



# Cursillo Rainbow Connection

Volume 1 Issue 3

Lent, 2008

Archdiocese of  
Newark, NJ  
Cursillo Movement

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## Joe Clark on A Sign of the Times

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope this message finds you well and full of God's love in this season of Lent.

A sign of the times in today's world, regardless of its worldly mentality, is a widespread demand for spirituality, and intimate relationship with God, self and others. We as baptized Catholic Cusillistas have received grace for believing in Christ. We should strive to witness to what our relationship is with Christ and others in our environments. Being called faithful disciples of the Good News, we should not be afraid to remind others that Jesus Christ loves us and wants what is best for us.

Living the fundamentals of being Christian through the

tripod of piety, study and action, sharing this way of life with our friends in Group Reunion, and with our sisters and brothers Cursillistas at Ultreyas can help to develop a dialogue of love with God.

Authentic Palanca should be a tool to support the entire Cursillo Movement. Therefore, prayer without sacrifice is not Palanca. The following are Cursillo Prayer Traditions recommended as Palanca to lift up our petitions to God for the success of our Cursillo activities: Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Holy Communion, praying the Rosary, reading the Scriptures, Stations of the Cross, Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, visits to the Blessed Sacrament, fasting, almsgiving and any acts of self-denial offered with prayer.

If the Cursillo Movement no longer emphasizes the importance of sacrifice, it would not be Christ-centered. The best way to maintain our spirituality is to live the spirit of Palanca each day: "Bloom where we are planted".

Sacrifice may not be pleasant, but along with prayer it is effective in securing God's grace. Letters alone are not true Palanca. Love letters are sent as a means of communicating the prayer and sacrifice currently being done.

On behalf of the Secretariat I wish you and your families Peace during this Lenten Season and a Happy and Joyous Easter.

In His Love,

Joe

## Dates to Remember in 2008:

- Mar 14 Ultreya
- Mar 15 Lenten Revival
- Mar 27-30 Men's Cursillo Weekend
- Apr 26 Day of Renewal
- May 16 Ultreya
- Oct 9-12 Women's Cursillo Weekend

## RIP: EDUARDO BONNIN AGUILO, Founder of the Cursillos

*(The following message was forwarded from the Diocesan Secretariat of Palma, Mallorca)*

Mallorca Feb 6, 2008

Dear Cursillo friends:

At this moment our hearts beat with sentiment and the knowledge that Love is greater than death.

EDUARDO BONNIN AGUILO, Founder of the Cursillos of Christianity Movement, but above all our teacher, brother and friend has gone to the encounter with the Father. Today, Feb 6th at 4pm, Eduardo has passed away, knowing that God loves him, believing in the resurrection and as always happy, although not satisfied.



Eduardo Bonnin Aguilo

# Mourning of Cursillo Founder

Cont'd from Page 1

Faithful to the Gospel of Christ and open to the reality of the world and attentive to the people in his path during all his life, he has left a legacy of friendship with God and with all mankind by means of the Cursillos of Christianity.

It is now that our heart is pained by the sorrow of loss in losing in this life someone whom we loved profoundly, that our Faith makes itself present in having the certainty that Eduardo is immensely happy together with the Father. And that, as he himself would say, is occasion of great happiness.

[Various details about the wake and funeral.]

A website has also been made available so that all who would like to share their sentiments and memories with Eduardo can do so, especially those who will not have the opportunity to be in Mallorca. It is <http://eduardoinmemoriam.blogspot.com>.

When Eduardo visited the prisoners, he called them fortunate and important people because they were to find themselves in the presence of the Father within hours. For us, Eduardo has always been someone important, but as of now, we can ask him to intercede for us to the Father in prayer, so that we may continue with his work of evangelization of the world with the joy of knowing that God loves them. If he did all he did while on the earth, what won't he do now from heaven.

Thank you Eduardo for having made our lives better, for having made us happier and because our lives would not have had the light of the Gospel if you had not been here.

DE COLORES AND ALWAYS!

Office of Mallorca Diocesan Secretariat

Cursillos of Christianity Movement

April 26, 2008

## Day of Renewal

Theme: **God is Love**  
Place: **Corpus Christi Parish**  
Hasbrouck Heights  
Time: **9:00am to 4:00pm**  
(Lunch will be served)  
Keynote: **Rev. Thomas Lipnicki**  
Speaker  
Presentations: **Lorraine Oechslin**  
**Jim Clough**

To register, email Joanne Rinkus, Cursillo Secretary at [jrinkus@verizon.net](mailto:jrinkus@verizon.net) or call

201 587-1631.

Free will offerings as there is no cost to attend this Day of Renewal

All are Welcome

# Report from the Weekend Committee

The first few months of the new year have been busy ones for the Weekend Committee. We accomplished two of the goals established in September of 2007. The first was to create a list of potential team members to give to the newly-appointed rectors of future weekends. We compiled this list based on recommendations from recent rectors and group reunion leaders as well as Cursillistas who have expressed an interest to be on team. This list will be updated and maintained after every Cursillo weekend. Recently many new Cursillistas have come off the weekend expressing a desire to serve on team. Based on their enthusiasm plus the Secretariat's suggestion that the same people do not repeatedly serve on team, we are asking the rectors when choosing their

team to prayerfully consider some of the people on these lists. The goal here is to have a well-balanced team of first timers and "repeat timers" resulting in a good mix of experiences to enhance the learning process of team in formation.

The second goal accomplished was to continue to offer an orientation program for rectors /angels / wardens/support rectors prior to the choosing of their teams. This program was initiated a few years ago by Rosemary Lisa and her committee. We "tweaked" it a little and did our presentation to the team leaders of the upcoming men's and women's weekends. We gave them the Weekend Guidelines, highlighting factors to consider before choos-

ing a team. The main theme is diversification plus the additional new guideline added this year which states that there must be at least two years separating team participation on a weekend. That is, if you were on team in the fall of 2007, you would not be eligible to be on team until the fall of 2009.

Both days turned out to be a "gathering in the Spirit"; all felt it was a useful learning experience and beautiful way to start the journey that leads to a Cursillo weekend.

The beauty of our movement is always about the dedicated people who are so enthusiastic about Cursillo. The origin of the word *enthusiasm* comes from the Greek words meaning "God within". It seems to fit our community very well.

DeColores,

Ken Bransfield & Jean Kalemba

## Post-Cursillo Committee Answers: How Do You Keep the Spirit Soaring?

After a Cursillo weekend, everyone leaving the closing ceremony is on a spiritual high. This high can remain forever or can be lost. If you want to keep this feeling going, your 4<sup>th</sup> day and post-Cursillo involvement should be kept active. What happens to an individual after their weekend depends on the individual, and their efforts to keep their connection with Jesus active. This can be aided by participation in Group Reunion, Ultreya, weekend openings and closings and meeting with other Cursillistas on a regular basis.

In the Fall 2007 issue of the *Rainbow Connection*, Fr. Tom Lipnicki, our Spiritual Director, spoke about Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, and the times in her life that she felt she was in a valley, and that her God was very distant -- maybe even absent. We may have experienced this dryness ourselves. Fr. Tom mentioned that there are two Cursillo cures for these feelings: Group Reunion and Ultreya.

**Group Reunion** is based on true friendship and Christian sharing - a friendship that is realized, deepened and sustained in Group Reunion. We gather in a small group with people from our parish or our weekend - a small group of

friends with whom we can share the lives we lead as Christians. As we meet in Group Reunion, we become better friends, and, in turn, better Christians. We share the three fundamental elements of Piety, Study and Action, as we take part in a "conversation" that focuses on the presence of Jesus as the center of our lives.

The **Ultreya** is an essential part of the Cursillo Movement. It is a gathering together of all the individual Group Reunions, where we receive nourishment and encouragement for our spiritual journey. It is simple - we meet, pray, sing, hear a witness, a reply (or echo) and a wrap-up. The witness shows how the speaker has grown or is growing in Christ on their 4<sup>th</sup> day journey, so that we may be encouraged to do the same.

An Ultreya should never "just happen." It should always be planned. The Cursillo **Leaders' Guide** indicates that planning an Ultreya requires a team of at least 3-5 people (but, the more the merrier), to plan and conduct the activities of the Ultreya.

As Post-Cursillo coordinators, we intend to work with Rectors and Wardens, Service Team chiefs, Group Reunions and

other groups to encourage them to be a "team" again and sponsor an Ultreya evening. By doing so, you will help yourself, and the rest of the Cursillo community, renew and experience the love and joy of the Lord. Sponsoring an Ultreya evening is not difficult; there is a simple format to follow, and we will work with you and support you in your efforts.

Anyone interested in sponsoring an Ultreya evening, or in finding out more about what it takes, should contact one of us - Donovan Green @ 973-715-0194 or Rosemary Lisa @ 908-230-3600.

If you are experiencing some spiritual dryness, join - or re-join - a Group Reunion. Or, come to an Ultreya. Archdiocesan Ultreyas are held on the third Friday of every other month (the "odd" months!). Spend some time with other people who are on a similar spiritual journey, a journey to keep their connection with Jesus active, and to bring Jesus into our environments.

See you at the next Ultreya!

De Colores

Donovan Green and Rosemary Lisa

## Notice About Teams from the Weekend Committee

In the December newsletter, we put out a call for groups to be Service teams for upcoming weekends. We wish to thank the following parishes for stepping up and answering the call:

**Corpus Christi** : Men's 175 in November

**Holy Angels**: Women's 158th in October 2008 .

**Blessed Sacrament / St Charles Borromeo**: Men's spring 2009; **Sacred Heart** in Haworth: Men's fall weekend 2009. We are still looking for women teams for 2009. Remember this can be a parish/ a

group reunion / candidates and team from a particular weekend. If interested contact Ken via e-mail at

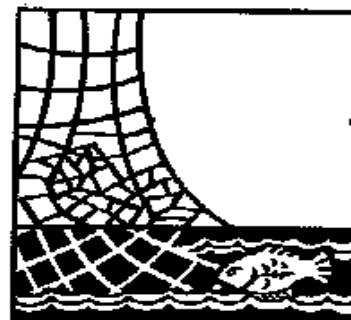
[cubbs06@aol.com](mailto:cubbs06@aol.com), or call (201) 712-1322; or reach Jean Kalemba at [jean-kalemba@comcast.net](mailto:jean-kalemba@comcast.net) or call her at (976) 227-2350.

Ken Bransfield and Jean Kalemba

## Upcoming Men's Cursillo Weekend : Mar 27-30, 2008

The Men's 174<sup>th</sup> Weekend will take place March 27-31, 2008. The theme is "I Will Make You Fishers of Men". The team: Rector, John Ventola; Warden, Hap Moran; Spiritual Directors, Msgr. Paul Bochicchio, Msgr. William Reilly, and Deacon Vincent DeFedele. James Garabo, Music Minister. Team

members: Sergio Pavone, Ralph Russo, Anthony Ventola, Bob Shore, Ron Pepson, Mike McBrady, Joseph Luna, James Clough, and Richard Buff. Service Team Co-chiefs Pat Ferrara and Dennis Christensen. Support Rector, Carmen Distano.



## A Response from Paul Carris

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

When Mike Kelly suggested interviewing me about my relationship with Judith Toppin six years after 9/11, I was humbled by the resulting article. I was further humbled and surprised upon opening the last Cursillo Newsletter and seeing that story reprinted. Without any knock on Mike's thoroughness as a reporter, there is one piece of that story which is missing. September 11 and my experience with Judith was my wakeup call, but it was my Cursillo experience that gave me the tools to help put that event in context and open me up to our Lord. The love, hugs and friendships that have grown since my weekend have allowed me to

more clearly see God in my life. It is my relationship with each of you that has aided me in discerning a call to the diaconate.

One of the questions asked the diaconate candidates is how we would feel being assigned somewhere other than our home parish. While I have a special attachment to my Corpus Christi parish, I answered that based on the relationships I have developed with so many of you from other parishes in the Archdiocese through Cursillo, I would have no problem serving other communities. We are all part of the One Body of Christ and Cursillo more than anything has helped me not just believe that, but to understand it. I still have a few years of train-

## Donations

*The Cursillo Movement gratefully welcomes your donations. They help potential Babe Chicks attend when they otherwise could not afford it. Send donations to our treasurer, Steve Taylor, 77 East Hunter Avenue, Maywood, NJ 07607.*

ing/formation ahead of me and I ask for your prayers that I may one day serve you as a deacon.

In Jesus' Peace,

Paul Carris

## An Invitation to the 18th National Cursillo Encounter

The 18<sup>th</sup> National Cursillo ® Encounter will be held at the Catholic University of America, CUA, in Washington, D.C. on July 31 - August 3, 2008. The theme for this Encounter is: "Christ Is Our Light". The Encounter will commence on Thursday, July 31, 2008, with the Keynote Address by Most Reverend Francisco Gonzalez, S.F., and immediately followed by Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation, and Benediction in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The National Shrine is within walking distance and masses will be held there during the Encounter.



Phyllis Winston at 202-723-6756 by May 31, 2008. The timeline for the Fiesta is limited, but we hope to accommodate each of the different cultural groups.

The registration cost is \$325.00 if you register by May 31, 2008. It is strongly suggested that you make plans now to attend this Encounter by sending the registration form to the National Cursillo Center. You may register on-line at [www.natlcursillo.org](http://www.natlcursillo.org). Lodging capacity is 600 persons. Rooms will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

(Please refer to the web site for more information on rooming, meals, and agenda.)

Please send Palanca for this Encounter to Sandra Coles-Bell at 7304 Carroll Avenue, #139, Takoma Park, MD 20912. The fax number is 301-891-0741 or e-mail Palanca to [Palanca2008Encounter@mac.com](mailto:Palanca2008Encounter@mac.com).

The Encounter's Fiesta will include time for one brief performance (song or dance) from the different cultures and ethnic groups in the National Cursillo Movement. Dioceses wishing to be included in this program must contact

## A Sincere Thank You

I'd like to thank Carolyn Messina and Karen Vecellio for their hard work and dedication in the development and updating of the Cursillo community data base and email list. This was a tremendous undertaking on their behalf. Both Carolyn and Karen spent countless hours maintaining the data base. It was the decision of the Secretariat to avoid duplication of work and to maintain accuracy by keeping all data in one central Cursillo Community data base. The secretariat has purchased new software to assist the secretary in updating and utilizing the data as well as the ability to personalize messages, etc.

Once again, I extend my thanks to Carolyn and Karen for their time and talent to the Cursillo Movement. —Joe Clark

All communications including the newsletter will be sent by the secretary. All changes in address, e-mail, telephone, parish, etc. should be sent to Joanne Rinkus' e-mail: [jtrinkus@verizon.net](mailto:jtrinkus@verizon.net).

## Assistant Lay Director Pat Carr

When our 27 year-old son was very young, he used to play with toys called Transformers. The ad slogan on the TV commercials was "Transformers. More than meets the eye." They were actually pretty engaging little toys in that you would take the basic shape of, for instance, a robot and with a few twists and turns of the head and arms and legs "transform" the action figure into a futuristic car or high-tech military weapon.

I recently listened to a sermon given by Cursillista Monsignor Ed Ciuba that made me think of those toys from so long ago. He explained that perhaps the main goal of Lent is to bring about a transformation in ourselves as we journey towards Easter. We look to achieve this goal through either the practice of self-denial or by making a conscious effort to better know our God. If only our spiritual transformations could be achieved by a few easy twists and turns!

As we all know, change is not easy. As I write this we are at about the midpoint of Lent. In my personal Lenten journey I've experienced some successes and some failures against goals I've set for myself. As we "head for the home stretch" I'm going to kick it into high gear to try to make this season a truly transformative event for me. While I admit I can sometimes be a slow study, in this regard, I've finally figured out that I should never underestimate the power of prayer.

As Cursillistas, as People of God, didn't that miraculous weekend we experienced light a spark within us? Didn't it change our outlook? Weren't many (if not most) of us transformed in that the person who checked in at the Casa was not the same person as the one who checked out? For some of us that weekend event was decades ago and for some of us it occurred as recently as a few months ago. No matter when we made Cursillo, though, those who continued with their spiritual formation through the embracing and con-

tinued practice of group reunion, I think, fanned the flames of that spark and have certainly reaped the benefits of having done so.

For those who made a weekend but for whatever reason decided not to group, know that you are always welcome at Ultreya, that you will be embraced by the Cursillo community (both literally and figuratively) and that there are resources in-place to help you get into a group reunion should you care to explore this wonderfully enriching faith-sharing opportunity.

One thing I will be praying for in these last few weeks of Lent is that I am able to recognize God's non-stop and never-failing presence in my life. Please continue to pray for the success of our movement and for the success of the upcoming Men's Weekend. It's my honest belief that prayer is what sustains and propels Cursillo. May our Lenten journeys be blessed with the palpable presence of God.

## School of Leaders Relunched Saturday, March 8, 2008

Sharing was the order of the day when the Cursillo School of Leaders gathered on Saturday morning, March 8. The group had been in hiatus since the conclusion of the spring 2007 semester. This school year, the Secretariat (think of the Secretariat as our local movement's steering committee) has been busy determining how Leaders School may best serve the needs of our local Cursillo.

### Leaders School Defined

While all Cursillistas are charged with being leaders in their environments, those who attend Leaders School are



volunteers to keep our ship afloat. The School of Leaders helps to develop the talent necessary to sustain our growth.

All Cursillistas are welcome to join Leaders School. Requirements are that you made a Cursillo and you are willing to volunteer your time to come to School of Leaders gatherings. No tests and no grades. Pretty simple. As is the case with all Cursillo events, we seek to know Christ through our interaction with one another.

### Leaders School Format

Approximately 20 Cursillistas were on-hand for the Leaders School relaunch. The theme for the day was "The Call to Discipleship". Part one of the meeting focused on the Group Reunion-like practice of sharing a God

Moment. Personal perspectives on Cursillo were also shared, followed by lively discussion. For the second part of the gathering, Holy Angels Cursillista Bill Dougherty delivered an excellent formal presentation on the Call to Discipleship theme, peppered with personal witness on how "the Call" gives his life meaning and focus.

Bill concluded his talk by asking the class to think about three questions related to his presentation. These thought-provoking questions led to more spirited discussion.

In one way, Leaders School can be thought of as a prayer community that lives out the Cursillo directive to take action to spread the gospel message. The group gathered in prayer, song, [cont'd next page](#)

fellowship and discussion, focusing on the meaning of the call to discipleship. All left with the feeling that, like Group Reunion and Ultreya gatherings, there was a definitive presence of the Holy Spirit. Future gatherings promise to be equally as focused and relevant.

By all accounts, the gathering was a huge success. One excited attendee, obviously energized by the

event, exclaimed "This should be in the Newsletter!"

### The Call to Action

Our Secretariat is looking to grow Leaders School attendance to create a stronger backbone for our movement. Please consider coming to the next Leaders School event taking place on **Saturday, April 12 at 9:00 a.m. at St. Aloysius,**

**Caldwell** in the rectory basement meeting room. Many more of you are needed to help our movement be the best it can be.

Share your gifts by attending the next Leaders School gathering.

—Pat Carr

### Upcoming Events in 2008:

- March 14 **Ultreya**, at 7:30 p.m. John Paul II Room below the Cafeteria, Youth Center
- March 27 Men's 174th **Cursillo Opening Reception** 7:00 p.m. at the Casa  
**Sponsors Mass** 8:00 p.m. in Sacred Heart Church, Kearny
- March 30 Men's 174th **Cursillo Closing Ceremony** 4:30 p.m. at the Casa
- April 12 **School of Leaders** 9:00 a.m. St. Aloysius, Caldwell, Rectory basement meeting rm
- April 26 **Day of Renewal** 9:00 a.m. Corpus Christi, Hasbrouck Heights

The "**Casa**" is the Archdiocesan Youth Center, 299 Belgrove Drive, Kearny, NJ

Directions can be accessed through our website, [www.mycursillo.com](http://www.mycursillo.com).

## More Info to Come...

Watch your e-mail for updates and further information on the above events. A USPS mailing will be sent regarding the Day of Renewal, with details and schedule of the day and directions to Corpus Christi.

This Newsletter #3 is being sent out via e-mail only. If you know of anyone who would like to receive it, please send their e-mail ID to me at [jtrinkus@verizon.net](mailto:jtrinkus@verizon.net).

Joanne Rinkus, Editor

To contact any members of the Secretariat, visit our website at

[www.mycursillo.com](http://www.mycursillo.com)