

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER

Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska

November 2021



Calendar of Events

The scheduling for in-person Cursillo gatherings will continue to be evaluated relative to restrictions prompted by COVID-19

December 11, 2021 **Secretariat Meeting**, via ZOOM – beginning at 9:30am

January 8, 2021 **SOL** - 9:30am (in person at St. Mary Church, Aurora or via ZOOM)

To participate in SOL or Secretariat Meeting, start your Zoom app, and enter the Meeting ID: 629-734-5912

April 22-23, 2022 Spring 2022 Region VI Encounter, Dodge City, KS (details will be provided when available)

July 21-24, 2022 2022 National Cursillo Encounter, Chapman University, Orange County, CA.

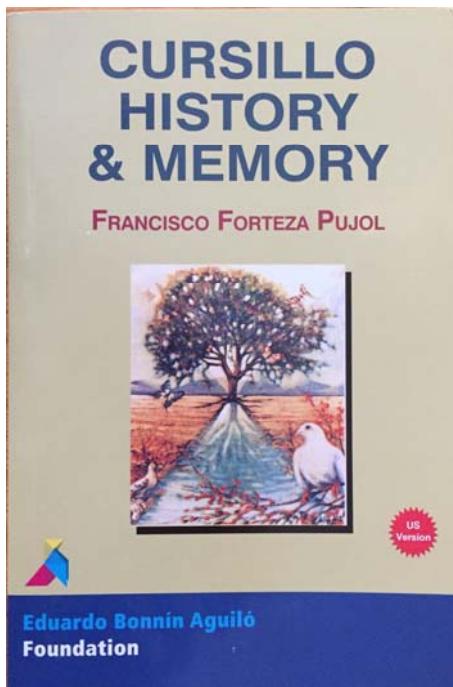
Men's & Women's Three Day Weekends ... We will continue to monitor current restrictions for public gatherings and we will schedule Three Day Weekends as soon as possible / prudent.

Ongoing Palanca is requested for Cursillo on all levels ... Christ is counting on YOU!!

Please offer PALANCA for all Cursillo activities. After all, Palanca is the backbone of the Cursillo Movement and essential for each spiritual success – on Weekends as well as in every Fourth Day.

School of Leaders (SOL) ... January 8, 2022 ... 9:30am (in person at St. Mary Church, Aurora or via ZOOM)

To participate in SOL or Secretariat Meeting, start your Zoom app, and enter the Meeting ID: 629-734-5912



The picture on the left is the book (Cursillo History & Memory) that we are studying. Our next session is scheduled for **January 8, 2022**, beginning at 9:30am (in person at St. Mary Church, Aurora, NE and via ZOOM). This book can be ordered at the National Cursillo website: <https://tinyurl.com/y5fe72be>. Books will also be available at SOL.

Report on North American Caribbean Group (NACG) Virtual Workshop

On September 17- 18, 2021, the North American Caribbean Group (NACG), of which the United States is a member, held a virtual workshop, entitled “Discovering Fundamental Ideas 3 in Light of the Charism.” The purpose of this workshop, as the title suggests, was to compare the beliefs and understandings that can be found regarding the Foundational Charism of the Cursillo Movement to the work entitled Cursillo Movement Fundamental Ideas version 3 (*hereafter FI3*). During the two days, workshop participants reviewed commonalities between the two lines of reasoning regarding Cursillo’s foundational charism as well as its founder, both identifying differences and also working to better understand the mentalities of each approach. The workshop included spiritual reflections, rollos, language- based small group sharing, and bilingual large group sharing, as well as an Ultreya. Four cursillistas from the Lincoln Diocese participated in the two-day event.

Workshop participants began by first considering what is meant by Foundational Charism, and then considering background information regarding changes made in the third version of the Fundamental Ideas book (FI3). The Foundational Charism, as it is meant here, is the Charism given by the Holy Spirit to the Church through primarily the person of Eduardo Bonnin, and subsequently to Fr. Sebastian Gaya, Bishop Juan Hervás, and others. This is the original Charism, which, since it is given by the Holy Spirit should not be changed. To quote Eduardo Bonnin (from The Foundational Charism):

“We know of no adaptation or alteration to the Movement which has made its purpose clearer, more precise, simpler, more understandable or more efficient. The challenges that the world presents to the man of today have the same root as they always did: the absence of God in the mind and in the heart of man. This is why the solution is always the same -- the solution is Christ and His Grace, which is the only thing that can give him the feeling of being alive and of leading a meaningful life.”

Because the Cursillo Movement is, at this point in its history, undergoing an unfortunate dichotomy of ideas, this workshop provided a mechanism to highlight and discuss both commonalities and differences. To better understand what is at issue, there are essentially two schools of thought: (1) First, there are those who have an understanding of the Foundational Charism and the concept that Eduardo Bonnin is the one and true Founder of the Cursillo Movement (to be clear, Founder used in this context means the one to whom the Holy Spirit conferred the Charism, as it is the Spirit that is the true source of the Movement). This understanding includes belief that the first Cursillo Weekend was held in Cala Figuera in 1944 (which is supported by empirical evidence), that the focus of Cursillo is the person, and that mixed gender weekends and shortened weekends have no part in the Movement. (2) Second, there are those who have an underlying belief that Eduardo Bonnin is only one of the Founders of the Movement, perhaps even in a lesser category than the clergy involved, and/or that it was an outgrowth of Catholic Action. These beliefs also include that the first Cursillo Weekend was held in San Honorato In 1949, that the focus of Cursillo is the work of the Church in the evangelization of the environments, and that modern times call for mixed gender weekends and shortened weekends in order for the Movement to grow. The book FI3 is something of a compromise of the two schools of thought, having been written by people coming from both sides of the dichotomy.

Rollos were given on the “Chronology and Genesis of the Charism”, as well as the “Chronology and Genesis of the Fundamental Ideas 3 (FI3)”. Following this general orientation, discussions were facilitated among the two schools of thought in terms of: (1) History and Charism; (2) Mentality and Purpose; (3) Strategy and Method; (4) Precursillo and Cursillo; (5) Postcursillo; (6) The Cursillo Movement in the Church; and (7) Service Structures. The gathering concluded with a video recorded by Eduardo – “Eduardo Speaks: In His Own Words.”

The entire workshop was EXCELLENT, and participants came away with a better understanding of Cursillo, more convinced than ever about its efficacy in dealing with all that man struggles with in our current culture and all its challenges, and recognizing the value of friendship and journeying together!! Cursillo truly is a gift from God!! If you haven’t been active for a while, considering coming back and helping to fight the good fight!! Christ is counting on you!!

School of Leaders

After over a year of virtual sessions of School of Leaders, an in-person (with optional virtual participation via Zoom) SOL was held at St. Mary Parish in Aurora on August 21, 2021 (this was the first in-person SOL since February 8, 2020 held in Doniphan). The SOL began at 9:30am with prayer, introductions, and Group Reunion. A presentation was given on chapters 5 & 6 of “Cursillo History and Memory”, the current SOL study topic. Father Seiker then discussed Pope St. John Paul II’s encyclical “Evangelium Vitae” (Proclaiming the Gospel). The SOL ended with shared prayer and a blessing. It was a true blessing to be able to see friends again in person. We hope to see you at the next SOL, which will be held at St. Mary Parish in Aurora on January 8, 2022, beginning at 9:30am. De Colores!

Report on the September 19, 2021 Lincoln Diocese Grand Ultreya

The Lincoln Diocese Cursillo Movement held a diocesan-wide Grand Ultreya at St. Mary Parish in Aurora on Sunday, September 19, 2021. Cursillistas from North Platte, McCook, Indianola, Aurora, Lincoln, and Crete participated. The Grand Ultreya began with a pot luck lunch at 12:30pm followed by Ultreya. After the Group Reunion part of Ultreya, a witness was given on ways in which God works in our souls, always pursuing us in His desire for us to grow closer to Him, including examples of how God was working in the witness’ life. Following the witness was an echo and discussion of what was shared. The Grand Ultreya ended with shared prayer and a blessing. It was truly wonderful to come together again and both renew friendships and meet new friends. It is always a great joy to come together as a Cursillo community and share our lives and our faith, and to encourage one another for the road ahead. De Colores!

Report on the September 25, 2021 Region VI Fall Virtual Encounter (English)

The Region VI Fall Encounter was held virtually on September 25, 2021. The focus of the Encounter was School of Leaders with an actual SOL session as part of the presentations. Five cursillistas from the Lincoln Diocese participated. The Encounter began with opening prayer and introductions. Deacon Shane Voyles (Blue Springs, Missouri) gave the opening reflection on “a calling from God”, asking participants to reflect on the ways that God calls us, and that, when God does call us, He will always give us whatever is needed to allow us to respond. Then Regional Service Team members presented: (1) a general overview of what School of Leaders is and how a SOL should operate; (2) a rollo on the “Life of the Founder and The History of Cursillo”; and (3) a brief discussion of how the various sections (e.g., Precursillo, Cursillo, Postcursillo, etc.) should make their reports to the School, as well as offering suggestions regarding what might be opportune times for the sections to meet. Deacon Shane then gave the doctrinal rollo about how Cursillo is a Movement with a mission, which is the same as the Church’s mission, commenting that our mission must be apostolic, and we have a responsibility to find our lost brothers and sisters. Final comments were given by Cef Aguillon, National English Coordinator, wherein he emphasized that School of Leaders is the center of Cursillo activity in a diocese, with Secretariat members and rollo teams selected from the School, which studies the Cursillo Movement and its operation in the diocese. The Encounter ended with a closing prayer and blessing given by Father Mark Seiker, Cursillo National Spiritual Advisor. De Colores!

Thank You to Fr. Mark Seiker for His Many Years of Service

Father Mark Seiker has served as the Lincoln Diocese Cursillo Spiritual Advisor for the last 27 + years (since June 1994 when Father John Keefe was assigned to go to the Missions in Venezuela). We thank him for his many years of devoted service to the Cursillo Movement and all of the cursillistas in the Lincoln Diocese and beyond, since he has also served at the Regional and National levels. He is currently completing his term as the National Cursillo Spiritual Advisor for the United States Movement. Upon completion of that term, he is scheduled to assume the position of Spiritual Advisor for the OMCC (Worldwide Cursillo Movement) when the OMCC seat is transferred to the United States as representative of the North American Caribbean Group (NACG). ***Thank you, Father Seiker, for ALL that you have done and continue to do for us!!***

From the Spiritual Advisor

I am Father Bernard Lorenz and a very happy and active cursillista since 2003. In a letter from Bishop Conley, I received his permission to be the Lincoln Diocese Cursillo Spiritual Advisor starting the first day of October 2021. With the greatest joy and excitement I accept this mission. I believe in each of your cursillista Holy Spirit filled hearts and hands and am extremely excited to accompany each of you and assist you in your Christian vocation of evangelization, with my priesthood of Jesus.

I love our founder Eduardo Bonnin! He wrote “*God, who loves, becomes incarnate in Christ ... Thus the world, through man, is integrated in Christ by the work of the Church, gathering all of Christ in God.*”

And “*the Lord is now the friend.*” Love and friendship of Jesus, our Savior and God, in His Church (*Ephesians 3:21*) is the path we must take as disciples of Jesus on our pilgrimage to Heaven. Love and Friendship!! What a great mission we have, oh how our world needs this today. I am eager to meet you and share your charisms on our journey together. My goal is to serve Jesus as He loves each of you in the Cursillo Movement in our beloved Diocese of Lincoln NE.

If I could join my voice with all our great Cursillo promoters in saying the Group Reunion each week is the key to success in the Holy Spirit of God. We Cursillistas must lead by example our Church and world in gathering around Jesus every week and empowering His divine and ever new evangelization in our world.

Love and friendship is highlighted in Pope Francis’ October 3, 2020 encyclical entitled “*We are All Brothers*” (*Fratelli Tutti*). In paragraph #104 Pope Francis wrote that social friendship and universal fraternity in the Love of Jesus Christ “*is the result of the conscious and careful cultivation of fraternity.*” I believe that Cursillo has the best plan and method in the Group Reunion each week – along with Ultreya – to achieve this “*conscious and careful cultivation of fraternity.*”

It is a lot of work to be good, to be holy, to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in His Holy Catholic Church, but joy in wisdom, rejoicing in the Truth and celebrating in the saving power of the Holy Spirit of God is our path!!! What could be better than that?

My phone # is 308-414-1195, so call me and let's be friends in Jesus Christ, our loving Savior!

De Colores!! Fr. Bernard Lorenz fr.bernard-lorenz@lincolndiocese.org

From the Lay Director

De Colores!

Thursday, November 11, 2021

Last evening I participated in the Region VI Secretariat Meeting via Zoom and learned that other dioceses in our region are facing many of the same challenges we do – distance, concerns over returning to in-person activities due to the lingering results of the pandemic, maintaining vibrant Ultreya Centers, active involvement in the School of Leaders, success with holding 3 Day weekends and the busy-ness of people’s lives. We are in no way unique, but we know that other dioceses pray for us as we do for them. Please attend your Group Reunions and Ultreyas – others will be blessed by your presence. Please consider coming to the School of Leaders – it is only a few hours every other month. We must remember that the School of Leaders is all about friendship, community, and increasing knowledge of the charism. From The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement we read; “As an operational structure of the Movement, the School of Leaders is a community of Christians who, united in the atmosphere of Group Reunion, seek every day to become more centered, more committed and more united, so as to accelerate in themselves, in the Movement, and in their environments the living out of what is fundamental for being Christian.”

Again, I ask for your prayerful consideration of becoming more involved in Cursillo. The Movement needs enthusiastic participants (don’t be afraid of the word “leaders”). We all have something to contribute, especially a few moments of time. You can’t out-give God – just try to and see for yourself! Thank you for your Palanca, and please continue to pray for the Cursillo Movement, especially in our Diocese.

As much as we dislike asking for donations, the Secretariat would like to ask that you prayerfully consider making a yearend tax deductible donation to help defray the cost of the work of Cursillo in the Lincoln Diocese. Though we have not had the expense of 3-Day weekends for a couple of years, recurring annual fees and expenses continue. As we plan for future weekends, a healthy treasury will be of help. Send your contribution to the Diocese treasurer: Kathy Springer, 1410 E. 15th St., Crete, NE 68333. Please make checks payable to: Cursillo of Lincoln. Thanks in advance for your generosity. May you enjoy a blessed and joyous Thanksgiving! God Bless. – **Greg Vandenberg**

Upcoming Ultreyas

Subject to Cancellation or Postponement due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Beatrice-Hebron-Crete:

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

- December Ultreya (December 12, 2:00pm) – Crete, Sacred Heart Parish Hall.
- January Ultreya – (January 9, 2:00pm) – Beatrice, St. Joseph Parish Hall.
- February Ultreya (February 13, 2:00pm) – Hebron, Sacred Heart Parish Hall.

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

Southwestern Nebraska (McCook-Imperial-North Platte):

Location alternates (usually 2nd Sunday of month)

- December Ultreya – (December 12, 12:30pmMT) – In-person & ZOOM (St. Patrick Parish Hall, Imperial)
- January Ultreya – (January 9, 1:30pmCT) – In-person & ZOOM (St. Elizabeth Parish Hall, North Platte)
- February Ultreya – (February 13, 1:30pmCT) – In-person & ZOOM (St. Patrick Church Basement, McCook)

Contacts: Helen Bieker (308) 340-0268

Lincoln – Vietnamese Language Group:

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lincoln

- Normally 1st Sunday of each month after 9:00am Mass (about 10:15am); however, not currently meeting due to COVID

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

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

- Lincoln
- Doniphon-Hastings-Holdrege-Minden
- Plattsmouth-Nebraska City
- Weston-David City-Shelby-Wahoo

For more information, contact Greg Vandenberg (308) 530-7587, Lay Director

Secretariat Mail

Lay Director – Greg Vandenberg; 3101 Meadow Court, North Platte, NE 69101
(glvandenberg@charter.net)

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
Treasurer	Kathy Springer (402) 826-2699
Spiritual Advisor.....	Fr. Bernard Lorenz (308) 414-1195

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