



**Green Bay Diocese Cursillo  
Fall 2025 Newsletter #1  
Men's weekend # 271 will take place at  
St. Nicholas Parish - Freedom  
From September 25-28, 2025**

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR REFLECTION**

De Colores,

The weekday gospel reading a few weeks ago, Matthew 14:22-33, featured the Gospel reading where the disciples are in a boat fighting against the wind and sea. In the middle of the night, they see a figure walking toward them, who is Jesus. They are terrified, thinking it is a ghost. When Jesus reassures them, saying do not be afraid, it is me. Peter tests him by saying that 'if it is truly you Jesus, tell me to walk on the water towards you'. Jesus does and Peter begins to walk on the water. After a short time, Peter begins to notice the winds and waves, and begins to doubt. He begins to sink into the waves and calls out in a panic to Jesus. The Gospel says that Jesus immediately reaches out to grab Peter. Then asks him why he doubted.

I'm sure you all are familiar with this gospel. It is a scene that is often depicted in paintings. Peter, with a desperate and panicked look on his face, sinking into the waters. And Jesus reaching out to grab him by the hand. What a wonderful image of our Lord, without hesitation, reaching out to rescue us in our most desperate time of need when we call out to him. Thinking of the moments before that, when Peter had the faith to get out of the boat and was walking on water toward Jesus. What an amazing feeling that must have been for Peter. How soon, though, did the wind and waves bring doubt into his mind. He lost focus on Jesus. Lost focus on how the Lord was working through him and having Peter do the impossible, with the help of Christ. How often does that happen for us. As Cursillistas, we often feel the greatness of Grace working through us. With humility, we see our part in God's plan and are willing participants. We step out onto the water like Peter did. We introduce others to Christ, help to spread the Gospel. But then how soon do the worries, anxieties, and doubts start to creep in. The wind and waves of "the world" begin to distract us from Christ. We might say to ourselves things like "I'm not good enough for this"; "I can't do this"; "I'm not good at this", etc. Just as Jesus said to Peter, he says so us "Why did you doubt". Not in a disappointed or judgmental way, but with mercy and empathy. He is supporting us himself and through our brothers and sisters in Christ.

What a gift the Lord has given us in the Cursillo movement. Think about how many times you bring your doubts and failings to your reunions. Then your group helps to lift you up, like Jesus reaching into the water to grasp Peter's hand. How great and merciful is the Lord!

Have a Blessed fall.

Deacon Brian Albers

## DIOCESAN CURSILLO COORDINATOR MESSAGE

De Colores!

Here we are at the start of fall, and weekend Cursillos are happening! My favorite song of our serenade is *Here I Am*. The words of this common Mass song seem to resonate deeper in both the candidates and the rest of us as we raise our voices together. It is a call to action. The words: "Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart."

Where is He sending you? Which people are you destined to hold in your heart? Are you being stirred to sponsor a friend, family member, coworker, or acquaintance to a Cursillo weekend? You may have sponsored people regularly in the past, or you may have not thought to do so. Once in a while I will meet someone and think, they would love going on a Cursillo. But before you ask your entire address book of people, I offer a word of caution.

Always remember to pray about every invitation you make before you step out. Sometimes a Cursillo may be right for this person, but just not right now. I myself was asked before four Cursillo weekends in a row by my sponsor the late Deacon Don Newhouse. The timing never worked, and yet he never got discouraged, never pushed me into it, just continued to extend the invitation. Finally, the dates worked and I said yes. That was the one I was supposed to be on, where I met some of the friends I still hold dear 20 years later. I thank God that Deacon Don never gave up, and that I said yes at the time it was right for me. That yes changed my life.

Cursillo is an experience that opens you to a new method of living in the world. It can be very convicting, intense and emotional for the Cursillista. People who have recently had big life events (for example death in the family, newly confirmed in the church, job crisis, new baby, or other emotional or physical distress) may find it's better to wait, rather than attend at this time. Also, if they will be overly distracted by their home situation, it may be better to sort that out first and attend one in the future when things have settled.

Cursillo is not meant to convert someone to Catholicism who is not Catholic, or to make them start going to church if they are not currently. It is a mini course in what it means to be a Christian and gives a method of how to stay true to what God intends for us through the 4th Day. It can inspire someone who is lukewarm in their faith to become on fire for Christ. It can turn a pew potato into an active member of the church. It introduces a community of support to the candidates as they achieve their Ideal, living a life in Grace.

As a sponsor, you will need to put some time into the process. You should currently be doing some of the 4th Day activities. Your responsibility is not simply to get them an application and be their ride on the weekend. A sponsor should be committed to walking with them through the entire process. You answer their questions as best you can before the weekend, you are there and doing palanca for them on the weekend, and you help connect them to a group reunion and Ultreya. You continue to keep them in your prayers and check in on how they are doing.

Cursillo weekends are not meant to be the mountaintop experience and then they go back to the world and life continues as before saying, that was a great weekend! It is meant to be the start of living and walking with others who share our common interest in living in Grace and helping each other to get to heaven.

Lastly, Cursillo is an invitation, not an obligation. Simply invite and let the Holy Spirit do the rest. Take some time to pray about people on your heart who may benefit from a Cursillo weekend. Then, Make a friend and Be a friend **before** you Bring your friend to Christ.

Warmest Regards and Blessings,  
Jill Heacock  
GB Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator

## UPCOMING CURSILLO WEEKENDS:

Men's Fall Cursillo Weekend  
St. Nicholas Parish, Freedom  
September 25 - 28, 2025

Men's 2026 Spring Cursillo Weekend  
St. Nicholas Parish, Freedom  
March 12 - 15, 2026

Women's Fall Cursillo Weekend  
St. Francis Xavier Middle School, Appleton  
November 6 - 9, 2025

Women's 2026 Spring Cursillo Weekend  
St. Francis Xavier Middle School, Appleton  
April 9 - 12, 2026



The Fall Men's Cursillo will be held at St. Nicholas Parish in Freedom on September 28, 2025. In an effort to give back to the community of our host parish, the Green Bay Cursillo Community will once again host a food drive to benefit Freedom Food Pantry. Please be generous and help stock the pantry shelves by bringing non-perishable food items or a cash donation with you on Sunday evening to the business meeting. With decreases in funding and increases in people facing food insecurity, your help is especially needed at this time! Bins will be located at the entrance for you to drop your donation. Suggested food items to bring include:

Peanut butter	Canned Soup	Canned Fruit
Canned Vegetables	Canned Stew	Canned Fish
Canned Beans	Pasta	Rice
Breakfast Cereal	Baking Mixes	Instant Potatoes
Dried Fruit	Canned Juices	Pudding/Jello

• Please • No glass items • Check the expiration date •

**Items collected on Sept. 28, 2025 will benefit  
The Freedom Food Pantry**

Contact Sally Gruber at [grubersonelm@aol.com](mailto:grubersonelm@aol.com) or (920) 989-2671 for more information.

<b>Cursillo #271</b>	<b>Dates: Sept. 25-28,, 2025</b>	<b>Location: St. Nicholas Parish, Freedom</b>
<b>Rector: Tom Mullins Ph: (920) 205-3927</b>	<b>Spiritual Advisor: Deacon Mike Eash Phone: (920) 997-8005</b>	
<b>Vice Rector: Jack Mullins Ph: (920) 419-8341</b>	<b>Spiritual Advisor: Deacon David DeYoung Phone: (920)606-1635</b>	
	<b>Proctor (kitchen) Jim Russell Phone: (920) 450-3632</b>	
<b>EMERGENCY PHONE #'S Jack Mullins (920) 419-8341 Jim Russell (920) 450-3632</b>		
<b>Set-up Date: Thursday, Sept. 25 Set-up Time 4 p.m.</b>		
<b>SET-UP CHAIRPERSONS Bill and Jen Van Nuland (920) 636-3804</b>		
<b>DIRECTIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS PARISH LOCATED AT: W2037 COUNTY RD S, FREEDOM, WI 54130</b>		
<b>Candidate drop off is Door 5 Kitchen and Palanca entrance is Door 1</b>		
<b>THURSDAY NIGHT CHAIRPERSON Lee and Sue Besaw Ph: (920)359-1114 TIME: 6:00 p.m.</b>		
<b>FRIDAY CHAIRPERSON Mark and Trisha Tetzlaff Ph: (920)915-9395</b>		
<b>Breakfast 7:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Lunch 12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Dinner 5:00 p.m.</b>
<b>SATURDAY CHAIRPERSON(S) Dean and Laurie Daul Ph: (920)858-7410</b>		
<b>Breakfast 7:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Agape Meal 12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Dinner 6:15 p.m.</b>
<b>SUNDAY CHAIRPERSON Nick Fannin Ph: 1-(951) 241-3822</b>		
<b>Breakfast 7:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Lunch 11:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Dinner 5:30 p.m.</b>
<b>CLEANUP CHAIRPERSONS Bill and Jen Van Nuland (920) 636-3804</b>		