

Cursillo News for Sept-Oct 2007

Calendar of Events

September 14-15, 2007	Practice Weekend , St. Ann Parish, Doniphan, NE
September 15, 2007	Secretariat Meeting , St. Ann Parish, Doniphan (following Practice Weekend)
September 20-23, 2007	Men's Weekend , St. Ann Parish, Doniphan, NE
September 23, 2007	Men's Closing , 5:00pm (4pm Mass) St. Ann Parish, Doniphan, NE
September 28-30, 2007	Region VI Spring Encounter – Kansas City, KS (Savior of the World)
October 4-7 2007	Women's Weekend , St. Ann Parish, Doniphan, NE
October 7, 2007	Women's Closing , 5:00pm (4pm Mass) St. Ann Parish, Doniphan, NE
October 27, 2007	Secretariat Meeting , Time / location will depend on Postcursillo Reunion
November 2-3, 2007	School of Leaders (quarterly reunion)-7:30pm Fri-3pm Sat, (Location TBA)
December 1, 2007	Secretariat Meeting , 9:30am, Blessed John XXIII Diocesan Center
January 5, 2008	Secretariat Meeting , 9:30am, Blessed John XXIII Diocesan Center
January 11-12, 2008	School of Leaders (quarterly reunion)-7:30pm Fri-3pm Sat, (Location TBA)
February 8-9, 2008	Practice Weekend , Location, TBA (Secretariat meeting to follow)
February 14-17, 2008	Men's Weekend , Location, TBA
February 21-24, 2008	Women's Weekend , Location, TBA

Palanca is so very, very important ... it is the backbone of the Cursillo Movement and essential for the spiritual success of each Three Day Weekend. Your spending time with our Lord before the Blessed Sacrament is the best means of helping the candidates encounter Him. Please make sure your Ultreya Center is covering the assigned hours, or contact a neighboring Ultreya Center for assistance ... He's counting on YOU!!!



Lift them up in prayer ...

PRAYER/ADORATION HOURS (by Ultreya Center) for the Fall 2007 Doniphan Weekends

Thursday, 7:00pm - Friday, 1:00am	David City/Shelby/Wahoo
Friday, 1:00am - 7:00am	Beatrice/Crete/Hebron
Friday, 7:00am - 1:00pm	Lincoln
Friday, 1:00pm - 7:00pm	Southwestern Nebraska (McCook/Imperial/Grant)
Friday, 7:00pm - Saturday 1:00am	Nebraska City/Plattsmouth/Offutt
Saturday, 1:00am - 7:00am	David City/Shelby/Wahoo
Saturday, 7:00am - 1:00pm	Beatrice/Crete/Hebron
Saturday, 1:00pm - 7:00pm	Southwestern Nebraska (McCook/Imperial/Grant)
Saturday, 7:00pm - Sunday 1:00am	Lincoln
Sunday, 1:00am - Sunday, 7:00am	Nebraska City/Plattsmouth/Offutt
Sunday, 7:00am - 5:00pm	Hastings/Holdrege/Minden (while others travel)

From the Secretariat ...

• Precursillo

It's comforting to 'see' Cursillo in so many of the writings of the Church and of the saints. There were two very clear instances of that this week (really more, but we'll talk about two). First, on this week's "The Journey Home" on EWTN (Monday, August 13, 2007), Ralph Martin talks in depth about the profound effect that Cursillo had on his faith life. Jeff Cavins (also from EWTN) has referred to Cursillo as "the best kept secret in the Catholic Church." As solidly Catholic and Christian as Cursillo is, why aren't we who have been given the gift of a Three Day Weekend sharing it? The second instance of seeing Cursillo so clearly in the teachings of the Catholic Church (and what triggered the thought to write this) was the Magnificat meditation for today (August 17, 2007), which was written by Monsignor Massimo Camisasca (a consultor to the Vatican Congregation for Clergy). He writes:

"Above all, hope is manifested in a faith-filled gaze upon our neighbors. The Church places the experience of being a pilgrim in this pedagogical framework and teaches us to see all of life as walking 'step by step' behind the One who leads us.

"The path is grueling, but the goal draws us in and the companionship of other people simplifies what would be much more tiresome were we to go it alone. This is the fundamental step along the road that every day, every hour, and every moment mobilizes all people and all things: recognizing the grace of God in the people He places closest to us. Gazing upon the face of the friend who is further along the journey persuades us that the journey is possible, even for us, and this makes us hasten all the more. Our vision becomes purer and our capacity to see further down the road increases. It is only then that we are able to see more clearly and our desire grows in such a way that what at first seemed quite exhausting is transformed into a joyful and agile pursuit nourished by the foretaste of what we experienced when we first set out at the beginning of our journey."

This experience of being a pilgrim ... Cursillo is all about being on pilgrimage ... through this life to the next ... that's why we're given a ***Pilgrim's Guide*** on our Three Day Weekend. Cursillo challenges us to walk step by step (and many times, we begin with baby steps) behind Him on Whom we count ... He leads us, if we will follow. And yes, the path is often grueling, but that's why He gives us companions on the journey to keep us headed toward our Ideal ... and we travel joyfully because of the love we share with our friends ... we recognize the grace of God in those He places closest to us! We remind one another that the journey IS possible ... even for us ... and we want to keep on keeping on. Our friends have made the journey a joy ... and hopefully, we are doing the same for them. Let's invite others to join us ... invite someone to the upcoming Three Day Weekends in Doniphan ... share His love and joy. ***NOW*** is the best time to pray about AND invite candidates to live a Three Day Weekend. Please ask our Lord who He wants ***YOU*** to invite to get to know Him on a deeper and more personal basis. ***De Colores!!***

Gentle Reminder – In registering candidates for the upcoming Weekends, you should use the most recent application forms (dated 7/12/07; the most recent sponsor sheet, which is blue, is dated 12/15/06). Please note that the registration fee is now \$15 (older forms show a different amount). Registration materials were mailed to each of the parishes in the Diocese in mid-July, so they should be available.

Spend 3 Days and Nights with the Huskers

For the first 50 to register (meals and lodging included)

If you saw this headline in the newspaper, would you begin calling everyone you know and try to get a group together to attend? Would you want to share this special opportunity with your family and friends? Would you try to convince them that this is a chance to get to know these “celebrities” on a personal level? If they were not able to pay the \$15 registration fee, would you pay it for them?

Well, guess what! A Three Day Cursillo Weekend is an opportunity to spend three days and nights with Someone far more important than the Husker football team ... Jesus Christ. This opportunity includes the chance to spend three uninterrupted days getting to better know Him and understand His plans for our lives. Those fortunate enough to have been “invited” will have the chance to spend time alone with Him, to have His undivided attention, and to leave with a relationship so special that He extends the invitation to “Call Me ANY time”.

It is time to begin in earnest to invite and encourage your friends and loved ones to send in their registrations for the coming Weekends to be held at St. Ann’s Parish in Doniphan, NE (Men’s – September 20-23, 2007; Women’s – October 4-7, 2007). If YOU do not extend the invitation, will someone else? Or will the opportunity be lost? Remember – someone cared enough to invite you – who is waiting for your invitation? *De Colores!!*

• Three Day Weekend ...

Upcoming Cursillo Weekends are scheduled for:

◆ Fall 2007

- **Men’s** – September 20 - 23, 2007 (St. Ann Parish, Doniphan, NE)
- **Women’s** – October 4 - 7, 2007 (St. Ann Parish, Doniphan, NE)

The teams for the Fall 2007 Weekends are:

- **Men’s:** Mark Pribyl, Coordinator; Eldon Buster, John Fertig, and Jon Junkin. Fr. Paul York, Spiritual Director; Fr. Harlan Waskowiak, Assistant; John Springer, Palanca Coordinator; Fr. Mark Seiker, Palanca Spiritual Director.
- **Women’s:** Kathy Springer, Coordinator; Monica Buster, Kathy Rowell, and Annette Wemhoff. Fr. Mark Seiker, Spiritual Director; Fr. John Keefe, Assistant; Cathie McKenzie, Palanca Coordinator; Fr. Chris Goodwin, Palanca Spiritual Director.

◆ Winter 2008

- **Men’s** – February 14 - 17, 2008 (St. John the Baptist, Minden, NE)
- **Women’s** – February 21 - 24, 2008 (St. John the Baptist, Minden, NE)

It’s NOT too early or too late to be inviting and preparing candidates!!

Three Day Weekend, cont’d

Palanca Letters ... Personal Palanca letters continue to be a **very important** part of Cursillo. Letters from the sponsor and/or a spouse should be marked so they may be given to candidates during the Weekend. All other personal Palanca letters will be sent home to be read/enjoyed during the Fourth Day when the candidates will be in special need of encouragement as they return to the world they left behind on Thursday evening. New cursillistas continue to comment that these letters are particularly helpful following the Weekend, as they return to their homes and workplaces missing the community they enjoyed on the Weekend ... please keep them in your prayers ...

Personal and general Palanca letters (including posters) should be mailed to Mark Pribyl, PO Box 305, Dorchester, NE 68343, or any Secretariat member, in time to arrive by the Wednesday prior to each Weekend (Sept. 19th for the Men’s; Oct. 3rd for the Women’s). Please do **not** mail them to the parish.

The Lincoln Diocese Cursillo website will be kept updated with the names of candidates as they are submitted. The current web address is:

www.gpcom.net/stpatrickschurch/cursillolincoln

• Postcursillo ...

- ◆ **Suggestions to Help Prepare a Witness for Ultreya ...** Included with this newsletter is a blue sheet that has helpful information for the person giving the witness at an Ultreya in preparing his/her remarks. When the Ultreya Center Representative invites a Fourth Dayer to give the witness, it would be helpful to also give that person a copy of this aid.
- ◆ **Closings for Fall Weekends ...** Please attend the Closings for the upcoming (Fall) Cursillo Weekends in Doniphan ... remember how important it was for you to be greeted by the Fourth Day community ... He is counting on you (and so are the candidates ... the new Fourth Dayers)!!!
- ◆ **Continue to offer Palanca** for Three Day Weekends going on throughout the world ***EACH WEEK***, knowing with certainty that Palanca is the lever of apostles.
- ◆ **Fall Region VI Encounter ...** The Fall Encounter is scheduled for September 28-30, 2007, at Savior of the World, Kansas City, KS. This is relatively close for a Regional Encounter, so it would be good to spend time with those pilgrims who come from other areas. A registration form is enclosed ... God will reward you for all the time/energy/spirit that you allow Him to work with ...

School of Leaders (SOL) ... You are invited to come together with cursillistas from across the Diocese to continue to deepen your understanding of our Lord and of the Cursillo Movement. ***ALL ARE INVITED!*** In working and studying and praying together, we discover ways of doing that to which our Lord calls each of us (not only in Cursillo, but more importantly, in our everyday lives). The next SOL will be **Nov. 2-3, 2007, at St. John the Baptist Parish in Minden, NE** (registration form included in Newsletter). As usual, SOL begins on Friday evening with a retreat phase (Mass, meditation, Confessions, and food/fellowship, but not dinner); and continues into Saturday (we are usually finished by about 3 p.m. on Saturday afternoon). You will come away with a deeper love for God and better know His love for you ... ***ALL*** are invited to participate.

From the Spiritual Advisor ...

The Magnificat “Meditation of the Day” for August 14, the Memorial of St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe, was by St. Maximilian Kolbe. It is a beautiful reflection on growing in humility.

There are many different views or understandings of humility. Each of us would do well to learn about humility from the Lord and from the saints who imitated Him.

I would encourage you to read the meditation in relation to the three legs of the tripod: piety, study, and action. Reading the meditation in the spirit of piety ... perhaps as an examination of conscience ... you might ask our Lord to help you (sometimes through others) to see yourself as He sees you. Reading the meditation in the spirit of study, you might use what it says to help “change your mentality to be more Christian” ... to be more like Christ, who was meek and humble of heart. Reading the meditation in the spirit of action, you might reflect on how and why you do the things that you do ... do you do things for others to see, or for God (realizing that God is present everywhere)? Is your work of evangelization (action) only about “doing things”, or do you remember to pray ... to pray to the Lord for your neighbor?

“Be recollected; whoever pours himself out on exterior things quickly loses the graces he has acquired. A full jewel box is always kept closed. Humility: Avoid all those words which can draw down on you glory, esteem, or the appreciation of others. Let us listen unwillingly (without interest or reflection) and with interior reluctance to the words of those who praise or commend us. It is dangerous to listen to one’s own praise in the mouths of others. It makes one lose his good judgment. When others praise us let us keep our sins before our eyes. In this way we shall judge ourselves unworthy of any commendation, and consequently we shall find an occasion for being ashamed of ourselves and for humbling ourselves. Rejoice when you hear others praised. Jealousy, attachment to one’s own glory, is a defect. Never do anything so that men may see and esteem you. Never do anything out of human respect. Do everything perfectly, because you are working in God’s presence, for God and not for men. In every situation think more about loving than about working. Don’t offer excuses when you make a mistake. Don’t cast the blame on others. Do not offend by sarcasm those who correct you. Do not renounce in advance your errors which someone is trying to point out to you. Practice for a long time and with zeal until you succeed in willing that your defects may not remain hidden any longer, and until you learn how to rejoice when the others judge you imperfect. Do this to make up for your errors. When you are reprovved unjustly, do not excuse yourself. Cut short all thoughts of pride ... Willingly accept every opportunity for humbling yourself. Don’t be offended at a harsh word, an imperious tone of voice, not being respected as much as you would like to be. Welcome occasions of being disregarded and humiliated, first with patience, then willingly, without raising any difficulties, and finally with joy. That will be perfect humility. Make acts of humility (as also of the other virtues on which you are interiorly examining yourself), beginning with a rather small number of them; then increase these continually, and make more and more progress. This, in fact, is how one acquires a good habit and makes it grow strong. Humility is the foundation of the virtues.” St. Maximilian Kolbe.

Again, this makes a great examination of conscience ... review how you are progressing in piety, study, and action. Remember to seek to imitate Christ ... to put on the mind of Christ ... to imitate the saints in doing good ... Christ is counting on you and you must count on Him.

De Colores!!Fr. Mark Seiker

From the Lay Director ...

50 Years of Cursillo in the U. S.

Yes, it is hard to believe that Cursillo was introduced fifty years ago in the United States. I was blessed this year to be able to attend the 17th National Encounter that was held in Arlington, Texas. Aside from the normal schedule/itinerary for a National Encounter, we celebrated 50 years of Cursillo in the U. S. by making a pilgrimage on Sunday to Waco, Texas, which was the very site of the first Cursillo Weekend. Our pilgrimage included visiting the church and grounds where the team and candidates lived the first Cursillo Weekend in the U. S. Those attending the National Encounter then participated in the Closing for a Men’s Spanish Three Day Weekend that was being held that weekend. Several of the candidates from the Weekend 50 years earlier witnessed to their experiences and explained how that, never in their wildest dreams, did they think that the Cursillo Movement would be what it is today.

The witness of these veteran cursillistas was not unlike the witness of those men who were just finishing their Three Day Weekend ... the newest Fourth Dayers to the Movement. During the Closing, the new Fourth Dayers strongly reaffirmed the need for Cursillo to persevere and continue on, as it is so vital for us to grow spiritually (Piety/Holiness), to study so we can understand and defend our faith (Study/Formation), and finally, to tell all who will listen about the Good News that Christ died for us and loves us (Action/Evangelization).

Are you studying your environments, searching for that person who might benefit by living a Cursillo? Have you talked to God before talking to that person? Are you asking God for courage and the proper words to speak in God’s time to the one the Spirit has put on your heart?

Remember it only takes a spark to keep the fire burning, and when you shine from the light of Christ you don’t want to hide that light.

May the light of Christ shine through you upon others, that the love of Christ might inebriate all with whom you come into contact. AMEN!!

De Colores!! ... Mark Pribyl

When God asks ~ ~

“Whom shall I send?”

Respond: “Here I am, Lord!!

Send me ...” (then go!!)

Guidelines for Helping to Prepare a Witness for an Ultreya

The witness given at an Ultreya should be given by a layperson, and should last approximately 10 minutes (15 at the absolute maximum). It should reveal what attempts the speaker is making to bring about the Christian transformation of one of the environments in which that person finds him/herself. The witness should awaken a desire among all of the participants to renew their own efforts at evangelizing their environments.

The witness should not be purely an instructional session; in other words, it should encourage by personal example, rather than by theory. The purpose of the witness is for the speaker to share about his/her growth in living union with Christ in order to encourage the rest of the group to go and do likewise.

There are various types of witness that can be given at an Ultreya. It is good to vary the types of witness in order to provide cursillistas with new ideas/strategies that might be useful to try in their own environments (there's no sense in re-inventing the wheel). The speaker should offer concrete examples of how to live what is fundamental for being a Christian in family, neighborhood, workplace, and/or with friends.

The speaker should present a lived experience ... as in all Cursillo rollos, a truth is presented, followed by personal examples from the life of the speaker. A recent example from the speaker's life should be given to demonstrate the validity of the "truth" in a concrete way. Preparation of the witness should begin with prayer, Palanca, and discernment regarding what to share; the result will be a natural, sincere, and personal witness that expresses how God is working in the speaker's life. Scripture might be helpful in tying the speaker's experiences to the truth being presented.

The witness should be a personal sharing of one's:

- Growing union with Christ,
- Growing knowledge of Christ, or
- Bringing others to know Christ, or the changing of circumstances so that Christ is better known, loved and served.

The speaker should keep the witness short, simple, and enthusiastic. The witness should generally not be: (1) simply an attempt to portray an emotional high (in other words, it shouldn't be all about feelings); (2) a tale of an extraordinary event (people can better relate to God working in the ordinary circumstances of life); (3) irrelevant to life (keep it down to earth); (4) propaganda for his/her own favorite cause or organization; or (5) an outpouring of personal troubles that ends in a call for help.

Those who live close to God will reflect Him, and others can grow from what they share. A person cannot share what he/she does not have, so it is important that those who give the witness do so because of the testimony of their lives, and not because it is their turn, or because there wasn't anyone else to witness.

There are two types of witness (depending on the speaker and the life experiences of that speaker), and it is good to have both types in Ultreyas throughout the year. One type of witness is generally given by newer cursillistas. This type of witness usually focuses on where the speaker is now, how he/she got there, and the joy/sorrow experienced along the way. A second type of witness centers not so much on the life of the cursillista before the Cursillo and how it helped, but rather on the speaker's attempt in putting into practice and living what he/she experienced on his/her Cursillo. This type of witness is generally given by a person who is striving to put into practice the three elements of the tripod: holiness (piety), formation (study), and evangelization (action). The speaker's witness will likely focus on attempts the speaker has made to change one or more of the environments in which God has placed him/her (i.e., friends, relatives, neighbors, etc.). Sometimes sharing about how an apostolic attempt was not successful can be as helpful as sharing about an attempt that succeeded ... there can be growth from both.

Following the witness, at least one cursillista (the respondent) should give a 2 or 3 minute comment about his/her views of what the speaker shared. The purpose of the response (sometimes referred to as the "echo") is not to criticize what the witness shared, or to try to explain it in a different way, or even to give another witness, but rather, the purpose is to "echo" (i.e., to communicate briefly and precisely how the respondent lives what the speaker shared). The respondent should avoid giving an additional witness, and should instead, focus his/her comments on what the speaker shared. It would be good for the respondent to reflect on how the speaker's words will help him/her in better living the Fourth Day.