



The Cursillista

“The Cursillista” is a quarterly publication of the West River Cursillo Movement.

Volume 6 / June 2025

Ultreya!

Ultreya’s are held on a quarterly basis, and include a potluck dinner. It also includes a lot of fine food, faith, and fellowship. The second Ultreya of 2025 will take place at 4:30 pm Sunday, June 8th, and will be held at Old Storybook Island in Rapid City. Richard Rangel will be our featured speaker.

The word Ultreya signifies “onward” or “proceed further on”. The Ultreya is the sharing of our Christian life. At an Ultreya, we share what we live and live what we share. If you haven’t been to an Ultreya for a while, we strongly encourage you to attend. You won’t regret it. And if bringing a dish for the potluck is difficult for you, don’t worry about it! Nobody’s keeping score. It’s YOU that we want to see. Bring a guest!

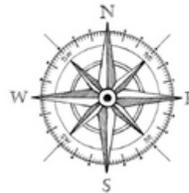


What: Ultreya!
When: 4:30 pm, Sunday, June 8th
Where: Old Storybook Island in Rapid City

Seriously. It’s going to be a beautiful day, and you won’t want to miss this event. Ultreya’s only come around once every three months, and we encourage you to attend this very worthwhile event. ✝

The Real North Pole

by Cursillo Spiritual Director Father Andrzej



“Christ is counting on you” – do you remember these words, spoken at the end of the 3-Day weekend? We were full of life and joy, new friends and newfound, reinvigorated love for Christ, for

Church and for the Eucharist. I also remember the moments of being tired, the desire to go back home, to rest and to, There were the final talks, instructions and closing. We were busy, alive and full of anticipation. Days have passed, we have relaxed, months and years are passing by, and we are perhaps part of a small Cursillo community. And here we are again at the crossroads of our spiritual life and of an opportunity to come alive again. The Feast of Corpus Christi is upon us. We will join the celebrations in our parishes and in the diocese. It is good to be here, to witness to Christ in the gift of the Holy Eucharist – as we rejoice and count on Christ. But this joy demands a follow up.

‘Go into the world and proclaim the good news to all creation’ (Mk 16:15). This is the Lord’s commandment. Cursillo were not to demonstrate the power of the Word, or to stress the need for proclaiming it, but to deliver it in such a way as to elicit a personal response. The Cursillo tries to illuminate all of life with the life of the whole Gospel.

To be effective, the Gospel should be proclaimed in the style that Christ exemplified. The Word has to be a living experience, since Christ is the Word made flesh. The Cursillos

follow this style, based on the search for conversion in life's experience, and based also on personal and community witness of living what is proclaimed. The task has to be entrusted to persons who are not just technicians, but who have responded sincerely to the call of the Lord Jesus: persons who are living proof of what they proclaim. This is and always has been fundamental: "and my message and my proclamation were not with persuasive (words of) wisdom, but with a demonstration of spirit and power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God." (1Cor. 2:4-5).

The Cursillo could well be compared to a new birth, a rebirth in Christ. It is also a living communication with a community of faith, which is made present through the communal witness of the leaders." (The Cursillo Movement's Leaders' Manual, p. 102)



"The sharing of what is fundamental for being a Christian is supported in common Eucharistic living. That is why the Eucharistic community is fostered as a central theme of the Cursillo. The people of God are led and invisibly supported by the Spirit of Christ, but they should also form true and visible family. It is necessary to bring to life what was lived in the first Christian communities, when all were one in mind and heart. Within the Catholic community, small communities gather around the Eucharistic table to experience unity and to express this unity of love. The Eucharist is the center of life during the three days and, additionally, the Eucharist should be the center of the new (and of the seasoned one) Cursillistas' personal lives, their joyful encounter with the community; "let us proceed through Grace to joy so that through joy they may attain Grace." The entire Cursillo should instill in them the awareness that their lives and actions in their fourth day must be centered in Christ's loving sacrifice for them." (The Cursillo Movement's Leaders' Manual, p. 107-108)

Do you still remember the joy, the warmth and excitement, the smiles and promises, the tiredness of the weekend and at the same time new life? We were and are participants, leaders, lay and clergy. How many times have we wondered if we have been good disciples of Christ, part of the Mystical Body of Christ, of Church. Friends, we are coming very fast upon the new opportunity to witness to Christ as the foundation of our life, through our belief in the True Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist, as well as in the new opportunity to share this joy with others through our 3-Day weekend experience. Is there someone who longs for new life in Christ – as a candidate, is there someone you want to share with the joy of your journey with Christ – as a leader and assistant at the 3-Day Weekend? This is the time to come alive, to share, to encourage and to lead.

"Christ is counting on you." Fr. Andrzej

Message from the Lay Director

Dear Reader - This morning I am reminded that we need to say "I love you." To say "thank you" when someone does a kind act. To return the favor when possible. I know that I can be self-motivated at times and need to take time to reflect on what God really wants me to be doing.

While at the encounter this Spring, I was again energized with "Hope." A hope that those in the Cursillo movement could really help others find Christ and be Christ in their environments (homes, work, and play). As Pope Francis has passed, he left a Hopeful legacy, a reminder that we need to reach out and help the marginalized, the alien, the less fortunate. We have something to share and it was given to us from God, "Hope." Yes, also a beautiful life, full of struggles and pain, joys and goodness, but also a world of others that need us, to be his hands and feet, because he sent his Son "Jesus" to give us Hope, Hope in salvation. We need to share this Hope in every small and large way we can.

This Fall we will be putting teams together to again have weekends in November. We need you to pray about how God is calling you to be involved. Is it on your heart to give a Rollo? Is it on your heart to help fund the mission that may have touched you on a weekend years ago? Is it finding others that you are praying for, and sponsoring to attend a weekend? Please share your palanca (prayers and works) for the upcoming weekends with me. Call 605) 209-3389, text or email me cdbrechtel@gmail.com, with it, so I can share it with those preparing for the weekends. You too can help give us all a little more “hope.” Daniel Brechtel ☩

The Currency of My Cursillo Group by Monsieur Antoine Chapeau

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Many of you have heard my personal story of redemption, when I provided my “witness” at an Ultreya a couple of years ago. My story involved a family death, RPR Catholic radio, a return to the church of my youth, confession, mass, and the general re-wiring that needed to take place after being mostly MIA for many years.

As I was starting to travel this path of redemption, my friend and neighbor (a well-known Deacon) asked me if I would attend a Saturday morning Cursillo meeting. Now I can be a private person, and the notion of exposing my hypocrisy to the public at large was not that appealing to me. Nonetheless, I like my neighbor, I’ve always appreciated his remarkable ability to inflate a very nice 16” trout into a 20” monster, and I really didn’t want to tell him no. My thought at the time was that I’d appease him by attending once, then tell him “I tried, but it’s really not for me,” and that would be the end of it. Case closed.

Shortly afterwards, I lived up to my agreement and attended the Cursillo Men’s Group meeting at Blessed Sacrament Church. When I walked into Room 107, I knew three of the men there, so that made it a little less uncomfortable for me. When someone asked who invited me to the meeting, I responded that I wasn’t “invited,” but rather I was in fact Shanghaied by the Deacon. There was never a more accurate statement.

Being Shanghaied was the beginning of my Cursillo experience. Approximately 15 men, mostly older, with a few younger ones sprinkled in. They treated each other like brothers, and very

obviously loved each other. Each was on his own personal journey to draw closer to Christ, and each wanted to bring other people along with them. I liked this group, and almost immediately saw that I could personally benefit by attending their Saturday meetings. A well-deserved tip of the Stetson here to the Fisher of Men Deacon - he was right, I was wrong, and I’m glad for it.

At these weekly group meetings, we’d talk about our piety, study, and action. And along with that routine of outlining what we’re doing in our spiritual lives, the brothers would also reveal things that were going on in their personal lives, their successes, their disappointments, and their families. It wasn’t gossip - it was men talking to other men that they trusted, stating things that were going on in their lives. Being the new guy, I wasn’t positive I’d fit in, as some members had been attending a Blessed Sacrament Cursillo for decades. The opposite occurred, and I was welcomed. I didn’t initially register as the most eccentric member, but I’m probably fairly close to the top of that list now. It didn’t matter.



“Have you been trying to fix this yourself?”

Some of the memorable characters in this group include The Rock of Richard, Bad Neighbor Bill, and Cowboy Bob. The Flying Leatherneck, Just-The-Facts Chuck, Charlie the Firefighter, and many more. Some show up every Saturday. Others show up once every two months, and they're welcomed back like the prodigal. Over the past few years, they have all become brothers to me. And although I may not always agree with them in one area or another, I trust and admire all of them implicitly.

Our men's Cursillo group at Blessed Sacrament is fairly large, but for me a large group has meant that I have made even more new friends. A well-attended meeting with other men that have become brothers has been a blessing. New people are invited all the time - some stick, and some don't, and those that don't stay are always welcome back. The spiritual lives of those that "stick" is universally enhanced.

I believe one of the great advantages of the piety, study and action format in Cursillo group meetings is that it brought about a certain low-level, unspoken area of accountability. I didn't want to be "that guy" that had to say "I didn't do anything spiritual in the past week, although I did catch some magnificent fish." This unspoken accountability led to a further awakening of my prayer life, a strong desire to learn more through study, and once in a while there was an "action" item I could mention, where I did something positive of which I thought Jesus would approve. I was growing in faith, and no longer as concerned about being that seed that may have fallen on rocky soil.

**WHILST DOING A LONG OVERDUE CLEAROUT
AT THE OFFICES OF IRELAND'S OLDEST AND
MOST RESPECTED SCHOOL OF DANCE, MRS O'HARA
MADE A TERRIBLE DISCOVERY.....**



Ultimately, I had to attend a retreat to become an official Cursillista. As I understand it, at one point in time you had to attend a retreat before attending a group meeting, which wouldn't have worked for me. There is simply no way I would have attended a 3+ day retreat without first attending group meetings. Even the Angling Deacon / Friendly Neighbor couldn't have compelled me to attend.

As for the retreat I ultimately attended - it was good to spend 3+ days in prayer and fellowship, the speakers were very good (in particular, Father Andrej was remarkable), and I'm glad I went. More than anything else, though, the thing that resonated with me was at the end when Father Andrej said "Antoine, Christ is counting on you." I still think of that.

Later I went back as a speaker to provide a Rollo (that's ROLL-O for those that don't speak Spanish). I thought I did OK, but I'm pretty sure the organizers will be looking to elevate the quality on that particular topic next time around. I was

supposed to stay at Terra Sancta the entire time, but my roommate could really snore. Honestly, it was epic. Some might describe it as biblical. So I went home at about midnight and slept in my own bed the remainder of the nights.

Yes, there's a point to this story, you were probably wondering when I'd get around to it, and it pertains to you. Grouping, in my view, is the true culmination, and the real genius of Cursillo. Bring a friend to Christ. Saving souls. To me, everything else is secondary. And we're doing it Saturday mornings at Blessed Sacrament.

Many of you reading this newsletter may have not encountered a truly meaningful Cursillo group, and would be amazed at how remarkably dynamic and beneficial these group meetings can be. If you're not "grouping", I strongly encourage you to reach out to a member of the Secretariat to find a group. As an alternative, you're always welcome at Blessed Sacrament. For the men, we meet at Room 107, 7am on Saturday mornings. There's also a men's group that meets at OLBH at the same time, and they have very high-quality men as well. There's food, coffee, and fellowship, and once per month we'll watch a video or host a speaker.

These meetings are not a stagnant thing. If you go, it could very well become a highlight of your week, as they are with me. If you're looking for something to re-invigorate your faith, I suspect that getting connected to like-minded individuals with the same purpose would be a good place to start. Make a friend. Be a friend. Bring a friend to Christ. I hope to see you there. 🕊

An Invitation to a Terrific Event

Provided by Cynthia Howell

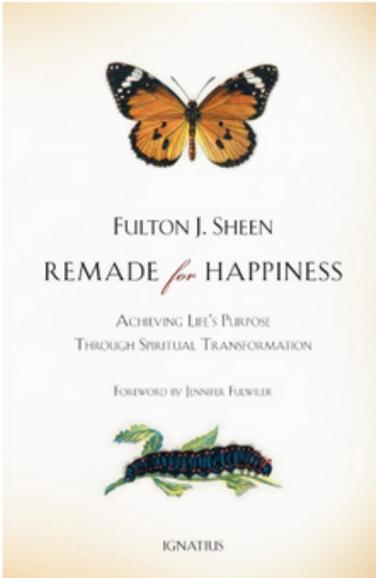
You are Invited! We would like to extend a special invitation to you and your family to come and celebrate with Bishop Scott on Sunday, June 22, 2025 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help for our Diocesan Corpus Christi Mass and Procession. Our whole Diocese will be gathering with the Bishop for this very special celebration.

Here are the details:

- Mass begins at 3:00 pm at the Cathedral
- Immediately following Mass, Bishop Scott will process out of the Church with the Monstrance. First Communicants will gather under the First Communion sign outside the Church and assemble to join the procession. Other groups will assemble behind.
- Together we will process down 5th Street to the Memorial Park Bandshell. Once at the park, Bishop Scott will lead us in Benediction and the Knights of Columbus will serve a picnic.
- Buses will be available from 6:30 - 7:30 pm to bus families back to their cars at the Cathedral.
- You are encouraged to bring water bottles for the walk and a lightweight blanket for the picnic. There are a limited number of picnic tables at the park.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you in June! Blessings, Corpus Christi Procession Committee / Diocese of Rapid City / shanson@diorc.org and mireland@diorc.org 🕊

Study



Remade for Happiness - Achieving Life's Purpose Through Spiritual Transformation

As a lost sheep that was only found in recent years, I had heard of Archbishop Fulton Sheen in a very vague way, but really didn't know anything about him until the good people at the Mustard Seed steered me to this book. Let me start by saying Archbishop Sheen is a really, really smart guy, and a great writer as well. The title "Remade for Happiness" says it all.

"In this classic work, Fulton Sheen explains the secret of authentic happiness: being spiritually remade. A genuinely spiritual life, Sheen contends, consists in more than obeying a set of commands, reading the Bible, or even following the example of Jesus. Before all else, it consists in being recreated and incorporation into a new, higher kind of life - the supernatural life of grace - and in being brought into a new kind of spiritual relationship, as of child of God through Jesus Christ."

One of the key elements of Cursillo group meetings that has benefitted me pertains to study. I am on a continuous quest to learn more, and this is truly a great little book. In any case, I hope you enjoy this as much as I did. If the Mustard Seed doesn't have a copy on hand I believe they'll order one for you. Support your LOCAL Catholic bookstore! †

Other study materials mentioned at recent Cursillo group meetings include:

- Living the Catholic Faith, by Bishop Charles Chaput
- Called to be Holy, by Cardinal Timothy Dolan
- The Rocking Chair Prophet, by Matthew Kelly
- The Bible in a Year podcast, by Father Mike Schmitz
- The Catechism in a Year podcast, by Father Mike Schmitz
- A Teacher of Strange Things, by Cy Kellett
- Beautiful Eucharist, by Matthew Kelly
- Holy Moments, by Matthew Kelly
- The Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Things Worth Dying For, by Bishop Chaput

Important West River Contacts

Position	Name	Contact
Lay Director	Daniel Brechtel	cdbrechtel@gmail.com (605) 209-3389
Spiritual Advisor	Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek	(605) 787-5168 (OLBH Office)
Pre-Cursillo	Open	
3-Day Cursillo	William Murphy/Asst: Ken Jimmerson	William.j.murphy@outlook.com (817)-578-0698/ Kjimmer48@gmail.com
Post Cursillo	Bill Colson	Billcolson9@msn.com (605) 381-7353
School of Leaders	Robert Dyczek	radphr@icloud.com (605) 484-3725
Secretary	Nikki Dyczek (Asst - Robert Dyczek)	ndyczek@outlook.com (605) 484-2801
Treasurer	Jim Blackwell (Asst - Ed Lee)	Jimbob75@hotmail.com (605) 923-2955

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 Cursillo Movement PO Box 4072, Rapid City SD 57709 | www.westrivercursillo.org

Other Cursillo News

The National Cursillo website has a wealth of information, including:

- A history of Cursillo,
- Leadership development articles
- Cursillo literature.

As “newsy” items are posted by the National organization, we will post many of them here. The National Cursillo movement website can be found at natl-cursillo.org. There is also a website dedicated to the West River Cursillo movement. That address is <https://withjesusandmary.com/west-river-cursillo> 

Group Meeting Updates

Some Cursillistas attend a group meeting every week. Others haven't been to a group meeting in a long while. If you're one of the latter, consider attending a group meeting! A partial listing of group meetings is shown below:

Blessed Sacrament (across from Canyon Lake) – A Cursillo men's group meets every Saturday at 7am at Blessed Sacrament Church. This is a fairly large group meeting that is well-attended, but new members are always very welcome. Blessed Sacrament also hosts a women's group meeting, which takes place at 12:30pm on Tuesdays in Room 107. The men's group at Blessed Sacrament is seeing impressive growth. Since the last issue of The Cursillista, they have welcomed several new “groupers”.

Our Lady of the Black Hills (Piedmont) – Justin Carlin and Father Andrzej have organized a new Cursillo men's group at Our Lady of the Black Hills. Meetings take place at the OLBH parish at 7am Saturday. A new women's group is starting at OLBH! Blessings! Mondays at 7pm!

For the Ladies. Fork Real Cafe (lower Saint Joseph Street in Rapid City across from the courthouse) is the place to be Wednesday mornings at 11am.

Finally, here's a great offer for you, a Friday Night Cursillo Book Study. Jim and Becky Goodloe lead a Cursillo Book Study every Friday night at Blessed Sacrament Church. No homework is involved – the group reads and discusses what they've read during the group meeting, and your presence would be very welcome! This is a terrific opportunity to strengthen your study, to meet some of your fellow Cursillistas, and enjoy some truly outstanding company as well. This weekly study event is held from 6:30 to 8pm on Friday, in Room 29 downstairs at Blessed Sacrament. Questions? Please call Cindy Howell Washabaugh at (605) 381-7240.

Editor's note: The meeting you attend does not need to be connected to your parish. You can attend any group meeting you like! Is your group listed? If not, we'd love to include you! Please drop us a note at info@westrivercursillo.org. 

“Make a friend; Be a friend; Bring a friend to Christ.”



West River Cursillo

PO Box 4072 Rapid
City, SD 57709

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US POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 618
RAPID CITY, SD

Don't miss our next Ultreya!
Sunday, June 8th • 4:30 pm
Old Storybook Island
See Page 1 for Details

Christ is counting on you.

2025 Calendar of Events

Secretariat - Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at Blessed Sacrament Church. The next Secretariat meeting will be held on June 19th at 6:30 pm.

Ultreya - Upcoming Ultreya to be held on 6/8/25 at Old Story Book Island at 4:30 pm.

NACG at the World Ultreya Rome - June 6-8, 2025

The Cursillista is a quarterly publication of the West River Cursillo Movement. Comments, announcements, or articles can be sent to info@westrivercursillo.org. Special thanks to Western Mailers for their invaluable contributions producing and distributing this document.