

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

Dear Fourth Day Community,

With the celebration of the Feast of Pentecost, we begin what the Church calls ordinary time. In our daily life it often seems anything but ordinary as school is out, summer activities begin and people think of vacationing as families. One thing that seems ordinary here is funerals. The two this week make numbers 39 and 40. I am looking forward to the retreat at Sarto this month as a time to get out of the ordinary.

I did send in my reservation for the National Encounter in July. That is always a good event as it offers the opportunity to meet with folks from all over the country and beyond. A lot of sharing takes place and we often find that in most respects we are doing better than ever.

Whenever I listen to the witnesses at the closings I am excited by the enthusiasm of the witnesses to go out and encourage others to make a weekend. Don't let that zeal die. We would much rather have a few in reserve than to have to push at the last minute. I hope you will touch someone today and let the Holy Spirit guide you.

DeColores,

Father Ray

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

*"Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the decision of the Lord that endures". Proverbs 19:21*

"Nothing serves to restrict life more than a sense of obligation. When I see things in terms of what I must do or must not do, it's hard to know the freedom to which I have been called. When I take a look at why I see things that way, I find that I have an agenda and anything that interferes with that agenda is an intrusion and a burden. When my agenda becomes: how well and how much can I serve, obligation gives way to opportunity." (A meditation from Our Daily Bread)

The above was a meditation that I readily identified with because my agenda that day was filled with Communion calls until late afternoon, followed by a visit to the fitness center, then Holy Mass with my friendship group and our weekly group reunion. Everything was going as planned until I walked into the room of a married couple. The husband asked if I could take him to the hospital to see his wife. My first thought was: What would this do to my schedule? But I said sure, let's go. When they met, their faces became radiant with joy. What a rewarding sight. It was one of God's unexpected blessings. Needless to say, I was behind in my schedule. I reasoned that I could save some time by not visiting a 101 year-old parishioner because she had not responded to my presence for the last couple of months. Due to habit, a senior moment or God's intervention, I suddenly found myself within a few blocks of the nursing home. So I stopped. Once inside the home, the fire alarm sounded and it was yet another intrusion. As I finally entered the resident's room, a family member was kneeling at her bedside. I have been in similar situations before but it always makes me uncomfortable because of my feeling of inadequacy. I was told that Father had anointed her yesterday but would I conduct a prayer service. I did as requested. The goodness and presence of God in the room was evident in the peace, joy and hope that each of us experienced. Finally at the fitness center, there was still time to squeeze in about 15 minutes on the treadmill. As I entered, I saw my Baptist friend who had asked me to pray for him. I needed to see how he was doing and there went the last opportunity to exercise. Upon reflection of the day's events in front of the Blessed Sacrament prior to Mass, it was evident that I definitely had a wonderful day by saying yes to the opportunities that Jesus had placed within my agenda. As the hands and feet of the Lord Jesus, He must be very pleased when we put aside our agenda by making His goodness known to those in need and rousing them to love Him. In solitude, I was somewhat overwhelmed by a deep sense of God's presence and peace.

The late Dutch Catholic priest and author, Henri Nouwen, wrote: "I use to get upset about all the interruptions to my work until one day I realized that the interruptions were my work." We sometimes get so caught up in the "must do things" that we cannot experience God's presence in everyday situations. How often are intrusions really God's way for us to reach out and touch people?

Living the Cursillo tripod of piety/holiness, study/formation and action/evangelization to which we are called, bears a distinctive pattern of love of neighbor and God. We learn in Cursillo that we need to live all 3 legs of the tripod and that Christianity is the whole of life. Christ brings the light of His presence into everyday situations because He comes to bring the fullness of life. It's a life filled with piety, knowledge, service and freedom from a personal agenda. Sometimes the intrusions and burdens of the day are the most important events of the day. We remember not the days of our life but the moments within.

**Grand Ultreya**

**Saturday, August 12**

**St. John's Daylight**

**Mass at 5:00 PM**

**Reunion, Witness Talk, Food and Fellowship**

**Come Join the Fun!**

**Fall 2006 Weekends**

Men's #66

October 12-15, 2006

Coordinator: Bob Weikert

Asst. Coordinator: Nick Wolf

Women's #71

November 2-5, 2006

Coordinator: Linda Rheinlander

Asst. Coordinator to be determined

*Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965) was a deep spiritual Christian man with a brilliant mind. His philosophy was based on a reverence for life and a deep feeling of obligation to serve humanity through service. He is quoted as saying: "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know, the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."*

**Pre-Cursillo** by Skip and Jackie Dent

**“Accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” Romans 15:7**

We moved to Evansville in 2000 to live by our daughter and her family. At that time we knew not another soul. Soon after our arrival we joined a renew group at Good Shepherd and met some wonderful people who invited us to attend a Cursillo weekend. We both wanted to enrich our faith journeys so we said ‘YES’. Skip made Cursillo #55 and sat with St. Peter’s group and Jackie made Cursillo #60 and sat with St. Monica’s group. This was in the spring of 2001.

After our weekend we were touched by Christ’s love and the love of the Cursillo family. We have not looked back. Shortly thereafter we accepted the three-year commitment to be Precursillo leaders. The experience of meeting and working with so many good Christian people has influenced our spiritual journey and has given us so many friends that share the same love and commitment to the work for Christ.

It is now time for us to step down and allow others to experience the opportunities we have had by seeing the transformation of so many people’s lives in their personal relationship with Christ. We want to thank all that have helped us with this job, especially those who so enthusiastically took part in the recent Sponsor’s Workshop and to let you know that we are not through with the Cursillo movement. We plan to continue with you toward building Christ’s kingdom here on earth but in a less visible way. So with our prayers and Palanca we will sign off and let you know that each and every Cursillista will always be special to us.

May God bless Joe and Ruth Thompson as they assume the very rewarding work of Precursillo chairpersons.

**Precursillo** by Joe and Ruth Thompson

We would like to introduce ourselves and tell you a little about us as we begin our journey as Precursillo chairpersons. We are Joe and Ruth Thompson and we began our 4<sup>th</sup> days in October and November of 2001. We attend Holy Spirit parish and we have three children and four grandchildren. We have been blessed in many ways since our weekends and have found the Cursillo Movement is one of God’s most special blessings in our local community, in this country, and in the world. We have felt God’s call for a deeper involvement in Cursillo and in building His kingdom here on earth. As we begin our time as Precursillo chairpersons, we answer God’s call by working in this position to help in the building of that kingdom. We ask for your prayers for us and for the Cursillo movement and we will be doing the same for you! Each and everyone of us is responsible for the building of God’s kingdom and we pray that you will also answer God’s call. The way to do so is by making a friend in your environment and being a friend and bringing your friend to Christ through a Cursillo weekend!

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

**“...but the one who sows for the spirit, will reap eternal life from the spirit” Gal 6:8**

This month Judy and I would like to talk a little about the work of the Holy Spirit in our 4<sup>th</sup> day community. All of us have experienced a bit of a let down after our Cursillo weekend and often we run into ‘dry’ periods when God seems far away. Well, if you need a little boost, or perhaps feel the need to draw a little closer to Jesus, then we have an answer. First, pick up your Pilgrims Guide, turn to page 5 and pray to the Holy Spirit. Secondly, make the effort to become involved in some of our 4<sup>th</sup> day activities. Let us tell you about two recent Spirit-filled experiences.

At the April Resurrection Church Ultreya we were blessed with four new Cursillistas from the last set of weekends. These folks had never attended an Ultreya and some were not yet in friendship groups but they came anyway. We shared our lives in Christ, we grouped and prayed and we were treated to an excellent witness talk. Our witness speaker talked about her journey before and after her Cursillo weekend. She shared how she is growing in her faith using the tripod of piety, study and action and of her intense love for our Lord. Judging from the feedback, her talk touched many of the attendees and especially the ‘first timers’. Our Ultreya was Spirit led and was exactly what so many of us needed that evening.

Another event guided by the Holy Spirit was the recent Cursillo Evangelization Workshop held on Sat., April 22<sup>nd</sup>. We had a good turnout and participated in a spiritually enriching day. The CEW team came together to present us with even more tools that can be used to do God’s work. Deacon Mike Seibert gave a spiritual direction talk about the world needing and wanting the Good News of Jesus Christ and the need for more ‘practicing Christians’. Other team members talked about our environments: how to be responsible for them, how to evangelize them, and we heard how we could form groups in order to change our environments for Christ. As always, we had fellowship, prayer, good talks and oh yea, donuts! This entire morning was a ‘shot in the arm’ and was a gift of the Holy Spirit. *A special thanks to our CEW team: Ruth Thompson, coordinator, Damien Scheessele, Carol Niehaus, Deacon Mike Seibert, Jenny Barry and Lloyd Young, moderator, who worked very hard but could not be with us that Sat. morning.*

When Judy and I think about the wonderful gifts the 4<sup>th</sup> Day has been given that strengthen us in our walk, we are reminded of a quote we once heard: **“Look for the Spirit’s activity and then go and join Him there!”** So we encourage you, **let the Holy Spirit fill your hearts, be faithful and make the effort to listen and follow the Spirit’s lead. Your Cursillo brothers and sisters need you, Jesus needs you!**

**Post Cursillo Notes**

**Grand Ultreya:** Sat., Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> at St. John’s Daylight.  
Mass at 5:00 PM

Reunion, Witness Talk, Food and Fellowship

**Fall CEW:** Cursillo Evangelization Workshop  
Sat., Nov. 18 at St. John’s Daylight

**Friendship Groups:** Weekly  
**Ultreyas:** Monthly

**“Here I Am Lord”  
Evansville Women’s Cursillo #70**

Dear Fourth Day Community,

Many women on this past weekend heard the plea from God to Isaiah, “Whom shall we send?” and we all answered in our own way, “Here I Am Lord, send me”.

What a powerful weekend this was. The presence of the Holy Spirit was felt as soon as the weekend started on Thursday evening. All of the women were open and made new friends and renewed their friendship with Jesus. What a friend and brother to have on your side and always there with you. We all experienced the power of prayer and how it transformed our lives.

This weekend could not have happened if it wasn’t for the prayers and Palanca of the 4<sup>th</sup> Day community. I personally witnessed the power of prayer in pulling together God’s team for this weekend and also the placing of our new Cursillistas in their respective groups. I was only able to do it through the many prayers of the 4<sup>th</sup> Day community and the many graces from the Holy Spirit. We were all overwhelmed by your powerful support and we sincerely appreciate all the behind the scenes people who donated their time and goodies.

Please continue to attend group reunion, Ultreyas and other 4<sup>th</sup> Day activities that are provided to help you keep that mountain top high alive. Let’s all of us continue to do Palanca for our newest Cursillistas as they continue on their conversion. New Cursillistas, if you haven’t started grouping yet, please contact any of the team members to help you get started.

Your Sister in Christ,  
Janet Debes

**Welcome New Cursillistas**

Leslie Schaefer	Kathy M. Seger	Carol Olinger
Kim Spaetti	Anne Roeder	Cindy Sermersheim
Jane Scheller	Kristi Hershberger	Mary Cooper
Marti Knight	Erika Maurer	Karen Folz
Darlene Kaiser	Tess Fleming	Rosemary Spahn
Carie Cuasay	Mary Kay Neal	Cora Sue Preske
Nancy Teder	Becky Whitehouse	Kim Straub
Sherry Folz	Joni Cardin	Suzanne Schmelz
Heather Tretter	Lea Elliott	Mary B. Sowders
Kim South	Angie Schitter	Judi Debes
Joanne Devine	Cindy Wilmes	

**A letter from the Treasurer by Dennis Seib**

May I introduce myself to you? Thank you. My name is Dennis Seib and I will be the newest member on the Evansville Cursillo Secretariat starting in June as the Treasurer.

I made Cursillo #53 in February 2000 and I sat with the St. James Group. My wife, Karen, made Cursillo #56 and sat at St. Teresa’s Group. Karen and I have three boys. One is married and has two children, one is single and the other one is with the Lord. We have lived in the Newburgh area for the last 30 years and have been members of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church during the entire time. I am a Eucharistic minister, served on the Parish Council, participate in many events and am a current member and past officer on the Newburgh Knights of Columbus. For the last 17 years I have been the controller and part owner of a company, EVA-PAR, which is an industrial sales, service and rental equipment distributor of power electric generators and air power systems as well as engine and filtration systems. For the last four years my wife and I have been blessed to serve as leaders of St. John’s Ultreya on the second Thursday of each month.

I look forward to serving the 4<sup>th</sup> Day as Treasurer of the Secretariat and ask for your prayers, not only for myself but also for all the leaders in the movement and especially at the local level.

**School of Leaders by Bob Weikert**

God is good and He loves us every second of every day. His rewards are felt so much in the Cursillo community. We are blessed to have such tremendous Spiritual Directors to give our doctrinal talks. The School of Leaders is where the action is and this is ‘what’s happening’ at the school. Be there and be better formed to better understand God’s words and how to evangelize the environment. Here are some recent and upcoming high-lights:

- Jan. 2: Deacon Joe Seibert—the Sacrament of Baptism
- Feb. 21: Father Robert Deig—Pope Benedict XVI’s encyclical “God is Love”
- Mar. 7: Sister Jane Michele McClure—“Kingdom Within”
- Apr. 4: Sister Jenny Miller—“Forgiveness and Reconciliation”
- May 2: Deacon Mike Seibert—“Why do Catholics pray their dead into Heaven?”
- June 6: Deacon Jim Wuebkenberg
- June 20: Father Jason Gries will speak
- August 1: Father Gene Schroeder will speak

Remember on the weekend when the group leader giving the “Leaders” talk told you that by living your Cursillo you would be a Christian leader? Maybe you became just a little nervous and did not believe that you could be such a leader. Maybe those thoughts are still present in your mind. The speaker reassured you that he/she was not talking about those who are “highly placed” in society or have wealth and prominence. He/she went on to define a leader as one whom with their person and conduct, influence the thoughts and actions of others. Everyone who has made a Cursillo has the potential to become a Christian leader if they would use their God-given talents to orient, guide, and direct those around them to help bring about the Christian transformation of their environments. Your attendance at the School of Leaders will provide a continual improvement in yourself, in the Cursillo movement and in the environments in which you find yourself.

***In the words of Jesus: “Come and See”. Cursillo is a way of life. Experience it fully!***

**Web News by Dave Wathen**

Let me introduce myself. I am David Wathen and I made Cursillo #59 in the spring of 2003 and I sat with St. Mark’s group. My wife is Velvet and we have a 2-year old daughter, Cydney. (you know what that means!) We are members of Holy Spirit Parish. I enjoy spending my free time tinkering on VW beetles and computers. Okay, enough about me...what’s going on with our web site?

We had 2136 web visitors last month. The most popular on our site last month besides the home page was from our collected prayers “The Name Above Every Other Name”. Did you know Jesus was so popular? It puts a warm smile in my heart. Future webbing endeavors: we are looking into adding a forum for everyone to share their knowledge and love for Jesus and the Cursillo movement. I am currently in the process of updating past articles in the Secretariat sections and hope to be caught up this summer. If you would like to share an idea on how to make our site better, send me an email at [webmaster@evansvillecursillo.com](mailto:webmaster@evansvillecursillo.com). Peace and blessings to each of you.

**Secretariat Members**

Spiritual Director	Fr. Ray Brenner
Lay Director	Bruce Bonenberger
Secretary	Dennis Seib
Treasurer	Joe Thompson
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	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.

**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](mailto: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.***