

September 2007

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

Dear Fourth Day Community,

It's amazing how time flies when things are supposed to be a little more relaxed. But when I look at the situations in the face, I find it more and more difficult to say NO.

In the spring I was asked to be the speaker at the St. Anne Society Valentine Dinner. I was told I could speak on any topic I wanted. I titled my talk "Thirty-seven years with the same company and still enjoying it". I suppose that's why I keep as involved.

We all find time to do the things that are of priority to us. That's why I still make time for the farm, St. Meinrad Alumni Reunion and a little time away. But God never seems to take time off even though some may think God has when we have all those very hot days. But God is still present as evidenced in the lives of so many people.

As a Cursillo community we are gearing up for the fall weekends. I have to ask myself if I have asked enough people to make a weekend? The Renew sessions many are gearing up for is titled "Why Catholic?" The button says, "just ask me". Maybe with Cursillo we need to come forth more.

A line I wrote down from Fr. Adrian Burke's Day of Recollection during the St. Meinrad Alumni Reunion is "Do small things with great love." If we do this, people will notice and ask why. Then we can tell them about Christ and how Cursillo can bring us closer to Jesus.

De Colores,

Father Ray

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

***"Praise and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen"*** Rev. 7:12

It was a glorious celebration at this year's National Encounter held at the U. of Texas, Arlington campus. Cursillo leaders as well as other Cursillistas gathered to give thanks, to praise God and reflect with others as the Movement celebrated 50 years in the United States. A full report is in the August National Cursillo newsletter and is available on the National Cursillo Movement's website [www.natl-cursillo.org](http://www.natl-cursillo.org) I encourage you to read it. The following comments are my personal reflections and are meant to supplement the information found in the National Newsletter.

The Encounter started with a video address from Eduardo Bonnin from his home in Mallorca, Spain. Eduardo, with the Holy Spirit, founded the Cursillo Movement. He sent his best wishes for a joy filled Encounter and thanked the United States Movement for taking a decisive step toward the authenticity of our Movement. I thought how much easier it is to live the charisms given to the founder by the Holy Spirit while he is still alive to offer advice and guidance. It certainly will be more difficult to do so once he has gone to his eternal reward.

The fiesta on Saturday night included a stage production as amateur Cursillistas from each of the language groups acted out some aspect of our Movement with songs and dance. It lasted for over 2 hours and was very entertaining. Those watching started to sing along and dance to the music. By the end of the show, many had left their seats and were in the aisles. It became a charismatic gathering. The Spirit was certainly present in the auditorium and it was easy to imagine that Jesus was also singing, dancing and celebrating with us.

The attendees were taken by buses to the Waco Convention Center after Sunday mass for an Ultreya followed by a visit to the parish church where the first Cursillo was held in the United States in May of 1957. The Ultreya witness speakers included 8 men from that first Cursillo. They witnessed about their perseverance over the past 50 years. One received his vocation to the priesthood at that first Cursillo and has been a priest for 42 years. The church was a beautiful Spanish style parish church with a rich history and we were warmly greeted by the parishioners. That evening we attended a men's Cursillo closing.

With the gift of the Cursillo Movement comes our responsibility to the giver. We have been given a "pearl of great price" (Matt. 13:46) and we need to guard it at all cost. As a Cursillo leader, I have accepted the gift in humble gratitude and with a deep sense of responsibility. The best way to give thanks is to enjoy the gift and to care for it. The grace given to the Movement draws us closer to piercing the mystery of God's love. By using that grace we are transformed by love and can then transform those individuals present in our lives. Those who have gone before encourage us to build on what they have done so that 50 years from now others might be able to proclaim that we have completed the first 100 years in America. Each of us should daily cultivate the harvest of the seeds that our predecessors sowed. The mystery of ministry is that one sows while another reaps. If we don't continue to plant seeds today, there will be nothing to harvest in the future.

### Cursillo—The 3-Day Weekend

The local Movement owes a great deal of thanks for all of our dedicated mentors. They have spent a large number of hours preparing for the fall Cursillos using the revised guidelines in the new Cursillo Manual. The mentors met for 3 sessions prior to an overnight workshop held at Sarto at the end of July. They also met again after the workshop to review and reflect on all the comments generated. Mentors gave of their time, talent and treasure. Some attendees gave financially to help offset the cost of the workshop. It was also significant that all the mentors were present at the workshop. In addition, some Secretariat members were also present. In all, there were 27 attendees. It was a witness to the dedication of our Cursillo leaders. That is why our local Movement is one of high quality.

The overnight workshop allowed a unified message to come through and it was a valuable way of bringing out the purpose and structure of the Cursillo talks. It allowed the mentors to have a better understanding of how the lay talks fit and work together. They could be seen individually with their specific messages or as a single whole talk. The lay Cursillo talks present a living witness to the actual living of a life of grace. These talks are different from other types of speaking because it is essential that the speaker live the message, to know it and to have a mastery of it. If a unified message is to come through the Cursillo, each lay speaker must present their talk in a way it was meant to be presented. Giving a Cursillo talk requires the virtues of humility and obedience, while giving all the glory to God. It takes a special kind of study, discipline and technique. That is why the mentors are a big help.

A great deal of thanks is given to those mentors who volunteered to give a talk during the workshop. They were: ***Ideal: Pat Flake; The Layperson in the Church: Eldon Hopkins; Piety: Joe Wellman; Study: Pat Sauer; Action: Mary Jo Boroweicki; Leaders: Mimi Scheessele; Study of the Environment: Jackie Dent; Christianity in Action: Kristen Girten; The Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo: Ron Balbach; Total Security: Ginny Bonenberger***

*School of Leaders* by Thomas Anslinger

***“Go forth and make all nations my disciples; teach them to observe all that I have commanded” Matthew 28:19-20***

When we made our weekends, we heard that in order for the Cursillo Movement to be authentic, we, ourselves, must first be authentic. Cursillistas are authentic Cursillo Leaders who know and promote the vision of the Movement. We must keep in mind that it was from the School of Leaders that the Cursillo Movement was born. In the School of Leaders we learn the how and the why of the Movement.

Those who have attended the School of Leaders know that we pray, we group and we hear a talk given by a priest, deacon or a religious person. We open the meeting with a prayer which says, in part: “My God, give us a spirit of self sacrifice so that we may offer everything for your cause: our time, our abilities, our health and even our lives, if necessary.” Later in the meeting we pray a second prayer to deceased Cursillistas having in part: “Dear Cursillistas, who are now privileged and blessed to be among the Communion of Saints in the presence of our Savior, Jesus Christ...please pray for and with us as we seek wisdom, direction, courage, and love to build up the School of Leaders...in order to become the formed, active Cursillistas that God has chosen us to be.”

If you have ever wondered what you can do to more effectively promote an authentic Cursillo Movement while at the same time live out Christ’s two greatest commandments, you are invited to attend the School of Leaders at 7:00 PM on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at St. John the Evangelist Church in Daylight, IN. Hear an interesting talk, learn what is going on in the Evansville Diocese Cursillo Movement, pray and enjoy the fellowship of your fellow Cursillistas.

We hope that you can attend a School of Leaders meeting where we discern how Our Lord is calling us to a deeper commitment within this Movement. Christ is counting on you...and we are too!

**Palanca** by Al Debes

**What is a palanca letter?** A palanca letter is one that is sent to the candidates and team, informing them of the prayers and sacrifices that you are offering to God on their behalf. A letter may be sent explaining what type of palanca is being offered, but the letter itself is NOT the palanca. The actual palanca is the action—**intercessory prayer, sacrifice, or works of mercy**—and it can be done without writing a letter. On the weekend there is someone in chapel from 7 PM Thursday through Sunday at 2 PM in prayer for the candidates and the movement. Won’t you please come join us in prayer?

**Palanca Chapel Locations and Times for Evansville Diocese Cursillo**

Thursday 7PM to Friday 11 AM: Jasper, Dale, Ferdinand area  
Friday 11AM to Midnight: Resurrection, Evansville (West side)  
Saturday Midnight to 1 PM: St. John’s, Newburgh  
Saturday 8 AM to 4 PM: St. Mary’s, Washington  
Saturday 1 PM to Sunday 2 AM: Good Shepherd, Evansville (East side)  
Sunday 2 AM to 2 PM: Holy Cross, Fort Branch (Haubstadt, Ft. Branch, Princeton area)

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

**Listening: “Be still and know that I am God” Psalm 46:10**

Often we might ask ourselves, “Am I being faithful to my Cursillo commitment?” Am I actually living out the talks from my Cursillo weekend, even just one of them? As imperfect children of God, we may experience “dry” or “low” periods when we might question our effectiveness as Disciples of Christ. These are the times when we need our Lord and each other. Well, recently Judy and I paid close attention to a speaker who told us about how he had stopped to listen to God and let the Lord touch his life. We listened as our speaker shared how God put it on his heart to take some action, to witness to the love of Jesus, and to share that love with others. He spoke to us of the many ways we can help build the kingdom of God, if we just pay attention. We were told of the best Ideal we could have—Christ, and only Christ. We heard about how through volunteer coaching of his son’s football team, he was able to bring a sense of love and respect to the kids for one another, through prayer and by example. He shared how he took the initiative and some risk, in leading a meal/meeting prayer for a very large group of executives by using scripture as well as prayer, and how this simple action touched many who were present at that meeting. His love for Christ was often shared in ‘one-on-one’ talks with business acquaintances, initiating the ‘make a friend, be a friend’ stage of the action talk. This wonderful witness exhibited many of the qualities of a Cursillo leader, someone who can influence their environment, an “agent of change”. The occasion for this uplifting talk was the recent Grand Ultreya held on Sat., Aug 11<sup>th</sup>. Our speaker was Rick Gahagen of Good Shepherd parish. Rick not only witnessed for Christ, but he witnessed to the sixty-three plus attendees, and gave each of us a simple lesson in what it means to be an Apostle of Christ. Rick spreads the Gospel because Jesus wants him to, and he listens quietly when God speaks. His talk challenged all of us to stretch ourselves a bit, especially when we find it difficult to persevere, or when we need to be reminded once more “how to do it”. Perhaps all of us should slow down a little, know that our God is near, and listen for His voice. Who knows, He might just ask you to be present at the next Grand Ultreya, CEW, friendship group or local Ultreya to share your life in Him, or maybe to just listen. And if He asks, please don’t say no! Now is a good time to remember the second verse in Psalm 46 as well, “**God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in distress**”. He is always there, be quiet, and listen for His voice.

Judy and I would also like to extend appreciation to all of the Ultreyas that participated in, and helped make the Grand Ultreya a success: to Jasper Ultreya for supplying us with music and the debut of the “Singin’ Seven” from Dubois Co.; to St. John’s Newburgh for their hard work and the wonderful food they supplied for our fellowship meal; to Washington Catholic Community Ultreya for their work with set-up, clean-up and hosting; to Good Shepherd Ultreya for bringing to us a wonderful witness talk that touched all who were present; to Resurrection Ultreya for moderating, and to all the other Ultreyas for their participation and faithfulness to Cursillo. Judy and I also ask that the 4<sup>th</sup> Day keep in their prayers, and Palanca, those Ultreyas that could not be present, or that might be struggling.

### **Post Cursillo Notes**

**Fall CEW (Cursillo Evangelization Workshop)**  
Sat., Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon  
Registration & continental breakfast: 7:45AM  
St. John’s, Daylight

**School of Leaders**  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month, 7:00 PM  
St. John’s Daylight

**Friendship Groups: weekly Ultreyas: monthly**

*Judy and I ask that you please keep the monthly Ultreyas in your prayers, and now is a very good time to offer Palanca for the upcoming fall weekends. The teams and the candidates need your prayerful support*

**“We are Called – We are Chosen”  
Evansville Men’s Cursillo #68  
October 11-14, 2007**

Dear 4<sup>th</sup> Day community,

The men of team #68 are now called and chosen. We began formations August 26 to become true Brothers in Christ. As we have often heard new Cursillistas say, “I don’t know what it is but there is just something about the team”. We are truly blessed to be chosen for this team. It is a responsibility that cannot be done without the grace of God.

We also know that it is not a singular endeavor but the work of Christ. We ask for your support, especially prayer and palanca, for the candidates, the team and the success of the weekend. **“Ask and you shall receive”** Luke 11:9

As of now we do not have 32 plus candidates for the weekend. Pray for the candidates who are discerning to attend. Now is the time to bring our friend to Christ. We are committed to do the work of Christ on earth. Applications are on our website: [www.evansvillecursillo.com](http://www.evansvillecursillo.com).

We also ask for snacks and desserts. If you and/or your group would like to donate some “goodies”, please call Jerry Krack at 490-2141. The support of the 4<sup>th</sup> Day is necessary for the weekend. It is all the things you do that the candidates don’t know about that make it happen. If you would like to serve a meal or be a kitchen ANGEL, contact Gary and Norma Folz at 925-7159. If you have team palanca, please mail to: Tom Folz, 8219 Reis Rd., Evansville, IN 47720 or email to [tgfolz@insightbb.com](mailto:tgfolz@insightbb.com).

We are looking forward to the weekend and hope you will be at Candlelight and be there for the joyful welcome of the new 4<sup>th</sup> Day at closing.

Peace,

Your Brother in Christ,

Tom Folz

**Men’s Cursillo Team # 68**

Spiritual Director	Fr. Gene Schroeder	Kitchen Staff	Jim Egen
Spiritual Director	Fr. Ken Betz	Kitchen Staff	Jerry Woehler
Spiritual Director	Deacon Don Yochum	Kitchen Staff	David Spaetti
Coordinator	Tom Folz	Ideal	Tony Fehrenbacher
Asst. Coordinator	Ron Balbach	The Layperson in the Church	Tony Scheller
Head Steward	Steve Blankenberger	Piety	Mike Skvara
Asst. Steward	Bob Weikert	Study	Tom Blythe
Asst. Steward	Dan Zimmer	Action	Mark Clark
Song Leader	Paul Breeze	Leaders	Butch Feulner
Asst. Song Leader	Mark Messmer	Study of the Environment	Mark Lutterbach
Head Kitchen Staff	Jerry Krack	Christianity in Action	Bruce Bonenberger
Kitchen Staff	Randy Bauer		

**Schedule for Evansville Men’s Cursillo #68**

<b>Talk Support Day</b>	Sat., Sept. 29	8:00 AM	St. Joe—County
<b>Set-up</b>	Wed., Oct. 10	7:00 PM	Sarto
<b>Sponsor’s Dedication</b>	Thurs, Oct. 11	7:00 PM	Sarto Chapel
<b>Mass &amp; Candlelight</b>	Sat, Oct. 13	8:00 PM	Mass Celebration Hall Mass, then as a community Proceed to Chapel
<b>Closing</b>	Sun, Oct. 14	5:40 PM	Celebration hall
		Please arrive by 5:20 PM	

*To serve a meal, please call Gary and Norma Folz at 925-7159.*

**NOTE: New time for closing is now 5:40 PM on Sunday  
Please arrive by 5:20PM**

**“He...called...and they came to Him” Mark 3:13**

**Evansville Women’s Cursillo #73**

**November 1-4, 2007**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our Lord has chosen His team for Women’s Cursillo #73. Our formations begin on September 16<sup>th</sup> and we are all anxious to begin to become the formed Christian Community so we can serve the candidates on their journey for a closer walk with Jesus. We ask the 4<sup>th</sup> Day to keep us in your prayers.

If you would like to provide a snack or dessert for the weekend please call our Head Kitchen Staff, Kristen Girten at 437-4022. If you would like to serve a meal or be a kitchen angel you can contact Gary and Norma Folz at 925-7159.

If you have Team Palanca, you can mail it to Ruth Thompson, 1201 Laubscher Rd., Evansville, IN 47710 or email it to me at [sewqueen11@insightbb.com](mailto:sewqueen11@insightbb.com). I ask for your continued prayers and palanca for the success of the weekend. You may sign up for Palanca Chapel at your local Ultreya. **Talk support will be at St. John’s in Newburgh on October 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM until noon. Mass will be offered at 7:00 AM.** Please come and support those giving talks on the weekend. We hope you can attend candlelight and support the candidates at the closing, when they will witness how “He called...and they came to Him” on the weekend.

Your Sister in Christ,

Ruth Thompson

**Women’s Cursillo Team # 73**

Spiritual Director	Fr. Ray Brenner	Kitchen Staff	Mary Seibert
Spiritual Director		Kitchen Staff	Karen Seib
Spiritual Director	Deacon Mike Seibert	Kitchen Staff	Jackie Dent
Coordinator	Ruth Thompson	Ideal	Michelle Sailing
Asst. Coordinator	Carol Smith	The Layperson in the Church	Joanne Devine
Head Stewardess	Beth Hirt	Piety	Norma Folz
Asst. Stewardess	Marylou Bradley	Study	Ginny Bonenberger
Asst. Stewardess	Velvet Wathen	Action	Anne Martin
Song Leader	Annalee Wilson	Leaders	Suzanne Burgess
Asst. Song Leader	Jennifer Vangampl	Study of the Environment	Julie Young
Head Kitchen Staff	Kirsten Girten	Christianity in Action	Judy Wolf
Kitchen Staff	Lois Schenk		

**SPONSOR’S WORKSHOP**

Saturday, Nov. 3, 7:00 PM

Celebration Hall

Prior to 8:00 PM Mass

**Regional Encounter—“OUR LADY SUMMONS YOU”**

Hosted by the Diocese of Belleville at Our Lady of the Snows, October 26-28, 2007. About a dozen people from our diocese are going. Come and join us. Cost is \$160.00 per person. For more info, contact: Patricia Cates at 618-588-4147 or [jettcates@charter.net](mailto:jettcates@charter.net). Or call Bruce Bonenberger at 812-477-6396 or [gbbab@aol.com](mailto:gbbab@aol.com)

<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
Holy Rosary	Evansville	1st Monday	6:00 p.m.
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><b>When:</b> 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each Month  <b>Where:</b> St. John's, Daylight  <b>Time:</b> 7:00 PM CST/CDT</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. Some email addresses have changed or are inactive and some mailing addresses were returned as undeliverable. Thank-you.***