



Co-Lay Director Greetings

The Cursillo Community continues to show resilience and resourcefulness in gathering safely, to be the presence of Jesus to each other through using the telephone or computer and limited in-person events, during this ongoing pandemic.

We're reminded of the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30. The servants were entrusted with managing various portions of the master's estate. The moral of the story is that Christ calls us to be productive and to use what we have been given to advance the Kingdom of God in our daily lives.

And this begs the question... "have I made efforts to remain connected with others who used to be in my square meter prior to this time of social distancing? What efforts have I made to share the love of Jesus, in me, with them?"

Though we have been wisely managing personal connections within the Movement, there is still much work to do. We are not adequately connecting with those in the Movement who do not have computer or internet access. More on this later...

Last Fall, the Secretariat completed a revision of the Albany Cursillo Bylaws. This Fall, we conducted a review of the Bylaws and are in the process of making some minor adjustments.

This past Spring through Fall, the Secretariat worked hard at reviewing and revising the Albany Cursillo Pastoral Plan. In addition, the Cursillo Annual Diocesan Report has been completed and accepted by the Secretariat. Both documents were forwarded to the Albany Diocese Bishop's Office, as well as to Region One, and National Cursillo.

We were pleased the Postcursillo was able to sponsor three Days of Reflection at the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center. Sr. Sue Zemgulis, Sr. Betsy Van Deusen, and Fr. Chris Welch conducted these events in August and October.

We are immensely blessed through the generosity of their time and efforts in providing us an opportunity to enrich our spirituality and knowledge in these tough times. The third event was accessible in person and via Zoom. Also, a big thank you to Kathy Murphy who shared a video about St. Francis, at the two August Days of Reflection.

In September, we attended the Region One Secretariat Meeting. In November, we attended the Region One Fall Encounter. These gatherings infused us with energy and encouragement. We continue to develop and grow through these opportunities to gather with fellow Cursillistas from Region One.

By the way, did you know there are 13 active Diocesan Cursillo Movements, in seven states, affiliated with Region One? We are part of a large family! Region One conducts Encounters in the Spring and Fall every year and every Cursillista is invited to attend. The Spring 2021 Encounter is likely to be held via Zoom, unless in-person gatherings are deemed safe at the time of the Encounter.

In the meantime, please consider attending the Albany Cursillo events planned in the coming year. The pandemic may have thrown us a curveball, but it holds no power over us. For, "we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us!" (Phil. 13:4)

ULTREYA!

(onward)

Joe & Eva Fitzgerald

Precursillo

While the pandemic has impacted the ability to hold Information Nights, we hope it has not prevented you from searching your environments to share the love of Christ with those who may not have a personal relationship with Him.

Remember!

You are His light for those in darkness!

Please search your environments for those you believe would be good candidates for living a Cursillo Weekend.

A minimum of *six candidates* is required to hold a Weekend. These candidates should be identified soon so we can properly prepare them for the Weekend.

Remember!

Christ is Counting on You!

A candidate must be a Catholic but does not have to be a Catholic in good standing with the Church. The only requirement is a willingness to participate on a Weekend and the ability to be reconciled with the Church.

Remember!

The Cursillo de Cristiandad is a Short Course in Christianity. Who better to receive this Short Course than someone needing a booster shot of Christ's love through the love experienced during a Weekend?

Precursillo cont.

Obviously, other Catholics are welcome so they too can form a deeper relationship with Jesus.

All Cursillistas are encouraged to attend the School of Leaders Workshop focused on Precursillo/Sponsor responsibilities. The Workshop will be held via Zoom on February 20, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Further information will follow.

(NOTE: The Workshop can also be accessed via telephone.)

Please contact Shannon Kelly, Precursillo Chair for further information on candidate sponsorship and to provide her with candidate information for the 2021 Weekends.

Shannon Kelly

Email: kellykares4you@gmail.com

Mailing Address:

Attn: Shannon Kelly
Albany Cursillo in Christianity
PO Box 1095
1764 Route 9
Clifton Park, NY 12065-1095

In God's time, with our cooperation, this too shall pass.

Perhaps we will not return to the "normal" we knew, but we believe God's grace will enable growth in our personal relationships and encounters despite the distances we needed to keep.

As we close out this challenging year, we remain hopeful that 2021 will be a year of peace, acceptance, and recovery.

Cursillo

Our Cursillo community continues preparation for the unavoidably postponed 2020 Men's and Women's Cursillo Weekends, rescheduled as follows at the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center (DRCC) in Niskayuna:

Men's Weekend # 56

August 26 - 29, 2021

Women's Weekend # 63

September 30 - October 3, 2021

CURSILLO COMMITTEE

**Please join us
as we expand our
Cursillo committee!**

The current Committee members are Mary Ellen Crucetti, Patty Johnson, and me, Kathy Murphy, as Chairperson.

The Cursillo Committee assists with the Holy Hours, Commissioning Mass, and the Weekend Closings. The Committee also manages the purchase, transport, setup, and storage of Weekend supplies.

The DRCC staff provides everything else.

The time commitment required is quite minimal, and more hands surely make for lighter work.

Men, too, are welcome!



Cursillo Committee cont.

My term as Cursillo Chair ends on May 31, 2021.

I will continue to serve on the Committee.

I ask you to please be open to praying about whether God may be calling you to assist the Cursillo Movement by helping us to prepare and setup for our Weekends...

OR

Perhaps God may be calling you to fill the role of Chairperson!

The only additional requirement is that the Chairperson serves on the Secretariat.

Please contact me for more information. And remember... a contact is not a commitment!

Kathy Murphy
Cursillo Chairperson

kcvmurphy@gmail.com
518-852-9192



POSTCURSILLO

Even with the pandemic, we have been able to conduct some Postcursillo activities.

Many Group Reunions continued to meet, using social distancing and mask wearing to ensure all are safe. And, Ultreyas have been meeting via Zoom.

If you would like more information about attending Ultreyas via Zoom, please contact me, or one of the Ultreya Coordinators. The contact information is below.

In August we hosted two Days of Reflection at the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center (DRCC). The topic was "Breathe New Life into Your Spiritual Life."

A third Day of Reflection was held in October at the DRCC and the topic was, "A Walk with Some Saints." This event was also offered via video.

Our Holiday Event was held on December 20th, via Zoom, replacing our annual Christmas luncheon. All Cursillistas were invited to participate. It was a time of lively conversation sharing close moments, blessings received throughout the year, and Christmas plans.

A workshop will be held on January 16th via Zoom. The focus of the Workshop will be St. Joseph. This is particularly pertinent as Pope Francis has proclaimed December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021, the Year of St. Joseph!

POSTCURSILLO CONT.

Please check your e-mail for additional information and an invitation to participate in the Workshop. This information will be sent in the near future.

The Commissioning Mass for the 2021 Women's and Men's Weekends, and our Annual Cursillo Picnic, are scheduled for Saturday, June 5, 2021, at the St. Kateri Shine in Fonda, NY. These events are dependent upon the lifting of pandemic restrictions and may need to be rescheduled.

Volunteers are needed to share Postcursillo responsibilities. It is an excellent way to become involved in the many activities of Cursillo.

Please contact me:
Karen Van Alstine
at 518-885-1024 or
rvanals1@nycap.rr.com
for more information.

Ultreya Coordinators:
Ballston Lake (Daytime)
Barry Lupe
518-399-5751

Glens Falls/Saratoga
Cheryl Dudinetz
518-793-3901

Scotia/Glenville
Harrilyn Beehner
518-581-0742

Troy
Lee Bateman
518-235-6256

SCHOOL OF LEADERS

During Fall 2020, the Cursillo School of Leaders met on four occasions via ZOOM to learn more about Cursillo Weekend responsibilities, as well as to review the new “Step by Step” materials: The Rector/a’s Guide, Appendix, and Lay Rollos, and their upcoming use during the Weekends in 2021, including Rollo preparation and writing techniques.

The Fall training sessions were very well attended on those four Saturdays – and we intend to continue with that day / time slot for Spring 2021.

Additionally, the multiple presenters provided superb instruction and facilitated discussions expertly. THANK YOU!

The TWO Winter / Spring meeting dates are:
Saturdays, February 20th, and March 20th, 10 AM – 12, via ZOOM.

On February 20th, Sponsor Responsibilities and Precursillo activities will be the focus, while on March 20th, the Postcursillo (Group Reunions / Ultreyas) will be reviewed.

Of note, the Cursillo Region One - hosted Workshop on the “Step by Step” Method for the Cursillo Weekend, will be conducted by ZOOM in May / June (two Saturdays // Dates, TBD).

ALL 2021 Men and Women Team members are expected to attend.

Other Cursillistas are also encouraged to attend so to prepare themselves for future Weekends.

Questions?

Call Joe Fitzgerald, at
(H) 518-326-3003, or
email: jgfitz56@gmail.com

Day of Meetings:

Call cell phone 518-366-1843 for assistance.

Spiritual Advisors Corner

Co-Advisors:

Sr. Betsy Van Deusen
Fr. Chris Welch

In these days of pandemic, it has been reported that the state of our mental health as a people and nation is in decline. It seems so easy to focus on what is wrong with the world, to forget that God is in charge. To forget that we have been here before, (Read the Acts of Apostles if you need proof, that in the end God's light comes through the darkness.)

One of the gifts of our "Fourth Day" is the invitation to look for "Close Moments" from God each day. In looking for and discovering close moments we discover hope and an assurance that all will be well. (St. Julian of Norwich, who lived through the Black Death, is best known for proclaiming "all will be well, all will be well. All matters of things will be well.")

St. Ignatius of Loyola encouraged his followers to look for the desolations and consolations in life.

Desolations are those moments that keep us from seeing our God present in our days; consolations are those moments that remind us our God is with us. They always come in pairs.

Often, we are better at identifying the desolations and less so at finding the

consolations.

The 'Close Moments' can serve as consolations in our days.

I often find myself returning to the words of Walt Whitman in his "Leaves of Grass":

*"Why should I wish to see God
better than this day?
I see something of God
each hour of the twenty-four,
and each moment then,
In the faces of men and women
I see God,
and in my own face in the glass;
I find letters from God
dropped in the street,
and everyone is signed
by God's name,
And I leave them where they are,
for I know that others
will punctually come
forever and ever."*

Let us look for love letters from God today and each day.

Fr. Chris Welch



Calling All Cursillistas!

Remember when...
USPS was our typical source of written communication?

Or

When we finally had a telephone in our homes, it was likely a party line?

Remember when nobody had a personal computer?

It wasn't that long ago!!

Computers in the home, and internet access, are almost akin to having a microwave. How did we ever live without these conveniences?

Well, believe it or not, there are Cursillistas who are surviving without a computer and the internet!

We are seeking input on options to ensure these members of our community are receiving information distributed for the Cursillo Community.

In addition, we know that we do not have updated information on all the Cursillistas who have moved in the past few years.

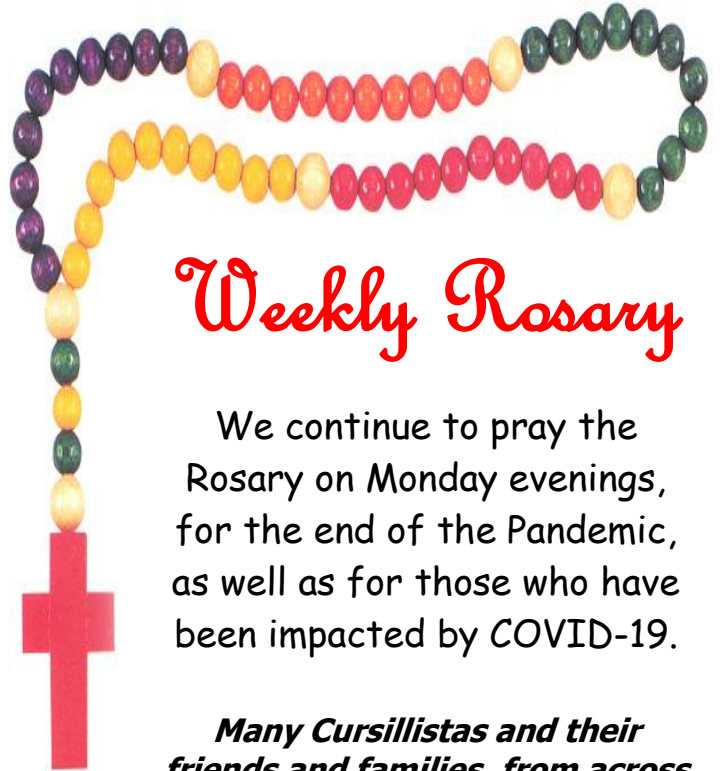
Please contact me to identify these individuals and discuss ideas on how we can reach out to these members of our Community to provide news and other information.

Also, if you are a Cursillista who moved within the past few years, or you know someone who has moved, please send me an updated address, etc.

You can email me at:
evafitz58@gmail.com

or call me at:
518-326-3003

Eva Fitzgerald



Weekly Rosary

We continue to pray the Rosary on Monday evenings, for the end of the Pandemic, as well as for those who have been impacted by COVID-19.

Many Cursillistas and their friends and families, from across the country, have been participating!

After the Rosary is completed, we offer intercessory prayer for all our personal needs and the needs of others.

Following the intercessions, many remain on the call for conversation and friendship.

*We start promptly at
7:00 PM EST.*

*The phone line is opened at
6:45 PM EST.*

1-917-900-1022

Conference ID 841-5606#

ALL ARE WELCOME!

If you would like to lead a Decade of the Rosary, please contact:

Joe Thouin @ Thouin.ja@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT - LOCATION
1-16-21	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Postcursillo Workshop - St. Joseph
1-26-21	6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Secretariat
2-20-21	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	School of Leaders - Precursillo / Sponsor Responsibilities
3-20-21	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	School of Leaders - Postcursillo / Group Reunions & Ultreyas
3-23-21	6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Secretariat
5-11-21	6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Secretariat
May / June -- Region One Training Team - Step By Step - TBD		
6-5-21	TBD	Commissioning Mass / Annual Picnic - St. Kateri Shrine, Fonda
TBD		Men's Holy Hour
8/26-29/21		Men's Cursillo Weekend - DRCC
TBD		Women's Holy Hour
9/30-10/3/21		Women's Cursillo Weekend - DRCC
TBD		Men's/Women's Weekend Reunion and Diocesan Ultreya

