



CHEC MARKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO EPISCOPAL CURSILLO®

ISSUE #4

OCTOBER 2005

FROM THE DESK OF THE LAY DIRECTOR:

It's September as I write this and, like everyone else, I wonder where the summer has gone. Thinking about it, I guess I do know where it has gone and can't say that I have many regrets. It has generally been quiet, but I have taken opportunities to reconnect with my scattered family and to enjoy a rare visit by my brother. One of my hiking friends got cancer and died quickly in July. That got my attention. I've had a lot of deep discussions with him over the years, but never could get him interested in the Roman Catholic Cursillo. He was a declared Catholic but wouldn't become active in a Parish. I suspect that he was afraid of facing up to some bad decisions and actions in his family life. Of course, we have all fallen short of what we should be and it's more important to accept God's Grace and move on. I don't know if that message got through, but I hope he's with Jesus now. In fact, I hope all of us are with Jesus now. Better yet, let's invite our friends to a party with Jesus at CHEC 71! I hope we can all continue our good momentum from the last several weekends. Let's all pray about inviting a candidate and then do it. That message is to me as well as the rest of the community. And keep up or start your reunion groups. I have missed 2 Thursdays due to business travel, but really look forward to meeting with Keith again this week. I am also looking forward to the National Episcopal Cursillo Seminar in Virginia Beach, VA, from Oct 21st to 23rd. This is open to anyone and I would encourage all to attend, who can do so. It's a good time and very inspirational. See you at Candlelight!

Dick Gehman
CHEC Lay Director

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

It's that time of year again—school is in session, church activities have resumed, and life is shifting into high gear. Yikes! Life will be “Too Busy” all too soon, and finding time to spend with God will be more and more challenging. But rather than shrug and think, “Oh well, that's how life is,” we need to take care now to not let our lives be totally consumed by our busyness. And since it is all too easy to get drawn into the habit of over-scheduling, how do we prevent ourselves from neglecting the spiritual aspects of our lives?

A good place to start is attendance at Sunday services, where we join with our faith communities for worship and gather at the table for nourishment and strength. As Cursillistas, we also have the opportunity for group reunions, which are a wonderful way to refocus our efforts from perpetual busyness to a more intentional interaction with God. Spiritual direction, Ultreyas, private devotions, and following our “Rule of Life” all support our lives of faith and help us to recognize when our busyness is merely an excuse for avoiding these practices. And it's important to remember that *Christianity isn't a title but a way of life*—so if we are to be true to our calling, we have to live our lives accordingly!

With all of this in mind, it is helpful to note that the next Cursillo weekend will be October 27-30. Since Cursillo provides us with tools to live a faithful Christian life, it is indeed the “gift that keeps on giving,” as its practices and principles inspire, motivate and give form to our Christian faith. So think about it—was your Cursillo weekend a gift to you? How can you share that gift with someone else? Can you offer to sponsor someone? Work on the weekend? Help out as a Cha-cha? Reenergize your group reunion? Let's give Cursillo some serious thought! Because that gift will be shared only as we use it ourselves and then offer it to others for their spiritual journey. Cursillo is a wonderful blessing in our

lives, and in the lives of our communities—so let's spread the Good News! And remember—*Christ is counting on you!* Can you fit that into your schedule?!

Ultreya!
Mimi Lacy+
CHEC Spiritual Advisor

CHEC 71 TEAM

Conference Room

Rectora	Pat Braun – St. David's, Glenview
Observing Rector	Jay Baum – St. Barnabas, Glen Ellyn
Ideals	Drew Nolan – Calvary, Lombard
Laity	Diane Pennel – St. Hillary's, Prospect Hts.
Piety	Melissa Pedersen – St. David's, Glenview
Study	Margaret Piecuch – Transfiguration, Princeton
Action	Brad Kath – St. John's, Naperville
Leaders	Dick Gehman – Grace, Freeport
Evan. of the Environ.	Jim Brown – St. Lawrence, Libertyville
CCIA	Maurine Jasper – Atonement, Chicago
JOG	Linda Jasper – Atonement, Chicago
Musician	Leslie Gunter – St. Barnabas, Glen Ellyn
Spiritual Director	Graham Smith – St. David's, Glenview
Asst. Spir. Director	Matt Gunter – St. Barnabas, Glen Ellyn
Deacon	Liz Meade – St. Charles, St. Charles

Palanca

Co-Chair	Gary Meade – St. Charles, St. Charles
Co-Chair	Coleen Smith – St. Simon, Arl. Hts.
Chaplain	Sue Holstrom – St. David's, Glenview
	Gail Zieche – St. David's, Glenview
	Marilyn Mathieu – St. David's, Glenview
	Gary Genge – St. Hillary's, Prospect Hts.

Kitchen

Chair	Caroline Edwards – St. Barnabas, Glen Ellyn
	Mel Lopez – St. Andrew's, Downer's Grove
	Marilyn Knilans – St. Gregory's, Deerfield
	Bonnie Travis – St. Gregory's, Deerfield
	Deanne Gibbs-Brown – St. Lawrence, Libertyville
	Waring Webb – St. Andrew's, D. Grove

Coordination

Chair	Gayle Pennel – St. David's, Glenview
	Scott Elliott – St. Peter's, Chicago

4th Day Coordinator

	Ted Main – St. John's, Naperville
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HOW DO I ASK SOMEONE TO CURSILLO?

What a great question! We all have our different ways, but a few important things to remember are:

- Cursillo is for someone with a strong faith in Jesus Christ, not for a “seeker.”
- People do not want to feel like they aren't a “good enough” Christian for not knowing about or going to a Cursillo weekend.
- People want to be assured that it's not a secret society, cult, or any of the other weird things they may have heard about it!

When you ask someone about Cursillo, one way to introduce the subject is to say something along the lines of “I've been praying about it, and I believe that you might really benefit from a Cursillo weekend. Could I tell you more about it?” This is pretty non-threatening, and doesn't require any decision or judgments about the weekend—plus it gives you time to tell them more about Cursillo. Offer to explain the weekend—the talks, discussions, worship, food, fun, singing and laughter—and answer any questions they might have. Then give them time to think about it, with the thought that you will check in on them later. In a recent discussion at Secretariat, we discovered that few people accept the first time they are invited! So pray about whom you might ask, and then gently introduce the subject to them. Cursillo is such a great group—who would you like to see benefit from it?

Mimi Lacy+

COME TO CONVENTION!!

The 168th Diocesan Convention will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Arlington Heights on November 11-12, 2005. This is a wonderful opportunity to not only see the Diocese at work, but also to participate in the life of the Diocese in a unique and fun way. During those two days we will need workers and visitors for our Cursillo exhibit, so plan to help out! There will also be lots of other exhibits, as well as multiple Learning Opportunities in which to participate. Go to the Diocese of Chicago website to sign up, or call Dick Gehman at 815-235-3719 to work at the table.

Of particular interest to Cursillistas is the Learning Opportunity on Saturday morning: **Cursillo: Developing Christ Centered Leaders.** Running from 8:30-10:15 am, this will be a session to share information on the history of Cursillo, how it works, and the goals of the movement. Plan to bring interested laity and clergy to this class—help us spread the good news of Cursillo!

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Jeanne Top, Treasurer	847-984-2860
<u>Clergy Member</u>	
Scott Elliott	773-472-8743

DATES TO REMEMBER

CHEC 72	May 4-7, 2006
CHEC 73	Oct. 26-29, 2006
CHEC 74	May 3-6, 2007
CHEC 75	Oct. 25-28, 2007

Mark these dates on your calendars and plan to be involved!!!

CHEC 71 CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

SATURDAY, OCT. 29TH @ 7:30 PM

**PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER
COMING TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT OF
THE CANDIDATES AND TEAM!!**

**4TH DAY POT LUCK @ 6:15 PM
BRING A DISH TO SHARE!!**

CHA-CHAS!

A “Cha-cha” is a person who comes in for a specific time on a Cursillo weekend to help out with the Palanca Chapel, Kitchen Crew, or Coordination. You become a “Cha-cha” simply by contacting the chair of the group you can help with, and then turning up at the appointed time. It’s simple! It’s easy! It’s very, very helpful! And it’s another chance to serve, and thus provide candidates with a wonderful, spirit-filled weekend. So check your calendars, check out where you can help, and sign up soon!

CHEC 71 is fast approaching on October 27-30!

KITCHEN: As we all know, the kitchen crew works hard to provide us with all that great food. So help them out! Listed below are available times; check it out and sign up.

Thursday Afternoon or Evening: A few hours to clean and open up the kitchen, retrieve equipment from the storage locker, and start prep for Friday breakfast.

Friday Afternoon (1:00-4:00): Clean up from lunch and preparation for the evening meal.

Saturday Morning: (9:00-12:00): Clean up from breakfast and help with Agape preparation: table set-up, cooking, and napkin folding, etc.

Saturday Afternoon (12:00-3:00): Agape meal, so help with dishes, general clean up, and evening meal preparation are critical. *Extra help here is a must!*

Saturday Evening (5:30-7:00): A few people to help with clean-up and prep for Sunday would ensure that the team will be finished in time to enjoy Candlelight.

Sunday Morning/Afternoon: Help with clean up, closing up the kitchen, and move things back into the storage locker.

To help with the kitchen on CHEC 71, contact Caroline Edwards at 630-953-1407 or Caroline_Edwards@danka.com.

COORDINATION: This is a group that labors from sunup to sundown, so they could sure use some extra hands! Especially during:

Thursday Afternoon (2:00-5:00): Any help setting up would be greatly appreciated.

Thursday Evening (6:00—9:00): Coordination needs help greeting and moving in candidates, as well as setting up the Stations of the Cross outside.

Saturday Morning (9:00-12:00): Coordination helps set up the Agape Meal, so they need help with that as well as their regular duties.

Sunday Afternoon (1:00-5:00): Any help with closing up and putting all the stuff away would be wonderful!

*****To help with Coordination on CHEC 71, call Gayle Pennel @ 847-541-0153.**

*****If you have any questions or would like to work you may also contact the 4th Day Coordinator for CHEC 71, Ted Main, @ 630-416-3952.**

PALANCA: The team that never sleeps! Palanca could use some “pray-ers” anytime of the day or night, but night shifts are particularly helpful so that the team can get some sleep. Also, Palanca Chapel set-up on Thursday afternoon could always use some help!!!

*****To help in the Palanca Chapel for CHEC 71, call Gary Meade at 708-262-8541.**

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<p>CHEC 71 OCT. 27 - 30, 2005 CASA ITALIA, STONE PARK IL 60165</p> <p>FOR DIRECTIONS, USE MAPQUEST & KEY IN 3800 DIVISION & 60165</p>
