



## Central Indiana Cursillo Community November 2023

### *From the Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator's Desk...*

The purpose of my article is a) to once again, welcome our new Cursillistas and b) invite all new and existing Cursillistas to get more involved in the Cursillo movement. I have the honor to serve the Central Indiana Cursillo Center (CICC) as the Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator, the position formerly known as the Lay Director. I also have the pleasure to serve with a dedicated group of individuals on the **CICC Secretariat**:

- Pat Maher - Assistant Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator: Indianapolis
- Mick Gillen - Assistant Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator: Lafayette
- Fr. Dan Duff - Spiritual Advisor - Lafayette Diocese
- Ft. Todd Riebe - Spiritual Advisor – Archdiocese of Indianapolis
- Kim Zachary - Secretary
- Marty Van Der Burgt - Treasurer
- Joe & Becky Rice - Precursillo
- Corky Aiken - 3- Day
- Louisa LaGrotto - Post-Cursillo
- Peter Santerre - School of Leaders
- Virlee Weaver - Music Coordinator
- Dave Leclere - Music Coordinator
- Beth Van Der Burgt - Website Coordinator
- Beth Doran - Voice Editor
- Natalie Deason - Prayer Chain Coordinator
- Patty Brooks - Palanca Coordinator

We have two open Parish Coordinator positions



Michael Anderson  
CICC Diocesan Cursillo  
Coordinator



As Cursillo Founder, Eduardo Bonin, stated, “the purpose of Cursillo is to vertebrae Christianity in society, with those who live what is fundamental for being Christian, the love of God and neighbor, to live our daily lives while strengthening the three encounters, the encounters our new Cursillistas just experienced. The goal of the movement is not about “preaching the Good News” and becoming Evangelicals, but rather to BECOME THE GOOD NEWS, and in a natural way, our ACTIONS will become evangelical in our daily lives which will provide a more authentic, continuous, and progressive Christianity.

It doesn't take much effort to see that the world needs you. Just turn on the TV, radio or your favorite social media platform and you'll see. The world needs you. The CICC community needs you. And Christ is counting on you.

**The current priorities for the CICC Secretariat are the following:**

- Increase candidate participation on the weekends
- Increase participation of Cursillo community
- Support the development of the School of Leaders

Over the coming months, the Secretariat will be working diligently towards those priorities. The dates and locations for the 2024 weekends are already set and as we begin planning for the 2025 weekends, we'll explore all options available to improve participation of new and existing Cursillistas. This will include the timing of our weekends, location of the weekends, frequency of weekends, and so on. Please keep the Secretariat in your prayers as we explore all options.

**So, what can our new Cursillistas do to get more involved?**

- Find a friendship group reunion that will help strengthen your relationship with Christ and friendships with others
- Attend Ultreyas
- Attend the monthly School of Leaders

**What can our existing Cursillistas do to get more involved?**

- Attend a friendship group reunion
- Don't just attend, but get involved with the School of Leaders
- Support the Secretariat as we need your help and cannot do it alone

Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!

De Colores!

Michael Anderson





### *New Cursillistas*

Charles Olsen, Conner James, Edmond Talucci, Dan Quirk, Michael Rusbasan, Willard O'Bryan, John Hansberry, Daniel Brock III, Michael Tieman, Philip Lashutka, Steven Renzulli, Mike Shanley, Peter Marcus, David Richards, Thomas Hornbach, Thomas Beck, Jon Smith, Robert Brennan, Chris Wilson, Rex Rund, Robert Schneider, Terry Smith, Alan Hardenburg

### *Team*

Mark Mader, Tom Lux, Bob Hughbanks, Bill Demaree, Deacon Mike Gray, Bobby Armstrong, Bill Bahler, Bill Beckman, Dave Doran, Dan Ford, Paul Habecher, Tim Hayes, David LeClere, Pat Maher, Matt Murphy, Joe Rivelli, Lucky Sample, Mark Scheller, Trey Scruggs, Ben Slocum, Adam Smith, John Weber



I suppose every rector wonders if his or her new Cursillistas received the lessons that Cursillo provides. You plan and prepare, you do your best to bring the right members to your team. The Holy Spirit provided just the right mix of men for Team 126. Most rectors have six months to assemble their team and prepare. Team 126 had twelve months. From the disappointment in March 2023 with too few candidates until October 2023 when the Holy Spirit provided us with 22 men eager to learn what Cursillo was all about. Time passes incredibly fast. You wonder, are they getting the message you are trying to give them? It seems like they are, but still, you can't be sure. And then it is over except for the Closing. That first new Cursillista stepped-up and gave his witness and all the others followed. They got it. The Holy Spirit was truly present from that first moment of team formation until the last witness on Sunday evening. I am assured that all of the new Cursillistas of Team 126 got it.

De Colores,

Mark Mader, Rector Team 126







### ***New Cursillistas:***

Rachel Nesbit, Denise Rody, Katie Buck, Jeri Huntington, Carolyn Molander, Imelda Melliore,  
Kathleen Tieman, Leanne Harris, Stephanie DiBlasio, Karen Scimeca, Samantha LaMar,  
Brooke Travelsted, Michelle Abbott, Ruth McCluskey, L Marie Sleet, Anna Cornell,  
Michele Beland, Elizabeth Brock, Victoria Cammeresi, Karissa Wright

### ***Team***

Fr. Dan Duff, Nancy Halsema, Anne Marie Guba, Barb Colgan, Susan Presley,  
Becky Rice, Dusty Vignes, Louisa LaGrotto, Kim Zachery, Joan Scimeca,  
Ginny Maher, Mindy Overdorf, Kim Goralski, Niki Butz, Mary Kendall,  
Lisa Sassman, Jane Swidan, Becky Scheller, Terry Moriarty, Jolaine Hill, Shirley Young,  
Von Keech, Vangie Vescovi, Caroline Cundiff, Barb Strasburger,  
Amy Strasburger

Hello!

My name is Nancy Halsema. I am living Cursillo #73 where I grouped at the table of St. Faustina and I worship at St. Marie Goretti.



The past 4 months of formation, the weekend itself, and the reunion have had such an indescribable impact on my own personal spiritual growth. To be able to see God working through so many people on such an intimate level was so beautiful! Once I was able to get over my case of nerves and hesitation to be Rectora and surrender to God's will, everything became so incredibly easy. Fr. Dan Duff graciously accepted my request that he be our Spiritual advisor without hesitation. His guidance and love of God and love of our movement was evident to all! Next, I needed to assemble a core of hard working, spirit-filled ladies to form my core team. Anne Marie Guba and I had met many years ago while working Cursillo weekends. We had an instant bond and always said we would help each other if we ever became rectora. She agreed to to be my assistant/ right arm-Praise God!- as I am totally spread-sheet challenged! Barb Colgan was excited when I asked her to be head kitchen cha! We ate like queens and still stayed healthy! Becky Rice did an amazing, reverent job as Sacristan! What a lovely spirit! Dusty Vignes shared her incredible God given talents, leading us in song and praise! Susan Presley was one of a few ladies on team that I didn't know before formation. Anne Marie suggested I reach out to her to be head cha because she has such great organizational skills. Anne Marie was right, and I was so blessed to get to know Susan and have her by my side! All the rest of the ladies on team were so willing to answer my call to be part of #116. There was no hesitation on anyone's response to serve. (well maybe only 1 or 2 needed a little nudging!)

At our first day of formation I asked the team to do a few things. I wanted the team to accept whatever role, rollo, etc that was asked of them. I told them that it was not me asking but the Holy Spirit. And I literally mean the Holy Spirit! Every time I thought I knew what I was doing I would be awakened about 2:00 AM and found myself having a conversation with Him! Usually, it was to tell me I had to change assignments and rollo speakers. I finally realized that everything would be so much easier as rectora if I just moved over and gave Him the steering wheel. We continued to have many early morning talks and I was given a lot of guidance. I'm still in awe of this--that God will just speak to me even without me initiating the conversation. I also asked my team to let the new Cursillistas see the light of Jesus shining through them and to do everything with joy and to make the weekend fun. They all delivered! I never had a more spiritual, fun weekend in my life. My face hurt so much from laughing and I know God was smiling and laughing with us!

Next the Holy Spirit called some amazing women to be on the weekend. Several of them shared that, they had felt a very strong calling to attend. Everyone I spoke with shared the same thoughts-- that they could see the Holy Spirit shining through the entire team. What they may not have fully noticed was that, we as a team, saw the Holy Spirit being reflected back to us one hundred fold!



One thing I did with the new Cursillistas after the break in when I was telling them about getting up and sharing in front of the community was to pass the crucifix and let each one hold it and feel Jesus entering them and giving them strength. I shared with them that I had taken the crucifix to a visiting veneration service at St Maria Goretti for the relic of St. Jude. I touched the crucifix to the relic hereby making it a third-class relic. I told them that St. Jude was Jesus' first cousin and that the arm relic had once embraced Jesus and would now be embracing them and giving them the courage to speak. If you were at the closing you know that every single lady got up and willingly shared from the heart. I had several ladies tell me that they were overcome with surprise and shocked at their own courage to be able to speak! God is so good!

Next, the reunion Ultreya was such an incredible evening! Leanne Harris gave such a moving 4<sup>th</sup> day witness! She said she was so nervous to give the talk, but you would never know it! What a lovely witness of how God just keeps on drawing her into His arms! I have had the opportunity to speak to several of the New Cursillistas since the weekend and they are already enthusiastically engaging in friendship groups. If these new Cursillistas are any evidence of the future of our movement I am very excited about what's to come!

This has been an honor and a very humbling experience to serve as rectora #116. I will carry all of you in my heart. And I wish you all a very blessed fourth day!  
De Colores!

Nancy Halsema

**Nancy Halsema**  
**Women's Cursillo # 116**



## A Season of Gratitude

At this time of year, many of us take time to reflect on the blessings we have received and to give thanks to God who is the giver of every good gift. The Roman philosopher, Cicero, taught that the virtue of gratitude is the parent of all other virtues. It is a virtue worth cultivating.

Some families have the beautiful custom of sharing the blessings for which they are especially grateful at the Thanksgiving table. As Cursillistas, we too, have so much for which to be grateful. Each of us could/should make a list.

Here are some of my reasons for gratitude:

I am grateful to God, the Father, for loving the world so much that he would send his beloved Son to be my Savior.

I am grateful to Jesus, the Son of God, for taking on himself the burden of my sin and paying a debt I could never repay.

I am grateful to God, the Holy Spirit, for keeping me connected to the mind and heart of Jesus.

I am grateful to God for the gift of the Church that Jesus founded and that under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, transmits the faith of the Apostles from generation to generation.

I am grateful for the charism that was entrusted to Eduardo Bonnin that led to the lay movement that is Cursillos in Christianity and for the gift that it is to the Church.

I am grateful to God for the fellowship that is shared among Cursillistas and the amazing examples of holiness I see in our community.

I am grateful to God for the gift of the priesthood and the privilege of serving the Cursillo family with Father Dan.

And the list goes on and on... May we make *every* season a season of gratitude.

De Colores!

Fr. Todd Riebe  
Spiritual Director Men's # 126  
Archdiocese of Indianapolis





Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a blessing it is to be involved in people's spiritual growth. It is a blessing to be on a Team. It is a blessing because you get to give of yourself. And as we often find out, it is in giving that we receive. We receive blessings from our loving Father, his beloved Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. We receive blessings often in ways that we do not expect.

As spiritual advisor, I probably see this in a unique way in the Masses celebrated and Confessions heard. I often am present when the new Cursillistas arrive (as I was for Womens 116), see them throughout the weekend including at Masses and in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and see them at the closing. I see them when they arrive on the 1<sup>st</sup> Day, sometimes nervous and unprepared, and on the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, tired, but nonetheless filled with God's love and prepared to take on the world. To see that transformation is beautiful, it is a blessing.

As a priest, one thing that nourishes my spirit is witnessing people encounter Christ. This weekend did not disappoint. Hearts were touched, people encountered Jesus Christ. Another thing that nourishes my spirit is seeing people striving to follow Christ faithfully. I have great hope that the Women of Cursillo 116 will follow Christ faithfully on the 4<sup>th</sup> Day.

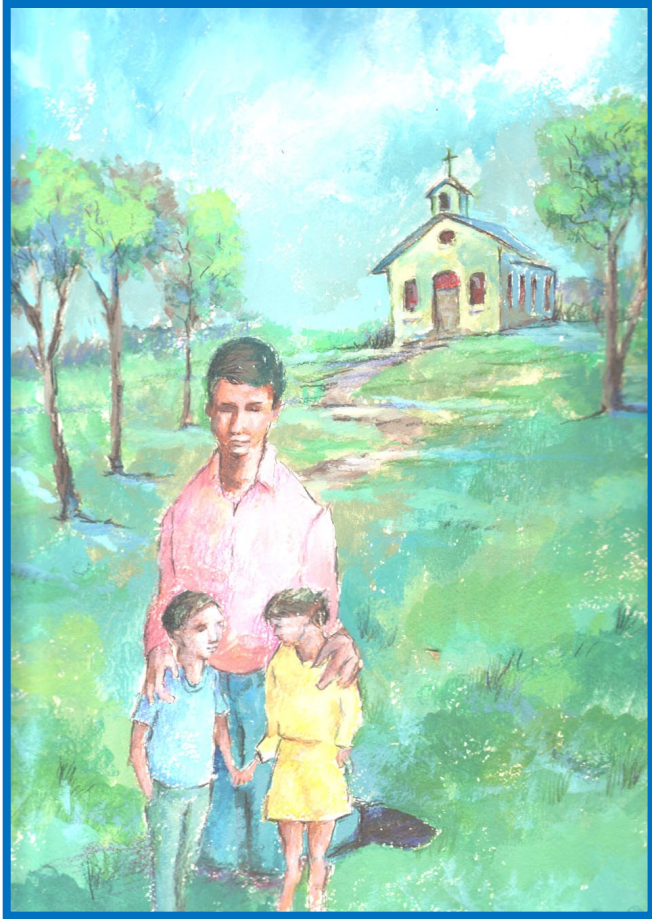
Another Blessing is friendship, friendships formed in formation and on weekends. Expressions of these friendships are as varied as the people they involve. I recently learned these expressions of friendship sometimes even arrive in the mail. I received a bell in the mail from an unnamed person who in a note wrote, in part, "I will never admit to being your secret partner in crime." There is an inscription on the bell that reads "Fr. Dan Duff – Exodus 20:15 – Cursillo #116." Exodus 20:15 says "Thou shalt not steal." LOL

In Christ,

Fr. Dan Duff



Fr. Dan Duff  
Spiritual Director Women's # 116  
Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana



These pictures by  
Ward Degler, Artist  
Are the Hispanic Themed Paintings.



Paintings courtesy of:  
Ward Degler  
Cursillo # 54  
Table of St. Luke  
St. Alphonsus Liguori Church  
Zionsville





Voice, Issue for November 2023  
Snap Shots of the Grand Reunion Ultreya in Westfield, IN, at St. Maria Goretti  
Catholic Church – Louisa LaGrotto



(Image from St. Maria Goretti's Facebook page)



Bible Enthronement begins with the song, *Thy Word*, and Holy Scripture. (Karen Scimeca with Candle, Rob Brennan, reading Psalm 94) (David LeClere & Dusty Vignes led us in song.



Tables grouping in friendship accounted for more than 90 joyful Cursillistas in attendance!

Our two witnesses shared their faith journeys by giving us an account of their personal spiritual growth before and after making their Cursillo weekends. Each witness uniquely described their encounter with self, with Christ and with others and how each experience profoundly impacted their decision to deepen their faith back in their environments. Listening to Dan and Leanne describe their spiritual renewal allowed us all to recall how we have been touched by the Holy Spirit and to reconfirm our commitment to live our 4<sup>th</sup> Day with the Gospel in our hearts. Once again, each Grand Reunion Ultreya is a testimony of the Charism of Friendship in action, and of how much God loves us all. ¡De colores!

Louisa LaGrotto, Post Cursillo Coordinator  
& MC for the Grand Reunion Ultreya Coordinator



Men's #126 Witness, Dan Quirk



Women's #116 Witness, Leanne Harris



#### Leadership in Cursillo....



Pat Maher, Assist.  
Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator,  
Archdiocese of Indianapolis



Mark Mader, Rector of Men's 126  
Weekend



Nancy Halsema, Rectora of  
Women's 116 Weekend





The Indianapolis & Lafayette Cursillo Community  
is sponsoring an Ultreya,  
and would like to invite EVERYONE to join us.

**Saturday - February 17, 2024**

at

St. Joseph Church & Parish Hall

319 E South St. Lebanon, IN

Mass Begins at 4:30 PM    Pitch-in dinner 6:00 PM

(Meat and tableware will be provided.)

Ultreya 7:00 PM

The theme for the evening will be:

Living Cursillo by your example,

Featuring a video about the life of Fr. Emil Kapaun.



A surviving POW of the Korean war testified that Fr. Kapaun's selfless example was the inspiration they needed to keep each other alive during the next two and a half years of their imprisonment. One of his fellow prisoners of war sums it up well: "Father proved himself to be the greatest example of manhood that I've ever seen in my life."

In 2013 Chaplain Kapaun was awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest honor for bravery in battle, and in 2015 his cause for sainthood in the Catholic Church was presented to the Congregation for Saints in Rome, which is currently reviewing the first stages of it. We continue to pray that someday soon he will be named a saint!

## Promoting *Cursillo* at Parish Events

Each year, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Carmel, Indiana, holds an annual Food Truck Festival and Ministry Fair. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy great food and learn about various ministries available to serve the Lord.

This year, the OLMC Cursillo Parish Representatives, **Mark and Lisa Sassman**, obtained a booth to share about Cursillo. The event was successful due to their team of OLMC Cursillista volunteers who helped with planning, logistics, and took shifts in the booth: **Anne Marie Guba, Lyree Marcus, Jane and Kayser Swidan**, and **Fr. Dan Gartland, Sr. Associate Pastor**.

Other OLMC Cursillistas who attended the fair helped out as well by bringing family and friends by the booth, and promoting Cursillo by wearing an **"I AM A CURSILLISTA!"** sticker with their name on it. By night's end, many faithful men and women could be seen wearing stickers! In an effort of inclusion, Spanish Cursillo brochures were provided at the OLMC Hispanic Apostolate's booth nearby, and moving forward, partnering with the Hispanic Apostolate Director, the Hispanic church bulletin will include information on upcoming Spanish weekends.



In addition to information and brochures about Cursillo, the OLMC Cursillo booth offered a CURSILLO SPINWHEEL activity with prizes to share about **Piety, Study** and **Action**. A **free rosary raffle** was also held to encourage new people to sign up to learn more about Cursillo. As families approached the booth, young adults were drawn to the Cursillo Spinwheel, and parents were asked if they'd heard about Cursillo.

If they **knew about Cursillo** or already was a Cursillista, their contact information was verified against OLMC's Cursillo list, and opportunities to serve on a team, sponsor an individual, and attend the next Ultreya were discussed.

If they **didn't know about Cursillo**, wanted to learn more, and provided their contact information, they were entered into the free raffle to win a set of St. Joseph Terror of Demons Rosary by the Marians of the Immaculate Conception. The rosaries were **blessed** by OLMC's own Cursillista and Sr. Associate Pastor: **Fr. Dan Gartland!** With almost 50 raffle entrants (and now, potential future Cursillistas), the OLMC Cursillo Community happily announces the winners: **Jason Sprunger/Men's Genuine Hematite Rosary**; and **Shana Lopez/Women's Bohemian Glass & Mother of Pearl Rosary**.



As Cursillistas, we know the importance of this movement. Consider reaching out to your Cursillo Parish Representative to help promote and share Cursillo within your parish. We must remember to **Make a Friend, Be a Friend, and Bring a Friend to Christ** – because Christ is Counting on Us.

De Colores!

Lisa Sassman

Cursillo # 101

Table of Piety

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

Mark Sassman

Cursillo # 112

Table of St. Peter

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel



## *2023 Year End Campaign*

The mission and ministry of Cursillo in Central Indiana are only made possible by our community of members. Our wonderful story and model of mission – make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ – is only possible with your commitment to foster piety, study, and **action** in the church.

I am profoundly grateful for the support so many of you have shown to Cursillo in the past, and I invite you to make your impact on Cursillo this year with a gift to our CICC 2023 Campaign. Your generosity helps CICC continue to inspire the next generation of active Cursillistas, provide spiritual development and resources for our members, and ensure that Cursillo weekends will continue to make a difference in our parishes and faith communities.

Please prayerfully consider making a gift to Cursillo between now and December 31. **I would especially like to encourage you to make a re-occurring monthly gift by debit or credit card on our website.** A small gift of \$5 or \$10 per month would make a huge difference to our organization. One-time gifts may also be made by check and mailed to the treasurer. Gifts from Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) or IRAs may also be accepted through the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. For more details, please visit our website at [www.cursillo-cicc.org/donate](http://www.cursillo-cicc.org/donate)

I wish you and your family joyous and blessed Advent and Christmas seasons, and good health and prosperity for the new year!

Decolores,

Marty Van Der Burgt, Treasurer

Mail:

Central Indiana Cursillo Center  
c/o Marty Van Der Burgt, Treasurer  
3280 Waverly Drive  
Richmond, IN 47374







The

Men's Cursillo #127 Weekend is:

February 22 – 25, 2024

Women's Cursillo # 117 Weekend is:

March 14 – 17, 2024

That means soon after New Year's  
The Weekends will be HERE!



No rest for the weary.  
Applications are available on the  
[www.cursillo-cicc.org](http://www.cursillo-cicc.org) website

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Contact : Kelly Anderson - Prearrangement Specialist 317-773-2584

1150 Logan Street  
Noblesville, IN 46060

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Noblesville, IN 46062

12010 Allisonville Road  
Fishers, IN 46038



HAPPY NEW YEAR  
2024!



*Shine Jesus Shine!!*