



Co-Lay Director Greetings

Praise God we are turning the corner on this pandemic! Let us continue to pray that we will soon be free from communal restrictions.

We thank all who continue to resiliently participate in Community activities. Without you, there is no Fourth Day!

The Secretariat approved revised guidance for discerning Rector/a, and Team selection. A Rector/a Selection Committee was formed and this spring, followed the process for identifying potential Rector/as for the coming years.

A Nominating Committee is in the developmental stages. This committee, consisting of Secretariat and non-Secretariat members, will discern and approach Cursillistas as partners for the Precursillo, Cursillo, and Postcursillo committees.

This spring, the Albany Cursillo Movement was well represented at the Region 1 (New England/Eastern NY) Spring Encounter! Nine Cursillistas attended the Zoom Encounter – more than half were not Secretariat members! We are encouraged to see so many show an interest in the broader Cursillo community. In addition to an Ultreya, and praying the Rosary, we listened to three lay rollos and one spiritual rollo and participated in small group discussions. Region One holds an Encounter each Spring and Fall. All Cursillistas are welcome and encouraged to attend. We hope to see you at the Fall Encounter!

As you can see on the calendar in this edition of the Little Light, we are not letting the pandemic stop us from planning events. At this point, most of the activities will be held via Zoom. If you do not feel comfortable with Zoom, there is a phone number you can use to call in for participating.

We invite you to print the calendar and post it on your refrigerator; or for those of you who are more

tech savvy, transfer the information into your phone. Of course, as event dates approach, we will continue to send email reminders and invitations. Please do share this information with any Cursillista you may know who does not receive email.

While this pandemic has been a challenge (to put it mildly), there have been so many blessings... please spend a few moments calling to mind the ones you have received. We look forward to seeing you either in person, or via Zoom throughout this coming Fall.

ULTREYA!

(onward)

Joe & Eva Fitzgerald

Albany Cursillo Website

The new website is full of information that can assist you in your Fourth Day journey as a Cursillista and as a potential sponsor of a Weekend candidate.

Use it to learn more about the Cursillo Movement and its history...

Use it in the Precursillo phase as you search your environment for candidates. The website will be useful in answering potential candidate questions, as well as questions you may have...

Use it in the Postcursillo phase. The calendar is up to date and there is information available to assist you with preparing a witness and echo during an Ultreya...

Be sure to browse through the website and share the web address with your friends!

Albancursillo.org

Make a Friend...

Sr. Betsy developed an aid to help you identify friends in your different environments as potential candidates for living a Cursillo Weekend.

In the near future, the sheet will be added to the new website, under the "Albany Cursillo Resources" tab. You can then download and fill in the sheet with new names in each season of your life.

In the meantime, below is a list of the different environments where you likely make friends, are friends, and share the love of Christ with those friends.

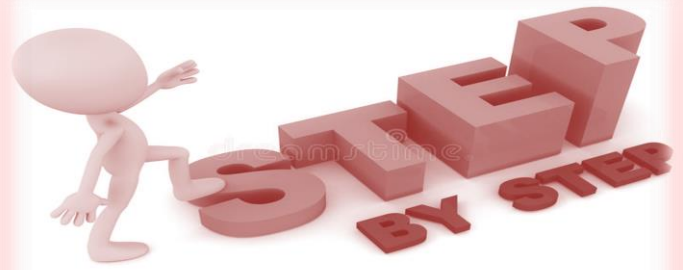
Simply write out these categories and make a list of the people you know under each category who might be ready to live a Cursillo Weekend.

Awareness is the first step!

- Relatives and Friends
- Friends from previous jobs
- Church and Social contacts (i.e., clubs, bowling)
- Civic Groups, Committees, Scouting, Choir and other parish contacts
- People you see, but haven't spoken with in church
- Co-Workers
- Places you do business (i.e., salon/barber shop, office, bank, dentist)
- Neighbors

Please pray over your list of names and ask God to help you discern which individuals you might consider sponsoring. (Keep in mind that you should only sponsor a max of two people on a Weekend.)

Contact the Precursillo Chairperson,
Shannon Kelly at
Kellykares4you@gmail.com,
for information about
sponsoring a candidate.



The first Cursillo Weekend was conducted in 1944 in Mallorca, Spain, where the Step By Step process continues to be used today.

As the Cursillo Movement grew and expanded worldwide, various adjustments were made that altered how the Weekends were conducted. Specifically, modifications were made that added activities and/or processes that the founder, Eduardo Bonnin called, "Christmas tree ornaments." Basically, these are pretty baubles that distract from the simple intent and message presented on the Weekend.

Eduardo understood these adaptations and adjustments were done with the best of intentions; yet the adjustments caused the Weekend to diverge from its authentic roots.

In his book, **My Spiritual Testament**, Eduardo called for the Weekends to return to the original format (copies of this book are available for the price of \$5.00, contact Joe Fitzgerald). Thus began the international effort to reinstate Eduardo's Step By Step Method in places where it had been altered.

Fortunately, the Albany Cursillo Movement did not adopt too many changes! So, to revert fully back to the Step By Step format should not be too "painful." From Winter 2020 through Fall 2020, the School of Leaders provided basic information and background on the Step By Step Method for the Cursillo Weekends.

This culminated in the Region 1 Service Team providing the formal training to the Cursillistas, both those on the Weekend Teams as well as to all other interested Cursillistas, via Zoom, on May 22nd and June 12th.

If serving on a Weekend Team interests you, please attend future School of Leaders meetings and the future Step By Step training.

Precursillo

HAVE YOU SEARCHED YOUR ENVIRONMENTS FOR FRIENDS WHO MIGHT BENEFIT FROM LIVING A CURSILLO WEEKEND?

Some of you may have had the opportunity to attend the presentation on Cursillo sponsors.

This year we are emphasizing a few things to ensure candidates are more engaged in the Cursillo Movement from their lived Weekend and into their 4th Day.

1. The sponsor will receive a booklet with guidelines for a sponsor. And they are also given a book for the new Cursillista called "The Cursillo Movement, What is it?" **Please note that it is important for both persons to read their booklet.**
2. The Cursillo community prepares for the new Cursillistas not the other way around. We Cursillistas should be aware of what Precursillo, Cursillo, and Postcursillo are about. God's love in ourselves and with our fellow community should be prevalent so that we will be better prepared to share that love with others during their Weekend and throughout their fourth day!
3. Sponsors are asked to bring new Cursillistas to Ultreya and introduce them to small grouping prior to the weekend, so that they learn more about the 4th Day and get to know members of our community.
4. Pray as you search your environments and pray about bringing someone to Christ, or closer to, Christ. This might not mean the person will live a Cursillo Weekend right away, but it will plant the seed for another time.

Precursillo cont.

OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THIS YEAR:

This year, the Men's Weekend is August 26-29th and

The Women's Weekend is September 30th - October 3rd.

To facilitate a meaningful experience for the candidates, a minimum of six candidates is necessary for each Weekend. We pray there will be many more!

The candidate cost for the weekend is \$205.

As you read this, we have received confirmation the facility can host the Weekends. We are awaiting news of any restrictions or procedures that may be required.

Watch your email for news as it becomes available!

Also, please refer your candidate to the new Cursillo website which contains a great deal of information to help your candidate learn more about the Cursillo Movement.

Cursillo Opportunities in a COVID World:

Covid has changed a lot about our religious life. People don't meet in church as much as they used to. Many of them are attending Mass online.

For us to have an impact on our culture we, as Cursillistas, will have to adapt to new ways of spreading the Good News and reaching candidates.

We can share a podcast we really enjoyed. We can share a Bible verse, picture, or video on Facebook. Or for those of you who use Instagram or blog, you can share your

Precursillo cont.

experiences there as well. (I'm sure there are many other ways, but these are the ones I can think of.)

Just imagine, by sending God's message out in another form, you might be sending just what a person needs to hear! You might not get them for a weekend, but you've gotten them closer to God.

Zoom and Information Nights

During Covid, we've been innovative with technology in our family, educational, work, and religious lives. We've adapted.

So has Cursillo with the help of Zoom. Instead of in person invitational nights this year, we are going to try doing a few Zoom meetings.

The point of the Zoom meeting will be to have Cursillistas share their experience with potential candidates in a group setting. This means two things:

1. We will need Cursillistas to talk about our experiences and
2. We will need potential candidates.

The plan is to have two events. For the first one, we would like to have candidates who are leaning strongly toward attending a weekend. We hope that the sponsors will support these prospective candidates by attending with them. The date for this will be June 30th at 7 p.m.

The other event will be on July 12th, at 7 p.m. and it will be an open event for people who may be interested or know nothing about Cursillo.

For both events, we need the help of other Cursillistas, not just the potential sponsors.

If you are interested in helping or know someone who is or might be interested in Cursillo, please contact me at 518-377-0591 or email me at kellykares4you@gmail.com.

Precursillo cont.

The application for a Candidate is on the Albany Cursillo website:

<https://albanycursillo.org/albany-cursillo-resources/>

Please mail the application to me,
at the address below.

*SEE YOU AT THE ZOOM
INFORMATION NIGHTS!*

IN THE MEANTIME, ASK YOURSELF...

**WHY HASN'T
MY FRIEND
LIVED A
CURSILLO WEEKEND?**

De Colores!

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**



Cursillo

There is good news,
and more good news!

Our trusted Cursillo Chairperson for the past three years is passing the torch as of June 1, 2021.

Kathy Murphy has served the Albany Cursillo as we have all faced various pandemic challenges and are embracing procedural updates in our movement.

Our Cursillo weekends are newly streamlined by the Step By Step guidelines. We are now preparing for a complete inventory and cleanout of our Cursillo materials storage area. There we will make room for and acquire updated resources as needed. If you are interested in adopting any unneeded items from our past, we will be making a list of whatever becomes available. We hope to have some photos of the banners that have survived years of weekend display intact. Watch for details in future Cursillo announcements.

We are extremely pleased to welcome Grace Deasy as our incoming Cursillo Chairperson! Grace lived Women's Cursillo #50, and she was Rectora for Women's #59. She brings much experience and a quiet demeanor worthy of her name to our Secretariat.

Kathy will remain on the Cursillo Committee. This Committee helps with Commissioning Masses and Holy Hours,

Cursillo Committee cont.

as well as transporting and setting up for weekends at the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center.

We need and much appreciate the help of volunteers with cars who can assist us in moving materials from our storage within Schenectady to the Dominican and then back after the weekend.

Please consider joining this committee!

Men are welcome too!



Many hands make light work,
and we always have fun!

De Colores,
Kathy and Grace

If you can offer help, or for more
information please contact:

Grace Deasy at # 518-237-9927
or Kathy Murphy at # 518-852-9192

Men's Weekend # 56

August 26 - 29, 2021

Women's Weekend # 63

September 30 - October 3, 2021

POSTCURSILLO

Despite Covid restrictions, we have continued to conduct friendship groupings, Ultreyas and other activities.

Last summer, we met outside for groupings and smaller Ultreyas. Since then, we have utilized Zoom for all meetings and other activities.

Ultreya attendance has increased due to the lack of need for travel and the ability of those who live farther away, even in other states, to join us.

On January 20, our Annual Workshop was conducted via Zoom. The Workshop focused on the Year of Saint Joseph.

Joe Thouin spoke about his family member's healing at St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal. His family has a great devotion to St. Joseph.

I discussed Fr. Donald Calloway's book, *Consecration to St. Joseph*.

The book contains information, short readings, and prayers for each of the thirty-three days. These are followed by a variety of Acts of Consecration from which to choose, on the last day.

I shared many details from the book, about the life of St. Joseph and the miracles attributed to him. I also shared the many titles given to St. Joseph, in the Litany.

The author addressed many questions such as St. Joseph's age, whether he was a widower, and if he had children before marrying Mary, and whether he and Mary had other children.

POSTCURSILLO CONT.

I also shared information from the book about the House of Loreto and the Miraculous Stairway. The book also shares information about artifacts from the Holy Family believed to be preserved.

Thirty people attended the presentation. A transcript of the presentations from this Workshop is available. Please contact me if you would like a copy of the transcript.

On June 5th, our annual Weekend Teams Commissioning and Picnic were held at the Shrine of St. Kateri, in Fonda. Over 40 Cursillistas and their family members attended.

The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Chris Welch with Dcn. Warren Dorsch assisting. Sr. Betsy Van Deusen commissioned the Teams. Sr. Sue Zemgulis, Hugh Cameron, and Mike Beehner provided the music.

After Mass, we all enjoyed a picnic lunch in the grove of trees on this Holy Ground. Many of us took advantage of Fr. Chris' offer to guide us to the site of the Caughnawaga village where St. Kateri lived, and then on to the spring where she was baptized. While there, we renewed our Baptismal promises. (See the pictures on the last page of the Little Light!)

It was wonderful to see each other in person! We look forward to our Day of Reflection in the Fall, and to meeting in person again soon.

De Colores!
Karen Van Alstine
518-885-1024
rvanals1@nycap.rr.com
[m](#)



Spiritual Advisors' Corner

Co-Advisors:

Sr. Betsy Van Deusen

Fr. Chris Welch

As we continue living our fourth day it is nice to notice the many ways our God has been present in the common moments of our lives. We keep looking for and noticing the close moments to our God in our daily lives.

It was so nice to share the gift of the Eucharist and a bagged lunch at the Shrine of St. Kateri on June 5th. The example of St. Kateri is of a woman who loved the Lord in the common moments of her life. When she could not get to Mass, the trees and streams became her altar.

Today we see Kateri as a patron of ecology. Her native American roots make her a perfect example of living in harmony with God and nature.

I am glad so many could join us to celebrate our common faith and be renewed on this holy ground of this great saint.

I am growing excited to consider bringing on board some new Cursillistas who will journey with us in the three-days and then later the fourth day.

Zoom has made it easier for many to attend the Ultreyas, yet it will be nice to share with our brothers and sisters in person.

We all hold on to the memory of the three days, but the purpose of our movement is the fourth day as we say "Ultreya" forward into our daily journey with the Lord and others.

Thank you for your example as good disciples.

May God bless you all in your fourth day and let us continue to keep in prayer all who journey with us.

Fr. Chris Welch
Co-Spiritual Advisor

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Rector/a selections were recently made by the Secretariat. After reflection and prayerful consideration, the following individuals agreed to accept the important role of Rector/a for future Weekend Teams:

2022 – Beth Thayer

2022 – Rich Athens

2023 – Rob Pilch

2023 – Eva Fitzgerald

We thank you
for your willingness
to serve!



COVID 19 and Disenfranchisement

Who knew that the ordinary ebb and flow of life would be so drastically interrupted by a little virus that spanned the world?

Our daily routines, our sacred rituals and our human interactions were all torn asunder!

As I begin the process of settling into a new home, I am taken by the blessing of "making order." Perhaps as we emerge from the restrictions you are too!

One of the things that I have found myself most bothered by was the need to make a reservation to attend Mass.

I understood intellectually all the reasons, I certainly did not want to endanger anyone or have anyone endanger me, but the process made me feel disenfranchised.

I did not feel a part of the community that I had attended for 18 years.

Now that "just showing up" is back in mode, it feels much better to me.

I can't help but wonder, though, how many other people, good faithful people shared that experience and are right now trying to find a way to belong, connect and be nurtured?

Perhaps the Holy Spirit is offering us an opportunity like few others in our lifetimes, to "go out" to those folks in your environment and speak with them about Christ, about Cursillo and about community?

We have Weekends planned!

We have Teams at the ready.

But we presently need women and men to be befriended and invited.

Let's fill these Weekends!

Who can we enfranchise again?

Let's go see!

Sr. Betsy Van Deusen, CSJ
Co-Spiritual Advisor



31st National Cursillo Encounter

2nd Virtual Encounter

July 23-24, 2021

Join us at the virtual National Encounter!

Meet Cursillistas from around the country. It may be the last time to attend at such a low cost. We anticipate the next Encounter will be in-person with additional expenses to include travel costs.

Registration closes on July 19th.

For more information
visit the National Cursillo Website:
<https://www.natl-cursillo.org/encounter2021/>

SCHOOL OF LEADERS

During the winter / spring 2021, the School of Leaders met via ZOOM.

Discussions included Sponsor Responsibilities, Precursillo Activities, and Postcursillo Activities – specifically, Group Reunions and Ultreyas.

Also hosted by the School of Leaders, was a two-part Workshop presented by the Region 1 Service Team. This training was required by National Cursillo before implementation of the Step By Step Cursillo Weekend process in each Diocese.

The Albany Diocese Cursillo Movement will now begin implementation of the Step By Step Weekend process. The Weekend Teams for 2021 are incorporating as much of the Step By Step process as is comfortable to them. All subsequent Weekends will fully implement the process within the parameters of our individual local capacities. Training in Step By Step will be necessary for all future Team Members; this training will be conducted by the School of Leaders.

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**2021 – 2022 ULTREYA!**  
(Onward)

During 2021, the School will meet, via ZOOM, on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. We will revisit the possibility of in-person meetings prior to the first session in 2022. The School of Leaders meeting dates are:

Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 13, Dec. 11, Feb. 19, Mar. 19

This year, the meetings will focus on the *Cursillo Charism*.

The School of Leaders is the training and spiritual development program of the Cursillo Movement:

**"To facilitate and enable the sharing of what is fundamental to being Christian in all areas of our lives, through service to God, the Church, and one another, while promoting the spiritual growth of Cursillo members."**  
(Leaders' Manual)

***ALL Cursillistas are encouraged to participate in the School of Leaders.***

***All future Weekend Team members are obliged to attend the School of Leaders for the year prior to service on the Weekend Team.***

**If you have any questions, call or email Joe Fitzgerald:**

**518-326-3003**

**[Jgfitz56@gmail.com](mailto:Jgfitz56@gmail.com)**

# UPCOMING EVENTS



| DATE            | TIME                | EVENT - LOCATION                                                      |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8-17-21         | 6:00 p.m.           | Secretariat Meeting - Zoom                                            |
| 8-20-21         | TBD                 | Men's Holy Hour - Immaculate Conception, Glenville                    |
| 8-26 to 29-21   |                     | Men's Cursillo Weekend - Dominican Retreat & Conference Center (DRCC) |
| September       | TBD                 | Day of Reflection                                                     |
| 9-18-21         | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.   | School of Leaders - Zoom                                              |
| 9-24-21         | TBD                 | Women's Holy Hour                                                     |
| 9-30 to 10-3-21 |                     | Women's Cursillo Weekend - DRCC                                       |
| 10-16-21        | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.   | School of Leaders - Zoom                                              |
| 10-19-21        | 6:00 p.m.           | Secretariat Meeting - Zoom                                            |
| 10-24-21        | 12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. | Weekend Reunion/Diocesan Ultreya/Mass                                 |
| 11-13-21        | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.   | School of Leaders - Zoom                                              |
| 11-30-21        | 6:00 p.m.           | Secretariat Meeting - Zoom                                            |
| 12-11-21        | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.   | School of Leaders - Zoom                                              |
| TBD             | TBD                 | Advent / Christmas Event                                              |
| 1-22-22         | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.   | Postcursillo Workshop                                                 |
| 1-25-22         | 6:00 p.m.           | Secretariat Meeting - Zoom                                            |
| 2-19-22         | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.   | School of Leaders - TBD                                               |
| 3-19-22         | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.   | School of Leaders - TBD                                               |
| 3-22-22         | 6:00 p.m.           | Secretariat Meeting - Zoom                                            |
| 4-30-22         | TBD                 | School of Leaders Workshop                                            |
| 5-10-22         | 6:00 p.m.           | Secretariat Meeting - Zoom                                            |
| TBD             | TBD                 | Cursillo Weekend Commissioning Mass / Annual Picnic                   |



***Join us on Monday evenings for recitation of the Rosary.***

**Intercessory prayer follows the Rosary.**

**All are welcome to remain on the line for conversation.**

**The phone line opens at 6:45 PM EST.**

**The Rosary begins at 7:00 PM EST.**

**1-917-900-1022**

**Conference ID 841-5606#**

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

***Joe Thouin @ [Thouin.ja@gmail.com](mailto:Thouin.ja@gmail.com)***

We extend our heartfelt appreciation and prayers to our recently "retired" Secretariat members:

Cursillo Chairperson:  
**Kathy Murphy**

Treasurer:  
**Maura O'Brien**

"Well done,  
good and faithful servants!"  
(Matt. 25:23)

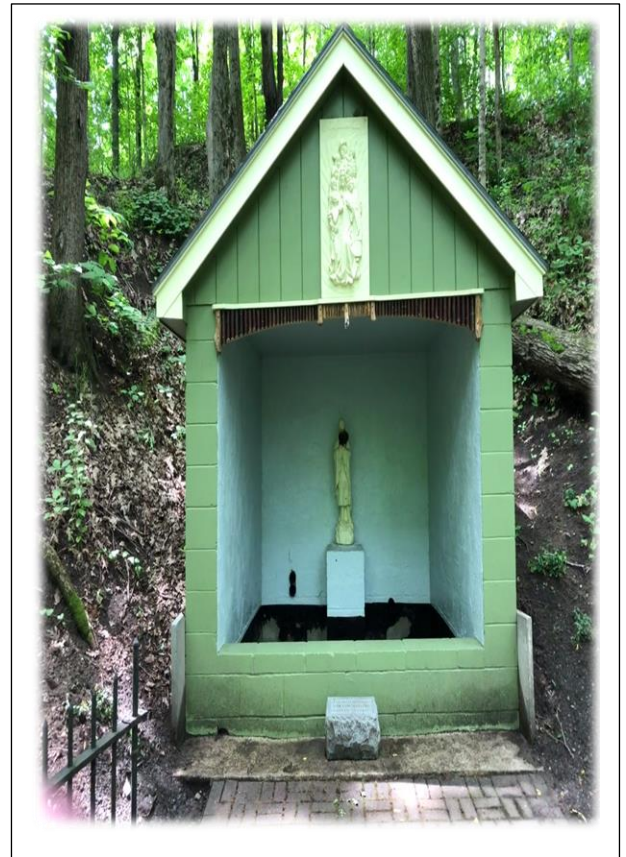


We welcome with great joy, our newest members to the Secretariat:

Cursillo Chairperson:  
**Grace Deasy**

Treasurer:  
**Karen Bond**

"... use whatever gift you  
have received to serve  
others as faithful stewards  
of God's grace..."  
1 Peter 4:10



2021  
Commissioning Mass  
and Picnic  
St. Kateri Shrine  
Fonda, NY