

# THE ROCKFORD Rooster



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[www.natl-cursillo.org/rockford](http://www.natl-cursillo.org/rockford)

"Something Worth Crowing About"

## Lay Director



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*Editor  
Bobbie Genovese*

*Graphic Design  
Sam Genovese*

*Send articles or information to:  
[rgenovese@themediactr.com](mailto:rgenovese@themediactr.com)  
Phone 815-459-8589*

Hello to all. My name is Ray Oleferchik and recently I became the Lay Director for the Diocese of Rockford Cursillo Movement. Now I know what you're thinking "Wow, what a position. How does one get to this position???!!" Well, I was told by Mike VanSistine, the outgoing Lay Director, that he and Fr Sherry, our Spiritual director, went into seclusion for an extended period of time and once people saw white smoke coming from the chimney, then the new Lay Director was chosen!!

Actually, I think the process was a little less formal, but Mike wanted me to feel honored. And truly I am honored to be part of this movement.

I made my Cursillo in the fall of 1997 at Bishop Lane retreat center in Rockford. My wife Andrea made her Cursillo shortly after me and since then, Cursillo has become a very important part of our life. Our only regret is that we didn't hear about this much earlier in life. Any parent of teenagers will understand what I am talking about!

Andrea and I have three grown children Nicholas, Amanda and Elizabeth. In the last year our family has grown a bit. Both Nicholas (Vicki) and Amanda (Charlie) have gotten married. We have two beautiful grandchildren (so far). Our youngest daughter, Elizabeth, is a senior in college.

The Cursillo Movement in the Rockford diocese can continue to bring the light of Christ to a world that so desperately needs Him. But it's up to each of us. The Rooster newsletter is a way to communicate upcoming Cursillo dates and other bits of important information. In addition, our website provides much valuable information to help you stay informed and connected to the movement.

If you're reading this Rooster, then it's a good chance that Cursillo is an important part of your life. A few of the many ways you can help keep to movement moving.

- Sponsor a candidate. Start the process now. If you're like most every Cursillista I know, someone asked you to attend. Maybe they had to even ask you more than once.
- Work the next Cursillo. This is an excellent way to stay involved. Anyone who has worked a weekend will tell you it's a very rewarding experience!
- Get involved with the Secretariat. This group of Cursillistas meet monthly, and it is from this group that weekends are planned, leadership is set, and all the administrative functions of the movement are handled.

*Thank you for taking time to read this. Over the next few years I hope to provide everyone updates on the actions of the Secretariat. Please e-mail or call me if you have any concerns or comments, or if we can help in way. My phone # is 847-683-0337 and my e-mail address is [rayoleferchik@earthlink.net](mailto:rayoleferchik@earthlink.net)*

# "Back to Basics"

## Mandate From National

As many of you may have heard, the National Cursillo Secretariat has called for all diocesan Cursillos to return to the "basics" of the Cursillo movement. Their actual mandate is for all involved in Cursillo to return to the "foundational charism" of the movement.

So what does that mean to you and me? Basically we are being called to change our way of thinking about the purpose of Cursillo, particularly the purpose of the weekend. Let me illustrate with the following example. Consider the screwdriver. The common screwdriver was originally designed to perform one task - driving a screw or bolt into an object. Over time, most of us have used our screwdrivers for many other tasks: prying lids off paint cans, scraping glue from wood, opening certain doors when we forgot the key, chipping ice, even scraping siding off outside walls! While it's true that the screwdriver did all those jobs, it did them fairly inefficiently. Not only that, it became less able to do the job it was made to do. The blade became chipped and warped and the handle would often break into pieces.

In a sense, this has happened to the Cursillo movement. In the 70's the Cursillo was seen as a training ground of lay leaders for the Church. Then the Cursillo was seen as a place to send people experiencing a faith crisis because at Cursillo they would get "IT" and return home faith-filled. Recently many of us saw the Cursillo as preparing lay leaders to return home ready and able to evangelize the world by evangelizing their environments. None of these goals are bad they are just not the fundamental purpose of Cursillo.

According to Eduardo Bonin the founder of Cursillo the primary purpose of the Cursillo weekend is to enable individual Christians to begin to really know themselves. The first meditation of the weekend is titled "Know Yourself" and attempts to make each individual aware of both their liabilities and potential. Eduardo believed that only by knowing our person can we begin to know the Person of Christ. Once we begin to know ourselves and Jesus, then and only then will we be able to reach out to others.

Thus the first day of the weekend is focused on the person, the second day on Jesus and the third day on

others. The charism of the Cursillo is to enable individuals to live out "what is fundamental to being a Christian" by teaching methods of forming small Christian communities to enable each Cursillista to persevere in their faith journey.

So, when we are asked "What is a Cursillo?" our answer is that it's a movement designed to help individuals live out their Baptism. It consists of a 3-day weekend learning to know oneself and Jesus and learning a method of perseverance for the 4th Day - the rest of our lives. Yes, lay leadership may be a result and yes, environments may be evangelized but these are NOT the purpose of Cursillo, rather the result of knowing oneself and Jesus and living out our Baptismal promises. Let's all remember the screwdriver and use Cursillo for the purpose it was created.

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## Planning for Spring Weekends Gets Under Way

A very Happy New Year to everyone and a warm welcome to all the newest cursillistas of the Rockford Diocese. We are now in the planning stages for the Spring weekends. We encourage everyone, especially the newest members of Cursillo, to come work a weekend. It is a very rewarding experience and the help is always appreciated.

All Cursillo Weekends will be held at St. Mary's Parish Center in Oregon, IL. In preparing for each weekend, there are four team meetings that are held in DeKalb, IL at the Newman Center of Northern Illinois University, and one meeting that is held at St. Mary's in Oregon. (See chart for dates and phone numbers.)

It is also the time to start thinking about friends and family members that could possibly make a good candidate. Remember, to talk to God about the candidate before you talk to the candidate about Cursillo. Prayer is always our first step when considering candidates.

May God bless each one of you and your families.

Donna Mancini  
Chairperson for the Cursillo weekends

# THE GRIP OF GRACE SCULPTURE

by Pete Petit



The Grip of Grace placed in the chapel on Cursillo weekends originated from the Max Lucado book cover portraying two hands grasping each others wrists. Looking close, one detects the nail imprint on the upper hand identifying this as Christ's hand and the lower hand is mine or the observer's. After reading this book the image of Christ's hand holding mine intrigued me. Who wouldn't want to be holding Christ's hand, to be in the grip of His grace, especially in times of trial or crisis?

## Spring 2005 CURSILLOS

*English Men's Weekend*  
April 21-24, 2005

**Rector**                      **Assistant Rector**  
Pete Petit                      Jim Mancini  
630-365-6968                      815-923-4029

### Team Meeting Dates

February 6 12:30 pm  
February 20  
March 6  
March 20  
April 10 (in Oregon)

*Spanish Men's Weekend*  
April 7-10, 2005

*English Women's Weekend*  
May 12-15, 2005

**Rectora**                      **Assistant Rectora**  
Flo Askew                      Beth Lachat  
630-844-9370                      630-236-7920

### Team Meeting Dates

March 6  
March 13  
April 3  
April 17  
April 24 (in Oregon)

*Spanish Women's Weekend*  
May 19-22, 2005

*Unless otherwise noted, all Team Meetings are from 1 pm to 4 pm at the Newman Center, 512 Normal Rd, DeKalb, IL 815-787-7770*

I knew a friend in Cursillo, Joe Cammioni, who is a talented painter and sculptor by trade. I asked Joe if he would paint an enlarged picture of these hands. Joe humbly said he would try and came up with this beautiful 12"x16" framed painting of this touching moment of the Grip of Grace. I just had to share this painting with others and the million words it expressed. It became part of the chapel environment after the Grace talk on our Cursillo weekends.

Then another idea was born when my friend Bill Monkus asked Joe if he could make a sculpture of this painting. Joe accepted the challenge and created the sculpture for Bill but was unable to present it to him. Bill died in an auto accident about the same time as Joe completed the project. Joe asked me what he should do with this sculpture. I suggested that he donate it to our Cursillo chapel in memory of Bill. And so it has been added to the Hook's painting of Jesus in the chapel giving an added feeling to the real presence in the exposed Eucharist, the focal point of the chapel environment. A prayerful atmosphere has been added to the chapel.

I feel privileged to have been part of the background from which "the Grip of Grace" evolved along with its creator Joe Cammioni.

## Meet Your New Secretariat!

By now, many of you know that we have a new Secretariat as a result of elections last fall. Please keep these dedicated people in your prayers as they work together to lead our Cursillo Movement according to God's will.

### Ray Oleferchik, Lay Director

The Lay Director is responsible for communicating with the National Secretariat and the diocese, leading the Secretariat in decision-making and motivating the members of the Rockford Cursillo Movement.

### Paul Nelson, Asst. Lay Director

The Assistant Lay Director is responsible for chairing the Leaders School and working closely with the Lay Director in making decisions for the Cursillo Movement.

### Bill Pott, Treasurer

The treasurer keeps track of all expenses and income, and provides financial reports to the Secretariat.

### Alan Fulton, Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for keeping minutes of the Secretariat meetings, works with the webmaster to keep the Cursillo web site up to date, organizes material for the quarterly newsletter and maintains the Cursillo mailing list.

### Other Secretariat members include:

Manny Garcia, Lay Director, Spanish  
Rick Dussault, Pre-Cursillo Representative  
Donna Mancini, Cursillo Weekend Representative  
Maureen Redmer, 4th Day Representative  
Marty Lachat, Team Training Committee  
Bill & Judy Wolff, Palanca Coordinators  
Rich DiDomenico, Supplies Liaison

### Get To Know Paul Nelson

I was born and raised in Geneva Il.. I attended St. Peter's grade school and from there went on to attend Geneva High School. After high school I attended college for 2 years. I was drafted into the Army in the summer of 1969. I am a combat veteran of the Viet Nam war, where I found the brotherhood of battle. I was discharged from the service in 1971. I met my wife Debbie in 1971 and we were married in

1974. We have 2 children , daughter Sarah, 28, and son Kris, 25. We have one grandson and another grandchild on the way.

I was looking for something to enrich my relationship with God and with the help of my wife I found, in the spring of 1999, the Cursillo movement. There I found the brotherhood of Christianity.

Why the school of leaders? I think every Catholic man and woman should have the opportunity to know that there is something more to help guide them in their spiritual life. Cursillo gives us the tools with which to do this. On a personal note:

I want to be able to give to others what I received from my weekend and to help spread the movement.

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## Cursillo Weekend Schedule Please pray for the team and candidates.

### Thurs.

8:00 Sponsor Service

### Fri.

7:30 Mass  
8:30 Breakfast  
9:30 IDEAL  
10:30 GRACE  
12:00 Lunch  
1:30 LAITY  
3:00 FAITH  
4:00 Reconciliation Service  
5:30 Dinner  
6:30 HOLINESS  
8:45 Poster Party

### Sat.

8:00 Breakfast  
9:00 FORMATION  
10:15 SACRAMENTS  
11:30 Agape Mass & Dinner  
2:30 EVANGELIZATION  
4:00 OBSTACLES TO GRACE  
6:45 LEADERS  
9:00 Poster Party  
10:00 Candlelight

### Sun.

6:10 Serenade/Breakfast  
8:15 ENVIRONMENTS  
9:30 CCIA  
11:00 Brunch  
12:15 CHRISTIAN LIFE  
1:45 GROUP REUNION/  
ULTREYA  
3:00 Summaries  
3:30 Cross Ceremony  
4:00 Clausura

## **CURSILLO TRIPOD: A CHANGE IN FOCUS**

About 10 years ago the English language Cursillo movement in the USA changed the Tripod from “Piety, Study, and Action” to “Holiness, Formation, and Evangelization”. This was an attempt to emphasize the goals versus the means. For example, Piety is the means to achieve the goal of Holiness, Study is the means to achieve Formation, and Action leads to Evangelization. The national Cursillo has requested that we return to our original emphasis on the means [Piety, Study, and Action]. This will also bring us in line with the Spanish language Cursillo, which has been focusing on Piety, Study, and Action all along. The Rockford Secretariat has met and decided to implement these changes with the Spring 2005 Cursillos. For more information go to the Cursillo national website at [www.cursillo.org](http://www.cursillo.org).

## **Rockford Cursillo Web Site News**

Our Webmaster, Ralph Carlson, has expanded and updated our web site to be more useful than ever. You can get up to date information on upcoming Cursillo weekends and team meetings. We have a section on Area Ultreyas and a section with Secretariat information [contact information and meetings]. We have also added a section to download Cursillo documents like candidate and sponsor forms, recent Roosters, etc. The latest section has links to other useful web sites like National Cursillo and a number of excellent Catholic information sources. Special events like our picnic will be posted there. Please bookmark the site [ <http://www.natl-cursillo.org/rockford/> ] so you can get timely information about Cursillo. If you forget the address you can go to Google and search for “Rockford Cursillo” and it will get it for you. If you have any suggestions for ways to make the web site more useful, please sent email to Alan Fulton at [fulton630@aol.com](mailto:fulton630@aol.com).

## **Post Cursillo Report**

I need to make a disclaimer about my last article in which I introduced myself and my family. No, we didn't ship Jonathan to a desert island and disown him. I just forgot how many children we have!!! Our younger son, Jonathan, was 20 in July. He will forever be our “baby.” He is single, living on his own since June and training to be a hydraulics tech with one of the best in the business. Though Jonathan had no previous experience, his boss saw his potential. In January he'll be going to a local Junior college to complement the knowledge he's receiving on the job. He's the proud Daddy of a pit bull puppy, Zeus, and 2 cats, Sammy (AKA Googly because his eyes were affected by a virus when he was a kitten) and Chaos. OK, I think I've given him more than equal time.

**EXTRA EXTRA!** There is a new Ultreya in DeKalb, meeting on the first Saturday of the month. The Ultreya will be from 7:00- 8:30 at the Newman Center, Christ the King Parish. Please come and join us and show your support. Any questions call Lori Kedzie at 815-756-7883.

My goal for 2005 is to re-start Ultreyas in Rockford also, so if anyone is interested in helping us do this, please contact me at 262-249-0424 or Milica Glaw at 815-344-2074.

Maureen Redmer Post Cursillo Chairperson

**All Cursillo Weekends are held at St. Mary's Community Center Oregon, Illinois**  
**Directions: Take Rt. 64 to Oregon. Parish Center is on Rt. 64 at Mongan Drive, a mile west of town on the north side of the road. Emergency Phone for Cursillo Weekends Friday 815-732-2234**  
**Saturday & Sunday 815-732-7883**

# Dates to Remember

2005

March 29	Leader's School, 7:30 to 9:00 pm at Newman Center, De Kalb, IL
April 7 - 10	Men's Spanish Weekend
April 21 - 24	Men's English Weekend
May 12 - 15	Women's English Weekend
May 19 - 22	Women's Spanish Weekend
June 28	Leader's School, 7:30 to 9:00 pm at Newman Center, De Kalb, IL
September 27	Leader's School, 7:30 to 9:00 pm at Newman Center, De Kalb, IL
October 13 - 16	Men's Spanish Weekend
October 20 - 23	Men's English Weekend
November 3 - 6	Women's Spanish Weekend
November 10 - 13	Women's English Weekend

# Secretariat

Fourth Tuesday of each month, 7:30 pm, at Newman Center in DeKalb.

**All are welcome!**

The Secretariat of the Rockford Diocese helps the Cursillo Movement to function and achieve its purpose. It is charged by the Bishop to implement the Movement properly according to norms and guidelines established by the National Secretariat. All Cursillistas are urged to support the Secretariat by prayer and palanca.

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**Access current and previous Roosters at our web site [www.natl-cursillo.org/rockford](http://www.natl-cursillo.org/rockford)**

To add/delete names from printed mailing list-- or to save us postage and and receive the electronic version of the Rooster-- contact Alan Fulton at [fulton630@aol.com](mailto:fulton630@aol.com) or mail to Alan Fulton, 2S908 Thorncrest, Batavia, IL 60510.

# Area Ultreyas

**Aurora** - 2nd Sunday each month. 7:00 pm. Bilingual at St. Rita of Cascia. Contact: Felix & Adamy Martinez 630-896-0354.

**DeKalb** - 1st Saturday each month. 7:00 pm at Newman Center, Christ the King church. Contact: Lori Kedzie 815-756-7883.

**Geneva** - 2nd Friday each month. 7:00 pm at St. Peter's. Contact: Ken & Tricia Aurand 630-232-9305.

**Mt. Carroll** - 1st Saturday each month, 7 pm. Usually at SS John & Catherine, occasionally at a home. Contact: Arnie & Phyllis Getz 815-684-5561.

**Rockford** - 1st Saturday each month, 7:00 pm at St. Bridget's Parish. Contact: Jim & Patty Goebel 815-877-5034

**Sterling/Rock Falls** - 1st Sunday each month, 7 pm. St. Mary's Parish Center. Contact: Bill Wolff 815-438-4252.