



Fourth Day News

Washington Cursillo Movement



Secretariat Corner

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU SECRETARIAT

Outgoing Co-Lay Directors

**Cheryl Kerwin, Women's 152nd,
Calvert & So MD Ultreyas**
**Shelia Vallot, Women's 32nd/NE&SE
Ultreya**



**Shelia Vallot & Cheryl Kerwin
Out-going Co-Lay Directors**

Inside This Issue

<u>Secretariat Corner</u> "Farewell and Thank You" "Incoming Secretariat"	1-3
<u>"Welcome to the New Co-Lay Directors"</u>	4-6
<u>In the Spirit</u>	7-10
<u>Introducing 2021 Secretariate Chairs</u>	10-18
<u>Spotlight on Committee Chairs</u>	13-14
<u>223rd Women's Weekend on Building the City of God</u>	20-21
<u>Fifth Day "A Tribute to Father Green"</u>	21
<u>Prayer Corner</u>	21
<u>Cursillo School of Leaders</u>	22
<u>Calendar of Events</u>	23
<u>Editor's Corner</u>	24
<u>Production Schedule</u>	24
<u>Ultreyas</u>	25

Observing the boldness of Peter and John and perceiving them to be uneducated, ordinary men, the leaders, elders, and scribes were amazed, and they recognized them as the companions of Jesus. -Acts 4: 13

Our time as Lay Directors is coming to a close and Shelia and I wish to express our thanks to all those who have served on the Secretariat with us since we began this journey in December 2016. We have been blessed to work with very spiritual, dedicated Cursillistas who have given of their time, talent and treasure over and over again. We found scripture verses that we feel appropriate to your positions on the Secretariat...so, here's to you!

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Gary

Studniewski - *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted.*

____Isaiah 61: 1, 3.

Fr. Gary, Jesus has called you His friend and you, in turn, have called us your friend. We look to you for joy, for healing, for teaching. Your quiet ways have brought the most grace to us at times when we needed it. Thanks be to God for all you do in His name and for the Washington DC Cursillo Movement.



Assistant Spiritual Advisor - Deacon James Caldwell - *If I preach the Gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed upon me, and woe to me if I do not preach it!*

_____ 1 Corinthians 9:16

Deacon Jim, we see Christ in all that you do for Him; even when you try to hide it with your joking, your laughter, your cajoling...you've guided us through some rough times, no denying that. You're a saint in the making and we're hoping you bring us along with you!

Lay Spiritual Advisor: Cheryl Pilkington (CAP) - *And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the Body of Christ.*

_____ Ephesians 4: 11-12

CAP, you visualize Christ in all and have conveyed that to us as a group through your reflections, meditations, prayers and Advent Day of Reflection. We appreciate all this and the "legwork" involved in our weekend retreat center search.

Secretary: Ginger Caldwell - *Now you are Christ's Body, and individually parts of it. Some people God has designated in the Church to be, first, Apostles, second, prophets, third, teachers, then mighty deeds, then gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues.*

_____ 1 Corinthians 12: 27-28.

Ginger, you jumped in with both feet without even being asked; you volunteered for this position, and it's been a lifesaver! You have purpose and passion, an incredible winning combination, that has brought us through so much. We appreciate all your "legwork" too in the search for a weekend retreat center. "Thank you" is merely the tip of the iceberg.

Treasurer: Charles Smallwood - *The way we manage ourselves, our relationships, and our resources here and now will dictate what we're given in eternity. Spirituality does not excuse foolish and irresponsible behavior.*

_____ Luke 16: 11

Charles, you understand that the wealth of the world is not the true wealth of heaven; yet we must be prudent with what we have here on earth. The way you manage the resources for the Cursillo Movement is a testament to what we will be in the future. You are a true, sincere, faithful member of this movement. You kept us solvent! Thanks be to God for all you do in His name.

Cursillo School of Leaders (CSOL): Kathy Schmitt (current), Susan Numrich, Leanne Stivers (past) - *Do you understand what you are reading? He replied, "How can I, unless someone instructs me?"*

_____ Acts 8: 30-31

Yours is the section of the Secretariat that brings the benefit of good teachers to open our eyes to truths we can't always see on our own. The scriptures are meant to be interpreted and the instructors you bring to our sessions ensure that the Word is not twisted to tell the story we want to hear, rather than God's story! We will always be grateful for the innovative ways you taught us all!

Pre-Cursillo: Charles Smallwood (interim), Marian and Richard Gould, (past) *Come after me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of men.*

_____ Matthew 4: 19

Yours is the committee that first brings someone to Christ. Like the Apostle Andrew, you bring all attention to Christ and educate Cursillistas on what needs to be done to bring that attention to fruition.

You dedicated yourselves to crafting, receiving, reviewing, and approving applications for candidates. We've brought many new "fish" into the movement due to your efforts!

3-Day: Bernadette White, James Brightful (current), Sheronne Wilson, Jennifer Ferguson, Carrie Johnson Clark (past) - *Neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who causes the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive wages in proportion to his labor. For we are God's co-workers, you are God's field, God's building.*

_____ 1 Corinthians 3: 8-9.

Yours is the committee that brings the candidates to the weekend and makes them into Cursillistas! We spend a lifetime figuring out who God has really called us to be. Through your hard work and efforts, you provide guidance to our sisters and brothers on the weekend to discover their purpose and the tools to pursue it within a loving, caring community of believers.

4th Day: Arnie and Debbie Rausch (current), Nancy Smallwood (past) - *Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life...Be vigilant at all times, and pray that you have the strength...to stand before the Son of Man.*

_____ Luke 21: 34-36.

Yours is the committee that keeps us aware, on track, with our Cursillo lives, our Cursillo Community. It is so easy to let the "busyness" of our everyday lives overtake what we gained on our weekend. You offer us small groups, Ultreyas, workshops, special events; all tools to grow stronger in the Spirit, in our commitment. Your commitment to presenting a Seder Meal during Lent last year was outstanding and wildly successful!

Communications: Toni Abresch and Rita LeClerc - We are writing this so our joy may be complete.

_____ 1 John 1: 4

Yours is the committee that makes all in Cursillo aware of what has happened, what is happening, and what will be happening. You know the joy of Cursillo living and ensure others have the opportunity to live it as well. You keep us connected! Thanks be to God for all you do in His name. A special recognition for the dedication of two members of this committee, Newsletter: **Lethia Kelly** and Prayer Line: **James Brightful**, who were in place before we started and continue to provide outstanding support to our Cursillo Community; your special gifts and talent have been invaluable. You are truly faithful servants.

Steve the Chef: Stephen Moitoso - *Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast."*

_____ Mark 16: 20

Those of you not on the Secretariat do not know that when we (Cheryl & Shelia) took over as Co-Lay Directors, we chose to move the meetings out of the previous location in the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center. Many of our meetings and an annual Secretariat Christmas luncheon, have been held at the home of Cheryl Kerwin and Stephen Moitoso. Steve offered to cook breakfast for us at those meetings and also host the luncheon. I think splendiferous! is one word that describes what participants have had to say about the meals he's prepared these past four years. Our work was made easier by knowing we were nourished and cared for by "Chef Steve." Additionally, Steve the Chef and Marc Abresch performed numerous labors of love providing us barbeque at several of our Cursillo picnics and an all-day Cursillo Day of Discernment. Kudos!





2020-21 Secretariat Installation

On behalf of the Secretariat for the Archdiocese of Washington DC Cursillo Movement, we are happy to announce your **new Lay Directors Dr. Susan K. Numrich and Mr. James Brightful**. They will be installed on **Sunday, December 6, 2020, 4PM at Church of the Nativity (6001 13th Street NW, Washington, DC 20011)**.

All are welcomed to attend the Mass and installation to congratulate them, as well as other members of the Secretariat who will be installed or reconfirm their commitment.

As Cursillistas, we enter into this journey in the confident hope that we will be supported by our Cursillo community, buoyed by your prayers and humbled by our selection to serve God through the charism of Cursillo. We come as your *trusted servants* to share the joy of the Word through the gift of friendship. We shall **seek to do justice, love goodness and walk humbly with our God**. (Micah 6:8)



Introductory Statements of the Co-Lay Directors

Sue Numrich and James Brightful

Leadership skills are skills you use when organizing other people to reach a shared goal. Whether you're in a management position or leading a project, leadership skills require you to motivate others to complete a series of tasks, often according to a schedule. Leadership is not just one skill but rather a combination of several different skills working together.

Hebrews 13:7 says, "Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith."

As you read through this message, you will note that there are two different voices speaking. Coming to you in resounding harmony about our commitment to and vision for the **Cursillo Movement of the Archdiocese of Washington**.

Sue and I follow in a long line of leaders in the Cursillo Movement of Washington. The Movement has grown and flourished for decades with each of those leaders bringing something that inspired, engaged, and brought others closer to Christ. With each new Secretariat, the Cursillo movement has kept the spirit and method of its founder Eduardo Bonnin alive and moved forward, building principles of friendship with each other and with Christ. The movement shines as a beacon for others to follow.

As leaders, we witness the shared trust we have in each other in Cursillo; the belief that if one allows him or herself to follow God's calling to, "*be a friend, make a friend and bring that friend to Christ*", they could influence others to live a life of **piety** in close relationship with Christ.

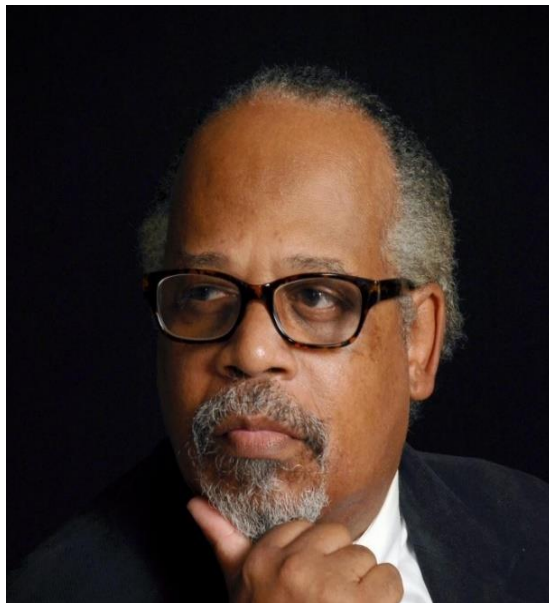
Our former leadership gave witness to others that through their **study** of Christ and their environments they could bring more saints to heaven. Their **apostolic actions** gave witness to others, that if they lived as did those first apostles then they would be Christ to others. Yes, those leaders were each chosen because they offered something special to the title and office of Lay Director of the Cursillo Movement in the Archdiocese of Washington.

We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

_____ **Romans 12:6-8**



Sue Numrich, Co-Lay Director



James Brightful, Co-Lay Director

As we accept this challenge, we first call upon the Lord to equip us with the needed qualities to follow those who came before us. We call upon the Holy Spirit to grace us with the gifts of wisdom, patience, humility, understanding, and clarity so that we can be the leaders that God wants us to be not the leaders that we determine we are. We also pray to the Lord to open our eyes, ears, and mouth to hear His direction and that of others, to see His vision for the movement, and to speak what is best for His purpose and not our own. Yes, we also ask the Lord to give us the will to be the servant leaders who can follow His will and His ways. As those servant leaders, we ask the Lord to show us how to serve.

Who are our new Lay Directors?

My name is **James Brightful** and let me briefly tell you how I have come to this calling as one of your **Lay Directors**. I attended the **Men's 194th Weekend in November of 2007**. One of my first desires after that Weekend was to find someone to share that same vision I felt coming off my weekend. I immediately went out and sought a friend to sponsor for her Weekend one year after my own. I went on to sponsor four others and to co-sponsor two more. After finding other long time Cursillistas in my parish as well as those newly off their Weekends I established a Group Reunion at my church. Over the course of two different terms I have served over six years as Ultreya Leader.

I served on the Secretariat four years as Co-Chair of the 4th Day Committee and recently returned to the Secretariat last year as Co-Chair of the 3 Day Committee. I have served on the teams of 5 Weekends, one of which I served as Coordinator. I have continually attended Cursillo School of Leaders for the past 12 years. These are just some of the ways I have taken the words of that Leadership Rollo and put them into practice.

I'm **Sue Numrich** and when I left the closing of the **weekend I made in November 1976**, I was convinced that I was not worthy to join this community of faith-filled people who lived in God's friendship.

The first of several saving graces was a joyous bear hug from a wellspring of grace in the compact person of Homer Adams who stood at the head of the embrazio line. The warmth of that embrace followed me home and tugged at me for the next several weeks until my sponsor (and pastor) told me I was going to Leaders' School for the next year and he was driving. Next the Montgomery County Ultreya welcomed me and immediately put me to work playing guitar for the Ultreya meetings. I had to search for a small group, but once found we prayed, laughed, cried and helped each other grow in our commitment to prayer, study and action.

Shortly after I entered my fourth day, I leapt into the Diaconate program. The Josephites who ran the program at that time were convinced that the leavening of women in the program would create a challenging cross-talk between those who would be ordained and those who would not. It wasn't long before I was called to lead the School of Leaders, serving on the Secretariat in that capacity for several years in the late 70s and early 80s and again from 2012 to 2018. Ultreya and group reunion have been my saving graces and I've led the Montgomery Ultreya several times, a role I share now with my co-leader. I served as team musician for the first time in 1977 and for more than twenty times since (musicians are in high demand).

I think I have learned to cross the word "worthy" out of my vocabulary. God sends the invitation and I have learned to be responsive with whatever tools I have at hand and with the faith-filled companions with whom I am gifted.

I rejoice in the gifts James brings to this calling and as we have worked together in preparation for assuming our roles in December, I have discovered that in addition to our commitment to Ultreya and Group Reunion, we share far more than either of us expected.

James said, "What is my goal as one of the two Lay Directors?" My chief goal is to work with Sue and the rest of our Secretariat team to continue to revitalize and re-energize our Cursillo movement in the Archdiocese. I hope that I can be the inspiration to others and remind them that this family is very active and involved in being a friend, making friends, and bringing those friends to Christ.

A surprise present from the Spirit? As a community, we center our lives on Christ and as Catholics we celebrate that center in the Eucharistic celebration. I feel our community most strongly when we celebrate a truly Cursillo Mass, celebrating across racial lines and musical styles. I believe that celebrating together is both healing and enlivening and I hope we can celebrate more often in the future. A concerted effort in the 1970s embraced the East of the River communities, and I would hope as we move forward, we can embrace the younger generations and show them the power of living a life of piety, study, and action.

We look forward to the opportunity to see our Cursillo Family once again, celebrating all of the beautiful ways we have as Cursillistas to share our friendship with Christ and each other. We look forward to those many "close moments" that will come as we grow even richer in our relationships with Christ and with a vibrant Cursillista Family.

De Colores, James and Sue

**De
Colores!!!**

In the Spirit – A Message From Our Spiritual Advisor

Brother and Sister Cursillistas,

Are you feeling disconnected, disoriented, restless in the bizarre COVID environment we're living through? Every pastor and parishioner that I talk to is feeling unrest. There is a lot of fear in the air: fear of getting assaulted by a media story, by an encounter on the street, or by touching a doorknob; fear of not being able to pay the bills; fear of the unknown; fear of the lack of control; fear of failing to live in this moment as we ought; fear of being alone, of dying alone. So many fears.

It is very reassuring in dark moments to go to that quiet place and let the Lord speak to your restless heart. "Do not fear!" How many times do we come across that instruction in the Bible, even from the mouth of Jesus? We are all floundering a bit right now and we should be wise enough to beg for a saving hand. Ask for a lifeline! Listen for those words of Jesus: "Do not fear! I am watching for you; I am with you, holding you up; I promise that I will not depart from you or fail you. Trust in me; remain in me; live in me!"

Of course, we know that the saving help of the Lord comes to us through the community of disciples that extends Christ's mission to our day, in our environments. How blessed we are to have Church, to have Cursillo, where our cries for a lifeline can be heard and responded to! Who are you calling on for help these days? Who is that trusted friend, with skin on, that you can always call and say, "I'm not feeling myself and I just need someone to talk to today," or "I'm weak today and I need to borrow a little strength from you."

A talk with a trusted friend in Christ is a true blessing—and we have so many in our community. Call them!

Some days we are mostly needy and in receive mode; other days we are blessed to be giving, ministering. Giving always lifts us up, even when it costs us. Who are you reaching out to, who are you lifting up, during this time of suffering? Many of us are feeling depleted and think we have little to give these days. But, united to Christ, we have the "one thing necessary" to give. We should look for ways to do that during this time of physical separation.

We are gifts to one another, Christ for one another. Let us hold on to each other during this current testing so that, in God's time, we will emerge stronger, more trusting and ready to do the work of rekindling and building Church and Kingdom.

"We are called into life with all its complexity, its suffering, it's brokenness. And there, we are to meet what we find and ourselves with compassion. We are asked to address our spouses, our government leaders, our children, ourselves, not out of rage for their failures, but out of compassion for our shared brokenness. Compassion is such a tender, fragile thing, so incomplete and full of longing. But this is what I long for most these days. Compassion that embraces our humanity, our broken spirit and ways. Reach out to us, dear Lord, and meet us in our frailty and weakness. Oh, Human One, may your compassion break in, calling us to lives that are more human, more whole, and more holy."(Congregational Church pastor, Peter Ilgenfritz)

***De Colores, Fr. Gary Studniewski
Spiritual Advisor***



Ginny Novak -- My Life in Cursillo

In 1971, I lived a Cursillo Weekend (in Northern Virginia, because the Washington Cursillo was temporarily side-lined), and there I heard the astonishing news that God wanted to be my friend!

And that news changed my life!! Fortunately, two weeks before that, Marty (my husband) lived a Weekend, and Cursillo had a similar profound effect on him.

From then on, the Cursillo Method remained the grounding of our life in Christ. Shortly after our Weekends, we had a 2-year assignment in Hawaii, where we were welcomed by brother- and sister- Cursillistas, became part of a Group Reunion, and, with them took on an intensive study of the Cursillo Movement. The more we studied and the more we shared in Group Reunion, the more we grew in our love for them, for God, and for Cursillo.

In Hawaii, I worked on my first Cursillo Team— I was a table leader, who also gave two talks, and lead the music! (We had a very small team.) When we came back to the Washington area, we quickly found group reunions, and Marty saw to it that we never missed an Ultreya meeting! We joined the Three-Day Committee, and several years later (in about 1988-1990), we became the Lay Directors.

It was a time of turmoil in the Catholic Church in Washington, but the Holy Spirit saw us through it, especially in providing a friend in Bishop Leonard Olivier (Auxiliary Bishop of Washington) who came to several of our Secretariat meetings. With the Secretariat we were even able to complete a Pastoral Plan.

In all these years in Cursillo, and as I worked a total of 37 Weekends — 16 of those as a Spiritual Director — I've been blessed to see how wondrously the Lord changes lives through Cursillo. I have given and gotten love and support for living the Cursillo Method from being part of several group reunions, and always from the Laurel Ultreya. Cursillo remains a way of life for me. "Making a friend, being a friend, and bringing a friend to Christ"—still is the way of evangelization for me. Sharing **"Moments Close to Christ"**, and listening to others share theirs is still a great joy! Sharing Prayer, Study and Action are still the way God invites me and challenges me to do more and to go deeper into Friendship with God— Jesus— the Holy Spirit.

I can't talk about my life in Cursillo without praising God that, through my African-American sisters and brothers, I have been privileged to often be immersed in a spirituality that is **"a gift to the Church"**, and certainly is a gift to me.

God is faithful— and God always has more to give and to ask — and I am energized and enthusiastic as I look forward to serving again on the Secretariat, and seeing how the Spirit will continue to work in this Movement which is God's blessing.

De Colores, Ginny Novak
Lay Spiritual Advisor



Barbara Shaw has worshipped at St. Gabriel in Washington D.C since 1967.

In 1996 she made the 149th Women's weekend. She grouped at the table, "The Splendor of New Creation". She has served as a Spiritual Director since 2008. Barbara has served on numerous weekends as Table Leader and Spiritual Director.

Thanking you for this opportunity to serve our Lord as a team member of the Secretariat. "Glorify the Lord with me" and let us recognize, by His grace "we are ambassadors of Christ". From the moment I heard and sang our song, **"De Colores", the stanza "to bring Him a harvest of souls"** became my heart's desire and to be available for His use. Guided by the Holy Spirit, my quest is to make a concerted effort with my fellow Secretariat to assist in their plans to **"reinvigorate" and "reignite" our Cursillo Movement.**

As we work together and grow in Christ through piety, study and action, **"they will know us by our love".**

Being ever mindful of our environments, Cursillo is a catalyst to gather the **"harvest of souls"** for our precious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

De Colores, Barbara Shaw
Lay Spiritual Advisor



Deacon Duane is a member of St. Gabriel Parish in Washington, D.C. Clark and his wife, Carrie, have been married 28 years, and they have two sons and two grandchildren. He began his 4th Day in March 2010 with the 201st Men's Cursillo. Since that wonderful weekend, he has been a member of two weekends, a sponsor, and, along with Carrie, a four-year North East/South East Ultreya leader.

Deacon Clark has been a St. Gabriel parishioner for more than 30 years and a deacon there since his June 2019 ordination. A major part of his ministry is serving the homeless, especially with the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Upon retiring from the U.S. Army, Deacon Clark began his second career as a Department of Defense contractor. Deacon Clark looks forward to the Holy Spirit guiding him in evangelizing our Cursillo movement.

Deacon Duane A. Clark, Assistant
Lay Spiritual Advisor

In-Coming 2021 ***Secretariat Committees*** ***and Leadership***

Pre-Cursillo Committee Co-Chairs: Sheila Williams and Phyllis Winston. The Pre-Cursillo is the first of the three stages of the Cursillo Movement; it generates the Cursillo Weekend. This committee is tasked with befriending, discerning, selecting and preparing candidates and sponsors for a 3-Day Weekend. The committee accepts and processes applications, keeps the team informed about the applications and supports sponsors and Ultreyas by providing them with information.

3-Day Committee Co-Chairs: Bernadette White and Kelli Baxter. The 3-Day is the second of the three stages of the Cursillo Movement; it generates the Post-Cursillo (4th Day). The committee ensures every element of the Cursillo Weekend is directed to properly educating the candidates who attend the weekend. The committee locates suitable retreat facilities, schedules the weekends for each year, selects coordinators and assists with team selection, presents a workshop for new coordinators, assists with weekend logistics, among many other aspects of this stage.

4th Day Committee Co-Chairs: Arnold and Debra Rausch. The Committee oversees and facilitates the third of the three stages of the Cursillo Movement; it generates the Pre-Cursillo. The committee is responsible for ensuring every Cursillista within the movement has the opportunity to grow in their own 4th Day by providing a link between CSOL, the Ultreyas, and all Group Reunions within this movement.

The 4th Day Committee plans and schedules quarterlies, facilitates the Clausura and Palanca Masses and checks on the health of Ultrayas within the Archdiocese.

Communications Committee Co- Chairs: Lethia A. Kelly and John Conroy. The Committee is responsible for facilitating communications throughout the 4th Day Community through the maintenance and use of the database, Website, Facebook, and quarterly published Fourth Day Newsletter. Communications is also responsible for the Prayer Line (email), responding to requests for Palanca locally, nationally, and internationally, ordering books and other items for weekends and Secretariat Committees, publishing the Cursillo Pictorial Directory, and arranging for and/or making announcements at the Palanca Mass, Clausura and other Cursillo events.

Cursillo School of Leaders (CSOL) Co-Chair is Kathy Schmitt. This committee arranges appropriate facilities and consistent dates for all SOL functions, publicizes and communicates all upcoming sponsored SOL functions, determines subject matter for SOL talks and obtains speakers/books and materials for the same. Ensures that all literature complies with the National Cursillo Center (NCC) Guidelines and elevates all issues or concerns to the Secretariat.



SPOTLIGHT ON COMMITTEE CHAIRS



Charles H. Smallwood serves on the Secretariat as the **Treasurer** for the Washington Cursillo movement. He began his Fourth Day after the 3-day weekend on the Men's 108th Cursillo within the Archdiocese of Washington. Charles worships at Jesus the Divine Word Catholic Church in Huntingtown, MD where he is a lector for daily and weekend masses and works as an Arimathean for the parish. He attended Bowie State College (Now University) to earn a BS Degree in education and earned a Master equivalency degree from the University of Maryland also in education with a Math emphasis. Charles is an avid musician and directs an 18 voice men's choir in the Knights of Columbus. He has been married to his awesome bride Nancy for over 50 years and they are the proud parents of two daughters and one son (deceased), four grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Charles lives in Calvert County, Huntingtown, MD. In Cursillo, he has worked on the 3-day committee, chaired the Fourth Day and the Pre Cursillo Committee.

As treasurer for the Washington Cursillo Secretariat, it is Charles' goal to manage and oversee the financial matters of the diocesan Cursillo Movement. The treasurer will report to the Secretariat to ensure that the Movement is always financially sound, and see that all local, regional, and national financial obligations are met.

To ensure that the goal of the treasurer is met, Charles receives, records, and deposits the money collected and reports to the Secretariat an accounting of all funds within its treasury.



Ginger Caldwell, Secretary

Ginger is a member of Saint John Vianney Catholic Church and made her weekend with the 161st Women's Weekend in 1999. Ginger grouped with **"Hearts Afire"** and has been on fire for Cursillo ever since. She has served in various capacities of leadership and loves being an Angel on weekends.

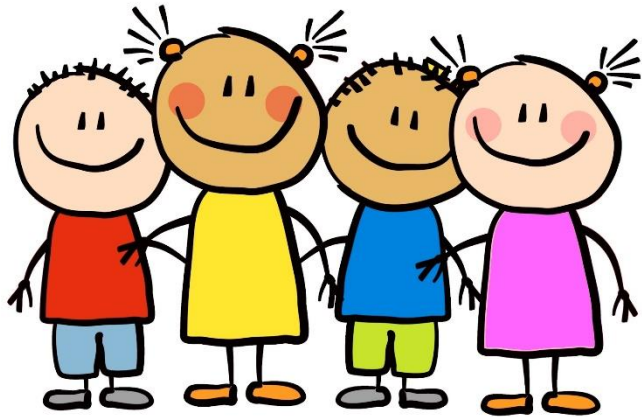
Learn more about Ginger's 4th day in the next issue of the December Newsletter.



Kathy Schmitt serves as the **Chair** of the **Cursillo School of Leaders**. Kathy started her Fourth Day as a freshman in college, in the diocese of Richmond, in February of 1985. She was a founding member (as an infant) of St. Nicholas Parish in Laurel, and still worships there. She attended Virginia Tech and Catholic Theological Union, and earned a Master of Divinity degree with Bible Specialization (Old Testament). Kathy is the Pastoral Administrator for the Oak Crest Catholic Community in Parkville, MD, and oversees the RCIA and adult faith formation at St. Nicholas. She is single and the proud aunt of six nephews and 3 nieces. Kathy lives in Elkridge, MD.

As CSOL Chair, my goal is to make CSOL a vital and engaging learning event that builds community and educates members about the Church and the Movement, using in-person and online meetings.

As a member of the Secretariat, I hope to help address the challenges facing the Movement: how to restart weekends, revitalize Ultreyas, and motivate members to keep growing in faith, so we are effective evangelizers who build the Kingdom.



3Day Committee - We count on Christ and Christ is Counting on Us! God has called upon the chosen and they have answered the call with "Yes, Lord Send Me". **Veteran Cursillistas, Bernadette White and Kelli Baxter will serve as 3-Day Co-Chairs.**

Our movement has been hampered with many challenges, and as we move to our "new normal" in the coming year, the 3-Day Committee will lean on the Lord for guidance and strength to carry the cross and bring more souls to Christ through Cursillo.



Bernadette White, aka "Pio", worships at St Gabriel Church in Washington, DC. She began her 4th Day in February 2007 with the Women's Cursillo #191 and grouped at the table of "God's Gift of Love". After her weekend she was immediately selected to serve with the 3Day Committee under the leadership of Nancy and Maury Mattingly. She is an active member of the NE/SE Ultreya and participates regularly in the Cursillo School of Leaders (CSOL). Having served on five women's teams and serving as Coordinator of the Women's #215 in February 2015, she then joined the Secretariat in 2018 serving as Co-Chair of the 3-Day Committee. Her zeal remains enthusiastic as reliving of her Cursillo Weekend. As co-chair she is excited to help reinvigorate the movement as we move through the recent challenges in our country.

Her goal for the 3-Day Committee is to introduce more Catholics to the Cursillo method through Piety, Study and Action, creating faithful Saints for Christ and our movement.



Kelli Baxter worships at St. Teresa of Avila in SE, Washington, DC. She lived her 4th day in October 2002 on the Women's 175th Weekend and the theme was "Joyfully Called to the Feast" where she grouped at the table of "Hungry for the Word". She is active in several parish ministries including the St. Teresa of Avila Ultreya where she served as Ultreya Leader for 7 years. As a veteran member of the Secretariat, Kelli served two terms as Pre-Cursillo Chair and co-chair, has served on (6) Women's Cursillo Weekends, including coordinating the 212th Women's weekend in February 2014, and is an active member of the communications 4th-Day News editing team.

In her 4th day walk, she evangelizes in the prison community through the Kairos Prison ministry, carrying God's love into the prisons serving our incarcerated brothers and sisters.

As co-chairs of this beautiful spirit-filled movement, we call upon our brothers and sisters to join in evangelizing in our communities and providing the environment in which Christ's presence can be shared and celebrated. **That environment starts with the Cursillo Weekend. De Colores!**



4th Day Co-Chairs Arnie and Debbie Rausch. Introductions are a hard thing to format, sometimes. Where to begin? I was born....no, not that far back in history...!

Arnie and Debbie Rausch are being “trained” by Nancy Smallwood to become active in the 4th Day Section of the Secretariat. They have been involved with Cursillo in different ways and for different amounts of time for many years.

Arnie made his weekend in March of 2001, and was on several teams as musician, table leader, rollista, and as a coordinator in 2010. He has been actively involved in Cursillo and has incorporated it into his life. He was a leader in Laurel Ultreya.

Debbie made her Cursillo in October 2010 and has been a leader in Laurel Ultreya. Debbie and Arnie attended the National Encounter in Scranton, PA in 2019, and the Region II Encounter, also in 2019.

Arnie and Debbie express their vision of their role. We look forward to help with the reinvigoration of our Cursillo Movement in the Archdiocese of Washington. We hope to help others experience the same joy of fellowship and connection that we were given when we made that first weekend and to carry that link forward to be built upon on our 4th day walk.

Pre-Cursillo Committee Co-Chairs: Sheila Williams and Phyllis Winston. The Pre-Cursillo is the first of the three stages of the Cursillo Movement; it generates the Cursillo Weekend.



My name is **Phyllis Winston, a proud member of the Northeast/Southeast Ultreya and of Saint Gabriel's parish.** My name is Legion, as I stand with so many of you to proclaim that the Weekend was a pivotal moment in my life. It continues to be an existence of blessings upon blessings. Yet, there are three distinct experiences that highlight my life as a Cursillista.

First, my journey began with the 149th Women's Weekend, in February 1996, where I grouped at the table of The Splendor of New Friends. Since then, I have served as an Ultreya Leader, Team Member and on several committees, including Pre-Cursillo.

Second, through the support of a fantastic community, I was able to coordinate the 204th Weekend with the theme: Enter the Gate for Abundant Life.

Third, I made the World Ultreya in Fatima Pilgrimage in 2017, which was the trip and Cursillo Experience of a lifetime. With prayer and your support, I return as Co-Chair of Pre-Cursillo. The application is a signed statement of intent and interest in our Movement. The review of these forms extends the family welcome to our potential sisters and brothers. I appreciate the opportunity to greet them.



I am **Sheila Williams**, wife of Curtis (40 years), mother of Adrienne and Antoinette, grandmother, sister and Godmother and member of the Church of The Incarnation since birth. **My journey in faith has been rich with music in the Fellowship Choir, service on the Parish Council** and fun as Assistant Director for the Summer Camp. In my continued growth in faith, I graduated from the Education for Parish Service program and the Queen Esther program in addition to working on Christ Renews His Parish Women's Retreat.

Sponsored by Denise and Sheronne Wilson, **I began my journey in Cursillo as part of the 199th Cursillo Weekend in October 2009** and since then have worked on two teams, the Women's 213th in October 2014 and the 218th in February 2016. I live my fourth day as part of the St. Teresa of Avila Ultreya and as a member of a very dynamic small group reunion.

I believe that in accepting the position as Co-Chair of Pre-Cursillo, I will increase my knowledge and awareness of the movement's purpose and plan. My goal is to continue serving God through various aspects of the movement, emphasizing the Tripod of Piety, Study and Action in my relationships within the Cursillo Community and as I evangelize my environments. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, I bring to the Secretariat a willing servant's heart and the desire to share my God-given talents, skills, and abilities.

Communications Committee will be led by two veteran Cursillistas, **Lethia Kelly and John Conroy** who bring a wealth of experience and creativity to their roles.



Lethia worships at St. Teresa of Avila in SE, Washington, DC. She started her 4th day with the **104th Women's Weekend in May of 1987** where the theme was, **"What One Must Be"** and grouped at the table of **"Love"**.

In living out her 4th Day, she began early with outreach to the Prison Ministry and Religious Education. She is currently active in several parish ministries including music ministry, Eucharistic Minister, lector, cantor, volunteer communications committee member to produce the parish Sunday bulletin and a member of the STA Ultreya. Lethia is a seasoned member of the Secretariat, having served for two terms as co-chair for Pre-Cursillo and Communications committees respectively.

She has served on four Women's Cursillo Weekends since she began her 4th Day and remained an active member of the communications committee to produce the quarterly 4th-Day Newsletter at the end of her term on the Secretariat. She evangelizes in the prison community through the Kairos Prison ministry, carrying God's love into the prisons serving our incarcerated brothers and sisters.



John Conroy is a welcome breath of fresh air to the Washington Cursillo community. We are blessed that he said "yes" to serve on this incoming Secretariat as a **Co-Chair of the Communications Committee.**



John lived his 4th Day in 2013 when he made the 211th Men's Cursillo Weekend of Washington. He grouped at the table of "Sojourners of Christ" and is a member of St James Parish in Falls Church, VA. John recollects, during his period of discernment that the Lord is always calling, but he needed work on his listening.

When he moved to Falls Church, he lamented the distance to his brothers and sisters in the Washington Cursillo Movement, but it is clear that he and his wife Julie were called to support Julie's parents. John thought, as he continued to work in Bowie, MD, he could attend the School of Leaders, as St. Joseph's was *"on my way home."* When Kathy Schmitt reached out for help for starting the School of Leaders backup via Zoom, John volunteered to serve.

John has connected with the Arlington Cursillo by joining a group reunion and he continues to meet via Zoom. Since one of their group-reunion members has moved to Lancaster, his Cursillo connections are in several dioceses now. John will be instrumental in providing electronic modes of communication to our Cursillo community, as we anticipate, over the next year or so many of Cursillo gatherings will be virtual. So, at this time, he believes ***the Lord is calling him to be a virtual bridge across the Potomac and the Mason-Dixon line.***

Communications is blessed to have John join Lethia as they build on the team to establish Cursillo resources and provide outreach and evangelization to our beloved community, whether we can have in person events or online. Communications is key to this environment which begins on our own weekend and carries throughout. **Ultreya!**

So Long and Thank You Rosemary and Steve!

New Direction...

Cursillo is and has long been a very important part of our lives. Cursillo carries over into all facets of your life and reshapes who you are. It adds focus and direction to your life.



Years ago, ***Rosemary worked a weekend with a beautiful bible enthronement*** (compliments to Ms. Ann Batiste), but with a unique twist: a **cairn** that grew bigger throughout the weekend. For those who don't know, ***a cairn is a stack of stones to show the way, to mark the next turn and to memorialize our world.*** The cairn in our bible enthronement provided a beacon leading us in the right direction, towards God. Cursillo itself is a cairn that shows Christians the way to a closer relationship with God and with other Christians.



Steve and I made our Cursillo in early 1992, in Buffalo, NY. We became very active in the movement, then moved to Damascus 6 years later. After 22 years living in Maryland, and countless Cursillo weekends, Closings, Ultreyas, quarterlies and picnics, we are moving west. We want to be closer to our grown children and grandchildren, who all live on the West coast. We aren't sure exactly where we'll end up, but we will look for God's cairns along the way to guide us to the right community - one where our Catholic faith will be nourished and where we can bring Christ to new friends.

We take with us many fond memories of brotherly-sisterly love and cherished friendships made through this wonderful Cursillo Movement. We hope you will keep in touch!

***Your friends in Christ,
Deacon Steve and Rosemary Reeves
Cursillo #145 and #146, Buffalo, 1992***

223rd Women's Weekend on Building the City of God



I had the privilege of seeing the City of Jerusalem, the city of peace, the city of God, from the Mount of Olives the same year I made my Cursillo, but there were no barbed wires present. Although there was no overt war at that time, it was not a city of peace and in many ways not a city of God.

The message of Cursillo is that we are loved by a prodigal God who cannot keep from loving and who calls us to share in that love, to live it in our environments and to carry out the mission of the laity, to spread the Good News.



***Awake from your slumber, arise from your
sleep.
A new day is dawning for all those who weep.
The children of darkness have seen a great
light
The Lord of our longing has brightened our
night
Let us build the City of God, let us turn our
tears into dancing
For the Lord, the light and our love, has
turned the night into day
O' City of Gladness, now lift up your voice!
Proclaim the good tidings that all may rejoice!***

I find this an incredible message of hope and call to action – something our world, broken as it is, needs now more than ever. The Cursillo Method gives us a guide and support for building the City of God.

About the weekend. Like the rest of the world, we are dealing with the new normal, whatever that is. I have a core of brave and committed sisters who were willing to go through a compressed formation and hold the weekend in September 2020.

COVID-19 had another idea. So, we postponed for a year in the hope for a way out of the pandemic.

In January, I will return to those I contacted last spring and see if they will still be able to commit to working the weekend – now under new and as yet unknown circumstances. Fr. Gary has committed to journey with us as Head Spiritual Director. All of us are looking for our Cursillistas to sponsor, not just recruit, but find those who should be part of Cursillo, guide them to the weekend, and travel with them through their first year.

We do know that we will be a good distance away from the District at Mar-Lu-Ridge in Jefferson, MD. (<https://www.mar-lu-ridge.org>) This will involve some changes in how the community supports the weekend.

We need a Palanca Mass, but it will have to be back in DC and not all the way up in the mountains. Right now we need all of you to pray for us, to actively seek new sisters, and to support us through Palanca – start now with one spiritual practice each week and that will be a beautiful and meaningful gift to the new sisters you and the Holy Spirit send us.

Sue Numrich (Coordinator now and in 1981 – is that really 40 years ago?)

Fifth Day Corner

As Cursillistas, we live our Fourth Day, preparing to live our Fifth Day when the Lord calls us home. At this writing we say so long to Cursillistas who began their Fifth Day this past quarter.



A Tribute to Father Green

" Luke 5:4, "After He finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch". Fr. Green in obedience to Christ, cast the net for Cursillo. The catch has yielded a bountiful harvest and is multiplying. Fr. Green always acknowledged, like Christ, "he came to serve". That service Fr. Green did with an abundant heart of love and joy. "We would like to posthumously honor Fr. Green for bringing Cursillo to St. Gabriel."

Fr. Green's first assignment after his ordination was St. Gabriel. Following the promptings of the Holy Spirit, he introduced us to Cursillo. I believe he came in the spring of 1995 and by November 1995 our first "babe chicks" made their Cursillo weekend. From then to now, many of us have been nourished by the seeds of Cursillo Fr. Green planted. By the grace of our God, Fr. Green answered the call and we joyfully followed. We are forever grateful to Fr. Green for this gift of our Cursillo community.

Thank you for this opportunity to share this tribute. To our God be the glory. We give glory and praise to our Lord for answering our needs and Fr. Green walking in obedience.
(Signed) Grateful Cursillistas of St. Gabriel, De Colores!

**Barbara Shaw 149th Weekend
NE/SE Ultreya**



Therefore, thus says the Lord God, see, I am laying in Zion a foundation stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation: "One who trusts will not panic." _____ Isaiah 28:16

If you need prayer or know someone who does, please send your request to James Brightful at Pray911amen@gmail.com

My Prayer of Service

We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

_____ ROM 12:6-8

LORD, I thank You today for the opportunity to see another day, to live another moment and to be here to do the work that You have appointed me to do. I know that You have ongoing plans for me that I must continue to follow. So I will commit myself to following those plans to the best of my ability, for in doing well at these tasks I honor and serve You. Let me be ever mindful of the goodness of a life offered in the service of Your name and spent in service to Your people.

Amen

The Harvest is Abundant, but the Laborers are Few

Then He said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few, so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest."

Matthew 9: 37-38



Cursillo School of Leaders – Our New Normal

The CSOL has a “new normal”. We will meet from March to November of each year, with our Advent Day of Reflection counting as our December gathering. We have all had to change our Piety, Study and Action during this time of isolation from in person meetings. CSOL calls it our “new normal” with Zoom Meetings. CSOL meets on the third Wednesday of the month.

2020 - 2021 CSL Schedule

Join Zoom Meeting

7:00 – 8:50 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84216044190?pwd=VnpHcmNjZm12bUdkNDJxU21HMnFQdz09>

Meeting ID: 842 1604 4190

Passcode: 935124

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,84216044190#,,,,,0#,,935124#
US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,84216044190#,,,,,0#,,935124#
US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 842 1604 4190

Passcode: 935124

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kex3mp7VvH>

Oct. 21, 2020

Doctrinal Talk: Evangelization in Modern World (Chap. 1)

Technique Talk: Group Reunion: Purpose, Piety, and Moment Closest to Christ

Nov. 18, 2020

Doctrinal Talk: Evangelization in Modern World (Chap. 2)

Technique Talk: Group Reunion: Study, Sharing our Study

December 2, 2020

Advent Day of Reflection

January 20, 2021

Topic TBA

February 17, 2021

Topic TBA

March 7, 2021

Evangelization in Modern World (Chap. 3)

Group Reunion: Apostolic Action: What it is, Success and Failure, Need for an Apost. Plan

Apr. 21, 2021

Evangelization in Modern World (Chap. 4)

Ultreya: Purpose

May 19, 2021

Evangelization in Modern World (Chap. 5)

Ultreya: Format



Cursillo 2020-21 Calendar of Events

2020

CURSILLO REGION 2 FALL ENCOUNTER

Via Zoom

Saturday, October 10, 2020

9:00 PM – 12:00 PM

Register on Home Page of mccregion2.com

Registration closes Oct 3rd

No fee for Encounter

ADVENT EVENING OF REFLECTION

Via Zoom

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Facilitator: Fr. Gary, Spiritual Advisor

Washington Cursillo Movement

INSTALLATION OF CO-LAY DIRECTORS

Sunday, December 6, 2020

4:00 PM

Church of the Nativity

6001 13th Street NW

Washington, DC 20011

2021

31st NATIONAL ENCOUNTER

July 22-25, 2021

Orange County, California

More information to come!

2020-21 PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

“2020”

Special Edition Fall Issue

April 2019 – October 2020

Submission Deadline

September 20, 2020

Publish Date-Oct 5th

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS ISSUE

October - December

Submission Deadline

December 4th

Publish Date-December 18th

“2021”

1st QUARTER ISSUE

January - March

Submission Deadline

March 19th

Publish Date-April 2nd

2nd QUARTER ISSUE

April - June

Submission Deadline

June 25th

Publish Date-July 2nd

3rd QUARTER ISSUE

July - September

Submission Deadline

September 24th

Publish Date-October 8th

4th QUARTER ISSUE

October - December

Submission Deadline

December 10th

Publish Date-December 20th

Editor's Corner

Do you have thoughts, poems, prayers, or reflections to share? The Washington Cursillo® Community wants to hear from you!! **Utreya Leaders**, please send us your sharing — it would be great to hear from each leader at least once a year! **Babe Chicks** your articles are the most important ones. Let us hear from you. **If you know someone who has gone on to their 5th Day**, we need your memories. Please send them before the submission deadlines!!!!

Articles should be submitted in Arial 12 Font Size no later than the “submission deadline” listed on the Production Schedule.

Remember to sign your articles with your name, weekend, and Utreya.

Submit articles by email at any time to:
Lethia Kelly
communications@washdc-cursillo.org
(or) larsk196@msn.com

The Washington Cursillo® Movement website is

<http://www.washdc-cursillo.org>



ULTREYA

Assumption

1:30pm, 2nd Saturday
Undercroft
Assumption Church

Gwendolyn Jarmon

gwendolyn.jarmon@rcn.com

Richard Sylvester

Bowie-Lanham

7:00pm, 2nd Friday
St. Edward's, Bowie

Tony Colbert

acolbert10@gmail.com

Calvert County

7:30pm, 2nd Monday
St. John Vianney
Church Basement

Ginger Caldwell

goingsouth@olg.com

Cathy Martinoli

auntcathy20736@yahoo.com

Central PG County

7pm, 4th Monday
Rosemont Room
St. Joseph's in Largo

Harold Sims

Harold.sims@yahoo.com

240-701-2415

East of the River

7:30pm, 4th Friday
OLPH
1st Portable Bldg.

Pearl Baylor

301-894-8405

pearlbaylor@yahoo.com

Laurel

7:30pm, 3rd Friday
St. Nicholas Church
8603 Contee Road
Laurel, MD 20708

Stefan Abresch

sgabresch@aol.com

Tim O'Neill

tiapatrol@gmail.com

Kathy Schmitt

kschmitt123@yahoo.com

Bob Jacobs

Bobjac11@hotmail.com

Montgomery County

7:30pm, 1st Saturday
**Missionaries of the
Most Holy Trinity Home**
1733 Metzerott Road
Adelphi MD

Sue Numrich

SNumrich@ida.org

Faye McAneny

301-806-0960

North Montgomery County

7:00pm, 3rd Sunday
St. Paul's Church Hall
9240 Damascus Rd.
Damascus, MD 20872

Sharon Casey

Cn1sc1@verizon.net

301-325-7209

Dora Pleasant

dorapleasant@aol.com

240-246-6045

NE/SE

7:30pm, 1st Friday
St. Anthony's Cafeteria

Bernadette White

bcw3056@yahoo.com

James Brightful

Jamesb.vacation@gmail.com

St. Teresa of Avila

7:30pm, 2nd Monday
St. Teresa's Church
Parish Life Center (PLC)
14th & V Streets, SE
Washington, DC

Joyce & Willie McNeill

jmdavjan98@aol.com

staultreya@gmail.com

So. Maryland

7pm, 4th Wednesday
St. Mary's Church
Newport

Marc Abresch

tipmanrules@hotmail.com

Christine Abresch

chrisabresch@hotmail.com

WASHINGTON CURSILLO®
2051 Huntingfields Drive
Huntington, MD 20639

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage PAID
Rockville, MD
Permit No. 733

PRINTED BY CENTERS FOR THE HANDICAPPED