



# THE ROCKFORD Rooster

"Something Worth Crowing *About*"



Vol. IV 2014  
[www.natl-cursillo.org/rockford](http://www.natl-cursillo.org/rockford)



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## Message from the Lay Director HIS Useless Servant(s)

When I was called to be a leader in the Cursillo Movement, I was urged to read the book "Whom Shall I Send: Discerning the Will of God". I urge everyone involved with Cursillo to read this book and then read it again. I read it at least once a year and I get something new and inspiring every time. The book reminds of the true leadership, discipleship, servitude, and obedience that we need to practice. Over the next few years, we are going to be presenting talks based on this book at the School of Leaders.

When I accepted the call to be Rector for the Spring 2014 weekend, I was given a very special gift of a palm cross. The back side of the cross has the inscription "HIS USELESS SERVANT". Useless??? I am not "useless" am I? I strive to be His servant. But Useless??? I had just finished chapter 3 of "Whom Shall I Send" where "His useless servant" is mentioned and explained. I understood my role and responsibilities to be a servant of Christ. I may be many things here on earth, but before God I am only His worthless and useless servant and that is what I will be judged as when I stand before Him. "So you also, when you have done all that is commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'" (Luke 17:10)

I need to constantly remind myself that I am in the service of Christ. My focus should always be on Him and how to ever grow closer to Him and bring others to Him. We always need to be faithful and obedient servants of Jesus. In Jesus we find the model of service and humility and obedience for all who would answer God's call.

You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. (John 13:13 - 17)

The Cursillo Movement trains Christian leaders to evangelize their environments. In order to be a leader for Christ, we must be a servant. In order to serve we must be obedient. A Christian leader is called to a vocation of service in Christ. This call is to put oneself at the service of everyone. Yes . . . EVERYONE! A Christian leader is one who serves more, not one who gives orders. This service is performed with humility and promptness without expecting or needing a reward, praise, or some type of recognition. Servants do not get any special recognition or applause. Servants simply do their work as useless servants. We all like to be thanked and recognized when we serve, but this should not be our reason or motivation. In order to discern on this call of servitude, we must have hope, dedication, and charity. We must be "HIS Useless Servants".

Christian leaders are united to Christ and are strengthened through prayer, obedience and sacrifice. The humility of the leader attracts people and invites them to an open, authentic, and sincere friendship. I find that many of us lack the humility and obedience we need to serve on the three day weekends.

We should not complain that we have to attend a minimum of three team meetings to work on the weekend. We should want to be part of the community that serves the candidates and Christ and the only way to be part of this community is to spend the time with the others on the teams. We should not care if we give a talk on the next weekend because I want to be in the conference room. We should want to help deliver the overall message to the candidates. We should not complain that we have to work in the kitchen and clean the bathrooms. We should want to serve everywhere. We should not strive to be a Rector or Rectora because I want to be in the spot light and have everyone do what I say.

Accepting the call to leadership requires a greater call of service. If you are called to give a talk, you must serve the team and candidates. If you are called to be a Rector or Rectora, you must serve all of those who work and attend the weekend. Secretariat members are called to more commitment and more service to all of those in the movement. The Lay Director and Spiritual Director are not in a higher or more exalted position, but simply have more commitment and service than the rest. They are the servant of the servants. In whatever capacity we are called to be leaders, we must serve and empty ourselves for Christ.

Now He told a parable to those who were invited, when He marked how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, "When you are invited by anyone to a marriage feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest a more eminent man than you be invited by him; and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 14:7 - 11)

Jesus gave us the example of how to live our lives and how to be a leader. He asked us to follow Him and to lead others to Him. Study the life of Jesus and you will find what a leader should be. We are asked to live in Grace and share our life in Christ with everyone. A leader must be formed and informed (Piety and Study) and be willing to be Christ-like and lead others to Him (Action). We are all are called by God to be a Christian leader. We need to take responsibility of forming ourselves into a leader through a balanced life in Piety, Study and Action.

**A Godly leader finds strength by realizing his weakness.**

**They find authority by being under authority.**

**They find direction by laying down their plans.**

**They find vision by seeing the needs of others.**

**They find credibility by being an example.**

**They find loyalty by expressing compassion.**

**They find honor by being faithful.**

**They find greatness by being a servant.**

All of us are leaders for Christ and not just the Spiritual Director, Lay Director, Secretariat, those who attend School of Leaders, or Rectors and Rectoras. All are called and all are needed. That is why you continue to "Make Friends, Be Friends, and Bring (Lead) Friends to Christ. We do most of our leading in our Fourth Days. Cursillo is leading others to Christ in our lives (environments). The weekends are held to welcome new members (leaders) into His family and

share our journeys to Him and with Him. This is why Group Reunions and Ultreyas are fundamental. We are formed and lead in these environments, get to know each other, and become brothers and sisters in Christ. This daily reality of self, Christ, and others that we experience in our groups is what we started on the three days of our Cursillo weekend. This is how we lead and evangelize.

We are all His Useless Servants. Let us serve each other and the entire world. Christ is counting on You!

**De Colores Scott Long, Lay Director**



## **MEET YOUR SECRETARIAT...**

My name is Marty Lachat and I made my Cursillo in the spring of 1995. Since then God has allowed me to work every men's weekend except one; I have also worked about a dozen Spanish Cursillos, for a total of about 50 weekends.

A week after my Cursillo I started a new group with my brother-in-law Tom Wright, who made the weekend with me, and Chuck Casagrande. Tom and I have grouped ever since. Our group has grown and splintered into many other groups. I believe over 200 men have grouped with us.

My wife Beth and I have been married for 24 years. Beth also made her Cursillo weekend in the spring of 1995. We have 5 children, Michael 22, Thomas 20, Megan 17, Matthew 15, and Bridget 12. Michael made his Cursillo in the spring of 2014.

A year after I made my Cursillo I was asked to serve on Secretariat as the pre-Cursillo chairperson. I also served in two other positions for 9 years. I was new to Cursillo and knew so little. I leaned heavily on my in-laws to learn about the Cursillo Movement. My father-in-law Bob had served on Secretariat for over 12 years, seven as the Lay Director. They taught me so much and both are a blessing to the Rockford Cursillo Movement.

To say that Cursillo has had an effect on my life is a huge understatement. I have so many loving brothers and sisters who I call my friends because of the Cursillo Movement. It is almost impossible to go to another parish in the Rockford diocese and not spot a Cursillista that I know. Cursillo has been my primary apostolate. And now, after a nine year break, I have been called again to serve.

So, how can I help you in your 4th day? Have a question or issue about Cursillo? How is grouping working for you? Is there an Ultreya nearby? If not, can I help you get one started? Not grouping? Tell me why. Let me help you find or form a group. Are you attending school of leaders? If not, why? Are you looking to get involved but don't know what you want to do? Email me at [martylachat@yahoo.com](mailto:martylachat@yahoo.com) or call me at 630-204-7920. Please invite me to your group. I would like to visit as many groups as possible to see how it is working for them.

I have started working on the next Grande Ultreya to be held at Holy Angels, Aurora, on February 7, 2015. So far I have a very small team of workers. Can you help? Call me at 630-204-7920. Don White and I are working to put on a Cursillo de Cursillo weekend for all Cursillistas. Do you want to know more? Are you willing to help? Please contact me.

My prayer is that Cursillo will be as big a blessing to you and your family as it is to mine. De Colores!



# Area Ultreyas

## 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 102nd Cursillo April 16-19, 2015

Rector - George Weber Phone 630-890-4716 [kiplawofc@aol.com](mailto:kiplawofc@aol.com)

Assistant Don Nolde Phone 630-774-4045 [cdnolde1@aol.com](mailto:cdnolde1@aol.com)

TEAM MEETINGS			
Meeting	Date	Time	Place
#1	Feb. 15, 2015	1:00pm	Holy Angels, Aurora
#2	Feb. 22, 2015	1:00pm	St. Katherine Drexel (Commissioning)
#3	March 15, 2015	1:00pm	Holy Angels, Aurora
#4	March 22, 2015	1:00pm	Holy Angels, Aurora
#5	April 12, 2015	1:00pm	St Mary's - Oregon

Women's 92nd Cursillo Apr. 30-May 3, 2015

Rectora Pat Frieders Phone 630-992-7512 [pat.frieders@gmail.com](mailto:pat.frieders@gmail.com)

Assistant - Olga Bourge Phone 630-892-9706 [obourgesr@comcast.net](mailto:obourgesr@comcast.net)

TEAM MEETINGS			
Meeting	Date	Time	Place
#1	Feb. 22, 2015	1:00pm	St. Katherine Drexel (Commissioning)
#2	March 1, 2015	1:00pm	St. Katherine Drexel
#3	March 15, 2015	1:00pm	St. Katherine Drexel
#4	March 29, 2015	1:00pm	St. Katherine Drexel
#5	April 19, 2015	1:00pm	St Mary's - Oregon (Men's Clausura)

## Dates to Remember

Ultreya Grande	February 7, 2015	Holy Angels, Aurora
English Men's Cursillo	April 16-19, 2015	St. Mary's Oregon
English Women's Cursillo	April 30-May 3, 2015	St. Mary's Oregon
English Men's Cursillo	October 15-18, 2015	St. Mary's Oregon
English Women's Cursillo	October 22-25, 2015	St. Mary's Oregon



**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. Richard Kramer	815-359-0123	<a href="mailto:fatherkramer1940@gmail.com">fatherkramer1940@gmail.com</a>
Lay Director	Scott Long	815-282-0616	<a href="mailto:scottrlong@comcast.net">scottrlong@comcast.net</a>
Asst. Lay Director	Linda Abramowica	815-886-8554	<a href="mailto:Abramz6@comcast.net">Abramz6@comcast.net</a>
Secretary	Tiffany Guthrie	630-801-9563	<a href="mailto:tguthrie1@att.net">tguthrie1@att.net</a>
Treasurer	Al Johnson	815-964-1040	<a href="mailto:alfredjohnson@gmail.com">alfredjohnson@gmail.com</a>
School of Leaders	Brenda Morones	630-844-9544	<a href="mailto:brndmoro@sbcglobal.net">brndmoro@sbcglobal.net</a>
Pre-Cursillo	Position Open		
Cursillo	Kayla Abramowica	815-622-8568	<a href="mailto:k.abramz5@gmail.net">k.abramz5@gmail.net</a>
Post-Cursillo	Marty Lachat	630-204-7920	<a href="mailto:martylachat@yahoo.com">martylachat@yahoo.com</a>

**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**



## A Word From Our Spiritual Director



As you all must know, I just recently came on board the Secretariat as the Spiritual Director for the Diocesan Cursillo Movement. I am still very much in a learning curve as I begin my work in this area of the Vineyard!

One of the talks during the Cursillo weekend is about the way in which we INFLUENCE our ENVIRONMENTS. First, we need to see what environments we have in our lives....work, neighborhood, parish, various clubs or groups to which we belong. Then we need to discern what we could possibly do to help those environments to recognize Jesus and become closer friends with Him. As easy as that might sound, we both know that this is such a critical part of our effort to change or influence our environment. This discernment stage involves reflection, prayer, and even consultation perhaps.

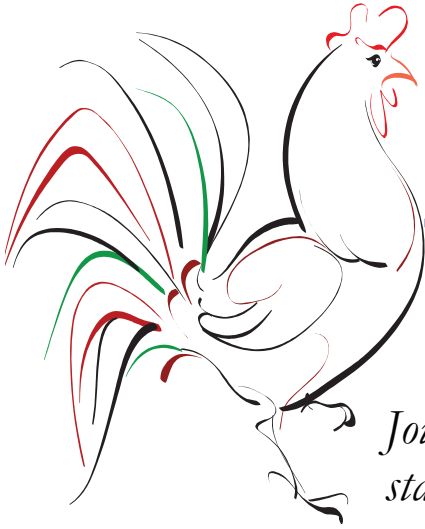
This could be something we bring to our Group Reunion and discuss. The BLUE card that we use as our guide for discussion during our Group Reunion asks us what we have done in the past week to help the Lord; it further challenges us to see if we have failed to adequately serve/help the Lord. I cannot speak for you, but I have found in my own experience that the best way to mess something up is to plow ahead without very much consultation or reflection. The temptation to ACT tends to be stronger than the NEED to think through a situation.

The Old Testament reading for the 1st Sunday of Advent gives us a lot of material to use in reflecting on what needs to be done in our environments – starting with our own environment in our lives/homes. Isaiah says that people have hardened their hearts, have wandered away from the Lord, and do not call on His name. He says that we have withered like leaves and our guilt carries us away like the wind! He concludes with an exhortation: “...we are the clay and you are the potter: we are the work of your hands.” WOW – the discussion on just those phrases from the reading could easily fill an entire Group Reunion chat on what we face today in our lives

- Do we see examples of this in the environments in which we live?
- In this Advent season, would there be an opportunity to simply remind people of the true meaning of Christmas, especially with the heavy emphasis on consumerism and the total abandonment of JESUS in any current “Christmas” TV programming? And if so, how do we go about this?
- How do we personally keep Christ in Christmas by what WE DO AND SAY in our family life or have we caved in to the current mentality, gone crazy with Black Friday shopping and already have our Christmas tree/decorations all up?
- What spiritual practices have we put into place in our own homes which lead the family to observe ADVENT as a time to ANTICIPATE the coming of a Savior? For example, do we use the Advent wreath in our own homes to show the passage of time in preparation for the birth of our Savior? Or an Advent Calendar???
- Have we and our family made plans to receive the Sacrament of Penance which is being offered during ADVENT in our parish? What Mass or Masses do we plan to attend on Christmas? Do we have a liturgical ministry to fulfill?
- Who really needs New Year’s Resolutions when we are being faithful to the challenges of Group Reunion and reforming our lives on a constant basis?

I want to take this opportunity to wish each Cursillista and his/her family a MOST BLESSED AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2015. See if you will be able to give someone the ultimate gift – the chance to become a CANDIDATE for a Cursillo Weekend of their own in 2015. Don’t just ask – SHOW THEM WHAT IT HAS DONE TO YOUR LIFE!

# GRANDE ULTREYA X



*Feb. 7, 2015 at Holy Angles Parish Center*  
*180 S. Russell Avenue Aurora, IL 60506*

*Join us: Doors open 8:00am with coffee and donuts. Program starting at 9:00 a.m., through 3:30p.m., with bilingual Mass at Noon. Please RSVP so we can have enough food.*

*Cost will be \$15.00 or \$25.00 per couple.*

*Talks by Fr. Brian Geary and Deacon Kevin Prunty in the morning breakout session. An afternoon witness talk to be given by Lori Kedzie.*

*The day will include: grouping, a lunch, fellowship, song and prayer.*



*To RSVP or more information about the day contact:*

*Marty Lachat*

*Phone: 630/204-7920*

*Email: [MartyLachat@yahoo.com](mailto:MartyLachat@yahoo.com)*



## SCHOOL OF LEADERS

### Submit and Surrender

By the intercession of St. Michael and the Celestial choir of the Principalities, may God fill our souls with a true spirit of obedience. Amen.  
(From the Chaplet of St. Michael the Archangel)

The dictionary's definition of obedience is compliance with an order, request, or law or submission to another's authority. The Biblical definition of obedience means, simply, to hear, trust, submit and surrender to God and obey his Word.

True Christian obedience flows from a heart of gratitude for the grace we have received from the Lord. I for one have received many, many graces from my Lord and it all started after I lived my Cursillo weekend. It was then that I knew HE was always in my life and it was then that I wanted HIM in every part of it, not just on Sunday Mornings.

When I think about obedience I think about the last 6 years. During this time I was called to be an Assistant Lay Director, Rectora, Lay Director, and now School of Leaders Chairperson. I wasn't just saying YES to my Lord to be involved in Cursillo. I was being obedient to HIS call that came with many obstacles along the way. But just as there have been many obstacles there have been twice as many blessings. Blessings of meeting many people, blessings of getting to know others at a personal level, blessings of being able to see HIS hands at work in others, blessings of seeing the Movement grow even when it is not obvious to others.

There are guidelines and rules for everything we do in life. I'm sure you even have them in your own home where you are the "authority". Correct me if I'm wrong, but I'm sure you put them in place to make things run smoother in your home and in your life and possibly to educate others, like your children, on how to be a better Christian. In fact, are we not called to be better Christians when we give each other the sign of peace at Mass? Yet that rule or guideline is not viewed as negative. How about the Ten Commandments?

To me obedience means many things.  
Obedience is knowing and accepting the signs HE sends my way that help me to discern.

Obedience is knowing and accepting that things will happen on HIS time, not mine.

Obedience is knowing and accepting that HIS will be done, not mine.

Obedience is having fear of God, but knowing HE will fill me with the graces I need to do HIS will.

Obedience is persevering in my faith.

If we look at rules and guidelines as a negative then that is exactly what we will get - obstacles that will only weigh us down and get us nowhere. But if we view them as a positive, a way to help others learn more about the Movement, the Movement that brought us closer to Christ, then it will only lead us to be assets in the growth of others in HIM. Think positive, think obedience, think about bringing others closer to Christ by knowing and understanding the Movement.

Pray for us and help us to move this Movement forward in a positive direction. Help us to bring others to a closer relationship with HIM.

"LIFT YOUR EYES, SEE IT IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT."

David Dunn- Today is Beautiful

Peace,

Brenda Morones

SOL Chairperson

### ROCKFORD CURSILLO COMMUNICATIONS

The Rockford Cursillo website is [www.natl-cursillo.org/rockford](http://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](mailto:brndmoro@sbcglobal.net)

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](mailto:alfredjohnson@gmail.com) or 815-877-3546.