CURSILLO NEWSLETTER

Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska **November 2026**

www.seas-np.org/cursillolincoln.html



Calendar of Events

December 12, 2026 -- **SOL** - **9:00am** at St. Mary Church, Aurora (In person AND via ZOOM)

- To participate in SOL, start your Zoom app, and enter the **Meeting ID: 629-734-5912**
- Optional 8:00am Parish Mass if you are participating in person.

January 9, 2027 – **Cursillo Day of Reflection, 9:00amCT – 4:00pmCT** *(see article in Newsletter)*

February 13, 2027 – **Secretariat Meeting, 10:30amCT via ZOOM (Tentative)**

- To participate in Secretariat, start your Zoom app, and enter the **Meeting ID: 731-820-8877**

March 20, 2027 -- **SOL** - **9:00am** at St. Mary Church, Aurora (In person AND via ZOOM)

- To participate in SOL, start your Zoom app, and enter the **Meeting ID: 629-734-5912**
- Optional 8:00am Parish Mass if you are participating in person.

April 23-25, 2027 Region VI Spring Encounter (sponsored by KC / St. Joseph, MO).

July 22-25, 2027 Cursillo National Encounter at Trinity University in San Antonio, TX).

Welcome New Fourth Dayers

The new 2026 Fourth Dayers are: Mary Doher, Cindy Hennen, Ngan Kim Hoang, Paula Johnson, Lois Little, Irma Lopez, Judy Orcutt, Carol Ratzlaff, Vernon Brandt, Kurt Johnson, Toan Nguyen, Rick Orcutt, and Al Wishart.

Hopefully, all are part of a Group Reunion and participating in Ultreya. If you haven't found a group or simply haven't started to group yet, go to your area's Ultreya or contact your sponsor or a team member from the Weekend (you were sent a roster) – they can help you find a Group Reunion. It is in sharing with your brothers and sisters in Christ about your attempts to grow in Piety, Study, and (apostolic) Action that you will persevere and progress in the spiritual life … that's where you will find "total security"!!

Remember that Christ is counting on you, and you said that you would count on Him. He gave you the gift of the Cursillo Method of Group Reunion and Ultreya to help you in the Fourth Day; these tools will help you live each day in a more focused way, that focus being Christ.





Comments from the New Cursillistas:

- My Cursillo retreat was an amazing experience. One thing that I really appreciate is the weekly reunion. I get so much support to continue my journey, great recommendations of books to read or movies/shows to watch or things to listen to. My team members help to keep me on track with my relationship with the Lord. What a blessing they are!
- I am thankful for the weekend. I was able to have a chance to learn about myself, which kind of Christian I am. I also learn how to live my Catholic life better through piety, study and action. The weekend filled me with graces so I am brave to live my faith and face my falls and work on them. We were blessed to have priests guide us through the weekend. Their spirit and their wisdom help me deeply understand God's grace and love. It is also a unique opportunity to learn from personal experience from friends on the weekend. It is easier to relate when your friends can live Catholic faith so you can.
- Before I made my Cursillo, I had been grouping for about 2 years. I enjoyed grouping but now that I've made my Cursillo, I can see that grouping for me had been more of a social gathering. Since making my Cursillo I am taking daily Mass, Communion and time before the Blessed Sacrament much more seriously and feel a deep void if I miss.
- After the Men's Cursillo weekend encounter I encountered the lively and joyful Jesus alive in the men. One of them told me of his upcoming wedding and invited me to attend, which I did with great joy. What a beautiful encounter with the Faithful and joyful Jesus living powerfully in him, his wife and all the family. We, disciples of Jesus, see Jesus everywhere and in all people. We reach out to Him who is the life of us all. I encountered the Holy Spirit of Christ in the choir of youth who sang for the wedding. I am filled with hope that the love we shared on the weekend encounter will grow and flourish in the weekly friendship reunion for both of them and all the men and women now experiencing an enhanced power in their discipleship living. De Colores!!!
- Cursillo has been like finding a rainbow after a storm. It has helped me in knowing that I am not alone in my journey and has brought me together with people who are genuinely interested in encountering Jesus. Grouping has been literally a palanca for each week's journey. De colores!
- The Cursillo weekend was a very profound and grace filled experience for me and something that I will always cherish! All of the presenters did an incredible job and each one provided information that I use in my daily life. I was so happy and blessed to be able to attend and to make new friends that I hope to see at future Ultreya's. De Colores!

From the Spiritual Advisor

Look upon the Face of God. The God of Love, Truth, Life and Joy is looking at you every minute of every day. Look to Him. Turn your face to Him. Turn your face away from all that is in this world, yes even family members and your friends, for a while each day to pray in your home, your church before the Bread of Life exposed on the altar – looking for you – and give Him your attention. Look for His face in your family members faces, your friends and acquaintances. God is looking for you in them also. Especially in your weekly friendship reunion, where you share the life of Jesus in you and adore the life of Jesus in your friends. Disciples of Jesus never take their eyes off Jesus, His Father and their Spirit. Let's focus, for Heaven's sake, on the Face of the Almighty. His Face is smiling at you in Love. Love Him and open your eyes to the Face of God.

De Colores!! **Fr. Bernard Lorenz**

From the Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator

WELCOME NEW CURSILLISTAS to the Fourth Day Community!

The month of August was an exciting and faith filled time for the Lincoln Diocese Cursillo Movement. Women's and Men's Three-Day Cursillos were completed at Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House in Waverly. Sharing the Cursillo Method again after nearly a two-year wait was eagerly accepted by thirteen new Cursillistas.

Through the nudging of the Holy Spirit supported by Palanca and prayer offered by World-wide Fourth-Dayers, eight women and five men lived their Cursillo weekends. The joy and memories that blossomed from within these small groups of new friends was something to behold. Perceptions were changed, openness to others through authentic conversation was developed, and Total Security realized through the experience of Group Reunion with new friends. (See comments from participants elsewhere in the newsletter.)

In a tweet this past week, Pope Leo XIV, writing about carrying forward the mission of evangelization, said in part; "…Be a community of prayer that maintains an ongoing dialogue with the Lord as a friend speaks to a friend (Jn 15:15). Christ is counting on all of you! Christ is counting on you!" These thoughts are not new to any of us, and not surprising since Pope Leo XIV is a Cursillista.

Each of us, at the end of our Cursillo weekend, acknowledged that Christ is counting on us with the response, "And I am counting on Him." That may well have been the start of our ongoing dialogue with the Lord as a friend. That dialogue will reveal just how the Lord is counting on each of us. The focus of that reliance will change over time as we increase our trust in Him through authentic dialogue.

We also count on our fellow Cursillistas in friendship to assist us in accomplishing the Father's will for us. For in community, with a dynamic, changing and expanding composition, through trust and reliance on one another, more apostolic action is possible.

On Saturday, January 9, 2027, we will gather in Hastings at St. Michael Parish for a Day of Reflection. The day will combine the spirit of Ultreya, a Grouping of the Groups, and time to listen to Him with your heart as you gather as a Fourth-Dayer to be part of this "day away". While offering support to others and learning more about the mentality of the Movement and yourself, we will explore how God's call in our life may be changing. Discover how He is counting on us today to assist one another, and what His plan and purpose for us looks like today. Save the date!

Please prayerfully consider setting aside this time to listen to Him with your heart, as you gather with like-minded brothers and sisters in Christ. He loves us SO much … and He's counting on us!

De Colores!! **Greg Vandenberg**

Invitation To Offer YOUR Palanca

You might recall the powerful Palanca you received from all over the world during your Three Day Weekend. We invite you to join in the on-going Palanca the Lincoln Diocese offers for Cursillo events taking place in all parts of the world. The first paragraph sent to a Diocese having a Three Day Weekend is included below to provide ideas / examples of what you might offer for another diocese's Cursillo event.

"The Lincoln, Nebraska, Diocese Cursillo Community would like to send encouragement and prayer for your Three Day Weekend!! Our Diocesan Cursillo Secretariat and School of Leaders has as its *Mass intention each Friday* all of the Cursillo activities going on around the world. In addition, we pray a Divine Mercy Chaplet daily that fruit might come from the many personal contacts you make during your Cursillo Weekend. Individual Cursillistas throughout the Diocese are offering *Masses, Visits to the Blessed Sacrament, Rosaries, Chaplets of Divine Mercy, fasting, and daily prayers* that you might come to know our Lord as Friend."

Please consider adding your Palanca!!



Day of Reflection – Saturday, January 9, 2027

As we begin a new year, it might be good to consider where we are in our faith journey. It's good to occasionally step away from the normality of our lives in order to: (1) reflect on how we're doing and (2) consider whether or not we're headed in the direction that we need to be (i.e., is it how God would have us live our lives). The Gospel provides Christ's directives, and Cursillo is a means to live those directives; after all, "to live Cursillo is to live the Gospel." We are planning a Day of Reflection to reflect and possibly help discern next steps. This invitation is open to ALL Cursillistas. It will be a wonderful opportunity to re-kindle the fire of your apostolic zeal and renew old friendships (and make new ones).

A day set aside to reflect allows us to take a look at our lives without distraction in order to better know God's will for us! Given that the goal of Cursillo is to communicate God's love through friendship in the exact place where God put you … at any particular moment … this is an opportunity to discover the possibilities that God offers each of us and the Church.

The event is being held on **Saturday, January 9, 2027**, at **St. Michael Parish** in **Hastings, NE,** and will begin at **9:00am.** The parish has an **8:00am Saturday morning Mass** for those who would like to assist at Mass prior to the beginning of the day's events. There will be talks given by both priests and laypersons, prayer, meditation, and time for reflection. Activities will conclude at approximately **4:00pm**. St. Michael Parish has a **5:00pm anticipatory Mass** for those who would like to attend prior to returning home.

There will be a **continental breakfast** following the 8:00am Mass, and lunch will be **pot-luck style**, so please bring something to share if you are able. We are not asking for a registration fee, but would appreciate a donation if you are able. If you are not able to bring food, come anyway … there is always enough!!

Eduardo Bonnin (founder of Cursillo) once said: "Because everyone has a different perspective, what we have to achieve is that the Christ of each person be the person of Christ." May it be so!! ***De Colores, and hope to see you there!!***

Ultreyas

Beatrice-Hebron-Crete:
Location alternates (2:00pm; usually 2nd Sunday of month)
- December Ultreya (December 13, 2:00pm) – Crete, Sacred Heart Parish Hall.
- January Ultreya (Please come to the Saturday, January 9 Day of Reflection at St. Michael, Hastings).
- February Ultreya (February 14, 2:00pm) – Hebron, Sacred Heart Parish Hall.

Contacts: John/Kathy Springer, (402) 826-2699 or (402) 580-1367.

Southwestern Nebraska (McCook-Imperial-North Platte)**:**
Location alternates (usually 2nd Sunday of month)
- December Ultreya (December 13, 1:30pmCT) – In-person & ZOOM (St. Patrick Church, McCook)
- January Ultreya (January 10, 1:30pmCT) – In-person & ZOOM (St. Patrick Parish Hall, Imperial)
- February Ultreya (February 14, 1:30pmCT) – In-person & ZOOM (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Hall, North Platte).

Contact: Kay Portillo (308) 227-1231

Lincoln – Vietnamese Language Group:
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lincoln
- Normally 1st Saturday of each month after the morning Mass

Contact: Canh Nguyen (402) 435-0921.

Secretariat Members

Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator	Greg Vandenberg (308) 530-7587	(glvandenberg@charter.net)
School of Leaders / Secretary	John Springer (402) 826-2699	(johnspringer523@gmail.com)
Treasurer	Kathy Springer (402) 826-2699	(ks90710@windstream.net)
Spiritual Advisor	Fr. Bernard Lorenz (308) 414-1195	(fr.bernard-lorenz@lincolndiocese.org)

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

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Save the Date!!
Cursillo Day of Reflection
January 9, 2027
St. Michael Church, Hastings

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