



July 2011



DIocese of Knoxville CURSILLO

The Rooster Crows



The Director's Chair Building on a Firm Foundation by Lois Schering,



On April 1-2, 2011, the Diocese of Knoxville Cursillo hosted 24 Spiritual Advisers, Lay Directors and Regional Service Team members from the six states that comprise Region IV at Grace Point Camp and the Retreat Center in Kingston, TN. The theme of the Encounter was "Servants of God for Cursillo." Because of the participants' comments, we received an equivalent to an A+ for our hospitality. This distinction could not have been achieved without the help of the following Cursillistas: Carol Bolton, Eileen Casey, Angie Feltz, Debbie Ferreri, Esther Golightly, Jean Harvey, Jim Heath, July Holt, Dottie O'Neill, Lois Schering, Dick Shriver, Charlie Spadaro, Cursillistas that donated money towards food and supplies, and Cursillistas that offered palanca.

One of the suggestions given during the talks was regarding the way to sponsor a candidate; the Sponsor must be in a group reunion and attending Ultreyas. If not, then the Sponsor needs to find a Cursillista who is grouping and attending Ultreyas to co-sponsor the candidate. The Secretariat will be discussing this point and others at its June 11 Secretariat meeting.

Some of the key points that were brought up in the five talks that were delivered by the Regional Ser-

vice Team:

- **Keynote Address:** We are vanguards of the Movement – we must live out and share, listen to call of Christ and reach out to those not normally chosen.
- **Friendship:** Upon wanting to change aspects in the Movement, Eduardo Bonnin, Founder of the Cursillo Movement, said "The Movement was given to him by the Holy Spirit and it works just fine."
- **Sponsorship:** Ask new Cursillistas – can they be apostles for a year?
- **Leadership:** We must serve the Cursillo Movement with as much strength and whole-heartedness as we can. Pray the Leaders Prayer daily.
- **Building and Sustaining Community:** We find personal fulfillment when we make our own deep personal commitment to God.
- **Keynote Prayer:** Dear Jesus, redeem us and lead us into Your plan and give us graces to live our lives.

The Cursillo Diocesan Encounter will be held on Saturday, July 23, 2011 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 711 Northshore Drive, S.W., Knoxville, TN.

:Theme "Seeds that are Sown." The principal celebrant will be Bishop Richard Stika. He will also give the keynote address during the homily. The Encounter will begin at 9:30 am. with Mass at 10 am. in the Cathedral followed by a Grand Ultreya and fiesta in the Pavilion (located behind the School). Please bring a dish to share and a lawn chair. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend!

The following positions on the Secretariat are up for reelection this year: Spanish School of Leaders Director, Secretary, Treasurer and Music Director (non-voting position). All four positions serve for three years and are not limited (at present) to the number of terms served.

- The Spanish School of Leaders Director maintains the effectiveness of the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Knoxville; provides ongoing education, training and spiritual growth for the leaders of the Cursillo Movement; intensifies the living of what is fundamental to being a Christian—in each one of our members, in the Movement as a whole, and in the environments where the members live and

(Cont. on pg. 3)

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The Witness Box—My Life in Cursillo by Bob Ketteringham

Cursillo's given me a solid spiritual foundation along with life, hope, and friends! In September 1984, I made Cursillo #116 in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Unlike many, it did not totally knock me over, but instilled commitment to its path of holiness and pursuit of a Christ centered ideal. I pursued Cursillo, and may not be writing this today if I'd waited for a personal invitation from a Cursillo friend. Prior to Cursillo, I experienced a major metanoia and vowed my life to Jesus Christ. Afterwards, I hungered for spiritual nourishment -- feeding my hunger through daily mass, reconciliation, Catholic reading, leadership in Renew, Life in the Spirit, works of mercy, and more. Upon learning of Cursillo, I asked a friend to sponsor me. Thus began my Cursillo life!

My weekend revealed that narrow gate and road to my Ideal. At my weekend I experienced Christian life without secular distractions. It was a taste of Heavenly life, an appetizer. I also experienced, through the deacon, the hand and voice of Christ while kneeling before the tabernacle, and I remember a deep spiritual moment as the priest and I walked through the gardens during a break, and much more. Of course, the weekend forms us to bring Christ into our environments on our 4th day. This it did! The "Tripod," Group Reunion, and Ul-treya became like "Benedict's Rule" for me—a foundation to keep me on that straight and narrow path.

I attribute much of my outstanding relationship with my fa-

ther to Cursillo. After Cursillo I finally accepted an annual invitation from my father to attend an annual retreat. Prior to Cursillo, I was too involved with my secular life and getting ahead; my ideal was only in its remedial stage. I did not want to waste my precious little vacation for something like a retreat! Because of my new Ideal instilled in Cursillo

my father and I began an annual Ignatian retreat tradition that lasted until he died. I continue our tradition and am housed in his old room! These retreats together molded our relationship into a closeness that I cannot describe. My father passed away during the 1st Mass of a men's Cursillo that I was speaking at; our prayers gave him one heck of a send off! That, my friends, is not accidental, but Divine Providence! I am eternally grateful for this Divine gift!

Cursillo awakened me to the need for spiritual direction in maintaining the 3 legs of our Tripod and remaining true to my ideal. Like reunions, spiritual direction added accountability and kept me firmly rooted in our Catholic Faith. Directors have helped me develop my prayer life, provided educational material, overcome difficulties, learn forgiveness, discern spirits, and discern actions. My first director, an Oblate of Mary priest, helped me to incorporate prayer into every aspect of my life, introduced me to spiritual classics, and helped me deal with my career loss. Losing a long career that I loved presented many spiritual challenges and opportunities. Cursillo and spiritual direction enabled me to live in faith



My weekend revealed that narrow gate and road to my Ideal.

during this trying time and find a God-centered calling. In fact, my parish actually did an article about my family's faith in their newsletter. Another director, a diocesan priest, boosted my spiritual life through guiding me to forgive a deep hurt I had been hanging onto. Another, a Jesuit, led my through Ignatian Spiritual Exercises,

charged me with leading others, taught me discernment of spirits, and helped me discern my diaconate calling. Without Cursillo moving me to seek such direction, I would have missed all these benefits.

Cursillo is worldwide! My job moved me to 4 states. Every time I found active Cursillo communities as well as men to group with. I quickly found spiritual friends. Reunions reminded me that God loves me and is in control during these life changes. Reunions also reinforced the Tripod and stay focused on my ideal! Many times I have leaned on my groups during life's challenges. There have been times when I felt like giving up, but my spiritual friends helped me see Satan's deceptions and encourage me to keep on. I occasionally wonder what might have happened to my spiritual life without Cursillo. Scary! Today I am faced with continued challenges. My industry is facing hardships; every day I hear of new layoffs. I may need to retire sooner than I'd like. I have 2 lovely married daughters and 4 grandchildren that keep life exciting. My oldest grandson is entering the Marines. In the midst of this I am discerning again the call to the (continued on pg. 3.)

The Witness Box— (Article Continued from page 2)

diaconate. I had to drop out of the diaconate formation program in Pensacola because of a job transfer; leaving the program was difficult. Now, I believe God is calling me again. Regardless of outcomes, I know God is with me. Cursillo is one of the many gifts he gave to remind me.

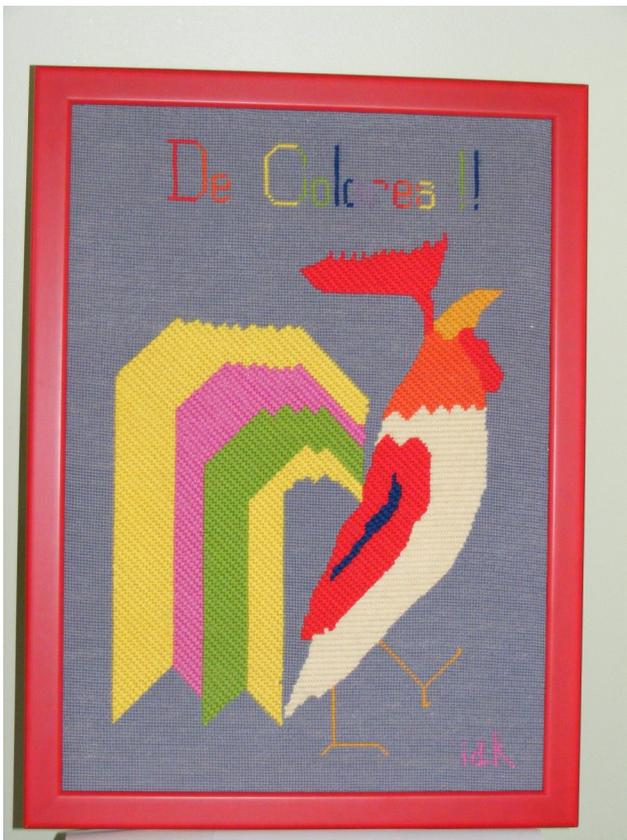
I owe a great deal to God for Cursillo. Unfortunately, I do not have the space in a short article to tell you my stories or elaborate. As you see, Cursillo has helped me face life with a God-centered focus.

Cursillo is transformative. I think Cursillo benefits everyone who attends. The foundation of the weekend helps attendees assume leadership roles in their environments, leading others to Christ. Apostolates are as varied as individ-

uals. Some have a view that “bringing friends to Christ,” means brings them to Cursillo, and that if someone does not stay active in Cursillo, they failed. I believe if it helped someone move one step closer to God, Cursillo was worth it. I may be in the minority, but I think every Catholic should attend a weekend.

Ideally I’d like to see attendees continue to benefit and grow from grouping and attending Cursillo activities, but moving forward is a discernment process between them and God. Some will stay and others not. The important thing is that they move closer to Christ and His Church.

DeColores!



Created by Irene Kernan, 2nd Lay Director of the Diocese of Knoxville, and donated to our Movement by Carol Bolton.



IRENE KERNAN, 2nd LAY DIRECTOR FOR THE DIOCESE OF KNOXVILLE by Carol Bolton, Velma Burke and Lois Schering

I probably met Irene at a Boy Scout meeting, or a Home and School meeting or at some church activity and most likely it was all of the above since that was our life back in the 70's in Peoria, IL.

I was astonished to find her at the closing ceremony of my Cursillo weekend in September 1976. She had made her Cursillo in 1974. Shortly after my weekend we started a group reunion. I remember four of us sharing, caring and supporting each other over the years.

Irene became a good friend, a mentor and a confidante. We shared many interests: cross stitch, quilting, cooking, family, vacations, travel, games, etc. Irene taught me the value of a good steak or strawberries out of season compared to potato chips. Irene loved to play games and she was good at them! I was never much competition and did not have the same love of games as she did.

I remember the four of us (Irene, Mike, Ray and Carol) sharing, caring and supporting each other. We shared so many family times our children thought they had a closer relationship with the Kernans' than their own cousins.

Through the years, we both were active in the Cursillo activities. Irene was rectora of #227 in 1983 and I was rectora of # 344 in 1989. At that time Irene gave me a framed original needlepoint of a Cursillo rooster she had designed. I would like to donate that art to the Knoxville Cursillo in honor of her (see enclosed picture).

After retirement, Mike and Irene moved to Maryville, TN, but our connections were not broken. I soon learned that they were beginning Cursillo here in the Knoxville diocese. In fact, when we visited we attended an Ultreya at Holy Ghost Church.

About a year later Ray and I were considering a move and decided that Maryville "fit just right." We were here for Men's # 1 and here to support

Irene as Rectora of Women's # 2. Irene became Lay Director and we supported her and got involved, too. Later I took the 3-Day Weekend chair at her urging.

Incident: Whenever we experienced something, Irene would ask "what do you like best and why?" I was very challenged by that question. She said her older brother used to quiz her that way. She made me think and evaluate.

Incident: We were camping at Cape Cod one summer and I remarked about the local accent. Her response was "did you ever think how you sound to them." She gave me a different viewpoint.

Yes! We were indeed friends and shared our love in Christ!

Carol Bolton

My Friend Irene – Irene was the model of Cursillo to me. She was there for the Women's first weekend in Oct 1997 and recruited me to assist with the next 4 weekends. Talk about an emersion experience! I thank God for

her encouragement throughout those early days. What was so genuine about her explanation of Cursillo, was that she readily admitted that her initial weekend was underwhelming. She did not like all the touchy feely parts of the experience. I think that gave hope to others like her who may struggle with the more intimate sharing by team or tablemates.

Irene sought me out for the Secretariat a few months later. I had all the ready excuses about lack of time or talent, but she would hear none of it. There was a sincere commitment in her tone that would not allow me to say no. So I have Irene to thank for this gift of Cursillo. As I see it, she clearly lived the Cursillo motto: "Make a friend, Be a friend, Bring a friend to Christ."

Velma Burke

When I first moved to Maryville, Irene was in her last year as Lay Director. She invited me to join her group reunion and took me to the Ultreya at the old St.

Thomas Church in Lenoir City. Our friendship developed in the social environments of the Blount County Newcomers Club. She was a card and game player.

Irene taught me and others how to "play" Scrabble by racking up the points. She had an excellent vocabulary. I enjoyed just making long words! I also played Regular Canasta with her in a club. But the best game that Irene played was Mah Jongg, the official game, on a weekly basis. She was



an excellent player. When she became ill, Scrabble and Canasta faded but she continued to play Mah Jongg until three weeks before she died when she stopped playing because of breathing problems. She never complained – persevered in her environments. Irene was an example for the way she accepted her ailment and that is a legacy to her. She was also my neighbor just three doors away. When Irene went on hospice in January, I had the privilege of taking Holy Communion to her and Mike on Sunday afternoons. I am truly in awe to her spirituality. After receiving Holy Communion, she spent "time" praying before I continued on with the Communion Service. The Bible and "One Bread, One Body" were at her side. Irene said she couldn't live life without the Eucharist. What an example she was to me!

An anecdote – When Irene was Rectora in 1998, she was told on Friday afternoon of the Cursillo Weekend that her sister, Mary, was close to death in Boston. Irene prayed and decided to stay on the Weekend because the ladies were "too important" to her. Irene was nurturing and loving to the team and candidates. Her comment was that since she had seen her sister a few months earlier, she would see Mary at the funeral. By the time she arrived in Boston, her sister had died.

Irene lived the "Ideal" of piety, study and action until her death on April 9, 2011.

Lois Schering

"Irene lived the "Ideal" of piety, study and action until her death on April 9, 2011."



Inspiration Corner by Fr. Alex Waraksa, Spiritual Director

We recently celebrated the solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. I was reminded how our cursillo movement calls us to be centered on the Eucharist. We are reminded that the success of the lay apostolate depends on the laity's living union with Christ. We are invited to celebrate this union each Sunday and even more often if we are able. We can come and participate in this union also in Eucharistic adoration. We can actually kneel or sit before our Lord and Savior and spend time in union with Him in prayer.

As a cursillista, we bring to this union also our apostolic goals. Our intentions include the leaders of the cursillo movement, those we see at group or ultreya and other gatherings. We often include also those preparing for upcoming weekends including the rector(a)s. Our apostolic goals usually continue those we may building friendships with so that we might lis-

ten to the Holy Spirit guide us to an opportune time to invite them to a closer relationship with Christ. We believe that the cursillo movement can be a great instrument to this closer relationship with Christ.

The Eucharist builds and sustains our unity with each other. Our celebration of communion is a union of the community, a unity of cursillistas, a unity with our parish and a unity with the whole Church throughout the world. We might remember the phrase used on some cursillo weekends that an isolated Christian is a paralyzed Christian.

"How can this man give us His flesh to eat?"

We actually participate in the body and blood of Christ as Paul says, this means that we actively participate in the mass. And that we have active lives of service to Christ by serving our neighbor. Our Eucharistic celebration prepares us to evangelize and to bring

others into that union with Christ.

The body and blood of Christ are true food and drink, food and drink for the soul. This food helps us to become like Christ, to imitate the Christ whom we adore. "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?" A man who has risen from the dead, a man who is the Son of God, a man who has human and divine natures can give us his flesh to eat. Perhaps because He knows that without this spiritual food it is very difficult for us to walk on our journey to salvation. And with Christ's life in us we can continue His work in the world. "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him." Christ wants to remain with us, have a friendship with us and have us share that friendship with others.

The body and blood of Christ is God's gift to us for perseverance on our path of love, service, and evangelization toward salvation.

Building on a Firm Foundation (Continued fm pg. 1)

work and have leadership influence.

- The Secretary position takes the minutes at the Secretariat meeting, emails copies of the minutes to the Secretariat members and Assistants to the Secretariat, and posts the minutes on the web page.
- The treasurer maintains the Cursillo books.
- The Music Director position creates and maintains a music support system for all major Cursillo functions, assists the

Three Day Area with the recruiting and placing of individuals to support the team for the Weekends. The Music Director recommends and prepares the Weekend music minister to Rector/Rectora and is available to the Weekend ministers.

Each candidate whether they are currently serving in the position or not must submit in writing their intention to run for a particular position by snail mail or email to the Lay Director at least seven days prior to the election on October 22, 2011. Each current Secretariat area will have one vote for each position. The votes will be by se-

cret ballot and be counted by Fr. Alex.

Although not a Secretariat position at this time, the Spanish Cursillistas need a Post Cursillo Coordinator to bring about Christian transformation of environments using the Cursillo method of Piety, Study and Action, and to foster encouragement and perseverance primarily through Group Reunion and Ultreya. We are hoping that a bi-lingual gentleman steps forward for this position. Please pray about it and say "Here I am" to the urgings of the Holy Spirit.

Ultreya!



Contact Information Print and Save FYI

Members of the Secretariat

Spiritual Director—Fr. Alex Waraksa, St. Patrick, 2518 W Andrew Johnson Hwy, Morristown, TN 37814 (423) 586-9174, alexwaraksa@hotmail.com

Lay Director—Lois Schering, 1505 Cavalier Dr., Maryville, 37803, 865-681-7858, schering4@aol.com

Pre-Cursillo—Robb Morris, 4209 Whitlow Ave, Knoxville, 37919, 865-637-1689, robert@morris.net
Cursillo, English—Aurora Gardner, 3448 No. Pone Rd., Georgetown, TN423-336-5568, aurora3448@aol.com

Cursillo, Spanish—Beatriz Rincon, 3225 Hedrick Lane Cleveland 37323, 423-614-0296, gmexicutie857@hotmail.com

Post-Cursillo—Dick Shriver, 2000Cedar Lane, Knoxville, TN 37918, H-865-688-8601, cell-865-384-2133, shriver51@aol.com

English School of Leaders—Judy & Jim Holt, 10 Flamingo Ct., Johnson City, TN 37601, 423-767-6394, holtj@mail.etsu.edu, judy massagiaholt@gmail.com

Spanish School of Leaders Co-Chair—Alicia Mora, 309 Kilgore St. Athens, TN 37303, Cell 423-368-5310, Alexm2005@univision.com,

Treasurer—Debra Ferreri, 1321 Parker Ave. SW., Cleveland, 37311 423-472-2461, bambilynn2@bellsouth.net

Secretary—Kay Sheldon, 144 Dudala Way, Loudon, 37774 865-458-8510, ayshedon@bellsouth.net

Music—Judy Holt, 10 Flamingo Ct., Johnson City, TN 37601, 423-767-6394, judy massagiaholt@gmail.com

Assistants to the Secretariat

Coordinator English Group Reunion Rep.-- Peter Ulmer 11509 Ivy Chase Lane, Knoxville, TN 37934, cell -865-368-1898, H-865-671-8207, alfryma@gmail.com

Coordinator English Palanca—Velma Burke, 3697 Miser, Louisville, TN 37777, cell-865-406-9401 , velma_burke@yahoo.com

Coordinator Spanish Palanca—Sofia Delgado, 3115 Woodmore Lane NW, Cleveland, TN 37312, H- 423-790-1742, cell-423-715-6333, rocshsofia@aol.com

Coordinator, English Parish Representatives—Bob Ketteringham, 3437 Brentwood Dr. Kodak, TN, 37764, (Cell) 865-850-5486, bobbykett@yahoo.com

Coordinator Spanish Pre-Cursillo – Sofia Delgado, 3115 Woodmere Lane NW, Cleveland, TN 37312, H- 423-790-1742, cell-423-715-6333, rocshsofia@aol.com

Spanish Community Leader—Nancy Kinerson, 124 Elizabeth Way, Cleveland, TN 37323, 423-476-9009, nanchita@charter.net

Webmaster—Robb Morris, 4209 Whitlow Ave, Knoxville, 37919, 865-637-1689, robert@morris.net

Editor, Rooster Crows—Carol Rummel, 3007 Pueblo Drive, Crossville, 38572, home= 931-788-2718, cell=931-248-6922, carreads@gmail.com



The Cursillo Movement by Nancy Kinerson

Are you looking for a profound knowledge of God and his Church? Read the following announcement: The goal of the Cursillo movement is to establish a closer and meaningful relationship with Christ by using the gospel as a way of life. Would you like to have the opportunity to experience this relationship with Christ and his church? The next three day weekend is coming soon.

The Cursillo movement of the Dioceses of Knoxville announces that the next Spanish Cursillo for Women will be the 25th – 28th of August at St. Therese of Lisieux parish in Cleveland, TN. For more information call one of the following persons:

Nancy Kinerson : 423-476-9009

Aurora Gardner: 423-715- 8235

Sofia Delgado de Rocha: 423-790-1742

Remembering a Dear Friend by Marianne Hartman

Irene Kernan's funeral Mass was a beautiful tribute to a woman who touched so many lives. Deacon Sean Smith's homily focused on how Irene brought "Smiles" into the lives of all who knew her. As I looked around the congregation I saw her family; husband Mike, their six children and their spouses and many, many grandchildren – what a legacy she has left! I saw many St. Thomas parishioners, friends from far and near and many Cursillistas. The thing that impressed me about the Cursillistas in attendance was that many knew her and some did not, as they had made their weekend long after Irene stepped down as Lay Director, but they all were honoring what she did for Cursillo.

I was remembering a phone call I received not long after Irene

was selected to be Lay Director. She asked me to meet her for lunch and I was thrilled with the invitation. Irene had been on the team when I made my weekend in 1998 and that experience had meant so much to me and I was in awe of all the team members and their part in helping me recognize how much God loves me.

Irene asked me to be part of her team as secretary on the Secretariat. I was deeply honored and quickly accepted – but not without feeling a bit unworthy. Irene's quiet manner and gentle leadership immediately had all of us working together for a common goal – an ever improving recruitment of candidates, finding accommodations that would meet our weekend needs, and presenting meaningful weekends. It was a joyous time in

my life.

I looked forward to our meetings and my involvement in Cursillo grew as I became a team member on many weekends, honored to be invited to be rectora on a weekend and continued to attend our weekly "group" at St. Thomas and monthly Ultreya. It was and still is an important part of my life.

I love Cursillo! My original weekend gifted me with a deeper relationship with my God, treasured friends and an introduction to a part of my life that has continued to grow in so many different ways.

Until we meet again, dear friend. Thank you!

Cursillo Calendar 2011 (Updated)

Event	Date /Time	Location	Contact Person
Cursillo Diocesan Encounter	July 23 (Sat) 9:30 -3:00	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
Women's Spanish Cursillo	August 7-9 (Thurs-Sun)	St. Therese, Cleveland	Beatriz Rincan
Secretariat Meeting	August 13 (Sat) 10 am-2 pm	Sacred Heart	Lois Schering
Assembly Room			
School of Leaders	Sept 10 (Sat) 10 am-2 pm	St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Jim & Judy Holt/ Eng Alicia Mora, Spanish
Men's English Cursillo	Sept 15-18 (Thurs-Sun)	Apison Center	Aurora Gardner
Secretariat Meeting	Oct 1 (Sat) 10 am-2 pm	Our Lady of Fatima (Alcoa)	Lois Schering
Women's Eng. Cursillo	Oct 6-9, (Thurs-Sun)	Apison Center	Aurora Gardner
Fall Regional Encounter	Oct 28-30 (Fri-Sun)	Melbourne, KY (near Covington, KY)	Lois Schering
School of Leaders	Nov 12 (Sat) 10 am-2 pm	St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Jim & Judy Holt/Eng Alicia Mora,/Spanish
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-Selecting and Building a Team by Carol Rummel

Since my selection as Rectora for the Women's Cursillo #42 scheduled for Oct, I have been praying and asking women I know and respect for their input for prospective team members. As a result, I believe the Holy Spirit has guided the selection of this wonderful team of women. We are young, experienced, inexperienced, Babe chicks, veterans, more mature (shall we say), located in parishes around the Diocese. We are active in our parishes, and Cursillo community. We are grouping and attending Ultreyas. We are eager and a little apprehensive. But, most important, we are filled with love for the movement, true belief in the method, and confident in our faith.

Part of building a working team is the building of friendships among ourselves. Most of us don't know each other very well. Therefore, before we can begin to offer an authentic weekend, we must become friends. At our team meetings over the next several months, we are grouping and sharing our love of the

Lord with each other. We are sharing our successes and our failures as Christian women in today's world. We are lifting each other in prayer and offering our own palanca for our weekend and the Cursillo movement. We are accepting each other for who we are as individuals, all different, but all with the same goal.

As we meet on a monthly basis, we are discussing table leadership and how we can best facilitate discussions among our candidates. We are committed to get to know the women of Cursillo #42 and to follow their progress after they return home to begin their fourth day. We will try to stay in contact with each candidate over the next six months to ensure they find their way into a group reunion. Another goal is that they feel welcomed and accepted at their local Ultreyas. Each table leader will be selecting several women at their table to track and assist in their fourth day progress. The secretariat has determined that we are losing too many candidates because our sponsors are not following the progress of their candidates to en-

sure they have found a group and are attending Ultreya. We are hoping to fill that need and in the process, create an atmosphere for the Holy Spirit to touch each and every candidate on this weekend.

We have agreed and are determined to have an authentic Cursillo experience, without fluff and fanfare. We trust in the movement and the method of Cursillo. We have determined that the community's prayers and sacrifices will be most welcomed as palanca where ever it is performed. We will not have an on-site Palanca Chapel, but do encourage and entreat our brothers and sisters to do palanca in their home parishes and forward it to us. We need your prayers and support to have a successful weekend. The Holy Spirit will do the rest. He has already touched each of the team members and selected them for their leadership and gift of love and sacrifice.

God Bless them all!