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**Heartland**  
*Episcopal Cursillo*

JANUARY  
COMMUNITY NEWS



**Heart and Hope from the Heartland Chairman**

Dear Heartland Cursillo Family,

As we step into the fresh beginning in 2026, my heart is overflowing with gratitude, hope, and holy expectation. What a blessing it is to serve alongside each of you as we begin this new year of ministry together. I am so excited to be working with our 2026 Secretariat—a beautiful group of servant leaders who are prayerfully committed to listening for God’s voice and following where the Holy Spirit leads.

Already, the Lord is stirring something wonderful among us. We begin with our Healing and Curing Ultreya on March 21st at St. Luke’s, a sacred time to come together, lift one another up, and trust God for renewal, restoration, and joy. And with great anticipation, we look toward our Cursillo Weekend from October 16-18, trusting that God is preparing hearts even now for lives to be changed and faith to be renewed.

I am also thrilled to share that we will be forming new committees this year—new opportunities to serve, to grow, and to say “yes” to what God is doing in Heartland. I am prayerfully hoping many of you will consider belonging, offering your gifts and your “yes” so that together we may continue to build, strengthen, and grow this beautiful Heartland Cursillo Community.

May 2026 be a year filled with courage, compassion, and Christ-centered joy. May it be a year where we walk boldly in faith, love deeply, and trust fully in the One who calls us.

**De Colores,**

Roberta Coons

Heartland Chairman for 2026

## A New Season of Grace: Welcoming the 2026 Heartland Secretariat

With hearts full of gratitude and great expectation, the Heartland Cursillo Community joyfully announces our 2026 Secretariat—a team of servant leaders who have prayerfully said “yes” to God’s call to serve. As we step into this new season, we do so trusting that the Holy Spirit has already gone before us, preparing the way and inviting us to walk boldly in faith.

At the helm of this beautiful team is **Roberta Coons**, Chairman, whose faithful heart and steady leadership remind us that God’s work is always rooted in love, humility, and joyful obedience. Serving alongside her is **Cheryl Hart**, Vice Chairman, whose compassion and wisdom are a gift to our community and whose gentle strength reflects Christ’s servant heart.

We are also blessed with gifted leaders who bring dedication and joy to their roles:

- **Todd Puntney**, Secretary, keeping us connected and informed with faith and care.
- **Raja Reed**, Treasurer, faithfully stewarding the resources God has entrusted to Heartland.
- **Rev. Martha Lamoy**, Spiritual Advisor, whose prayer, wisdom and pastoral heart keep Christ at the center of all we do.
- **Joy Bower**, West MO Diocesan Liaison, whose faithful service and support remind us that we are part of something larger than ourselves—the wider Body of Christ at work through Cursillo.

And we rejoice in our **Members at Large**, who bring energy, prayer, and encouragement wherever they serve:

- **Joy Ellsworth**
- **Ann Fraser**
- **Laurie Schaub**
- **Tamela Stevens (Tammy)**

Each of these servants has answered God’s call with courage and gratitude, offering their time, talents, and hearts so that Christ may be known, loved, and followed more deeply in our Cursillo community.

As we look ahead to 2026, we do so with joy—trusting that God will continue to heal, restore, and renew through Ultreyas, Weekends, and quiet moments of faithful service. We give thanks for what has been and for what is yet to come, confident that “the One who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion” (Philippians 1:6).

May this year be filled with blessings, bold faith, and abundant grace as we walk together in Christ.

## **Three Kings: A story of hope and courage**

### **by Rev. Martha LaMoy**

In my Christian faith tradition this week, we celebrate the Feast of Epiphany on January 6. This is considered the day when the Wise Men come to visit the infant Jesus in Bethlehem. It is also considered in many traditions to be the 12th day of Christmas, because the season is felt to continue after the holiday itself.

There is much discussion in Christian and other faith traditions about how many of these individuals they were, and their status. For the sake of this discussion, we're going to assume there were three visitors based on the number of gifts they brought. We're also going to assume they were kings, based on the value of their gifts and other clues documented in the Old Testament of the Bible.

In addition to being kings, it is thought that at least one of the travelers might have also been an astronomer, because they were alerted to Jesus' birth by a star. It would have taken someone with this knowledge to recognize that such an event would have been preceded in this way.

The kings exit the story after the gift presentation and are not heard from again. Thus, we know very little else about them. But based on their behavior, some assumptions can be made. One that seems very pertinent given this time of year, especially as many of us attempt to make New Year's resolutions to improve our lives, is that they had to have been fearless. The gospel of Matthew describes three examples. First, when they wanted to know where the child was, they went immediately to Herod, the ruler of the area. Only men with confidence would dare approach him directly in 1st Century Jerusalem. Second, they received a message in a dream not to return to Herod. Another fearless and brave task, because disobeying the ruler usually meant certain and torturous death. Third, they returned home using a different route, making it different for Herod's soldiers to follow them, another act of defiance.

So, what can we learn from these three travelers as we begin 2026? We might not be trying to manage foreign terrain or have wealthy gifts to give an infant, but we can look at their fearlessness. Remember, this does not mean we will never have times of fear or apprehension, but it does mean choosing courage over comfort. Sometimes we are challenged to do just that very thing, to get out of our comfort zones and make tough decisions. It means having hope that every decision matters. Those decisions and choices might sometimes have consequences we may not always like, but they will always matter. This hope and this courage aren't just for a chosen few, it is for everyone, if we reach out and accept it and are willing to take the first step into the unknown. It can take a lot of

different forms: standing up for what we believe in, showing love and compassion by helping someone who has less than us. But regardless of the method, the important thing is that we don't let our fear of the unknown totally mar our decisions. Yes, we must be cautious, but we need to take a cue from the kings from the East who visited the Christ child and not let our fears take over our lives. Be strong, and courageous!

*The Rev. Martha Lamoy is a long-time Cursillista, priest in the Diocese of Kansas, and provides spiritual support to the Heartland Episcopal Secretariat.*

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### **March 21<sup>st</sup> Ultreya “Healing and Curing” at St. Luke’s by Carol Hobbs**

Greetings and a very happy Epiphany season to all our fellow Cursillistas!

Saint Luke's Hospital Chapel will be hosting an Ultreya on Saturday, 21 March, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The theme is “Healing and Curing.” We are sending out an all-call for anyone who would like to actively participate in the Ultreya.

The first group would be musicians who would like to lead attendees in appropriate songs from our Cursillo songbook (or any other songs they feel might be appropriate for the theme).

The second group would be table leaders who would lead focused discussions in a small-group reunion format through the concepts of Piety, Study, and Action, using (hopefully) thought-provoking questions that we would provide ahead of time.

If you or someone you know would like to be part of either group (or both groups!), please email Carol Hobbs at [hobbses@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hobbses@sbcglobal.net). Thank you for your consideration of this ministry!

P.S. Because of the infrastructure in the hospital, we will not be able to host a Zoom session uniting the northern and southern deaneries. Our apologies for this. BUT, if you'd like to visit Kansas City for the weekend, please let us know—we might be able to host you!



# WALKING TOGETHER IN FAITH

## Heartland Cursillo 2026

*Gathered in Friendship. Sent in Love.*



### Secretariat Gatherings

*Second Tuesday of Every Month*

6:30 PM | Via Zoom

*A time for prayer, discernment, and shared Leadership*

### Ultreya Gatherings

➤ *March 21, 2026*

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

*St. Luke's Hospital – Kansas City*

➤ *July 18, 2026*

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

*St. David's – Topeka*

➤ *May 16, 2026*

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

*Location to be announced*

➤ *September 19, 2026*

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

*Location to be announced*

### Heartland Cursillo Weekend

*October 16 – 18, 2026*

*Heartland Retreat Center*

*Parkville, Missouri*

### ➤ *Day of Deeper Understanding* ➤

*November 21, 2026*

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

*St. Mary's – Kansas City*



*Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ.*