

Cursillo News for Sept. – Oct. 2011

Calendar of Events

- September 10, 2011 **Secretariat Meeting**, Blessed John XXIII, Lincoln – 9:00am (Mass at 8:30am) – ***NOTE: Earlier time!!***
- September 23-25, 2011 **Region VI Fall Encounter**, Rapid City, SD
- October 8, 2011 **SOL - 9:30am – 2:30pm (Mass at 9:00am)**; St. Ann Parish, Doniphan, NE
- November 12, 2011 **Secretariat Meeting**, Blessed John XXIII, Lincoln - 9:30am (9:00am Mass)
- December 10, 2011 **SOL - 9:30am – 2:30pm (Mass at 9:00am)**; St. James Parish, Cortland, NE

[For your planning purposes, SOL is generally the second Saturday of the even numbered months (Feb., April, etc.), and Secretariat meetings are generally the second Saturday of the odd numbered months (Jan., March, etc.).]

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1. Ultreya Center News:

Details regarding upcoming Ultreyas are included on the outside cover of each Newsletter and are also available on the diocesan web page:

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

[NOTE THE NEW WEBPAGE ADDRESS]

2. Precursillo/Three Days

Don’t Wait Too Long for a Renewal

*[Personal witness of Cursillo experience by Bishop John McCormack, included in the July-August 2011 edition of **Parable**, the Magazine of the Diocese of Manchester.*

The article is available at <http://www.catholicnh.org/media-1/parable/inside/july-august-2010/from-the-bishop/>.]

“Have you ever felt like opportunities have passed you by? Like maybe your best days are behind you? Or like you are just too old and too set in your ways to take on a new challenge such as going back to school, changing jobs, learning a new hobby, or entering a

new relationship? Well, as I celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of my ordination this past year, I thought I could qualify as someone who was, as we like to say here in New England, ‘all set.’ At my young age, I did not really anticipate encountering anything brand new. Well, I have news for you. Very good news: God is never finished with any of us.

“For years, many of my priest and lay friends, as well as a fellow bishop whom I admire, have encouraged me to experience a Cursillo, but I have always had plenty of excuses. Taking three-and-a-half days out of my busy calendar was reason enough to postpone this invitation indefinitely. Yet I have always been impressed with the people in the parishes who were members of the Cursillo movement. They were often leaders in their parishes and they always struck me as people who genuinely wanted to help, not out of a self-centered need to be recognized, but out of a real desire to serve others. This made an impression on me. But still, three whole days dedicated to spiritual instruction and renewal? I am a bishop, after all. I pray daily, teach about Christ’s saving grace frequently, and make private retreats annually. I should be all set, right?

“Well, leading up to my 75th birthday, I gave myself, or rather God gave to me, a remarkable gift. I finally made a Cursillo. It was for me, as it is for hundreds of men and women each year, a transformative and rejuvenating spiritual experience!

“Imagine the awkwardness when I first walked into the room on the inaugural Thursday evening of the Cursillo. I didn’t know anyone in the room. Needless to say, they all recognized me and were no doubt wondering to themselves, ‘What is the Bishop doing here?’ Eventually, once we overcame the initial superficial barriers, they came to see me and treat me as ‘one of the guys,’ which I really appreciated.

“Begun among Catholics in Spain in the 1940s, Cursillo is a movement whose full name is Cursillo de Cristiandad or ‘Short courses of Christianity.’ The three-day weekend is at the core of the movement. Individuals make this among other men, and then after they have done so, their spouses are invited to do the same among women.

“At the essence of Cursillo is the recognition that ‘while most people would like to live their lives in a Christ-like manner, the pressures of the world often make this difficult.’ The movement offers ‘a method and a technique to provide each of us with the tools, the mentality, the strength, and the support’ to walk in Christ.

“So there we all were, men of different ages and backgrounds from all walks of life: CEO’s, salesmen, teachers, lawyers, skilled laborers, husbands, fathers, single men, and one bishop. All of us were filled with nervous expectations, a bit of hope, and an instinctive desire to turn around and leave in a hurry. What we shared in common with each other was the simple desire to know our faith and the Lord better and to live with a better understanding of the Lord’s ways. And so we stayed.

“We not only stayed, we participated together in what was for me a transformative three days that brought us each from complacency to consciousness of Christ’s love for us, animating in turn our desire to love Christ. What was especially moving to me was the

faith of the other men present. As men courageously and openly spoke about their relationship with the Lord and what that means in their lives, it affected me deeply and affected all of us. We experienced the power of the Lord in our midst.

“Truthfully, I never expected to be animated by this experience in the way that I was. At 74 years old I did not think I had perfected the art of Christian living, but neither did I recognize just how much growth and change was possible. I am embarrassed to admit it, but I had underestimated the power of God’s love to keep shaping our daily lives through challenges, sacrifice, surprises, suffering, and the love of others. Our own perspectives and expectations may become limited, but Christ’s love for us is not. It is not only abundant, it is infinite.

“How apparent this is in the pages of this issue of *Parable*. When I look at the remarkable and inspiring art that Sylvia Nicolas creates even in her eighth decade of living; when I read of how the film makers of Either/Or Films came to enter the Church well into their life’s journey; when I see the love and comfort that Sheryl Brooks brings to the elderly; and when I consider my own experience on Cursillo, it is more clear to me than ever that God is never finished loving, shaping, and renewing our lives.

“I therefore encourage all of you to be open to renewal. Don’t wait as long as I did to make a Cursillo, or a Marriage Encounter, or to go on a religious pilgrimage or to reconcile with those from whom you are estranged. Take it from this youngster in the faith: if you find a way to creatively disrupt the comfort and complacency of your routines and relationships, the Holy Spirit will surprise you and animate your lives with a love that is creative and infinite.”

◆ From the Lincoln Diocese

The Secretariat and SOL continues to work out the details related to the next set of Three Day Weekends. For planning purposes, the Weekends are tentatively planned for March. Specifics will be known following the September Secretariat meeting. Thus, information will be available BOTH in the November/December Newsletter AND on the Lincoln Diocese Cursillo webpage (as early as mid-September) – see the webpage address above. In the meantime, now is the time to be talking to your friends about what Cursillo did for your life ... help those who are being “nudged” to begin taking the steps toward living a Cursillo Weekend. There is no time like the present to be doing the work of an apostle in helping your brothers and sisters (those God put in your environments) better live what is fundamental to being Christian. As you get to know your friend better, you may discern that a Three Day Weekend might be just what would benefit your friend at this particular time in his/her life. NOW is the time to be offering Palanca for your friend and for upcoming Cursillo Weekends ... Palanca is not about making sacrifices only when we want something ... it should be an integral part of our daily lives.

3. Postcursillo

◆ Report on Fourth Day Retreat (August 12-14)

In place of the August SOL, the Lincoln Diocese held a **Fourth Day Retreat** for **ALL cursillistas** on **August 12-14, 2011**, at Church of the Holy Spirit in Plattsmouth. Jim Wells from the Wichita, KS Diocese joined us for this faith deepening and building weekend. All who participated came away with a better and deeper understanding of Cursillo and what it can do in our daily lives.



Retreat Participants

◆ Region VI (September 23-25)

The **Region VI Fall Encounter** will be held in **Rapid City, SD** on **September 23-25, 2011**. The topic of the rollos for the Fall Encounter will be “**The Postcursillo.**” The Encounter will be held at **St. Elizabeth Seton School** (corner of Fairmont and 5th Streets in Rapid City). See the Region VI webpage [<http://www.cursillo.org/region6>] for details and the registration form.

4. School of Leaders (SOL)

The next SOL will be held on October 8 at St. Ann Parish in Doniphan. The technique talks will come from the book, “Study of the Charism.” The book (which is 80 pages in length) may be purchased at SOL for \$6.00, or it may be downloaded/printed from the OMCC webpage (<http://www.orgmcc.org/study/index.htm>).

From the Spiritual Advisor

During the months of August and September, many people are focused on beginning a new school year. It seems that much in our society seems to revolve around the school year and its schedules. Programs in the parish seem to fit into the cycle of the calendar of the school year. Though each year brings different variations, many things seem to be the same. Sometimes this sameness might even lead to a sense of futility.

The author of the book of Ecclesiastes seems to take a very skeptical view or tone toward life and even toward Wisdom (Ecclesiastes is the translation into Greek of the Hebrew word “Qoheleth”, which is the name of the author of Ecclesiastes). Some scripture scholars say that the name Qoheleth means “assembler” (of students, listeners) or “collector” (of wisdom sayings). Some of you might be familiar with the following passage from Ecclesiastes (Ecc. 1:3-11):

*What profit have we from all the toil
which we toil at under the sun?
One generation departs and another generation comes,
but the world forever stays.
The sun rises and the sun sets;
then it presses on to the place where it rises.
Shifting south, then north,
back and forth shifts the wind, constantly shifting its course.
All rivers flow to the sea,
yet never does the sea become full.
To the place where they flow,
the rivers continue to flow.
All things are wearisome,
too wearisome for words.
The eye is not satisfied by seeing
nor has the ear enough of hearing.*

What has been, that will be; what has been done, that will be done. Nothing is new under the sun! Even the thing of which we say, “See, this is new!” has already existed in the ages that preceded us. There is no remembrance of past generations; nor will future generations be remembered by those who come after them.

Though the general tone of Ecclesiastes seems to be pretty skeptical, there are a number of times in the book (2:24; 3:12-13, 22; 5:17-18; 8:15; 9:7-9; 11:9) that the author encourages us to be thankful and rejoice in each of the gifts and blessings, and even challenges, which God gives us. “Rejoice always ... I say it again, rejoice!!” (Phil 4:4)

As Catholics and cursillistas, even though we have the fullness of the faith and are called to live what is fundamental for being a Christian (to love God with all our mind, our heart, our soul, and our strength, and to love our neighbor), we are still affected by the world in which we live. We sometimes fall into the cycles and ruts and skepticism of the world. That is where it

can be very helpful to remember that each day and each moment of the day is a gift to us from God. He wants us to use each moment as an opportunity to grow into a deeper union with Him and with our brothers and sisters. He wants us to strive to be saints and to encourage others to be saints. He wants us to Christianize our environments and the world in which we live.

One great help that the Cursillo Movement gives us is the method of Group Reunion and Ultreya. Even though the Group Reunions (weekly) and Ultreyas (monthly, at least) might seem to fit into that old repetitious cycle, they are opportunities to be touched by God through others and to allow God to touch others through us. May the Lord bless you in your daily lives. May you see His hand at work in your life and may you remember that He is counting on you to live the Cursillo Method of Group Reunion and Ultreya regularly, so that you may Christianize the world.

De Colores!! Fr. Mark Seiker

From the Lay Director

De Colores to all! May you be blessed and may the Holy Spirit “fill your hearts”!

Since the last newsletter, there have been several significant Cursillo-related events that some from our Diocese were able to participate in. The Lincoln Diocese Grand Ultreya (North Platte Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, June 26), the National Encounter (San Antonio, TX - Saint Mary University, July 28-31), and the Diocesan 4th Day Retreat (Plattsmouth, Church of the Holy Spirit, August 12-14). Each event was an “encounter” of its own with a unique community spirit that brought together both old and new friends who all share a common love of Jesus, His Church, and Cursillo. It always amazes me (and at the same time, does not amaze me at all) how quickly we join in fellowship with each other because of the deep common aspect of faith. There are no barriers, no superficial posturing, or no false personalities because our desire to grow in holiness is so deeply rooted in us that this common bond starts an immediate friendship. I met new friends, was reacquainted with old friends, and again was reminded that “where two or more are gathered in My Name, there am I in their midst”. All of us who were able to participate were blessed in a special way – my prayers are with you.

At National Encounters, we meet and talk with others who discuss challenges the Cursillo Movement faces in dioceses with large geographical areas similar to Lincoln’s. We in the Lincoln diocese, as in Kansas, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, and so on, continue to work to keep the Movement alive. It is for the love of Cursillo and the understanding of the great gift it is to the Church. I cannot imagine where I would be if Cursillo had not become part of my life, if I did not try to live it each and every day. Many of you I know feel the same way – it is impossible to deny the impact of living the Cursillo. But the Movement in Lincoln, as in other dioceses, needs involved cursillistas who are willing to extend themselves to work for the Movement – even if just for awhile. The Cursillo needs you, and even if you are unable to be more active, please pray. We constantly read in our study how prayer and sacrifice works miracles. God will answer our prayers, but we need to pray. Please pray for the Cursillo.

Thank you for your Palanca, and please continue to pray for the Cursillo Movement, especially in our Diocese. Know that I pray for you every day. May God continue to bless you.

De Colores!! John Springer

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Postcursillo Monica Buster 365-7682
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Southwestern NE..... Bill & Elaine Swanson 308-962-7247
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Weston / Wahoo Contact John Springer 826-2699

Ultreya Centers

- 1) **Beatrice-Crete-Hebron-Lincoln** – Location alternates.....
(usually 4th Sunday of month, 5:00pm)
September 25 – Sacred Heart Parish (Hebron; 5:00pm)
October 23 – Sacred Heart Parish (Crete; 5:00pm)
- 2) **Hastings-Holdrege-Minden** – Contact Mary Ann Connelly
or Kathy Rowell; October 9, 2011 at 2:30pm at Minden
- 3) **Lincoln – Vietnamese Language Group**.....
Immaculate Heart of Mary Rectory, Lincoln
4th Sunday of month, 3:00pm
- 4) **Plattsmouth-Nebraska City**.....
Check parish bulletin at www.holyspiritplattsmouth.com,
or contact Terry Little
- 5) **Southwestern Nebraska**.....
Location alternates: McCook/Imperial; Usually 2nd Sunday of month
Sept. 11 – McCook (St. Patrick Church basement) (3:30pm CT)
October 9 – Imperial (St. Patrick Parish hall) (2:30pm MT)
- 6) **Weston/David City/Shelby/Wahoo**.....
October 16– Weston (St. John Nepomucene School) (3:00pm)
(No Sept. Ultreya)

Secretariat Mail

John Springer.....Lay Director
1410 E. 15th St. Crete, NE 68333
Newsletter published: Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov

Lincoln Diocese Cursillo WebPage
<http://www.seas-np.org/cursillolincoln.html>
Region VI WebPage: <http://www.cursillo.org/region6>
National WebPage: www.natl-cursillo.org

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER

Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska

September – October 2011



CURSILLO NEWSLETTER
3301 Echo Dr
North Platte, NE 69101-9608

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

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER
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North Platte, NE 69101-9608

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**See the article (precursillo section)
by Bishop John McCormack
about his Cursillo Experience**

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CURSILLO NEWSLETTER

Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska Sept. – Oct. 2011



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

School of Leaders

October 8, 2011

202 N 5th Street (5th and Cedar Streets)

St. Ann Parish, Doniphan, NE

*Please come ... Deepen your understanding of Cursillo ...
ALL Cursillistas (Veteran and New) are invited and welcome*

School of Leaders Agenda:

9:00am --- Mass (for those who wish to assist)

9:30am -- Group Reunion, Session #1, Lunch, Session #2, Visit to Blessed Sacrament, Depart.

2:30pm --- Clean up and departure (*estimated time* ... may be earlier ... may be later ...).

Topics of Talks

The **Technique Talks** are from a new book published by the North American Caribbean Group (NACG) entitled, "Study of the Charism." The preface to the book says (in part):

"The Cursillo Movement throughout the world is on a discovery of its charism and history. The World Organization of Cursillos in Christianity (OMCC) has encouraged all cursillistas around the world to study the charism of the Cursillo Movement. This call to study the charism came in 1998, at the 5th World Encounter of the Cursillo Movement in Seoul, Korea. The Pontifical Council for the Laity echoed this call to all Movements in the Church at their World Congress of Ecclesial Movements in 1998 and 2006. It explained WHY we must study and know our charism, because it is only when each Movement LIVES its charism, that it can truly serve our Holy Mother Church. The Pontifical Council advised us HOW – go to your founder – know his mentality, his life, his education, and the history of the movement. Pope John Paul II stated: 'The founder is the pivot of the life of every movement, because he is the bearer of the original charism from which it is born and through which it lives.' ...

This study is a compilation of writings from Eduardo Bonnin as published in a series of Monthly Mailings from the OMCC Executive Committee from 2008 – 2009. The purpose of these mailings was to create a hunger for the study of the charism. ...

Also included in this book are the 'Spiritual Notes' from Fr. David Smith, in which he adds scripture and Papal Document references to this study. This book makes an excellent study tool for any cursillista interested in studying the charism of the Cursillo Movement ..."

The book may be obtained from the OMCC webpage (<http://www.orgmcc.org/study/index.htm>) or you may purchase a copy of the book at SOL for \$6.00. The document is 80 pages in length and the funds from sales of the book help with the work of Cursillo (in addition, it's nice to have the material in the form of a bound booklet).

The **Doctrinal Talks** will continue to relate to topics that will help you grow in your spiritual life.

Please bring the following with you to the SOL (if you have them):

- ◆ **BRING YOUR OWN SACK LUNCH** (to save on time preparing and cleaning up, etc.)
- ◆ **Leaders' Manual**, if you have one (available for purchase at SOL)
- ◆ *We ask that you consider making a donation to help cover a donation for use of the facility.*