



Cursillo Courier

Volume 5, Issue 1

Advent, 2011

Archdiocese of Newark, NJ
Cursillo Movement

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Dates to Remember in 2011 – 2012:

- ◆ Dec 13 Christmas Mass & Gathering, St. Thomas More, Fairfield
- ◆ Jan 16 Ultreya St. Thomas More, Fairfield
- ◆ Mar 1-4 Women's Cursillo Weekend
- ◆ Apr 12-15 Men's Cursillo Weekend

Let the Joy Begin

By Jean Kalembo, Lay Director

Black Friday, Cyber Monday, let the chaos begin. Fortunately as you read this those two pressure-filled days will have passed. Hopefully no one was seriously injured or emotionally scarred on Friday and not too many computers crashed because of Monday's influx of emails proclaiming the best buys of the century.

Advent, let the joy of anticipation begin; anticipation for the coming, the second coming of Christ. How many times do I think of Advent in those terms, the second coming? In truth, not as often as I should; I get wrapped up cleaning, decorating, baking and most importantly in finding the perfect gifts for my grandchildren; you know the one, the one when they open it their eyes light up and the excitement is palpable - Oh Grandma it's just what I wanted!!! Usually followed by a huge kiss and hug. This of course is not a bad thing, just not quite what Jesus had in mind

when he directed his disciples to "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." Mk 13:33

We again begin the journey of preparing for that coming and once again we begin it with a renewed conviction to concentrate on preparing for a Christmas Day that will find us filled with a deeper understanding of what Jesus meant when He proclaimed the "Kingdom of God is at hand!" Mk 1:15

So how shall we become alert during this Advent, what is it that we are to watch for? That is a question that takes a little introspective searching, a little quiet time with our Lord.

In medicine there is something called a "time out". This occurs just before the surgeon makes that first incision. It is a time to stop everything and make

certain it is the right patient, the correct procedure, and it is being performed on the correct side - plus that any equipment needed is at hand. Perhaps this Advent we could all benefit from a time out, a spiritual time out; a time to better appreciate God's call to be alert. That daily pause to make certain we are the right person - the person we are called to be; a pause to recognize those things which separate us from

Him and a renewed effort to cut them out of our lives. The right equipment is at hand - daily mass, scripture, Star 99.1, literature, etc.

Remember the Study Rollo, the possibilities seemed endless - the choice is ours.

Another thing about that "surgical time out" - it is never done alone. The



Let the Joy Begin cont'd

entire surgical team stops, anesthesiologist, surgeon, scrub nurse, circulating nurse. They all stop to make sure that the right thing is being done. We too have an opportunity to stop and reflect together; we have the gift of 4th day. We journey this Advent together, each helping the other to become the person God is calling them to be.

“What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'” Mk 13:37 Let us watch together, being alert to the needs of others - bringing each that perfect gift - Christ’s love and compassion to all we encounter on this Advent journey.

The Kingdom of God is at hand, let the joy begin!

Blessings and De Colores!

Ultreyas in 2012:

Jan 20 – St Thomas More

March 16 – St. Joseph, Oradell

May 11 – St Al’s Jersey City

Jul 13 – need a host

Sep 14 - Blessed Sacrament/St Charles Borromeo, Newark

Nov 23 - OLPH, Oakland

Men’s 181st Cursillo Weekend...First at the new Casa at Carmel



More photos at mycursillo.com

Ultreya News...Ultreya News...Ultreya News...

This year, Ultreyas are held at various locations throughout the Archdiocese. Next up:

Friday, January 20, 2012
St. Thomas More
12 Hollywood Avenue
Fairfield, NJ 07004
7:30 p.m.

Witness:..... Ingrid Alfred
Response:..... Teri Carr
Spiritual Response:.. Tom Lipnicki
M. of Ceremonies:... Joanne Gebbia

Hosted by Women’s 163rd Weekend

Hope to see you there!

New Beginnings

“And now I give you a new commandment: ‘Love one another as I have loved you, so must you love one another.’” John 13:34

My dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord, the “one commandment” that Jesus gave us is no small feat. Rather, it is perhaps the hardest lesson we will ever have to learn. Loving us as He did encompasses loving many people who are not always lovable.

We, as Cursillistas, are on the threshold of a New Beginning; new Casa, new Lay and Assistant Lay Director, new place to hold our closings...all brand new. I, however, do believe we are up to the challenge of facing these new beginnings. “See, I am doing a new thing. Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” Isaiah 43:19 Often, Jesus challenges us to remove ourselves from our comfort zones. We are asked to take a giant step into new surroundings. Often that means leaving the road

of safety as He cuts us a new path in our journey of life.

We as Cursillistas continue to be called, not only to evangelize our Environments, but to continue to live out our lives of Piety, Study and Action. I can assure you that the call is not always easy to follow. That is why our Ulteyas and group reunions are so important; the need we must have if we are to live out our lives as true Cursillistas.

Many years ago Fr. Jim Turro wrote a beautiful book called “Reflections”. One of the stories he wrote about was a legend surrounding St. Francis of Assisi. It was said, St. Francis walked up to a barren almond tree and said, “Sister, speak to me of love...” and the tree in all her splendor blossomed.

So often through Cursillo, the message we speak of and the love which we show many of our broth-

By Irma Ventola

ers and sisters allow them to blossom.

The same applies to us. Often in our journeys we are confronted with sickness, loss of jobs, children who are lost, and death. We feel defeated; we seem to be lost in our sadness and sorrow.

Perhaps a note arrives or a phone call, a message of hope and some of our sadness and pain is lifted and once again we begin the process of blossoming.

We are not called to perform extraordinary tasks, for very few of us are St. Francis, St. Peter, Mother Theresa or St. Theresa. We are called as ordinary saints to live out our lives as best we can, helping and loving one another as He loves us.

May we support Jean and Pat as we venture forth in our New Beginnings!

De Colores!

More photos from Men's 181st Weekend...



The Season of Advent

Our Cursillo weekend experiences presented us with beginning a new journey, a new season in our lives. We had developed a stronger relationship with our Brother Jesus and a solid faith in Him. We were ready to change our lives and with work, continue to experience the joy and love that being a disciple can provide. The season of Advent also presents us with a new beginning as well. From the Latin *Adventus* meaning "coming", Advent is the season of waiting and preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas. It is the beginning of the Liturgical year and a time to renew ourselves in prayer and works of charity for the joy of the coming of our Lord.

Advent should serve as reminder to enjoy but not to get caught up in the lights, cards and shopping; to keep focused on the reason for the season, the coming of Christ. It should keep us on the path of preparation for Christ's coming again. Remember, His light

that shines at Christmas needs to shine in our hearts every day. We just need to accept the grace He gives us and use it on our journey.

I am blessed to be a member of a very active Knights of Columbus Council. Our Advent season is filled



with various acts of charity for people all over Bergen County. We feed and clothe the homeless, run a toy drive, adopt a family and supply them with all they need for a joyful Christmas. All these acts remind me of how blessed I am to be able to help people

By Pat Ferrara

in need. More importantly, it reminds me of the greatest gift of all, the gift of love and the blessings that God provides through Jesus and we Cursillistas must share these gifts with everyone we meet.

Advent is a time for looking back at the promises fulfilled in Christ, for seeking to deepen our awareness of His presence and for looking forward to His return. It is a season of hope, prayer and reflection; a time to prepare our hearts, minds and lives for the joy of the Christ Child in the world. In short a radical beginning.

I pray that this Advent season you take time to seek Christ, know Him better and prepare for His coming. In this way, your joy at Christmas will be greater and you will receive the greatest gift of all.

May you all have a blessed and holy Christmas. God Bless You. De Colores!

FYI...FYI...FYI...FYI...

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,

Bill Dougherty, 26 Division Ave., Belleville, NJ 07109.

What's Your e-mail?

Please advise us if you have a new e-mail ID. Send notification to Joanne Rinkus, Secretary:

decolores7@optonline.net

If you know of someone who does not have an e-mail address and would like a copy of this newsletter, let us know and we will send them a hard copy.

What Sponsorship is All About

The Fall edition of the *Cursillo Courier* included an article by Jean Kalembe, our Lay Director entitled, "It's more than Numbers..." in which she asked: "Please continue to pray for candidates and approach those friends that you have been cultivating over the past months; it is now time to Bring them to Christ."

As Jean mentioned, we do manage to fill the weekends with a sufficient number of candidates, but often only after many pleas, e-mails, calls, rosaries and novenas. There should be a better way of grooming candidates for the Cursillo experience -- and there is! It's called Sponsorship -- part of the Cursillo Method.

Sponsoring someone to Cursillo should not be a haphazard event. It should be a deliberate act to bring Jesus into the world. It should NOT be a frantic scrambling to find warm bodies to fill a weekend so it won't be cancelled. Rather, it should be an ongoing process, where we take the time to look around us -- in our families, churches, work environments, neighborhoods, social gatherings - and identify people who are mature, exhibit leadership qualities and are capable of and willing to expand their prayer life, grow spiritually and spread God's word.

Let's look at Sponsors and their responsibilities.

What is Sponsorship? It is a deliberate act to bring Jesus into the world. It is an important commitment and should be taken seriously.

Who are Sponsors? Sponsors are a very important group of people, since, as we know, anyone who has made a Cursillo has had a sponsor, guiding them to that experience. Sponsors help provide the means necessary to fulfill the goal of Cursillo -- to leaven the environment, to influence people who will become part of the Christian Community linked together to bring Jesus to the world.

So, sponsors are an important part of Cursillo. And, therefore, it's important for Sponsors to know their responsibilities. These responsibilities are included on the Candidate Application Form for the Archdiocese of Newark (the form is on the website), so all past Sponsors should have a passing familiarity with them. However, more information is available. There's a Sponsor's Booklet published by National, as well as information

Sponsors are an important part of Cursillo. Therefore, it's important for Sponsors to know their responsibilities.

contained in Cursillo literature. We have ordered the Cursillo Movement's *Sponsor Booklet*: copies will be available at all Ultreyas, and at Cursillo Openings and Closings for anyone interested in sponsoring someone.

Here's a brief outline of a Sponsor's responsibilities:

Prior to selecting a candidate:

Be an active Sponsor

Joyfully proclaim the Cursillo message through our witness. As Father Albert said at the last Men's opening Mass, if we live the word of God, and speak the word of God, it will be hard for those around us not to notice what we have, and they will want it for themselves!

Live the Cursillo Method by attending Group Reunion and Ultreya.

Know the goal of Cursillo - to bring all to Christ/bring a friend to Christ.

Discerning Candidates

Pray about your decision to invite someone to make a Cursillo.

Talk to God about the person before you talk to the person about

By Rosemary Lisa

God. It is not just a weekend experience, or a retreat, or group therapy for those with emotional or personal problems.

Know selection criteria for candidates

—They must be Roman Catholics between 23 and 75, emotionally and physically sound, who are able to receive the sacraments, and who exhibit leadership qualities and want to live a holy life.

—If married, note that both spouses should be planning to make a Cursillo.

After selecting a candidate:

Remember how you felt when you were a candidate; **ensure** that the candidate is comfortable with the experience.

Explain the Cursillo weekend: it includes Masses, fifteen talks by laypersons and clergy on various aspects of Christian living, meditations and prayers.

Explain Group Reunion and Ultreya: the candidate should know they are being asked to make an ongoing commitment after the Cursillo weekend is over.

Answer all questions; however, please do NOT discuss Palanca or the Closing.

Make sure the application is totally completed, and submitted with a deposit or full payment (full payment preferred).

Prior to the Weekend:

Maintain frequent contact with your candidate in the period preceding the weekend; invite them to an Ultreya or your Group Reunion.

Arrange for Palanca for the candidate from your Cursillo community.

Let the candidate's family know what is happening, and provide emergency numbers.



Sponsorship, cont'd

On the Weekend:

Arrange for their transportation to the Carmel Retreat Center, 1071 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430.

Accompany the Candidate into the Casa, help them get comfortable and stay with them during the hospitality time.

Attend the Sponsor's Mass on Thursday, and the Closing on Sunday.

Arrange for Candidate's Sunday afternoon pickup after the Cursillo Closing at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 25 Purdue Ave., Oakland, NJ 07436.

Arrange for a Homecoming after the Closing.

After the Weekend:

Your commitment to the candi-

date does not end after the weekend; it is your responsibility to **make sure** your candidate is welcomed at Cursillo activities and is supported in their apostolic endeavors.

Meet with the new Cursillista for at least 4 months following the weekend, to ensure that the Cursillista is established in a Friendship Group Reunion.

Bring your Cursillista to the Next Ultreya and any other Cursillo activities.

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations--Sponsors share in this vision and are part of God's plan to make that happen. Jesus' Apostles had a tremendous impact on the world. Through intelligent and prayerful selection of good men and women, the Cursillo Movement can continue the work of those Apostles. It all starts with a Sponsor!

Upcoming Cursillo Weekends:

Spring 2012 Women's Cursillo -

Mar 1- 4

Spring 2012 Men's Cursillo -

April 12-15

Fall 2012 Men's Cursillo -

October 18-21

Fall 2012 Women's Cursillo -

November 8-11

National Cursillo Encounter, Region 2

This past October I attended the Cursillo Region 2 Fall Encounter and Secretariat Meeting in Vineland New Jersey. I left Friday afternoon around 3 pm, and although I knew I was traveling into the deep southwestern portion of the state, I was certain I would arrive before registrations end at 7:30. Woman plans, God laughs. After a very precarious ride in teeming rain and unending traffic delays I arrived around 9 pm. There was a 32-car fender-bender on the Parkway that afternoon, needless to say the 30 minute trip from Clifton to Cranford took 2 hours. The rest of the trip went

downhill. So when I entered Pope John Paul II Retreat Center I was in no mood for De Colores; but by the time I left on Sunday afternoon I was "De Coloresing" in both Spanish and English.

I arrived knowing little about the operations of Region 2 but left with a new respect for all the good work the region's leaders are doing. I would like to share with you some of my experiences during this two day retreat, October 14-16, 2011.

The meeting was held at the Pope John II Retreat Center in Vineland N.J. Region 2 consists of Cursillistas from Washington DC, Dela-

By Jean Kalemba

ware, Maryland, NJ, Eastern Pennsylvania and Virginia. Sixty-six Cursillistas attended, 50 from the Spanish speaking and of the 16 English speaking, 6 were from the Vietnamese delegation.

Lay Directors or their representatives were present from the following dioceses:

Arlington Vietnamese

Harrisburg

Philadelphia

Scranton

Baltimore

Newark English, Newark

Spanish and Newark Portuguese

Region 2 cont'd

Washington Vietnamese

The following were without representation:

Allentown

Camden - Paterson - Trenton -
Metuchen

Washington, English and Korean
Arlington English

Wilmington

The following presentations or Rollos were given on Saturday:

Discernment: Father Andre Meluskey, Spiritual Advisor for Region 2, spoke of our ongoing search for holiness and how that search led us to Cursillo. He spoke of bringing others to Cursillo through friendship - making, being and bringing. He emphasized to bring others to Christ we must humbly reflect the compassion and love of Christ, referring to St. Francis of Assisi, "preach the gospel always and sometimes use words". Father is recovering from cancer; yet his rollo was most inspirational.

Evangelization through Conversion: Michael Ciccocioppo, Region 2 English Coordinator, called conversion a process, an ongoing journey. He made reference to the Pilgrimage of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, a pilgrimage to the burial site of St. James the Apostle. He compared this pilgrimage, the third oldest known which began in the Middle Ages, to our ongoing journey to holiness. He referenced a current movie, *The Way*, directed and starring Emilo Estavan and his father Martin Sheen, which is about

a present day pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. Ultimately, it too is a story of conversion.

Michael confessed the problems he has had with the rollo, **Study of the Environment**; noting that to most the environment means our physical surroundings and is now most commonly associated with the "green movement". But the word in Spanish is *ambiente* and has a completely different connotation. Ambiente is the study of the person and the circumstances that surround and define a person. In speaking of conversion of our environment, Michael confided that he has come to realize that everyone has a story; the more you know about a person's story, the easier it is to show them the face of Christ. But if you do not or cannot know their story,

then you must simply love them. In speaking of conversion he quoted Eduardo Bonnin, "we are not spreading the Good News, we are becoming it and that we are not becoming a different person, but a fully alive person." He reminded us that the journey we are on is unique to each individual and only you can influence those in your environment.

He identified the tools of ongoing conversion as **Friendship Groups** and **Ultreya**, noting that these are not meant to be educational or critiquing sessions, but a means to share our experiences and sustain our ongoing conversion.

So our evangelization through conversion is a three step process, one which we as Cursillistas are familiar with. Encounter with self, encounter with Christ, encounter with others.

Pastoral Plan: Maria Kocsis of the Scranton Diocese presented the mechanics of developing a Pastoral Plan. A mission statement that is consistent with the National and Regional mission begins the plan. What why stand for and how we will reach our goals. Time lines are important part of the plan; there should be immediate goals, those to be achieved in two years, intermediate goals to be achieved in three to four years and long range goals which may take up to five years to achieve. Along with the time line there needs to be the who, where and when of the plan. The sections to



Father Michael Meluskey, Spritual Advisor for Region 2 and Father Ed Buchheit share a moment at the Region 2 Cursillo Encounter in Vine-land in October.

U.S. Cursillo Movement Encounter, Region 2, cont'd

be addressed must include the three phases of Cursillo: Pre-Cursillo, the weekend and Post-Cursillo. In the Pre-Cursillo section attention must be paid to prayer and palanca for the movement, preparation for the week-

end experience which includes study of the environment, requirements for candidate selection, and the responsibilities of sponsorship. The weekend phase concentrates on a climate conducive to conversion. The three encounters and adherence to the Cursillo Manual. The Post-

Cursillo concentrates on support of the Cursillistas, methods to facilitate ongoing conversion and providing the means of ongoing conversion through Friendship Groups, Ultreya and School of Leaders.

Copies of the current National and Regional Pastoral Plans were distributed. The English Newark Archdiocese Cursillo developed a Pastoral Plan in 2000; the plan needs to be reviewed and revised. I have asked our Assistant Lay Director, Pat Ferrara, to take on this project.

There was a lot of emphasis on School of Leaders throughout the weekend. We are not alone in our

struggle with developing an effective ongoing School of Leaders; many dioceses suffer from the same issue. The Harrisburg Diocese however has developed a very successful program. I met at length with the leader of that



Jean Kalemba on the right, taking a short break with her roommates during the weekend-long Encounter with other Regional 2 Cursillistas.

school and was very impressed with what has been developed. I am currently negotiating with a few Cursillistas in our community to take on the School of Leaders. Pray for the success of the revitalization our School of Leaders.

On Sunday I attended the English Cursillo Directors meeting. I am happy to report that we have a comparatively alive and spirited Cursillo Movement in the Archdiocese of Newark. We do not confirm to the letter to all the National requirements, but we will certainly give it a good shot. Going forward we will discuss those areas where we fall short and as a Secretariat decide on what

changes we need to make.

Since I came alone I was assigned a room with three women from the Scranton Diocese and one from the Baltimore Diocese.

There was the immediate bonding of friendship based on our common Cursillo experiences. There were no lonely people on this weekend. The weekend included morning and evening prayer, daily mass and a lively Fiesta on Saturday night. The Spanish Newark Cursillo brought along an enthusiastic band of musicians and the English Baltimore Lay Director added to the music with her guitar and songs. The music throughout the weekend was both spiritually up lifting and meaningful.

The next Regional 2 Encounter will be April 27 - 29, 2012. All are invited. I think it is well worth the trip to Vineland.

De Colores

Mark your Calendar for the annual

Christmas Mass & Gathering

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

St. Thomas More Church

12 Hollywood Avenue

Fairfield, NJ

MASS at 7:00 p.m. celebrated
by Fr. Tom Lipnicki

Followed by BUFFET SUPPER
and MUSIC

and SINGING

and LAUGHTER



RSVP to our Secretary, Joanne Rinkus
via e-mail decolores7@optonline.net or
call 201-587-1631 and leave a message of
how many in your party.

RSVP by December 8