



# Diakone'

Cursillo Newsletter – June 2008

Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Missouri

## CURSILLO MOVEMENT

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## IMPORTANT DATES:

### Jul 31-Aug 3, 2008

National Encounter  
Washington DC

### Sep 11-14, 2008

Men's Cursillo #235

### Oct 16-19, 2008

Women's Cursillo #236

### Mar 12-15, 2009

Men's Cursillo #237

### Apr 30-May 3, 2009

Women's Cursillo #238

## Get applications in early!

## WE'RE ON THE WEB:

[www.cursillo.net](http://www.cursillo.net)

Our **Candidate Application** form can be printed from our website. Get them in early!

Our **Palanca** form can be printed from our website. Please remember to send them in time to be used during the weekends.

You may also submit your **Palanca** at the website completely confidential. Your email or name will not appear on anything or be tracked.

**Don't have internet access? – give us a call and we'll send you the forms.**

## Message from Spiritual Advisor

In Paul's second letter to the Christians in Corinth, he commented upon the "accomplishments" achieved by the churches in Macedonia (2 Cor 8:1-3). He marveled at how they survived the attacks and tribulations that came their way. He was amazed at their generosity, despite their poverty, in supporting the people of Judea. In Paul's estimation they had a genuine love for God's people, so they "gave as much as they could, and even more than they could" (2 Cor 8:3).

One might say that this scripture models for us the great act of stewardship. Wikipedia, the internet encyclopedia, defines stewardship as the "personal responsibility for taking care of another person's property or financial affairs..." In a theological sense, "financial stewardship is based on the belief that God is the true owner of each person's possessions, and that one is accountable to God for the acceptable care and use of those possessions."

When applied to our local parish, the diocese, or even a diocesan organization like the Cursillo Movement, stewardship is our Christian responsibility to give, support, or donate to the "cause or works" of the parish, diocese, or organization. Stewardship demands that we develop a discerning spirit because no person, no matter his or level of riches, could support every aspect of our Christian or religious/faith life.

We must be people of discernment in supporting and enabling the continuing works/ministry of our parish, diocese, or preferred organization. I selfishly suggest to you that the Cursillo Movement is one organization that deserves and can benefit from your discernment. I base this "selfish" claim on two tenets: a) my encounter with Christ during Cursillo # 142 was genuine and life-giving; and b) the experience continues to offer me hope with each encounter weekend that I attend.

Perhaps, you also have a reason for supporting the Cursillo Movement. Perhaps, you can cite examples of how the Movement has increased your faith, your response to God, or even your devotion to prayer, study or apostolic action. If the Cursillo has *helped* you then perhaps the Cursillo Movement should have your *support* as well.

Paul said the Macedonians gave from their heart and not their head – they gave as much as they could, without "calculating" the donation or considering the risk. They gave from a generous spirit because of their love for God and God's people. Paul and the Macedonians provide a strong example for us to follow. What might you do in light of this scripture passage?

Currently, the Secretariat, the governing body responsible for The Cursillo Movement in this diocese, offers four weekend experiences each year. We currently charge \$125 per candidate for room, board, and material expenses (plus team members pay for their room and board as well). However, this figure fails to meet the true or actual costs of each weekend (\$150 is a closer figure), and there are other operating expenses than just the weekends.

(continued on back)

	<p>In order for the Cursillo Movement to sustain its spiritual/formational calling, all Cursillistas must assume some responsibility for sustaining its existence. What we have received, via the Cursillo experience, we want others to be able to continue to experience or achieve.</p> <p>We are faced with the dilemma: do we raise registration fees above \$125 per person; do we hold weekends only when we have reached a sufficient number of candidates (20+) each weekend; or do we seek the financial support of those who know the benefits and joys of the Cursillo experience?</p> <p>Just as Paul called upon the Corinthians to follow the example of the Macedonians, I ask my fellow Cursillistas to join me in being generous in supporting the work of the Cursillo Movement. For the next four months (until the next Cursillo weekend), I will give “as much as I can” to support and sustain the Movement. At the end of these four months, I will discern the level of my continuing commitment.</p> <p>I challenge you to make two discernments: your initial, four month commitment to the Cursillo Movement, and then your continuing commitment to the Movement. Just as God received and blessed the generosity of the Macedonians, we can trust God to receive our heart-felt giving as well.</p> <p>Christian giving became an apostolic action for the Macedonians because they made a specific sacrifice for the benefit of others. Their giving enabled the growth of the Christian community among the people of Judea.</p> <p>Our giving will have a similar effect upon those Catholics who desire an encounter with Christ through the Cursillo experience. If your discernment leads you to this apostolic action, I encourage you to send your contributions to: The Cursillo Movement, 300 East 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64111. May God bless your discernment and generosity!</p> <p>And, let us not lose sight of our first commitment: To help Christ save souls! Let us make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ!</p> <p>A Servant of Christ! Deacon Ken Greene</p>
<p><b><u>Secretariat</u></b>  Spiritual Advisor  Deacon Ken Greene  Asst Spiritual Advisor  Fr. Ernie Davis  Lay Director  James Newkirk  Secretary  Judy Newkirk  Treasurer  Helen Ruby  Pre Cursillo  John McLaury  3 Day  Nanette Phillips  Post Cursillo  Kolly Mars  School of Leaders  Susan Stolwyk</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Message from Lay Director</b></p> <p>De Colores!</p> <p>First, many thanks and blessings to Jean Vanderheiden for her past six years of faithful service as Lay Director.</p> <p>While thinking about what to write in my first article as Lay Director, the phrase “richness and fullness of the faith” kept surfacing. After meditating on that phrase, here are some the thoughts that came to mind about the richest and fullness we receive in our faith and how the Cursillo Movement supports that.</p> <p>Earlier in the year we held our spring weekends during the Lent and Easter seasons. It is always a marvel to me to see the dedication and sacrifices of our fourth day community for the weekends, and of course, the responses of the new Cursillistas to the weekend experience and blessings received.</p> <p>On May 25 (Feast of Corpus Christi) we celebrated the Eucharistic Family Rosary Crusade at Royals Stadium. Wow, what an event – 18 months of planning, practicing, dedication and sacrifices (again by many of our fourth day community). Many blessings have been and will continue to be received from this effort for a long time.</p> <p>(continued on next page)</p>

	<p>Then we were blessed to witness Patrick Sullivan, a Cursillista, be ordained a deacon on his way to becoming a priest next year. And in his first homily, Patrick referred to how a weekend retreat experience (Cursillo) was instrumental in helping to set his faith journey back on track and ultimately on a new path of dedication and service to God and his people.</p> <p>And, on June 28, 2008 the Holy Father has announced in celebration of the birth of St. Paul (patron saint of the Cursillo) a year of Evangelization (the Church's and our mission)!</p> <p>I guess what continues to amaze me is that every day, every week, every ..., all around us our Catholic faith and the Cursillo Movement is deeply involved with our lives and brings many blessings – if we allow it to happen. We always get so much more than we give – our God can never be out done!</p> <p>So what can/should our response be – well first we can offer prayer of thanksgiving for our many blessings, and then we might want to SLOW DOWN and consider rededicating ourselves to know, love, and serve our God in accordance with those many blessings received and our calling.</p> <p>I encourage all of us to TAKE SOME ACTION, as one spiritual group did starting in the fall of 2007. They decided to be more dedicated and do something positive (rather than just talk), so they started sacrificing by meeting and offering a rosary, for our Cursillo Movement and more active laborers, “every” Saturday night at 10:00 pm in front of the Blessed Sacrament. That’s been going on for about 9 months now, and others have now joined them in the chapel at St. Mark’s in Independence, and still others unable to attend In person join in from home, including some from St. Louis now!</p> <p>Believe me; it already has and will continue to make a difference in the number of candidates and active groups! So I encourage each of you to join in by coming to the chapel, or at least from home; or even better to start a group in your own parish or area so that there might be many groups throughout the whole diocese offering prayer and sacrifice for our evangelization mission. As we learned on our Cursillo weekend, sacrifice (Palanca) adds power to our prayer and action – it is the lever of the apostles, and we were all called to be apostles! I trust that our Good Lord and His Blessed Mother will always take special notice of those prayers offered in a spirit of sacrifice.</p> <p>Lastly, our Secretariat has been quite busy addressing several issues and direction for our movement – please see the Reminders/Announcements section for more information.</p> <p>God Bless You and Ultreya! James Newkirk</p>
<p><b>DE COLORES!</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>*** Reminders &amp; Announcements ***</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>New Assistant Spiritual Advisor</b></p> <p>A very warm welcome to Fr. Ernie Davis who was appointed by Bishop Finn to be our new Assistant Spiritual Advisor. Fr. Ernie started assisting with our spring weekends. Fr. Ernie is the Administrator at St. Therese Little Flower parish in Kansas City. He began his Cursillo about 20 years ago via the Episcopal Cursillo in Florida.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cursillo Leaders Workshop – July 19-20</b></p> <p>All Cursillistas are invited to attend. See the enclosed flyer for more information on this workshop.</p> <p>(continued on next page)</p>

### **Weekend Costs for Candidates**

Unfortunately we found that the set fee we had been charging for candidates to attend weekends no longer was covering all our expenses. For several years we had been covering the extra cost from our treasury, but that is no longer a feasible approach. However, rather than just raising the set fee charged all candidates the Secretariat prayerfully decided to try a free will offering approach instead (this approach is used by many other dioceses). Now during the weekend the candidates will be told what the actual total cost for their room & board and other expenses is and then asked to contribute what they can in accordance with their blessings received. This allows for us to better practice the teaching of our Church that everyone contributes as their means allow. Those with more can give more to help other candidates of that weekend or future candidates and combined with the generosity of our 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community, we trust that all will be provided for.

As it always has been, no candidate should ever feel they cannot attend a weekend because they can't afford it – that is never to be an obstacle and will be taken care of in charity as needed.

### **Cathedral Hospitality House on 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

Along with our brothers and sisters Cursillistas from Kansas City Kansas we will be helping to serve lunch at our Cathedral's Hospitality House. This will just be in months with a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday (4 times a year). First one will be June 29, and then August 31 and November 30. We just need 8 volunteers each time and the work is light duty (normally serve sandwiches, chips, drinks...). Hours are approximately 11:00am to 2:30pm. This is a great opportunity to involve your whole family in helping to serve those less fortunate. If you would like to help with this endeavor please contact Judy Newkirk at 373-2665.

### **Annual BBQ Dinner Date Change**

Please make note on your calendars that our Annual BBQ Appreciation Dinner date has now changed to August 12 at 6:30pm. All Cursillistas and spouses are invited. Hope to see you there!

### **Joint Ad Hoc Committee With KCKS Cursillo**

Because of our unique geographic situation here in the greater Kansas City metro area (the state line is very gray for most of us), we have formed a joint ad hoc committee with members from both the KCSJ and KCKS Cursillo Movements. This committee has started exploring various ideas of activities we can work on together to make the Cursillo Movement more effective for both our dioceses. The committee will make recommendations to the Secretariats for their consideration.

The Cathedral Hospitality House and Cursillo Leaders Workshop mentioned above are two such shared activities. We will see more in the future.

### **Donations**

The Cursillo Movement gratefully welcomes your donations. Please consider making the Cursillo Movement a regular part of your tithing program to support our ongoing work and evangelization mission. Your donations are eligible for tax deduction purposes. Send donations to the address listed on the first page.

Now is an easy chance to share with the Cursillo Movement when you receive your economic stimulus rebate which comes as unexpected income to all of us.

Thanks and God Bless!

**CURSILLO MOVEMENT**  
Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph  
Archdiocese of Kansas City Kansas



**De Colores!**

***INVITATION to ALL CURSILLISTAS***

*to attend a*

***CURSILLO LEADERS WORKSHOP – I***

**Saturday & Sunday – July 19-20, 2008**

Please accept this invitation to join your brothers and sisters in Christ for a Cursillo Leaders Workshop – I. Come and learn more about:

- How to deepen our commitment to Christ and the living of the life of Christ.
- Deeper understanding of the purpose and method of the Cursillo Movement.
- Clearer understanding of roles and methods at our disposal to be more effective.
- Better understanding of how to deal with issues/problems in the movement to work more effectively.

The presentations will be given by Regional Service Team members and clergy.

- Presentations will be from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm each day.
- Coffee and rolls each morning.
- Lunch will be served each day.
- Subject to priest availability, there will be a Sunday liturgy Mass either late Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning.
- Free will donation of \$30 will be appreciated.

This invitation is to all Cursillistas, but all Secretariat and School of Leaders members are especially encouraged to try to attend. If you can't attend both days, the agenda is split such that there is value in attending just one day.

For planning purposes **we need your RSVP by July 15**. Please RSVP with your name and contact information by email to Judy Newkirk at [judy.newkirk@ultreya.biz](mailto:judy.newkirk@ultreya.biz) or call 816-373-2665.

The workshop will be held at the Gillham Plaza Building, 301 E. Armour Blvd in Kansas City, MO (SW corner of Armour Blvd and Gillham Road), in what is called the KCSJ Diocesan Chancery North offices. Park in the undercover parking lot (off Gillham Road). Enter on South side of building through the double glass doors, turn left, then right to Suite 140.

**Hope to see you there – God Bless & Ultreya!**