

THE GOOD NEWS

December 2009

JANUARY ULTREYA (NO DECEMBER ULTREYA)

Place: Our Lady of Hope

Date: January 21, 2010

Time: 7:00 PM

Theme: Talk

Refreshments: Everyone! Please bring finger foods or snacks to share.



Advent Wreath Prayer

*God of love, Father of all,
the darkness that covered the earth
has given way to the bright dawn of
Your Word made flesh.*

*Make us a people of this light.
Make us faithful to your Word,
that we may bring your life to
the waiting world.*

*Grant this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*



AREA 4 ULTREYA

- ❖ Church of the Epiphany
- ❖ Our Lady Star of the Sea
- ❖ Our Lady of Hope
- ❖ Our Lady of Lourdes
- ❖ Prince of Peace
- ❖ Sacred Heart/St. Gerard Mission
- ❖ The Basilica of St. Paul

SAN PEDRO CENTER

Serving the people and parishes of the Diocese of Orlando

407-671-6322



News from San Pedro Center

Event Title:

**What I Want for Christmas: Imagining with Isaiah--an
Advent Sabbath Day**

Event Date

December 15, 2009

Description: Enjoy an Advent day of respite the week before Christmas! The prophet Isaiah dreams big dreams in his prophecies, creating stunning images of God's vision for us and all creation. He is the visionary voice of Advent--stimulating our imaginations, challenging us to expand and deepen our "Christmas wish lists." Our Sabbath day, a mix of prayer, silence and reflection, will allow us to savor the words and images of Isaiah as we make our final preparations for Christmas 2009.

Speaker(s): Fr. Ben Berinti, C.Pp. S.

Event Time: 9:30 am --3:00 pm

Event Cost: \$35.00

Register ON-LINE: www.sanpedrocenter.org
OR phone: 407-671-6322.

NOVEMBER ULTREYA

The November Ultreya was led by the grouping brothers of Carl Acker, John Barbery, Bill Hogan, Bob Heisler, Bill Kiefer and Chuck Knichel.

Chuck, as moderator, began with the Prayer to the Holy Spirit. Carl Acker selected the Opening Prayer from the Magnificat, which emphasizes, “offer to God praise as your sacrifice.” Bill Kiefer continued with the Scripture reading Psalm 50:1-2, 5-6, 14-15 with the theme of “The Acceptable Sacrifice.” The opening hymn was Glory and Praise to our God. The evening continued with Group Reunion.

John Barbery was the Witness Speaker and indicated that a witness talk should detail how God is working in your life and the changes that have occurred since making Cursillo #17 in 1976. John outlined how through the practice of Piety, Study, and Action helped overcome earlier misdirection in his life, and that he no longer takes it for granted since life can change in a minute. He stressed the importance of family, Group Reunion and that all of his grouping brothers are members of St. Vincent DePaul Society, who walk the walk in service to others. John detailed many other commitments to fulfilling his Action component by working Cursillo teams and devoting time to Family Renew Community. He concluded with “the wisdom and word of the Lord is difficult to follow but it is the Acceptable Sacrifice.”

Deacon Tom Tagye gave the Spiritual Reflection on the Acceptable Sacrifice theme with two considerations. The one and only Acceptable Sacrifice is the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. When going to Mass we get to experience that and it enables us to be a part of the timelessness of God. Secondly, what does it mean for us - what are we willing to put on the altar? We must sacrifice something of ourselves and not hold on to attitudes, which are not acceptable to Christ. Psalm 50 states, “I will rescue you and you shall honor me.” Deacon Tom referenced St. Francis of Assisi who said, “If Jesus never died on the cross, his birth is enough to save us.”

We continued with intercessory prayers, announcements to keep us informed and all were challenged to sponsorship and commitment to Group Reunion. Singing DeColores and refreshments completed the evening.

God Bless You!

Your Ultreya Area #4

Co-Coordinator

Patti and Mike



It is **YOUR NEWSLETTER** and hopefully it fulfills three necessities: to **INFORM, INSPIRE AND EVANGELIZE**. So, if you need to tell the Area 4 Cursillistas of a particular event, this is the place to do it. If you have seen, read, or had an inspirational moment you wish to share with others, this is the place. If you had an evangelization moment that will help others in their efforts, this is the place to share it. **The Newsletter Committee is always looking for your help to make this a useful publication.** Please contact Betsy or Cathy if you have something for the Newsletter. You can submit articles to Betsy at RGNeerland@aol.com.

GET READY, SET, BLOOM!

Excerpted from the National Cursillo Newsletter October, 2009

THE CALL TO LEADERSHIP, A VOCATION

Discerning God's Call

(Fr. Frank Salami, Whom Shall I Send? Discerning the Will of God)

Jesus always called people to embrace the highest ideals possible. Not everyone was called to be part of the Twelve, but all were called to perfection and holiness. The same is true with the work of the Cursillo. Everyone must discern his or her own calling. All of us are called to embrace our Fourth Day fully, but some are called to do the special work of the Cursillo Movement. Not everyone will be called to the School of Leaders. We can never water down the principles of the Cursillo or the School of Leaders out of fear that it will not be for everyone. So how do we discern where God wants us to be? The answer is simple – through prayer and discernment.

When we look to Jesus we see a perfect model of prayer. Before any major decision Jesus spent time alone with the Father. Before He began His public ministry we are told that the Spirit compelled Jesus to go into the desert for forty days. Before He chose the Twelve He prayed. Before He made the long walk to Calvary He prayed. In Luke 6:12 Jesus' prayer with the Father is described as being "in communion" with God. "Communion" is an interesting word. Like the word "community" the word means "working" with. Prayer is not just for our personal satisfaction and nourishment. It is a power source of action. Prayer that only nourishes us is prayer that has only done half the job. Our prayer must also nourish others through our apostolic witness of life and evangelizing efforts. In the garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed for the power needed to perform the final great act of sacrifice on the cross. David prayed that he would carry out his duties as a worthy servant of God. Paul prayed that the power of God would help him and us to do what is just and to live upright lives.

Prayer is not simply a personal enterprise. It is not just for me. Fr. David Knight talks about the "prayer of encounter" which he describes as "reflecting on the Word of God until we come to decisions that change our lives . . . Prayer that does not affect our life is simply not prayer, no matter how good it feels." That is why Piety and Study cannot stand apart from Action. Without our apostolic witness, prayer is reduced to a purely selfish exercise. It is like dieting during Lent, not because we want to fast, but because we want to lose weight. For Jesus, prayer was never for Himself alone. It was always directed to doing the Father's will.

"In communion" – that is the heart of prayer: working for and with God to help bring about the Kingdom of God. Prayer is working with God. Everything we do for God begins with prayer, ends in prayer and is sustained by prayer. It is noteworthy that the word "liturgy" means "work". Liturgy of any kind is work done for God to nourish us to work for others. Consider palanca for a moment. Palanca is a perfect example of prayer as part of God's work. We offer some sacrifice for others – that is the heart of palanca. Also, when we approach prayer as part of God's work, our "work" in the world will seem less like a burden or a chore. Our work is a call from God and the ongoing work will feed ongoing prayer that will help in our progressive conversion. Work and prayer are interwoven just as the vertical (God) and horizontal (others) dimensions of our spiritual life are interwoven. If we accept the call as a Cursillo leader, prayer and study will be the fuel for the work of the Movement. It is not enough to be filled spiritually. We need Christians who are leaders not because they are spiritually advanced, but leaders who are willing to set the standards for Christian service to the Cursillo, the Church and the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Babe Chick Dinner will be held Saturday, December 5th beginning with the 6:00 P. M. Mass. If you will be attending, please RSVP so that we will be able to get an estimate as to how many people will be attending. Also, if you are able to help set up for the dinner, please be at the parish center at 5:00. As a reminder A-H - desserts; I-Q - salads; S-Z - side dishes (vegetables, rice, pasta, whatever). Please prepare enough to feed between 8 - 10 people. Our new babe chicks are: Linda Martin, Jean Chavree, Roberta Lambert, Mary Lou Duggan, Sr. Michaelyn, Fr. John Murray, Norm Martin and Ray Lambert—welcome!

Fr. Richard McAlear will be at Epiphany Church for A Healing Service after 6:00 pm Mass on Sunday, Feb. 7. Monday Feb. 8, there will be a Retreat from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm followed by a Healing Service. More detailed information will follow next month. ALL ARE WELCOME!

There is no regular Ultreya in December. We will resume January 21, 2010. Wishing everyone a very blessed Advent and Christmas!

SPRING WEEKENDS



Men's #85 – March 4-7, 2010 (Peter Balsam, Rector)
Women's #93 – March 18-21, 2010 (Kathy Ilkka, Rectora)

It is not too early to start preparing your prospective candidates for these weekends. If you need a copy of the "Cursillo - What Is It" booklet for your prospective candidates, please contact Patti or Mike at 322-6920 or pattiwillems@cfl.rr.com.

PLEASE PAUSE AND PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING CURSILLISTAS



✠ **Daniel Knight**
✠ **Joanna Swart**
✠ **Donna DeMarsh**
✠ **Joyce Mead**
✠ **Rae Sholette**
✠ **Regina Cumbie**
✠ **Joyce Dobrozensky**
✠ **Herb Dobrozensky**
✠ **Doris Jarvis**
✠ **Ruthann Rose**
✠ **Flora Poniatowski**
✠ **Ellie Dorion**
✠ **Marion Hecker**
✠ **Bill Andrasco**
✠ **Isabelle Liberatore**
✠ **Alice Andrasco**
✠ **John Barbery**
✠ **Chuck Knichel**
✠ **Jim Kisthardt**
✠ **Joan Lilly**

St. Joseph, a Model of Recollection Benedict XVI

VATICAN CITY, DEC. 18, 2005 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- With Christmas approaching, Benedict XVI exhorted the faithful to cultivate a spirit of interior recollection in an often noisy world that makes it hard to listen to God.

The Pope today presented St. Joseph, the adoptive father of Jesus, as a model of recollection. Joseph's silence in the Gospel, the Holy Father said, "does not demonstrate an empty interior, but rather the fullness of faith that he carries in his heart. Let's allow ourselves to be 'infected' by the silence of St. Joseph!"

Silence "is so lacking in this world which is often too noisy, which is not favorable to recollection and listening to the voice of God," Benedict XVI said. "In this time of preparation for Christmas, let us cultivate interior recollection so as to receive and keep Jesus in our lives."

He suggested that the faithful establish in these days "a kind of spiritual dialogue with St. Joseph so that he helps us live to the fullest this mystery of faith."

The Bishop of Rome recalled that his predecessor, Pope John Paul II, "who was very devoted to St. Joseph," dedicated the apostolic exhortation "Redemptoris Custos" (Custodian of the Redeemer) to the adoptive father of Jesus.

In that 1989 document, John Paul II gave "a particular importance to the silence of St. Joseph," observed Benedict XVI.

Such a silence was "permeated with the contemplation of the mystery of God, in an attitude of total availability to the divine will," Benedict XVI said. "A silence through which Joseph, together with Mary, guard the Word of God, known through sacred Scripture, comparing it continually to the events of the life of Jesus; a silence interwoven with constant prayer, a prayer of blessing of the Lord, of adoration of his holy will and of boundless confidence in his providence."

The Holy Father added: "It is not exaggerated to say that Jesus will learn—on a human level—precisely from 'father' Joseph this intense interior life, which is the condition of authentic righteousness, the 'interior righteousness,' which one day he will teach to his disciples."



A Candy Maker’s Witness Anonymous

A candy maker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would be a witness, so he made the Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ.

He began with a stick of pure white hard candy. White to symbolize the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus, and hard to symbolize the Solid Rock, the foundation of the Church, and firmness of the promises of God.

The candy maker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Savior. It could also represent the staff of the "Good Shepherd" with which He reaches down into the ditches of the world to lift out the fallen lambs who have gone astray.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candy maker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received by which we are healed. The large red stripe was for the blood shed by Christ on the Cross so that we could have the promise of eternal life.

Unfortunately, the candy became known as a candy cane—a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas time. But the meaning is still there for those who “have eyes to see and ears to hear.”



PALANCA INTENTIONS

- Mondays – National, Regional, and Diocesan Secretariats
- Tuesdays – Schools of Leaders
- Wednesdays – Cursillistas in the United States
- Thursdays – National Cursillo® Movement’s Apostolic Actions
- Fridays – Cursillo Weekends
- Saturdays – OMCC and NACG Executive Committee

