

**Words From the Spiritual Director** by *Father Ray Brenner*

Dear Fourth Day Community,  
They call this liturgical season Ordinary Time but the only thing ordinary I find about it is that it is as hectic as any other time.

I think the other aspect of it is that since Ash Wednesday is so early this year, we barely get through the Christmas Season and we have to talk about the schedules for Lent.

It seems there are so many things happening here that it is difficult to find a weekend when each group can speak it's peace. Trying to work in Cross International Catholic Outreach, Christ Renew His Parish, Archabbot Lambert's Parish Mission, Why Catholic and, our first in many years, Summer Social is a major task. But all these events are getting more people involved in parish life.

As we begin the Lenten season we can count on God's grace to assist us. Some of us who are a little older can remember the "bona opera" (good works) that we used to hand in for the Abbot's signature.

May all our efforts this year look, not to our own glorification, but to the glorification of God.

DeColores,  
Fr. Ray

**Words From the Lay Director** by *Bruce Bonenberger*

***"Now the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."* 2 Cor 3:17**

The Church is the place where we know the Lord and the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures, Magisterium, liturgy, prayer, apostolic missions and our witness to others. Freedom is one of the charisms of the Cursillo Movement.

What is freedom? Many understand freedom as being free from any obstacle or restriction in order to choose and pursue a goal. Many think that obedience to Commandments, rules and regulations take away their freedom. The average person in this country has never enjoyed so much freedom yet within their lives they remain slaves to their addictions, habits, traditions and self-centeredness. They are self-reliant but have so much fear and anxiety in their lives. This understanding of freedom has made persons slaves instead of the master of their lives. This is a reality today. The things of this world and the practices we cannot live without hinder us in the search to be the person we were created to be. Cursillistas should understand that freedom is an inalienable gift that comes from God and to enjoy this gift we must place God first in our lives. The words of Scripture make clear that God defines freedom as a covenant relationship with Him. Freedom has limits and those limits are laid down by God. Thus, freedom is being able to do what is right and good even if it is against our desires. We are most free when we can do that. It is freedom because we are delivered from what offends God and inhibits us from becoming the person God created us to be. Freedom is the gift of the Lord's Spirit. As a disciple of Jesus, freedom allows the disciple to live in the Spirit, serve in works of love and live free from the attachments of this world.

A person's fulfillment is reached in the measure of their freedom. Fulfillment cannot be accomplished without a free decision from the person to be what they are called to be. In the Ideal talk, we heard that the superiority of the human being is above all creation. Humans have the ability to establish an Ideal according to their preferences and the ability to choose. Today, we need to be counter-cultural to seek the Christian Ideal. The theme of the Layperson in the Church talk is that "the layperson is someone who is sanctified by practicing, with responsibility and conscience, the task of being a person in the Church, using their freedom as a point of entry to transform the world according to Christ, sacrificing whatever is necessary in order that they should be truly free, but without the risk of giving up their own free will." (Cursillo Manual, p. 87) On Sunday, the Spiritual Director giving the Life in Grace Talk tells the candidates how to exercise their freedom to choose to live a Life in Grace. The message presented is that this happens in friendship with others and is based on practicality and flexibility in order to adjust to our changing life circumstances. The Spiritual Director stresses the need for living a life of faith, hope, and charity which deepens our capacity for friendship with God and others. These theological virtues imbedded in our life serve as a seedbed for our practices of piety, study and action. A Life in Grace is a life of freedom and inner peace.

**The Diocesan Cursillo Leaders wish you a Happy and Holy New Year. May each of you experience the joy of Christian living this year.**

**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 Saint Meinrad. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending. We need to have a good turnout from our diocese.

**National News**

The 18<sup>th</sup> National Cursillo Encounter will be held at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. on July 31- August 3, 2008. The theme is "Christ is Our Light". The opening session will be held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Registration cost is \$325 if you register by May 31, 2008. For more information the website is [www.natl-cursillo.org](http://www.natl-cursillo.org).

**Cursillo Newsletter Notice**

We would like to encourage as many Cursillistas as possible to receive the newsletter by email. You will save our local Movement the postage and printing, and you will have the newsletter a week or so before. Please send your e-mail address and current home address to [dkegen@sigecom.net](mailto:dkegen@sigecom.net). This sigecom address is still active, as it is a business address and has not yet changed to wowway.

If your e-mail address changes or you move please send your updated address to [dkegen@sigecom.net](mailto: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.

**Precursillo** by Joe and Ruth Thompson

**“How beautiful are the feet that bring the good news!”**

**Romans 10:15**

As we enter into the New Year it is time for another Cursillo weekend. At this writing we have sent out invitations to 25 men and not all these will be able to make the weekend. We have to listen to the words of the gospel verses that were used in the closing of the Evangelization, or as it is now called, the Action Talk. *“For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how can they call to him for help, if they do not believe? And how can they believe, if they have not heard the message? And how can they hear, if the message is not proclaimed? And how can the message be proclaimed, if the messengers are not sent out?”*

Brothers and sisters, Jesus is calling us to bring our friends to hear His words and help them understand the love He has for all of us. We heard this on our Cursillo weekend and we need to bring others to a weekend so they can better understand the love for Christ that we found on our weekend. If we can get all the friendship groups to sponsor one individual I am sure that we could fill all the weekends for both men and women. The women usually have a full house, but at this time we do not have as many applicants as usual. We all need to put on the mind of Christ and get out and bring our friends to Christ. Don't be selfish and keep Jesus for yourself. He wants us all to bring our friends with us. Will you hear His calling and bring others with you? As you were told when you received your cross, **“Christ is counting on you.”**

**School of Leaders** by Thomas Anslinger

**“My Soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?” Psalm 42:2**

God is to the soul what water is to the body: an absolute need, felt intensely. The longing, at the same time that it witnesses to our need for God, is evidence of the reality of the God who is there to fulfill our being.

(Meditation No. 92 from *A Year With the Psalms* by Eugene Peterson)

In his book *I Believe in God*—a meditation on the Apostle's Creed, Paul Claudel gives his thoughts on the Communion of Saints. He states: “The communion of all those who have been regenerated at the same baptismal font and are gathered around the same Eucharistic Table—saints and sinners, living and dead, strengthened by the blood of Jesus Christ—all are but a single body, participating in His life, helping one another, sharing their labors and rewards. Such is the concrete aspect of the Christian community; such is the Communion of Saints.”

The School of Leaders works toward building this Christian community and pursuing our need for God by gathering together people who choose to work within the Cursillo Movement as an apostolic vocation. All Cursillistas are invited and welcome to attend the School of Leaders on any first and third Tuesday of each month. Don't be confused by the name “School of Leaders”. The School is not designed to *create* leaders. It is designed to *accentuate* the Cursillo Movement, because of the leaders that are there. The purpose of the School of Leaders is to be something—a community of *service* to the Movement.

The School of Leaders article in the last newsletter contained an error, which must be corrected. It stated that attending at least half of the 24 meetings during a year provides the opportunity to serve as a steward/stewardess or a kitchen helper. It should have read: it provides the opportunity to serve as a *steward/stewardess* or a *group leader* on the weekend.

As you begin a new year, pray for discernment about joining us in the School of Leaders and placing yourself at the service of spirituality, formation and a Christian community—the Church.

**“Seek the Lord and His strength, seek His presence continually! Remember the wonderful works that He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He uttered.” Psalm 105: 4-5**

**Post-Cursillo** by Nicholas and Judith Wolf

**“Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come. The glory of the Lord shines upon you. You shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow.” Isaiah 60: 1, 5**

It's Epiphany Sunday and Judy and I were discussing what we might include in this article. Almost at the same time we recalled Fr. Phil's homily on the Magi and the Star--three far off visitors, hitching a ride on God's star and bringing gifts to glorify Him. It seems to us that God has given each of us many stars that lead to Him and one of the brightest is our Cursillo. That Cursillo star that was gifted to us on our individual weekends showers us with the light of God's grace and points directly to Him. As participants in the 4<sup>th</sup> day, are we following our star and what gifts do we bring to glorify our Lord? May Judy and I suggest that following our Cursillo commitment, friendship groups, attending Ultreyas, prayer and Palanca are all treasures we can bring to God, and we would expect they are more precious than those brought by the Magi.

As we are writing this article, the Men's team for Cursillo #69 is beginning formations. The spring weekends are right around the corner and there will be many opportunities to share our gifts. Hopefully there will be 64 new Cursillistas, each with their personal star to follow. However, we can also make our own stars shine just a little brighter. One way to do this is by being more active in the 4<sup>th</sup> day. Show your support for the candidates, attend the closings and candle-light, sponsor a candidate, serve a meal, help at set-up, but most importantly Pray and offer Palanca. Increase your gift to God by bringing a friend to your group, to an Ultreya, or to the Spring C.E.W. There is much we can do to keep God's grace shining through the year.

In the bulletin insert from today's Epiphany service, Judy and I took note of the following: a simple house with a newborn is described in the Gospel of Matthew and the question is asked: “What must it be like to peer in the window of that house, and see the small gathering of visitors around the child?” As Cursillistas, in our 4<sup>th</sup> day journey, we often have the opportunity to live out this wonderful question. Look through the window of your friendship group, your local Ultreya or 4<sup>th</sup> day activity, and see the small group gathered around Jesus. Now, open the door, go in, and pay homage to Our Lord with the gift of yourself. Increase the gathering; *you will be radiant at what you see and your heart will overflow!*

**“And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.” Matt: 2:12** God's star got us this far, but unlike the Magi, we don't have to be quiet or secretive about where Jesus is. As a matter of fact, He has asked us to tell everyone of His whereabouts. Please keep the “season of giving” alive all year long. God does!

### **Post Cursillo Notes**

***Here are just a few opportunities to share your gold, frankincense, and myrrh***

***Men's Talk Support: Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>***

***Men's #69 Weekend: Feb. 21-24***

***Women's Talk Support: March 15***

***Women's #74 Weekend: March 27-30***

***Sponsor's Workshop: March 29***

***CEW (Cursillo Evangelization Workshop): April 12***

***Ultreyas: Monthly***

***Friendship Groups: Weekly***

***School of Leaders: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month***

***7:00 PM, St. John's Daylight***

**“It is Jesus who fills us. He is here!”**

**Evansville Men’s Cursillo # 69  
February 21-24, 2008**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Once again I was reminded how the words from John 16:15, “It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you,” became a reality as the Holy Spirit formed the Cursillo Team #69. What an awesome experience! On January 6<sup>th</sup> the team’s journey began with the first formation. Our intention is to humbly serve our Lord as we journey together for Cursillo #69 on Feb. 21-24. As that Thursday evening of the weekend quickly approaches we ask the 4<sup>th</sup> day to offer Palanca for us and the candidates. The prayers and sacrifices offered will definitely provide the opportunity for the team and the candidates to encounter the living Christ.

Besides Palanca, if you would like to provide snacks or desserts for the weekend please call Jerry Krack at 490-2141. If you would like to serve a meal, please contact Gary and Norma Folz at 925-7129 before the weekend begins. If you are able to send us team palanca, please mail it to me at 5562 East St. Rd 62, Dale, IN 47523 or email it to me at [rbalbach@psci.net](mailto:rbalbach@psci.net). Mark your calendars for Talk Support Day on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM-12:00 noon at St. John’s Newburgh, and candlelight Feb. 23 and closing on Feb. 24.

And just as the candidates will experience the reality of our theme on the weekend, **“It is Jesus who fills us. He is here!”**, all of you, the 4<sup>th</sup> day, can also have that experience by actively participating in the Cursillo Movement.

God Bless!!!

Ron Balbach, Coordinator

Men’s Cursillo Team # 69			
Spiritual Director	Fr. Ralph Schipp	Kitchen Staff	Joe Nord
Spiritual Director	Fr. Ken Steckler	Kitchen Staff	Bernie Mayer
Spiritual Director	Deacon Jim Woebkenberg	Kitchen Staff	Jim Greene
Coordinator	Ron Balbach	Ideal	Gary Folz
Asst. Coordinator	Joe Thompson	The Layperson in the Church	Tom Bacurin
Head Steward	Dennis Seib	Piety	Eldon Hopkins
Asst. Steward	Lloyd Young	Study	George Fleming
Asst. Steward	Tony Scheller	Action	Joe Wellman
Song Leader	David Wells	Leaders	Ken Smith
Asst. Song Leader	Mel Schroeder	Study of the Environment	Tony Fehrenbacher
Head Kitchen Staff	Jerry Krack	Christianity in Action	Allen Koester
Kitchen Staff	Tom Kessens		

**Schedule for Evansville Men’s Cursillo #69**

<b>Talk Support Day</b>	Sat., Feb. 9	8:00 AM	St. John, Newburgh
<b>Set-up</b>	Wed., Feb. 20	7:00 PM	Sarto
<b>Sponsor’s Dedication</b>	Thurs, Feb. 21	7:00 PM	Sarto Chapel
<b>Mass &amp; Candlelight</b>	Sat, Feb. 23	8:00 PM	Mass Celebration Hall Mass, then as a community Proceed to Chapel
<b>Closing</b>	Sun, Feb. 24	<b>5:40 PM</b>	Celebration hall Please arrive by 5:20 PM

**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.**

**Palanca** by Al Debes

**“Do this in prayer, asking for God’s help. Pray on every occasion, as the Spirit leads. For this reason keep alert and never give up; pray always for God’s people.” Eph 6:18**

In the last newsletter I said what Palanca was! Palanca=Prayers and much more. In my study (formation) author David Thomas in his book “Life as Sacred Journey-Rest Stops Along the Way”, touches on the subject of always.

Doing anything always is always hard. Yet Jesus invited us to “pray always”.

“Impossible”, responds a mother of three small children. “It can’t be done”, she says to a friend. “Great idea but not practical”, she adds. “Not today”, says the mother/ catechist. “I have to prepare dinner and a lesson.”

So how can we even approach the idea of praying always? First, it’s important to notice that Jesus did not request that we “say prayers” all the time. He simply said to pray. Recall the traditional description of prayer: **it’s lifting of the heart and mind to God.**

Here are some images that may help in thinking of how to “pray always”. Imagine prayer as soft Christian background music while you work. Imagine prayer as the star-filled night sky as you stroll. Think of it as the smell of pines in the forest. In other words, it is possible to be conscious of more than one thing at a time.

While we can be very busy, it is sometimes helpful to stop for a moment, catch our breath and just be present to God. God likes that kind of prayer. Like teens calling home to let parents know that they are okay, that is often enough. Parents ask children to “stay in touch”. That is like prayer, which is simply staying in touch with God.

God also asks his children (you) to “stay in touch”. One of the ways of staying in touch with your Heavenly Father is as simple as visits to the Palanca chapel during the weekends. Just as a motor propels a car, Palanca (prayer) propels the weekends. God is waiting for you to call home. DeColores!!

**Upcoming Weekends**

**Women’s #74: March 27-30, 2008**

**Coordinator: Carol Smith**

**Asst. Coordinator: Judy Wolf**

**Preliminary List of Candidates for Cursillo #69**

Jonathan Wambach	St. Philip
Matt Ozechowski	St. John, Newburgh
Frank Croskey	St. John, Newburgh
Todd French	St. Philip
John Taylor	St. Peter, Montgomery
Paul Dauby	St. Joe, Dale
Bill Hochgesang	St. Celestine
Albert Nord	St. Joe, Dale
Steven Obert	St. Bernard
Jerome Buening	St. Henry
Douglas Burek	St. Joe, Princeton
Jason Butler	Holy Redeemer

Please check our website [www.evansvillecursillo.com](http://www.evansvillecursillo.com) for additional candidates as we get closer to the weekend.

<u>Secretariat Members</u>	
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	Thomas Anslinger

Ultreya	Where	Day	Time
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.

<p><b><u>School of Leaders</u></b></p> <p><b>When: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each Month</b>  <b>Where: St. John's, Daylight</b>  <b>Time: 7:00 PM CST/CDT</b></p>
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**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](mailto:dkegen@sigecom.net) or mail to return address on this newsletter. Thank-you.