

THE ROCKFORD Rooster

"Something Worth Crowing About"



Vol. 11 2012

www.natl-cursillo.org/rockford



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The
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Message from the Lay Director

I begin my first Rooster article by giving homage and praise to Brenda Morones who was our Lay Director for the Cursillo Movement in Rockford for the past few years. It has been my pleasure getting to know Brenda over the past few months. Her pleasant smile, calmness and love for God touches my heart. She is a wonderful woman of God and an inspiration to us all. Thank you, Brenda, and thanks to your family for all that you have given and continue to give to the Cursillo Movement.

Who am I?

I am Scott Long and I started living my fourth day in the Fall of 2007. I attend St. Bridget Parish in Loves Park. I am married to my wonderful wife Angie and I have two awesome children, Tyler and Hannah. I am an architect and recently opened my own business. I have been very active in the Cursillo movement since my weekend. I have served the Lord as Kitchen Head, Kitchen Captain, Liaison Assistant, Chapel Assistant, and Assistant Rector for the weekends. I am the Kitchen Trainer and was briefly the Assistant Lay Director.

How did I become the Lay Director?

Brenda called me last fall and asked if I would consider serving on Secretariat. After thinking and praying for a few weeks I said "YES". I could almost see the smile on her face when she repeated "YES" back to me. I was not sure how I would serve. The Lord calls us in so many ways and has a plan for us all. We just need to follow Him.

The Treasurer's position was open, but I knew that was not for me. There was talk about other positions. Mike Blaser, at this time, was the Assistant Lay Director and needed to resign. He spoke to me and thought it would be a perfect fit for me. I could ease into Secretariat and figure things out over a few years. I would also escape the title as Al Johnson's assistant. How could I pass that up?

I was elected Assistant Lay Director in late November. After two meetings, Brenda needed to resign. There goes that theory of easing into Secretariat. After three short months I was Lay Director. I know God only gives us what we can handle. We are only given crosses we can carry. His will must be done. So, here I am ready to serve and do my best.

We have elected a new Assistant Lay Director, Linda Abramowicz. Linda is going to do a great job and keep me in line. We are in good hands. I promised her I would not resign after only three months, but after that I cannot guarantee anything.

Continued on page 6



Secretariat meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month at St. Mary's in Sycamore.

The Secretariat of the Rockford Diocese helps the Cursillo Movement to function and achieve its purpose. It is charged by the Bishop to implement the Movement properly according to norms and guidelines established by the National Secretariat. All Cursillistas are urged to support the Secretariat by prayer and palanca.

Spiritual Director	FR. SYLVESTER A. NNASO		
Lay Director	Scott Long	815-282-0626	scottrlong@comcast.net
Asst. Lay Director	Linda Abramowica	815-886-8554	Abramz6@comcast.net
Secretary	Al Johnson	815-877-3546	alfredjohnson@gmail.com
Treasurer	Fermin Garcia	815-761-1579	garciaf65@yahoo.com
School of Leaders	Don White	847-683-2005	dwhite@foxvalley.net
Pre-Cursillo	Ray Oleferchik	847-683-0337	rayoleferchik@earthlink.net
Cursillo	Ron Abramowica	815-886-8554	AbramzR@comcast.net
Post-Cursillo	Denise Camaioni	630-202-0422	hope0414@yahoo.com

**Directions to St. Mary's Community Center
Oregon, Illinois**

**Take Rt. 64 to Oregon. Parish Center is
on Rt. 64 at Mongan Drive, a mile west
of town on the north side of the road.**

**Emergency Phone for Cursillo Weekends
Friday Saturday & Sunday 815-732-7383**



Friendship Grouping Areas

Oregon

St. Mary's Church

Women: Tuesdays at 6:15 pm

Men: Sundays at 7:00 pm

Sycamore

St. Mary's Purple House

Men: Mondays at 7:00 pm

Hampshire

St. Charles Borromeo

Church basement

Men: Saturday at 7:30 am

Virgil

Sts. Peter & Paul

Parish rectory

Men: Mondays at 7:00 pm

Belvedere

Location: St. James Parish Center

Men: Saturdays at 8:00 am

Loves Park

St. Bridget's Parish Center

Men: Mondays at 7:00 pm

Aurora

Location: Holy Angels

Women: Wednesdays 8:30 pm

Contact Laura Wright 630-859-0781

ONE DOLLAR CAMPAIGN

The National Cursillo® Movement is having some financial difficulty and is asking Cursillistas to consider making a donation. Your financial support advances the evangelization function of the Movement. Donations are always accepted through the website, www.natl-cursillo.org.

To help meet the needs of this fiscal year, the National Cursillo® Center mailed its "1st Annual One Dollar Campaign" to all Lay Directors in February 2012. The Campaign seeks the support of all Cursillistas in every diocese to prayerfully consider donating at least one dollar (or more) to support the work of the National Cursillo® Center.

In the spirit of community, Cursillistas may give their donation to the Lay Director or your parish representative who will submit the total amount to the National Cursillo® Center. As always, Cursillistas are welcome to donate directly to the National Cursillo® Center, if that is their preference.

Thank you for your consideration



INVITATION TO ALL CURSILLISTAS TO WORK UPCOMING WEEKENDS

For all Cursillistas who would like to come back and serve on a three-day weekend, the Rockford Diocese holds Cursillo weekends twice a year, one each spring and fall for men and for women. All weekends are held at St. Mary's Parish Community Center, 881 N. Mongan Drive, Oregon, IL 61061 (on the northeast corner of Rt. 64 and Mongan Drive).

Men's 97th Cursillo October 25-28, 2012

Ron Abramowicz - Rector, Phone 815/986-8554 Tom Clarey - Assistant, Phone 815/652-6701

TEAM MEETINGS:

Meeting	Date	Time	Place
#1	August 19, 2012	1:00pm	St Charles Borromeo
#2 *	August 26, 2012	1:00pm	St Charles Borromeo
#3	Sept. 23, 2012	1:00pm	St Charles Borromeo
#4	Ocy. 14, 2012	1:00pm	St Charles Borromeo
#5	Oct. 21, 2012	1:00pm	St Mary's - Oregon

Women's 87th Cursillo Nov 8-11, 2012

Jeanne Hesseling - Rectora, phone 630/466-4979 Jenny Bourge - Assistant, phone 630/907-1587

TEAM MEETINGS:

Meeting	Date	Time	Place
#1 *	August 26, 2012	1:00pm	St Charles Borromeo
#2	Sept. 16, 2012	1:00pm	St Mary's - Maple Park
#3	Sept. 30, 2012	1:00pm	St Katharine Drexel
#4	October 21, 2012	1:00pm	St Katharine Drexel
#5	October 28, 2012	1:00pm	St Mary's - Oregon

* COMMISSIONING

Dates to Remember

School of Leaders	June 6, 2012	St Mary's, Maple Park
School of Leaders	June 28, 2012	Holy Apostles
School of Leaders	July 19, 2012	St Charles Borromeo
School of Leaders	August 30, 2012	Holy Apostles
School of Leaders	Sept. 20, 2012	St Charles Borromeo
School of Leaders	Nov. 15, 2012	St Charles Borromeo
Ultreya Grande	January 26, 2013	St Mary's, Sycamore
Men's Cursillo	Apr. 4-7, 2013	St Mary's, Oregon
Women's Cursillo	Apr. 18-21, 2013	St Mary's, Oregon
Men's Cursillo	Oct. 24-27, 2013	St Mary's, Oregon
Women's Cursillo	Nov. 14-17, 2013	St Mary's, Oregon

Area Ultreyas

The Spanish word "ultreya" means "onward." It was a shout of enthusiasm by the first pilgrimage to the shrine of St. James of Compostela. And so we use that term to mean that which encourages all of us who attend the Ultreya to continue, to persevere in our Christian life as apostles for Jesus Christ. The purpose of the Ultreya is to keep the spirit and friendship of a Cursillo ongoing in order that it may be a motivating force for all of us to live the ideal and to evangelize. Ultreya is the place where friendships are built within the larger community. The Ultreya in its totality is the sharing of our Christian life.

- It is a community that makes itself visible in gatherings where they come together in an attitude of progressive conversion.
- It is a community united in one faith, one Lord and one baptism.
- It gathers to facilitate the living and sharing of what is fundamental to being a Christian.
- It also serves as an opportunity to come in contact with the larger Christian community and to help those who may not have formed a permanent friendship group.

McHenry: 3 times a year at The Church of Holy Apostles

Contact Rich & Barb Hayes, 815-728-0918 r2b2hayes@comcast.net

Oregon: 1st Sunday in June and December, 7:00 pm, at

St Mary's Parish Center Contact Linda & Ron Abramowicz 815-986-8554

Abramz6@comcast.net

DeKalb: 2 times a year, 7:00 pm, at NIU Newman Center

Contact Tom & Lori Kedzie 815-751-9644 lorikedzie@gmail.com

Rockford: May, September & January, 8:30 pm, at

St. Bridget's Parish Center (Loves Park)

Contact Al Johnson 815-877-3546 alafjdjohnson@gmail.com

Aurora: Spanish 2nd Sunday of the month, 7:00 pm, at St. Nicholas,

Daleiden Center Contact Jesus Morones 630-844-9544

Chuy8844@msn.com



SCHOOL OF LEADERS

In the last article I talked about growth. Our faith must continually be growing. We all go through periods where we become stagnant. If we don't fight through these times, we can start the rationalization process: We start to tell ourselves that everything is fine the way it is, my prayer life is fine, I don't need to start that new book, I'll wait to talk to my co-worker about Christ some other time. The Cursillo movement in our diocese is fine the way it is. When we reach this point, our life in grace starts to die.

Life is a constant struggle; so too is our life in grace. Over the past six months I've really been contemplating this in my life and that of the Cursillo Movement. For some reason, I felt the Holy Spirit pointing me to concentrate on spiritual warfare. At the March SOL meeting, Deacon Mike Giblin gave a great talk on that subject. At the last Cursillo, every talk, every discussion seemed to re-enforce the same thing. The same thoughts kept coming back. "How can I as a Christian and the Cursillo movement in the Rockford diocese continue to persevere and grow?" Then on Saturday night one of the candidates got up in front of all of us and read from Ephesians Ch 6 verse 10 - 17. "Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from His mighty power. Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. For your struggle is not with flesh and blood but with principalities....." It gave me chills. The armor of God is the sacraments, prayer, and sacrifice. Clothed with this armor, we can do anything. It may be a little heavy at times, but once it's on, we can persevere and grow.

That naturally led me to think about the growth of this movement and the School Of Leaders. The only way Cursillo will continue to grow is with "The Armor of God". We must all pray and do *palanca* for the movement and the school. I continue to offer my weekly rosary in front of the Blessed Sacrament for Cursillo and also pray for it daily. I ask each of you to do the same, find some time to pray for Cursillo, offer some form of sacrifice for the school. If we can all do this, there is no telling where the Lord will lead us and His movement. God gave this gift to the Church at this time in history for a reason. We must be faithful to it and help it grow!

Finally, the SOL is continuing to grow. We have expanded to McHenry. Rich Hayes will be facilitating the meetings starting in June. They will run every other month. Please keep Rich in your prayers.

DeColores! Don White



MEET YOUR SECRETARIAT...

Linda Abramowicz
Assistant Lay Director

My husband Ron and I have been married for 29 years and have spent the last 21 of those years living in Oregon. We have been blessed with 4 children. Chris (26 and married to Kayla), Danielle (24), Michelle (21) and Kristen (20). Chris and Kayla have given us our beautiful grandchildren Neva (5), Olivia (3) and Joseph David (we call him JD and he is 1). We are also eagerly awaiting our newest addition, scheduled to arrive right around Christmas time.

It seems that only yesterday (Fall '05) I was sitting in the conference room listening to the speakers give their talks for the very first time. That weekend changed my life and I can't believe where it has led me. I enjoy the privilege of being a Eucharistic Minister, lector and the head of our adoration chapel at St. Mary, my home parish. For the last 4 years I have served as half of the Cursillo Chairperson (Ron being the other half) on Secretariat and recently had the honor of being the Rectora for the Fall '11 Cursillo weekend. Tell God you are terrified to speak in public and He will put you right in front of the crowd. He has a great sense of humor.

Although I had other plans, I recently answered His gentle nudging to accept the position of Assistant Lay Director. I will be assisting the Lay Director in whatever capacity I can, stepping in when he is not available and working on developing the duties of my new position.

I love my Cursillo family and look forward to working with and serving you all. Please keep all of your Secretariat members in your prayers as well as the entire Cursillo movement. Our strength comes from the Lord. With Him, all things are possible

De Colores!

50 Years of History



**Fr. Bob Sherry,
Former Spiritual Director**

Thank you for the opportunity to make some comments about my involvement with the Cursillo Movement during its history here in the Diocese of Rockford. When I was a Transitional Deacon at St. Patrick's Parish, Rockford, in the summer of 1965, Joe Nicolosi, a member of the parish, spoke to me about the Cursillo Movement. At the time it was just a word to me and, in fact, a Spanish word which meant very little. But he and others encouraged me to test it out.

So back in August of 1965 I had the privilege of going on a weekend Cursillo held at Neuman Central Catholic High School in Sterling, IL. We slept in the gym on army cots, if you could call that sleep, interrupted during the course of the night by several opportunities to pray. Mr. Chuck Luecke, a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Freeport, IL, was the rector and there were probably about 30 of us open-hearted men. How fortunate it was that I had that opportunity as a faith foundation for my last year in the seminary as a priest. It opened my eyes and gave me a whole new perspective to how the faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church are applied in real life.

Many years later when I was assigned to start a new parish in McHenry, IL, known now as The Church of Holy Apostles, I knew we needed some strong spiritual foundation for a new parish. I reached into the past and pulled out what was significant to me during that summer of '65 and also for the next four years when I was assigned to the parish Chuck Luecke had helped me as a fledgling young priest to apply my life and work to the teachings of Jesus Christ and vice versa. It's sustained me through these 45 years as a priest and has been very instrumental in establishing a unique foundation for The Church of Holy Apostles in McHenry, IL. If it can do that for us, it can do that for anybody.

DeColores. Father Bob Sherry
Former Spiritual Director for the Cursillo Movement

**Ken Sittenhauer,
National Coordinator**

Thank you for informing us of the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Rockford Cursillo Movement. I lived my Cursillo Weekend in Sterling on the last weekend of January in 1967, and Teresa lived her weekend in Dixon in February, 1967. We both became very involved in the leadership of the Movement, traveling from Aurora to Rockford every Friday evening for the School of Leaders. We started the weekly Ultreya in Aurora in April, 1967. I was the Lay Director for 4 years-- I believe it was 1968 to 1972. I wrote a bi-weekly column called "Cursillo Corner" for the Observer.

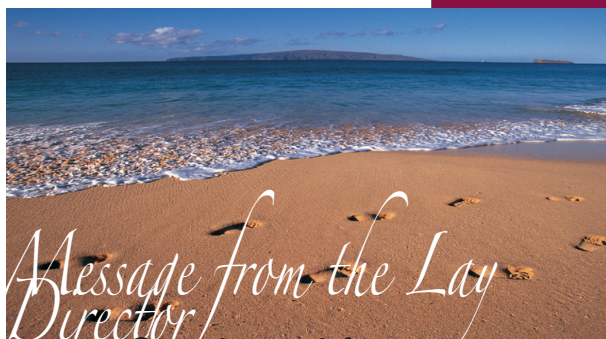
In December, 1973, we transferred back to the Kansas City, Kansas Archdiocese and spearheaded a group to start the Cursillo Movement there in 1974. I was the first Lay Director for our Archdiocesan Cursillo Movement and served as Lay Director again about 10 years later. Teresa was very active also in the leadership of the Movement from 1974 - 2005.

In 1979 I was selected (Jack McCabe from Rockford recommended me) to be the National English Speaking Coordinator---a position I held for 18 years. I was then asked to be one of four International Coordinators for the International Movement, coordinating the efforts of the North American/ Caribbean Group (NACG) from 1998 — 2002.

It was the training in leadership by the Rockford Diocesan Cursillo Movement that led both of us in taking the leadership to the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas and the National and International level.

We have fond memories of working with Johnsons, Deutchs, Poss, Wrights, Heintz and McCabes, to name a few.

Yours in Christ,
Ken & Teresa Sittenauer



Continued from page 1

At Secretariat, we always must remember that we are there to serve. We must not get caught up in too many logistics and things of this world. We need to love one another. We need to be friends and share. Only then will we truly do His will and serve Him. We need to grow closer to each other and have our movement work closely together. Men and women, both English and Spanish, need to be brothers and sisters of our Father.

When you think about the Cursillo weekend, one of the major points is "Make a friend, be a friend and bring your friend to Christ." So we must become better friends within Secretariat and the School of Leaders and carry it through the entire movement.

Since you made your Cursillo weekend have you continued to make new friends? Have you grouped?

Have you attended an Ultreya? Have you been back to work the weekend?

Everyone should know we are Catholic by the love we show to others. We need to continue to make new friends, not just to bring them to Cursillo weekends but to bring Christ's love to everyone we meet. In that process if someone says "I want what you have, that love for Christ. How can I get that?" then you must ask yourself "Is Cursillo right for them?" Talk to God about your friend before you talk to your friend about God.

Have an apostolic plan. God calls us to continue on and carry out that plan the rest of our lives. When we meet new people (or people we already know) do we take the extra step and really get to know them or do they become acquaintances in our lives?

God's Peace, Love and Joy be with you.

Scott

ROCKFORD CURSILLO COMMUNICATIONS

The Rockford Cursillo website is www.natl-cursillo.org/rockford.

There you can view Roosters, weekend and team meeting information and download candidate and sponsor forms.

Webmaster is Brenda Morones: brndmoro@sbcglobal.net

Other informative web sites: National website: <http://www.cursillo.org>

Region V website: <http://www.cursillo-region-5.org>

OMCC World organization: <http://www.orgmcc.org>

Rockford Diocese website: <http://www.rockforddiocese.org>

The Rooster is published twice a year. If you want to add, modify or delete your name/address from the mailing list contact Al Johnson at alfredjohnson@gmail.com or 815-877-3546.

