



Co-Lay Director Greetings

It is hard to believe that our term as co-Lay Directors is coming to an end in six short months.

It has been our privilege and honor to serve the Cursillo community, first, for three years as School of Leaders co-Chairs from 2016 to 2019 and beginning in July 2019, to serve as co-Lay Directors. In conjunction, we (Joe) served a second term as School of Leaders Chair. Technically, we've fit nine years of service to the Cursillo Movement into six years.

While sometimes challenging, it has always been a tremendous blessing. We've learned so much and become close to so many wonderful people within the Albany Movement and throughout the broader Cursillo community.

The time has come!

We ask the entire community to pray, and offer up other forms of palanca, for ALL Cursillistas to discern the call to servant leadership within our Movement. As you pray and offer palanca please be sure to look in the mirror! Please do not discount, ignore, disregard, disbelieve, question, or mistrust God's call.

REMEMBER!!

God qualifies the called!

Do not discount your ability to serve with claims that you are new, or that you don't know enough. We could have used that excuse too! As Cursillistas, having lived our Weekends less than two years prior to serving as co-Chairs for the School of Leaders, we accepted and can truly say that "All things are possible with God." (Phil 4:13)

Members of the Secretariat have ceaselessly sought others to help on the various committees, and to take on leadership roles.

"The harvest is plenty, but the laborers are few."
(Mt 9:37)

Christ IS counting on you not only to make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Him, but also to ensure that the Albany Cursillo Movement stays vibrant and thrives into the future.

The Secretariat created a Nominating Committee to assist with seeking out others to fill upcoming vacancies. There are many! If you are approached, please do pray about where God is calling you to serve. If you are not approached, but you feel the Spirit moving within you, please do nominate yourself!

ULTREYAI!

(Onward!)

Joe & Eva Fitzgerald

...Perhaps

You were born

For such a time

As this...

Esther 4:14

Make a Friend...

This bears repeating!

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

The sheet is available on the Albany Cursillo 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.

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

Below is a list of the different environments where you may identify individuals you believe would benefit from living 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 know the individual, and already be a friend, and 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.

Albany Cursillo Website

Don't forget to access the website! It 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 save it as a favorite and share it with others!

Albanycursillo.org



*Join us on Monday evenings
for recitation of the Rosary and
offering of intercessory prayer*

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

Cursillo

The Men's and Women's Weekends were held in August and September, respectively. The Rector and Rectora did a great job with the new Cursillistas and the teams. Both teams implemented some of the Step By Step process. Moving forward, the Step By Step process of conducting Weekends will be implemented.

This year saw the recovery of Mananitas in the Albany Diocese. Because of COVID restrictions, the community remained outside the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center (DRCC) when singing to the Weekend participants. God smiled on us with good weather!

The Weekend closings were limited in number for outside community attendance, but Zoom was available so everyone could feel connected and be present in spirit, if not in person. Out of an abundance of caution, the Women's closing was fully virtual.

The Rector and Rectora completed a questionnaire that will assist the Secretariat and the next Rector and Rectora with planning for the next Weekends.

A quick inventory of the Weekend supplies shows we are well stocked for the upcoming Cursillo Weekends in August and September 2022. We look forward to Men's Weekend #57 in August and Women's Weekend #64 in September.

While the supplies are abundant, the candidates are not! If you have not thought about sponsoring someone to live a Cursillo Weekend, now is the time! It's important to prepare the candidates well in advance of the Weekend so they are aware of what to expect on the Weekend, and in the Postcursillo.

Please contact the Precursillo Chair, Shannon Kelly, if you have any questions and if you would like to receive a copy of the *Sponsor's Booklet* and/or the booklet for the candidates, *The Cursillo Movement, What is Cursillo?*

If you are interested in learning more about the Cursillo phase of the Movement, please contact me and I will be happy to answer your questions!

De Colores!
Grace Deasy, Cursillo Chairperson

Nominating Committee

The Secretariat appointed me to chair the nominating committee. This committee seeks to identify and invite Cursillistas for serving in leadership positions from committee members to Secretariat positions.

I am thankful that Harilyn Beehner agreed to serve on this committee with me.

We are reaching out and asking Cursillistas about their interest in serving in one of the positions that need to be filled beginning July 1, 2022.

Nominations are needed by January 2022 so we can start the selection process. We would like to have two or three candidates for each position.

The Secretariat positions needing to be filled are: Lay Director, Secretary, School of Leaders Chair, and Postcursillo Chair.

Two non-Secretariat positions that will be available are Communications Coordinator and Editor for the Little Light. Both positions are considered committee positions on the Postcursillo.

We contacted many Cursillistas. Some are uninterested because they have already served, and others are new and are unsure of entering into a commitment to serve on Secretariat. Some feel unprepared or uninformed.

As Cursillo Chairperson, I too am a "newbie." I didn't know where the "closet" was or what was involved besides delivering supplies to the DRCC! But I have received assistance from many people willing to help. And, the former Chairperson, Kathy Murphy, mentored me.

I gained more insight and knowledge when I attended the Step By Step training on the new Rector's Guide. This helped me learn more about the changes to the Weekend. This training will be offered to all again, in the Spring.

It's scary to try new things, but there is always someone willing to help. For those who feel they've already served, please reconsider! For those who feel like you don't know enough, neither did the rest of us!

Please call me, if you feel called to serve and would like more information, if you are curious and would like more information, if you aren't interested in heading a committee, but you are interested in taking a more active role in the Movement...

De Colores
Grace Deasy
518-237-9927
gdeasy84@gmail.com



POSTCURSILLO

We welcomed fourteen new Cursillistas at our annual weekends this year. They are in the process of joining small Group Reunions and Ultreyas. We look forward to meeting and getting to know them.

Men's and women's weekend reunions were held on October 24 at Immaculate Conception Church in Glenville.

The teams and new Cursillistas have already formed many bonds of friendship. The new women Cursillistas met prior to the Diocesan Ultreya for breakfast, attended Mass, and traveled together to the reunion.

The Diocesan Ultreyas was held later in the afternoon with an excellent witness by Kim Gray. Music was coordinated and led by Mike Beehner and Hugh Cameron. The afternoon was uplifting for all.

Our Holiday Event will be held on December 19th, via Zoom. We will all enjoy snacks, drinks and refreshments as we gather to share good wishes and friendship.

POSTCURSILLO, Cont.

On January 22, 2022, we will have a workshop at Transfiguration Parish in Troy (Speigletown). We plan to have a speaker in the morning and early afternoon. Bishop Scharfenberger will say Mass for us in the late morning. All are welcome to attend.

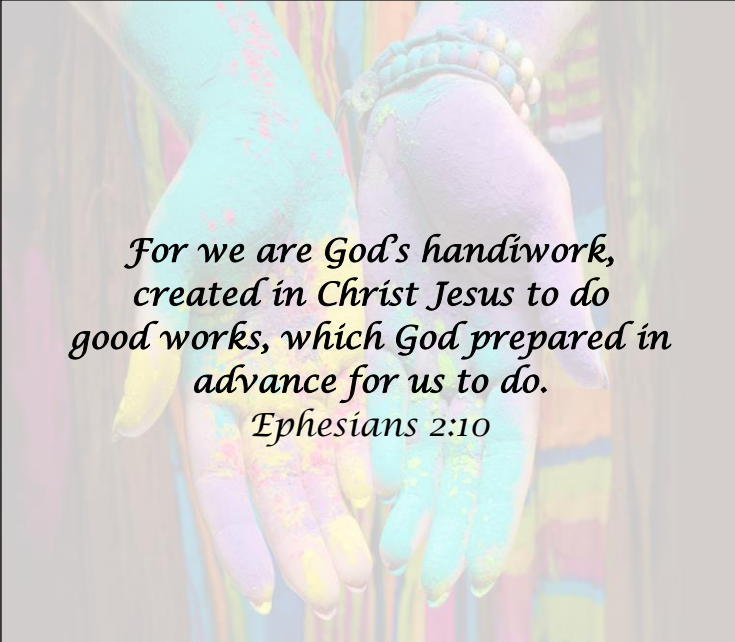
We look forward to our Commissioning Mass for the 2022 weekend teams on June 4, 2022, at Sacred Heart Church in Castleton-on-Hudson. Our Annual Diocesan Cursillo Picnic will follow at Schodack Island State Park.

De Colores!

Karen Van Alstine

518-885-1024

Rvanals1@nycap.rr.com



*For we are God's handiwork,
created in Christ Jesus to do
good works, which God prepared in
advance for us to do.*

Ephesians 2:10

Spiritual Advisors' Corner

Co-Advisors:

Sr. Betsy Van Deusen
Fr. Chris Welch

The slogan of our movement is "make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ." This means we are asked to be evangelizers. When we reach out to others in friendship, we are evangelizing.

Our founder, Eduardo Bonnin, spoke of reaching out to the "Far Aways" in friendship. He liked to take people out for ice cream and share faith with them. (When was the last time you went out for ice cream?) How often do we reach out to the "far aways" in friendship?

- Some of the far aways will be those who never have known Jesus. Some have just gotten out of the habit of prayer and church.
- Others are part of another religious denomination.
- The "far aways" may be away from the practice of faith but are close to God because our God is always close to us even if we don't always recognize it. (Just read psalm 139 if you doubt this.)

In the past we have thought of evangelization as standing on a soap box, yet friendship is the best form of evangelization.

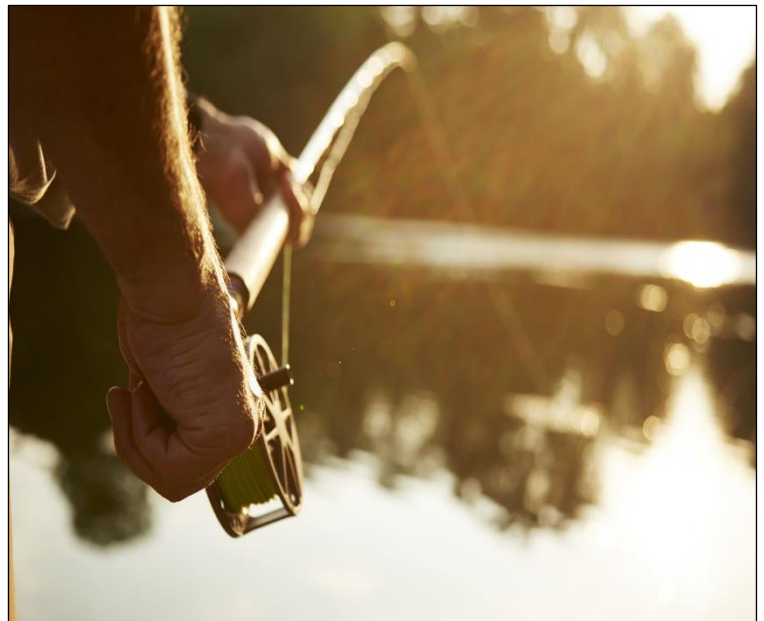
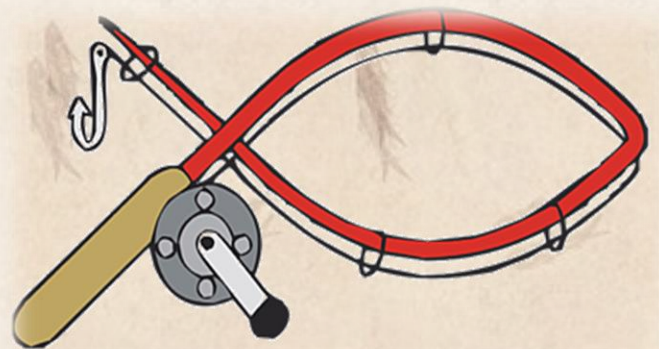
Spiritual Advisors' Corner, cont.

When people come to me and ask about joining or returning to the Church, they often express concern about what they don't know. I remind them; "It is not what you know, but who you know."

Many will come to know Jesus through your hand of friendship.

On your fourth day may you be a good friend to those you meet each day. May they come to know Jesus better through your hand of friendship.

Fr. Chris Welch



SCHOOL OF LEADERS

This past year the School of Leaders continued to focus on preparing the community for the "Step By Step" Cursillo Weekend process. "Step By Step" is the original Weekend method (still used in Mallorca), developed by the Movement's founder, Eduardo Bonnin. The School of Leaders hosted the Cursillo Region 1 *Step by Step Rector Guide Training* on May 22 and June 12, 2021, via ZOOM, to prepare for the Weekends in 2021.

In Eduardo's book, **My Spiritual Testament**, he requested the Cursillo Movement throughout the world conduct Weekends based on the original method. He considered this book his Last Will and Testament to the Cursillo Community.

Zoom is the gathering space for this School of Leaders year, September 2021 - March 2022. Four meetings have taken place. The remaining two meetings are scheduled for Feb 19, and Mar 19. The theme this year is "The Cursillo Charism", with readings and discussions concerning the books, *Eduardo Bonnin: An Apprentice Christian* and *History of a Charism*.

We were most pleased to welcome **Gail Terrano** as our **Guest Speaker on Nov 13**, along with Cef Aguillon, Cursillo National English Coordinator, and Cursillistas from around the Country, who joined us for this presentation! Gail (and Cef) had met Eduardo Bonnin, while serving on the World-wide Cursillo Secretariat (OMCC). Gail has served as a translator / editor of many of his final writings.

Of note, we are grateful to Don Berens and MaryGrace Dansereau for assisting with School of Leaders this year! Thank you!

Please contact me with any questions or if you would like to purchase the books cited above: Joe Fitzgerald, 518-326-3003 // jgfitz56@gmail.com.

More hands make light work!

Therefore, as we have opportunity,
let us do good to all people,
especially to those who belong to the
family of believers!

Galatians 6:10

Region 1 Fall Encounter

Albany Cursillo was well represented at the Region 1 Encounter, with a total of eight Cursillistas attending the semi-annual gathering of New England and NY Cursillistas.

You know who you are,
and we thank you for your
participation!

HELP WANTED

When was that moment when you “Got Jesus?” You probably don’t tell the story very often but that “awakening” or “Ah Hah” or “moment of grace,” and the memory of it probably is what helps sustain you on the way! We have just celebrated the birth of the babe at Bethlehem. What is being born in you in this New Year? Perhaps a desire to engage in a new way? Perhaps a chance to “give back” some of what you have received spiritually through Cursillo.

I have heard it said, “been there done that,” and I would say that I was blessed to be the Spiritual Advisor for Cursillo in the early 2000s and have been blessed again to serve as Co-Spiritual Advisor with Fr. Chris Welch now.

Our community is preparing for some changes, and we all know that change leads to opportunity!

We have been enriched and graced by the leadership of Joe and Eva Fitzgerald, first in the School of Leaders and presently as Co-Lay Directors (and still in the School of Leaders). Bob and Karen Van Alstine have served as Secretary to Secretariat and Post Cursillo Chair, respectively, and Joe Thouin has served as Cursillo Community Communications Coordinator for a number of years.

We thank them and bless them for their many contributions to the movement and we honor them by inviting others and welcoming others to assume these leadership roles in the Cursillo Community. Is God calling you to share your gifts in one of these positions or part of the Precursillo, Cursillo or Postcursillo committees? The movement needs some willing hearts to discern God’s Spirit for the future.

Will you please pray for the gift of discernment for yourself and others? When someone comes to mind, will you pray and then invite them to consider?

Grace Deasy, serving as the Nominating Committee Chair, I am sure would be happy to assist as well!

We are all busy people but dare I say that the amount of work is very small compared to the joy and blessing you receive by coming to know your sisters and brothers from across the Diocese through Cursillo. Let’s pray and make a friend, be a friend and bring a friend to Christ!

De Colores!

Sr. Betsy Van Deusen, CSJ
Co-Spiritual Advisor



For more information

Call / Email Grace Deasy

Don't delay... Do it today...

518-237-9927

gdeasy84@gmail.com

Precursillo

The readings from the second Sunday of Advent inspired my contribution to the Little Light...

Today's world needs HOPE. There is a great deal of separation whether it be in our family, our community, our church, our country, or our world.

Baruch's words were intended to unite God's people so that they could be led by God. How can you and I unite others in our environments so that God can lead us and work through us?

We can search our environments
as Eduardo Bonin taught us.

We need to pray for God to strengthen our world to bring together those who believe in his love to show the world how wonderful HE can be. From *Mentality, Cursillo in Christianity*, "These individuals are fervent souls that anxiously await to be called; show your impatient yearning of the vast field to be harvested, there are somnolent ones who need to be awakened; others who are faint-hearted (inhibited, timid) who will need to be encouraged; and the disoriented ones who need to be guided."

These "far away" linked with Christian leaders, in our community, can be molded to work more effectively spreading the Good News of the Lord to the world.

St. Paul taught by example that a Christian behaves in a certain way and that even in times of difficulty, that way is to LOVE.

Like St. Paul, we can teach people in our lives about Christ. How can we do this effectively? By focusing on what we have in common: the Holy Trinity, the Sacraments, our Catholic faith, loving one another as God has loved us, Cursillo, Fourth Day, and so much more.

But more importantly how can we teach others God's Love? By making a friend, being a friend, and bringing a friend to Christ. Easier said than done, isn't it? But it is possible when we show them through Christian action. Anthon St. Maarten said, "Actions prove who someone is; words just prove who they want to be." We cannot talk about Christ unless we act like Christ.

John the Baptist's voice announces God is coming to forgive. So how does this fit into Precursillo?

Precursillo cont.

Consider forgiveness as an ability to begin again. From a Precursillo perspective, you can think of forgiveness every step of the way with a Cursillista.

In the Precursillo, you can make a friend, and be a friend, but bringing that friend to Christ (not to a Cursillo Weekend) may take more time. You may need to begin again many times. In fact, you may never know during the season you are most connected with this person, that your efforts are bearing fruit. But take heart, your efforts to show and teach God's love are definitely planting seeds.

, but you can always begin again just like in life. While you are making a friend and bringing them to Christ the intent isn't having them make a weekend, it is about planting the "seed" in their life. How that seed grows is between them and God.

A Cursillista's path in the Fourth Day is their own experience. (With a little nudging from our sponsor.) We can choose to participate in everything or nothing. However, the fourth day door is ALWAYS open. Make a new beginning... begin grouping or attending Ultreya again. WE ARE FRIENDS! Forgiveness is all of ours to experience.

So, I challenge you. Start now! Make friends, be a friend, and bring those friends to Christ. Step back and look at your environment. Where do you see a call to unite? Where is there a need for LOVE and how can you teach/show it? And where is there an opportunity to begin again? Where does your opportunity lie?

Another challenge... while you are working toward making friends and bringing them closer to Christ, keep your mind's eye open for those individuals you know who would benefit from living a Cursillo Weekend.

It is critical to begin preparing Candidates for living the Weekends in 2022. Please identify candidates and get applications in by May 1st. I ask you identify three people and speak with each of them about Cursillo. Share what Cursillo has meant to you. Invite them to attend Ultreyas with you.

De Colores!
Shannon Kelly
Kellykares4you@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS



1-22-22	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Postcursillo Workshop and Bishop's Mass
1-25-22	6:00 p.m.	Secretariat Meeting - Zoom
2-19-22	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	School of Leaders – Zoom
3-19-22	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	School of Leaders – Zoom
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
6-4-22	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Cursillo Weekend Commissioning Mass / Annual Picnic
TBD	TBD	Men's Holy Hour
8-25-22	6:00 p.m.	Men's Cursillo Weekend
TBD	TBD	Women's Holy Hour
9-29-22	6:00 p.m.	Women's Cursillo Weekend

De Colozes! *A colorful phrase!*

We end our talks with this phrase. We use it as a greeting and as a complimentary close on our notes and emails to each other.

We recently learned in the School of Leaders that this phrase is a question or inquiry asking, "How is your 4th Day going?" or "Are you living your 4th Day?"

In our greetings, it's a question... "How are you doing?" As a closing, it's a challenge or encouragement... "Get busy!" or "Keep up the good work!"

*Good accountability involved here!
If you can respond to this question*

about your 4th Day, "I am doing well!"

Or, if the closing to a note causes you to think, "I will keep up the good work!"

Even if you recognize the closing as a challenge, "Get Busy!"

You are the perfect witness at an Ultreya!

Your story could very well be the exact encouragement for those attending the Ultreya, whether it be a story of success or challenges.

Christ is counting on you and so are we!!

De Colozes!

Grace Deasy

PS. Bring a friend or two to Ultreya and share your 4th day with them! Perhaps bring them closer to Christ!

Leaders' Manual excerpts...

During this time of seeking those who are willing to take on the task of ensuring the Albany Diocese Cursillo Movement remains strong and vibrant, we share the following excerpts from the Leaders' Manual...

Two purposes of the Movement:

1. "It is a means for living what is fundamental for being Christian (3-fold love of God, love of oneself, and love of one's neighbor), which is experienced through three essential encounters (self, God, others), immediate purpose – 'Salt of the earth.'"
2. "That the person be ferment in order to vertebrae (give backbone to) Christianity in society and live what is fundamental for being Christian in their environments. (End Purpose – 'yeast of the world' – in their immediate world." (page v)

"The great task of building the Kingdom of God...requires audacious and courageous Christians with personality, firm in their convictions and at the same time docile to the guidance of the Holy Spirit... (those who) leaven their environments with their witness of life, because they are fully convinced that it is more important "to be" than "to do." (page vi)

"The Diocesan Secretariat is a group of leaders who are responsible for the proper functioning of the School of Leaders (SoL) and the whole Movement in an area. It ensures that the School fulfills what it is commissioned to in each of its essential phases of the Movement; the Precursillo, Cursillo, and Postcursillo. It ensures the unity in the message and freedom of the Cursillistas. ...The Cursillo Movement also has a SoL which is the working arm of the Secretariat. The SoL provides a place for continual growth and understanding of the Church and the Movement..." "...Both structures exist to serve the Ultreyas." (page 23-34)

"The members of the Secretariat and of the SoL are, in the diocese, jointly responsible for the planning and coordination of the Movement's activities." (page 35)

"A typical Secretariat consists of the Lay Director; the Spiritual Advisor; the chairpersons of the SoL, Precursillo, Cursillo, and Postcursillo; a secretary and a treasurer." "...the Secretariat is responsible for the correct functioning of the School, which is the working arm of the Secretariat... the Secretariat should review the work being done in the Precursillo... checks on the work in the Cursillo section... checks on the work in the Postcursillo ..." (page 68)



The Leaders' Manual is filled with vast information to assist Cursillistas on the conduct of the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese. It is an invaluable tool and resource for ALL Cursillistas, and especially for those willing to step up and continue the working of the Cursillo Movement within the Albany Diocese.

Other resources include the By-Laws and Pastoral Plan for the Cursillo Movement in the Albany Diocese. These documents can be found on the Cursillo website: <https://albanycursillo.org/by-laws-and-pastoral-plan/>. (It's the last tab on the drop-down menu, under the Secretariat tab. The website <http://albanycursillo.org> also some information on the positions that will be vacant, effective July 1, 2022.

Sorry for the repetition throughout this Newsletter, but we really need your help. Please pray, and offer up other palanca, for identifying and discerning individuals to fill servant leadership positions within the Albany Cursillo Movement. Consider if the Holy Spirit is calling YOU! Please contact Grace Deasy, gdeasy84@gmail.com, with the names of those you feel God placed on your heart, including your own!! Without you, the community of the Cursillo Movement in Albany, will struggle to exist.

ULTREYA! (ONWARD!)

Eva & Joe Fitzgerald
co-Lay Directors