



2023 CALENDAR

REGIONAL ENCOUNTER

April 14-15

Location:
St. Matthew, Charlotte, NC

SCHOOL OF LEADERS

April 22 / May 20

Tentative Dates:

Jun 10 / Jul 22 / Aug 26,
Sep 23 / Oct 28 / Nov 18
(These are subject to change)

Location:
Sacred Heart, Salisbury, NC

CURSILLO WEEKEND DATES

Men's - June 15-18
Women's - June 22-25

Location:
Catholic Conference Center
Hickory, NC

WEEKEND REUNION

August 26

Location:
Sacred Heart, Salisbury, NC

Grand Ultreya

October 14

Location:
Dan Nicholas Park, Salisbury, NC

Contact Information

Candidate Weekend Application for Sponsors is on the website.

Website: www.charlottecursillo.com

National: www.natl-cursillo.org



Director's Cut

Welcome to Cursillo 2023! There is a lot going on this year – two new Weekends planned at the Catholic Conference Center this summer, a new Parish Ambassador Program underway, a new Cursillo website under development, a team looking at adopting *Flocknotes*[™] for communication, and a series of Cursillo videos coming your way. Makes my

head spin. But, what I would like to focus on this month is the *purpose* of Cursillo.

While we are all experiencing the life-giving benefits of the Cursillo method in our personal lives, the purpose of Cursillo is to bring *new* people into a personal relationship with the creator of the universe, or in Cursillo-speak to “invertibrate” our Church by creating strong Christian leaders. But, if I were to ask you how many *new* people have you reached out to in the past 12 months to discuss Cursillo, most of us would have to answer “none.” I’ve even told myself, “Who can I talk to? I don’t know many people who aren’t already Cursillistas.” Unfortunately, in doing so, I have fallen into the deadliest trap facing our movement. I have unconsciously shorted,

“MAKE friends, BECOME friends, and MAKE them friends of Christ” to
“BECOME friends and MAKE them friends of Christ.”

It is so easy to forget that first step, “MAKE friends.” So, what does “MAKE friends” mean? According to Webster, “make” means to “cause something to exist or come about.” With respect to Cursillo, it means reaching out to someone who is NOT already a friend. It means reaching out to strangers or near strangers . . . those we don’t know well or, perhaps, not at all. By the way, that opens the possibilities to the approximately 150,000 Catholics in our diocese who are not already Cursillistas.

So how do you decide which of those 150,000 Catholic strangers to approach? Well, I can’t tell you that exactly, but here is a short roadmap: (1) First, be constantly aware of our responsibility to reach out to someone “new.” If you haven’t already done so, pick up a few copies of the “What is Cursillo?” booklet to keep on hand. You can pick them up at your Ultreya meeting, at our School of Leaders, or purchase them online via the National Cursillo website, <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/> (2) Second, pray *every* day that the Holy Spirit puts someone *new* in your path who would benefit from the Cursillo method. And finally, (3) Pray that the Holy Spirit gives you the courage to “reach out and touch someone.” Yes, they may blow you off and make you feel uncomfortable, but they may also surprise you and ask you to explain what Cursillo is all about – a first step. In the worst case, they will at least know that there is someone out there who cares enough about them to welcome them to a new group of people. It’s a win-win, if we can get over our initial embarrassment and fear of rejection. Just remember, Jesus tells us to “**Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you.**” (Matthew 8:25–27).

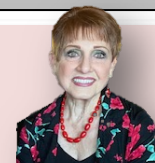
It’s a *new* Cursillo. Year. Let’s all work to MAKE at least one *new* Cursillo friend!

~ John Sequeira ~

Cursillo Questions: Contact the Lay Director on the website.

Cursillistas: Let us know what you would like to see covered in our Newsletter. Remember, it is for YOU.

Editor: Tita Wofford



Precursillo



Joe Linus

Friendship is at the core of Cursillo. Making new friends means we need to be reaching out to people we are not already friends with! With that in mind, the Precursillo team has been working on increasing our outreach efforts to increase awareness of Cursillo across our diocese. The Cursillo method works! We want to make sure everyone knows what Cursillo is and what it is about. We also want to be visible to Cursillistas who may be moving to North Carolina from other areas.



John Moloney is leading the Parish Ambassador effort and is off to a great start with 8 parishes represented so far. The Ambassador will be the 'go to' person for Cursillo in their parish.

First steps are to meet with the pastor and make sure he is aware of Cursillo's presence in the parish and in our diocese. In addition to ensuring that the local Ultreyas and other Cursillo events are listed in the bulletin, the Ambassador will also arrange for an annual FYI. When parishioners express an interest in Cursillo, the Ambassador can help pair them with an existing Cursillista or Group Reunion.

The initial group of Ambassadors represents the following parishes: **Saint Therese** – John and Kim Moloney, **Saint Mark** – Holly Kennedy, **Saint Francis** – Don Phipps, **Saint Matthew** – Molly Sequeira, **Saint John Neumann** – Mike Horeth, **Saint Luke** – Bill Edelen, **Saint Michael** – Celeste Durasoff, **Saint Leo** – Patty Mead

We'd love to add more so if you are interested in representing your parish, please contact John Moloney at:

john.moloney222@gmail.com

3-Day



Patti Eiffe

We are excited to announce our Men's and Women's Weekends for 2023. The Men's Weekend will be held on June 15th - 18th and the Women's Weekend is from June 22nd -25th. Both Weekends will be held at the Catholic Conference in Hickory.

Teams are now being formed by Bill Wells the Rector for the Men's Weekend and Tricia Bunch the Rector for the Women's. Applications are being accepted, and can be found on the website www.CharlotteCursillo.com.

Pope Francis on Cursillo

May 29 2022

Meeting with 2,400 Italian Members of the Movement.

✚ “No one is eternal in authority. So many movements have died out” because of the temptation of “eternalizing offices,” keeping the same person in a given role.

✚ The Cursillo and regular meetings help members go beyond “a purely horizontal, earthly and materialistic view of life” and recognize how faith in Christ can impact every part of their lives and relationship.

✚ Too often, “out of laziness, out of inertia, out of timidity, we are quick to lose the outlook of faith and conform to the mentality of the world, which extinguishes all zeal and all desire to remain faithful to the Lord and to bring him to others.”

✚ The church is “always a body” and never just individuals unconnected to each other.

✚ All Catholics, whether part of a movement or not, must be close to and listen to their pastors and participate in parish initiatives and projects. Your groups and your whole movement, in fact, are not ‘beside’ the church, but are also part of the church living in that territory.”

✚ Members of the movement, like all Christians, also are called to be “missionary disciples,” and that requires creativity.

✚ Thinking or saying, “it has always been done this way,” is not a Christian criterion.”

Cindy Wooden, theCatholicNetwork

School of Leaders in 2023



Sue Tinker

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ. I would like to let you know what is happening in the School of Leaders this new year. In September 2021, an article was written describing what the School of Leaders is about and the reason behind an authentic School of Leaders. Please refer to that article for a quick refresher. This year, our goal continues to focus on bringing the faraway to Christ in an atmosphere of true friendship.

In January, we heard a talk on **Evangelization**, which is actually **Action**, and how we can invite people in our environment to develop or renew their relationship with Jesus Christ. As baptized Catholics this is our duty and obligation to our loving God. There are several places in Scripture which reiterate this. One of my favorites is from **2 Timothy 4:5** *As for you, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

In February, we listened to a talk on **Friendship**. Friendship is the means through which we bring the people in our moveable square meter to Christ. We learned about the three types of friendship: pleasant friendship, useful friendship, and virtuous friendship; and that virtuous friendship is friendship in the full sense. In a virtuous friendship, the friends each love the other for the other's sake and want what is best for the other. The friends see each other for who each is, sees what is inside the other and truly cares. This is the type of friendship that enables us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Our doctrinal talks have focused on the sacraments, the grace they provide, and how some are related to others.

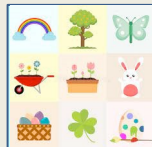
Please consider joining us for one of the next School of Leaders sessions. You may be surprised at how much you learn. Remember, "Christ is counting on you!"

Postcursillo

So...what is Postcursillo? Well, let's look at all three elements of the Cursillo life:

- Precursillo, Seeking Christ
- Three-Day: Encountering Christ
- Postcursillo: Deepening our relationship with Christ

In Postcursillo we seek to "live" the fundamentals of being Christian. In the Diocese of Charlotte, the Post Cursillo Service Team has three Goals for 2023:



Cursillo Region VII Spring Encounter
April 14-15, 2023
St. Matthew Catholic Church
Charlotte, NC

Goal 1 - The first, and most current, is the planning and execution of the *Spring Regional Encounter* being held at St. Matthew Catholic Church in Charlotte. All are invited to attend the event, April 14-15. The cost is \$30. Find more information and the registration form at www.charlottecursillo.com.



Goal 2 - is the planning of our 3rd *Annual Grand Ultreya*. Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 14th. Like last year, we will meet at Dan Nicholas Park (Salisbury) for a day of spirituality, faith sharing, fun, friendship, and Mass.



Pam Kelly



Chris Schneider

Goal 3 - is ongoing, as we work to provide *Ultreya Support* to all eight Ultreyas throughout our Diocese. We are fed in our small groups and we feed *others* at Ultreya. Postcursillo is here to help. And...you can help too by giving us your input.

~ Pam Kelly / Chris Schneider ~