend, Be a friend, and Bring that friend to Christ!!!*

Precursillo (thoughts from Chuck Micek, Precursillo Chairperson)

For August 4th, the Office of Readings of the Liturgy of the Hours is “From the catechetical instructions by Saint John Mary Vianney, priest”; it is subtitled “The glorious duty of man: to pray and to love”. The reading states: “... *the Christian’s treasure is not on earth but in heaven. Our thoughts, then, ought to be directed to where our treasure is. This is the glorious duty of man: to pray and to love. If you pray and love, that is where a man’s happiness lies.*”

“Prayer is nothing else but union with God. When one has a heart that is pure and united with God, he is given a kind of serenity and sweetness that makes him ecstatic, a light that surrounds him with marvelous brightness. In this intimate union, God and the soul are fused together like two bits of wax that no one can ever pull apart ... It is a happiness beyond understanding.” WOW!

After finishing the reading, I began to think about where my heart is. Am I missing something? Have I noticed the light that surrounds us while we are in union with God? I think there are times when I am aware of these things happening in my life. I cannot go without saying at the same time that I sometimes read to God rather than pray to God. I need to slow down and be aware of God’s time ... pray and converse with God.

The **Leaders’ Manual** (p. 137) states: “*Prayer has always been the strength of the Cursillo. Since grace is an absolute necessity in the re-Christianization of the world, no Cursillo should be prepared or carried out without an appropriate spiritual task force (Palanca), both individual and collective.*”

“Palanca should never be seen as a tool to assist the candidates. Palanca should be seen as a tool to assist the Cursillo Movement.”

“For this reason, Palanca should be an active part of the Precursillo. It is important that the prayers and sacrifices, for the work being done to select and penetrate possible environments, is continual.”

It’s obvious from both of these (the reading from the Office of Readings and the **Leaders’ Manual**) that I must continue to pray ... pray and ask God to help us with our growth (both personal and communal) in the Cursillo Movement. Unfortunately, we have a tendency to be caught up in secular things in our lives ... we stop participating in Group Reunion and Ultreya ... we stop growing in Holiness. That is not a good thing ... the answer is simply to begin again ... May God bless your attempts to grow closer to Him through prayer and help others do the same!

• Three Day Weekends ...

➤ Upcoming Cursillo Weekends ...

- ✠ **Men's** – January 11 - 14, 2007 (St. Mary School, David City, NE)
- ✠ **Women's** – January 18-21, 2007 (St. Mary School, David City, NE)

- Because of the increasing costs of Cursillo supplies [e.g., crucifixes, Pilgrim's Guides, booklets (such as "*Cursillo – What Is It?*", "*Sponsor's Booklet*", "*Let's Keep the Fourth Day Simple*"), table supplies, etc.], the Secretariat voted to increase to \$15.00 the registration fee requested when an application is submitted. The previous fee was \$10.00.

Leadership (thoughts from Mark Pribyl, Three Day Cursillo Chairperson)

When we lived our Cursillo Weekend, we were taught that **we, the laity**, possess the ability to be leaders ... in our families, in our parishes, in our workplaces, and in our communities. It is good to keep in mind that there are many kinds of leaders ... some lead very boldly, while others lead in rather small or simple ways. A few examples of leadership come to mind ...

St. Paul boldly proclaimed the Good News by his words. Of course, he had to first be knocked down and blinded by God for a period of time before he was inspired to do so ... but if that's what it takes, so be it.

St. Therese, the Little Flower, is considered a tremendous leader for our time, even though few in her lifetime recognized her as a leader (she has been declared as a doctor of the Church, no less). Her simple teaching that all we need to do to become saints is to do everything with great love is now one of the most widespread doctrines we hear today. As an example of how to put this doctrine into practice, if St. Therese was cleaning the house, she did it purely for love of God ... and He was pleased and greatly honored by that simple act done with great love. Through her teaching of doing all things with great love, she has led ... and continues to lead ... many souls to Christ ... who'd have *thunk* it!!

St. Louis de Montfort, I understand, had a bit of a temper, and he wasn't particularly fond of, or patient with, people who interrupted his sermons. From time to time, he was known to persuasively "encourage" (via his fists ... not recommended of course!!) those who were being disruptive to refrain from interrupting him. In one particular instance, at the conclusion of a Mass during which some drunks in a nearby café were audibly mocking St. Louis with vulgar shouts and songs, St. Louis marched down the street and into the café, and he promptly started a brawl ... and not a little one at that. After the incident, he never again had problems with disruptive behavior in that town. An interesting example of leadership ... but probably one that shouldn't be commonly imitated ...

Our previous Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, like St. Peter, was called by God to lead the Church ... and what a wonderful example of leadership his was! He taught us how to strive for peace as individuals and as nations ... by loving God and others. His inspiring first words as Pope were, "***Be not afraid!***" We should take to heart those words, and always remember that we need not fear to lead in those places God put us ... just as Pope John Paul II did ...

Leadership is shown by those who consistently think of others ... those who give of themselves without counting the cost. Sometimes a leader is a peacemaker ... sometimes a leader is one who simply listens, instead of arguing to 'prove his/her point' ... there are countless examples of what 'leading' entails. All of us are leaders in one way or another ... but no one of us can do everything ... however, each one of us CAN do something.

Inevitably, there are times when we just want to give up. There are also times when those who possess good leadership qualities are stifled because of their tentative demeanor and/or their uncertainty about how to proceed ... they just can't seem to make a decision about what should be done. In addition, as leaders, we may have observed poor leadership by others ... those trying to lead us astray ... and we may even have followed ... However, we must recognize all of these as weaknesses or obstacles, and we must strive to overcome them through prayer and by our sincere attempts at practicing virtue.

So, where is God calling you to be a leader? Give leadership a try ... what have you got to lose? Start in your home by pampering your spouse (or maybe just not being a hindrance)? At work, try lending a hand to your co-worker, even if you don't like him/her very much. How about giving up some of your time to listen to a friend, or even **invite** that friend to live a Cursillo? Someone saw leadership potential in you and brought you to Cursillo to discover the leadership to which you were/are called ... did it make a difference in your life?

It **definitely** made a difference in my life and my family's lives ... God helped me (and continues to help me) discover how and where He wants me to lead. People that God placed in my life taught me to love ... **Cursillo taught me to lead!** Take a chance in stepping out as a leader ... Columbus took a chance ... the Wright brothers took a chance ... the Apostles took a chance (when Jesus said, "Come follow me"). And the person(s) who invited you to Cursillo took a chance, too (none of us likes to hear "no"). So, what do you say? **Take a chance!!** Make a friend, be a friend, and maybe ... just maybe ... **with God's help ... YOU CAN BRING YOUR FRIEND JUST A LITTLE CLOSER TO CHRIST.**

• Postcursillo ...

- ✠ The **Hastings/Holdrege/Minden Ultreya Center** will have an Ultreya at **All Saints' parish hall (Holdrege, NE) on Sunday, October 15th, at 3:30 p.m.**, followed by a potluck supper. The Center will be selecting new representatives to the Secretariat at that time. In addition, the group will decide when (day and time) and where (location) the monthly Ultreyas will be held.

Ultreya (**Onward!!**) is a vital part of persevering in the Fourth Day. What can **you** do to help encourage fellow cursillistas to continue to live lives of holiness(piety)/formation(study)/action(evangelization), and how might you benefit in the process?

- ✠ **Cursillo Mattress Covers** ... For health reasons and to prolong the useful lives of our Cursillo mats/mattresses (because they are very costly to replace), the decision was made to cover them with a non-porous, liquid-resistant material. The project is now complete with a final cost of \$2,729.20 ... we continue to welcome donations from those who are financially able to help. Donations may be sent to: **Mark Pribyl (Three Day Chair), P.O. Box 305, Dorchester, NE 68343-0305 (phone 402-641-7199)**. Checks may be made out to ***Cursillo of Lincoln***.

- ✠ The Lincoln Diocese has agreed to host the Spring Region VI Encounter, hoping to begin laying the groundwork for building a Spanish Cursillo Community in the Diocese. We are open to suggestions regarding location, and would welcome any and all help. The dates are April 27-29, 2007 ... mark your calendars now for this important event!!

From the Lay Director ...

This past weekend, one of my very best friends came to Crete to visit me ... to visit our family ... When I lived my Cursillo Weekend in Columbia, Missouri, more than ten years ago, she and I were candidates together ... in the same family (St. Francis of Assisi). And after the Three Day Weekend, as we entered the Fourth Day, we formed a Group Reunion (along with another woman who was a candidate in our family ... and who also remains a good friend). Our Group met faithfully on Wednesday afternoons at 4:30 p.m. Because of the deep friendship that had developed in a very short period of time, it was particularly difficult when our family made the decision (actually, God made the decision) to move to Nebraska just slightly over a year after living our Weekends ... leaving these wonderful women was (for me) the hardest part of moving ... by far! But God had a plan ...

For several years, we kept in touch mostly via long (very long) phone calls during which we shared our lives ... especially our spiritual lives ... these calls were just a continuation of our Group Reunion across the miles. We saw each other several times a year, and with each meeting, we were always able to pick up right where we'd left off ... that's because we had the same Ideal ... the same mission ... And it's because of the Cursillo Movement ... a Model of friendship via personal contact ... and that's exactly what our friendship was all about.

Over time, as God put both of us to work in His vineyard (sometimes together ... sometimes apart ...) and as He kept us increasingly busier, the phone conversations became a bit less frequent (although still long when we finally connected), but the thoughts and prayers continued on a daily basis ... I knew that this friend had some special crosses to carry and I knew that God was giving her important work to do in spite of those crosses ... and I was equally aware that through her prayers and sacrifices (Palanca), she was (from a distance) helping me carry my crosses and do the work He gave to me. There were the long emails in which we shared lives ... and on some days, it was a special gift to hear her voice on the answering machine saying that she had called and that she was thinking about me and that she loved me ... And in hearing her voice and her words, I knew that God was reminding me of the gift that He had given me in her ...

In the beginning, she was just my friend ("make a friend"), but now she is part of our family ... a friend to all of us ... a sister ... she longed to have a family who loved her just as she was ... so God gave her our family. When we have family pictures taken (as this past June when one of our daughters was married), this friend is in the family pictures. She is not only my friend, but she's also a friend to John and our daughters ... God blessed us in the gift of this friend, and He blessed her with a family who loves her dearly. And in all of it, Christ is the glue in our friendship ... He is the Touchpoint of all that we say and do ... we know this because we talk about Him and His action in our lives when we share about our lives of holiness/formation/evangelization. Our Lord gave me this beautiful woman for a sister ... thank You, Jesus!!! I encounter Christ in my friend ...

And I thank God for the gift of the Cursillo Movement ... I am fully aware that it is in persevering in the Cursillo Method that my friend and I remain so close to each other ("being a friend") ... and we continue to grow closer as we share about the ways that God is working in our lives (bringing each other to Christ)... both the successes and the challenges ... even though the miles continue to separate us. And when we are together again, it is as if we have never been apart (coinciding with St. Augustine's concept of time). This past Saturday morning when my Group Reunion met (at 6:30 a.m.), my friend and I got to "group" again ... and she talked about the wonderful Cursillo friends that God has given me here in Nebraska to share my life with ... I am reminded again and again of how much He loves me in the friends that He gives me ... We are all trying to become saints using the gifts (and minimizing the weaknesses) that He gave us ... and it is a joy to have this friend to journey with ...

And even as I write these words, another of my best friends (also a cursillista) is preparing to move away ... and I will miss my friend in a big way ... But experience has shown me that we don't necessarily have to grow apart in spirit even though we are separated by the miles ... May God be with my friend who is being sent to a new section of the vineyard ...

As I write these words, I think of the many, many wonderful friends (including my husband, John) that God has given me in Cursillo, and I am so thankful that He loves me so much to send these faith- and joy-filled persons to be my companions on the journey ... our lives are a series of comings and goings ... but our friends are always with us (especially the Friend we have the opportunity to receive daily) ... **God is good ... all the time ... and Holy is His Name ... oh yeah!!!**
De Colores!! Kathy Springer

From the Spiritual Advisor ...

In the first reading for the Sunday Mass on August 27, 2006, Joshua says to the Jewish people: "*If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve, the gods your fathers served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are now dwelling. As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.*" Joshua said these words as he led the Jewish people in a renewal of the covenant with the Lord. In a very real way, every time that we come to the Mass, we renew our covenant with the Lord. We join ourselves, our lives and our prayers, with the prayer of Jesus to the Father; and the Father gives to us the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus.

Much the same could be said of our Group Reunions. They are opportunities for us to reflect on the marvels that the Lord has done for us and to recommit ourselves to Him. It is very helpful to spend some time reflecting on our week in preparation for our Group Reunion, and then as we share about our piety, our study, and our action, in a way, we are really growing in our awareness of Christ's Presence in our lives ... how He has blessed us, and what has been our response to Him. Our acts of piety, or the spiritual aids that help us in our spiritual growth, are really very concrete, practical ways we use to say to the Lord: "*As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.*"

Our efforts at study, what we have read/experienced this week that helped change our mentality to be more Christian, are really indicators of our willingness to be formed by God's grace into the image and likeness of Jesus ... to put on the mind and the heart of Christ. Sometimes it is helpful to reflect on how much time we spend reading or studying secular books (or other reading materials) and how much time we spend reading Scripture or other spiritual books or Church documents or Cursillo documents. The answer to how much effort we put into our study is an indicator of how much we are living out that promise: "*As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.*"

Finally, our apostolic actions ... our attempts to bring about change in family, neighborhood, work or other environments ... *is serving the Lord*. And how faithful we are in coming up with a plan of apostolic action each week, and carrying out that plan, is another way that we can examine ourselves to see if we are really trying to "*serve the Lord.*"

Joshua and the Jewish people recommitted themselves to serving the Lord. In the Gospel, as others were walking away and returning to their former ways of life, Peter recommitted himself to the Lord by saying, "*Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that You are the Holy One of God.*" In our Group Reunions, we recommit ourselves to the Lord by living lives of piety, study, and action. May each of us strive to recommit ourselves to the Lord ... during each Fourth Day ... each week at our Group Reunion ... and each time we assist at Mass. May we be more and more open to His grace working in our lives and leading us where He wants us to go.

De Colores!!Fr. Mark Seiker