

Cursillo News for Nov. – Dec. 2013

Calendar of Events

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| November 9, 2013 | Secretariat Meeting , Blessed John XXIII Diocesan Center, Lincoln – 9:30am (9:00am Mass) |
| December 14, 2013 | SOL - 9:00am – 12:00pm. See write-up under SOL on pages 3-4 for the three locations – Beatrice, Doniphan, and McCook. We are testing use of technology to link the three locations. |
| January 11, 2014 | Secretariat Meeting , Blessed John XXIII Diocesan Center, Lincoln – 9:30am (9:00am Mass) |
| February 8, 2014 | SOL - 9:30am – 2:30pm (Mass at 9:00am) <i>tentatively</i> scheduled for St. Ann Parish, Doniphan (watch for update in January-February 2014 Newsletter). |
| February 21-22, 2014 | Practice Weekend , at Sacred Heart Parish, Hebron. |
| February 22, 2014 | Secretariat Meeting (details to be announced in next Newsletter; this Secretariat meeting is usually held at the conclusion of the Practice Weekend) |
| Feb. 27-Mar. 2, 2014 | Men’s Three Day Weekend , at Sacred Heart Parish, Hebron. |
| March 2, 2014 | Men’s Closing , 5:00pm at Sacred Heart Parish, Hebron (Please come to the Closing to welcome the new Cursillistas). |
| March 20-23, 2014 | Women’s Three Day Weekend , at Sacred Heart Parish, Hebron. |
| March 23, 2014 | Women’s Closing , 5:00pm at Sacred Heart Parish, Hebron (Please come to the Closing to welcome the new Cursillistas). |
| April 25-27, 2014 | Spring 2014 Region VI Encounter –Fargo, ND Diocese to host (in Hankinson, ND). |
| May 3, 2014 | Secretariat Meeting , Blessed John XXIII Diocesan Center, Lincoln – 9:30am (9:00am Mass) [<i>Tentative: One week early due to May graduation schedules</i>] |

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 next page and on the outside cover of each Newsletter and are also available on the diocesan webpage: <http://www.seas-np.org/cursillolincoln.html>.

- The **Beatrice/Crete/Hebron/Lincoln Ultreya Center** continues its rotation of locations The **November** Ultreya will be held at 3:00pm on **November 24** at Sacred Heart Parish, Crete. In past years, the November/December Ultreya has been combined because of Thanksgiving and Christmas falling near the 4th week of the month; however, because of the way the two holidays fall this year there WILL BE Ultreyas both months. The **December Ultreya** is scheduled for 3:00pm on **December 29** and will again be held at Sacred Heart Parish, Crete (Blessed John XXIII Diocesan Center was already reserved for January). The **January Ultreya** will be held at 3:00pm on **January 26** at Blessed John XXIII Diocesan Center in Lincoln and the **February** Ultreya will be held at 3:00pm on **February 23** at St. Joseph Parish, Beatrice.
- The **Southwest Ultreya Center** will continue to rotate its Ultreya location between McCook and Imperial. The **November** Ultreya will be held **November 10** at 3:30 pm CT in the St. Patrick Parish Basement in McCook. The **December** Ultreya will be held **December 8** at 2:30pm MT (3:30pm CT) at St. Patrick Parish Hall in Imperial.
- The **Hastings-Holdrege-Minden Ultreya Center** is holding quarterly Ultreyas. The next Ultreya will be **November 17**, at **2:30pm at St. Ann Parish, Doniphan (NOT Minden)**.
- The **Plattsmouth/Nebraska City Ultreya Center** – Contact Mary Lou Salazar or Terry Little for more information.
- The **Weston-Wahoo Ultreya Center** is currently not having Ultreyas. Please participate in Ultreya in one of the other Ultreya Centers (Lincoln is close).
- The **Vietnamese-language Ultreya** holds its Ultreyas on the first Saturday of each month following the 10:00am morning Mass at **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Lincoln**.

2. Precursillo and Three Days

Upcoming Three Day Weekends are scheduled to be held at Sacred Heart Parish in Hebron on the following dates:

- Men’s February 27-March 2, 2014
- Women’s March 20-23, 2014

Living Cursillo means that we always and everywhere work to build God’s Kingdom ... wherever we are and whatever we’re doing. Your environment at any point in time/space is that moveable square meter that moves as you move ... in other words, your environment is that place and set of circumstances in which you find yourself at each particular moment of each day. You need to introduce the Christ who is with you in your moveable square meter to all those

with whom you come into contact. Remember that the work of the Precursillo is often very slow and time-consuming (it can literally take years) ... but if you never make that first effort (which might be as simple as saying “Hello”), how will others come to know Christ as you do ... as a Friend? And keep in mind as well that the Precursillo isn’t just about inviting someone to a Cursillo Weekend ... it’s about bringing your friend to CHRIST. We should especially be alert for the “far away” (those who don’t know God well or don’t know Him at all) – these are the ones Eduardo most sought out.

There is a lot to do in the Precursillo (making a friend, being a friend, and bringing your friend to Christ). But the key is to begin the work, always in a spirit of Palanca (talking to God about your friend before talking to your friend about God), and with a mind/heart/will set “to the highest level” to persevere in winning this person for Christ. May we ALL accept our Baptismal commitment to live the Gospel and do our part in building up the Body of Christ!! Ask a friend who has indicated to you that he/she wants to deepen his/her faith to consider Cursillo. Invite your friend to your Group Reunion and/or Ultreya. You don’t have to wait until right before the Weekends to make and be friends, and in fact, the friendship shouldn’t be centered on getting the person to a Cursillo Weekend. If/when your friend does express an interest in Cursillo, have them complete the registration form – continue to encourage your friend’s “yes.”

3. Postcursillo

◆ Region VI Fall Encounter (September 27-29)

The **Region VI Fall Encounter** was hosted by the Duluth, MN Diocese, on **September 27-29, 2013** at St. Lawrence’s Catholic Church, Duluth, MN. There were about 80 participants from three language groups represented. There were two rollos given on School of Leaders and one rollo given on the Secretariat. The spiritual presentation summarized the “Four Signs of a Dynamic” as identified by Matthew Kelly, and tied in with articles written by George Weigel and Carl Anderson, which gave a Catholic perspective on the secular media’s bias to the recent interview of Pope Francis. The presentations, table sharing, sacraments/ prayer, and social time were uplifting and renewing.

The Region VI Spring Encounter will be hosted by the Fargo, ND Diocese on April 25-27, 2014 at Hankinson, ND. As details become available, we will keep you updated (but mark your calendars now).

4. School of Leaders (SOL)

- ◆ The **October SOL** was held at St. Ann Parish in Doniphan on October 5, 2013. The Technique Talks were entitled “**Pastoral Plan**” [now called the “Apostolic Service Plan” in order to distinguish it from a diocese’s pastoral plan] and “**The Precursillo.**”

The Doctrine Talks continued to be from Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI’s Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Verbum Domini* (“**On the Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church**”). The sub-topics covered were “The Church’s Mission: To Proclaim the Word of God to the World” and “The Word of God and Commitment in The World.”

The work sessions focused on a discussion about how School of Leaders might be made more accessible to cursillistas throughout the Diocese. After much discussion, the group decided to “test” holding the next SOL simultaneously in three different locations, but connecting the group via technology (e.g., using the Go To Meeting internet connection). To that end, it was decided to hold the next SOL on December 14, 2013, from 9:00am-12:00pm (same date as before; different time frame and location). Cursillistas can gather at one of three different locations – St. Joseph Parish Hall in Beatrice, St. Ann Parish Hall in Doniphan, or St. Patrick rectory basement in McCook. Each location will link together with the others for all of the elements of SOL (Technique Talk, Doctrinal Talk, and work session) other than the Leaders Group Reunion, which will be shared among the cursillistas gathered at each location.

The rollos (and discussion that followed) and the work session, as well as the sharing of friendship, thoughts, and ideas was very good. Please consider coming to an upcoming SOL.

From the Lay Director

Recently, Pope Francis commented on our role as Church, that what is most important is that we love. He alluded to the Church as Mother. She is not only mother of Catholics, but mother of all peoples. A good mother never forsakes her children, no matter how far they stray. And when we (her children) do stray, she is always there to encourage our return, greet us with open arms, forgive our faults, help us to be the persons we were created to be. Pope Francis emphasized that we must reach out to others in love and friendship as Jesus would have done. We cannot accept sin and sinful behavior, but we still are asked to love.

This is what Precursillo is about – meeting people where they are, reaching out in friendship and Christian love. We should introduce others to Christ through our living witness of faith – “make a friend, be a friend, and bring your friend to Christ.” We may not know where the persons we meet are spiritually, but hopefully through our friendship, love, and living witness, they will be drawn to what it is that we have.

At the recent Region VI Encounter (September 27-29, 2013) in Duluth, Minnesota, there was a discussion among some of the participants about Precursillo related to sponsorship. It is a common shortcoming of sponsors to not really do what “Precursillo” actually entails. Many times there is not the development or the existence of real friendship, and then the candidate is just an acquaintance rather than a friend. Unfortunately too, many times it’s not about friendship at all, but rather it’s just about getting numbers for the Weekend. There also seems to be a lack of commitment on the part of the sponsor in accompanying the candidate into the 4th Day (helping the new cursillista find a group reunion and going to Ultreya). It seems that because the sponsor had a “good experience”, he or she thinks others should go because they will like the Weekend, too. There is not an intent to help the new cursillista “group” after the Weekend (the sponsor may not even be grouping) or encourage him/her to go to Ultreya. It is clear that when a sponsor is truly committed, the chance of the candidate really living the 4th Day goes up dramatically.

We should go back to those we have sponsored over the years and reach out to them. There should be a friendship there, so it should be natural to make that step. If you are grouping and they are not, invite them to join your group for a while. If you are not grouping, form a group with them. Everyone will greatly benefit – what a joy!

Cursillo is all about friendship ... it's how Pope Francis asked us to reach to others (in love and friendship). Please try to be active in some way in the Cursillo. If you are not, a great way to start is by attending an Ultreya. Contact information is in the newsletter and on the Lincoln Diocese Cursillo webpage – make a call or send an email. Don't be afraid to come to School of Leaders (it's really just another reunion of friends) – its purpose is to gather to BE something as a community, not to DO something. Its purpose is **not** to recruit you to do work (although there is work to do). The School of Leaders is a Christian community in many ways like the small group and the Ultreya, but with the focus of continually growing in understanding of the Cursillo Movement. Cursillo needs us (you and me) to remain strong and functioning in the Lincoln Diocese. May God bless you!

De Colores!! John Springer

From the Spiritual Advisor

In Matthew Kelly's recent book, Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, the four signs he refers to are: Prayer, Study, Generosity, and Evangelization. These four signs closely parallel the three legs of the tripod (Piety, Study, and Action), which we learned about during our Three Day Weekend. We also learned about Group Reunion and Ultreya, which is how/where we share about our efforts to grow in each (Piety, Study, and Action) in the Fourth Day.

Unfortunately, the world often attempts to distract us in our attempts to grow closer to God and bring others closer as well. We have seen this in recent weeks, as the secular media has focused a lot of attention on Pope Francis' September interview with a fellow Jesuit, in which he made reference to those who overly obsess about such controversial topics as contraception, homosexuality, etc., and who don't stress enough Christ's mercy and love. In order to put Pope Francis' comments in perspective, a number of good Catholic writers have made some very insightful observations regarding the secular media and the person and teaching of Pope Francis. In that regard, the following are quotes from George Weigel's article on "The Christ-Centered Pope" and from Carl Anderson's article on "Popes in the News".

George Weigel often quoted Pope Francis in his article [italicized words are from Weigel's article; Pope Francis' words are bolded]:

"I see clearly that the thing the Church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the Church as a field hospital after battle. It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol and about the level of his blood sugars! You have to heal his wounds. Then we can talk about everything else. Heal the wounds, heal the wounds."

*"And how are the wounds of late-modern and postmodern humanity to be healed? Through an encounter with Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God. **The most important***

thing, [Pope]Francis insisted in his interview, ***'is the first proclamation: Jesus Christ has saved you.'***

[...] ***"Francis underscores that 'the teaching of the Church is clear' on issues like abortion, euthanasia, the nature of marriage, and chastity and that he is 'a son of the Church' who accepts those teachings as true. But he also knows that 'when we speak about these issues, we have to talk about them in a context.' That "context" is Jesus Christ and his revelation of the truth about the human person.***

[...] ***"Pope Francis is underscoring that a very badly disoriented 21st century will be more likely to pay attention to evangelists than to scolds: 'We need to proclaim the Gospel on every street corner, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing, even with our preaching, every kind of disease and wound. ... The proclamation of the saving love of God comes before moral and religious imperatives.' The Church says "yes" before the Church says "no," and there isn't any "no" the Church pronounces that isn't ultimately a reflection of the Church's "yes" to Jesus Christ, to the Gospel, and to what Christ and the Gospel affirm about human dignity.***

Carl Anderson also quoted Pope Francis in his article, observing that the media embrace in Francis what they ignored in Benedict [again, the italicized words are from Anderson's article; Pope Francis' words are bolded]:

"It is increasingly apparent that it is the media, more often than Catholics themselves, who place a disproportionate focus on Church teaching about sexuality and abortion. In Francis' dense 13-page interview released this week he touched on many subjects. But the American media are focusing almost exclusively on the few paragraphs related to abortion and contraception. Ironically, this coverage comes after the pope said in that same interview that the Church has a broader focus (and discussed that focus in the other twelve pages).

... Anderson took the same quote about the field hospital (used above by Weigel) and added ***"... He [Pope Francis] has presented a stark and dramatic assessment of our cultural situation, and he is proposing as a response a bold, self-sacrificing personal witness.***

"Catholic teaching on moral issues isn't the totality of the Church's message. It never has been. And our popes, bishops, priests, and laity have always spent far more time on charity, prayer, and pastoral outreach than on public-policy issues. If the public doesn't know that, it's because the media prefer to cover controversies."

So, as cursillistas, we would do well to follow the words of Pope Francis (which we also heard on our Three Day Weekend) and continue to enter into an encounter with Christ each day. This encounter with Christ will help to keep us focused on Christ, and to not be distracted by the world and the media. There is work to do. We are to live our Fourth Day by saying "yes" to Jesus Christ in our Piety, Study, and Action, through all of the events of our daily lives. This daily "yes" to Jesus will be our commitment to profess the Gospel and the dignity of every human person (He's counting on us!!). May each of us support each other in living our "yes" to Jesus and in being dynamic Catholics!

De Colores!! Fr. Mark Seiker

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Plattsmouth/Nebraska City..... Terry Little 402-296-4170
Weston/Wahoo/David City..... Fr. Chris Goodwin 402-642-5245

Ultreya Centers

- 1) **Beatrice-Crete-Hebron-Lincoln** – Location alternates.....
(usually 4th Sunday of month, **3:00pm**)
Nov. 24 – Sacred Heart Parish, Crete (**3:00pm**)
Dec. 29 (the 5th Sunday) – Again, Sacred Heart Parish, Crete (**3:00pm**)
Jan. 26 – Blessed John XXIII Diocesan Center, Lincoln (**3:00pm**)
- 2) **Hastings-Holdrege-Minden** – Contact Mary Ann Connelly
November 17 at 2:30pm, Doniphan (St. Ann Parish Hall)
- 3) **Lincoln – Vietnamese Language Group**
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lincoln
1st Saturday of month after 10:00am Mass
- 4) **Plattsmouth-Nebraska City**
Check parish bulletin at www.holyspiritplattsmouth.com,
or contact Terry Little or Mary Lou Salazar
- 5) **Southwestern Nebraska**
Location alternates: McCook/Imperial; Usually 2nd Sunday of month
November 10 – McCook (Church Basement) (3:30pm CT)
December 8 – Imperial (Parish Hall) (2:30pm MT)
- 6) **Weston/David City/Shelby/Wahoo**
Not currently having Ultreya; please participate in a neighboring 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

November – December 2013



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

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North Platte, NE 69101-9608

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER
3301 Echo Dr
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

***New locations for
School of Leaders
(see pages 3-4)***

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CURSILLO NEWSLETTER

Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska

Nov. – Dec. 2013



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

School of Leaders

December 14, 2013

Participate from one of the following three locations:

*St. Joseph
Parish Hall
612 High Street,
Beatrice, NE*

*St. Ann
Parish Hall
202 N 5th Street
(5th & Cedar St)
Doniphan, NE*

*St. Patrick
Rectory Basement
612 E 4th St
McCook, NE*

***EVERY Cursillista is invited and welcome ...
please come!!***

School of Leaders Agenda:

9:00am --- Group Reunion (*at each location*); Technique and Doctrinal Talks, and work session (*via internet*); and Visit to the Blessed Sacrament (*at each location*).

12:00pm -- Clean up and departure (shouldn't be much since we're not having lunch).

Topics of Talks

The Technique Talk topic will be directed toward specific topics related to the Cursillo Movement and using Cursillo to help you continue to grow in your faith; it will help deepen your understanding of Cursillo. The Doctrinal Talk will be from Pope Benedict XVI's Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation "*Verbum Domini*" ("*On the Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church*").

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

- ◆ **Leaders' Manual**, if you have one (available for purchase at SOL)
- ◆ Since we conclude by Noon, there is no need to bring a sack lunch unless you want something to eat before heading home.