

Words From the Spiritual Director by *Father Ray Brenner*

Dear Fourth Day Community,

With the seasons of fall and winter, there are varied reactions among people. For some it is a little of a downer because trees are bare, flowers and other plants die and the weather gets colder. But for others, it is a time to rejoice. We no longer mow the grass (of course many of us didn't have to do much of that last summer anyway). People have a little more energy because of the cooler temperatures and fall brought the beautiful autumn colors. Winter is more barren but beautiful in it's own way.

Doesn't that describe a little of how we sometimes feel about our relationship with God? Sometimes we feel a little barren because things don't seem to be going our way. But then something marvelous happens and suddenly we are rejuvenated and anxious to move on.

Hopefully in those barren moments you will make the effort to turn to God in prayer, read the Scriptures, kneel in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament or make a retreat. This Advent season is perfect for drawing closer to God and leaning on Him.

God is always there for you! May Christmas bring you closer to Him and may your heart praise Him for the gift of His Son, Jesus!

DeColores,

Father Ray Brenner

The leaders of the Cursillo Movement pray that you and your loved ones have a blessed Christmas. May the love, peace and joy of Jesus fill your hearts and your homes.

Regional News

The 2008 fall Regional Meeting will be hosted by the Evansville Diocese. Dates are Oct. 31-Nov. 2. It will be held at St. Meinrad. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending. We need to have a good turnout from our diocese.

National News

The National Cursillo English Speaking Coordinator, Ceferino Aguillon, Jr. was in Evansville on Oct. 29th to visit with local Cursillo leaders. Cef lives in Dallas, the site of the National Cursillo Office, and is touring the dioceses within Region IV. We discussed the state of the local Movement with him. Discussions centered on the Secretariat, School of Leaders, Precursillo, Cursillo, Postcursillo, and our workshops. The health of our local Movement is good. We also discussed ways to better improve the Movement within the diocese. Cef also gave an excellent and informative 30 minute talk on the Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement.

The October National Newsletter is available on the National Website (www.natl-cursillo.org). Visit the site and learn about the Movement from a national perspective.

The National Cursillo Movement gratefully welcomes your donations. Any financial support will help us sustain the Movement. Your contributions are tax deductible. Please mark your check as a donation and send it to the National Cursillo Center, P.O. Box 210226, Dallas, TX 75221. Thank you.

Words From the Lay Director by *Bruce Bonenberger*

“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” **Luke 1:38**

The Region IV Fall Encounter was held October 26-28 at Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, IL and hosted by that diocese. Talks were titled Our Lady Summons You (the theme), Mother of Beautiful Love, Thy Will Be Done, Cause of Our Joy and Queen of Peace. It was a very good Encounter.

Mary is included in every Cursillo in the prayer of the rosary. She is the ideal Cursillista and should be a model for all of us. “In her earthly life, she was the perfect figure of Christ’s disciple, mirror of all the virtues, and she incarnated the beatitudes proclaimed by Christ. Therefore, the whole Church, in her incomparable variety of life and works, finds in the Blessed Virgin the most authentic form of the perfect imitation of Christ.” (Pope Paul VI) Mary is the perfect model for the lay apostolate and the spirituality which should animate it. “While leading on earth a life common to all men, one filled with family concerns and labors, she was always intimately united with her Son and cooperated in the work of the Savior in a manner altogether special.” (Apostolate of the Laity, #4) We should be moved to a filial love towards our heavenly mother and to the imitation of her virtues.

Mary was open to the freedom that God offers us. She was free from the things of the world. She was able to place total trust in God. She was a model for all Cursillistas by the way she carried her tripod of piety, study and action within her being. Her humility opened her heart, mind and soul to God’s will in her life. By her obedience to the Law of Moses and her acts of piety, she was a model for all in the environments. She drew others to a greater interior perfection. Through her study and knowledge of the Jewish faith, she was able to pass the faith on to Jesus through education. She did not spend all her time in prayer and study but put her faith into action to serve and support her Son.

All action begins with a yes. Mary’s yes at the Incarnation gave glory to God and changed her life and the world. It was the world’s greatest gift since creation. The Word became flesh is a great mystery where humanity and divinity entered into a great intimacy. She carried Jesus in her womb to serve her cousin Elizabeth and then onto Bethlehem in obedience to civil authority. There she gave birth only to be told by an angel of the Lord to flee to Egypt to protect the child. According to the Law of Moses, she presented Jesus to His Father. At the wedding feast of Cana, she said the words “Do whatever he tells you”. She repeats those words to us today. As Mary stood beneath the cross, she came to experience once again those who love much, suffer much. She could see the Father’s love in the cross and find the meaning of human life in Jesus’ self-sacrificing love.

Mary’s work in the early Church must have been to lead souls to Christ and keep them in His love. It was a life of total self-surrender. She could, in humility, witness to others her life’s experiences by proclaiming her high dignity granted her from God the Father.

Mary Mother, please watch where we are going on our Postcursillo journey. May we imitate you by carrying within us our tripod of piety, study and action.

Precursillo by Joe and Ruth Thompson

The fall weekends are behind us and we welcome 20 new men and 32 new women Cursillistas to the 4th Day. As we prepare for the upcoming spring weekends in February and March, we need to continue that personal contact with our friends we will be inviting to the weekend. As sponsors we fulfill a very vital role in the Cursillo movement. We have to remember that every person we come in contact with is a potential friend, someone that we can build a personal relationship with, someone that we can bring closer to Christ. We have to live what is fundamental for being a Christian and to be an “authentic witness” so that our friend will know that we live for Christ and in Christ. Our relationship with our friend will then help lead them to a relationship with Christ through a Cursillo weekend.

We must take our responsibility as sponsors very seriously. Once the weekend is over, we must continue to be there for our friend. Make sure that they find a friendship group and get them to an Ultreya. We can't just leave them out there in space and expect them to find their way on their own. Chapter 5 in the little blue “Sponsors Booklet” is a great source for being a good sponsor. Let's all of us continue our work for Christ to build the Kingdom of God and REMAKE THE WORLD ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN AT A TIME!!! God Bless you.

School of Leaders by Thomas Anslinger

Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will know the light of life.” John 8:12

From our birth to our death, we as Catholics have only one mission in life and that is to see the face of Jesus in heaven. While walking that path we have many opportunities to reach out to others to spread the word of God. Jesus asked us to evangelize and we as Cursillo Leaders have been blessed with a forum to do just that...the School of Leaders. Think of the School of Leaders as putting our best foot forward to highlight our commitment to charity through our good works. Think also of it as introducing a new light with enthusiasm and sincerity. The purpose of the school is to form leaders for the Cursillo movement, not simply to direct the weekends, but also to be the leaven of the movement in the Diocese.

Perhaps you have an interest in being a member of a team for a three-day weekend where you can contribute to the formation of the candidates on that weekend. If so, you can exercise this option by attending the school for half of the 24 meetings in a year. This provides the opportunity to serve as a steward/stewardess or a kitchen helper.

Seeking new members of the Cursillo movement is one way to do God's will in spreading our faith by our actions and our words. We have the opportunity to see that our spouses, children and friends see the face of Jesus along with ourselves.

“Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all, but especially to those who belong to the family of the faith.” Galatians 6:9-10

Notice: The December 18th School is cancelled. The December Secretariat Meeting will be held on the 18th and will be in Jasper at the St. Joseph Parish Center at 6:45 PM (Evansville time). The gathering starts with mass followed with food and drink and the meeting. As always, anyone is welcome to attend. You do not have to be a member of the Secretariat to join us. Also, there will be no School on January 1.

Post-Cursillo by Nicholas and Judith Wolf

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have”.

Hebrews 13:16

Recently, on a cool and crisp fall evening, Judy and I joined some seventy plus fellow Cursillistas in praying a “living rosary”. We were attending the Fall Cursillo Regional Encounter at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, IL. This special prayer time had been set aside after a day full of inspiring talks and fellowship. It was a time to share our faith and our prayer with others; a time to acknowledge God's presence and thank Him for the gift of friends. This is what Post Cursillo, being in the 4th day, is all about---sharing our lives in Christ with others.

Our giving of ourselves to God and to others is the essence of our Cursillo commitment. It is how we change the world for Christ. Judy and I recently heard that “our love for God, and His love for us, is an internal mystery, and the external proof of that mystery, is how we reach out to others.” Fortunately, in Cursillo we have many ways in which we can touch someone else's life—ways that each of us can participate in God's plan of salvation for the whole world.

“See those Christians, how they love one another.” (Tertullian: Early Church Father) Joining a friendship group is the first and best way to share our love for Jesus. We need our friends in order to do God's work. Our many Ultreyas are an opportunity to come together and become one with our brothers and sisters in their journeys, and they are an excellent way to locate a friendship group. Other activities such as the Cursillo Evangelization Workshop, Grand Ultreya, School of Leaders, and Secretariat meetings are also very good ways to become involved in Cursillo. We earlier mentioned the Regional Encounter where 125 Cursillistas from the surrounding states came together to meet and make new friends, and to share their Authentic Christian Lives. All of these methods of friendship and love are open to the 4th day.

It has come to our attention that some in the 4th day are under the misconception that the activities surrounding the closing of the Cursillo weekend are only for those who are active in the movement. Nothing could be further from the truth. The sponsor's workshop, Mass and candlelight service on Saturday night, and most certainly the closing celebration on Sunday night, are for the entire fourth day. The best way that we as Cursillistas can reach out to our brothers and sisters is by being present for the candidates through our prayer, Palanca and support. Jesus loves us, and He wants us to know that, in the worst possible way! If we don't share that with family and friends and others, who will? The prophet Isaiah reminds us, *“how beautiful upon the mountain are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the news of peace, who announces salvation and proclaims, ‘Your God is King’.”* At the closing each of us heard these words, “Christ is counting on you”. These are words of participation, words of love and sharing. God has counted on us for all eternity; He has always wanted us to become involved. Cursillo is a movement of God, of the Church and of each of us. We are community, we are 4th day, and Judy and I encourage you all to be Christians of Action.

Post Cursillo Notes

School of Leaders: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month
7: 00 PM, St. John's Daylight

Secretariat: 4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM
St. Benedict Cathedral Parish Center

Judy and I are formulating plans to attend each of the Ultreyas after the first of the year. We would like the 4th day to plan to attend. We will be discussing various aspects of the Post Cursillo (4th day) and would like you to bring your questions, ideas and/or concerns. . Dates and times will be announced in future newsletters, on the website: evansvillecursillo.com and at the various Ultreyas.

We are Called – We are Chosen”
Evansville Men’s Cursillo # 68

Dear 4th Day Community,

Men’s Cursillo #68, “We are Called – We are Chosen, We are Christ for one another” is a statement to be lived. In the Thursday welcome talk we hear that Cursillo is something that cannot be explained, it must be lived. We lived the three days with the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit led us.

It was an awesome experience for all. It started with the first formation and continued through the three-day weekend. I feel we all know and understand what it is like to “Let go and let God”.

Our candidates were extraordinary and we have all grown in our faith and have a greater understanding of what life is all about. We know that when we say “yes” to God we become “wild men running for our lives”.

The weekend was a combined effort of all--especially the prayers, palanca, everything that the 4th day and team put into it. We said yes and we have been blessed. Our blessings continue as we Go Forth.

May God bless us now and be with us forever as we strive to do His will.

Peace from your brother in Christ,
 Tom Folz

Welcome New Cursillistas		
Richard Kuhn	Scott Allen	Ronald Tieken
Shane Wessel	Cleon Michel	Scott Keller
Dan Barnes	Chad Sander	Paul Watzlavik
Rodney Russell	Alan Inkenbrandt	Joe Tieken
John Bickwermert	Mark Lamberg	Joe Goeltz
Tom Louviere	Chris Niehaus	Eric May
Dan Knust	Warren Kissel	

“The more we honor the Blessed Virgin, the more we honor Jesus Christ, because we honor Mary only that we may the more perfectly honor Jesus, since we go to her only as the way by which we are to find the end we are seeking, which is Jesus.” St. Louis De Montfort

Upcoming Weekends

Men’s #69: Feb. 21-25, 2008
 Coordinator: Ron Balbach
 Asst. Coordinator: Joe Thompson

Women’s #74: March 27-30, 2008
 Coordinator: Carol Smith
 Asst. Coordinator: Judy Wolf

He Called...And They Came to Him”
Evansville Women’s Cursillo #73

Dear 4th Day Community,

Through the combined efforts of 23 team members who served as instruments of our friend and Savior, Jesus Christ, and countless others who gave of the time and talents to serve us when Jesus called, 32 beautiful women answered the call to follow Him. Thank you for all the prayers and palanca, snacks and giving of your time to serve us this weekend. Very special thanks to Father Ray, Father Jack and Deacon Mike--what a blessing you were to all of us, both candidates and team.

We ask that you continue to pray for the new Cursillistas and assist them in any way you can. Encourage and help them to join a Friendship Group, and if at all possible bring them to an Ultreya. Please continue to pray for all the Friendship Groups and Ultreyas in the diocese that we will grow stronger and be able to answer when “He Calls” each of us, so we will “Come to Him”, and on our way, bring a new friend with us. God’s Blessing on all of you.

Your sister in Christ,
 Ruth Thompson

Welcome New Cursillistas		
Patty Michel	Linn Brown	Becky Larson
Tina Hirsch	Sharon Williams	Jill Helfrich
Denise Lamberton	Robin O’Connor	Kelly Clark
Melanie Kincaid	Susie Patrick	Angie Knust
Kate Goelzhauser	Lynn Louviere	Jackie Russell
Anne Dugan	Judi Brown	Lisa Rauscher
Candice Moore	Karen Thompson	Beth Wright
Liz Niehaus	Dawna Luigs	Lisa KuKura
Olivia Kissel	Ann Staff	Inger Johnson
Diane Bassemier	Carolyn Harmon	Judith Rasico
Jena Wessel	Trina Virden	

Ultreya	Where	Day	Time
Holy Rosary	Evansville	1st Monday	6:00 p.m
St. Joseph	Jasper	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m.
St. Mary’s	Washington	1st Monday	6:30 p.m.
St. John’s	Newburgh	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m.
Good Shepherd	Evansville	4th Thursday	7:00 p.m.
Resurrection	Evansville	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m.
St. Paul’s	Tell City	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m.

Palanca by Al Debes

Amen, Amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. John 12: 24

The important thing in prayer is not the duration (whether five minutes or a half-hour), but to interrupt what one is doing. That is what it means to say that to pray is “to die”- that is to interrupt the course of daily life.

Palanca is another word for prayer, prayer may take many different forms.

What does Palanca stand for?

P	stands for the privilege and power of Prayer, and for Personal service to the Cursillistas.
A	stands for the anytime, anywhere, by anybody, to anyone, for anything, which expresses the when, where, who and why of Palanca.
L	stands for the “lever” (Palanca) of our knees bent in prayer; for the love of God towards us, and for our love one to another; for the Light of Christ, and for His Light which we bring to the world; and for the letters of love which are evidence of Palanca to the Pilgrims.
A	the second “A” stands for the acts we do (anonymously, if possible) to affirm God’s love in our lives, ascribing all adoration and praise to God our Father, rather than pointing to ourselves.
N	stands for nourishment – providing for the Pilgrim’s physical needs with food, snacks, and refreshments.
C	stands for the Core of Palanca – the caring community with Christ at the center.
A	the last “A” stands for the abundance of God’s gifts to us, and for our need to accept his love.

As you look back on your weekend remember the Palanca banners with letters from around the world. How did that make you feel?? **LOVED, JOYFUL, THANKFUL**. Now it is our turn to die, to interrupt our lives, by giving back one of the most precious gifts Christ has given us--TIME!!! Spend Time in Palanca Chapel. Slow down and visit OUR LORD. He would love to hear from you. As the saying goes, **Can you hear Me now? Can Christ hear you now??**

DEAR FOURTH DAY, Please remember to notify us if your email address or mailing address has changed. Please send your updated address to dkegen@sigecom.net or mail to return address on this newsletter. Thank-you.