



Cursillo Rainbow Connection

Volume 1, Issue 1

Fall, 2007

Archdiocese of Newark, NJ Cursillo Movement

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Dates to Remember in 2007:

- Oct 23 Secretariat
- Oct 25-28 Women's Cursillo weekend
- Nov 8-11 Men's Cursillo weekend
- Nov 16 Ultreya
- Dec 11 Mass / Christmas get together

Joe Clark Named Lay Director for 2007-2009

Let the Spirit Continue

Welcome back to Cursillo! The spirit is the soul of the Cursillo Movement. I hope this message finds you healthy emotionally, physically and spiritually.

I was so pleased to have accepted the position of Lay Rector, this past June. Cursillo has been a life changing experience for me. I speak for the entire Cursillo Movement and would like to thank Kathy Glowski, for her dedication, service to God and our Community and for the love that she has brought to the Cursillo Movement.

The new Cursillo year has started with two powerful and prayerful Ultreyas. The first was presented by the men of the 172nd Cursillo. Carmen Distano was the Rector. The second Ultreya was presented by the parish of Blessed Sacrament / Saint Charles, an active Cursillo parish for many years. Over 55 Cursillistas attended the evenings of spiritual growth and community spirit at the Casa. I would like to thank all Cusillistas who help in any way in preparing for these Ultreyas. I also thank those attending who experienced

a moment closest to Christ.

I thank and welcome the members of the Secretariat for saying YES to serve the Cursillo. My assistant lay rector Pat Carr, Secretary Joanne Rinkus, Treasurer Steve Taylor, Program Manager Cathy Drake, Pre Cursillo Coordinators Trish Ferrara and Patty Landon, Weekend Coordinators Ken Bransfield and Jean Kalebmba, Post Coordinators Donovan Green and Rosemary Lisa, and last but definitely not least our Spiritual Director Father Tom Lipnicki. I consider myself very blessed to have to have this group of Cusillistas at my side.

The Secretariat has been working hard planning a very exciting and ambitious year. Diocesan Ultreyas will continue to be held every two months at the Casa. Parish and group reunions/Ultreyas are also encouraged. We will have two weekends in the fall. Rector Valerie Messina will lead the 156 Women's weekend. Gordon Roehrer will be the Rector for the 173 Men's weekend. The angel will be Linda Armonaitis and Chris Sonatag will be the

warden. Please keep the teams and candidates in your prayers. Please send all completed candidate applications to Ed Alger. Applications for the weekend can be printed from the Cursillo website (www.mycursillo.com).

One of the priorities of the Secretariat will be listening to your concerns and suggestions. All Cursillistas are welcome to join one of the newly-formed committees. The new committees are Hospitality, Music Ministers, Fund Raising, and Newsletter. Please contact me or any member of the Secretariat if you are interested in joining any of these committees.

DeColores,

Joe Clark

Fr. Tom Lipnicki Reflects on Mother Teresa's Letters

Mother Teresa graced the cover of *Time Magazine* the week of September 1st, 2007. It read: **The Secret Life of Mother Teresa. Newly published letters reveal a beloved icon's 50 year crisis of faith.** I eagerly read the article several times and used it as the starting point of my homily that weekend.



Mother Teresa of Calcutta

I don't think that it is an exaggeration to say that everyone holds Mother Teresa in highest regard. Could there be anyone who wasn't in awe of the wonderful work she did and inspired so many others to do? Which one of us who ever had the privilege of being in her presence didn't feel the presence of God? Yet this saintly woman so oftentimes didn't feel the presence of God herself.

Words like *dryness*, *darkness*, *loneliness* and *torture* pepper her newly-published letters. Yet Blessed Teresa of

Calcutta had profound spiritual experiences in her life. She had visions of Jesus and heard his voice as they conversed with one another. But like every other visionary, e.g. Saint Bernadette of Lourdes, Saint Juan Diego, these visions did not continue over the course of a lifetime. Blessed Teresa experienced in her life the same silence, the same spiritual dryness that all of us experience. I, for one, was so happy to find this out! We can find similar experiences among saints of years gone by, we can look

at the apostles of 21 centuries ago and echo their words to Jesus: *Increase our faith*, but with this revelation about Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, we can look at someone contemporary, someone who we know was holy, someone who every day did the work of Jesus but who always didn't feel close to Jesus and even questioned his presence in her life. How nice to know that we have something in common with Mother Teresa!

We made **Cursillo** because we were looking for a more profound experience of the Lord in our lives. We all had mountaintop experiences only to return to the valley below. The high of **Cursillo** got tempered by time and life. As deeply as Jesus touched our hearts on our Weekend there were subsequent times when we felt as though He were very distant and maybe even absent.

Now we all know that **Cursillo** has a cure for this - it's called **Group Reunion** and **Ultreya**. If you need to get your spiritual life back on track, get yourself into **Group Reunion**. If you're experiencing some dryness of spirit, come to one of our jubilant **Ultreyas** and spend some time with other people who are on the same journey of faith as you. I promise you will leave those Friday night sessions uplifted with a renewed sense of just how close Jesus is to you. He's counting on you and you can certainly count on him.

De Colores!

Farewell and Thank You from Kathy Glowski

Mother Theresa once said that she did not want to be rich or powerful. She only wanted to be faithful. I thank our Lord and all of you for the opportunity to be faithful and to serve God. As I said a few times, the position of Lay Director was the best and most rewarding volunteer job that I ever had. And I have had several. Perhaps, the reason that it was the absolute best is because it meant being in a deeper relationship with God and, through HIM, with each of you.

Several have asked: What was my fondest moment? When was my moment closest to Jesus? As you can imagine there were soooooo many. I think of the nights when I walked into the Casa for the opening of a weekend and the energy was electrifying. The closings of

the weekends moved my soul in amazing and wondrous ways. The joy was resounding each time we attended an **Ultreya**. And, then, there were the magnificent Days of Renewal. I never wanted any of these occasions to end. And I realize and recognize that none of these occasions would have been possible were it not for the loving commitment and generous effort of many, many people. I say a million thanks to the Secretariat (Father Tom Lipnicki, Joe Clark, Cathy Drake, Linda Armonaitis, Steve Taylor, Karen Vecellio, Mary Ellen Weiland, Ed Alger, Judy Cenar, John Tronolone), to the Rectors of the past eight weekends, to the Spiritual Directors of the weekends, to the committee for the Days of Renewal, to

our accomplished Music Ministers, to Patty Landon for revamping the School of Leaders and to each and every **Cursillista** who was present to celebrate these beautiful events. The mission of **Cursillo** is to evangelize and transform through the method of friendship. Each and everyone of you accomplish that mission with grace and dignity.

You have left footprints in my heart that will last forever. I am grateful.

See you at the upcoming weekends and **Ultreyas**.

In HIS Love,

De Colores
Kathy



Pat Carr is New Assistant Lay Director

First off, let me say that I am deeply honored to address you for the first time as your new Assistant Lay Director. To be in the company of such eagles that preceded me in this role leaves me feeling both humbled and inadequate. I promise to strive to do my best to assist our Lay Director in guiding our local movement to be the best it can possibly be.

I think I speak for all of us when I say that it is with deep appreciation and a touch of sadness that we bid Kathy Glowski a fond farewell as she transitions out of her Lay Director role. Thanks Kathy, for your unwavering dedication and support, and for your obvious and deep commitment to the Cursillo movement. Your leadership, loving smile and tireless giving of yourself have helped to shape our local movement into an obvious first-rate way for all of us to grow deeper in our love of the Lord, and to share that love with all those we encounter in all of our environments. We were blessed, and continue to be blessed, by your answering of the call.

And to Joe Clark, my friend, mentor and fellow-Grouper, you are already making your mark on our local movement, and doing so with your gentle and loving touch. I am certain that the Cursillo is in good hands as you take on the role of Lay Director. We are all praying for your success.

I get the feeling that good things will be happening Cursillo-wise

and that our path is straight and clear. As a fourteen-year veteran of our local movement, I've seen it grow and mature in a very positive and uplifting way in that time. We've been able to sustain four solid Weekends each year for quite some time, our Ultreyas are frequent, well-attended and uplifting, the annual Day of Renewal keeps getting better and post-Cursillo follow-up via Group Reunion seems to be on an excellent up-swing. Praise God!

Of course all of this success is due in no small part to each and every Cursillista who takes the time and makes the effort to continue with the Cursillo method after making a Weekend. I find that Group Reunion is the backbone of our movement. There is just something so spe-

I can think of no better people to travel with on my path than my many Cursillo friends.

cial about sharing a Closest Moment with like-minded friends. These faith-sharing gatherings sustain us, lift us up and keep us on the path to finding Christ through one another. As wonderful as the Weekend experience was for me, I find that Grouping on an ongoing basis is what really charges my spiritual batteries.

None of this would be possi-

ble without the wonderful spirit of volunteerism exhibited by so many of you. All of the sponsored events require a committed group of Cursillistas to plan and execute them. Many thanks to the countless volunteers who are so dedicated to our movement. Putting on weekends requires a huge commitment of time and effort. So many of you have made the leap of faith to help out. Thanks you so much, you are all to be commended. For those who will be receiving calls in the future asking for your assistance, please give these requests your deepest consideration. We are always looking for new people to help out. Know that your volunteering sustains our movement.

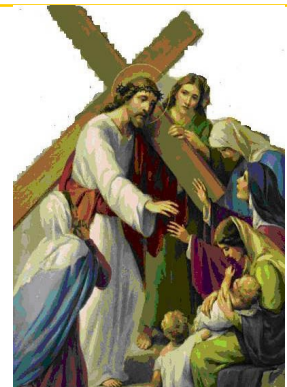
I was thinking today that if sin can be thought of as our turning away from God, then taking the time to recognize the presence of Jesus in our lives can be thought of as anti-sin, or as our acting holy and pleasing to God. And don't we do this as Cursillistas - take time to recognize the presence of Jesus in our lives, and share that with each other? What we're truly about in this world is making straight our paths. I can think of no better people to travel with on my path than my many Cursillo friends.

It's an honor and a privilege to be traveling this path to holiness with you.

Upcoming Women's Cursillo Weekend Oct 25-28

The Women's 156th Weekend will take place October 25 - 28, 2007. The theme is "Women on a Journey". The team: Rector, Valerie Messina; Angel, Linda Armonaitis; Spiritual Directors, Rev. John D. Gabriel, Rev. Donald K. Hummel, Sr. Agnes Bernard, OP. Team members: Arlene Cobeo, Nancy DiLella, Sandra Landers, Alice Von der

Heide, Betsy Mathisen, Carolyn Messina, Claire Poli. Personal Contacts: Vicky McKoy, Barbara Renz, Pauline Stankiewicz. Support Team: Peggy Cacciola, Liz Cooper, Marie Fox, Kathy Glowski, Roz Hughes, Jean Kalemba, Peg Mondello, Marilyn Smith, Connie Syzdzanski, Elaine Tronolone, Mary Walker.



"Women on a Journey" is the theme.

Men's Weekend Nov 8-11



“Rejoice and Be Glad” is the theme.

The Men's 173rd Weekend is November 8 - 11, 2007. The theme is “Rejoice and Be Glad”. Rector, Gordon Roehrer; Warden, Chris Sontag. Spiritual Directors: Fr. Charles Granstrand, Fr. Lew Papera, Msgr. Jim Bouffard, Support Rector, Pat Carr. Team Members: Terry Manswell, Vito Lupo, Joe Blythe, Gerry DeMauro, Andy Notare, Steve Taylor, Kevin Galuska, Joe Allegro (Music). Personal Contacts: Tony Ruvolo, Mike Kelly, Chris Giancarlo. Support Team: Brian Mahoney, Bob Weiland, Pat Ferrara, Ray Falcon, Ed Alger, Tom Kearney, Carmen Distanio, Bob Oeschlin, Jim Garago, Joe Clark. Service Team: Chief, Tom Hennessey, Co-Chief, Elaneya Andrew Uche; Ken Bransfield, Pat Carr,

Neville Evans, Rob Maloney, Harold Uche,

Congratulations!

Reverend Monsignor Paul D. Schetelick was installed as the Sixth Pastor of St. Andrew's Church in Bayonne on Sunday September 23, 2007. Most Reverend Thomas A. Donato, Regional Bishop of Hudson County Presided. Many Cursillistas attended the Mass and reception that followed. Monsignor Paul gave an uplifting and faith filled homily during the Mass. The Newark Cursillo Movement sends their love and prayers to Paul in his new position as pastor.

John Tenaglia, Mike McBrady, Ralph Savercool, Bill Dougherty.

Thanks to all team members for your generous commitment to these evangelizing efforts!

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.

School of Leaders

The secretariat will be evaluating the School of Leaders regarding the curriculum, the timing of sessions, what goals have been achieved and which new goals to develop for the future. The school will be taking a “semester break” during this review. In the meantime, thanks to all who gave their time and talents to make the school a success.

Remembering Father Richard “Dick” Chilmark

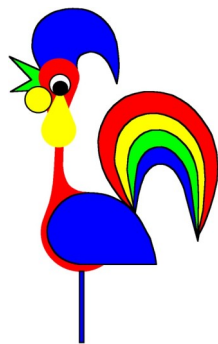
Father Chilmark went home to God on Sunday, September 23, 2007. Father Chilmark was a loving Cursillo priest who was a Spiritual director on many weekends. He loved the Cursillo Movement and the Cursillestas loved him. A few years ago, Lorraine and I were on an Antioch team at our parish in Roseland. During one of the talks, a teenage girl said, “If you want to know what Jesus is like talk to Father Dick”. I will never forget her words. She was so correct. Father Chilmark, a dear friend and brother in Christ we will miss you! You were a faithful servant of the Lord.

—Joe Clark

Ken Bransfield on the Weekend Committee

When Joe asked me to be the Weekend Co-Chair person, I felt excited, because the love I have for Cursillo was initiated when I made my weekend in 1996 and for a guy who bleeds the rainbow colors, this just seems to be the perfect spot for me. I am excited to be working with my Co-Chair Jean Kalembe, Pat Ferrara, who will be the Palanca Coordinator, and experienced Secretariat people Ed Alger, John Tronolone, Judy Cenar, Karen Vecellio and Cathy Drake. Anyone interested in being on this committee, please contact Jean, Joe Clark or me.

Before I share some of our ideas and goals for this year, let me say when members of our Secretariat go to national conventions and speak with other



Cursillestas from around the country, they are amazed that the Newark archdiocese runs four weekends per year. Most run only one or two per year, some, only bi-annually. Our Cursillo weekends are beautiful experiences of the heart, Christ is present, and there is a spiritual shield around the casa, in the form of palanca that keeps the evil one away, enabling the spirit of community to build up over the weekend, ending with powerful and warm closing ceremonies. So we know our weekends work!

If it ain't broke, don't fix it!

We do want to be a visible presence to the new rectors/wardens/angels to present them with some

guidelines before they form their teams. We want to keep updated lists of lay people, deacons and clergy who have expressed interest in being on team, and parishes that have expressed an interest in being the Service Team for a weekend. We as a committee plan to meet about five or six times per year.

The rooster is the symbol of Cursillo. It represents all the colors of God's rainbow; we are also the different colors of God's rainbow, blending together in what we call church and community. I am looking forward to meeting and working with “All the Colors” during this upcoming Cursillo year.

DeColores,

Ken Bransfield