

THE ROCKFORD Rooster



Winter 2003-04
www.natl-cursillo.org/rockford

"Something Worth Crowing About"



*Published by
The
Cursillo Movement
of the
Rockford Diocese*

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Do We Radiate Christ?

By Mike VanSistine, Lay Director

During this Advent season we have the symbolism of light all around us. Of course there is the competition with the neighbors on who can make the electric meter spin the fastest by placing the most lights in the yard and on the house, a competition I do my best to stay out of. Lights line the streets, shopping malls and stores and brighten this time of year. It's a special time, but I often wonder in the hustle and stress how many stop for even a couple of minutes to reflect on its true meaning. I look into the faces of those rushing by and wonder do they know the true light, do they know the love of God.

In our Churches as I write this, on the second Sunday of Advent, we have two candles lit. We await the celebration of the Light of the World coming 2000 plus years ago, and at the same time we look to when he will illuminate the world again with His return. It is a time of preparation, a time of reflection, and a time to take account. I feel especially blessed to be able to know with confidence that my Savior came out of love for me, and that He will return. I feel blessed that individuals in my life have led me to this acceptance of the love of God, to the true light of Christ. If it were not for their authenticity, for their influence, who knows where I would be. They radiated Christ and it attracted me. And I am sure the same goes for you, God came to you through one or more people in your life. Individuals who accepted the great responsibility that Christ gives each of us, to bring His love to all those we live, work, and spend the greater parts of our lives with. They see us, and they observe our actions. The world doesn't need any more words or noise, the word needs example, they need to see it.

I thank God for the Cursillo method, particularly the Post-Cursillo. It is a method that keeps us focused on the importance of our holiness and striving to be like Christ, acquiring the attractive nature He had and bringing it to the world. It is a method that helps us keep our drive to learn more about God in our study, not to have knowledge to judge, but to have knowledge to love and help. And finally the part of the method that gets me the most excited, recognition of the importance of Evangelization. God puts the responsibility squarely on us to spread the good news. He partners up with us, that is a huge responsibility! In my opinion God puts himself at a great disadvantage, trusting this mission to us. We get distracted, have our own agendas, and drift away. If we are not accountable to others, if we try to take this on alone, forget it. We need Group Reunion and Ultreya. We need to be challenged, and prayed for, and encouraged along the way.

(contd on page 4)

Spring 2004 CURSILLOS at St. Mary's in Oregon

A very warm welcome to the newest members of the Cursillo family of the Rockford Diocese. Your Cursillo weekend will always be a very special memory in your heart. Is there a family member or friend that you would like to share the Cursillo message with? Now is the time to start praying about that certain person who you feel could make a good candidate. If a Cursillo weekend is in the plans of God for that special person, He will lead them there.

Our planning has started for the Spring 2004 weekends! **The Rectora will be Beth Lachat**, assisted by **Kathy Ostrom**. **The Rector for the men will be Jim Mancini**, assisted by **Ray Oleferchik**.

The theme for the ladies will be "DO YOU REALLY LOVE ME"? The men's theme is "AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD".

I would like to personally extend an invitation for all the newest Cursillistas to come work the weekend. Just as you received those blessings from your weekend, serving on the team has its rewards.

We start to build the community at the team training meetings. There together, we will pray for guidance. We will hear the talks given by the speakers who will be presenting that particular talk on the weekend. We will also break into individual working groups such as the kitchen team, the chapel team and the liaison team.

There will be 5 team meetings for each the men and the women. The dates are as follows:

<i>English Men's Weekend</i> April 22-25		<i>English Women's Weekend</i> May 13-16	
Team Meeting Dates		Team Meeting Dates	
<i>February 15</i>	<i>February 29</i>	<i>March 21</i>	<i>March 28</i>
<i>March 7</i>	<i>Oregon March 21</i>	<i>April 4</i>	<i>Oregon April 25</i>
<i>April 4</i>		<i>May 2</i>	

Unless noted in Oregon, the meetings will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 at the Newman Center in Dekalb. If you have questions regarding the meetings, you can contact Beth at 630-236-7920 or Kathy at 608-325-3565, Jim at 847-683-1336, or Ray at 847-344-2772.

If you would like to work the Spring weekend, please plan on attending these meetings. There is a lot of

ground to cover at these meetings, as you can guess how much planning goes into each Cursillo.

We really need the help of the whole Cursillo community so that the Rockford Diocese can continue to grow. We hold these weekends to continually add more groups into our Diocese. Grouping keeps the fire of the Holy Spirit burning within us. Your participation will help greatly!

I have had quite a few people express interest in sponsoring candidates for the Spring. Please don't wait to get your candidate and sponsor forms filled out and returned to Beth or Jim. Both forms should be available on the following web site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockfordCursilloPrayers/>, or you can contact either Beth or Jim.

We are going to try something new this Spring. By Sunday evening the kitchen team and the liaison team begin to run out of steam. Since the travel time can be long for many of us staying until all the clean up is done can cause difficulties. We are looking for about 5-8 people who would come on Sunday for the clean up. Maybe you cannot make the entire weekend but would like to come for the Clausura and could stay until the clean up is completed. A fresh clean-up crew would really be welcomed.

In order to speed up the clean up and to assure that everyone gets home early Sunday evening, we will be simplifying the clausura. We will hold the food down to sandwiches and snacks.

If you think you would be interested in helping in this area, please contact me at 847-683-1336. It would work out well if a car pool from one particular area could be formed.

I look forward to seeing everyone this Spring. May God bless you and your families. **Decolores, Donna Mancini Chairperson – Cursillo**

School Of Leaders **UPDATE!!**

by Bill Wolff

The literature on the Cursillo Movement makes it clear that the "School of Leaders" is a necessary element in the continuation of the movement. Once one has completed the original weekend he or she are automatically considered a member of the School and as such should make it their responsibility to attend as often as possible. The school is where our future leaders, i.e., Rectors/ Rectoras, officers, committee heads, etc., are supposed to come from. It is where all Cursillistas learn the basic methods and purpose of the movement, how things work and how the movement is carried forward. We in the Rockford diocese need to re-

Director Laico Hispano



El movimiento de Cursillo de la Diócesis de Rockford esta ofreciendo un retiro llamado Cursillo de Cursillo. Esta es la oportunidad para todos aquellos que ya vivieron el Cursillo a profundizar su Fe y conocimiento de lo que es la estructura del Cursillo y a la misma vez vivir de nuevo el Cursillo.

El Secretariado a organizado este taller con el equipo regional del movimiento quien dirigirá este evento. Este taller será extremadamente informativo y beneficioso para el desarrollo de nuestros dirigentes y nuestro movimiento hispano en la Diócesis. Por favor piense y ore por estar presente en este gran encuentro de desarrollo.

Este taller se llevara a cabo en la casa de retiros Bishop Lane en Rockford, Illinois el 20-22 de Febrero 2004. El fin de semana comienza el Viernes a las 7:00 PM y termina el Domingo a las 3:00 PM. Hemos reservado espacio para 100 personas, de estas ya tenemos 45 espacios reservados y el numero de hispanos es de 6 personas, si no conseguimos un numero adecuado o el cupo se llena de personas de habla Ingles primero se cancelará el taller en español, por lo tanto se les pide que por favor se registren por adelantado para reservar su lugar.

El costo del fin de semana es de \$75 por persona y se requiere un deposito de \$25 por persona para reservar su lugar en el taller el cual tiene que entregarse a no mas tardar de Enero 1. Se pueden registrar como pareja o individual. Pueden hacer el cheque a nombre de Cursillo en Cristiandad. La forma de registro esta incluida en este folleto

Si tienen alguna pregunta pueden llamar a Félix & Adamy Martínez (630) 896-0354 Kevin & Mart O'Connor (630) 264-1518

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This confirms your food and lodging. At the end of the weekend each couple is given a blank envelope and asked to make a donation. No one is ever refused the opportunity to make a weekend because of a lack of funds.

CIRCLE DATE & PREFERRED LOCATION:

BISHOP LANE RETREAT CENTER, Rockford, IL:
Feb 13-15 Mar. 26-28 Apr. 23-25 Madison, WI: May 14-16
Janesville, WI: Jun. 11-13

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: (888) 574-5653

NAME: (His) _____ (Hers) _____ (Last) _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE: (_____) _____

WEDDING DATE (MONTH _____ DAY _____ YEAR) _____

HIS FAITH _____

CHURCH _____

HER FAITH _____ CHURCH _____

WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT WWME WEEKENDS? _____

**MAIL THIS REGISTRATION FORM TO: WWME, P.O. BOX 512,
CHERRY VALLEY, IL 61016 OR CALL: (888) 574-5653**

Spiritual Director



Father Bob Sherry

God created us as social creatures. When God came to earth to live among us, we were so overjoyed. Each time we get away from the flock, it seems we lose a little bit of our ability to reach for the ideals that we once hoped for, the ideals in which we once lived.

Cursillo is an opportunity for us to have a group of people to support us on the journey to our eternal home. People help keep us accountable. People who help us to live up to our ideals.

I'm reminded of the story of a wild duck who was flying north one spring across a European Continent. On the flight he stopped in a barnyard where some ducks were being raised for food. Enjoying the food and security of the barnyard, he decided to stay for an hour, then a day, then a week, then a month, then finally all summer. Summer eventually turned to autumn and his wild duck friends heading south for the winter flew overhead. He flapped his wings to fly up and join his friends, but he quickly found that the delicious fare he had enjoyed all summer had made him so soft and heavy he could not fly any higher than the roof of the barn.

Every spring and then again every autumn he heard the honking of the wild ducks as they flew over the barnyard. So for a few seasons he tried to join his mates, but a day finally came when the barnyard duck paid no attention to the wild ducks honking and flying overhead.

Sometimes in our lives we get sidetracked just as the wild duck did. We get so fat and heavy that we find it very difficult to get back into the group and join our friends on the journey to heaven. We can get back on track by staying in close contact with the most powerful magnet of the universe, Jesus Christ. He never loses His sense of direction.

When we stay with one another through Cursillo, we too, will find our eternal goal.

Fr. Bob Sherry

establish a successful school. Toward that end I am asking all cursillistas to pray, and pray hard, for our School. In February of next year we are holding a Cursillo for Cursillistas. It is called Cursillo de Cursillo. It will be put on by a team from our region. We plan to use this as a basis for starting up our School of Leaders. Rather than having a central meeting place we hope to take the "school" to each area where there is an Ultreya and do the schooling there. I would encourage everyone to take part in this endeavor by active participation and by prayer. May God continue to bless our movement. Meetings are held at Newman Center in DeKalb

For information/planning packet for the January 27 meeting, please call Mike Van sistine 8115-885-4192 or email mvasistine@yahoo.com.

Gifts to Cursillo

Contact Treasurer Bob Novack at 630-892-7252 to celebrate a special occasion, honor a loved one or include Cursillo in your will.

Cursillo Prayer List Send prayer requests via email to Marty Lachat at mlhome@netzero.net

Lay Director *(Continued from page1)*

So the question we should ask ourselves in this Advent season, and as we make our New Years resolutions in 2004 is do we show the love of God to those around us? In the book, Radiating Christ-An appeal to Roman Catholics from the French of Raoul Plus, S.J. it says;

We have to make Christian teaching attractive by presenting it in action, by furnishing an example of Christian life, which will not be only attractive, but, if possible, even heroic. We have to make the truth admirable.

Words may be effective; but actions have a hundred times their value in power of persuasion. And among actions the most persuasive of all are those which are marked with the stamp of heroism. That is why St. John the Baptist won so many disciples. He was, as the Gospel says, "a burning and shining light". With Our Lord it was the same. He attracted more by His example than by His words.

"A burning and shining light", something for us all to think about as the lights get taken down, the Advent wreaths stored for another year, and the old trees thrown out by the road. The world desperately needs those who Radiate Christ.



Our Rockford Cursillo Movement is sponsoring a Leadership Workshop.

This is a great opportunity for you to renew and deepen your Fourth Day, and to learn in greater detail how the leadership of the Cursillo functions. The Secretariat has arranged to have a Region Leadership Team led by Gene Myers from Burton, Michigan conduct the workshop. It should be extremely informative and helpful to our local movement. Please carefully consider being a part of this leadership workshop.

The workshop will be held at Bishop Lane on February 20-22, 2004. The weekend starts at 7:00 PM on Friday and finishes at 3:00 on Sunday. We have made reservations for 100 attendants. With 45 people already registered, space is filling up quickly. All registration forms are due by January 20. The cost for the weekend is \$75.00 per person. You may register as a couple or as an individual. A deposit of \$25.00 per person is due with your registration form. Make checks payable to Cursillo in Christianity. If you have any questions, you may call Kevin & Mart O'Connor (630-264-1518) or Felix & Adamy Martinez (630-896-0354).

New Members of the Secretariat

Meet Al Fulton



I am married to Mary Fran for 33 years and we have four children and two grandchildren. Three of our children are adopted and two of these are from Korea. We were also a foster home for Catholic charities and had a couple dozen infants and unwed mothers stay with us, as well as exchange students, friends and relatives - so our house has never been empty - or quiet!

I retired from Lucent in 2001 after a career of 38 years of development of telecom equipment. After a brief, but intense, consulting stint with a startup company in California, I decided retirement looked better than ever and retired for real in 2002. I am enjoying golf and handball, as well as spending time with my grandchildren.

Mailing List Update

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list please complete the following and mail to: Al Fulton

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

I made my Cursillo in October 1986, in St Charles. It was one of those events that has changed my life. I have worked on most of the weekends since then, about 30 in all, and everyone has been great - no matter what role I was asked to take on. When Mike asked me to join Secretariat I was delighted to say yes, as I have seen the impact of the Cursillo movement not only in my life, but in hundreds of others. Christ told us that where "two or three are gathered" he would be there - at Cursillo we have "60-80" gathered - no wonder it is so powerful! One of the original goals of the Cursillo was to revitalize the church. I think all of us have seen what the Cursillo has done not only for individuals, but what is has done to help revitalize the parishes where Cursillistas come from.

Meet Donna Mancini:

I've been married to Jim Mancini for 35 years this coming May. We moved to Hampshire in 1995. We both made our Cursillos in the Spring of 1997. We have three children: Dan 32, Annamarie 30, and Bill 29. Annamarie is married to David Del Percio. They have one son, Christian, who is 8. Bill and his wife Lisa have three children, Willie 6, Danny 6, and Jenna Marie 2.

Cursillo is very important to my family. All three of my children, and their spouses, have made one, and I have witnessed many miracles within my immediate and extended family since my Cursillo. Four of my siblings, as well as their spouses, have made their Cursillos. Now, we are starting on the nieces and nephews. Nephew Nick made his last year and Mark will be making his in the Spring.

Our family is very close and Cursillo has taken our Spirituality to a new level as we continue to grow in our faith daily. We still have all the normal troubles and problems that all families have, but our belief in the love and mercy of Jesus Christ has given us all a new attitude on life. I feel very committed to Cursillo and I look forward to serving on the Secretariat in the position as chairperson for the Three Day Weekend Committee. I'm still trying to understand fully the responsibilities of my position but feel confident that the desire to serve God will enlighten me.

Secretariat

2004

January 27	School of Leaders planning session
February 20-22	Cursillo de Cursillo at Bishop Lane Retreat House in Rockford
February 24	Secretariat meeting
March 23	School of Leaders
April 22-25	Men's English Weekend
April 27	Secretariat meeting
May 13-16	Women's English Weekend
May 25	Secretariat meeting
June 22	Secretariat meeting
July 27	School of Leaders
August 24	Secretariat meeting
September 28	Secretariat meeting
October 21-24	Men's English Weekend
October 26	Secretariat meeting
November 11-14	Women's English Weekend
December 7	School of Leaders

See Calendar for meeting dates. 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	mvanstisine@yahoo.com
Lay Director - Spanish	Frank Navarro	630-892-0893	Cachis1999@aol.com
Secretary	Al Fulton	fulton630@cs.com	
Treasurer	Bob Novack	630-892-7252	bnovack@Hellerfin.com

Ralph Carlson has volunteered to be the new webmaster for the Rockford Cursillo web site. URL is: <http://www.natl-cursillo.org/rockford/>

Send email to Ralph [recarlson@comcast.net] and copy Al Fulton [fulton630@cs.com]. Also, any additional information or links that would be useful on the site.

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 814-732-2234 Saturday & Sunday 815-732-7883

Area Ultreyas

Aurora - 3rd Thursday each month. 7:00 pm. at The Compounder 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 Sunday each month, 7:00 pm. Usually at SS John & Catherine, occasionally at a home. Contact: Arnie & Phyllis Getz 815-684-5561.

Sterling/Rock Falls - 1st Sunday each month, 7:00 pm. at St. Mary's Parish Center. Contact: Bill Wolff 815-438-4252.

McHenry - Four times per year at Holy Apostles Church. Call Mike Campana (815) 385-6613 for dates and times.