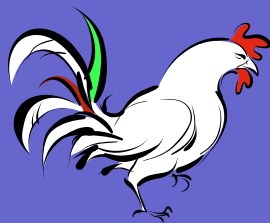




November 2013



Diocese of Knoxville Cursillo

# The Rooster Crows

## BLESSED NOVEMBER

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### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Pope Francis will be 77 years old on December 17th. (Do you think he would like a birthday card?) He was the eldest of 5 children, and has one living sibling, a sister.

Francis graduated high school with a chemical technician's diploma, and worked for a few years in a job at Hickethier-Backman Laboratories in Buenos Aires.

And he will celebrate the 44th anniversary of his priestly ordination on December 13th.

Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.

—Blessed (soon to be Saint) John XXIII





# The Director's Chair

## Building on a Firm Foundation

*by Lois Schering, Lay Director*

**The 23<sup>rd</sup> National Encounter** was held at Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY on July 25-28. The keynote address was given by Bishop Peter Rosazza, entitled “Cursillistas, Called to be Salt, Light and Leaven for the New Evangelization.” The topics given during the weekend were: Foundational Charism of Cursillo, Methodology of Cursillo, Operational Structures of Cursillo, Role of the Cursillo Leader, Role of the Spiritual Advisor in Cursillo, and Strategies for a Brighter Future. Five Cursillistas from our diocese were there: Debbie Ferreri, Angie Feltz, Judy Holt, Father Alex Waraksa and myself. Below are some of ideas said by the speakers that I felt were important to share.

Reason for Cursillo – Eduardo Bonnín, founder of Cursillo, said that the Cursillo Weekend is not meant to satisfy the hunger for God, it is meant to *create* a hunger for Him, or to awaken the hunger that already exists in our hearts.

One speaker made a point about the Ultreya Echo. What I should be doing with the Echo is to share my experience based on the witness, and not to repeat what the Speaker has said, or to congratulate him or her.

To Serve – it is by forgetting ourselves that we find ourselves. Eduardo Bonnin said we must be Christian apprentices. (I prefer Christian Leaders “under construction.”)

The Cursillo Movement is only as good as its weakest Leader.

We are all diamonds in the rough, but still have the luster of many dimensions, and will reflect a light of grace, thus attracting someone toward us. We will polish each other.

Role of the Cursillo Leader – Make a Friend, Be a Friend and **Lead** a Friend to Christ. It is by our actions that others are drawn to us.

Jesus would have died on the Cross *if I were the only person on earth.*

I spent the weekend hurrying up to wait. That is, I had to rush to get a ride and then wait for the ride to come. The University security carted me from place to place. In those few minutes, I talked about Cursillo to the security person driving the vehicle. One person, Pete, carted me a few times. I found out that he was Catholic and I shared what Cursillo was and what we were doing over the weekend. He lived near the University. I suggested that if he were interested in making a Cursillo, to get in touch with his Pastor.

I also shared about Cursillo with a lady on the plane when I was returning home. She was traveling to Knoxville to do an annual hike up Mount LeConte with her family, stay in the cabin at the top, hike down and return home to Virginia. We talked the entire time. I learned that she and her family were agnostic. She believed in nature. I talked about Cursillo and the National Encounter. Just before we deplaned, I told her that if she ever got to a point in her life that she was searching – to consider the Christian tradition.

The importance of attending the Encounter is Friendship – meeting friends I’ve met before at National Encounter, making new friends, and sharing about our diocesan Movements. The new friends I made were from Arizona, Connecticut, D.C., New York, and South Carolina.

You can listen or watch a video of the talks yourself by going to [www.nationalcursillo.org](http://www.nationalcursillo.org), click on Resource Center and choose what talks you want to listen to in the languages listed. Next year’s National Cursillo will be held in Anaheim, CA. If you ever have a chance to go to a National Encounter or even our regional one (Region IV), please do so. It is well worth it.

## Building on a Firm Foundation continued

I am pleased to announce that **Judy Holt** of St. Mary's Parish in Johnson City was elected Lay Director, and **Keith Sanford** of St. John Neumann Parish in Knoxville was elected English PreCursillo Director. Their terms begin January 1. Also, **Manuel Quintino** was named Spanish Post Cursillo coordinator. Manuel's position begins immediately.

I want to thank **Robb Morris**, who is stepping down as the English PreCursillo Director and Webmaster, and **Aurora Gardner**, who is stepping down as the English Cursillo Director. Because **Judy Holt** is becoming Lay Director, both she and **Jim** are stepping down as English 4<sup>th</sup> Day Workshop Directors. All of these Cursillistas have done a tremendous job in their respective positions. Please thank them when you see them.

I, too, am stepping down as Lay Director December 31 at midnight! I want to thank you and the Secretariat for all your help in moving the Knoxville Cursillo community forward. It has been a blessing to serve you these last three years. Please continue to support **Judy**, our Lay Director-elect, as you have done for me. She comes with a wealth of experience—has served on the Secretariat over three years.

The following positions are open: English Cursillo Director, and English 4<sup>th</sup> Day Workshop Director. Duties of these positions are explained elsewhere in this *Rooster Crows*. If you wish to be considered for these positions, first pray about it, and then send an email to me at [schering4@aol.com](mailto:schering4@aol.com), or write a note to me at 1505 Cavalier Dr., Maryville, TN 37803, stating the position for which you want to apply, and send it to me by December 4, 2013.

Seven of us attended the fall Regional Encounter (Region IV) at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Snows in Belleville, IL (across the river from St. Louis, MO) on Oct 18-20, 2013: Fr. Alex Waraksa, Angie Feltz, Debbie Ferreri, Susan Ferreri (an adopted Cursillista from Nashville), Maria Zavala, Mary Williams and myself. The Rollos were on the meditations on the Cursillo Weekend. We were blessed with good speakers, good topics, old and new friends, and, of course, delicious food.



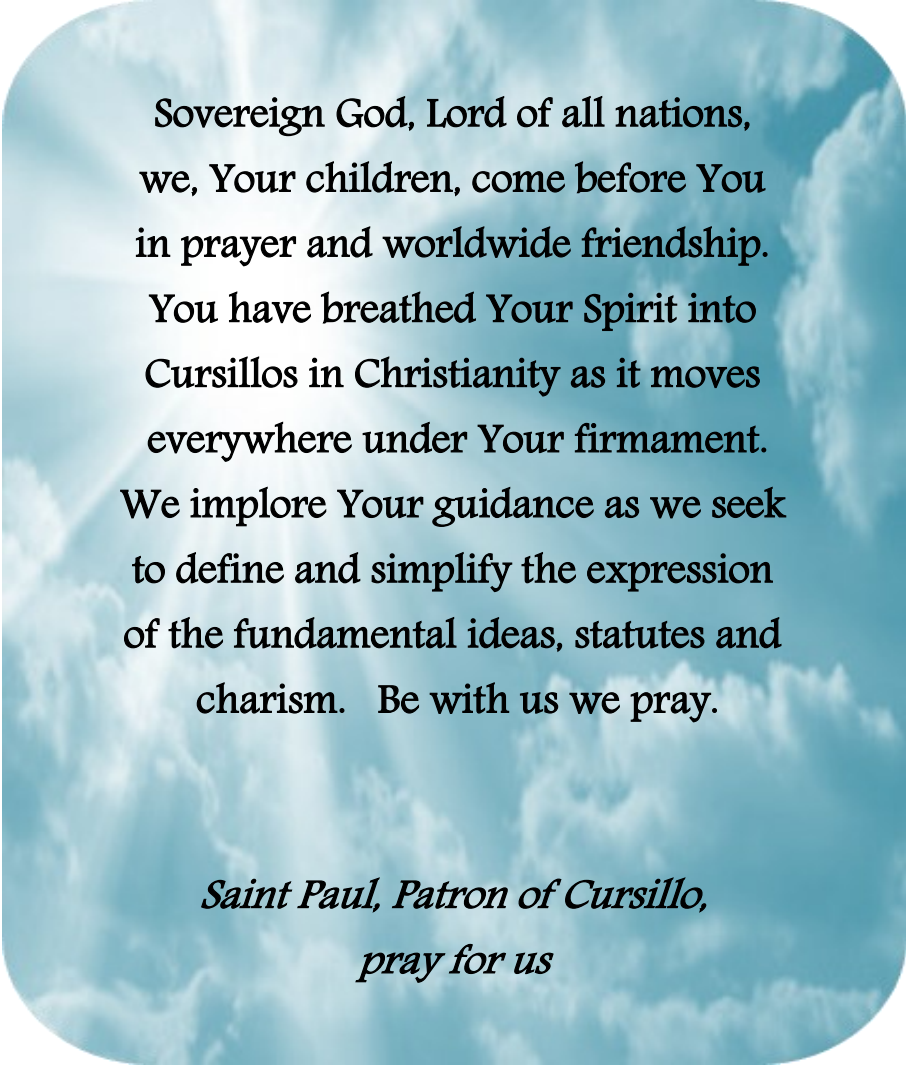
The 2013-14 members of the Regional Service team are: Fr. Alex Waraksa, Spiritual Advisor, Bruce Bonenberger, Regional Coordinator, Lynda Gruber, Former Regional Coordinator, Angie Feltz, Secretary, and Cecilia Hamilton, Treasurer.



## Building on a Firm Foundation continued

The World Cursillo (OMCC) announced recently that the new home for 2014-17 for the North American and Caribbean International Group (NACG) is St. Lucia in the Caribbean (Knoxville is under this International group). The last three years, the NACG executive committee was located in the United States. The Latin American International Group (GLCC) home will be moving to Venezuela. Also, the World Cursillo's (OMCC) home will move from Australia to Portugal for 2014-17. Portugal will house the executive committee of the OMCC.

We have been asked by the National Cursillo Center to pray for **VII World Encounter** from November 20-24 in Brisbane, Australia, and the smooth transition of World Cursillo's home to Portugal, as well as the International groups that are moving to different countries, by using the following prayer:



Sovereign God, Lord of all nations,  
we, Your children, come before You  
in prayer and worldwide friendship.  
You have breathed Your Spirit into  
Cursillos in Christianity as it moves  
everywhere under Your firmament.  
We implore Your guidance as we seek  
to define and simplify the expression  
of the fundamental ideas, statutes and  
charism. Be with us we pray.

*Saint Paul, Patron of Cursillo,  
pray for us*

**Ultreya!**



**Spanish Cursillo Men's No. 7**  
**August 8-11, 2013**



**Spanish Cursillo Women's No. 9**  
**August 29-Sept 1, 2013**





# *Inspiration Corner*

*by Fr. Alex Waraksa, Spiritual Director*

We are coming close to the end of the Year of Faith. How has your faith grown? Did your piety, study and action help this growth? Faith reminds us that the grace of God works if only we respond to it, if we seek God with a life-giving prayer life. Faith reminds me that I need to die to myself to continue to grow, and, yes, I need to continue to grow, especially spiritually. Faith reminds me that I can overcome my weaknesses with God's help. Faith teaches me that, in giving of myself, I will become the person that God meant me to be. I have faith that offering masses, rosaries, divine mercy chaplets, and visits to the Blessed Sacrament add a different character to my prayers and palanca. These sacrifices unite me to the love of Christ, who has the power to do all things.

Faith begins or allows the relationship with God to begin in Piety, and Piety produces or increases the love that leads to interest and desire. This moves one into Study, or discovery about the one that loves us, and that we love, who is God—the Father, the Son of God and the Holy Spirit. Study can lead me to pray about something. And my piety or prayer can lead me to want to study about something.

Study might lead me to wonder how the saints had such good relationships with the Father, Jesus Christ or the Holy Spirit. How did they achieve this? Could I learn from their ways of piety as well? For example, what saints used the rosary to advance on their path to holiness? Scripture? Other practices of penance or self-denial, mortification? What challenged the faith of the saints? Did any of them have doubts, great doubts? Challenges? Sickness? Obstacles? In Romans 8:35 Paul asks, "What can separate us from the love of Christ?"

Pope Francis recently was quoted "The Rosary is a school of prayer; the Rosary is a school of faith!" Faith in Study helps me discover my Ideal. Study helps me to know God and listen to Gods' will, and finally it aims our Action.

I need faith to know that being Christian has consequences, namely action for Christ; Faith to believe that God is with me when I do apostolic action. Faith to remember 'to speak to God about our friends before speaking to our friends about God.' Faith that God will help me make a friend and will help me reach out despite my insecurities, negative thoughts, and the apparent lack of response in others. Faith that if God wants the friendship to happen, we will become friends, no matter what the obstacles. Faith that God wants all friendships to be Christian friendships. Faith that I will not make excuses or become overly discouraged when things become difficult, or no one seems to respond to my efforts to evangelize.

Do I easily doubt that what I do will have apostolic success? Do I think that God will call me or send and then abandon me? Do I have faith in myself, because God has faith in me? Or if I don't have faith in myself; am I therefore saying that God should not have faith in me? Should I begin with God or myself? Is the apostolic success of my action really what is most important, or is my obedience to God? Seek first the Kingdom of God!

Do I have faith that in action others may experience me, but in apostolic action they will experience Christ or the Holy Spirit living within me? Do I have faith that in giving, I will become who God wants me to be, that in sacrificing I will not lose myself, but discover my true self in Christ?

Pius XII said, "We need to be a "Christian example and guide for a world that is extremely ill." Are we changing the environment or is the environment changing us?

Who were or are we most formed by? As children, perhaps by our parents, as teens more by teachers and somewhat by friends. As we move in adulthood by a person in dating or marriage, or by those who we admire to pursue a career. But, when is it that we can say: now my life is more influenced by Jesus than by any other person. If it has not yet happened to me, do I have faith that it can happen through Piety, Study and Action? Do I have faith in the 4<sup>th</sup> Day method, in Group Reunion, Ultreya and School of Leaders? The Cursillo Movement does.

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# The Deacon's Two Cents



## We Knew That Already!

By Deacon Bill Jacobs

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In many ways, this is an exciting time for Catholic spirituality. Pope Francis is energizing the Church by his teachings and by his example. Both he and his predecessor, Pope Benedict, have been stressing the important role of all of us in the New Evangelization of our post-Christian world.

There are some new books out there that many of us Catholics have been reading. They are showing us exciting ways to transform our parishes, and ourselves, so that we can become evangelizers and disciple-makers. Perhaps you have already read *Rediscovering Catholicism* by Matthew Kelly, *Forming Intentional Disciples* by Sherry Weddell, or *Rebuilt* by Michael White and Tom Corcoran. (If not, I would recommend that you do.)

While reading these, as inspiring as they are, I couldn't help but recognize in them many of the techniques which we in Cursillo have been following for decades.

- They talk a lot about understanding the people in the area which is served by your parish, so as to better understand how to bring the Gospel to them. (Sounds like our technique of study of environments).
- They talk about the importance of a solid spirituality in ourselves, so that we might be able to reflect that spirituality to others. (Sounds like our personal development through piety and study.) They stress the importance of living our Christian lives so that others might recognize our example as something to strive for. (That's action.)
- They stress the importance of personal, one-on-one contact between the unchurched and the believers, so that the person who wants to learn more about the faith can have someone to guide them. (Can you say make a friend, be a friend, bring that friend to Christ?)

It should not surprise us that the techniques of the Cursillo should be so strongly reflected in the works of the New Evangelization. Paul says that "there is one body and one Spirit" (Ephesians 4:4) which guides all of the work of the Church. It is exciting for all of us to be a part of that, some of us striving in the faith as evangelizers for many years.

Perhaps these new writings will shake us out of our laziness and complacency. Have our evangelizing efforts been the same old ministries, the same old people in the same old places? Do we see the New Evangelization as truly new, or are we content with *maintaining* evangelization which may now be old and stale? These books challenge those of us who have known about evangelization for years: to pursue paths outside our comfort zone, to encourage those that are unchurched, to make disciples, to bring souls to Christ.

May we respond boldly to the fire of the Holy Spirit enkindled within us, as we all pray in the Cursillo prayer. May the Spirit grant us the strength to evangelize anew, so that each of us, in our own small way, will join with God to renew the face of the earth!



Devotion to Mary under the title of Our Lady of Snows is tied to the legend about a marvelous snowfall in Rome in 352 A.D. Mary had indicated in a dream to a Roman couple that she wanted a Church built in her honor, and the site for the church would be covered with snow. On a hot, sultry day on August 5, Esquiline Hill was covered in snow. All Rome proclaimed the summer snow a miracle.

The devotion to Our Lady of the Snows was first introduced to the Midwest in 1941 by the Missionary Oblates of Mary. The introduction and development was partly due to the work of Fr. Paul Schulte, O.M.I., the renowned "Flying Priest of the Arctic."



# Secretariat Positions

One position on the Secretariat is up for election/re-election in November--the English Cursillo Director. It begins in January of 2014 and requires a 3 year commitment.

**English Cursillo Director:** among their duties is responsibility for coordinating Cursillo weekends, taking charge of weekend supplies and inventory, as well as coordinating set up and break down.

A second position on Secretariat is also up for re-election--to replace Judy Holt as 4th Day Workshop Director, when she begins her term as Lay Director. It will require a 2 year term in order to complete the remaining term of that vacancy, starting January 2014.

**English 4th Day Workshop Director:** Develops technical talks based on the Secretariat's directive for topics; sets up location for 4<sup>th</sup> Day Workshop for coming year; writes articles for *The Rooster Crows*; attends Secretariat meetings; provides background documentation to speakers, if needed; prepares agenda for workshop; purchases supplies for workshop; prior to workshop, verifies that the location and date is on parish calendar; obtains key from Kay Sheldon; working with the Database Administrator, drafts and mails a flyer to membership re date, place and theme; acts as Master of Ceremonies at Workshop; keeps Cursillistas on time; drafts and mails "Thank you" notes to speakers and Pastor of parish; drafts Report and emails to the Secretariat members; updates attendance records, and emails copy of attendance to Cursillo Director.

*This is man's glory, to persevere and abide in the service of God. --Saint Irenaeus, Father of the Church*

One of the speakers at the recent National Encounter discussed sponsorship, and brought up four important points about sponsorship that are worth repeating:

It is the responsibility of the sponsor 1. To know the person; 2. to enlighten the person; 3. to place the person; and 4. to accompany the person.

**To know the person**, your friend, means that you have personal contact with the candidate, and that you as sponsor:

- Be in a group reunion (and even invite your candidate).
- Actively attend Ultreya (and even invite your candidate).
- Show your candidate how to be Christian by the way you live your life, love your family, care for your neighbors, and speak out for Christ. How can I help you if I don't know you? (The first Rollo Eduardo Bonnin developed was Study of the Environment. It is not so much about studying your own environment as about studying the environment of your friend.) We will see that it is leading us to the three essential encounters discovered on the Weekend—that of the daily reality of self, Christ, and the world.

**To enlighten the person**, your friend, means that you as sponsor:

- Make sure your candidate reads the booklet entitled: *Cursillo, What is it?*
- Tell your candidate about the key events of the Cursillo Weekend. In “Structure of Ideas” pages 205-207, we read that God places us in four different zones throughout life.

The **Zone of Responsibility** embraces all the sectors of life where we may have a specific and determined influence – in our environments. When we speak of our “one square meter,” we are really speaking of the Zone of Responsibility. We must avoid the tendency to engage in apostolic action outside our own zone of responsibility and, in doing so, to neglect our God-given environments. If we look too far outside of our square meter, we may miss something going on within our square meter.

The **Zone of Being Centered** is about our Piety, Study, and Action. These keep our heart, mind, and will in alignment and in harmony with God's will. If or when we stop praying, or we stop studying, or we stop surrendering our will to God, this zone is no longer complete.

The **Zone Arranged by Providence** is what God allows so that we may become more holy. This zone embraces all the sectors of life that are beyond our will, and over which we can have influence only through prayer—illness, for example.

The **Idealized Zone** or The Idea Zone. Eduardo Bonnin states that this Zone includes those ideas, aspirations, and preferences that we project on the infinite field of God's providence. In other words, these are the parts of our life that we attribute to God's call.

**To place the person**, your friend, means that you as sponsor:

- Insure that your candidate has transportation to the Weekend.
- Find out if anything is needed for a comfortable stay.
- See if your candidate needs assistance with things such as the home, family, and pets. With good intentions, we begin telling the person what they need to do and where they need to be without every really knowing the circumstances such as how they think, what they want, or how they act. Only once we have come to know our friend, we are in a position to help them with life decisions. We should guide our friend to look toward Christ in every circumstance of their life, by striving to live in grace so that our friend will, in turn, attract others to Christ. We should remind our friend to put all of their talents (those recognized and those still to be discovered) in the service of Christ.

**To accompany the person**, your friend, means that you as sponsor:

- Pray and sacrifice, that is, do REAL Palanca before and during the Cursillo Weekend.
- Be at the Clausura and take your friend home.
- Meet with your friend in a one-to-one setting after the Weekend to answer any questions your friend might have. If you do not know the answers, assure your friend that you will find out.
- Help your friend get into a Group Reunion right away and take them to the Ultreya!
- Stay in contact your friend during their Fourth day through personal contact, that is, be their mentor.



## Cursillo Calendar 2013

Event	Date/Time/Location	Contact
Secretariat Retreat (incl. Assistants to the Secretariat)	<b>Jan 12</b> (Sat) 10 am-12:30 pm in Chapel at St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Lois Schering
Secretariat Meeting	<b>Feb 9</b> (Sat) 10 am-2 pm at St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Lois Schering
4 <sup>th</sup> Day Workshop	<b>Mar 9</b> (Sat) 10 am-2 pm at St. Thomas (Lenoir City) Topic: Post Cursillo - 4 <sup>th</sup> Day Involvement (Perseverance & Participation). Presented by Region IV Service Team in English. \$10 per person and bring a dish to share.	Jim & Judy Holt Nancy Kinerson
Spanish Workshop	<b>Apr 6</b> (Sat) 9:30 am-5:30 pm at St. Joseph the Worker (Madisonville) Pre- sented by Juan Ruiz, National Cursillo Spanish Co- ordinator. Rollos on the Foundational Charism, the Cursillo Methodology and its Operational Structures. \$10 per person and bring a dish to share.	Lois Schering Aurora Gardner
English Men's Cursillo	<b>Apr 11-14</b> (Thurs-Sun) Cancelled	Aurora Gardner
Secretariat Meeting	<b>Apr 13</b> (Sat) 10 am to 2 pm At St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Lois Schering
Regional Spring Encounter	<b>Apr 19-21</b> Fri-Sun In Evansville, IN	Lois Schering
4 <sup>th</sup> Day Workshop	<b>May 4</b> (Sat) 10 am-2 pm at St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Jim & Judy Holt Nancy Kinerson
Secretariat Meeting	<b>June 8</b> (Sat) 10 am-2 pm at St. Thomas, Lenoir City	Lois Schering

## Cursillo Calendar 2013 cont.

Diocesan Encounter	<b>July 13</b> (Sat) 10 am to 3 pm at St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Lois Schering Micheline Parkey
National Encounter	<b>July 25-28</b> at Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY	Lois Schering
Secretariat Meeting	<b>Aug 10</b> (Sat) 10 am to 2 pm, Our Lady of Fatima, Alcoa	Lois Schering
Spanish Men's Weekend No. 7	<b>Aug 8-11</b> (Thurs-Sun) at Apison	Guadalupe Espinoza
Ecumenical Grand Ultreya	<b>Aug 24</b> (Sat) 2:00-4:00 pm Trinity United Methodist, 5613 Western Ave, Knoxville	Dick Shriver
Spanish Women's Cursillo No. 9	<b>Aug 29-Sept 1</b> (Thurs-Sun) at Apison	Guadalupe Espinoza
4 <sup>th</sup> Day Workshop	<b>Sept 14</b> (Sat) <b>CANCELLED</b> Diocesan 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	
English Women's Cursillo No. 44	<b>Sept 26-29</b> (Thurs-Sun) Grace Point, Kingston	Aurora Gardner
Secretariat Meeting	<b>Oct 12</b> (Sat) 10 am to 2 pm at St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Lois Schering
Fall Regional Encounter	<b>Oct 18-20</b> (Fri-Sun) Bellevue, IL at Our Lady of the Snows Monastery	Lois Schering
4 <sup>th</sup> Day Workshop	<b>Nov 9</b> (Sat) 10 am to 2 pm at St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Jim & Judy Holt Nancy Kinerson
Secretariat Meeting	<b>Dec 14</b> (Sat) 10 am to 2 pm at St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Lois Schering



# Members of the Secretariat 2013

Revised 4-4-13

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Revised 4-4-13

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**Webmaster** - Vacant



**Christ is  
Counting On  
You!**

We are on the web at  
<http://www.knoxvillecursillo.org/>