

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER

Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska

October 2018



Calendar of Events

October 20, 2018	SOL - 9:30am – 1:30pm (Mass at 9:00am) at St. Ann Church, Doniphan.
November 17, 2018	Secretariat Meeting , possibly via Skype and/or phone – 9:30am.
December 15, 2018	SOL - 9:30am – 1:30pm (Mass at 9:00am) at IHM, Lincoln (English and Vietnamese communities)
January 12, 2019	Secretariat Meeting , possibly via Skype and/or phone – 9:30am.
February 9, 2019	SOL - 9:30am – 1:30pm (Mass at 9:00am) at St. Ann Church, Doniphan.
March 15-17, 2019	Spring 2019 Region VI Encounter – Kansas City, KS Diocese Spanish to host (at Savior Pastoral Center).
July 18-21, 2019	Cursillo National Encounter, Scranton, PA.

Report on Cursillo de Cursillos (CDC) in the Lincoln Diocese

The Cursillo de Cursillos was held **August 2-5, 2018**, at **St. Gregory the Great Seminary** in Seward, Nebraska. There were 21 Cursillistas including 4 Team members from outside our Diocese, including the National English Language Coordinator. CDC is a short course on the foundational charism of Cursillo for Cursillistas who are searching for something beyond the Three-Day Cursillo Weekend. CDC Weekends have provided many Cursillistas with an opportunity to discover the immense possibilities that Cursillo has to offer the person and the Church. While the Three Day Weekend gives a keyhole view of the Cursillo Movement, the CDC opens the door allowing participants to enter fully into what it means to “live Cursillo.” Some cursillistas from our Diocese who participated in the CDC have shared their experience.

There were a number of persons who wanted to come to the CDC, but were not able to do so. In order to provide cursillistas with another opportunity to deepen their understanding of Cursillo, the Lincoln Diocese Cursillo Movement will be sponsoring a one-day “**Rediscovering Cursillo Workshop**,” the early part of next year (likely in February 2019). Watch for future announcements/information.



Participants at the Cursillo de Cursillos (CDC), August 5, 2018
St. Gregory the Great Seminary, Seward, NE

Comments from Participants of Cursillo de Cursillos (CDC) and Region VI Fall Encounter

(Kay Portillo, St. Catherine Parish, Indianola, NE)

Hi, my name is Kay. I lived my Cursillo in March of 2017, and I was in the St. Monica family. In the early part of 2018, at every Group Reunion as well as Ultreya, I was hearing about this special upcoming event that would be the KEY to opening up the door to the Cursillo Movement -- Cursillo de Cursillos, a Cursillo for people who had made their Cursillo. It would be held over 3 days, at St. Gregory the Great Seminary. "And how will this KEY help me live my Cursillo?" was my question to a fellow Cursillista who was promoting the event. The response ranged from, meeting other Cursillistas from surrounding states, learning from a National team all the who, what, and why of the Movement, and spending quality time with Jesus in a semi-retreat environment. The closing question to me was, "Aren't you just a little curious about how all this came to be?" Truth is, I was very curious.

The weekend was structured much like a 3 Day Cursillo. The difference was, we all understood why we were there. Each person wanted to grow in their knowledge and understanding of Cursillo. Each of us had questions surrounding how to better live our 4th day and how to help "fallen away" Cursillistas come back to the Movement. There was another difference, the way the Holy Spirit was moving through the group. From the moment it started, I could feel love, acceptance and friendship from everyone. The National presenters, all 4 of them, were so spiritual, knowledgeable and funny. They explained in great detail what Cursillo is and more importantly what it is not.

One talk, which affected me the most was about the three stages: Pre-Cursillo, 3 day , Post Cursillo. I figured the three day was the big thing! WRONG!! The success of a candidate rest almost 100% in the Precursillo stage. I finally got the whole "make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ." Because I'm to bring them to Christ!!! Not Cursillo! My faith in Christ is to be shared with all I meet ... not just Catholics or other Christians ... ALL. That is the 4th day. Our founder, Eduardo, started the 3 Day Weekends after he and friends had been grouping for some time. Eduardo was inspired by God to share his method of piety, study, and action with friends first, then the world. He didn't do it to promote Cursillo, he did it to witness to his love of Christ. His friends that he grouped with for decades helped each other grow in faith and love of Christ. Just like my friends in Cursillo give me the strength to live my 4th day.

The Cursillo Movement is a beautiful gift from God through our founder. It is a method to grow closer to Christ and His Church. It is a method in forming close lasting friends. It is a method of reaching out to everyone we know and simply saying "God loves you!" De Colores!

(Elizabeth Cuellar, St. Patrick Parish, McCook, NE)

I learned more about what the School of Leaders (SOL) is and what it does. At the Region VI Fall Encounter, I learned about the start of the Cursillo by Eduardo Bonnin and his life. The Spanish people were just excited about being in Cursillo, especially with their music ... lifts up your spirits and shows their great love for God. It catches on and lifts one's spirit up. Singing during Mass was so joyful. And it was so good to make new friends from all over Region VI.

(Helen Bieker, St. Patrick Parish, McCook, NE)

After attending our Diocesan Cursillo de Cursillos (CDC) and going to the Region VI Fall Encounter, I am simply overwhelmed being around/with all the people who were there, realizing that everyone is in love with Jesus. How many gatherings do you go to where you are surrounded by 60-70 people who Love Jesus and want to share His message of Love? And they aren't afraid to say so!! It fills your soul with new enthusiasm to be focused on the Cursillo Movement mission: Make a friend ... be a friend ... bring your friend to Christ!

(Fr. Bernard Lorenz, St. Patrick Parish, McCook, NE)

The joy I receive from gathering in prayer, review and planning for mission in the Cursillo weekly reunion is the joy of Christ on Earth. He lives for mission and He lives in us for powerful sanctification. He is the one who lives and to be in Him, as we are in the world wide Cursillo Movement, is to fulfill His desire in John 10:10 and come fully alive. There is so much distraction tempting us to take our focus off Jesus in the Catholic Mission, that it may be easy to lose our balance and fall. I look to my Cursillo brothers and sisters to help me stay straight on the Way, stand firm and resist the evil of the day, holding ground with the sword of the Spirit, as St. Paul says it in Ephesians 6:10-18. I had a great time of renewal at the CDC in Seward at St. Gregory the Great Seminary. I am confident that Cursillo is the will of God. Blessings to you all and De Colores! Father Lorenz

School of Leaders (SOL) ... October 20, 2018 ... 9:30am – 1:30pm (*Mass at 9:00am*) at St. Ann Church, Doniphan.

By the time you receive this it will be only a few short days before our next SOL at St. Ann Parish in Doniphan. As used by the Cursillo Movement, the term “school” refers to a “School of Thought” where leaders gather to share ideas and philosophies, where together they explore and deepen their understanding and gain wisdom and knowledge from one another. In a nutshell, The School of Leaders is first and foremost, a School of Listening, not teaching. It is all done by a group of friends. Because we are friends, our service to others flows from that friendship and then whenever the leaders in the “School” have to put something into action, such as a meeting, workshop, encounter, or weekend, it is no longer a service, but an act of love from that Group of Friends. The SOL bears the responsibility of the well-being and performance of the SOL and of the Movement in general. They make sure the SOL can accomplish its duties through each one of the Movement Phases: Precursillo, Cursillo and Postcursillo.

Beginning October 20, we will be studying and discussing a new book entitled: *Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló - 100 years – Biography & Mentality*. This book contains lots of priceless information about the life of our Founder and his mentality as well as the history of Cursillo in Christianity. Many of Eduardo’s quotes are appropriate for reflection and useful in living the 4th Day fully and joyfully! Please join us if your schedule allows. The books will be available for purchase (\$9).

Report on Region VI Fall Encounter (September 28-30, 2018)

The Region VI Fall Encounter was hosted by the Fargo, ND Diocese at Hankinson on September 28-30, 2018. There were 27 English speaking cursillistas and about 45 Spanish speaking cursillistas present, including 7 from the Lincoln Diocese. The topics covered dealt with School of Leaders. It was a good Encounter.

Region VI Spring Encounter (March 15-17, 2019)

The Region VI Spring Encounter will be hosted by the Spanish Community of the Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS on March 15-17, 2019, at Savior Pastoral Center Retreat and Conference Center. Additional information (including fee and registration form) will be available on the calendar of the Regional web site <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/region6/> It’s a great way to meet other cursillistas from our Region and enjoy time spent focused on building His Kingdom through friendship.

Report on 2018 National Encounter (August 16-19, 2018)

The 28th National Encounter was hosted by the Archdiocese of Seattle, WA at Seattle University on August 16-19, 2018. Three cursillistas from our Diocese attended along with three Bishops, 45 Clergy and Vowed Religious, many special guests from around the world including the OMCC President, NACG (North American Caribbean Group) Executive Committee & members and 670 cursillistas from seven language groups in the USA! The homilies and rollos presented are available from the National Cursillo website using this link - <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/resource-center/2018-national-cursillo-encounter-sessions/>

National Cursillo Movement ... \$3/Yr Campaign

Our last newsletter included a flyer from the National Cursillo Movement explaining the \$3/Yr Campaign. Hoang Tran, National Cursillo Service Administrator, encouraged donations toward this campaign at the National Encounter with these words: “We haven’t spent a penny of the \$3/YR Campaign fund on the NCC (National Cursillo Center). The NCC is at the bottom of the list and unfortunately funds have not trickled down to the NCC yet. So I brought my concern to Jesus during my 1-on-1 with him and I was amazed of his great sense of humor! I asked him: ‘Lord, you know I am an extreme introvert and I hate to sound like a broken record asking for \$3/YR again and again. So, can you give me \$3 million so we can be done with the Campaign?’ And he said ‘Granted!’ I thought he would ask Bill Gates or Warren Buffet to wire the \$3 million to the NCC account but I just wanted to make sure and asked him ‘how, Lord?’ And do you know what his answer was? ‘\$3 has been wired to each Cursillista in the USA’ . . . back to square one! I did the math and yes, we have 1 million plus Cursillistas in the USA and it does add up to \$3 million! So, I’d like to make a nice request to all Cursillistas in the USA: The first \$3 in your bank account is for the Cursillo, the rest is yours! Could you wire \$3 back to NCC?” (*For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. - Romans 11:36*)

From the Lay Director

De Colores!

I've learned a lot this past quarter, all the while striving to be a human **being** as opposed to a human **doing**. Secretariat, Ultreyas, CDC, Friendship Grouping, National Encounter, Regional Encounter and the present task, attempting to compose meaningful expressions of the love, grace and blessings I've received as a result, have captured much of my focus. I've experienced so many profound things during these events that I thought I would share some of my insights, discoveries and ah-ha moments with you, my friends in Christ. First off, my vocabulary has been enriched. Hoang Tran, National Cursillo Service Administrator, helped me gain a new take on perseverance; "In Cursillo vocabulary, there are no such words as "have to," "must," or "ought to," only "willingness" or "willing to" because of love!" This has helped immensely in moving towards becoming a human **being**. Though I'm still a *work in progress*, I'm better understanding where the energy for perseverance comes from; putting the other first or love! Cursillo acts as ferment in me, it motivates and stimulates decision making and makes perseverance pleasant, attractive and achievable.

John Ciliberti, Region VI English Coordinator, deepened my understanding of exactly how a School of Leaders and Secretariat, assembled as groups of friends through Unity of Purpose, can and will see to it that the love of God reaches as many people as possible by being a part of Christianity in Action.

To be honest, the common theme that I continued to encounter in my moveable square meter dealt with strengthening School of Leaders (SOL) and Secretariats. Given you'll be reading this just days before our next SOL gathering on October 20, I thought too that I would try to entice you to attend by sharing some of what I've been exposed to recently, with appropriate recognition given to John Ciliberti.

The SOL never comes together simply to **do** something, but always first and foremost to **be** something together:

- to be Christian, because Christ and His grace is what leads the way to the Father (eternity),
- to be friends, because friendship is foundational in Cursillo,
- to be servants, because as leaders we have decided to serve Christ and His Church through the gift of Cursillo,
- to be authentic, because to be the true person God created brings real meaning to our life,
- to be apostles, because in Baptism we were sent to communicate the Good News of God's love to others.

The School of Leaders is a "group of friends" that individually and collectively have faith in Christ. They have placed Him in the axis of their person to let Him lead their lives and they identify with the Cursillo Movement and live Cursillo with a heavy dose of constancy in their personal life. Therefore, they want to learn more about the Cursillo method and collaborate with each other to achieve its purpose - that the joyful news that God loves us may reach all people. The SOL is first and foremost, a School of Listening, not teaching. It is here where the leaders learn to deepen their own understanding of living what is fundamental to being Christian and then find ways for its practical application in the Movement as a whole. It is here where Cursillistas are infused with the vision of the Founder and it is here that they come to understand their own role as leaders; all done by a group of friends. Because we are friends, our service to others flows from that friendship and manifests any action, not as a service, but as an act of love from that Group of Friends.

If any of these comments has awakened a hunger and curiosity to learn and understand better our beautiful Cursillo Movement, please join us as we gather on October 20 in Doniphan. To live Cursillo is to live the Gospel! **-Greg Vandenberg**

Palanca Calendar

The Palanca calendar is available for download from the Lincoln Diocese Cursillo webpage:
<http://www.seas-np.org/cursillolincoln.html>



From the Spiritual Advisor

St. Augustine in a sermon for the dedication of a Church building said the following:

“We are gathered together to celebrate the dedication of a house of prayer. This is our house of prayer, but we too are a house of God. If we are a house of God, its construction goes on in time so that it may be dedicated at the end of time. The house, in its construction, involves hard work, while its dedication is an occasion for rejoicing.

What was done when this church was being built is similar to what is done when believers are built up into Christ. When they first come to believe they are like timber and stone taken from woods and mountains. In their instruction, baptism and formation they are, so to speak, shaped, leveled and smoothed by the hands of carpenters and craftsmen.

But Christians do not make a house of God until they are one in charity. The timber and stone must fit together in an orderly plan, must be joined in perfect harmony, must give each other the support as it were of love, or no one would enter the building. When you see the stones and beams of a building holding together securely, you enter the building with an easy mind; you are not afraid of its falling down in ruins.

Christ the Lord wants to come in to us and dwell in us. Like a good builder he says: “A new commandment I give you: love one another.” He says: “I give you a commandment.” He means: Before, you were not engaged in building a house for me, but you lay in ruins. Therefore, to be raised up from your former state of ruin you must love one another.

Dear brethren, remember that this house is still in process of being built in the whole world: this is the promise of prophecy. When God’s house was being built after the Exile, it was prophesied, in the words of a psalm: “Sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth.” For a new song our Lord speaks of “a new commandment”. A new song implies a new inspiration of love. To sing is a sign of love. The singer of this new song is full of the warmth of God’s love.

The work we see complete in this building is physical; it should find its spiritual counterpart in your hearts. We see here the finished product of stone and wood; so too your lives should reveal the handiwork of God’s grace.

Let us then offer our thanksgiving above all to the Lord our God, from whom every best and perfect gift comes. Let us praise his goodness with our whole hearts. He it was who inspired in his faithful people the will to build this house of prayer; he stirred up their desire and gave them his help. He awakened enthusiasm among those who were at first unconvinced, and guided to a successful conclusion the efforts of men of good will. So God, who “gives to those of good will both the desire and the accomplishment” of the things that belong to him, is the one who began this work, the one who has brought it to completion.”

These thoughts of St. Augustine on the dedication of a Church could be connected with a reflection on our lives as cursillistas, and the Cursillo Movement. These thoughts may also be tied to the CDC held in August at the Seminary, and to School of Leaders (SOL) and the Region VI Encounter.

Sometimes cursillistas have a misunderstanding of School of Leaders. Some don’t want to go to “School” again, and others don’t want to be seen as “Leaders”. However, the term School is better understood as it is used when referring to a “school of fish” that swim together. Perhaps this could also be extended to a flock (or a “school”) of geese. It has been observed that geese fly in a “V-formation” in order to conserve energy and help each other on a long journey. The geese rotate or take turns being the lead goose. Perhaps we need to think of a gathering of cursillistas with that analogy in mind when we use the terms “School” and also “Leaders”.

We could also use Augustine’s image of a church building and apply it to ourselves and to the Cursillo Movement. As cursillistas, we are to be built into the house of God and the Mystical Body of Christ. Each of us have different gifts, talents, and skills. These were given to us to be used for the whole Church ... for the whole Cursillo Movement. Allow the Lord to shape you, to mold you as He, the “Master Builder” desires and to fit you together alongside your fellow cursillistas to become the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Lincoln.

If you were unable to participate in the CDC held in August, please consider being a part of the School of Leaders on Saturday, October 20, at St. Ann Church in Doniphan, and also the English and Vietnamese communities combined SOL on December 15, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Lincoln. Also, please consider participating in the Rediscovering Cursillo workshop which will be held in our Diocese in 2019.

It is good to gaze on the beauty of a church building and also gaze on the beauty of the Church and the Cursillo Movement to see how the Lord with His grace wants to use each of us in His building of Cursillo.

I invite you to invest your time and yourself in the Lord and with other cursillistas at SOL, your regular Group Reunion, Ultreya, and at the Rediscovering Cursillo workshop. ***De Colores!! Fr. Mark Seiker***

Upcoming Ultreyas

Beatrice-Hebron-Crete-Lincoln:

Location alternates (2:00pm; usually 4th Sunday of month)

- **October Ultreya (October 28)** – Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Hebron
- **Combined Nov/Dec Ultreya (Dec. 2)** – Sacred Heart, Crete
- **January Ultreya (January 27)** – St. Joseph Parish Center, Beatrice

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

Southwestern Nebraska (McCook-Imperial-North Platte):

Location alternates (usually 2nd Sunday of month)

- **October Ultreya (October 21)** - 3:30pm CT – St. Patrick Church Basement, McCook
- **November Ultreya (November 11)** - 2:30pm MT – St. Patrick Parish Hall, Imperial
- **December Ultreya (December 9)** - 3:30pm CT – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Hall, North Platte
- **January Ultreya (January 13)** - 3:30pm CT – St. Patrick Church Basement, McCook

Contacts: Helen Bieker (308) 340-0268

Lincoln – Vietnamese Language Group:

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lincoln

- **2nd Sunday of each month after 9:00am Mass (about 10:15am)**

Contacts: Diep Van Nguyen (402) 474-9588, or Canh Nguyen (402) 435-0921

Not Currently Having Ultreyas [*Please participate in a neighboring Ultreya*]

- 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

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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
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CURSILLO NEWSLETTER
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Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska

October 2018



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

School of Leaders

October 20, 2018

202 N 5th Street (5th and Cedar Streets)
St. Ann Parish, Doniphan, NE

**EVERY Cursillista is invited and welcome ...
The Cursillo Movement needs your
participation ... will you help?**

School of Leaders Agenda:

- 9:00am --- Mass (for those who wish to assist)
- 9:30am -- Group Reunion; Technique Talk; Doctrinal (Spiritual) Talk; Work Session; Lunch (**bring a sack lunch**); Visit to Blessed Sacrament.
- ~1:30pm Clean up and departure (*estimated time* ... may be slightly earlier ... may be slightly later ...).

Talks

- Technique Talks: **Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló - 100 years – Biography & Mentality**
Beginning October 20, we will be studying and discussing a new book entitled: *Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló - 100 years – Biography & Mentality*. This book contains lots of priceless information about the life of our Founder and his mentality as well as the history of Cursillo in Christianity. Many of Eduardo's quotes are appropriate for reflection and useful in living the 4th Day fully and joyfully! Please join us if your schedule allows. The book will be available for purchase at SOL (\$9).
- Doctrinal Talks: Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation: ***Gaudete Et Exsultate (On The Call to Holiness in Today's World)***

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

- ◆ A sack lunch
- ◆ **Leaders' Manual**, if you have one (not required; available for purchase at SOL)
- ◆ ***We ask that you consider making a donation to help fund the work of Cursillo if you are able.***



Participants at the Cursillo de Cursillos (CDC), August 5, 2018
St. Gregory the Great Seminary, Seward, NE