



January 2011



DIocese of KNOXVILLE CURSILLO

# The Rooster Crows



## The Director's Chair Building on a Firm Foundation

by Lois Schering, Lay Director



As some of you may already know, I was elected to the position of Knoxville Cursillo Lay Director. For those of you who don't know much about me, I would like to take a moment to share my background with you.

I made the 6<sup>th</sup> Women's English-speaking Cursillo in San Antonio, TX, in March, 1981 (St. Mary Madeleine's group). Since moving to Maryville, TN, ten years ago, I've held different roles in the formation of five Cursillo Weekends and served as Rectora for two of them. For the last seven years, I have been Director of the English School of Leaders. I've attended several National and Regional Encounters and was co-coordinator of the Fall Regional Encounter held in our diocese in 2005. I've also helped organize the annual Diocesan Encounter for all Cursillistas in the Knoxville Diocese.

We are blessed to have the following members also on the 2011 Secretariat. They are: Fr. Alex Waraksa, Spiritual Director; Robert Morris, English PreCursillo Director (new); Aurora Gardner, English 3-Day Director (new); Beatriz Rincon, Spanish 3-Day Director (new voting member); Dick Shriver, English Post Cursillo Director; Jim & Judy Holt, Directors of the English School of Leaders (new); Alicia Mora, Director of the Spanish School of Leaders; Kay Sheldon, Secretary; Debbie Ferreri, Treasurer; and Judy Holt, Music.

Guided by my by-line

"Building on a Firm Foundation," I plan to continue the work of my predecessors in making Cursillo authentic in our diocese. Part of my Mission Statement as Cursillo's Lay Director encompasses the belief that the optimal way of bringing a candidate to Cursillo is to invite them to the individual Group Reunions and Ultreyas before they make a Weekend. Sharing our love and knowledge of Christ in our lives can help lay the foundation that will "cement" the person's transition from the Weekend experience into the 4<sup>th</sup> Day. I

can't do this alone -- I need your help. Sponsors need to be made

*"...the optimal way of bringing a candidate to Cursillo is to invite them to the individual Group Reunions and Ultreyas..."*

aware that their sponsorship of a candidate goes beyond driving them to and from a Weekend. It is making your candidate a friend, being a friend, and bringing them to Christ in our day-to-day lives. It is a commitment to do palanca for the Weekend and continually as we share our journey with them. A Sponsor's role needs to include bringing their candidate to Ultreyas following the new Cursillista's Weekend until they are well established in the 4<sup>th</sup> day community, assisting them in finding a Group Reunion and being a mentor to them as well. After

bringing someone to Christ, there is no greater spiritual joy than to help mature their faith in God. The Secretariat supports me in the training of Sponsors in their extended roles and I invite each one of you to join me in this effort.

At the Secretariat planning meeting held on November 20, 2010, we decided to hold the School of Leaders every other month instead of quarterly. The School will be doing an overview of all of the Lay talks to be

given on the Weekend. At the March 12, 2011 School, the technique talk will be on *The Layperson in the*

*Church*. The Secretariat meetings will be held every other month, (the month following the School) instead of quarterly. Please see the on-line calendar for details. Dick Shriver suggested and the Secretariat agreed that the *Rooster Crows* be published quarterly instead of monthly, expanding the Newsletter to four pages.

Please join me and the Secretariat in "Building a Firm Foundation" in our diocese for the Cursillo Movement and most of all for Our Lord.

Ultreya!

## Witness Box—On fire for Christ by Pierrette Mathes

Over 13 years ago I had an encounter with a dear friend. He was just back from a fantastic Cursillo weekend. I was intrigued because I saw a beaming glow from him and he just seemed different. At the time, I didn't know much about Cursillo, but I knew that I wanted what he had. A seed was planted in me. I wanted to be part of Cursillo, but patiently waited for God to put all the pieces together for me.

I moved to Knoxville and was soon invited on a weekend. The time was just never right. Recently, I decided to not let anything get in the way of my Cursillo. Finally, I am signed up. Plans were underway. I was excited and packed my favorite bushel basket. I had many to hide under. You see even though I am a very busy Mom of six, I have found time for a special deep and very personal relationship with Jesus. It was just the two of us and I liked it that way.

From the moment I arrived at the parking lot, I was struck by the love and kindness of all the

people helping me and I wondered who the other participants were. Did they really go to my church? I had never seen some of them before. Once there the love continued and I felt special. It didn't take long for me to feel safe and allow myself to open up and be vulnerable. I felt like God had handpicked my St. Mary table. We were all from different places in our lives, yet we came together in a way that led to compassion, learning, respect and true friendship. We also had some good laughs and a few good cries.

As the weekend progressed, I learned that I needed to live my life striving for the Ideal of holiness. Also, that with my personal holiness, I am challenged to draw myself out into the world. I can no longer hide my light under a bushel basket. I must shine my light and personify Christ in everything, transforming the world. Christ is counting on me, an imperfect person, to bring His love into the world right where I am.

I realized that I was not balanced on my tripod chair. I was leaning more on my piety and some study but almost no action. I am now more aware of my action, whether it is plant-

ing a small seed like inviting someone to the Spanish Cursillo or having "Holy Audacity" and boldly leading others with humility and love to Christ. I realized that the life of God's grace flowing in me is strengthened by participating in the sacraments and grace is a life force that is the very life of God in us, others, and in His Church. I now have an unquenchable hunger to be with Jesus, to learn as much as I can about His church, and to be His hands and feet.

I experienced so much love on Cursillo #40 that I was truly overwhelmed. I met some fantastic people and am happy to call them sisters. As I looked across my church at the first Mass after my weekend, I was so comforted to see at least eight of my Cursillo family. I no longer feel alone on my journey and know that you are all willing to support me and each other as we journey through this life that sometimes feels like a battlefield. Thank you all. My light has ignited from a flicker under my bushel basket to a flame for all to see. I feel like I too now glow from my experience and that glow is the Holy Trinity bursting out of me in the amazing life of grace living in me, challenging me to come out of my comfort box and say here I am Lord.

*"I experienced so much love on Cursillo #40 that I was truly overwhelmed."*

## From the Editor's Desk by Carol Rummel

As you can see, we have redesigned the Rooster Crows. Since we are changing the format, I felt that a new look was also in order. We hope you like it. Each issue, now published quarterly rather than monthly, will contain more articles and information. We intend to include a witness talk in each issue as well as words of wisdom from our Lay Director, Lois Schering, a spiritual message from Fr. Alex, our Spiritual Director, and article written by a Secretariat member. We are also going to include a column from our Spanish community.

We hope to hear from you as well. Please send your letters to the editor (that's me) at [cartalks@frontiernet.net](mailto:cartalks@frontiernet.net). Keep your thoughts respectful and brief. We will try to include them on a space available basis in each issue. Since we post the Rooster Crows to our website, we are not limited to the number of pages our newsletter may contain. Therefore, if you have an idea for a continuing item or a special article, please let us know. After all, this is **your** newsletter. Check the website <http://www.knoxvillecursillo.org/> for contact names, numbers, and emails of our Secretariat members.



Check the pull out pages  
4 and 5 for Contact  
information and the  
2011 Calendar of Events



## Inspiration Corner by Fr. Alex Waraksa, Spiritual Director

We just celebrated the birth of Christ. For many of us our experience of this Christ, meaning anointed one, happened in a very new way on our Cursillo weekend. It continues as we try to share the love of Christ and experience of Him with others. Perhaps the greatest way to do this is by our love. Love seeks the good for others. It seeks to do no harm to them. It seeks to lead them to the source of love which is God.

In Cursillo this love is expressed in friendship by leading others to Christ. The big word for this is Evangelization; the simple word we also use is Action

Jesus came to this environment called earth because people had made their environment an unloving and very selfish place. He wanted to transform the environment by trans-

forming those who lived here. God wants this to be one of our primary actions as well.

In the Cursillo movement our reflections often turn to our group reunion sharing subjects which are Piety, Study and Action. For Piety, the Christ child brought forth adoration. I think of the refrain of one our Christmas hymns, "Come let us adore him." We can do this before a manger scene, during the Mass, or at adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

The Christ child brought forth Study as people wanted to know the circumstances and meaning surrounding his incarnation and birth. It has been said that He was born poor and died poorer. What challenges to spiritual growth come from my study of Jesus birth? Of course

*"We are called to be new life givers, sharing the grace and love of Christ with others."*

Mary, our Blessed Mother plays a great role in this. She is described as a young and simple woman. Yet simple does not mean without power or unable to serve God or do God's will.

Mary with child is a sign of life, a sign of new life. Women, who have the privilege of being mothers, are life-givers. Christ is a New Life Giver. We are all called to be new life givers, sharing the grace and love of Christ with others. God wants to protect these new lives from sin and evil.

Cursillo has helped us become aware or deepen our awareness of new life in Christ through his saving and renewing grace. Through Piety, Study, and Action let us share this new life with others as we celebrate the time when a new, glorious, divine life came to earth as a precious little child.

## News from Our Spanish Cursillo Community



This area will host news from our Spanish sisters and brothers. We have a large, active and enthusiastic Spanish Cursillo

community and we wish to share their insights, ideas and accomplishments in each issue of the Rooster Crows. Our next issue in April should include an article that will high-

light their participation in the Knoxville Cursillo. Ultreya!

# Contact Information Print and Save FYI

## Members of the Secretariat

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## Cursillo Calendar 2011

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>
Secretariat Meeting	Feb 12 (Sat) 10 am-2 pm	Our Lady of Fatima (Alcoa)	Lois Schering
<b>Spanish Men's Cursillo</b>	<b>March 3-6 (Thurs-Sun)</b>	<b>St. Therese (Cleveland)</b>	<b>Beatriz Rincon</b>
School of Leaders	March 12 (Sat) 10 am-2 pm	St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Jim & Judy Holt
Spring Encounter for Spiritual & Lay Directors Knoxville Cursillo hosting	April 1-3 (Fri-Sun)	Grace Point (Kingston)	Dick Shriver
Secretariat Meeting	April 16 (Sat) 10 am-2 pm	Sacred Heart Assembly Room	Lois Schering
School of Leaders	May 21 (Sat) 10 am -2 pm	St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Jim & Judy Holt
Secretariat Meeting	June 11 (Sat) 10 am-2 pm	St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Lois Schering
<b>Spanish Women's Cursillo</b>	<b>T/B/A (Thurs-Sun)</b>	<b>St. Therese (Cleveland)</b>	<b>Beatriz Rincon</b>
Cursillo Diocesan Encounter	July 23 (Sat) 9:30 am - 3:00 pm	Sacred Heart Pavilion	Lois Schering & Dick Shriver
	Bishop Stika celebrant and Keynote Speaker, Mass followed by Grand Ultreya & Fiesta		
Cursillo National Encounter	July 28-31 (Thurs to Sun)	St. Mary's University, San Antonio, TX	Lois Schering
Secretariat Meeting	August 13 (Sat) 10 am-2 pm	Sacred Heart Assembly Room	Lois Schering
School of Leaders	Sept 10 (Sat) 10 am-2 pm	St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Jim & Judy Holt
<b>Men's English Cursillo</b>	<b>Sept 15-18 (Thurs-Sun)</b>	<b>Apison Center</b>	<b>Aurora Gardner</b>
Secretariat Meeting	Oct 1 (Sat) 10 am-2 pm	Our Lady of Fatima (Alcoa)	Lois Schering
<b>Women's English Cursillo</b>	<b>Oct 6-9, (Thurs-Sun)</b>	<b>Apison Center</b>	<b>Aurora Gardner</b>
Fall Regional Encounter	Oct 28-30 (Fri-Sun)	Covington, KY	Lois Schering
School of Leaders	Nov 12 (Sat) 10 am-2 pm	St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Jim & Judy Holt
Secretariat Meeting	Dec 10 (Sat) 10 am-2 pm	St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Lois Schering

Secretariat Meeting = BLUE  
 School of Leaders = GREEN  
 Regional and National Encounters = RED  
 Cursillo Weekends = BLACK, BOLDED

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**DIOCESE OF KNOXVILLE CURSILLO**



***Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ.***

**We are on the web at**

**<http://www.knoxvillecursillo.org/>**

*Cursillo proposes no new type of spirituality, but simply a method through which one's spirituality may be developed, lived, and shared in any area of human life, where there are Christians willing to dedicate their lives to Christ in an ongoing manner. The method is introduced on a Cursillo weekend.*

*In 1963, Pope Paul the VI appointed St. Paul as the official Patron of the Cursillo Movement. On that occasion he said:*

*"This method of Christian teaching, commonly called Cursillos in Christianity, extends already over a great number of faithful and has produced abundant fruit; Christian renewal of the family life, visualization of parishes, faithful observance of duties, in private, as well as public. All this has filled the Bishops and other Shepherds of souls with the greatest satisfaction."*

## Cursillo Basics -The School of Leaders by Carol Rummel

According to the Leaders Manual, it is not possible to have an authentic and truly effective Cursillo Movement unless it is served by a group of leaders who exemplify everything the Movement is supposed to be. "As an operational structure of the Movement, the School is a community of Christians who, united in the atmosphere of a Group Reunion, seek every day to become more centered, more committed and more united, so as to accelerate in themselves, in the Movement, and in their environments the living out of what is fundamental for being a

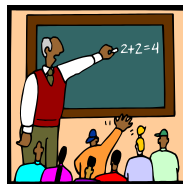
Christian."

Many of our new Cursillistas may be confused as to the membership of the School. I think the name, School of Leaders, is a little intimidating for our newest members. Every Cursillista has already been identified by their sponsor as a leader in their community. The School offers a continuing education in the Movement and assists members in preparing for team membership. Those who attend the School on a regular basis are eligible to serve on a team in the future. They experience an

attitude of friendship, humility, justice, and faith, hope and charity. By continuous participation, they increase their personal aptitudes of psychological maturity, authenticity, integrity, their capacity to witness to the mysteries of life, and their capacity for friendship.

I have been attending the school since I lived my weekend in 2001. It has helped me to understand the Movement more completely and prepared me to serve on various teams in many positions to include

Rectora. I find it similar in many ways to a mini weekend. It rejuvenates my enthusiasm and keeps me focused on what is important. Our Movement is only as strong as its weakest link. The school helps to strengthen our links. Gives us the courage and skills necessary to bring our friend to Christ, which is what we are all called to do.



Beginning this year, we are expanding our School in order to offer more training opportunities, more fellowship, and increased attention to team training. We will be hold-

ing a School every other month. Please consider attending as often as possible. Talk to your Group Reunion about carpooling to the next School. Reach out to the new Cursillistas in your parishes and invite them to join you.

The Knoxville Diocese Cursillo has matured and flourished because of all of you. BUT, if we want to continue to move toward the future, we must grow together in the Movement through the School of Leaders. Check the website for dates, times, and place of our next School.