



December 2008

EASTERN AREA CURSILLO COMMUNITY **The 4th Day News**

2008/2009 Reflection

The leaves are all gone now and a chill is in the air. Forty days of lent, the Easter season, and thirty-four Sundays of ordinary time have now past. The season of Advent is here and very soon we welcome the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The year has come and gone and we have strengthened our faith in God through these most sacred seasons.

Another year of the Cursillo has come and gone as well. The lives of many Cursillistas, team members and candidates have been brought closer to the Lord through the three weekends and with the abundant Graces freely given to us by God.

Also, a milestone was reached this year in Cursillo as we celebrated our 20th year in the Champaign-Urbana area. The goals of our Cursillo community have always been very lofty for every team God has formed. Sometimes we may feel that we have fallen a little short. We must not let our hearts be troubled, but rather encouraged always by remembering the humble beginnings of Jesus and His followers. They pressed on for the sake of humanity and so will WE! And with that in mind we would say that the EACC has done very well in our short twenty years here; after all what is 20 years in Gods time?

Now reflect on the last year, and for some of us the last twenty years. All the lives that have been blessed forever are because YOU and many like YOU have said YES to Cursillo! And because YOU always say YES, when YOU are asked to do something for Christ, YOU will continue to bring many more people closer to Him even if it's just one person at a time!

As we look forward to the New Year and all the promises new beginnings bring us, I encourage US ALL to consider a special resolution to the Cursillo and to Jesus in 2009.

Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ!

*DeColores!
Deacon Scott*

p.s. Don't forget—*Christ is really counting on us!*

January 10, 2009 • Ultreya & Town Meeting

Come and help shape the future of our Cursillo Community on January 10 at Holy Cross Parish Center in Champaign. We will begin at 6:30 with a message from Monsignor Ramer. Following this we will have an open forum in a small group setting. Light refreshments will be served.

The purpose of the open forum is to discuss how we can improve our Cursillo community, committes, and weekends. We want to hear any concerns you have in your experience with the Eastern Area Cursillo. We want to hear your ideas and suggestions—for weekends, for team meetings, for any committee areas, for Ultreyas, for newsletters, for sponsoring, for getting younger people involved, etc.!

We need to begin the new year with renewed passion and vision for the work of God through our Cursillo weekends. We'll start January 10 with honest reflection on our past. Prayerfully consider your thoughts and ideas and come ready to speak the truth in love. Your participation will help us to become a better instrument of God's grace.

WANTED: Church Representatives

We are looking for volunteers to be representatives for Cursillo at their church. Volunteers would be responsible for providing information about upcoming Cursillos for their church's bulletin/newsletter (see the suggested text in this newsletter). The announcement should go into the bulletin/newsletter three months before a weekend. As the application deadline for the weekend gets closer, it would be good to put the announcement in the bulletin/newsletter a few more times. Volunteers would also be the contact person in their church for people interested in Cursillo, available to answer questions and help arrange sponsors.

Call Dick Baxley at 217-867-2686, or e-mail him at rdbaxley@hotmail.com.

Prayers and Sympathy

Our prayers and sympathies to out to Madonna Davis, whose father, Eugene Schneider, passed away Thursday, November 27, 2008.

Our prayers and sympathies to out to Heather Manint, whose stepfather, Jim Sayers, passed away Friday, November 21, 2008.

Keep these 3 people informed of e-mail and address changes:

Guy Christopher (records), gtchrist@hotmail.com, Phone: 217-586-3768
Lee Ann Galaway (newsletter), leeg@aocs.org (work), Phone 217-489-3831
Joan Jordan (e-mail prayer chain), jjordan2@mchsi.com

Thank you Dean's Blueprint for printing our newsletter!

2009 Cursillo Weekends

February 12–15	Men's Cursillo at Our Lady of the Lake, Mahomet
March 26–29	Women's Cursillo at St. Pat's, Urbana
June 4–7	Men's Cursillo at St. Thomas More H.S., Champaign
October 5–18	Women's Cursillo at St. Pat's, Urbana
November 12–15	Men's Cursillo at Holy Cross, Champaign

Effective immediately, the Registration Chairperson must have **8 applications in hand before team meetings are scheduled to begin** in order for preparations for the weekend to continue. The application deadlines for upcoming Cursillo weekends will be given in the Cursillo newsletter on a regular basis.

NOTICE

New Policy for Cursillo Application Deadlines

The application deadline for both the February 12–15 Men's weekend and the March 26–29 Women's weekend is January 26.

The Secretariat appreciates all the hard work the team and Cursillo community put in for a Cursillo weekend. In order to avoid the disappointment of postponing a weekend, we want to be assured we have enough candidates before moving forward with the hard work of preparation.

TEAM MEETINGS

The **MEN'S** team will resume their team meetings at Our Lady of the Lake in Mahomet on Tuesday, January 27 at 6:30 pm. The family mass will be on February 10 at 6:30 pm at Our Lady of the lake.

The **WOMEN'S** team will begin their team meetings at Our Lady of the Lake in Mahomet on Tuesday, January 27 at 6:30 pm. Their first three team meeting will be at at Our Lady of the Lake.

Please come and support the men' and women's teams by coming to the mass/prayer service that begins their evening of preparation.

Men's Team • Cursillo #906 • February 12–15, 2009

Rector: Roy Humphrey	Friday	8:40 a.m.	Ideal	A.J. Bailey
Assistants: Denis Fisher, Mike Burge		10:00 a.m.	Sanctifying Grace	Deacon Hank Hart
		1:25 p.m.	Layman	Mike Eubanks
Spiritual Director:		2:40 p.m.	Actual Grace	Rev. Ervin Williams
Deacon Ed Mueller		6:40 p.m.	Piety	Dave Krisman
Board Advisor: Dick Baxley	Saturday	8:30 a.m.	Study	Dick Steeves
Auxiliaries: Rick Bugera, Bob Mueller, Dick Obermiller, Mike O'Brien, Seamus Reilly		10:30 a.m.	Sacramental Grace	Deacon Ed Mueller
		2:45 p.m.	Action	John Kleiss
		4:45 p.m.	Obstacles to Grace	Deacon John Leonard
		6:45 p.m.	Leaders	Mark Cousert
	Sunday	8:30 a.m.	Environment	Mark Bezdon
		9:35 a.m.	Life in Grace	Deacon Ed Mohrbacher
		11:05 a.m.	CCIA	Johnny Deponai
		12:30 p.m.	Total Security	Roy Humphrey
		2:00 p.m.	Fourth Day	Liam O'Sullivan

Men's Cursillo Weekend Events

The following Palanca events are at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Mahomet:

- **Commissioning Family Mass**—6:00 pm, Tuesday, February 10.
- **Candidate Registration**—7:00 pm, Thursday, February 12.
- **Sponsor's Hour** (Sponsors: you need to be here! All are welcome to come.)—8:00 pm, Thursday, February 12.
- **Be part of the visual expression of God's extreme love and amazing grace—Apostolic Hour (Candlelight)** at 8:00 pm (Social at 7:00 pm), Saturday, February 14.
- **Come praise God with us as we witness the mighty works of His Holy Spirit among us—Clausura (Closing)** at 5:00 pm, Sunday, February 15.

Interesting word, Cursillista. It refers to someone who has been on a Cursillo weekend. Ah yes, that great weekend. We all remember it well. One may have been confused and apprehensive on Thursday, then more at ease on Friday and Saturday. By Sunday evening, most people, are riding on cloud nine and wanted to shout to everyone what a great weekend they had. Do you remember what we learned? Evangelization—a big word. What did it mean? It means to go out and spread the gospel.

We recently had to cancel a men's Cursillo weekend because we did not have enough candidates—we had only three! It's not easy canceling a weekend after people have already put in many hours of work in preparation for the weekend. Yet, not one of the team members has complained. Yes, they were disappointed. Think of all the work they put in—the hours driving to and spent in team meetings, time preparing their talks, their prayers and palanca.

Remember that weekend—the love of the people and the love of Christ? Jesus asked His disciples to just stay awake for just one hour while He went to pray. Just talk to someone about Cursillo. Is it too much to ask? Out of all the people that have gone to Cursillo here, we can only come up with three candidates? Is it too much to ask to spread the word? We are not trying to fool anyone! What are we afraid of? Afraid someone might think we are some kind of religious fanatic? Afraid someone might say yes—and then we'd have to sponsor them, then get them in a group, and then get them to Ultreyas?

Let's get out there and spread the word—it's the "good news" of the gospel! Promote Cursillo—simply by sharing how you have come closer to God through your Cursillo! Too busy?! What if the apostles had said, "Not now Lord, we're too busy?" Be a fisher of men and women—now. Don't wait until two weeks before the weekend to ask someone. Start building those relationships now! If we continue at this rate, Cursillo will wither on the vine. Let's keep it alive!

The Secretariat

Bulletin Announcement

Use the following in your church bulletin. Ask your priest for an opportunity to share your Cursillo experience with your parish.

If you were put on trial today as a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you? Are you all the Christian you would like to be? Would you like to be more? If there was someplace you could go for some guidelines, would you be interested? Would you like to get away from the fast paced world for three days?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, maybe a Cursillo in Christianity weekend is what you need! What is a Cursillo in Christianity weekend? Cursillo is a Spanish word for a short course. Cursillo in Christianity is a weekend short course in Christianity. It is a three-day weekend which begins on Thursday evening and concludes on Sunday evening. During the weekend, 15 talks are presented. Ten talks are given by lay people and five are given by clergy. Topics such as Obstacles to Grace, A Life in Grace, Christian Community in Action, and many more are covered. In addition to the talks, there is time for prayer, worship, camaraderie, fun, singing and lots of good food. Suggested donation for the weekend is \$80, but assistance is available if necessary.

The local Champaign Cursillo, sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Peoria, reflects Roman Catholic theology, but functions in the spirit of ecumenism. Lay persons of all religious affiliations participate. There is no pressure on participants to take part in any religious service in which they would not feel comfortable. Out of the blending of personalities, occupations, and religious denominations there develops a respect for one another's differences, and an appreciation of the common search for a full Christian life.

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For more information go to www.champaigncursillo.com or see (*insert your name and contact information*).

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!*



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