

March 2006

Words From the Spiritual Director *by Father Ray Brenner*

It seems I am always late in my submission for the newsletter. By being a little tardy this time I am able to make an observation or two.

We held our first CRHP (Christ Renews His Parish) weekend here at St. Joseph. (One had been held some years ago but there was no continuation of it.) I saw a group with a new fire in them. After the closing I went to team formation for Women's Cursillo #70 followed by the closing of Men's Cursillo #65. Again I saw men witness to a new fire in their lives. Both are great movements.

Unfortunately, I feel many now think that with the holding of CRHP in many parishes there is no need to encourage participation in Cursillo. On the contrary, I try to tell those who have attended CRHP that if you really benefited from this day and a half, how about trying for an entire weekend?

I find there is also a certain amount of misinformation out there about Cursillo. I just talked with someone who said some women are going to the Walk to Emmaus because their husbands do not want to make a Cursillo. Please note that rule was rescinded several years ago, even though it is still encouraged that both share the experience.

If you have questions about the Cursillo weekend as it is held today, contact anyone on the Secretariat. We are available or will refer you to someone in your area who is active in the movement.

DeColores,

Father Ray

Words From the Lay Director *by Bruce Bonenberger*

"Serve the Lord with gladness" Ps 100:2

The Region IV Team presented "A Day of Reflection and Spiritual Enrichment" on February 18 for our diocese. Eight people from the Owensboro Diocese traveled in the early morning snowfall to join us. It truly was a day of reflecting and enrichment and my reflections continue as I write this. Pointing out a few of the highlights along with my comments would be prudent.

Fr. Jim Endress volunteered to sub for Fr. Robert Braun (Belleville, IL) who could not attend. Fr. Jim told us in his spiritual meditation that the search for God is really the search for holiness. Holiness comes from God. We can't be holy on our own. Holiness is our attitude when faced with problems and how we treat others. Our biggest obstacle to holiness could be that we are blind to others and we live for ourselves because God is not first in our lives.

Bob Kostin (Bedford, IN) talked about the Foundational Charism of the Movement. The sole purpose of Cursillo is the conversion of the individual. In the words of Eduardo Bonnin, "The Movement proclaims the best news of the best reality, that God, through Christ loves us". This is communicated through the best means, friendship. Through the Cursillo method, the essential realities of Christian life come to life in the uniqueness, originality and creativity of each person. It is why friends group. The mentality of the Movement is to act like Christ, that is, to *be* Christian is more important than doing Christian things. The purpose of Cursillo is to give people that joy and cheerfulness of a Christian life so that they might evangelize people.

How many of us are serving where we want to serve instead of where God is calling us to serve? Noreen Ford (Collierville, TN) told us when leaders surrender their free will it awakens their consciousness. It gives them a clear vision to make decisions according to the will of God. We are most effective servants when God leads and we serve where He wants us. We then become a witness to Cursillo. All of us are accountable to Cursillo because God called us to Cursillo. Being a leader is a joyful experience and not a burden when our will and God's will are united.

Barry Cahill (Ballwin, MO) told us that we are stewards of God's gifts. Jesus constantly gave of Himself in a life of service. Jesus calls us by name to use our gifts in service. He will take our natural acts of leadership and turn them into supernatural acts. The lives of Moses, King David and Mary are examples. Being faithful to all our obligations on the Service Sheet is a very practical way for us to be at the forefront in the battle for souls.

Upcoming Weekends

Men's #66 October 12-15, 2006
Coordinator: Bob Weikert

Women's #71: November 2-5, 2006
Coordinator: Linda Rheinlander

School of Leaders

Some comments from the Day of Reflection and Spiritual Enrichment that the Regional Team presented on Feb. 18th:

Through Baptism we are called to know, love and serve God and that should be the first priority in our lives. It should not be considered a burden. Those called by God to make Cursillo their primary apostolate attend the School. They are loyal and good stewards of their time and talents. They are leaders who serve the Movement's tripod of Pre-Cursillo, Cursillo, and Post-Cursillo. By serving each leg of the tripod equally well, Cursillo Leaders embrace the Movement.

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Pre-Cursillo by Skip and Jackie Dent

The only begotten Son of God came into the world to save us from our sins. It was His vision to redeem the world and to allow those who would choose to follow Him to enter the Kingdom of God. As baptized Catholic Christians, a part of living our baptismal commitment is to live according to the teachings of Jesus Christ and to spread the Gospel, the Good News of our Lord to others. As Cursillistas, we “begin with the end in mind” by envisioning more souls saved, of a world that is redeemed and rid of evil. We long to use the Cursillo Movement as a part, perhaps a significant part, of the way we go about living out our baptismal commitment. Remember “The worst enemies of a movement are those who become its promoters without understanding it.”

Therefore, we hope that you will join us, Skip Dent, Joe Thompson, and Don Kaiser to discuss sponsoring people to become part of the Cursillo Movement. Please join us for:

Cursillo Sponsors Workshop
Saturday, April 1, 2006 at 7:00 PM
Right before 8:00 Mass and 9:00 Candlelight

Palanca by Al Debes

“Train a boy in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not swerve from it” Prov 22:6

The scripture refers to us as babe chicks, and the Cursillo weekend is the training we receive to enhance God’s kingdom on earth. This training comes in the form of the team and the 4th Day, locally and worldwide.

Webster defines prayer as “the offering of adoration, confession, humble request, thanksgiving, etc. to God.” We define prayer in our own way; some say that prayer is saying structured prayer that we have learned in our faith walk. I, myself, say some structured prayers. The prayers I enjoy most are my heart prayers. That is where I hold a conversation with God. Tell God how your day went! God knows but wants to hear it from you! Also, at this time you ask God to help those in need of help or comfort and those who are ill. Always thank God for all prayers answered and the many blessings He has bestowed upon you. You talk to your family and friends.

WHY NOT TALK TO GOD?

Palanca is self-sacrifice, good works of mercy, prayer, giving up time for someone or something else, etc. Prayer is a powerful tool; it’s cheap and doesn’t cost anything. Talking to God in prayers for someone else is unconditional LOVE! What better gift could you give someone?

During this season of Lent let us use Palanca as our tool to help lift us to our Lord!

“Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God” Phil 4:6

Join us in Palanca Chapel. Let prayer be the **key** of morning and the **bolt** of the evening.

Post-Cursillo by Nicholas and Judith Wolf

“God’s gifts and His call are irrevocable.” Romans 11:29

What does a gift mean to you? All of us in the 4th Day are aware of what it means to answer one of God’s many calls. Our Cursillo weekend was one such answer, but what about those gifts that we were given on our weekend? What did they mean to us and what did we do with them? We have all heard “that it’s the giving that is important, not the receiving”, however, what we do with our gifts will have a lasting effect on our lives and the lives of others.

One such gift was a day of spiritual reflection and study, (a workshop for our 4th Day) presented by the Region IV team at St. John’s Daylight on Sat., Feb. 18th. You probably remember that snowy morning. The weather was bad, blustery winds, slick roads, and almost white out conditions. However, God gave us this workshop. It was a grace filled and wonderful gift, and it had to be used and shared! The gift was a day spent in the presence of Jesus. It was the Region IV team coming from several neighboring states and also eight fellow Cursillistas from the Diocese of Owensboro braving the weather to share in a community of love, formation and prayer. It was Fr. Jim Endress who came to celebrate mass and to give us spiritual direction despite the fact that he was ill the night before, and Saturday morning he was faced with his van being stuck in a snowdrift and an ignition that wouldn’t work. Needless to say, Fr. Jim was just a little late, but he came to share his gifts!

Our friendship groups, our Ultreyas and workshops are “gifts from our Heavenly Father” through the Cursillo movement. They are designed to help us persevere, come into community, and to help us in our quest for the Truth. We have only two choices for our gifts: we can cherish them and share them, or we can discard them, but we can’t hide from them. They are of God and they are IRREVOCABLE!

Sometimes the search for Truth comes with a price. Often it is difficult to find the time, rearrange schedules or squeeze others into our busy lives. We could wonder if Jesus, as he rode into Jerusalem on the back of a colt and knowing the price He had to pay, was thinking about discarding the gift of Himself in favor of an easier way? If you are searching for the TRUTH, please don’t “haggle” over the price. Our Savior didn’t! He gifted us with everything He had to give!

“Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.” 1 Cor 12:31

Pray and ask for God’s grace that you will know what to do with His gifts. Someone in your friendship group or at Ultreya is waiting for you to help them persevere, waiting for you to help them spread the ‘Good News’, waiting for you to share the gifts God has given you! Judy and I thank God for the gift of our 4th day community and all that you do to make His love so apparent. “Christ is Counting on You”!

Post Cursillo (4th Day) Gifts

1. **Spring CEW:** Cursillo Evangelization Workshop) Sat., April 22, St. John’s Daylight. Registration, fellowship and light breakfast at 7:45; workshop 8:30-12:30.
2. **Grand Ultreya:** Sat., August 12th, St. John’s Daylight. Mass celebrated with the St. John’s community at 5:00 PM. Followed by Reunion, Witness Talk, Food, Fellowship.
3. **Fall CEW:** (Cursillo Evangelization Workshop) Sat., Nov. 18, St. John’s Daylight
4. **Friendship Groups:** Weekly; **Ultreyas:** Monthly

**“Gather Us In”
Evansville Men’s Cursillo # 65**

Dear Cursillo Community,

Well, our 3-day weekend may be over but our 4th Day has just begun and with the power of the Holy Spirit it will never end. As with all weekends it is impossible to describe the feelings I have. It’s like trying to tell a potential candidate about the weekend. You can tell them everything; well almost everything, and they just look at you and think what is wrong with this person. The Holy Spirit was certainly in control of everything that went on during Men’s #65. From the first talk through the entire weekend the candidates soaked up everything. The 4th Day is blessed to have these 24 new Cursillistas in our community.

This could not have happened without the outpouring of love, service and Palanca from the 4th Day community. A special thanks to everyone that prayed in Palanca Chapels, served meals, set up for closing, cleaned up after us, did personal Palanca and all the other things I do not even realize gets done during the weekend. Also a special thanks to those who keep the web sites updated, write articles and publish this newsletter, Pre-Cursillo, 3 day and Post-Cursillo along with all the other Secretariat positions. And I know I am still forgetting some people but you get the idea. It takes a lot more that just the team. And what a wonderful team the Spirit blessed me with. For without our Lord and Savior none of this would be possible.

As hard as we all worked for the success of the weekend, I ask you to continue to pray for the new Cursillistas, that they may have the strength and courage to enter their own 4th Day with the fire they left Sarto with on Sunday night. Also continue to pray and evangelize others to attend a Cursillo weekend. It’s part of our responsibility as Christians to bring others to Him. Why not share the love and excitement you felt on your weekend?

May God bless each and every one of you,
Tom Kessens

Welcome New Cursillistas

Brian Hershberger	Robert J. Maurer	Donald Sailing
Brad Ruppel	George R. Fleming, Jr.	Thomas Barron
Stuart McDonald	Dave Drake	Michael L. Wargel
Steven Elliott	Steven Mills	Khri N. Seger
Bruce A. Whitehouse	James R. Scheller	Mark South
Terry Cardin	Darin Knight	Thomas J. Preske
Gilbert T. Woodward	David A. Spaetti	Ray Sforza
Donald Musgrave	Keith Bauer	Paul L. Rogge

Schedule for Evansville Women’s Cursillo #70

Talk Support	Sat., Mar. 18	8:00AM-12:00	St. Joseph/County School
Set-up	Wed., Mar 29	7:00 PM	Sarto
Sponsor’s Dedication	Thurs, Mar. 30	7:00 PM	Sarto Chapel
Mass & Candlelight	Sat, Apr 1	8:00 PM	Mass Celebration Hall Mass, then as a community Proceed to Chapel
Closing	Sun, Apr 2	5:20 PM	Celebration hall Please arrive by 5:00 PM

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

Please remember to park in designated parking spaces only.
NO PARKING along the sides of the parking lot.

**“Here I Am Lord”
Evansville Women’s Cursillo #70
March 30-April 2, 2006**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Sunday, February 12th, the team for Women’s #70 began formations and started the task of becoming a community to help bring the women that will be sent to us on the weekend. As you know, prayer is a powerful tool that God has given us and we are asking for your prayers and Palanca as we form a Christian community and assume our roles in bringing the candidates closer to Christ. Your presence at Palanca chapel, candlelight, and closing will be a powerful witness to the candidates and will reinforce their welcome from a Christ-like community that will be there for them as they enter their 4th Day.

If you or your group would like to provide a snack or dessert for the weekend, please call our Head Kitchen Staff, Judy Bennett, at 482-4275 or email her at jbennett@psci.net. Also, if you are interested in serving a meal or working as a kitchen angel, please contact Norma and Gary Folz at 925-7159. Team Palanca can be sent to Janet Debes, 3200 Kleitz Road, Evansville, IN 47720, or email tedybear@evansville.net.

Thank you for your support, and may God bless each and every one of you.

Your sister in Christ,
Janet Debes

Women’s Cursillo Team # 70

Spiritual Director	Fr. Ray Brenner	Kitchen Staff	Deb Stenftenagel
Spiritual Director	Fr. John Silva	Kitchen Staff	Sandra Borho
Spiritual Director	Sr. Jenny Miller	Kitchen Staff	Jenny Langner
Coordinator	Janet Debes	Ideals	Jackie Dent
Asst. Coordinator	Linda Rheinlander	Laity	Delores Folz
Head Stewardess	Carol Smith	Holiness	Cindy Smith
Asst. Stewardess	Ruth Thompson	Formation	Judy Wolf
Asst. Stewardess	Martha Baehl	Evangelization	Jenny Mayer
Song Leader	Sandy Hasenhour	Leaders	Ginny Bonenberger
Asst. Song Leader	Debbie Collins	Environments	Pat Sauer
Head Kitchen Staff	Judy Bennett	Christian Community	Brenda Anslinger
Kitchen Staff	Delorers Schroeder		

Preliminary List of Candidates

Carie Cuasay	St. Mary	Sullivan
Angela Schitter	Precious Blood	Jasper
Cindy Sermersheim	St. Mary	Ireland
Kim South	Holy Redeemer	Evansville
Sue Schmelz	Holy Rosary	Evansville
Judi Debes	Holy Redeemer	Evansville
Kristi Hershberger	St. John	Newburgh
Darlene Kaiser	St. Benedict	Evansville
Cindy Wilmes	Holy Family	Jasper
Marti Knight	Resurrection	Evansville
Nancy Teder	St. Joseph	Jasper
Kathy Seger	Holy Redeemer	Evansville
Anne Roeder	St. John Daylight	Evansville
Cora Sue Preske	Sacred Heart	Evansville
Sherry Folz	St. Phillip	Mt. Vernon
Sarah Jane Kieffer	St. Phillip	Mt. Vernon
Mary Cooper	St. Agnes	Evansville
Becky Whitehouse	St. Joe County	Evansville
Tess Fleming	Good Shepherd	Evansville
Karen Folz	St. Phillip	Mt. Vernon
Kim Straub	Holy Redeemer	Evansville
Joni Cardin	St. Agnes	Evansville
Mary Sowders	Corpus Christi	Evansville
Carol Olinger	St. Mary	Huntingburg

Check www.evansvillecursillo.com and your local *Ultraya* for complete list of Candidates for Cursillo #70

School of Leaders *(Cont'd from page 1)*

All who have made a Cursillo are accountable to Cursillo because God called us to Cursillo. Everything we have is a gift from God to be used in service. Cursillistas were told during their Cursillo that their responsibility is to be Christian 100% of the time. That is our first mission. Of our God given gifts, our free will is the only gift we can control. By abandoning our will to Jesus' will, we allow Him to work through us.

Cursillo leaders are successful because they follow and stay true to Cursillo and their faith. They are in a constant state of formation. The following questions were asked: How many of your new Cursillistas have never attended a School of Leaders, workshop or an Ultreya? Are their personal and family pursuits more important than their search for God at an occasional visit to the School or Ultreya? If you have never attended a 4th day function, we stand ready and waiting to welcome you.

St. Francis de Sales has stated that "God will not refuse salvation to someone who works for the salvation of others." That is certainly a quote of great consolation to a Cursillo leader.

What's happening in the School?

On the weeks when we have no doctrinal presentation, School attendees spend time reviewing local Cursillo policies.

On Feb. 21, Fr. Robert Deig spoke about Pope Benedict's new encyclical letter, "Deus Caritas Est" (God is Love)

Upcoming speakers are:

March 7: Sr. Jane Michele McClure

April 4: Sr. Jenny Miller

May 2: Deacon Mike Seibert

Please notify us if your email address or mailing address has changed to dkegen@sigecom.net or mail to return address on this newsletter.

Words From the Lay Director *(Cont'd from page 1)*

Tony Escamilla (Villa Hills, KY) talked about perseverance and success. Our final destination is eternal life. The eyes of eternal life do not focus on the things of this world. We group to keep our focus on eternal life. We should pray about what the Lord wants us to do with our gifts and talents. If we obey, success follows. We lead our friends to Christ by using our gifts and talents. Christianity is nothing more than one beggar showing another beggar where the bread line is.

I read somewhere recently that in our search for God we seldom find God in theological insights but rather find Him in the call to serve. If we say, "Yes, Lord, I will do that" we can be assured that He will empower us. Doing His will becomes our sanctification. Are we too busy running here and there pursuing our agendas so that we have no time to serve? How many hours of service outside of family do I give to the Lord in my search for Him? If we are accountable to Cursillo because God called us to Cursillo, then do I really not have the time to attend at least some of the School of Leaders, Ultreyas and/ or workshops? Another question put to us was: If your team members cannot witness to attending these 4th day activities, how can you expect your new Cursillistas to be involved in Cursillo? We have been trying to correct that deficiency by a two-way approach. First, School members have the option to work teams. And second, the coordinators are given names of those attending workshops and Ultreyas (witness speakers and attendees) as possible team members. Cursillo teams better formed in the Movement should result in the new Cursillistas being better formed in the Movement.

It was an awesome workshop.