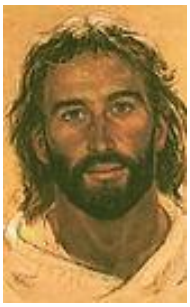
Diocese of Evansville
Cursillo Newsletter



August 2025

www.evansvillecursillo.com

A Resurrection of Sorts:

Beginning with the August 2025 edition, we are resurrecting the publication of the Evansville Cursillo Newsletter. The last Newsletter was published in January 2020, prior to the Pandemic. So, after a rather long nap, the plan is to "post" the newsletter, including the Spanish edition, 3 or 4 times a year. Thank you for your patience as we work our way through making this happen.

From our Spiritual Advisor, Fr Bernie Etienne:

Dear Friends,

This past August 14th, the Church throughout the world celebrated the Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish Priest who, in a great act of love while imprisoned at Auschwitz during the second world war, offered himself to be put to death rather than a young man with a family. In his writings about Apostolic zeal for the salvations and sanctification of souls he asserted, "The most resplendent manifestation of God's glory is the salvation of souls, whom Christ redeemed by shedding his blood. To work for the salvation and sanctification of as many souls as possible, therefore, is the preeminent purpose of the apostolic life". Is this not very much at the heart of the Cursillo Movement? What a beautiful reminder for all of us not to become dispassionate in our quest to "make a friend, be a friend and lead a friend to Christ".

In Christ's peace,

Fr. Bernie Etienne,
Spiritual Advisor Evansville Cursillo

From the Lay Coordinator

The Evansville Diocese is very blessed to have people who love Jesus and the Cursillo Movement enough to volunteer their time and talent to ensure future weekends are available for the candidates.

Did you know that Cursillo is a Lay-led movement? Yes, the Spiritual Advisors are critical to the success of the movement and the weekends, but their responsibilities do not include leadership of the movement.

That responsibility is up to us, the 4th Day.

The Secretariat was established to oversee this activity, and this group has two primary responsibilities. 1. To plan future weekends and to ensure there are people for the teams who have the facilities, knowledge, and materials needed to conduct the weekend per the prescribed method. 2. To find, educate, and put new Leaders into place as needed on the Secretariat, onto teams, and into other 4th day roles to keep the movement going.

Each Secretariat member's term is 3 years in length, and the terms are staggered so there is not a huge turnover at one time. We are constantly looking for people who love the movement and are interested in serving in the future. If this sounds like something you would like to find out more about, please call Mike Ketzner at 812-204-6380 or email him at laycoordinator@evansvillecursillo.com

A Joyful Gathering: Our First Grand Ultreya Experience

Organizing our first Grand Ultreya was more than just an event, it was a heartfelt journey of faith, fellowship, and personal growth. We are deeply committed to the Cursillo movement, we felt both honored and humbled to bring together our community for a day of spiritual renewal and joyful connection.

From the moment planning began, we knew this Ultreya had to be special. We wanted it to reflect the spirit of our movement: authentic, uplifting, and Christ-centered. With the help of many generous hearts, the vision came to life.

Two speakers in particular, Tony Fehrenbacher and Jim Hicks, absolutely hit the mark. Their witness talks were powerful, honest, and deeply moving. Tony's message resonated with a quiet strength, while Jim's words carried a raw sincerity that touched everyone in the room. Their stories reminded us all why we walk this path together: to grow closer to Christ and to each other.

We were also blessed to have Fr. Tyler Underhill join us. Despite his youth, Fr. Tyler spoke with a wisdom that felt timeless. His reflections were thoughtful and profound, offering insights that lingered long after the event ended. It's rare to encounter someone so young with such spiritual depth, and his presence was a true gift to our gathering.

The energy in the room was palpable; smiles, hugs, laughter, and even a few tears. It was a beautiful reminder that when we come together in faith, something sacred happens. We don't just share stories; we share life.

Looking back, we were filled with gratitude. This Grand Ultreya was a milestone not just on our journey, but in the life of our community. We are already looking forward to the next one, knowing that with God's grace, each gathering will continue to inspire and uplift.

Your brother and sister in Christ,
Debbie and Allen Hair
Post-Cursillo

Book review by Marianne Webster

"Death Comes for the Archbishop"

Author: Willa Cather

The best review of any book is that two of the three speakers at the recent Grand Ultreya at St. John Daylight referenced this book in their talks. That is enough for me to get the book and read it!

It is a novel that tells the story of two French Missionaries, Bishop Jean Marie Latour and Fr. Joseph Vaillant. Willa Cather weaves the themes of faith and dedicated sense of mission throughout the beautiful Southwest landscape. The challenges of finding common ground with Mexican and Native American cultures and the Catholic Church of Rome, resemble some of the challenges we face in the strong ideologies we encounter every day. I marveled at the listening skills of Bishop Jean Marie and the reflections of his thousands of miles traveled on a donkey. I learned that the need for honest, open and frequent communication, even among the closest parish staff is imperative because of the different perspectives even two holy men, bound together on the same mission, brought to their daily work. They both demonstrate supernatural patience and learned how to find common ground with respect. The harsh climate demanded strength and endurance. It is a story of two, brave, mid-19th century men, in New Mexico Territory, who heard God's call and answered His thirst for souls for 40 years.

World Cursillo Ultreya in Rome, Italy
Mike & Linda Ketzner



Mike & Linda Ketzner recently joined a group of United States and Caribbean citizens on a nine-day trip to Rome and southern Italy. The primary reason for the trip was to participate in the World Cursillo Ultreya.

The World Ultreya took place at the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls in Rome. There were 158 people from the United States and the Caribbean in attendance and approximately 4,000 people overall. When entering the Basilica, we were able to enter through one of the Holy Doors, currently open in Rome. The Holy Doors are only open during the Jubilee, which takes place every 25 years.

We also attended the Saturday evening Vespers and the Sunday morning Pentecost mass with Pope Leo IV at St Peter's square. The crowd at the Sunday morning mass was estimated to be 330,000 people. Before both the services, Pope Leo spent about 30 minutes in his Pope Mobile riding through the huge crowds in St Peter's Square. We were within 30 feet of the Pope and got some good pictures which will help us remember our trip forever.







There currently are 6 Cursillo retreats held each year at the Sarto Retreat House. Two English Men's, Two English Women's, One Spanish Men's and One Spanish Women's. You can learn more about Cursillo by going to EvansvilleCursillo.com or by sending an email to laycoordinator@evansvillecursillo.com

Are you called to be a Cursillo Parish Ambassador

Do you want to provide a visible Cursillo presence in your parish? We are looking for volunteers to fill the position of Cursillo Parish Ambassador within each parish to serve as a liaison between the parish and the diocesan Cursillo leadership. You would personally reach out to the new Cursillistas in your parish after their weekend to offer guidance, encouragement, and a sense of belonging. Helping them integrate into the parish community by facilitating their participation in small group reunions (grouping), you would be instrumental in ensuring that the Cursillo community continues to thrive.

So, if you have a passion for building community and supporting others in their faith journey, along with familiarity of the importance of grouping, please contact Missy Beach at post-cursillo@evansvillecursillo.com.

Navigating the Website: www.evansvillecursillo.com

If you have not taken the opportunity to check out our Cursillo website, we encourage you to do so. It's great to see who from your parish is on the team or is a candidate. Check out the many volunteer opportunities to help and sign up. It's a great way to meet other Cursillistas as well as renew past weekend friends.
There is a wealth of information there for ALL Cursillistas, newbies and "seasoned" alike, such as:

- Find the Ultreya Schedule under Post Cursillo tab, then "Ultreya" tab
- Sign up as a Kitchen Angel or to serve a meal at Cursillo weekend
  - Click on 3-Day Weekend tab, then "Serve a meal"
- Sign up to pray at a Palanca Chapel during the weekend
  - Click on 3-Day Weekend tab, then Palanca Chapel
- Check out the Cursillo teams, candidates and schedule for upcoming weekends by clicking on 3-Day Weekend tab.
- Download applications
  - Click on Pre-Cursillo tab, then "Weekend Applications"

Our Diocese is truly blessed by the commitment of so many parishioners, as well as our Priests and our Bishop.

Spanish Women's Cursillo #8

This past July 17–20, 2025, at the Sarto Retreat Center in Evansville, the Cursillo Movement held Women's Weekend #8 in Spanish. With a full house of 31 candidates, the weekend was filled with joy, prayer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit. During the Cursillo closing, each candidate shared a witness testimony describing how they had lived a personal encounter with Jesus Christ throughout the retreat.
The weekend was led by Rector Gina Videa, Assistant Rector Maria Hernandez and Head Stewards Patricia Velasco, supported by a dedicated team of 22 servants. Their generous spirit of service created a true atmosphere of love and Christian community. We were also blessed with the guidance of Spiritual Director Fr. Juan Ramirez and Deacon Jorge Melendres, whose pastoral presence enriched the experience for everyone.

The success of this Cursillo weekend was made possible through the prayers, Palancas and support of the wider community. We give heartfelt thanks to God, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Secretariat, the active Cursillo teams, and the many communities from Southern Indiana and Owensboro, Kentucky, who prayed, sponsored, and collaborated in so many ways.

The new Cursillistas began grouping the very next week in their communities and are actively living Cursillo through Study, Action, and Piety. This weekend was not only an opportunity to grow closer to Christ, but also a reminder that the mission of Cursillo continues to bear fruit.

De Colores!

Patricia and Jorge Velasco
Spanish chair – Secretariate

Upcoming Schedule of Events:

Men's Cursillo	September 4-7
Men's Spanish Cursillo	September 18-21
Women's Cursillo	October 23-26
Fall Reunion	TBA

In Memoriam

We remember those who, over the past several months,
have entered into their Fifth Day:

Delores Schroeder	#67	St. Joseph County
Karen Seib	#58	St. John the Baptist, Newburgh
George Kaiser	#93	St. Francis Xavier, Vincennes
John Henderson	#1	St. Bernard, Rockport
Eldon Hopkins	#59	St. John the Baptist, Newburgh
Susan Gries	#44	Holy Redeemer
David Fehrenbacher	#73	St. Joseph County
Maria Guetling	#103	Resurrection
Fr Henry Kuykendall	#16	St. John's, Newburgh

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A Perspective from the Newsletter Desk:

My name is Carla Head, I lived Cursillo 100 at St. Ann's table, and I worship at Holy Redeemer. Sound like a familiar introduction scenario?

At any rate, since my Cursillo was a couple of years ago, I was surprised to be asked to be on the team for 104. What a blessing for me that I said "Yes". It is a common statement at most Cursillo events that, "If asked, just say yes."

Having side stepped Cursillo for many years, I was so glad to live #100. I sponsored my sister-in-law at Cursillo 103. When I dropped her off for her weekend, I did not want to leave; I wanted to "do it again". Lo and behold, the Holy Spirit made that happen when I was asked to be on Team 104. Being on a team was an even greater experience and so very worth all of the weeks of preparation, aka Formation. The Cursillo process has been thoroughly thought out and planned to a "T". Basically, there seems to be a binder for any and all of the various team positions and activities.

So, if asked, just say "Yes", and the Holy Spirit will ride along on your shoulder the whole way.

Cursillo is an ongoing process that never ends.

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