

March 2008

Words From the Spiritual Director by Father Ray Brenner

Dear Fourth Day,

The saying goes "How time flies when you're having fun." I'm not sure how much fun I've been having but the time sure seems to have been flying by. I reached my 65th birthday on February 12th and realize more and more each day what the older folks mean when they say, "the older you get, the faster it goes." My current plans are to hang in there for at least 5 more years.

As I hear reports of the "Why Catholic" participation I am convinced that our people are hungry for growth in their relationship with Christ. So many parishes had to order more books than they had anticipated. Here at St. Joseph, Jasper, we have at least 425 involved in discussion groups. On some evenings it appears we are running a night school.

Perhaps as Cursillistas we do not use the same zeal in promoting the Cursillo Movement as we do Bible study and discussion groups or book study. I have had to look at that myself, but I do try to work Cursillo into my homilies as often as I can.

I hope I am not out of line in using this newsletter to promote the Italy pilgrimage Nov. 4-14, 2008. I have room for 15-16 more participants. If interested call me at (812)-482-1805, ext. 114 or write to me at 1029 Kundek St., Jasper, IN 47546, or email rbrenner@evansville-diocese.org and I will be happy to send a brochure.

Do something special for the Lord or one of His children this Lent and God will bless you.

DeColores,

Father Ray

Words From the Lay Director by Bruce Bonenberger

"Well done, my good and faithful servant...Come, share your master's joy." Matt. 25:23

Throughout history, God has given His Church good leaders to be His hands and feet in the fight against evil. One such leader was Eduardo Bonnin, a Spaniard, a humble, deeply spiritual man living a life of celibacy by choice. He was a man who had allowed himself to be fully guided by the Holy Spirit while developing the concepts of the Cursillo Movement. This came about because he said yes to God's call. He was a layperson serving the Church by living in Grace. Eduardo died on this past Ash Wednesday, February 6, at the age of 90 in Mallorca, Spain.

Members of the Cursillo National staff visited Eduardo in 2002 and 2003 and he told them that it was most important for people to understand the concepts of the Cursillo Movement. He said: "The purpose of the Cursillo Movement was to transform the person—nothing more." Over a period of time, some leaders placed the "Mission of the Church—Evangelization" as the purpose of the Cursillo Movement. He said: "if a person has a true conversion, he/she will naturally Christianize his/her own environments". Each person making a Cursillo has a triple encounter to a true conversion. First, an encounter with self, second an encounter with God and finally, an encounter with others. A life of piety, study and action, along with Group Reunion and Ultreya, are the keys to becoming fully human—the person we were created to become. Cursillo is a point of departure and not an end.

Eduardo said the following about the ideological basis of Cursillos in Christianity. "It was the effect of a lengthy process of maturation and the fruit of a tenacious, impassioned and constant search. Thanks to the action of Grace it finally became a practical realization." He described this ideology in his teachings. A partial and condensed version is below.

- A triumphant concept of Christianity which is exact and true as an integral solution of all human problems.
- A dynamic vision of militant Catholicism is an urgency of life's situations which calls us to take immediate action for the Kingdom of God.
- A principle of sincere, honest and open-eyed dissatisfaction (of the environments we live in). This is the only possible point of departure for effective action.
- A firm conviction that it is possible that anyone who is living on the fringe of religion, if he is hit with a fist full of Grace, would be able to surrender himself completely to Christ.
- The firm hope that on completion of a Cursillo, even the Zaccheuses and Sauls, would be converted into the Lord's most dynamic apostles.
- The conviction that the solution is simple and because simple, universal.

When we stand before God, we will see the good of our life. I imagined that Eduardo saw the good that the Cursillo Movement has done in the Church and in the lives of the 3 million people who have made a Cursillo. Cursillo was a life changing experience for me and I too will see the good that Cursillo has done during my time as a Secretariat member. I thank God for Eduardo, a good and faithful servant. May he rest in peace and share His master's joy.

Newsletter Notes

Our Cursillo Movement is looking for a person, couple or group to help with the newsletter. It can be a group effort—one person can type and one or several work on the format. This is a wonderful way to share your talents with all of our Cursillistas. Please contact Bruce Bonenberger at 477-6396.

A big thank-you to all who have asked to receive the newsletter by email. Again, we encourage all who have email to provide your address to dke-gen@sigecom.net. You will save the movement printing and postage costs and receive the newsletter at least a week earlier than by U.S. mail.

Fall Weekends

Men's #70: October 9-12, 2008
Coordinator: Joe Thompson
Asst. Coordinator: To be determined

Women's #75: November 6-9, 2008
Coordinator: Judy Wolf
Asst. Coordinator: To be determined

Precursillo by Joe and Ruth Thompson

“The sound of their voice went out to all the world.” Romans 10:18

Here we are in the middle of Lent and at this writing we are getting ready for another Cursillo weekend for men. Again we do not have a full house. Are we doing our job? Is the sound of your voice going out to the world proclaiming your love for Christ and inviting your friends to make a Cursillo weekend? Scripture tells us over and over that we are to bring our brothers and sisters to Christ. **How can they believe if they have not heard?** Friends, we have to constantly preach the **Good News**. You never know when the word will be heard. Do not stop asking. The next time may be the time your friend will say **“Yes”** to the Lord.

We all need to continue to pray and do palanca not only for the candidates and the weekends but also for the Cursillo Movement. We do have a strong Movement here in the Evansville Diocese, but there is always room for improvement. We need to invite new Cursillistas to come with us to the closings and candlelights and to encourage them to get active bringing their friends to Christ. Let’s all work together and get our friendship groups sponsoring candidates and filling the upcoming weekend.

The **Sponsor’s Workshop** will be held on Saturday, March 29th at 7:00 PM at the Catholic Center. It is followed by Mass at 8:00 PM and candlelight at 9:00 PM. All Cursillistas are encouraged to attend, especially sponsors and new Cursillistas.

School of Leaders by Thomas Anslinger

“After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: ‘This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel’.” Mark 1: 14-15

Pope John Paul II gave us five new mysteries of the rosary, the Mysteries of Light. One central image that seems to tie together the five Mysteries of Light is proclaiming the Kingdom of God...the third Mystery of Light. The School of Leaders attempts to tie together the various elements of the Cursillo Movement. It provides an opportunity to exercise “Metanoia”—a conversion or a rethinking about our way of living and proclaiming the Kingdom of God. Can we help others rethink their way of living and believing in the gospel? Can we, as Cursillistas, make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ by getting more involved in the movement? Attending the School of Leaders allows one to observe the inner workings of the Cursillo movement...from the planning of the weekends and selection of the teams to the post-Cursillo activities which are the CEW’s, Sponsor’s Workshops, Encounters and Ultreyas. Join us in the School of Leaders and ask any questions you might have about inviting candidates for the weekends, how the teams are formed for the weekends, how the talks are prepared and given, and how the CEW’s, Ultreyas and Grand Ultreyas come together.

God sent His only son into this world to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to engage in a mission of healing and the forgiveness of sins. We, as the Body of Christ, are His hands, feet and legs. We must get involved any way we can; becoming more active in the Cursillo Movement is a wonderful way to accomplish this. And attending the School of Leaders whenever you can goes a long way in helping to proclaim the Kingdom of God. The School of Leaders is a gathering of leaders and a grouping of those who are sincerely concerned about the health and continuity of the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Evansville. We read from the Leaders Manual: “The School is designed to accentuate the Cursillo Movement, because of the leaders that are there.” (P. 49) Come on any first or third Tuesday of the month to share your gifts and join fellow Cursillistas as we try to reach out and proclaim the Kingdom of God.

Post-Cursillo by Nicholas and Judith Wolf

“A clean heart create for me God: renew in me a steadfast spirit. Do not drive me from your presence nor take from me your Holy Spirit.” Psalm 51: 12-13

How easy it is to become distracted by the cares and chores of everyday life. It is so easy to let the “busy-ness” of our lives control us. When the deception of time becomes our primary focus, it becomes even easier to drift away from the reality of the Holy Spirit and the precious sacrifice Jesus made in order that we could have life. As Cursillistas we ask God to renew His spirit within us. Are we open to His re-entrance in our lives, or are we only paying lip service? Are we really expecting change? Perhaps the spirit might ask us to turn off the TV and spend some time with Jesus, or call a friend or family member whom we haven’t talked with in a while. Maybe His whisper asks us to smile when we feel like snapping back at a rude person’s comment, or reach out in compassion to the less fortunate. A good question to think about in this Lenten season is, “are we drifting or are we listening?” As Cursillistas we are charged to willingly risk the embarrassment of rejection in order to show someone the face of Jesus! The Spirit of God is given to us only that we may give it to others.

Recall with Judy and I, your individual weekend, and the place the Holy Spirit brought us to in our faith life because we willingly opened the door of our hearts just a crack. He restored our spirits. He nourished our souls with His most Precious Body. He recalled us to Himself. He filled our hearts with new friendships, shared meals, songs of praise, and of course prayer. He created in us a new heart and for a little while we knew His intense love for us, and His peace. And on that grace filled, peaceful weekend of renewal, our Lord gave us the method and the means to share His gifts with others. He wants us to take advantage of our friendship groups, Ultreyas and fourth day activities to spread the news of His love for us. If right now you are checking your spiritual pulse, maybe its time to dust off that little Pilgrims Guide you received on the weekend to recall what your Cursillo commitment is all about. Maybe you could call an old Cursillo partner to catch up, or get back in a group, or join us at an Ultreya. We know that in this season of penance and anticipation of our Lord’s resurrection, time becomes even more precious. However, let us all listen to the Holy Spirit and ask what can we give back to Jesus for what He gave us on Good Friday? He stretched out His arms on the cross to say, “I love you this much”—what can each of us as Christians, Catholics, and Cursillistas do to say, **“Jesus, I Love You Too”**. **“Restore my joy in your salvation; sustain in me a willing spirit. I will teach the wicked your ways, that sinners may return to you.” Psalm 51: 14-15**

Special thanks to Judy Hussey, Diocese of Burlington, Vermont, for her inspiration.

Post Cursillo Notes

*(Everyone is welcome at all Cursillo activities.
Please check in this newsletter or on the website for times)*

Women’s #74 Talk Support: March 15

Women’s #74 Weekend: March 27-30

Sponsor’s Workshop: March 29

CEW (Cursillo Evangelization Workshop): April 5

Please note: due to scheduling conflicts the CEW has been changed from the 12th to the 5th of April.

Hope to see you there and please bring your “Gifts of the Holy Spirit” to share with others.

**“He is the Voice of the Living God”
Evansville Women’s Cursillo #74
March 27-30, 2008**

Dear Fourth Day Community,

The Lord has called together His team for Women’s Cursillo #74. We began formations on February 10th and are eagerly walking that journey that will form us as a true Christian Community able to serve the candidates coming to us at the end of March. Only through the grace of God will our efforts to bring these women closer to Jesus be a success.

We know that this is not a single effort. We need the prayers and palanca of the 4th Day Community. Please support us and the candidates with your prayers and palanca throughout formations and the weekend.

If you would like to provide a snack or dessert for the weekend, please call our Head Kitchen, Cindy Smith, at 783-2726. If you would like to serve a meal or be a kitchen angel, please contact Norma Folz at 925-7159.

If you have team palanca, you may mail it to: Carol Smith, 721 19th St., Tell City, IN 47586 or email to ris.smith@hotmail.com. You may sign up for a Palanca Chapel at your local Ultreya. Talk support will be at St. John’s in Newburgh on Saturday, March 15th from 8:00 AM to noon. Mass will be offered at 7:00 AM. Please come and support those giving talks.

Again, I ask for your continued support through prayer and palanca. I also encourage you to show your support to the candidates by attending candlelight and closing. Come and hear the newest members of the 4th Day witness to how they heard “the Voice of the Living God” speak to them.

Your Sister in Christ,

Carol Smith

Women’s Cursillo Team # 74			
Spiritual Director	Fr. Jim Endress	Kitchen Staff	Dana Krodel
Spiritual Director	Fr. Ron Kreilein	Kitchen Staff	Jenny Mayer
Spiritual Director	Sr. Jolinda Naas	Kitchen Staff	Phyllis Alspaugh
Coordinator	Carol Smith	Ideal	Jennifer Vangamper
Asst. Coordinator	Judy Wolf	The Layperson in the Church	Sandra Borho
Head Stewardess	Allison Kaiser	Piety	Martha Baehl
Asst. Stewardess	Mary Balbach	Study	Elaine Morris
Asst. Stewardess	Pat Krack	Action	Delores Folz
Song Leader	Dianne Klein	Leaders	Vickie Wannemuehler
Asst Song Leader	Debbie Collins	Study of the Environment	Janet Debes
Head Kitchen Staff	Cindy Smith	Christianity in Action	Sara Kessens
Kitchen Staff	Elaine Reisz		

Schedule for Evansville Women’s Cursillo #74

Talk Support Day	Sat., Mar. 15	8:00AM– 12:00PM	St. Johns Newburgh
Set-up	Wed., Mar. 26	7:00 PM	Sarto
Sponsor’s Dedication	Thurs, Mar. 27	7:00 PM	Sarto Chapel
Sponsor’s Workshop	Sat, Mar 29	7:00 PM	Celebration Hall Celebration Hall Mass, then as a community Proceed to Chapel
Mass & Candlelight	Sat, Mar. 29	8:00 PM	Mass
Closing	Sun, Mar. 30	5:40 PM	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.

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

Evansville Men’s Cursillo # 69

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the Cursillo weekend began on Thursday with the predicted ice storm in progress, I was reminded of the words in our theme song: “Our lives are a myst’ry, we see not where they lead. We are asked now to trust you and we know we must believe.” With the combined help of God’s intervention, the 4th day prayers, along with the efforts of 23 dedicated team members, and 23 awesome spirit filled candidates, Cursillo #69 became a reality. Thank you for all the prayers, palanca, food, time and service you have shared to make this weekend so very special.

As we gathered around the altar, the tables in the conference room and dining room, the candidates began hearing the word and living the word. We listened to the talks, cried a little and laughed a lot. Through it all we learned how to become Christ’s hands, feet and voice in the environments we are placed into. Please continue to pray for the new Cursillistas and reinforce what they heard and learned from their Cursillo experience.

As the weekend unfolded and concluded on Sunday evening, it was very evident our hearts and our spirits were nurtured by God’s grace. And as the last two lines in the theme song stated: “It is Jesus who fills us. He is here in this place.” The Cursillo experience has again allowed us to encounter the living Jesus and may it continue to motivate us on our life journey through Group Reunion and Ultreya.

Friends in Christ,

God Bless!!!

Ron Balbach

Preliminary List of Candidates		
Audra Schue	Precious Blood	Jasper
Debbie Herrmann	St. Philip	Evansville
Betsy Gorman	St. Mary’s	Evansville
Judy Kerney	St. Wendel	St. Wendel
Denise Mitchell	St. John the Baptist	Newburgh
Ann Rasche	St. Joseph	Jasper
Rebecca Helfrich	Resurrection	Evansville
Melissa Rudolph	Holy Rosary	Evansville
Kristina Croskey	St. John the Baptist	Newburgh
Jennifer Doane	St. Philip	Evansville
Bonita Gass	Holy Rosary	Evansville
Shari Hirsch	Good Shepherd	Evansville

Check www.evansvillecursillo.com and your local Ultreya for complete list of Candidates for Cursillo #74

Welcome New Cursillistas		
Jon Wambach	Steve Obert	Dave Luigs
Matt Ozechowski	Doug Burek	Chad Klenck
Frank Croskey	Jason Butler	Frank Arnold
Todd French	Ryan Lampert	John Payne
John Taylor	Jose Arias	Ted Byrom
Paul Dauby	Kent Ruminer	Frank Bender
Bill Hochgesang	Andy Reckelhoff	Bryan Lukemeyer
Albert Nord	Joe Helfrich	

<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><u>School of Leaders</u></p> <p>When: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each Month</p> <p>Where: St. John's, Daylight</p> <p>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@sigecom.net or mail to return address on this newsletter. Thank-you.