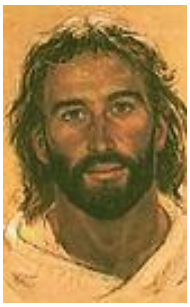
Diocese of Evansville
Cursillo Newsletter



November 2025

www.evansvillecursillo.com

From a Spiritual Advisor/Candidate at Men's Cursillo #102

At the men's Cursillo #102 this past September, I had the honor of making my first Cursillo while also working it as a priest. I was a little hesitant and anxious as we approached the weekend. I knew it was going to be tiring and a lot of work (which it was). It was also pretty nerve-racking giving two meditations and two rollos (talks) when I didn't really know what Cursillo was all about yet. There's a big difference between learning about something and experiencing it first-hand.

Despite all this, our Lord was truly present to us. I felt his active grace throughout my talks. He showers us with so many blessings. He continues to help us and reveal himself to us. I am so very grateful for His merciful love. At this Cursillo, I got to witness the transformation in the participants' lives while also experiencing the showers of grace from so many Palancas. Thank you to everyone who prayed and offered up Palanca for us.

In Gratitude,
Fr. Phillip Rogier

Upcoming Schedule of Events:

Cursillo Reunion	December 13th, see article below
Men's #103	February 19–22
Women's #106	March 19-22
Men's Spanish #9	June 4-7
Men's #104	September 10-13
Women's Spanish #9	September 17-20

Upcoming Cursillo Reunion

The spirit of Christian fellowship will be alive and well in Haubstadt on Saturday, December 13th, as Saints Peter and Paul Parish will host a heartfelt Cursillo reunion. The day will begin by inviting all attendees to center themselves in worship and gratitude with Mass at 9:00 a.m. (CST). A brunch following mass will offer a joyful opportunity for past Cursillistas to reconnect, share their faith journeys, and renew the bonds formed during their Cursillo weekends.

Importantly, you do not need to have attended a Cursillo weekend to take part in the reunion. All are welcome to join in the celebration, whether you're a longtime member of the movement or simply curious about its mission. This gathering promises a morning of spiritual enrichment, community, and encouragement — come as you are and experience the warmth that defines the Cursillo tradition.

Allen & Debbie Hair, Post-Cursillo Chairs

School of Leaders

De Colores my 4th day brothers and sisters,

It's hard to believe that in a few weeks from now we will have the last School of Leaders meeting for this year! It has been an honor to serve as the School of Leaders chair for the last 6 months! We have had so many great presentations and witnesses that it is hard to describe how blessed the Evansville Cursillo movement is! The School of Leaders is the 2nd Tuesday of the month from Jan-Nov at Holy Rosary Catholic Church on Green River Road in Evansville. Mass is at 6:00 p.m. (optional) and the School of Leaders meeting is directly after. If you are interested in getting more involved or learning more about our great movement, this is an excellent place to start! During these meetings we have a short grouping session and then we dive into the subject for that evening. During this time, you will have the opportunity to interact and learn from the leaders of our movement. Please come and join us to help us grow and take this wonderful movement into the future. Have a blessed Holiday Season!

YBIC,
Andy Effinger

The View from a Team Member of Men's Cursillo # 102



Men's Cursillo No. 102 took place the weekend of September 4th to September 7th, 2025. I was privileged to serve as the Head Steward for this Cursillo. We were blessed to walk with 27 candidates that weekend. We were also blessed to have the prayers, Palanca and assistance of the 4th day community along with the ongoing support of local clergy and the support of our Diocese. The weekend could best be described as "awesome"! The talks, meditations and food were top-notch. Chapel time, prayers and Mass were reverent and uplifting. As with every Cursillo weekend, we were on a very tight schedule. We realized early on that not everything would go exactly according to plan - and it didn't. At those times, the Holy Spirit took the reins and kept our efforts focused and on track.

Candlelight on Saturday night was a beautiful and powerful "snapshot" of the entire weekend as well as our period of team formation. We opened our hearts and stormed heaven with our prayers to Jesus, fully present with us there on the altar - body, blood, soul and divinity. The candidates led this heart prayer "charge" with team members following suit. We prayed, we cried, we sang, and we laughed. We brought before the Lord joys, pains, praise, and gratitude. We had wonderful conversation with our brother Jesus. While we were huddled there together in prayer, we were keenly aware of the prayers and support of so many others who were also walking with us...those who "had our backs" during the weekend and the weeks leading up to it.

We were truly blessed to hear some powerful witness and insights at the closing on Sunday night. This witness was a reminder of the challenges we all face, the blessings we receive and power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives and throughout the weekend. The fruits of this Cursillo are becoming evident - new Cursillistas are grouping, friendship groups are being started, spouses are making a Cursillo, lives are being transformed, and the experience is being shared with others! Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make this Cursillo the "awesome" experience it was. Do not discount in any way the prayers, Palanca, time or assistance offered in support of a Cursillo weekend. While that effort may seem small and insignificant, the rewards are eternal.

Your brother-in Christ
Tom Blythe

The Pre-Cursillo Process of Bringing a Friend to Christ

www.evansvillecursillo.com/pre-cursillo

Have you given thought to Sponsoring a candidate for a Cursillo weekend? As Cursillistas, you know the blessings you received at your Cursillo weekend. Share those blessings by extending an invitation to a friend or family member.

The only requirement for candidates is that they be Roman Catholic and able to receive the Sacraments of the Church. Sponsors should also consider candidates for strength of character, maturity, open mind, ability to listen, friendship, and willingness to change. Candidates should be emotionally healthy and seeking a deeper spiritual life.

Applications are found on the website above. Complete and legible applications are placed on the list in the order they are received in person, by email, or postmark. Share the upcoming dates with your friends and note the three invitations listed at the top of the application. The first 30 candidates receive invitations approximately six weeks in advance of the weekend. Spots are held until a reply to accept or release is received. Because of this, it is very important to acknowledge receipt of the invitation and if possible, submit an answer within a week. As spots open up, spouses of Cursillistas next on the list are invited, then back to the order of the list until all spots are filled or everyone on the list is invited.

Your Sister in Christ, Stephanie Hinton

In Memoriam

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

Martha Steckler	#23	St. Henry
Jan Goebel	#95	St. Phillip

Do you know how big Cursillo really is?

The Evansville Diocese had their first Cursillo weekend in the Spring of 1974. Since that time, more than 7,000 people have made a Cursillo weekend in Evansville! The Evansville Cursillo movement is part of a regional Cursillo movement. We are part of Region IV that covers Southern Ohio to Arkansas. There are 16 Diocese in Region IV that includes Bellville, IL; Cincinnati, OH; Covington, KY; Evansville, IN; Indianapolis, IN; Lafayette, IN; Knoxville, TN; Lexington, KY; Little Rock, AR; Louisville, KY; Memphis, TN; Mount St. Francis, IN; Nashville, TN; Owensboro, KY; Springfield-Cape Girardeau, MO; and St. Louis, MO.

There are 12 Cursillo Regions in the United States. These 12 regions are all part of National Cursillo USA. The Evansville Diocese Cursillo movement is overseen by a group of Cursillistas called the Secretariat. Each Diocese and region has a Secretariat as does the National Cursillo .

National Cursillo USA is part of the North American & Caribbean Group. The world Cursillo is made up of 4 International groups that include: The Latin American Group, The European Group, The North American & Caribbean Group, and The Asia Pacific Group.

You may have noticed that the outline of the Movement's Structure begins with the "person"; this is because all the efforts of the Cursillo Movement at all levels: Diocesan, Regional, National, and worldwide are intended for the purpose of:

Proclaiming the best news of the best reality:
That God, in Jesus Christ, loves us;
Communicated by the best means;
Which is friendship;
Towards the best of each one;
Which is the person and his capacity of:
Conviction, Decisiveness and Constancy.

Mike Ketzner
Lay Coordinator

Men's Cursillo #8 – Spanish

From September 18–21, 2025, at the Sarto Retreat Center in Evansville, the Cursillo Movement held the Men's Cursillo #8 in Spanish. With a total of 26 candidates, the weekend was filled with joy, prayer, palanca, and the presence of the Holy Spirit. During the closing ceremony, each candidate shared their testimony, describing how they experienced a personal encounter with Jesus Christ throughout the retreat.

The weekend was led by Rector, Santos Serrano; Assistant to the Rector, Kay Parra; and Assistant Leader, Mark Steckler; supported by a dedicated team of 22 servers. Their generous spirit of service created a true environment of love and Christian community. We were also blessed with the spiritual guidance of Fr. Martin Estrada and Deacon Jorge Melendres, whose pastoral presence enriched everyone's experience.

The success of this Cursillo was made possible through the prayers 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 following week in their communities and are actively living the Cursillo through Study, Action, and Piety. This weekend was not only an opportunity to draw closer to Christ but also a reminder that the mission of Cursillo continues to bear fruit.

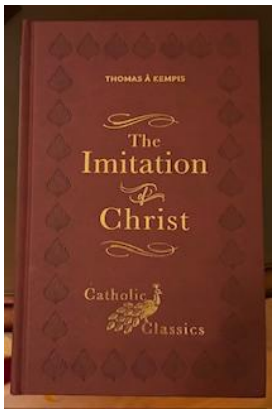


Patricia and Jorge Velasco
Spanish Chair – Evansville Cursillo Secretariat

Book Review by Marianne Webster

The Imitation of Christ by Thomas à Kempis

This book has been on the shelf in my home all my life, but I had not read it until Lent 2024. These writings of Thomas à Kempis are thought to be the original notes for the novices in his care in the 1400's.



The Imitation of Christ is *the #2* spiritual book of all time, right after the Bible. Why hadn't I read it? I needed to get a modern translation, 2015 or after. Ascension Press has published a modern translation in 2025. which Fr. Mike Schmitz will be reading starting October 22, 2025. It is presented free on the Ascension app, under "Catholic Classics". I cannot wait to read the book again with him and listen to his commentaries.

The Imitation of Christ presents four sections discussing the disciplines of the Christian life:

1. Who is Jesus Christ, how did he live and suffer?
2. Confidence in God is necessary for our interior life.
3. Dialogue between Jesus and the disciple.
4. Eucharist and the Mass to nourish and sustain us on the journey.

Fr. Mike stated that the staying power of *The Imitation of Christ* is that it is approachable and practical whether you are 16 years old, a new Catholic, or a seasoned Christian.

"On the day of judgement, surely, we shall not be asked what we have read but what we have done; not how well we have spoken but how we have lived."

Thomas à Kempis

***The Imitation of Christ* shows us how to live as Jesus did.**

From the Newsletter Desk:

Obviously all Cursillistas have attended the closing at their own Cursillo or a friend's closing. Have you considered attending the closing even if you don't know any of the ones involved, team or candidates? It is a visual confirmation of the success of the Cursillo movement in our diocese.

I attended the closings for the Men's Cursillo 102 in September and the Women's Cursillo 105 in October. To hear the men and women tell their conversion stories from their weekends, brought back memories of my own Cursillo #100 weekend. The comradery and friendships were so electric at both closings — the only explanation could be that the Holy Spirit picked the candidates ***and*** the team.

May God bless each and every one with a
Happy Thanksgiving
Blessed Advent
Merry Christmas
Happy New year

The Magic Phrase for November 2025 is

Go 4th

Cursillo is an ongoing process that never ends.

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