



**Green Bay Diocese Cursillo  
Spring 2025 Newsletter #1  
Men's weekend # 269 will take place at  
St. Nicholas Parish in Freedom  
From March 27 - 30, 2025**

## **SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR REFLECTION**

De Colores,

They call this the spring newsletter but at the time of writing this, it's single digits and snowing. Warm weather seems like a very distant memory and something that is so far off in the future that it's not even worth thinking about. Perhaps I'm being a little dramatic, but this weather gets me thinking about Grace. We all go through ups and downs in our spiritual life, kind of like the seasons. We have times when we just bask in the warmth of God's Grace. We can feel God working through us, part of our lives, giving us strength. We're energized and excited to do our part for Jesus.

Other times we may feel like that's a distant memory. We may wonder if we will ever feel the warmth of God's presence again. Have you ever struggled during your 4<sup>th</sup> day reunions to think of a response for "When was I most aware of Christ's presence and why?" It can seem like a spiritual winter.

But even the times of feeling distance from God can be Grace filled too. God strengthens us in a different way throughout our journey. When we struggle and persevere in our faith, we can become closer to God. His Grace can become even stronger than before because we suffered.

God is never truly gone. We are never abandoned. Just like the sun is always there, even though we don't feel it. The Son is always there for us. His love will never go cold.

Have a blessed spring!

Deacon Brian Albers

## **DIOCESAN CURSILLO COORDINATOR MESSAGE**

De Colores fellow Cursillistas!

It is Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. Yesterday was the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple. As I write this letter, I remember a conversation that I had with my mom about the Priesthood. I was around 10, and we just got home from Mass on the Feast of the Presentation. I asked her what that Presentation ceremony in the Gospel was all about. She proceeded to tell me that the firstborn sons were presented to the Lord to do His work. She said it was customary for the parents to prepare their firstborn sons to be Priests. I asked her if I was going to be a Priest, and she said, "No, I don't think so." When I was in my early 30's, we had a conversation about the Diaconate. She thought that I would be a good Deacon. I told her that I really didn't 'feel a calling' to be a Deacon. That was kind of an abrupt end to another interesting conversation. Then I lived my Cursillo. The Palanca she sent me (she was not a Cursillista, but had heard about it from friends) was the most heartfelt letter from a mother that just wanted her firstborn son to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. As I finished reading, the door to my heart was opened, as well as the flood gates to my tear ducts. After years of muddling through life without a clear vision of what living a Spiritual life was all about, I finally understood what my mother wanted. Between the time that I lived my Cursillo and my mother's passing we had many Cursillo related conversations, but the conversation that I remember the most was after I was asked to be on my first

team and the Holy Spirit moved me to say yes. She was more excited than I was. She told me to stop over when the weekend was over and tell her everything. So, I did. I was so excited that I told her about everything that happened, even the secret stuff 😊 (Don't worry Fr. Pleier. I didn't reveal any of the skit details). She must have seen the joy that was in my heart, because she ended the conversation with a comment that has stuck with me ever since. She said, "I think you found your calling!" As we start another Cursillo year let's all remember what we were 'called' to do in the Action Rollo;

*Make a Friend      Be a Friend      Bring a Friend to Jesus Christ*

#### **Secretariat news—**

Speaking of being called, there are many things that you can do to help keep Cursillo a vibrant Apostolate in the Diocese. Many people help with Set-up and Take Down or Kitchen day chairs and workers, but have you thought about serving on the Secretariat?

If you are interested in any of the vacancies below, please call or email me, or anyone on the Secretariat and we will be happy to answer any questions that you might have.

\*Executive Secretary   \* Proctor Coordinator   \* Member-at-Large (would like 2 people)

For a complete list of the Who's Who in the Green Bay Cursillo Movement, you can click on the orange information link in the prayer chain, or you can go to:

<https://www.natl-cursillo.org/greenbay/secretariat.html>.

May God Bless and Be With You!

Gino Frassetto

Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator

[gfras1198@msn.com](mailto:gfras1198@msn.com)      (920) 505-0158

#### **DAY OF ENRICHMENT 2025 Overview**

The 19<sup>th</sup> annual Day of Enrichment was held on February 15, 2025, at St. Edward Parish in Freedom. Despite very snowy weather, more than 88 Cursillistas experienced a beautiful, enlightening day. Our emcee, Paul Chamberlain kept the day running smoothly and on track. Dcn. Todd Raether opened the day with Pope Francis' prayer for the Jubilee Year of Hope which we are currently celebrating, along with a reflection on the reality that hope does not disappoint. Following Mass celebrated by Fr. Robert Chinnepan, three Cursillistas shared their witness of how Cursillo has impacted their life. Nicole Fannin gave us a sketch of her life before Cursillo, as well as the things she has changed in her life as a result of living her Cursillo. She shared about the questions that Cursillo has put on her heart: What does it mean to follow Jesus? Where do we find him? How do we inspire others to join us? Our second speaker, Michelle Knaus talked about sacrificial love. Michelle related how God removed barriers which allowed her to attend her Cursillo weekend with an open and ready heart, and that her Cursillo experience has allowed her to let go and let God do what He wants in her life. As a result, she has been a blessing to her family members and the community as she expresses her faith and brings Christ to the people she meets. Our final speaker of the day, Bill Monfre, told us about the day Jesus came to town. Bill was privileged to be part of the Marian route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage this past July. He had the unique experience of piloting the boat across Shawano Lake that carried Eucharistic Procession pilgrims and a very special passenger, Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Despite several setbacks that day, the flotilla left the Cecil Village Park boat landing where he estimates 400 people gathered to adore Jesus in the procession and arrived at Camp Tekawitha as scheduled. What a beautiful witness of the true presence of Jesus in our midst! Deacon Todd Raether wrapped up the day asking each of us what we are going to do to bring Jesus to the world. He recommended we make a plan, state the plan, and then put it in the hands of the Holy Spirit. The Day of Enrichment Committee thanks everyone who participated in the day and is looking forward to what the Holy Spirit has in store for next year.



Food pantries across Wisconsin continue to see an increase in the demand for their services. According to Feeding America, half a million people in Wisconsin currently face hunger, including 200,000 children. Most of the funding for food pantries comes from local donations and collaboration with local schools and churches. In an effort to support food pantries in the communities where we hold Cursillo weekends, the Green Bay Cursillo Community will once again be holding a food drive in conjunction with the Men's closing and business meeting on March 30, 2025 at St. Nicholas Parish in Freedom. Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item or a cash donation with you on Sunday evening to help stock the shelves of the Freedom Food Pantry. Bins will be located at the entrance for you to drop your donation. Suggested food items to bring include:

Peanut butter	Canned Soup	Canned Fruit
Canned Vegetables	Canned Stew	Canned Fish
Canned Beans	Pasta	Rice
Breakfast Cereal	Baking Mixes	Instant Potatoes
Dried Fruit	Canned Juices	Pudding/Jello

***Please • No glass items • Check the expiration date •***

**Items collected on March 30, 2025 will benefit The Freedom Food Pantry**

Contact Sally Gruber at [grubersonelm@aol.com](mailto:grubersonelm@aol.com) or (920) 989-2671 for more information.

<b>Cursillo #269      Dates: Mar. 27-30, 2025      Location: St. Nicholas, Freedom</b>		
<b>Rector:    Dan Dooley    Ph: (920) 427-5170</b>	<b>Proctor (kitchen) Jeff Brockman</b>	
<b>Vice Rector:    Jim Newhouse    Ph: (920)716-0162</b>	<b>Phone: (920) 460-6078</b>	
<b>Spiritual Director: Deacon Brian Albers</b>		
<b>Phone:    (920) 422-5150</b>		
<b>Spiritual Director: Deacon Mark Mullins</b>		
<b>Phone: (920) 737-9429</b>		
<b>EMERGENCY PHONE #'S    Jim Newhouse (920) 716-0162      Dean Daul (920) 858-7410</b>		
<b>Set-up Date: Wednesday, March 26th      Set-up Time 7:00 p.m.</b>		
<b>SET-UP CHAIRPERSONS    Keith Deneys (920) 676-7928 and Bill Van Neuland (920) 636-3804</b>		
<b>THURSDAY NIGHT CHAIRPERSON      Stacy Degroot (920) 716-7775</b>		
<b>Time: 6:00 p.m.</b>		
<b>FRIDAY CHAIRPERSON      Barry and Lori Stumpf    (920)788-5479</b>		

<b>Breakfast 7:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Lunch 12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Dinner 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>SATURDAY CHAIRPERSON(S) Gerry Janssen (920) 422-1472</b>		
<b>AGAPE MEAL Carrie Hietpas (450-0789)</b>		
<b>Breakfast 7:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Agape Meal 1:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Dinner 6:15 p.m.</b>
<b>SUNDAY CHAIRPERSON Renee Vandehey (920) 442-9350</b>		
<b>Breakfast 7:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Lunch 12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Dinner 5:30 p.m.</b>
<b>CLEANUP CO-CHAIR Keith Deneys (920) 676-7928 and Bill Van Neuland (920) 636-3804</b>		
<b>DIRECTIONS TO SITE:</b> <b><i>From Green Bay</i></b> Take HWY 41 South to Cty S Exit at CTY S (right). Follow Hwy S into Freedom--St Nicholas is on the left. Parking in lot by school. Additional parking Off HWY E Near the gym. (Can also park across street in Town Hall lot or additional parking)  <b><i>From Oshkosh or Appleton area</i></b> Take HWY 41 North to S Exit at CTY S (left). Follow Hwy S into Freedom.  Please use main church entrance (Doors 3 -4 which will be marked)** <b>**FOR PEOPLE NEEDING AN ELEVATOR****PLEASE USE CANOPY ENTRANCE (Door 5)**</b>		

## **CANDIDATES, HOME CITY AND PARISH**

CHECK PRAYER CHAIN FOR UPDATE

## **PALANCA LETTERS**

Your Palanca for the weekend is critical for success. Remember that Palanca, the “lever”, is your prayer and sacrifices for the intention of the weekend. The Palanca letters are merely the conveyance of your Palanca of prayers and sacrifices. You are reminded that if you generate a Palanca letter from your computer, please take a moment to read the letter to check for updates and that the gender (WOMEN) is correct. If possible, it is very helpful if the Palanca letters are alphabetized. This saves a lot of time when sorting the letters.

Important Palanca Information! In an effort to streamline Palanca mailing, all Palanca for Cursillos will be sent to the Cursillo post office box and will then be brought to the Cursillo location to be distributed to the candidates. Please do not mail Palanca to the parish. Palanca is truly the act, not the letter, but it is nice for the candidates to actually receive the letter that someone took the time to write. (A reminder, Palanca letters for the team members are also important. It is a bit awkward if the candidates have a stack of letters to open and the team members at their tables only have a few letters to open.) So please send your Palanca to the Cursillo post office box, or if you like, Palanca can also be dropped off at the mailbox on the Cursillo trailer at the Cursillo location.

Our Post Office Box is:

**Cursillos in Christianity**  
**P.O. Box 184**  
**Little Chute, WI 54140**

**PLEASE BE SURE THAT PROPER POSTAGE IS AFFIXED TO ELIMINATE POSTAGE DUE**