

Cursillo News for Nov.-Dec. 2006

Calendar of Events

November 4, 2006	Secretariat Meeting - 9:30am, Blessed John XXIII Diocesan Center
November 17-18, 2006	School of Leaders (quarterly reunion) - 7:30pm Fri-3pm Sat, St. Ann Parish, Doniphan, NE
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 6, 2007	Secretariat Meeting , St. Mary School, David City (following Practice Weekend)
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
February 23-24, 2007	School of Leaders (quarterly reunion) - 7:30pm Fri-3pm Sat, (Location TBA)
April 20-21, 2007	School of Leaders (quarterly reunion) - 7:30pm Fri-3pm Sat, (Location TBA)
April 27-29, 2007	Region VI Fall Encounter – <u>David City, NE</u>
May 25-28, 2007	National Encounter – Dallas, TX; 50 th Anniversary (tentative dates)
July 13-14, 2007	School of Leaders (quarterly reunion) - 7:30pm Fri-3pm Sat, (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 January 2007 David City Weekends

Thursday, 7:00pm - Friday, 1:00am	Hastings/Holdrege/Minden
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	Hastings/Holdrege/Minden
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	David City/Shelby/Wahoo

Comments from New Fourth Dayers

On the day I was born, God gave me a stack of blank pieces of paper. He said "Some day I will ask you to tell me what you did with this life that I gave you." So, every morning I pick up a clean piece of paper and record the events of my life. Some of the pages are brightly colored with stories of love and happiness. Others are tear-stained. Some are torn and repaired and there are those with beautiful pictures on them.

Then I made little stacks to represent different areas of my life. I have one for Daughter, Wife, Mother, Friend, CCD Teacher, Stewardship, etc. All my life I have been adding to these pages and making more stacks. It became harder and harder to keep the piles neatly separated and they began to spill over and become mixed.

Since I am somewhat of a perfectionist and think everything should be in its place, this was difficult for me. I became more focused on the piles instead of what was written on the pages. Then, one day, with the help of God's boney pokey finger, I found myself on a Cursillo Weekend. During the Weekend, as I filled the pages of my days, God took all the piles and scooped them up and blended them into one stack, one person, me. My Cursillo experience brought all those pages together. It is the common thread that runs through my life. It blends who I am with what I do. Our Friday night Cursillo grouping (Group Reunion) is the glue that holds me together and strengthens me for the week ahead.

When the day comes that I hand those pages back to God, He will see that many of the pages contain the names and stories about the times that I have spent with you, my fellow cursillistas. I believe God will be pleased and will smile and say "De Colores!" **Kathy Rowell, All Saints' Parish, Holdrege**

Dear Brother and Sister Cursillistas,

My Cursillo Weekend was absolutely fantastic! I don't think that I ever felt closer to God than that Weekend. It was important to go into the Weekend with your heart open to what the Lord has to say. My spiritual life has grown immensely and my marriage of over thirty years is being blessed in very special ways ... my husband and I are growing closer together. I pray for all who have lived a Weekend and for all those who have yet to live one. De Colores! **Pat Heinemann, St. Mary Parish, Wallace**

After the Cursillo Weekend, a personal relationship with Jesus Christ seemed like a real possibility. It created, I believe, a desire for a relationship with Christ that had never entered my mind prior to the Fourth Day. I've been working on this relationship and, hopefully, have made a very small step forward. However, even taking a step in the right direction seems significant.

The Cursillo Movement brought out the fact that community is an important aspect of our spiritual journey ... that we are in this journey together ... that we truly can support and help one another by sharing our faith journey, by our example, and by encouraging our fellow travelers.

One of the neat things about Cursillo is that it has built in mechanisms (e.g., Group Reunion and Ultreya) to keep the glow ... the cloud-nine phenomena ... alive. A retreat may give you a rosy glow for a time but it eventually fades. In Cursillo, the Lord helps us persevere in our spiritual lives and in the things we learned on the Weekend.

One example of how Cursillo has changed my spiritual life is in the time spent with Him. Post Cursillo, holy hours seem, somehow, to have been shortened. An hour seems less than an hour!

In addition, Cursillo has made it much easier for me to talk more freely to others about spiritual matters. In times past, I would never talk to another about matters of the Spirit. I can do that now (with some, at least), and it seems right and good. For example, I can say to you Praised be Jesus Christ! In the past, I would not have been able to say that ... it's growth ... may it continue ... De Colores!!

Jim Fraser, Sacred Heart Parish, Hebron

News From the Secretariat ...

• **Region VI Spring 2007 Encounter ...** The Lincoln Diocese has agreed to host the Region VI Spring Encounter the weekend of **April 27-29, 2007**, in **David City, NE**. Anyone who is interested in helping out **in any capacity** (planning, set-up, tear-down, music, food, etc.) should contact any member of the Secretariat to volunteer ... what a great way to share the gifts that God has given you! There will be more details in upcoming Newsletters ... ask God in what capacity He wants you to be of service to Him ... *...and plan now to be there!!*

• **School of Leaders (SOL) ...** is another opportunity to form/share community. Join us as we continue to deepen our understanding of the Cursillo Movement ... together ... it is about friendship and personal contact ... each of us being Christ to others ... coming to know each other and Christ better **ALL ARE INVITED!** SOL is about doing our Lord's work through the vehicle (Method) of Cursillo. In working and studying and praying together, we discover ways of doing that to which our Lord calls us. The next SOL will be **Nov. 17-18, 2006**, at **St. Ann Parish in Doniphan, NE** (registration form included in Newsletter). SOL begins on Friday evening with a retreat phase (Mass, meditation, Confessions, and food/fellowship); 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.

• **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)

The next set of Three Day Weekends are coming up sooner than you think ... January 11-14, 2007 (for men) and January 18-21, 2007 (for women). It is time now to be praying to God about the individuals you are going to invite, and then, pop the question. It's a form of evangelization you should be thinking about ... planning ... carrying out ... right now ...

Evangelizing takes time and patience. In John 4:15, the woman at the well said to Jesus, "*Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.*" The woman mistakenly believed that if she could have the water Jesus offered, she would not have to return to the well each day. She was interested in Jesus' message because she thought it would make her life easier. However, if that was that easy, people would accept Christ's message for the wrong reasons. Christ did not come to take away challenges, but to change us on the inside and to empower us to deal with problems from God's perspective.

This woman did not immediately understand what Jesus was talking about ... it takes time to accept something that changes the very foundations of your life. Jesus allowed the woman time to ask questions, and to put the pieces together for herself. Just as Jesus didn't get immediate results, so

too, with us, sharing the Gospel will not always have immediate results. When you ask people to let Jesus change their lives, give them time to weigh the matter.

PRAY TO GOD ABOUT YOUR FRIEND!

Last Saturday evening, I was getting ready for Mass and I saw a man who I have invited several times to live a Cursillo Weekend ... he had not yet taken Jesus up on that opportunity. I posed the question, "Would you care to live the Cursillo Weekend coming up in January?" He responded that he does indeed want to make the Weekend, and he said that he was happy that I asked him. In this event, I was reminded that the results of evangelization take time.

Now is the time to be praying to God about that friend you have been wanting to invite to Cursillo ... to Christ ... We ALL have the responsibility through our Baptism to evangelize the whole world ... and it starts in our own parishes ... it starts now!

• **Three Day Weekends** ...

➤ Upcoming Cursillo Weekends (St. Mary School, David City, NE):

✠ **Men's** – January 11 - 14, 2007; Coordinator – Mark Pribyl

✠ **Women's** – January 18-21, 2007; Coordinator – Annette Wemhoff

Just a reminder ... 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 registration fee requested when an application is submitted was increased to \$15.00 (the previous fee was \$10.00).

Building the Kingdom of God ... Cursillo style!

(thoughts from Mark Pribyl, Three Day Cursillo Chairperson)

My Cursillo Weekend taught me many things, but there was one message that was especially clear ... **God is counting on me** and **I am counting on Him**. God is counting on me to pass on to those around me the love that is Christ. And I am counting on Him, so that I might be able to do this in spite of my weaknesses.

We are called to give to others what has been given to us as a gift from God. And that gift? Christ returned back to God the Father the love He had for Him ... the love He had been given ... He returned love for Love. In giving of ourselves unselfishly to our brothers and sisters, they, too, sense God's love, and it changes their lives, as well as ours.

Using the **make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ** approach that is given to us through Cursillo, we can make *new* friends, even as we share our joys and trials ... share our lives ... with *present* friends, and even at times, as we rekindle *old* friendships. This approach is for a lifetime ... and in every case, we are building up the Kingdom of God in befriending others.

How many times have I, like Simon of Cyrene, been asked to help someone carry his/her cross and said no for fear it would be too heavy, using the excuse that it isn't my cross anyway? Unfortunately, there have even been times that I didn't help my brothers or sisters because I felt that they were getting just what they deserved ... so I ignored their pleas for help. Another reason I

haven't been able to turn my cheek was my inability to forgive when at some point in my life an injustice was done to me. Unfortunately, none of these attitudes does a thing to build up the Kingdom of God.

Jesus says, "**Give and it will be given to you**". If I believe this, then why on so many occasions do I look at my situation and say it is not possible to love my neighbor as God loves me? Why can I not give without counting the cost?

The trip to the Regional Encounter in Fairmont, MN, took around 7 hours. My wife and I made the trip with some good friends and what a great trip! I laughed, I cried, I shared, I listened ... seven hours seemed like one ...

Even Jesus Himself, while here on earth, had good friends ... He shared much with Peter, James and John. And since Jesus is the **Good Teacher**, His witness in forming and maintaining friendships should be ours as well.

One of the things Jesus taught was Love, not war. What a concept and how fitting for our times! Friendship not fighting ... tolerance not revenge ... forgiveness not hatred. Unfortunately, sometimes that's easier said than done.

To build up God's Kingdom, we make friends and live in friendship ... I have had many friendships in my life, some brief and others long lasting. But it is always a joy to make a new friend, and it is an even greater joy to see that friend come a little closer to Christ ... in friendship ...

Take a chance ... step out of your comfort zone and make a new friend! Jesus says, "What you do to the least of My brothers and My sisters, you do to Me" ... **Christ is Counting on you...** **Are you counting on Christ?**

• **Postcursillo** ...

✚ The **Hastings/Holdrege/Minden Ultreya Center** has decided to begin holding its monthly Ultreya at All Saints' Parish Hall in Holdrege on the 2nd Sunday of each month beginning at 3:30 p.m. The next Ultreya will be on Sunday, November 12, 2006. Myron Wendland was selected as the new Ultreya Center Representative.

✚ In order to better reflect coverage area, the **McCook Ultreya Center**, which includes all of southwestern Nebraska (McCook, Arapahoe, Imperial, Grant, etc.), is being renamed the **Southwestern Nebraska Ultreya Center**.

✚ 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.

• **Other News** ...

✚ Fourth Dayers are requesting that cursillistas who send emails to one another include the word "**Cursillo**" in the subject line so that others might recognize the connection with Cursillo. It is sometimes difficult to identify email addresses with persons we know, and this will help the receiver know that it is safe to open the email.

✚ The Secretariat will be electing a new Lay Director and Treasurer in the coming months. Each is a three-year term. Interested persons who are active in SOL, Group Reunion and Ultreya are eligible. If you are interested in being considered for one of these positions, please contact a member of the Secretariat.

From the Lay Director ...

Yesterday (October 15, 2006), the Gospel reading (Mark 10:17-30) was the story of the rich young man who wanted to know how he might inherit eternal life. You will recall that Jesus responds by telling him that he needs to observe the commandments, and the young man replies that he has done so since his youth. So, Jesus continued with the real challenge (you have to be careful what you ask for) ... "... *Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, 'You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow Me.'*"

We are told that the young man was good ... And he had such a desire to grow ... in His relationship with God ... in knowing God ... and in doing God's work. Sounds like Cursillo ... he wanted to grow in holiness/piety ... and he wanted to know our Lord better, that he might be more like Him (he wanted to grow in formation/study) ... And he had the desire for eternal life ... and doing the work of evangelization/action would have been a means of working toward that goal himself, even as he was bringing others along (to the Kingdom) with him ... As I was thinking about the words of the Gospel, the thought occurred to me, "I wonder what that young man's plan of evangelization was last week, and if he carried it out ... I wonder what his plan will be for this week, given the challenges Jesus presented him with ...". I was thinking what his life would have been like if he had had the gift of Cursillo to help him grow in his spiritual life.

In a homily on this Gospel reading, I once heard a priest talk about the challenges given to this young man. We sometimes think of there being only two demands made of the young man: (1) that he faithfully observe the commandments, and (2) that he give away what he had (which was a lot). However, this particular priest said that in reality, there were four challenges, and the young man was only able to meet the first: (1) faithfully observe the commandments, (2) sell what he had, (3) give the proceeds to the poor, and (4) finally, follow Jesus. Each step is a progressive growth in piety/holiness, study/formation, and action/evangelization. It would take a lot for the young man to sell all that he had, since his holdings were extensive ... what do we hold onto that keeps us from advancing spiritually? And even if he could make the decision to sell what he had, would he be able to give it all away ... to the poor, no less ... to people he likely didn't know? And then, if he was able to get past that hurdle, would he be able to make the decision to step completely out of his comfort zone and follow Christ ... having nothing, knowing nothing, and likely being thought absolutely out of his mind? Each step would have been a progression in turning his will and his life over to God. The rich young man probably kind of regretted asking the question in the first place ... It's like that sometimes when we pray ... God gives us a really good answer ... He tells us how to get to heaven ... But we don't much like the path we would be required to tread ...

In Sunday's homily, our pastor encouraged us not to look at what we would be giving up, but instead, to focus on the possibilities that are created. He encouraged all of us to "**Let go and let God**" ... And it is in doing just that ... in trusting God and stepping out in faith ... that we would find true joy and fulfillment ... that which doesn't come from things ... possessions ... but rather that which comes from following our Lord and embracing His way of life and love. It is exciting to grow in our faith and to see others do so as well. Our pastor asked us to think about what the

outcome might have been had Paul not decided to change after his conversion experience in Damascus ... What if Paul had focused on what he was losing, instead of what possibilities lay ahead of him?

I started thinking about Paul's journey ... what if Paul had thrown in the towel when he was met with utter failure as he tried to preach in Damascus, and later in Jerusalem, and they wouldn't listen to him (in fact, they were trying to kill him)? And what if Paul hadn't spent the many years that he did in Tarsus ... growing in piety/holiness and being formed through study? And what if Barnabas, after many years, had not gone to Tarsus to find Paul, so that Paul could be the apostle to the Gentiles? Where would the Church in the world be today? But God had a plan ...

On the last Women's Cursillo Weekend (August 2006 in Holdrege), in the Evangelization rollo, one of the team members related a story about the angels who were questioning God about his reliance on man to build His Kingdom and bring all men and women to salvation, and their lack of faith that man could do it ... When asked what His back-up plan was, God said, "I don't have one" ... **He's counting on us!!** He has full faith in us ... do we? Will we do our part in carrying out His plan to bring Christ to the world (at least in those particular environments in which He put us, in order that we might make a difference)?

All of this reminds me, too, of Bishop Bruskewitz's admonition to the women at the silent retreat in Waverly last December. During the homily at the closing Mass, Bishop Bruskewitz talked about the interlude between the angel's invitation to the Blessed Mother to be the Mother of God and her response ... "... We too are waiting, O Lady, for your word of compassion; the sentence of condemnation weighs heavily upon us. The price of our salvation is offered to you. We shall be set free at once if you consent. In the eternal Word of God we all came to be, and behold, we die. In your brief response we are to be remade in order to be recalled to life." The reading goes on to tell of all mankind begging her to respond in the affirmative ... As Bishop Bruskewitz was praying/reading St. Bernard of Clairveax's words, and again yesterday as I reflected on Paul's response, I wondered, "Who is waiting for my 'yes'?" Who is waiting for yours?

Let's not let Him pass us by without responding ... respond when you are invited (as was the rich young man ... as was St. Paul ... as was our Blessed Mother) ... choose to follow Him ... and invite others to do the same ... May we respond in that way in which He is inviting us, and may we rely on His grace to bring that response to fruition ...

Christ is counting on you ... there is NO back-up plan!!! Invite a friend to encounter Him in daily life; and if it be God's plan, invite someone to encounter Him during Three Days in January in David City ... you can count on Him to help with the response of those you invite ... He just needs you to extend the invitation ...

De Colores!! Kathy Springer

*RSVP today ...
Lord, I want to do Your will ...*

From the Spiritual Advisor ...

Each of the four Gospels records Jesus calling the Twelve Apostles. In Matthew and Mark, Jesus says: "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Mt 4:19; Mk 1:17) In Luke, Jesus instructs Peter to "put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch. ... do not be afraid. From now on, you will be catching men." (Lk 5:4,10). In John, two disciples of John the Baptist ask Jesus: "Rabbi, where are You staying?" and Jesus responds: "Come and see." (Jn 1:38-39). Jesus invited the Apostles to follow Him ... to come and see where He lived and to put out into the deep for a catch ... to catch men ...

As followers of Jesus, we too, must invite others to follow Jesus. Jesus talked about a great harvest and the need for workers to gather the harvest. To explain the need for workers, Jesus told the parable of the laborers in the vineyard (Mt 20:1-16), where the owner of the vineyard went out at various times of the day to invite persons to work in the vineyard. There was much work to do, so, the owner kept looking for laborers.

Extending an invitation is like the farmer sowing the seed ... those who hear the invitation will respond in different ways. Some of the seed fell on good ground, some on rocky ground, some on shallow soil, and some of the seed was eaten by the birds. Each of us must individually ask ourselves, what type of soil am I? How do I receive God's Word ... His invitation?

But being good ground is not enough. We should also remember that, like the farmer, we must sow the seed ... we must extend the invitation. And we have to keep in mind that extending an invitation is not a guarantee of acceptance ... but that doesn't matter. Mother Teresa often said "we are not called to be successful ... we are called to be faithful." What farmer would not want 100% of the seed to produce a good yield? But the farmer's responsibility is simply to sow the seed and tend it, not to determine the yield. Jesus never worried about numbers ... neither did Mother Teresa ... so why do we?

As cursillistas, we were invited by our Lord through another cursillista to live the Three Day Weekend. Now, we need to invite others to experience the Three Day Weekend ... to better encounter self, Jesus, and others. Perhaps you have tried to invite persons in the past, and they have not responded, or they gave excuses why they could not live the Weekend. Perhaps you don't think that you should invite anyone, because you don't speak well, or you are too young or too old. Remember that Christ is counting on you. He wants you to be His hands, His feet, His voice. He wants you to reflect on the persons who are around you, and pray for the grace to know which ones He wants you to invite to live the January Weekends in David City. Then pray for those persons by name, and ultimately, invite them. Be persistent ... in a loving way, and a way which respects the other's freedom ... but do invite.

Jesus teaches us about persistence. He preached the parable about the man who sought three loaves of bread at midnight to give to a friend who had arrived from a long journey (Lk 11:5-8). This man knew just which friend to ask for what was needed ... and he was persistent enough to ask until he received that which was requested. Similarly, Jesus told the parable about the persistent widow (Lk 18:1-8), who kept asking for a decision in her favor, and finally it was granted because of her perseverance. We need to be persistent in asking ... in a gentle, loving, yet persistent way. And remember, always talk to God about your friend before you talk to your friend about God ... let God prepare the soil of your friend's heart.

De Colores!!Fr. Mark Seiker