

Words From the Spiritual Director

by Father Ray Brenner

Dear Fourth Day Community,

As I begin this note, the word I keep hearing over and over is “deadline.” Of course, being April 15, it is in regard to the deadline for getting your taxes filed.

If we looked at the number of deadlines we face on a day to day basis, it would blow our minds. Those who hit the snooze button when the alarm goes off realize there is a deadline for hitting it the last time before they will have to rush through their morning routine. Then there is the getting to work or church or school or wherever. And the deadlines in the day go on and on. Freedom from all this is what leads people to retire.

One deadline we cannot control is the one when we stand before God and give an account of our lives. Some of these can catch us off-guard such as accidental drowning at age 62 or cancer and diabetes at 26.

Some of what we can control has to do with how we have touched the lives of others to bring them closer to Christ. At our April Jasper Ultreya there was no speaker, perhaps due to some miscommunication. But Bill Kaiser did an excellent job of calling to mind the need for all of us to evangelize. This led to some of those present taking one of those applications to pass on. There is no real deadline for making a Cursillo weekend but how will they be moved unless they are told.

I did get some response to the Italy Pilgrimage from the last newsletter. It is November 4–14 and includes Venice, Florence, Padua, Pisa, Assisi and Rome. Call me at (812)-482-1805 or (812)-457-4563 or write me at 1029 Kundek St., Jasper, IN 47546, and I will be happy to send you a brochure.

Regional News: Cursillo Encounter Comes to Our Diocese

The 2008 fall Regional Meeting will be hosted by the Evansville Diocese at St. Meinrad on Oct. 31—Nov. 2. As most of you know, St. Meinrad is a beautiful place and has remodeled meeting rooms and sleeping rooms with private baths. Registration will start at 5 pm on Friday, with the program beginning at 7pm Friday and ending after Mass and breakfast Sunday morning. The theme is “Give Glory to God.” Fr. Robert Braun will give the keynote address, and four lay members of the regional team will talk on Humility, Patience, Prayerful, and Having a Forgiving Love. If you have never attended a Cursillo Encounter, you will enjoy meeting other Cursillistas from outside our diocese. Costs and additional information will appear in the next newsletter, but you will find it is a reasonably priced “get-away.” Contact a Secretariat Member for more information or to volunteer to help!

National News: 18th National Cursillo Encounter

The National Cursillo Encounter will be held at the Catholic University in Washington D.C. on July 31—August 3, 2008. The theme is “Christ is our Light.” Masses are held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and the university is within walking distance. If you register by May 31, the fee is \$325. Info and registration forms are at www.natl-cursillo.org.

Words From the Lay Director *by Bruce Bonenberger*

“The Lord takes delight in his people.” Ps 149:4

Pope John Paul II stated that “the most radical and elevating affirmation of the value of every human being was made by the Son of God in his becoming man in the womb of a woman.” God in the flesh brings dignity to the human person.

The concept of person is part of the essence and the Foundational Charisma of Cursillos. The Cursillo Movement has made it possible for over 3 million people to realize the value and meaning of not only being simply an individual, another human being, but of being a person. Human beings become persons when they are treated as someone who is valuable for what they are and not for what they know, or the talents, gifts, wealth or social standing that they possess. A person cannot be disposed of at will.

Everyone needs to understand that a relationship with God is the source and the catalyst of our becoming a person. The person should sense that God is transforming them. Every person will certainly have to gain insight into their inner being by having a personal encounter with self, in order to rid themselves of things that separate them from a closer union with God. Through a personal encounter with God, one must see God’s desire for them and the task or mission that God has intended for them. God always has 2 images of us. He sees us as we are and He sees us as He wants us to be. It is our job to make our own contributions to interior growth by bringing those 2 images into one image. We are a work in progress, always emerging, and should devote ourselves more to what is demanded of us. By living a life of piety, study and action, we can bring those 2 images closer together.

A lay person, living a devout Christian lifestyle, lives their life in the world according to Christ. They live a life what is Fundamental for being a Christian to achieve that reality of a person encountering the Holy Spirit and capable of understanding the order of things established by the Creator. They become aware of their personal dignity. The dignity of the human person is rooted in his creation in the image and likeness of God. If baptized, we have an even greater dignity because we are a child of God. Living a moral life bears witness to the dignity of the person. We all share a common dignity from our rebirth in Christ. In Christ there is no inequality, for we are all one in Jesus Christ. The unity of persons from diverse backgrounds during a Cursillo supports this statement.

Dignity is part of man’s rational being. In the Ideal talk, we hear that a human being is a rational animal with a will, intellect and freedom to choose by thought and conscience. Of course this is a risk. It allows us to make a mistake which is an essential element of being a person. One of the beliefs of Eduardo Bonnin is that man reacts to a success, to a failure, to the encounter with another. Our reaction to those given moments will demonstrate and show what we truly are in the eyes of God.

Let’s be persons, a little more conscious of our dignity and the dignity of others. Let us be more aware of our gifts and talents and the gifts and talents of others. Let us strive for our fulfillment and the fulfillment of others in a climate of love and friendship. Let us take delight in the Lord’s people.

Precursillo by Joe and Ruth Thompson

Christ is counting on you!

Do those words still ring a bell to you?

Ruth and I would like to use this newsletter to talk about and help with some questions about sponsoring.

This very act of sponsoring is one of the ways we show that Jesus is working in our lives and how we want to show a "Friend" how much Jesus wants to work in their lives.

Sponsoring gives us the opportunity to help someone grow in their love for Christ and to put their lives in service to the Lord. Won't you answer the call, "Christ is counting on you!"

Before you sponsor someone for a weekend there are some things that need to be done first. We all know the Make a Friend, Be a Friend, and Bring your Friend to Christ, but really the first thing that needs to be done is PRAY, PRAY, PRAY.

Before you sponsor someone, make sure they are ready for the Weekend. The weekend is not meant to help someone who may have just had a disappointment, divorce or some other loss in their life. The weekend may well help in that but that is not the focus of a Cursillo weekend. Let some time pass before asking that person to a weekend.

When you are ready to sponsor your friend you can get the application online at www.evansvillecursillo.com. Look in the center of the page and you will see "Cursillo online forms" and when you click on that you will see the word "application" and of course the form will pop up when you click on that. I would ask that you print side one and then reinsert your paper and print side two on the other side. "Help save the trees"!

When you have it printed out prayerfully read over it and make sure you and your candidate both know the commitment you are making. Make sure that as a sponsor you fill out the back side of the form. It states that you will be responsible in helping the new Cursillistas to get into or find a group. They need to get into a group while they are still on fire from the weekend. Please bring them to an Ultreya and the Cursillo workshop after the women's weekend. During the weekend, plan on serving a meal and take time to do an hour in palanca chapel. Attend the Candlelight and Closing, and see that they get home. If possible spend some time after Closing with them, maybe sharing a meal or just talking about the weekend. All this is part of your responsibility in making a friend, being a friend and bringing that friend to Christ. God Bless All of You!!

*Joe & Ruth Thompson
Pre Cursillo Chairpersons*

Post-Cursillo by Nicholas and Judith Wolf

"Rabbi, where do you stay?" "Come and See".

John 1:38-39

In this bible verse, John the Baptist points Jesus out to two of his disciples by saying, "Look"! There is the Lamb of God". These disciples were moved to follow Jesus, and they stayed with Him all day. As Cursillistas in our fourth day, do we know where Jesus is staying, and how do we respond to His command to "come and see". Our Cursillo has given us the means to "come" to Jesus and "see" his life in us, and in those around us. He calls us to open our hearts to Him and to "stay" with Him. We can do this in our fourth day by participating in friendship groups, Ultreyas, and other reunions such as the CEW and the Grand Ultreya. If we are to continue to be the leaven that changes the world for Christ, then it is important that we become involved in our ecclesial communities.

A perfect example of the 4th day community coming together to share their commitment and on-going conversion was the recent Cursillo Evangelization Workshop. On April 5th, sixty-four Cursillistas gathered for a morning of reunion, prayer, food and fellowship. These 64 attendees, including twelve 'new Cursillistas' and many team members, were treated to a morning of inspiring talks and group sharing that helped each of us understand a little better where exactly our Lord is staying. We received many positive comments from the new Cursillistas as well as the seasoned 4th day members. Jesus blessed us with His presence, and helped us as we adjusted to a new CEW format. Judy and I would encourage each of you to attend a CEW or other post cursillo reunion. Come with your sponsored candidate, come with your friendship group, come with a friend, or come by yourself. JUST COME! The disciples of John the Baptist followed Jesus and spent the day with Him. They were so impressed with Jesus that the first thing Andrew did was to seek out his brother Simon and bring him to Jesus. Did God make an impression on you when you made your weekend? Did Jesus take up residence in your heart? Did you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to an "interior renewal"? If so, then become involved in the gifts of our Cursillo fourth day. Go get your brother or sister and bring them to Jesus. "Come and See"!

On behalf of our Cursillo Community we would like to express our appreciation to the CEW team who helped make our morning a spiritual success. (Trish Samila, Richard Burek, JP Englebrecht, Ann and Eldon Hopkins and Mary and Greg Freeman.) These individuals gave of their time and talents, and took on a servants heart, so that each of us could 'stay' the morning with Jesus. Judy and I can find absolutely no better way to continue the work our God has called us to than through the methods made available to us through our Cursillo experience. We pray that you become involved in God's Cursillo, that you experience His presence and His love through a fourth day reunion, that you let Him **stay** in your heart, and that you would respond to His words, "Come and See"!

3 Day: By Lloyd and Julie Young

Philippians 1:3-4 "I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you."

We wish to begin by thanking the 4th day for all the kind words of encouragement and support as we begin a new ministry. We are truly blessed by our involvement with our Cursillo family. Julie made Cursillo # 34 in the Spring of 1991 and Lloyd made Cursillo #59 in the Spring of 2003. We have a blended family of six children and two grandchildren with a new granddaughter to arrive in August of this year. We are members of Holy Rosary parish and we are active in RCIA as well as other parish ministries. Cursillo plays an important role in our continuing Christian formation and we look forward to serving on the Secretariat.

We wish to give special thanks to our friends David and Velvet Wathen who have worked so faithfully at setting up for closings on the weekends. David and Velvet are stepping down after five years of service and "Yes" we are looking for volunteers to help! If you or your group would be interested in helping with the set up and tear down of the Men's and Women's weekends, please contact us at jyoung@evansville-diocese.org or lloydyoung@a-d-distributors.com. Our home phone is 401-2726.

Peace and Joy in Our Lord,

Lloyd and Julie Young

**“He is the Voice of the Living God”
Evansville Women’s Cursillo #74**

Dear Fourth Day Community,

Through the grace and power of the Holy Spirit, 23 dedicated team members and 32 beautiful candidates came to Women’s Cursillo #74 and encountered the presence of the living God. Beginning Thursday evening and continuing through Sunday’s Closing, we truly felt the power of the Holy Spirit guiding us and bringing us closer to the love of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Through our laughter, sharing, praying, and tears, we grew in our love for Christ and all He offers through His Church.

The success of the weekend was also a result of the support from the Fourth Day. A very special thank-you to all of you for your prayers, palanca, food, time and service that was so generously given. I ask that you continue to pray for our new Cursillistas as they either form friendship groups, or join existing ones. Please encourage them, also, to attend an Ultreya regularly.

As our theme stated: *He is the voice of the Living God*, calling us now to live in His love, so, too, we on Cursillo#74 have been called to live as His children once again. May each of you also hear *His voice* and respond with a renewed love for our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Your Sister in Christ, *Carol Smith*

School of Leaders by *Thomas Anslinger*

Tell to the Coming Generations:

“We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and His might, and the wonders which He has wrought.” Psalm 78:4

Paraphrasing and adapting from “A Year with the Psalms – 365 Meditations and Prayers” by Eugene Peterson...Those of us who experiences God’s grace in making a Cursillo have an obligation to pass on what we learned. It is not necessary that each new Cursillista start from scratch learning the way of the Movement by trial and error. The Cursillo Movement has a history, an accumulation of experience useful for instruction and inspiration.

The School of Leaders is a tool to aid the Movement “pass forward” the knowledge garnered from the Cursillistas who went before us. It is a place where leaders gather together to pray, listen to spiritual talks, group and discuss matters of the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Evansville. All Cursillistas are invited to come to the School of Leaders, whether you are currently active in the Movement or may have slipped out of being active. It is a great place to re-energize your involvement and to help us pass on the blessings of what we have learned. Join us at St. John Church in Daylight on the first and third Tuesday of any month at 7:00 PM as we plan, share and carry out the work of the Movement. Here is a brief summary of upcoming spiritual speakers on the first Tuesday of the next three months:

- May 6 – Father Tony Ernst will speak of “Evangelization”
- June 3 – Deacon Dennis Hilderbrand will talk about “Mary”
- July 1 – Sister Rose Wildeman will speak on a topic to be determined

You are also invited to join us on the third Tuesday when we review and discuss one chapter in the new Cursillo Leaders’ Manual instead of having a spiritual speaker. This meeting, like the meeting on the first Tuesday, involves prayer, grouping and review of Cursillo activities.

Welcome New Cursillistas

Diane Bradley	Shari Hirsch	Rebecca Helfrich
Kelly Obert	Debbie Achilles	Ann Rasche
Margie Nord	Karen Muensterman	Natalie Roush
Lori Nord	Debra Schenk	Shelia Wilson
Audrey Alcorn	Bonita Gass	Sally Gravatte
Carol Griesbacher	Jennifer Doane	Denise Mitchell
Lynette Allen	Kristina Croskey	Julie Weese
Dorothy Morris	Melissa Rudolph	Judy Kerney
Terri Barnes	Betsy Gorman	Mary Wargel
Rachel Burek	Audra Schue	Debbie Herrmann
Jeannette Arias	Patty Winck	

Palanca by *Al Debes*

According to David M. Thomas in his book Life as Sacred Journey Rest Stops Along the Way. When we go to heaven we should have lunch with doubting Thomas. He deserves a “thank you” from those of us who like to question things. If it was unclear to him, he would ask a question. At the Last Supper, Thomas let loose with one of the most important questions ever asked of Jesus.

Thomas wanted to know some details about “the way” that they (the disciples) were to go, what they needed to pack etc. etc.

Instead of giving a roadmap, Jesus provided an answer that has challenged Christians for 2000 years. “I am the way, the truth, and the life”. Watch where I go and follow me. Just as the sheep follows his shepherd. We also must we follow the Good Shepherd, just as the shepherd knows his flock, God personally recognizes us in a crowd, and will never leave us.

This is the message that I convey to other Cursillo centers as I send palanca to them that. I tell them that we You and I are doing acts of self-denial and praying for guidance of the Holy Spirit. Palanca offerings should not be limited to the three days but ongoing for all weekends going on around the world. Palanca should be seen as a tool to assist candidates and the Cursillo movement. Even though we do not have palanca chapel at this time of year, we still focus on **knowing** God.

It’s helpful that we know that the Hebrew word for **knowing** implies **closeness & intimacy**. Knowing is no easy matter we must work at it with prayer and palanca and focus

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

<u>Secretariat Members</u>	
Spiritual Director	Fr. Ray Brenner
Lay Director	Bruce Bonenberger
Secretary	Pat Krack
Treasurer	Dennis Seib
Pre-Cursillo	Joe & Ruth Thompson
Cursillo	Lloyd & Julie young
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.

School of Leaders

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

Post Cursillo Notes
*(Everyone is welcome at all Cursillo activities.
Please check in this newsletter or on the website for times)*
Grand Ultreya, Aug. 9th, St. John's Daylight
Fall Regional Encounter, Oct 31, Nov 1- 2,
St Meinrad Archabbey
Fall CEW (reunion), Nov. 22, St John's Daylight

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.