

January 2006

Words From the Spiritual Director by *Father Ray Brenner*

The start of a new year is often associated with a New Year's party or the making of a New Year's resolution. For me, this year, it consists of being in our "new digs". We moved into our renovated building here at St. Joseph, Jasper, on December 19. It is so great not to have to wear a sweater to keep warm or to watch the drapes blow in the breeze on a windy day.

We are also getting ready to have our first Christ Renews His Parish weekends in February and March. I know this will bring about some spiritual renewal for St. Joseph Parish. The women's weekend is already full and some have already signed up for next fall. We still need a few more men to sign up.

This seems to be the trend with Cursillo weekends. We have weekends coming up for both men and women. How often do we hear a witness say, "The Cursillo is such a well-kept secret." It should not be that way. We need to get the word out. When Jesus worked some of His miracles He asked them not to tell anyone and they told everyone. We need to follow their example and tell others how Jesus has touched our lives.

Let's join together in praying for the teams and for the candidates God sends our way.

DeColores,

Father Ray

*****NOTICE***: The January 24th Secretariat meeting will be held in Jasper in the St. Joseph Parish Center at 7:30 PM Jasper time (6:30 PM Evansville time). Anyone is welcome to attend.**

A Day of Reflection and Spiritual Enrichment

Presenters: Cursillo Region IV Service Team

Date: February 18, 2006

Where: St. John's Catholic Church in Daylight, IN

Time: Registration at 7:30 AM with coffee and doughnuts.

Program is from 8:00-3:00.

Cost: Free will offering will be taken.

Who should attend: All Cursillistas. We are called to be leaders in our environments. Christian leadership is a work of the Spirit and requires the gift of discernment in order to place our efforts at the service of the Church.

The day's agenda is as follows:

8:00: Welcome and Morning Prayer—"A Call to be a Servant"

8:20: Spiritual Meditation—"Always the Search for God"

9:00: "The Foundational Charisma of the Cursillo Movement", followed by group discussion

10:00: "Cursillo Leaders Mission", followed by group discussion

11:10: Mass

11:45: Lunch

12:45: "The Call to Servanthood", followed by group discussion

1:55: "Perseverance", followed by group discussion

2:45: Closing remarks, questions, and closing prayer

Words From the Lay Director by *Bruce Bonenberger*

"For I was...a stranger and you welcomed me...ill and you cared for me." Matt 25:35-36

Father John Silva's meditation during the November Cursillo Evangelization Workshop centered on our obligation to love one another and reach out to others by sharing our faith even at the risk of being rejected or ridiculed. It is our baptismal responsibility. The more we talk and share our faith the easier it becomes and our comfort level increases. Our life of holiness, formation and evangelization must always be growing so that we can always give to others what we have. We are not called to be timid Catholics. A bold Catholic discovers that it is fun to be Catholic. Father shared some personal stories in his life to illustrate his points.

I would like to share with you a recent happening in my life that will supplement Father's meditation. I stopped to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament while in St. Mary's Hospital. I heard someone come in and almost immediately a woman began to cry. My thoughts turned to her and I started to pray for her and the crisis she was experiencing. Praying for someone is a Christian action. Almost immediately, there was that small still voice that told me to talk to her. It was time to reach out to a stranger. I was fully aware of the possibility of being rejected. God's grace was there and it was up to me to accept it. As she was leaving, I asked her if I could pray for her situation. She said no and turned to leave but suddenly stopped and turned around. She finally said yes, please pray for me and gave me her first name so that I could pray for her by name. Once again, she turned to leave. God's grace must have been working in her because she suddenly came and sat down to tell me her story. She had cancer and the doctors had done all that they could. She had just completed some medical tests to see if the cancer was gone. The fear and anxiety within her was evident and must have been unbearable. She asked me to pray for her. We stood and held hands and I prayed. Her tears disappeared and she was smiling as she thanked me and reached out to give me, a total stranger, a warm embrace. As she was leaving, she suddenly turned and asked, "Are you an angel?" In John Henry Cardinal Newman's prayer for good work, he prays "we shall be angels of peace". The moment was extraordinarily significant. It was an event that turned a Christian action into an act of evangelization. I was God's instrument to provide her with comfort and compassion in her suffering. I saw her blossom in a dark moment of her life. An apostolic act of evangelization provided her with the healing presence of Jesus.

The humanity of Jesus experienced fear and anxiety when he was in the Garden of Gethsemane. St. Benedict said "to give comfort and assistance is to recognize and hone the person's humanity." How will we live our humanity and recognize the humanity of others? Will we accept the great and precious gift of God's grace to reach out to live life courageously, become partakers of the divine nature and further the Kingdom of God? In a world that does not have a sense of the supernatural, God's greatness is incomprehensible. The challenge we face is to step outside our comfort zones and experience it.

Precursillo by Skip and Jackie Dent

“For more men Cursillo candidates,”

Response: “We pray to the Lord.”

Alternate response: **HELP!**

The first Men’s Team Formation took place last weekend. The Three Day Weekend is only a few weeks away. To date there is only a total of 14 potential candidates on the list to receive an invitation to the Weekend. See the problem? The solution to the problem is the 4th Day! There is no way around it folks, the problem is ours to handle.

We need to be thinking about all those we come in contact with in terms of who would be an eligible candidate and how to approach them in friendship to help them to grow closer to our Lord through the Cursillo Movement. There is not a lot of time left but with the help of the Holy Spirit (and our willingness to help him), willing and eligible candidates can be found for the weekend of Feb. 23-26. Let’s **GO FORTH** and do our best to fill the Weekend with those eligible for the “little courses”.

God Bless.

School of Leaders

Cursillo is a way of life. Experience it fully. Jesus said, “Come and you will see” John 1:39

The School of Leaders is above all a Christian Community. It is a community that acts within and outside of the School. Members of the School seek a deeper more personal relationship with Jesus and new meanings for their lives. There is always resistance to change in our relationship with God. The School helps us to grow, and we begin to achieve some of our greatness. We advance on our mission to become fully human. The result is a renewed sense of gratitude and a closer relationship with Jesus. It is then that we become agents of change. Change is all around us and requires time before it can be fully understood, accepted, and integrated into our everyday lives. The best way to change the world is to change the people in it. That means you and me. The mission of the School is to change and form us to be better servants of the Lord. Environments will only change when we bring the light of Christ into human hearts. Regular members of the School can exercise their option to work Cursillo teams as either a steward (ess) or a group leader and bring the light of Christ into the hearts of candidates. All Cursillistas can become fruitful servants of the kingdom just like the saints.

The School is “what’s happening” within the Movement. Here are some recent and upcoming highlights:

On Nov. 1, Deacon Dave Rice applied Pope John Paul’s II encyclical “Evangelium Vitae” (The Gospel of Life) to 3 episodes of the TV show ER.

One Dec. 6, Deacon Joe Schapker talked about Advent and how its meaning in your life can change from year to year.

On. Jan. 3, Deacon Joe Seibert talked about the Sacrament of Baptism, its history, symbols, rite, Church laws and many other facts relating to Baptism.

On Feb. 21, Father Jason Gries will speak.

On March 7, Sister Jane Michele McClure will speak.

On weeks when there is no doctrinal presentation, school attendees are currently reviewing our Cursillo policies. It is essential that we spend time reviewing the policies because the School is where the whole work of the Movement is studied, planned, shared and carried out.

Postcursillo by Nicholas and Judith Wolf

The three day weekend opens our eyes to the necessity of a Christian mentality in order to achieve ‘the ideal.’ The fourth day offers us opportunity to do so.” Cursillo Leaders Manual

Following is our third essay on the Ultreya:

Ultreya: The New Apostles

An apostle is a witness to the life and resurrection of Jesus. The first apostles were ordinary working people; people with good points and bad points, just like us. Four of the apostles were fishermen. Fishing was not a prestigious career; you worked very hard and people would often avoid you because of the ‘fishy smell’. Matthew, on the other hand, was a professional, a tax collector, and people avoided him for obvious reasons. So just as the twelve were called, Jesus calls us, ordinary, everyday lay people, to be His apostles today. He calls us to that apostleship in our homes, workplaces, churches, and in every circumstance in which we find ourselves. Just as then, it is a difficult call to answer, maybe even more so today. Now, imagine how difficult it would be for us, or even Jesus’ early followers, to be apostles without the personal support of a loving Christian community.

The Ultreya is to the Cursillista what the Upper Room was to the original apostles. It is a place where we can once again gather in Jesus’ name, praying, learning and encouraging one another. It is a place where we can once again see Christ: not in the flesh, but in the faces of our brothers and sisters; a place where we can hear the soft echo of Jesus’ words in their voices, and feel the comfort of His touch in their hands.

Jesus is the solution to the problems of this world, and our world needs apostles, faithful witnesses, just as much now as it did two thousand years ago. It’s not difficult to believe that as Christ sent them out, two by two, that His next words might have been, “*I am counting on you!*” At the last Cursillo School of Leaders meeting, Deacon Joe Seibert reminded us of the joy of being an apostle of Christ when he quoted Romans 10:15: “*How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the Good News.*” Do you have a sense of your apostolic mission? Are you an apostle of Christ?

2006 is a New Year, and for the whole year, Judy and I suggest a simple resolution that you can make right now: resolve to remain faithful to your friendship group reunion and to attend an Ultreya. **Be an apostle! Spread the Good News! ONWARD!**

Post- Cursillo Notes (mark your calendars now)

Spring CEW (Cursillo Evangelization Workshop) Sat., April 22, St. John’s, Daylight. Registration, Fellowship and light breakfast at 7:45; Workshop 8:30-12:30.

Grand Ultreya: Sat., August 12, St. John’s, Daylight. Mass at 5:00 PM followed by Reunion, Witness Talk, Food & Fellowship.

Fall CEW: Sat., Nov. 18, St. John’s Daylight.

The leaders of the Cursillo Movement wish that you, your friends and loved ones experience God’s peace and blessings this new year.

**“My Redeemer Lives”
Evansville Women’s Cursillo # 69**

Dear Fourth Day Community,

Yes, my Redeemer most definitely lives, as was so evident during the Women’s Cursillo #69 weekend. We were showered with the strong presence of the Lord throughout the weekend. There is no doubt that we personally experienced the power of prayer for it transformed our lives and protected us, as well.

It was the prayers and palanca of our 4th Day Community that helped the weekend to be filled with Christ’s love and joy. We were overwhelmed with your prayer support and willingness to serve in so many ways. Our sincere appreciation also goes out to all the people behind the scenes who made things run so smoothly during the weekend.

We are so richly blessed to have such a vibrant Cursillo movement in our diocese. Please remember to lift up in prayer all of our friendship and environmental groups and all of the teams that will be serving in the future. Let us all continue our palanca for our newest Cursillistas, too, as they enter into their 4th day.

Your sister in Christ,
Donna Schroering

Welcome New Cursillistas		
Laura Wyatt	Donna Evans	Beth Humbert
Chris Tucker	Lola Wentzel	Carol Feichmeister
Lucinda Mayer	Katrina Gibbs	Leeann Effinger
Elizabeth Fulton	Rosemarie Horstman	Cassie Mayer
Laurie Baumer	Cathy Schroering	Carol Myers
Barb Clinnin	Sue Murphy	Patty Hoefling
Merle Scheller	Viola Fleck	Joan Dugan
Mary Obermeier	Kay Cecero	Tammi Lattner
Janet Dietrich	Esther Kelley	JoAnn Smith
Mary Reynolds	Virlee Striegel	Lou Honnigford
Michelle Sailing		

**“Gather Us In”
Evansville Men’s Cursillo # 65
February 23-26, 2006**

Dear Fourth Day Community,

I write this just one day before the first formation for men’s Cursillo #65. The Spirit has assembled a group of 23 men to do His will. This is an awesome gift as well as an awesome responsibility and a task that cannot be done without the grace of God. I ask you to pray and do palanca for the team during our formation process, for the candidates discerning attending, and for the team and candidates during the weekend. It is not only the team that makes each weekend successful. Without the prayer and support of the 4th day we would be lost. I am calling on the 4th day for your support now. We have many openings for candidates. If you have completed the make a friend, be a friend part, why not encourage your friend to attend the weekend? Be courageous, many of us in the 4th day did not accept the first invitation we received. Applications are on the website at www.evansvillecursillo.com. There are also many other ways you can serve the team and our Lord. If you would like to donate some ‘goodies’ for the weekend, please call our head kitchen staff, Ken Smith, at 547-6069. If you would like to serve a meal or serve as a kitchen angel, call Norma and Gary Folz at 925-7159. If you want to send team palanca, please send it to me at 647W 1100S, Ferdinand, IN 47532 or email to tskess@psci.net. And most importantly sign up for the palanca chapel in your area. If we pray as if everything depends on God and work as if everything depends on us we will complete God’s will. Let’s go out and “Gather Us In” those candidates God has chosen to be on this weekend. Christ is counting on you! Peace in Christ.

Your Brother in Christ,
Tom Kessens

Men’s Cursillo Team # 64			
Spiritual Director	Fr. Ralph Schipp	Kitchen Staff	Jim Werner
Spiritual Director	Fr. Ken Steckler	Kitchen Staff	Joe Nord
Spiritual Director	Deacon Jim Woeckenberg	Kitchen Staff	Tony Fehrenbacher
Coordinator	Tom Kessens	Ideals	Joe Weber
Asst. Coordinator	Bob Weikert	Laity	Bill Groves
Head Steward	Ken Schroering	Holiness	Skip Dent
Asst. Steward	Nicholas Wolf	Formation	Joe Thompson
Asst. Steward	Ron Balbach	Evangelization	Al Debes
Song Leader	Jim Martin	Leaders	Tom Folz
Asst. Song Leader	Paul Breeze	Environments	Joe Dickinson
Head Kitchen Staff	Ken Smith	Christian Community	Allen Koester
Kitchen Staff	Norman Borho		

Preliminary List of Candidates

Check www.evansvillecursillo.com and your local Ultraya for complete list of Candidates for Cursillo #65.

Upcoming Weekends

Men’s #65: February 23-26, 2006
Coordinator: Tom Kessens
Asst. Coordinator: Bob Weikert

Women’s #70: March 30-April 2, 2006
Coordinator: Janet Debes
Asst. Coordinator: Linda Rheinlander

Schedule for Evansville Men’s Cursillo #65

<u>Talk Support Day</u>	Sat., Feb. 11	8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	St. John’s Newburgh
<u>Set-up</u>	Wed., Feb. 22	7:00 PM	Sarto
<u>Sponsor’s Dedication</u>	Thurs, Feb. 23	7:00 PM	Sarto Chapel
<u>Mass & Candlelight</u>	Sat, Feb. 25	8:00 PM	Mass, then as a community Proceed to Chapel
<u>Closing</u>	Sun, Feb. 26	5:20 PM	Celebration hall
		Please arrive by 5:00 PM	

To serve a meal, please call Gary and Norma Folz at 925-7159.

**Please remember to park in designated parking spaces only.
NO PARKING along the sides of the parking lot.
The front doors will be open as well as the back and side doors.
Thank you for your cooperation.**

<u>Secretariat Members</u>	
Spiritual Director	Fr. Ray Brenner
Lay Director	Bruce Bonenberger
Secretary	Pat Krack
Treasurer	Joe Thompson
Pre-Cursillo	Skip & Jackie Dent
3-Day	Dan Zimmer
Post-Cursillo	Nick & Judy Wolf
Palanca	Al Debes
Procurement	Tom & Delores Folz
School of Leaders	Bob Weikert

<u>Ultreya</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
Holy Rosary	Evansville	1st Monday	6:00 p.m
St. Joseph	Jasper	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m.
Holy Cross	Ft. Branch	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m.
St. Simon's	Washington	1st Thursday	7:00 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	1st Saturday	7:00 p.m.

<p><u>School of Leaders</u></p> <p>When: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each Month Where: St. John's, Daylight Time: 7:00 PM CST/CDT</p>

DEAR FOURTH DAY,
Please remember to notify us if your email address or mailing address has changed. Please send your updated address to dkegen@sigecon.net or mail to return address on this newsletter. Some email addresses have changed or are inactive and some mailing addresses were returned as undeliverable. Thank-you.