

THE ROCKFORD Rooster



Winter 2002/2003
www.natl-cursillo.org/rockford

"Something Worth Crowing About"



*Published by
The
Cursillo Movement
of the
Rockford Diocese*

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St. Francis Would be Proud of Cursillo

At a recent Annual Cursillo Gathering, Deacon Tom Hawksworth gave the opening reflection. He read from a letter written to Saint Ignatius from St. Francis Xavier. It is a letter that reflects the frustration St. Francis is experiencing in his ministry, frustration I'm sure you have felt at times. Here are a couple of excerpts:

"Many, many people hereabouts are not becoming Christians for one reason only: there is nobody to make them Christians. Again and again I have thought of going round the universities of Europe, especially Paris, and everywhere crying out like a madman, riveting the attention of those with more learning than charity: "What a tragedy: how many souls are being shut out of heaven and falling into hell, thanks to you!" I wish they would work as hard at this as they do at their books, and so settle their account with God for their learning and the talents entrusted to them.

This thought would certainly stir most of them to meditate on spiritual realities, to listen actively to what God is saying to them. They would forget their own desire, their human affairs, and give themselves over entirely to God's will and His choice. They would cry out with all their heart: Lord, I am here! What do you want me to do? Send me anywhere you like."

You can feel the frustration of St. Francis. If he had the help and knowledge and support from the educated and those that busied themselves with only the work of the world, he would reach more with his works of charity, and with the love of God. Any one in ministry can relate to his desire to cry out like a madman, to a world that is busy doing so much that doesn't matter. Cursillo gives us a tool, a vehicle to cry out and reach people in an effective way that doesn't just give them a weekend feel good, but directs them to a permanent, intimate relationship with God (post Cursillo group reunion-Ultreya and a balance of Holiness-Formation-Evangelization).

(contd on page 4)

ALL-CURSILLO MEETING AND TEAM COMMISSIONING

On Sunday, January 19, 2003, at Christ the Teacher Parish and Newman Catholic Student Center, 512 Normal Road, DeKalb, IL. All Cursillistas are invited to join together to celebrate Mass and commission the Spring Men's and Women's Cursillo teams. Remember we are all on the "team," even if we cannot participate in person. We are all part of the Rockford Cursillo Community, as we support the weekends with prayer, Palanca and service to each other.

Please join us for Mass at 12:00 PM, followed by a potluck luncheon and presentation on the "workings of the Cursillo Movement" and how the weekend retreats evolve. We will conclude by 3:45 PM.

Bring a salad or dessert to share. Everything else will be provided. For more information, call Emily Camaioni at (630) 365-2767. De Colores!!

Gifts to Cursillo

Contact Treasurer Bob Novack to celebrate a special occasion, honor a loved one, or include Cursillo in your will.

Email Option

If you want to receive the Rockford Rooster via email, send your email address to Marty Lachat at mlachat@rgrayclamps.com

Prayer List

To receive email notices of Cursillo prayer requests or to send a request, email Marty Lachat at mlachat@rgrayclamps.com

All Cursillo Weekends are held at
St. Mary's Community Center
Rt. 64 and Mongan Drive
Oregon, Illinois

Directions: Take Rt. 64 to Oregon. Parish Center is west of town at the top of a hill on the north side of the highway.

Emergency Phone for Cursillo Weekends

Friday 814-732-2234

Saturday & Sunday

815-732-7383

Cursillo Weekend Schedule Please pray for the team and candidates.

Times are approximate; check Cursillo web site for current updates.

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 ENVIRONMENTALS
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

Regional Formation Groups Report



Pre-Cursillo - North Region

Co-Chairmen: Lorraine Medford & Judy Otero

Our region is looking for new leadership in the New Year! Our current co-chairmen have given many years to the Cursillo Movement, but feel it's time to give others the opportunity to bring their ideas forward. The North Region includes the communities of McHenry County as well as the Rockford area. Please search your hearts and check your calendars. We need someone with good organizational and cheerleading skills to organize and inspire others and to get our Region on track in helping strengthen the Cursillo's 4th Day activities, including Group Reunions, Ultreyas, the annual picnic, etc. Please call Lorraine Medford at 815-455-2936 for more information. If you can take on this ministry or if you know someone who would be good for this position, contact Mike Van Sistine at 815-885-4192. God bless you all!

Cursillo - South Region **Chairman: Laura Wright**

Welcome to all the new Cursillistas! Peace to all!

In the words of Pope John Paul II "It is not enough to discover Christ – you must bring Him to others! The world today is one great mission land, even in countries of longstanding Christian tradition."

Cursillo's method of - "Make a friend. Be a friend. Bring your friend to Christ." – is a practical and realistic way to bring others to Christ. Just as important as bringing Christ to others... is regularly nurturing our own soul. I encourage all Cursillistas to meet in Group Reunion regularly and attend Ultreya. I can tell you from personal experience that if you want to keep moving forward on the path to Christ...

Grouping is essential. When I didn't Group for several years, I was stagnant. I was living... but not alive. I was still a faithful Catholic. But I didn't get much closer to Christ ... and I didn't help many people become closer either. Please persevere in Grouping. It works!

Thank you, Rector Ron Capek and Rectora Donna Mancini for your "yes" to lead the spring Cursillos.



A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

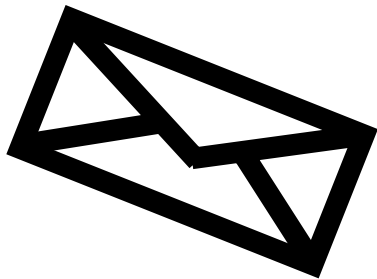
Our Rockford Movement is blessed with many active, generous people — giving of time and treasure — to sustain and help the Movement reach out to future Candidates and promote 4th Day activities. We are coming down the home stretch of another year, which has been an economical challenge for many. Unfortunately, the Movement is not immune to the economy's whims.. Our fixed costs for weekends increased during the past year. Even though Weekend teams did an excellent job to keep costs down where possible, we needed to dig into our Treasury to cover non-weekend related costs, such as The Rooster. The result is that we enter 2003 with less funds that we did one year ago. Clearly, the Movement's purpose and intent is not to "make money". However, the reality is that monetary funds are needed to sustain our Movement. And, with that, Secretariat asks your consideration of a couple thoughts.

First, donations are always accepted (none turned away in 2002!!). If you've been blessed financially in the past year, consider making a donation. Several Cursillistas have made donations during the year and are greatly appreciated.

Even sending \$5 to help offset costs, such as producing The Rooster, would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to make a donation, please make checks to 'Cursillo in Christianity' and mail them c/o Bob Novack 143 South Western Avenue Aurora, IL 60506.

Second, the MOP talk on each weekend will be slightly modified... The Secretariat has approved that the suggested donation requested for each weekend be increased from \$75 up to \$90. As always, this is just a suggested amount. If anyone is unable to pay, that should not prevent them from participating in a weekend. Individual MOP payments are not tracked or reported.

If you have any suggestions or questions, feel free to either mail Bob Novack at the address listed above or call 630.892.7252.



Attention Cursillistas!

Please help us to control our mailing and printing costs! If you get more than one copy, need your address changed, or don't want to receive the Rooster anymore, please email Debbie VanSistine at debbie-van@insightbb.com or call 815-885-4192. If you would like the Rooster sent to you via email in pdf format please contact Marty Lachat at MLachat@rgrayclamps.com or Debbie.

Lay Director

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With a New Year coming, we should challenge ourselves to look at the way we use this gift from God we call Cursillo. First, do we know how it is most effective. I read a statement in the Cursillo book, *Structures of Ideals*, which gave me some discomfort. It said: "The worst enemies of a movement are those who become its promoters without understanding it." Reflecting on the statement has caused me to commit to prayer and study of Cursillo, a good starting point for us all. Second, do we evangelize with the zeal and passion that we do some of our interests of the world. I could tell you every tee time I have scheduled for the next month, when the Packers play on Sunday, but funny how I forget to go to Ultreya due to memory loss or scheduling conflicts. More importantly, do we look for the openings the Holy Spirit gives us to make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ. Are we reaching out into our environments, making plans and executing them to bring Christ and convert the leaders, who will change the environment and convert more.

Cursillo has done so much worldwide and here in our Diocese, but there is so much work to do. If you feel the anxiousness and frustration of St. Francis, there is no better place to direct your energy than Cursillo.

--Mike Van Sistine

Prayer & the Cursillo Weekend

"Prayer is the principal, supernatural means of success during the Weekend. The Christian community, or part of it, prays earnestly before and during the Weekend. In the same way, the team coordinator, the leaders and the Spiritual Advisor pray, relying on prayer at every moment to resolve the problems and difficulties of the Weekend.

"The team teaches the candidates how to pray by praying and, therefore, must be a praying community from the outset...During the Weekend we stress, even insist on, praying from the heart...Though we seek to acquaint cursillistas with the inexhaustible wealth of communal and liturgical prayer available to the Church, we understand that the value of strictly communal prayer can never substitute itself for the value of personal prayer proceeding from a pure and humble heart."

--The Leader's Manual

Spiritual Director



Remember studying about the Dark Ages when you were in School? The Dark ages always seemed a strange name to me. I always got the impression that the sun was not shining and people were living miserable lives.

That was probably all part of it. I wonder if some people would say right now that the Catholic Church is living through the Dark Ages here in the United States. All the scandals that have been going on and the cover-ups, the people molested, the people who are hurting and resignations that have started among the hierarchy: I wonder if this can be called a Dark Age?

In Catholic spirituality we've always believed that after the darkness comes the light. That's why Jesus is the Light of the World, why Jesus makes such a difference in human history.

It's not enough just to say "I'm Catholic." We need to know what we do stand for. If we just say, "I'm opposed to all the difficulties going on in the Church today" without knowing what we stand for and witnessing to it, we're in deep trouble.

All the more reason why people need Cursillo. Please encourage twelve people through the course of the next year to pray about and think about attending a Cursillo. It's not just for us to take pride and happiness in our reunions, in our groupings and Ultreyas, but it's also important that we spread the Word of God as well.

May Christ continue to bless you as this new year begins.

--Fr. Bob Sherry

Spring 2003 CURSILLOS at St. Mary's in Oregon

78th English Men's Weekend

April 24-27, 2003

Rector

Ron Capek

630-232-8838

rcapek@concentic.net

Asst. Rector

Ken Aurand

630-232-9305

kaurand@myexcel.com

Team Meeting Dates

Feb 23

Mar 9

Mar 23

Apr 6 (at Oregon)

Apr 13

68th English Women's Weekend

May 15-18, 2003

Rectora

Donna Mancini

847-683-1336

mummum95@earthblink.net

Asst. Rectora

Sue Dwyer

630-587-3235

duyer7@amertech.net

Team Meeting Dates

March 2

March 16

March 30

April 13

April 27 (at Oregon)

Spanish Men's Weekend

May 1-4, 2003

Spanish Women's Weekend

May 29 - June 1, 2003

**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**

Commissioning of Spring Team Members & Meeting for All Cursillistas Sunday, January 30, 2003 -12:00 noon
Newman Center, DeKalb v (See Page 4 for details)

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.

Spiritual Director	Rev. Bob Sherry	815-385-5673	apostles@mc.net
Lay Director- English	Mike Van Sistine	815-885-4192	mvasistine@yahoo.com
Lay Director - Spanish	Frank Navarro	630-892-0893	Cachis1999@aol.com
Treasurer	Bob Novack	630-892-7252	bnovack@Hellerfin.com

Area Ultreyas

Aurora - 3rd Thursday each month. 7:00 pm. at The Compound offices, 575 W. Illinois Ave. Contact: Larry & Pat Frieders 630-897-9770.

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

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 - At St. Bridget's Parish. Contact Mike Van Sistine 815-885-4192 for latest schedule.

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

Dates to Remember

2003

January 14	School of Leaders, Newman Center, DeKalb, IL
January 19	Team Commissioning, Newman Center, DeKalb, IL
April 24-27	Men's English Weekend
May 1-4	Men's Spanish Weekend
May 15-18	Women's English Weekend
May 29-June 1	Women's Spanish Weekend
October 23-26	Men's English Weekend
November 13-16	Women's English Weekend

School of Leaders

"The Cursillo Movement originated within a school, and it was through the constant and coordinated efforts of the leaders of that school that it acquired its form, as well as its drive toward growth and development. The school then came first. It was the school that gave birth to the Cursillo Movement, nurtured it, and made it strong enough to survive and branch out into a full fledged movement in the Church. The school has always been and is to this day the element that is essential to the continuity and development of the movement." Is the Lord calling you to a deeper commitment to the Cursillo Apostolate? Would you like to learn more about the methods of Cursillo and serve Christ through leadership in the movement? The "school" (not like a classroom) is like a school of fish--a group of individuals who want to go in the same direction, of like mind. The School is a group of people who are striving to be saints and want to bring others with them. The School is a community of service to the Movement. The next School of Leaders is December 3, 2002, at the Newman Center in DeKalb from 7:30-9:00 pm. Please RSVP to Mike Van Sistine at 815-885-4192 or mvasistine@yahoo.com. A Movement is only as good as its leaders are...Is God calling you?