

Chicago Catholic Cursillo



ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Deacon Bill Karstenson

Over the years, one of the more popular themes for a weekend is the Road to Emmaus. It is a Scripture that is rich in context, and is deep in both what is written and the nuances of what is not, but inferred, and lends itself easily to a weekend as our participants find Christ and community in the breaking of the bread. The Road to Emmaus brings us from a time where the two disciples are dejected, scared, unsure of themselves and are fleeing for their lives because they believe all is lost; that they have lost sight of Christ, and as such have lost sight of themselves and their mission to move from being disciples to apostles. From being taught to being teachers, Christ told his disciples that where two or more are gathered, there also will He be ... Community.

I think in some ways our Chicago Cursillo is suffering. On many levels, we are similar to the disciples suffering on the road. Like the disciples we can find ourselves as a ministry, and in doing so, find that our hearts once again burn within us. That solution is found in community, in the coming together in the breaking of the bread, sharing not just in Eucharist, but sharing in each other.

Our ministry has suffered because the weekends have been canceled. That is true, but the critical question is have we, as the Fourth Day made a friend, been a friend, and brought that friend to Christ? Not just for a weekend, but introduced them through Reunion or Ultreya and from that introduction, invited them to a weekend? One feeds the other and then is fed back.

We know that our lives in Christ do not happen in a vacuum — that it must be worked to be lived. We know that our lives in Christ cannot be fed and grow without community. Being a lone wolf does not help

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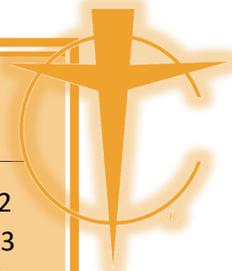


us accomplish our calling.

There is a great deal of work being done to try and revitalize our ministry, and to rekindle our hearts to burn within us. I attended a short meeting recently and learned of the many efforts that are being put forth to renew and rekindle our hearts. I ask you to allow your hearts to be open, as the disciples’ hearts were on the road as they listened to Jesus, as these ideas are introduced. If you’re not in a reunion group, reconsider joining one. If you haven’t been to an Ultreya in a while, come back. In some way, help the wonderful ministry find that love and “burn” for Christ.

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New Developments

Exciting new blessings are springing forward to enliven Cursillo. This began during January, hearing your voices at Chicagoland Ultreyas. The mission of Cursillo is carried in our hearts and we trust that the Holy Spirit is the wind beneath our wings. You expressed awe-inspiring values of Cursillo including methods of growing depth in faith, engaging community and living the truth of Christianity alive in the spirit.

This then lead to discussion of actions such as mutual service, parish outreach, expanded reunion groups, Cursillo talk nights, connection with pastors and the archdiocese, school of leaders, and friendship events. No doubt Cursillo has major relevance to our church and in our environments, as well as our hearts. The Secretariat has been in action during February to formulate plans.

The first thing will be to re-start the Cursillo School of Leaders (SoL). The School will be the yeast of our Christian community that will leaven our Fourth Day experience. A team has been formed to develop this crucial arm of Chicago Cursillo that will support and guide those actions, which you have shared with us. Join the School and come be fed, and go forward strengthened. We believe the School will revitalize the Cursillo movement and will eventually bring back strong weekends.

We look forward to your involvement because the "SoL" needs "U" to be the "Soul" of Cursillo. Your support in any way will help bring about a vibrant Cursillo. Please continue to pray and offer Palanca for our Cursillo movement.

God bless always and De Colores,

Dan and Cindy Kane

Lay Directors



THANK YOU

Your Donations Matter

Thank you to all of those members who donate regularly to Cursillo. As you know we are a community of servants. Each person is a volunteer committed to the work of the Movement. During this renewal period, we still have operating costs, such as supplies, books and the cost for meeting rooms. Please consider making a small donation if you are able.

Donations should be made payable to Chicago Catholic Cursillo.

Mail check donations to:
Chicago Catholic Cursillo
C/O Bill Tyda
6122 N. Forest Glen
Chicago, IL 60646

Or Donate Online
chicagocursillo.org

Piety, Study and Action

As we all know, living the Cursillo Method means keeping these three aspects of our Catholic life in the forefront of our mind. This is the very heart of making our environments a place of conversion. This is why belonging to a Reunion group is important. It gives a place to share and reflect on how we are living. Meeting regularly with a group helps to keep ourselves accountable, inspired and challenged.

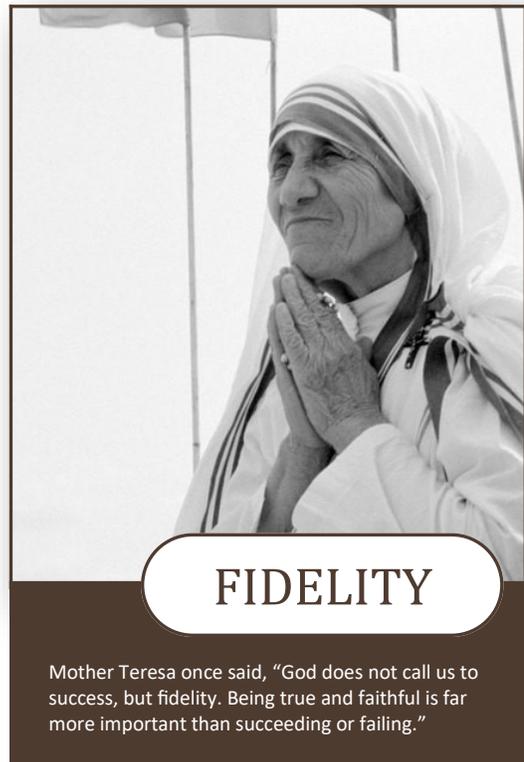
Living the Cursillo Method appears simple when you hear these three small goals (piety, study and action). How many of us have struggled with one or more of these parts of our Christian life? We have all been there when prayer ... even though we attend Church on Sunday or pray the rosary ... seems empty. Many times we hear from others that study is a challenge to try to "fit" in our busy life. Action is often hard to define since we are often unconsciously impacting our environment in a positive way because we are simply living the method and it has become a part of us.

Sometimes we overcomplicate our lives with so many things that we do not spend time to just sit and listen to the Lord. Regular attendance in a Reunion group allows us to stop, think and reflect, and inspires us to go beyond what we have been doing.

Looking for a Reunion group?

As life changes so do reunion groups. There are many people who have had the same reunion group since they made their weekend. There are groups that grew too large and have broken into small groups. Reunion groups also change when a member moves out of the area or for various other reasons stops attending.

Attending your local Ultreya group is a great way to connect with other Cursillistas. You may be able to find a local group that is able to welcome you or inquire with the Ultreya Leaders to see if there is a group that you can join. Living the Cursillo Method requires active participation in a Reunion group and your Local Ultreya. Active participations inspires and enables each one of us to stay the course in living the Cursillo Method.



Below is a list of the Chicago area Ultreyas and meeting dates for 2017. Please visit our website at chicagocursillo.org to view the contact information for each Ultreya.

Chicago Ultreya Meetings

Our Lady of the Ridge—Chicago Ridge
Sundays at 6 PM: 5/21, 7/16, 3/17 and 11/19

St. Gertrude's Parish— Franklin Park
Mondays at 7:30 PM: 5/15, 7/17, 9/18 and 11/20

St. Thomas of Villanova—Palatine
Fridays at 7:00 PM: 4/21, 5/19, 9/15, 10/20 and 11/17

St. Catherine Laboure —Glenview
Fridays at 7:00 PM: 4/28 other dates TBD

St. Damian—Oak Forest
Sundays at 6 PM— dates TBA

St. Peter & St. Paul— Chicago
Saturdays TBA



A BEAUTIFUL LIFE

credited to many: origins unknown

A beautiful life doesn't just happen; it's built daily by prayer, humility, sacrifice and love. May that beautiful life be yours always.

Palanca—Prayer—Sacrifice

Palanca is needed always. It's not just for candidates. Palanca is the lever for us as individuals and for us as a local Chicago Community as well as all Cursillo Movements around the world. It is through prayer and sacrifice that we all become closer to God.

For those of you who were able to attend the special meetings that were held in January at each local Ultreya group, the growing pains of the Chicago Catholic Cursillo Movement were explained in detail. As Cursillo is a living Movement, sometimes we need to stop, pray and listen to the Holy Spirit. Over the past few years, we have faced many weekend cancellations. This was hard for us as a community.

After the back-to-back weekend cancellations in the fall, the Secretariat, in conjunction with the movement's Spiritual Directors, decided that we needed to stop planning weekends and take some time for needed reflection and listening to the Holy Spirit. It is not uncommon for local Cursillo Communities to take a year of discernment and restructuring and pausing weekends while this is done. Joliet and the Chicago Spanish Cursillo have both done this in the past. There are other

communities that have done this throughout the nation. The book, Whom shall I Send, is a great book available to read, which speaks to this journey.

In January, we took the time to listen to the community as members gathered at local meetings. The results have been shared at the local level at the Ultreyas in March.

One of the major objectives is to bring back the School of Leaders "SoL." So for the rest of 2017, we want you to know that even though we are placing Chicago weekends on hold for the year, Cursillo is alive and well. It is our commitment to Live the Cursillo Method through Reunion and attendance at Ultreya that will enlighten us and keep us strong as we pray and make sacrifices for the good work we do as a community.

So we urge you to take part in activities that will be planned this year such as the Lenten Day of Reflection and Reconciliation, which was held on Saturday, March 25, at Our Lady of Hope. Approximately about 35 of us gathered in prayer and fellowship.



CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU

While we are taking a pause on 2017 Weekends to regroup and reorganize ...

Christ is still counting on you to continue to bring others to him...

by making a friend, being a friend and bringing a friend to HIM.

Invite someone to join your reunion group or other open Cursillo Sponsored Events.

You never know what effect our words will have, or your actions.

Sigrid Wonsil

When you made your weekend, you may have seen a banner that said: "Bloom Where You Are Planted", or maybe you heard the slogan. Wherever you are blooming is where you can find candidates to make the Cursillo weekend.

It may be among co-workers. It may be in your neighborhood. It may be in school, across the aisle in church, where you exercise or volunteer. I have kept in contact with former students and sponsored some for the Cursillo weekend. I have mentioned Cursillo at Weight Watchers meetings, although I have to admit, the weekend is not a good place to lose weight. When in doubt, say a quick prayer, and mention Cursillo. You never know what effect your words will have, or your actions.



SPRING 2018

Coming Soon... Chicago Cursillo Weekends

Palanca is needed for the following Cursillo Weekends happening in April and May 2017

The Joliet English Women's Cursillo will be April 20-23, 2017.

Visit the National Cursillo website to send your Palanca worldwide.

Palanca Request List : Import

4/27/2017	4/30/2017	Men's 9 (Spanish)	Massachusetts
4/27/2017	4/30/2017	Men's 134th	Arlington, VA
4/27/2017	4/30/2017	Men's Cursillo (Spanish)	Rockford, IL
4/27/2017	4/30/2017	Women's 17 (Spanish)	Arlington, Virginia
4/27/2017	4/30/2017	Women's Cursillo (English)	West River Diocese, South Dakota
4/27/2017	4/30/2017	Women's 191 (spanish)	Diocese of Rockville Centre, NY
4/27/2017	4/30/2017	Men's 9 (Spanish)	Diosese of Springfield, MA
4/27/2017	4/30/2017	Women's weekend (English)	Oregon IL, Rockford diocese
4/27/2017	4/30/2017	MENS 330 (English)	Corpus Christi
4/27/2017	4/30/2017	Women's 896 (English)	Los Angeles, CA
4/27/2017	4/30/2017	Women's 287 (English)	San Diego, CA
4/27/2017	4/30/2017	Cursillo 563 Mujeres (Spanish)	Amarillo
4/28/2017	4/30/2017	Region 1 Encounter (English/Spa	Bloomfield, CT
4/27/2017	4/30/2017	womens 130 (Spanish)	centro San Pedro diocesis de Torreon, C
4/27/2017	4/30/2017	Women's 2017 (English)	Sacramento, CA,
4/27/2017	4/30/2017	Men's (English)	Salem, VA Richmond Diocese
4/27/2017	4/30/2017	Men's Cursillo 100 (Spanish)	Diocesis de Dodge City
4/27/2017	4/30/2017	Humboldt Redwood Cursillo 55 (I	Ferndale, California
4/28/2017	5/5/2017	Cursillo N°10 Damas (Español)	Diócesis del Guaviare (Colombia)
5/4/2017	5/7/2017	Men's Cursillo Weekend (English)	West River Catholic Diocese, South Dak
5/4/2017	5/7/2017	Women's Spring 2017 (English)	San Jose, California
5/4/2017	5/7/2017	Women's Weekend (English)	Portland, ME

School of Leaders (SoL)

As we know when inviting a candidate to attend the weekend, we invite them to a “Short Course to Christianity.” Our weekly Reunion groups help us to share, inspire and hold ourselves responsible to the mission of Cursillo. “The School of Leaders itself is meant to be one of spirituality, formation, and Christian community. The individuals who make up the School together form a Christianity in Action as they serve the whole Movement.”¹

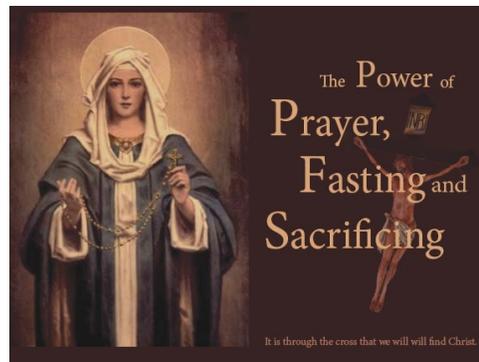
It is our opportunity to grow and challenge as a community through prayer, learning and discussion. The School of Leaders is not established to do things, but TO BE SOMETHING ... A COMMUNITY OF SERVICE to the Cursillistas.² The meetings will be open to any Cursillistas who has made the commitment to attend his/her reunion group, Ultreyas, and the School of Leaders regularly. It is an opportunity to pray, learn, discuss, share and do the Good Works of Christianity.

At this time the School of Leaders is still in development. It’s development will be structured using the national format for a School of Leaders as a foundation. As no two Cursillo Communities are alike so will be our School of Leaders. It will be ever-developing and changing to enrich our community. It will develop and shape as the Holy Spirit guides those who participate in the school.

A group of leaders have volunteered to become members of the School of Leaders’ Committee. This Committee is studying the many published material and guides on how to establish a SoL. Also on the committee are various community members who have been involved in the School of Leaders in the past, when it was known as Leaders’ School.

The new School of Leaders, which is currently under development, will be different. Since we are a living and ever-changing movement, so will be our School. It is important that this process not be rushed.

Please pray for this committee as they pray, study and eventually begin to discuss the development of our School of Leaders. The School of Leaders is an essential component to the enrichment and energy of our Community. We will keep you updated.



Palanca should be preformed for the development of the School of Leaders (SoL). We all know the power of prayer and sacrifice. Praying, fasting, abstaining, whatever your sacrifice, will enable us to move toward the Will of the Trinity.

If you care to offer Palanca, please consider sending a note or an email to the SoL committee or the Secretariat to let them know of your prayers and sacrifices. Remember that as on the weekend, the content of the letter is to inform what prayers and sacrifices are being offered during this time of renewal and development.

[Palanca for Secretariat and School of Leaders \(SoL\)](#)

Email: palanca@chicagocursillo.org

US Mail: Palanca C/O Robert Chio

642 Executive Drive, Willowbrook, IL 60527

Facsimile: (toll free #) 866- 233- 9855

DE COLORES

Footnotes: 1. Leaders’ Manual pg 61 2. Leaders’s Manual pg. 59-60