

Words From the Spiritual Director by *Father Ray Brenner*

Dear Fourth Day Community,

I think the Christmas Season schedule finally caught up with me about January 6th. That day it seemed my body wanted to spend every available minute in the recliner. However, I had to keep it moving for the weekend since my associate had already left for a week's vacation. I will be gone most of the time from January 19th to the 26th attending the Regional Optimist Club Conference in Bloomington, then on to Mundelein Seminary for a supervision workshop since Ryan Hilderbrand will be serving his internship here. Then I will visit Deacon Ron Kreilein at Sacred Heart School of Theology. What a way to get some time off!

Hope your Christmas was as blessed as mine. It was great having 45 members of our family together on Christmas night. Santa visited the crib at the Midnight Mass and then we had the Three Kings show up for the Epiphany.

I continue to enjoy being on the Diocesan Secretariat. I also try to make it to as many closings as I can. The one thing that confuses me is that I hear all this enthusiasm about telling others about Cursillo and getting others to make a weekend but sometimes we struggle to fill the weekends. How about the Ultreyas? Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance.

DeColores,

Father Ray

School of Leaders

"Only sincere friendship will offer ways for effective openness and dialogue. The personal contact technique uses opportunity, gentleness and tact, and is carried out in an apostolic spirit. Leaders make friends with all, so that each one will become a friend of the Lord. It is a well known fact that who says something, and how it is said, is more important than what is being said." (Cursillo Leaders Manual p. 44)

What's happening in the School? There is a doctrinal presentation on the first Tuesday of the month. It is given by a priest, deacon or vowed religious. On the third Tuesday of the month, school attendees have been spending time reviewing local Cursillo policies.

Recent past speakers were:

Nov. 7: Fr. Ralph Schipp, "Overview of the Catholic Church, the treasures of our faith"

Dec. 5: Deacon Michael Wanninger, "St. Joseph, not an ordinary Joe"

Jan. 2: Fr. John Silva, "Fishers of Men"

Upcoming speaker: On. Feb. 6, Fr. Jim Endress

We invite all the new Cursillistas, as well as older Cursillistas, to come and check out several School of Leaders sessions. Investigate the possibility of becoming a member of the School and the joy of being a member of a Cursillo team. It's an excellent way to grow in your faith. We meet at St. John's Catholic Church in Daylight on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 PM.

In the words of Jesus: "Come and see." Cursillo is a way of life. Experience it fully!

Words From the Lay Director by *Bruce Bonenberger*

"I call you friends because I have told you everything." John 15:15

Jesus spoke those words to His apostles after spending 3 years with them. So the basis of a true friendship must be the willingness to share. It must be the essential condition for an intimate friendship with others. Out of sharing our life, love develops for one another and we become a good shepherd for each other. By nature, a friendship has one interest, the good and happiness of your friend. Developing any friendship occurs with grace and is a gift of God. Each of us is a gift from God and we get better at becoming friends when we get better at being present to all.

In order that we might be friends with God, we were created to be capable of forming human friendships with each other. It is through our friendship with God that we learn how to truly love our friends as God loves them. Love becomes the source of our joy in all friendships. The highest form of friendship that a person can live on earth is Christian communion with others. That is why regular grouping in a friendship group and regular attendance at an Ultreya is so important to our spiritual growth and should be a high priority in our lives. Who among us does not need a life of peace and harmony that comes from grouping?

This past Christmas season we were with our grandchildren. I enjoyed watching the smaller ones playing with their cousins as though they were new-found friends. As they played, they were discovering each other as another person. There was an air of excitement as they ran through the house and played side by side. Jesus must have played the same way. Their knowledge and secrets were shared in an atmosphere of trust and laughter. Friendships are built on trust. Certainly Jesus was present in their midst as He is present in all the bonds of friendships. His presence lends a mystery to any friendship. In the joy of the Christmas season, the little ones were learning how to be friends with each other and in an unknown and mysterious way also with God.

Friendship is a charism for Cursillos of Christianity. We always hear on a Cursillo: "Make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ." Cursillo is where we experience our identity with God and others. It is through encounters with self, with God and with others on the Cursillo that enables us to enter into friendships: first with ourselves, then with God and then with others in order to spread the Good News. Eduardo Bonnin, the founder of Cursillo, writes: "When the friendship between friends is ratified and reinforced with the friendship they have for Christ, then the joy of being a friend increases and the friendship reaches a deep level because the friendship made and tested in the light of Christ is a friendship guaranteed and secured by Christ." This kind of friendship has the power to transform the world as we act as leaven in our environments. It is through grace that we are transformed and become capable of transmitting God's love to others through friendship.

True friends encourage us to live a life of goodness and virtue so that we might grow in friendship and unity with God and each other. As a friendship deepens, we share our faith, ideals, joys and sufferings. Life itself is a test of any friendship.

Pre-Cursillo by Joe and Ruth Thompson

“Make the preaching of the Good News your life’s work” 2Tim. 4:5

These words from 2 Timothy are the very words we hear on the weekend. We have heard in the Formation talk that through Baptism we have a Christian obligation to live a life of grace with God and spread the Good News with our brothers and sisters. The spring weekends are fast approaching, formations have begun and it is time to invite candidates to the weekends. At the time of this writing we have 21 men’s applications and 41 women’s, and as you can see we need more men’s applications. We ask that you pray and then pray some more about the person you are considering being a sponsor for and ask that person if he or she is ready to grow closer to Christ by attending the upcoming weekends.

Also keep in mind that there will be a Sponsor’s Workshop on Saturday night, March 24th at 7:00 PM of the women’s weekend. It is a good time for our newest Cursillistas to learn more about Cursillo and their roles as sponsors. If you are planning on coming to Mass and candlelight then consider coming an hour earlier and sitting in on the workshop.

Sponsoring is the backbone of the Cursillo movement and without good sponsors the movement would be no more. We pray that you are seeking someone to bring them to the same conversion you have experienced.

It is up to us to bring people to Jesus, “the living water”, so that they can experience the gift of conversion. Ours’ is a two-fold witness: a witness of life and of work. Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said, “Be Jesus, share Jesus.” This means that it is in the daily living out of our life of Christ in us that we become witness to those around us. Please remember to keep Men’s #67 and Women’s #72 in your prayers. God Bless.

Palanca by Al Debes

“The Lord, your God, has blessed you in all your undertaking; He has been concerned about your journey through this vast desert” Deut 2:7

As we celebrate Epiphany, I sit and focus on the magi’s journey. Travel was difficult and dangerous. Roads were bad. There were no road signs and the inns weren’t of the highest standards. There were muggers, thieves and little, if any, safety outside of town.

The magi had each other to fall back on. They also had the graces and help from God which gave them perseverance to continue the journey. We, like the magi, are on a journey to see the Lord. We are on that journey our whole life; we also need the help of others and the graces from God.

This reminds me of my weekend when the 4th Day lifted the team and candidates up in prayer and palanca. Now it is our turn to do palanca for the upcoming teams and candidates. Let’s join the teams in prayer and self-sacrifice by asking the Holy Spirit to shower them with blessings.

We can do this in many ways! Visit your local Ultreya or Talk Support Day and sign up for the Palanca Chapel.

On our journey through life, if we don’t have time for CHRIST, who do we have time for???

Please visit with CHRIST in the Palanca Chapel!!!

Post-Cursillo by Nicholas and Judith Wolf

“Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you shall receive.” Matt 21:22

This passage from Matthew should be a great comfort to each of us. Often, however, when we don’t receive an immediate answer (the answer we wanted) we tend to backslide or give up in our prayer life. We all know by now that God promised to answer our prayers but that we must be patient. Judy and I would like to tell you about answered prayers. In recent columns we have asked the 4th Day to pray for our Cursillo Ultreyas, some of which were struggling, and all of which need constant prayerful support. In some cases Ultreya attendance had dropped to just two people, and in another instance attendance had ceased altogether. One can only guess at the reasons: too busy, lack of interest, too little time and the list goes on. These struggles are what Judy and I were asking you to pray for. God answered those prayers in a mighty and awesome way. One Ultreya reached out to Cursillistas by e-mail and more personal contact. They took a fresh approach and changed the date and time of the Ultreya and the results are promising. Attendance is up and the fire has been rekindled---**Thank You Jesus!** Yet another Ultreya who had closed their doors was recently resurrected when a Cursillista stepped forward to help lead the monthly gatherings. **Thank You Lord!** You, the 4th Day, helped make this happen through your prayer and palanca. You asked our Lord to help and He did! We are sure that Jesus wanted our Ultreya communities to remain intact and provide the support we all need to continue His work. Are our Ultreyas and reunions free from struggle? No! Do our leaders sometimes wonder why they just keep going on? Sure they do! But God kept His promise: “ask and you shall receive”, so now it’s up to us. “*Jesus will always have our back, but He expects us to hold up our end*”. We have to be willing to help each other spread the “good news”. The Cursillo, the 4th Day, the group reunions and the Ultreyas are all communities. We cannot respond to God’s call if we are isolated, we need our Lord and we need each other. Judy and I wish to thank everyone for their prayers. We also urge you to attend a local Ultreya and to continue to pray for our movement.

Recall the story of the Road to Emmaus. *After the two had talked and walked with Jesus, after their hearts had burned within them, they returned to the eleven and those gathered (their community) to share the good news.* Go, share with your community and always thank Jesus for prayers answered!

“All who believed were together and had all things in common” Acts: 2:44

Post Cursillo Notes

CEW (Cursillo Evangelization Workshop)
April 14, St. John’s Daylight, 8:00AM—12:00 Noon

Ultreyas---Monthly
See back of newsletter for Ultreya dates and times
Group Reunions---Weekly

School of Leaders---1st & 3rd Tuesdays
St. John’s Daylight, 7:00 PM

The local Cursillo Leaders wish you a Happy and Holy New Year.

May you and all your loved ones experience the joy of Christian Community in 2007.

**Do Not Our Hearts Burn Within Us”
Evansville Men’s Cursillo # 67
February 22-25, 2007**

Dear Fourth Day Community,

The men of Cursillo team #67 have now begun to form themselves into a community of love and service. 23 men walking with Christ, living in Christ and acting in Christ, that we may be able to share His love with each other, and the new friends we will make on Men’s #67. Our continuing formation and conversion, the conversion of the candidates would be all but impossible without the support of the 4th day. The candidates and the team need your prayers and palanca. In Isaiah 30:19 we hear, *“God will be gracious to you when you cry out, as soon as He hears, he will answer you.”* So we ask you the 4th day, to “cry out” to our God for His grace and blessings on the candidates and the team.

We still have many openings for candidates, so speak to Jesus and ask Him if there is not someone special that you should approach, someone He would like to see on the weekend? Here are a few other ways that you can serve the Lord and support Men’s #67. If you can provide “some good things to eat”, contact our head kitchen staff, Don Kaiser at 476-7554. If you would like to serve a meal or be a kitchen angel contact Gary and Norma Folz at 925-7159. Team palanca may be mailed to me at 6000 #6 School Rd., Evansville, IN 47720, or you may e-mail me at wolfworks3@aol.com. The 4th day is the backbone of a successful Cursillo weekend. Your prayers, palanca and sacrifice will ensure that the new Cursillistas and the team will “encounter Jesus” and be able to say, “did not our hearts burn within us”. God’s grace be with each of you.

Your brothers and servants in Christ,
Team #67 and Nicholas Wolf

Men’s Cursillo Team # 67

Spiritual Director	Fr. Ralph Schipp	Kitchen Staff	Randy Bauer
Spiritual Director	Fr. Jack Durchholz	Kitchen Staff	Joe Weber
Spiritual Director	Deacon Mike Seibert	Kitchen Staff	Brian Hershberger
Coordinator	Nicholas Wolf	Ideals	Bruce Bonenberger
Asst. Coordinator	Tom Folz	Laity	Sam Tieken
Head Steward	Joe Thompson	Holiness	Skip Dent
Asst. Steward	Al Debes	Formation	Tom Anslinger
Asst. Steward	Dennis Seib	Evangelization	Bob Martin
Song Leader	Bob Smith	Leaders	Roger Gray
Asst. Song Leader	Paul Breeze	Environments	Sam Tenbarge
Head Kitchen Staff	Don Kaiser	Christian Community	Bill Kaiser
Kitchen Staff	Mark Lutterbach		

Schedule for Evansville Men’s Cursillo #67

<u>Talk Support Day</u>	Sat., Feb. 10	8:00 AM– 12:00 PM	St. John’s Newburgh
<u>Set-up</u>	Wed., Feb. 21	6:30-8:00 PM	Sarto
<u>Sponsor’s Dedication</u>	Thurs, Feb. 22	7:00 PM	Sarto Chapel
<u>Mass & Candlelight</u>	Sat, Feb. 23	8:00 PM	Mass, then as a community Proceed to Chapel
<u>Closing</u>	Sun, Feb. 25	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.

**Visit our local website at
www.evansvillecursillo.com**

You will find:

- The latest Evansville Cursillo Newsletter
- Preliminary list of candidates
- Ultreya information
- Sponsoring information
- Weekend information
- Regularly scheduled events
- Cursillo forms
- Other information

Upcoming Weekends

Women’s #72: March 22—25, 2007
Coordinator: Mary Ann Wilsbacher
Asst. Coordinator: Ruth Thompson

Did You Know:

You can receive the Evansville Cursillo Newsletter by e-mail. You will have the newsletter a few days before receiving it by US mail while saving the local Movement the postage. If you wish to do that, send your e-mail address and current home address to dkegen@sigecom.net. If your e-mail address changes or you move please send your updated address to dkegen@sigecom.net or mail the correction to P.O. Box 4169, Evansville, IN 47724. The US Postal Service charges the Movement \$.90 for each returned newsletter.

National Encounter

The 17th National Encounter will be held at the University of Texas at Arlington, TX on June 29—July 2, 2007. The theme is: “God is Love”. The theme is taken from Pope Benedict’s First encyclical Letter on Christian Love. The Encounter will commence on Friday, June 29, 2007 with the Keynote Address at 7:30 PM. To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the National Cursillo Movement, the Encounter program will include a pilgrimage from Arlington to Waco on Sunday to attend a local Cursillo closing followed by a celebration and fellowship activities at the Waco Convention Center. Bus transportation is included in the registration fee. For more information check out the national Cursillo website at www.natl-cursillo.org.

Secretariat Members

Spiritual Director	Fr. Ray Brenner
Lay Director	Bruce Bonenberger
Secretary	Pat Krack
Treasurer	Dennis Seib
Pre-Cursillo	Joe & Ruth Thompson
3-Day	Dan Zimmer
Post-Cursillo	Nick & Judy Wolf
Palanca	Al Debes
Procurement	Tom & Delores Folz
School of Leaders	Bob Weikert

Ultreya	Where	Day	Time
Holy Rosary	Evansville	1st Monday	6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph	Jasper	1st Monday	6:30 p.m.
Holy Cross	Ft. Branch	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m.
St. Simon'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	1st Saturday	7:00 p.m.

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

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.