



Central Indiana Cursillo—March 2021

From the Lay Directors Desk...

I hope this edition of the Voice finds you and your family safe and healthy.

As you may have heard, Pope Francis has declared December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021 “the Year of St. Joseph”, commemorating the 150th year anniversary of St. Joseph as our Patron of the Universal Church. In Pope Francis’, “Patris Corde”, he describes St. Joseph as a “beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father, a creatively courageous father, a working father and a father in the shadows”.



Tom Scimeca
CICC Lay Director

Thinking about St. Joseph as an “accepting father” and “a father in the shadows,” I think of how many people have been with Jesus from His beginning on earth that helped Him proclaim His gospel who are only mentioned a few times in scriptures or not at all, but were important in making Christ’s ministry a success. From the actual unknown midwives at His birth, to the deacons that assisted the apostles with the Last Supper, to the Jewish women who supported Christ and His apostles out of “their private means” traveling throughout the region spreading the gospel and played such an important part in salvation history.

It is the faith of those of us in the Cursillo movement that also continue this ministry, those who have said “Yes” to attend a Cursillo weekend, those that said “Yes” to be on a team or take a Secretariat position, like St. Joseph and Mary and those unknown “saints” that said “Yes” many times to God, that have made Cursillo special and successful in Central Indiana.

Just as we ask, seek and knock at Christ's door to help us, please discern when the Holy Spirit asks, seeks and knocks on your door to be on a future team or take an upcoming Secretariat position. We hope your hearts and minds continue to be open to His call.

Even though it has been over a year since we have had a Cursillo weekend, we commend those of you that have continued your group reunions and who have attended our monthly Zoom Ultreyas to "Keep the Fire of the Holy Spirit Burning" in our Cursillo movement during the pandemic.

We have scheduled our fall 2021 and spring 2022 weekends at St. Joseph's Retreat Center. We feel by this fall, vaccinations would be available to most people and we will be ready to have a fruitful and effective weekend.

By the way --it is not too early to be a friend, make a friend, and sponsor and bring that friend to a Cursillo weekend!

Please continue to keep Cursillo and all those on our prayer chain in your prayers! May the Lord be with you and your family always!

DeColores!
Tom Scímeca



Prayer to St. Joseph

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

Prayer from - "Patris Corde"
Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter 12/8/2020

A BLAST from the Past....

Dear Cursillistas,

Many times, our Lord spoke in parables. The month of July has many parables talking about seeds and soil. Seeds scattered everywhere and depending on the soil – some are very successful and others withered and died from lack of roots, nourishment or sun.

In many ways, it is like our own Cursillo movement. God knows we all scatter many seeds at home, work or play. From there it is pretty much up to God.

We have moments, even doubts when we seem to be pretty hard-hearted – not really open to anything. Seeds of the Gospel are pretty much lost and die. Sometimes we are all fired up and cannot wait to go shout it from the roof tops. However, due to lack of roots and prayers it quickly dies almost as fast as it was received. Then there are seeds that are sowed among weeds, where they are eventually choked and die. We receive the Word, but evil, distractions and addictions take over and basically blind us.

Finally, the seed is planted in good and fertile soil with plenty of roots, nourishment and a solid foundation. It is able to produce much fruit.

Developing good soil requires prayer, hunger for the Lord and a new sense to “die to self and rise up to the Lord”. I am sure if we look we can find some evil weeds in our lives that really need to be removed and cast away. The sacraments, our groups and the Cursillo community will offer us plenty of nourishment to continue our journey as a disciple of Jesus.

De Colores!

**Re-ignite
Your
Fire!**



Join Us...

Closings

**Men: October 8
Women: October 22
Burst in at 5:00 pm
sharp!**

Reunion Ultreya: Nov 11

We know it's been a long year of hibernation due to the pandemic. Has your "FIRE" of the Holy Spirit waned?

Here's some encouragement from our Secretariat members and committee chairpersons to Reinvigorate our thinking, stir our hearts, and remind us/teach us something NEW about our Beloved Cursillo Movement.

PreCursillo

What's Holding Us Back?

I have been involved with Cursillo since 2009 and have seen the Cursillo community at my parish grow from three people to over twenty. I have seen a wide range of commitment to the movement from people after their weekend. There are those that love to group and get involved and a few that seemed to have dropped off the face of the earth.

I recently pulled out my Sponsor's Booklet that I received during my weekend. I discovered that there are many misconceptions about Cursillo and that the Cursillo method is not always followed. The booklet is very good refresher on what Cursillo is, what to look for in good candidates and how to get them started in the movement.

I need to constantly remind myself that Jesus gave us a mission. It was not just to preach the Good News but to make disciples. In Cursillo, we do this by becoming the Good News and asking good people to help us.

We have what we need, a loving and faithful God, our Cursillo tools and our Cursillo community support. What is holding us back? Let's get out our Sponsor's Booklets and get fired up again!

De Colores
Patrick Mitchell
PreCursillo Chairperson



3-Day Cursillo

De Colores! My name is Lisa Buescher and I am the 3–Day Chairperson for the Central Indiana Cursillo Community (CICC).

I have been involved with the Cursillo movement for the last 20 years. I made Cursillo #74. Since that time, I have participated in many weekends. I have served in every positions except for Sacristan and Music Cha. You do not want to hear me sing solo. When I was in the band in middle school I “held” my trombone.

Cursillo has enriched my faith journey and enabled me to share my faith with others. I accepted the position as 3 Day Chairperson a year ago prior to the Pandemic. Although the current situation has caused the delay of our weekends, I remain enthusiastic about my role. My role requires me to assist the Secretariat in planning and implementing the Week-Ends.

I would like to provide you with some basic information of what my duties and responsibilities are. This list is not all inconclusive but provides a basic summary.

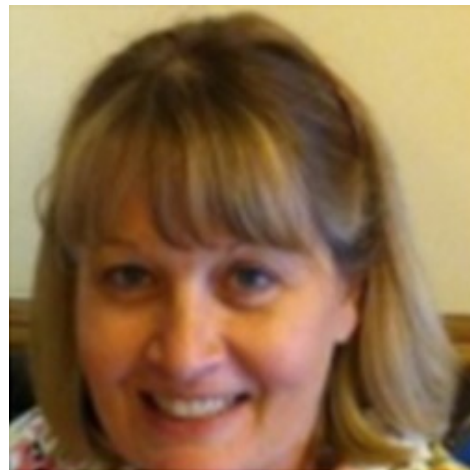
- Maintain a working relationship with the St. Joseph Retreat Center.
- Be in communication with and support each Team.
- Maintain an inventory of any and all supplies in our “Cursillo Closet” at the Retreat Center.
- Ensure the Cursillo Teams have materials that they need for the weekend.
- Conduct a walk through at the retreat center with the required team members and ensure they have all information needed for their weekend.
- Set up the closing sign on tables prior to gathering for the Closing Ceremony.
- Ensure all Cursillo supplies are returned to our storage closet and secured.
- Work with vendors to replenish supplies as needed.
- PRAY, PRAY, and PRAY some more for our movement.

Although this list is not all inclusive my hope is that it will provide you with a better understanding of what a 3-Day Chairperson is responsible for. I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new friends in the upcoming year.

De Colores!!

Lisa Buescher

3-Day Chairperson



Postcursillo

Postcursillo Challenge!

What has your experience with Friendship Group Reunion been like during the pandemic? Have you found a way to continue meeting in person either outdoors or socially distanced indoors wearing masks? Or have you moved to Zoom or Facetime or some other electronic platform to stay connected? Or have you stopped grouping altogether because COVID made it just too difficult?

As summer approaches and many of us are receiving our vaccinations, I would like to challenge every Cursillista to rededicate themselves to being a part of a friendship group. Here are a few ideas to take on this challenge.

1. Pray, pray, pray that God will continue to help each one of us grow closer to Him through our piety, study and action.
2. Restart your group by contacting the members and setting a time and place to meet.
3. Invite someone new to join your group. It can be fun to hear how other men and women are practicing piety, study and action.
4. Pull out a weekend roster and call someone on it. If they are not grouping, help them get connected. You could go crazy and get a few team members together to call EVERYONE on that list!
5. Once our churches open up, consider hosting a floating group reunion and invite new people to join you.

Personally, my group has grown from 2 to 4 people because of the convenience of meeting at 8:00am on Saturday mornings over Zoom. We may continue this method while also meeting in-person once a month. Here's our chance for each of us to renew our Friendship Group Reunion by inviting everyone who God called or is calling to make a Cursillo to join a group. How will you take on this challenge?

Ellen Sanders
Postcursillo co-chair
Cursillo #90
St. Monica Indianapolis
Jesus, Prince of Peace Table

Steve & Ellen Sanders
Postcursillo Chairman



Parish Coordinators



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with excitement that We (Tammy Todd in Lafayette and Therese Brandon in Indianapolis) took on the role of Parish Coordinators for our respective Diocese.

Our purpose is to help Communicate Cursillo information with local Parish Representatives for each parish, so they can then forward it to their parish Cursillistas. We started our co-chair position in July of 2020 and it's been somewhat of a challenge with the COVID 19 Virus being our biggest obstacle.

It's been an unprecedented time for all of us in our movement, our Country and our world but we (all of us) are blessed with the experience of our Cursillo weekends that gave us the structure to stay focused on Christ. We are called to continue to the best of our abilitygrouping, reaching out...piety and action. It can be very difficult especially if we don't have each other.

Our goal as Parish Coordinators in our Diocese is to have one person from every parish to be a parish representative. We have had difficulty getting Cursillistas who want to take on this important position as helping to spread the word and Evangelize about our movement. Things have seemed slow moving due to postponing the weekends due to COVID .

Please prayerfully consider becoming an active member of the Parish Representative Team . The amount of time spent per month in the position is approximately 1 hour, (although it certainly could be more in active communities).

God Bless
Tammy and Therese



Tammy Todd
Parish Coordinator
Lafayette Diocese



Therese Brandon
Parish Coordinator
Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Palanca

COVID Experiences as Palanca?

De Colores to all my fellow Cursillistas of Central Indiana! Don't know about you, but I am so grateful that we are moving further away from the struggles of 2020 and even the challenges of the early part of 2021. However, as I reflect upon these times, how many times in 2020 was I showered by the gifts of the Holy Spirit and on fire with my faith and willingness to help others? On the flip side, how many times did I grow weary and slothful in my prayer and faith life and miss opportunities to help?

Through these roller coaster experiences, I am so grateful for God's persistent patience, grace, and love—his ever-steadfast strength sent to me and all those around me. Can I offer up these COVID challenges, sacrifices, prayers, successes, and even my failures as Palanca? Absolutely!

As we recall, Palanca is the sharing of our actions to uplift others. These intercessory actions are what we offer to God on behalf of our fellow Cursillistas and the Cursillo movement in the form of works of mercy—both [spiritual works of mercy](#) and [corporal works of mercy](#).

During these COVID times, how many times have we helped to bury the dead—even if only possible through prayers? Did we donate to a food pantry—or even receive items from a food pantry? How many times have we counseled or helped others as they struggled with financial or family burdens? How many times did we pick up our daily cross and follow Christ—even when we lacked sleep or missed basic comforts which we once took for granted?

We also might have fallen during this journey, but we also through the grace of God got back up—strengthened by prayers, sacrifices, and generous offerings from others. We followed the example of Christ as he journeyed on the Way of the Cross. How many times were we the hands and feet of Christ—helping others to stand back up and continue to carry their cross?

Through these COVID days, we all have been strengthened and blessed by the prayers, support, and the giving hearts and hands of our Cursillo community. Also, we might have experienced—and know of someone who has experienced—mental stress due to COVID isolation, health battles caused by our own COVID exposure, weariness of being caregivers to our families, sorrow in the loss of loved ones, and job or housing insecurities—all solid examples of sacrifices that we can offer as Palanca for our future weekends.

Use our COVID experiences as Palanca for the teams in formation and for the Cursillo movement? Absolutely! Thanks be to God.

De Colores!
Patty Brooks
Palanca Coordinator





On Dec. 8 Pope Francis proclaimed this year as the Year of St. Joseph. According to St.. Thomas Aquinas "our holy patron St. Joseph has the power to assist us in all cases, in every necessity, in every undertaking." What a blessing to take the time to focus on St. Joseph the patron of the Universal Church.

I would encourage everyone to take some time during this Year of St. Joseph to get to know St. Joseph a little better. While St. Joseph never spoke in the Bible, there is a richness in material that has been and is being written about him. Read one of these books about him, say a daily prayer seeking his intercession, honor him each Wednesday, the traditional day given to his honor, make a pilgrimage to a St. Joseph Church or better yet, try to grow in the virtues he lived.

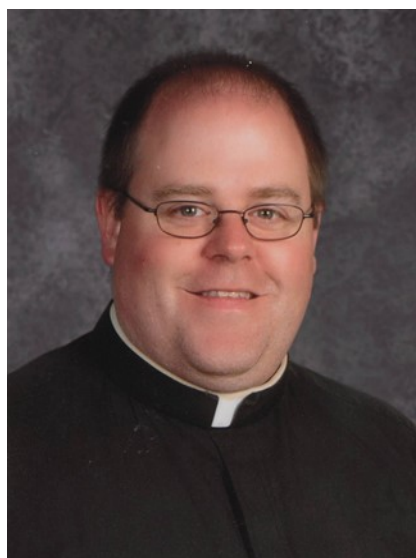
St. Joseph's Most Chaste Heart (pictured above) is inflamed with love and adorned with the white lily of purity. The heart of St. Joseph should give us great hope that purity of heart lies within our reach, thanks to the grace of God and the intercession of Joseph-most-chaste!

May God Bless each one of us and the Cursillo movement!

St. Joseph, Pray for us!

In Christ,

Fr. Dan Duff
Spiritual Director
Lafayette Diocese



Cursillo: Now More Than Ever

What a difference a year makes! This time last year, as we were living the final days of Lent and preparing for the solemn celebrations of Holy Week, we began a nationwide lockdown in response to a mysterious pandemic. This lockdown closed our churches, halted the celebration of most of the sacraments and prevented the public celebration of Masses for several weeks. The liturgies of Holy Week were celebrated by priests, with one or two faithful present, in eerily empty and quiet churches.

This year, without minimizing the risks that the corona virus continues to present to public safety, we look forward to the public celebration of the liturgies of Holy Week and, on Easter Sunday, walking out of the 'tombs' in which we have spent most of the past year.

The pandemic has affected every area of our lives, including our Cursillo Community. The pandemic led to the postponement of Men's Weekend 123 and Women's Weekend 112. It placed a temporary hiatus on grouping for many and introduced us to 'Zoom Ultreya's.'

The pandemic brought with it serious challenges, but also opportunities. One of the opportunities has been a renewed appreciation for our life of faith and the joy of living our faith in community. Every priest has had the incredible experience of offering Holy Communion to people who receive the sacrament with tears in their eyes after a year long fast. As the vaccines make it possible for more and more people to return to Sunday Mass, the joy of being together is being experienced with renewed appreciation in our parishes.

A life of faith and living our faith in community – aren't these the things that are at the very heart of our Cursillo Movement? Aren't these the things for which people are now hungering in a new way? What an opportunity the Holy Spirit is presenting to us in a post-pandemic world to invite others to a deeper life of faith and the experience of Christian community that Cursillo affords us!

Let us not miss this opportunity! May each of us, with the help of the Holy Spirit, think of at least one person to whom we can introduce and invite to Cursillo as our loving God seeks to satisfy our deepest hungers. Has there ever been a better time to bring a friend to Christ? May we not miss this opportunity!

De Colores!
Fr. Todd Riebe
Spiritual Director Archdiocese of Indianapolis





Is...

- ...learning to not be afraid**
- ...being Courageous**
- ...being generous in helping others**
- ...living joyfully in the state of Grace**
- ...being certain God will provide**
- ...conforming ourselves to the Father's Will**
- ...gives one force/strength to go forward**
- ...having an unknown future with a known God**
- ...giving substance to the things we hope for**
- ...for today, right now**
- ...believing in God's goodness**
- ...believing the God rewards the people who seek Him**
- ...God providing for your daily needs**
- ...believing God is working behind the scenes on our behalf**
- ...believing God has a good plan for us**
- ...not believing that God can, but knowing that God will**
- ...belief, firm, persuasion, assurance, firm conviction, faithfulness**
- ...nourishing to the heart and soul**
- ...relying on God**
- ...living above our circumstances**
- ...staying in touch with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**
- ...knowing God will give His Angels charge over us, to preserve us in all His ways**
- ...training your mind to seek God in every moment, in every situation**

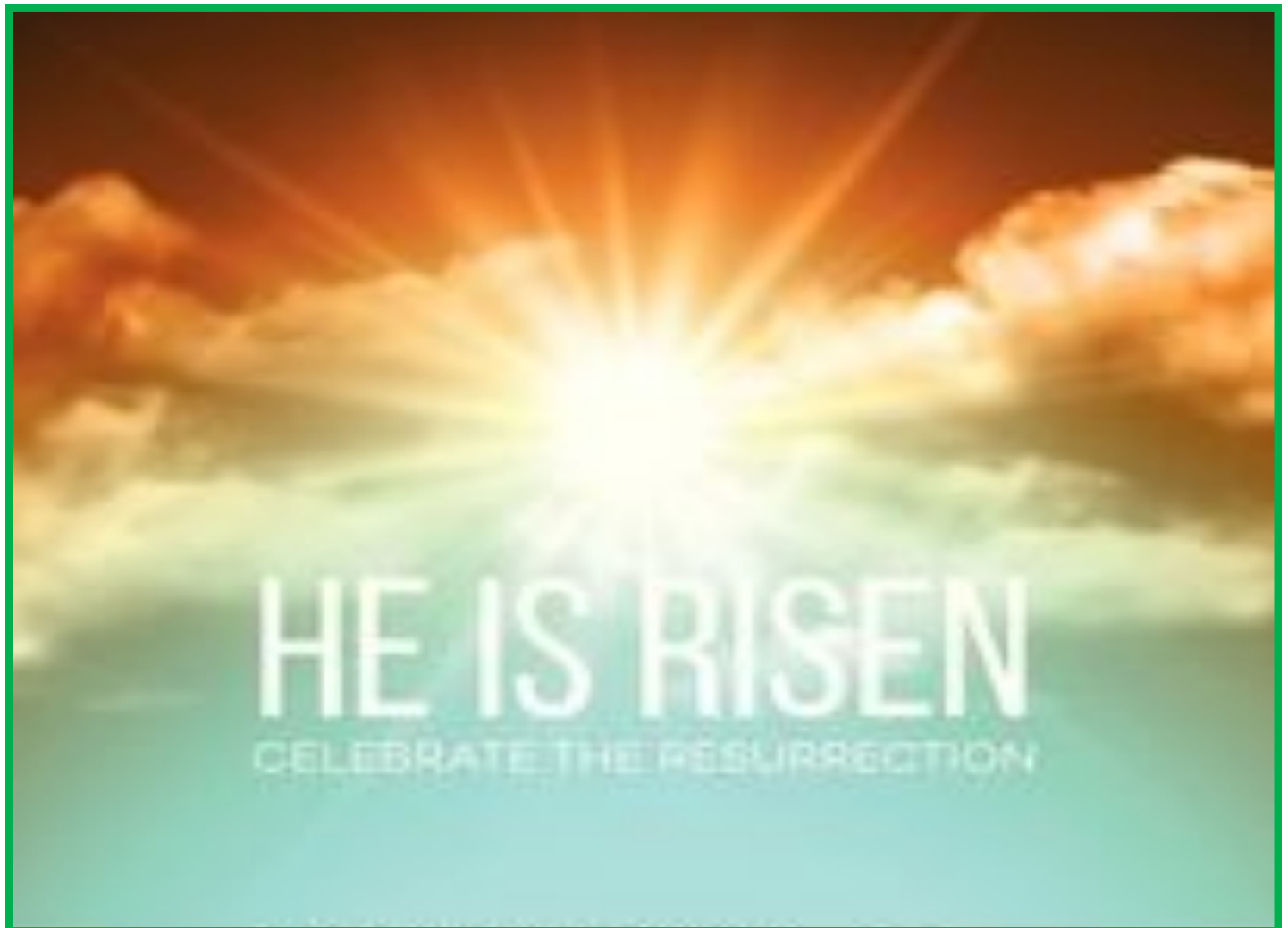


*Please continue to Pray Daily
For our Cursillistas, Teams, Candidates
And the World Wide Cursillo Movement*

ATTENTION: CICC is looking for Cursillo leaders
(no experience required)!
If you are interested in learning more,
please contact –
Lay Director Tom Scimeca at 317-340-4905
tscimeca@aol.com
or Assistant Lay Director Amy Strasburger at 317-840-0647
amystrasburger@hotmail.com



What a Mighty God We Serve!



HE IS RISEN
CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION