

Charlotte Cursillo

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



Contact Information

Candidate Weekend Application for Sponsors is on the Charlotte website.
Website: www.charlottecursillo.com
National: www.natl-cursillo.org

BEYOND THE PANDEMIC



■ Now that we're in December, we have had months to become familiar with the COVID protocol, have seen cases and deaths rise, fall, and rise again, anxiously anticipate the vaccine, and wonder when life will ever become "normal" again. And, not surprisingly, those of us in Cursillo, have felt the effects: no Cursillo Weekends, no (or modified) Group Reunions and Ultreyas, and difficulty in making a friend, being a friend, and bringing a friend to Christ,

■ Yet, as Cursillistas, we are nothing less than resourceful (check out "Covid Successes" on the back). In addition, with Zoom being our medium of communication....most times, you might want to consider attending an **Ultreya** via Zoom, if there is not one taking place in your location, or you don't attend (or haven't attended) one. Below you will find one "active" and another "soon-to-be-active" Ultreya in our diocese that you might want to check out.

Mountain Ultreya: 3rd Tuesday of each Month 3:00 PM
<https://zoom.us/j/503633895>? Meeting ID: 502 633 895. Passcode: 391249
Ultreya Lead: Anthony Braun

Salisbury Ultreya: After a Zoom training session, they should be up and running by December or January at the latest. Stay posted.

■ You may want to consider visiting, via Zoom of course, our **School of Leaders**. It is an opportunity to connect with friends, receive some spiritual formation, learn a little more about the Cursillo Movement, and have the opportunity to provide much-appreciated input. We are, just now, getting final approval for the 2021 dates and will keep you posted. Watch for emails from your Ultreya Leads for further information.

■ From informal comments, it looks like the **Cursillo de Cursillo (CDC)** Personal Study Guide small-group reviews were successful, and many participants are anticipating future Cursillo, or Cursillo-related, books to review. Stay tuned to the School of Leaders (Beth Ann Dulin, Chair.) for more information.

■ Our diocesan Palanca Coordinator, Patty Mead, informed the School of Leaders that our region (Region 7) is back to **Scheduling Weekends**. We have the Men's 74th (English) 3-Day Cursillo scheduled for March 4-7, 2021 in Charleston, South Carolina. Don't forget your palancas for them. And...

■ Add your prayers for Palanca in the Cursillo Movement ~tdw~

National Cursillo USA – Palanca Requests

Monday:	For all Secretariats, Diocesan, Regional & National
Tuesday:	For an end to the violence in the world
Wednesday:	For Unity of the Cursillo Movement
Thursday:	For the Cursillo Movement's Apostolic Action
Friday:	For an end to the Coronavirus Pandemic
Saturday:	For a Special Intention of the week
Sunday:	For our Spiritual Advisors

www.natl-cursillo.org/palanca-requests

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 ~tdw~



3-DAY CHAIRS – What Do They Do?



Warren Grasheim



Olivia Schmitt

What are the responsibilities of the 3-Day Chair position on the Secretariat? Well, the short answer (lifted right out of the job description) is “to ensure that all the elements required for a successful Cursillo Weekend are available.”

In a “normal” year, this includes a variety of things; in 2020, as you well know, everything is different. The Diocese of Charlotte, along with all others, postponed our Weekends, and therefore, most of our duties. However, this time of “shut down” is a perfect time for planning, fine tuning, taking inventory, and being ready for a Weekend when it comes.

“Everything required for the Weekend” can mean things as simple as purchasing the required Pilgrim’s Guides, notebooks, pencils, etc. But the most important responsibility of the 3-Day Chair is to find and secure the location. Most often these are held at a parish, but other sites, such as last year’s Valley Haven Camp & Retreat Center in Hickory, NC, have also been used when they are found to suit the Weekend logistically, and are within our budget. We are starting a search for places and have several on our list to check out. *Do you know a facility you could suggest to us? Let us know if you do.* Keep in mind the need for: 1) a Kitchen and Dining Area, 2) sufficient place for Sleeping Quarters, 3) enough Bathrooms/Shower, 4) a room for a Talk Hall, and 5) a Chapel. Our goal is to have several choices lined up for Weekends in the future.

Another duty of the 3-Day Chair position is to update the Cursillo Weekend Manual and other documents under the guidance of the Regional and National Offices. Last fall we received a rewrite to the entire Weekend Manual. As a result of this huge update, Kathy Crisson and John Effie, assisted by many others in the diocese, have been working diligently to incorporate the changes from National into our Diocese of Charlotte Weekend Manual, talks, and documentation. The 3-Day Chairs have been assisting to finalize the effort. This has been a very productive way to spend our time during the COVID-19 shutdown. These changes will bring our Weekends back into alignment with the original charism that Eduardo Bonnin received from the Holy Spirit. Our next Weekend will be the first to execute these changes. The work that’s being done is creating excitement, and we believe it will be our best 3-Day Cursillo yet.

The men’s 3-Day Chair is Warren Grasheim. He and I partner on many things and, of course, we also enlist the assistance of various committee members as well as the Secretariat.

Please continue to offer your prayers and palanca for our Charlotte Cursillo Movement as we make decisions affecting upcoming Weekends. And remember to continue to *make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ.* DeColores!

I welcome your comments and suggestions.

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~ Olivia Schmitt ~



COVID SUCCESSES



■ Our Men’s Group transitioned from 1) the “upper room” of Summit Coffee Co. in Davidson, 2) to Zoom, 3) to outdoors on the Davidson campus green, 4) to a Panera Bread at 6:00 AM where we can socially distance indoors...having done so with persistence, great commitment, and joy. ~Rick Fabrice, St. Therese, Mooresville~

■ The bug bothered but never broke us/me: Group Reunion, Ultreya, School of Leaders, Secretariat, Cursillo de Cursillo, Step-by-Step—capped off by the Sacraments, interrupted briefly and altered, but all were there to move me ONWARDS! ~John Eiffe, St. Leo the Great, Winston-Salem~

■ I have often shared that one of the most important things I learned from living my weekend is how essential community is and how I am meant to journey with my friends through the ups and downs of everyday life. This has been ever so evident in 2020! Here’s only one example: Our “in person” group outside our church in front of our Blessed Mother Mary, sitting 6 feet apart with masks. We were feeling ever so grateful to be together, when a lovely family with 6 small children asked if we were going to pray the rosary and could they join. “Yes,” and we all prayed together with the children sitting on the ground around Mary. They went on their way. And then we grouped. Blessings abound. ~Patricia Bunch, St. Leo the Great, Winston Salem~

■ Ongoing moment closest to Christ: Our reunion group has faithfully met all spring/summer/fall 2020 at the outdoor Stations of the Cross at Sacred Heart—which we have restored to beauty with the help of a wonderful Boy Scout Eagle project. We have been able to evangelize others who come to the cemetery or to pray the Stations by our early Saturday morning presence there, as well as deepening our friendships and encouraging each other during this time of darkness and struggle for so many. ~Ted and Mary Blanton, Sacred Heart, Salisbury~

■ I am so grateful to my Cursillo sisters and brothers to the point that I feel transformed like I never thought possible. Through its many offerings of friendship and outreach, especially, in this year of the pandemic, my Cursillo environment truly helped me to fill my soul with the courage, stability, and continuity I desperately needed to keep my eyes on Christ Jesus and to trust in Him above all no matter what storms arise. ~Patty Mead, St. Leo the Great, Winston-Salem~

■ We have been going strong since 1994 at Chick-fil-A at the arboretum and with friendships being so strong, allowing us to continue on Zoom. That never would have been possible without the Charism of Cursillo. ~Dan Hines, St. Matthew, South Charlotte~

■ From March to December both groups I am a member of have continued to meet in some form or the other via Zoom, on driveways in camp chairs, on covered porches, and at restaurants with outdoor dining. For this, I am so grateful; I cannot imagine navigating 2020 without the prayers and support of my dear SICs. We even had a dormant Cursillista join this fall, to bring my second group to 4 members. ~Michelle Fabrice, St. Therese, Mooresville~

■ With the start of quarantine earlier in the year, I think I missed grouping and Mass most. We started grouping again with Zoom but missed being together. My group became porch groupers. We were outdoors and socially distancing. It has been a real Christ-centered moment each week in true Christian friendship. ~KC Shinnors, St. Mark, North Charlotte~

