

THE GOOD NEWS

January 2012

FEBRUARY ULTREYA

Place: *Our Lady of Hope*

Date: *February 16, 2012*

Time: *7:00 PM*

Theme: *Mass in the Chapel; Celebrant Fr. Chris*

Refreshments following Mass in Rooms

6&8 Parish Center: Everyone! Please bring finger foods or snacks to share.

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord - Feb. 2



*Lord, now you let your servant go in peace,
your word has been fulfilled:*

*My own eyes have seen the salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of every
people: a light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.*



AREA 4 ULTREYA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dates to Remember:

Coffee and Donuts Service:

April 22, June 17, August 19, September 30, December 16

SPRING WEEKENDS

Men's #89: March 8-11 (Mike Frey - Rector)

Women's #97: March 22-25 (Gloria Spanjers - Rectora)

Babe Chick Dinner: March 31

Please pray for team members:

Rick Cavallari, Greg Lilly, Michael Willems, Patti Willems

Please think about sponsoring a candidate for the next 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.

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



MAKE A NOTE! For Cursillo merchandise, visit the DeColores Rainbow Store at www.decolores.com. It comes highly recommended for their prices, inventory and service!

JANUARY ULTREYA

Our first Ultreya for 2012 began with a warm welcome for one of our new Babe Chicks, Pam Willmott, followed by a few words of wisdom from the evening's moderator, Joe Valley:

- When one door closes another door opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the ones which open for us.
- The art of listening needs its highest development in listening to oneself; our most important task is to develop an ear that can really hear what we are saying.

Carl Acker led us in song, Prayer of St. Francis. St. Francis coincidentally also is one of the patron saints of the diaconate community. St. Francis, founder of all Franciscan orders, was an ordained deacon and his prayer is a central part of diaconal charism. Liz Lilly led us in prayer, followed by the evening's scripture, 1 Samuel 18: 6-9; 19: 1-7 read by Liz Ziner. The scripture speaks about David and Jonathan, Saul's son, becoming friends and Saul's jealousy of David as people began to applaud David's exploits. In a jealous rage, Saul attempted to murder David by hurling his spear at him. Jealousy may not seem to be a major sin, but in reality, it is one step short of murder. Jealousy starts as you resent a rival, it leads to your wishing he or she were removed, then it manifests itself in your seeking ways to harm that person in word or action. Beware of letting jealousy get a foothold in your life. The scripture continues by Saul asking Jonathan, as well as his servants, urging them to assassinate David. It is clearly a principle of scripture that when a father instructs a son to break God's laws, the son should obey God rather than man. The son's role is to be respectful, helpful and obedient to his father but not to follow commands or advice that violate God's laws.

Deacon Tom, who will be celebrating his 20th anniversary as a Deacon on February 22, provided the evening's meditation, "The Message of Christ to the Cursillistas." In the Gospel of John 15:16, God says, "You did not choose me, I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit..." This is extraordinary. We are all chosen – nothing is by happenstance. God has been calling and choosing us over and over; to this very moment. God chose Tom to be a Deacon – he certainly did not choose it. God has chosen us – now what? We need to bear fruit – fruit that will last. We can continue to do this by staying close to Christ, by studying the Word of God, by putting ourselves in Holy Communion. We will bear good fruit daily, not in order to hear accolades, but to serve God in whatever circumstance God places us in. We have been called; we have been chosen not because God loves us more, but because he expects more from us. St. Paul says, "We are ambassadors of Christ." We need to be a welcoming community – a presence of Christ. Matthew 11:30 says, "For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light." It is not a heavy burden. We are to study, pray and act – not a difficult message; but sometimes it is difficult in practice, especially with difficult people. It is with those people that we particularly need to bear good fruit, not throw rotten apples. Our faith which is strong grows stronger and continues to bear good fruit. Bear good fruit – be a near occasion of Grace!

Joe left us with some final words of wisdom:

- When people come to you for help, do not turn them off with pious words, saying "Have faith and take your troubles to God." Act instead as though there were no God, as though there were only one person in the world who could help – only you.
- Most of us would be upset if we were accused of being silly. However, the word silly comes from the old English word "selig" and its literal definition is "to be blessed, happy, healthy and prosperous." So let us all be a little silly.



*God Bless You!
Your Area 4 Coordinators
Patti and Mike*

GET READY, SET, BLOOM!

**Excerpted from National Cursillo
Newsletter, December, 2011
WHAT IS FUNDAMENTAL FOR BEING
CHRISTIAN?**

By Eduardo Bonnín and Francisco Forteza

1. THE DIFFICULTY IN DEFINING IT**WHAT IS FUNDAMENTAL FOR BEING CHRISTIAN?**

Because of its radical simplicity it is very difficult, if not impossible, to define and describe it, but perhaps it is much more difficult to update it because since Christ became a man, He demonstrated it explicitly with His life, He asserted it with His death and he endorsed it with His resurrection, and thus He made the message of God the Father quite clear to men – to all persons of all time - that He (the Father) loves us all in Christ. This is the reality that underlies all other realities.

2. IT IS MADE KNOWN THROUGH WITNESSING

Compared to what this reality means when it is believed and lived out by man, all other realities fade and become relative. And, if this reality becomes a power in our daily life, and is allowed to govern it, and becomes its guiding principle, all other realities will not merely pale in comparison, but will be prioritized in the order of their actual value.

Then, the values that man values, valued from an always new perspective – the Evangelical perspective – will become meaningful, and thus we will gradually acquire a consistently fresh view of life and of things, which gives life an enthusiasm, vigor and elation, that will make us see things as we may suppose God sees them.

This means that we learn to calculate and assess the successes and failures we find in our life, using a scale that never fluctuates; the scale that will be used on Judgment Day.

3. LIFE MUST BE LIVED

Life must be lived, one cannot stand still, you must either move towards or flee from it. Life flows and its flow takes place in a changing world. Everything changes, things, ideas, events, structures, men/women. Only **WHAT IS FUNDAMENTAL FOR BEING CHRISTIAN** always has the full compelling force of what is simple. It is the good and fruitful seed that when it falls on good soil - the heart of man - and is accepted by him, the Kingdom of God, which Christ in the Gospel said is in each of us, is born within our hearts.

All the slips and mistakes of Christians from every age have always been caused by the stubborn determination of wanting to have the Kingdom of God somewhere other than within us where it really is, - a stubborn determination that is often even mandated.

When this has been the case, when we have tried in vain to locate it and look for it elsewhere, the one who lost out has always been the man, for whom Christian things do not include the essential platform of **being human**. This often leads to fanaticism, moralism, ritualism, exclusive spirituality or aggressive proselytism. All these empty searches for the Kingdom, besides causing confusion, tend to disconnect the plain and ordinary person from his or her environment. **WHAT IS FUNDAMENTAL FOR BEING CHRISTIAN** can only be incarnated, manifested, made visible, expressed, transmitted and expanded through the human being. (continue at www.cursillo.org)

The Cursillo® Movement



LENTEN RETREAT: The Desert Calls

March 2-4, 2012

Make your Lenten observances special this year by dedicating a few days of retreat to exploring the theme of the desert, a place of challenge where you will meet the reality of self, the world and God.

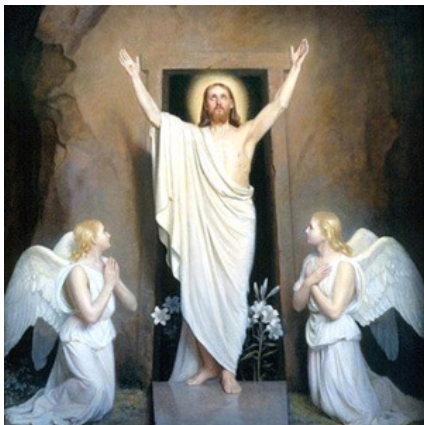
Speaker: Fr. John Vianney
Cunningham, TOR

san pedro spiritual development center | 2400 dike road | winter park, florida
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info@sanpedrocenter.org; www.sanpedrocenter.org

PLEASE PAUSE AND PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING CURSILLISTAS


In Memoriam
Our Brother in Christ
Chuck Knichel


-  **Helen McCartin**
-  **Jack Barr**
-  **Jacob Anthony Losch**
-  **Chuck Knichel**
-  **Rosa**
-  **Joe Losch**
-  **Bob Heisler**
-  **Fr. Joe Pinchock**
-  **Lou Rego**



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 useful publication.** Please contact Betsy or Cathy if you have something for the Newsletter. You can submit articles to Betsy at RGNeerland@aol.com.



Mike's Minute!

Of its own accord the land yields fruit. (Mark 4:28)

If you've ever planted a seed in a garden or even in a pot inside your home, you can probably remember the day that seed sprouted and poked up through the soil. If you're watching a farmer's field, one day it will seem to be a patch of brown dirt, and the next day it's covered with delicate new plants. No one knows exactly when it will happen, and the farmer may wonder if all the seeds he planted will ever germinate. But given the warmth and moisture of the soil, those seeds will come up!

Jesus says evangelization is a lot like watching a garden. Our job is to plant the seeds, not to worry about when they will sprout. We may not know how people will react to our witness. But we can be sure that no seed sown will end up fruitless! God even guarantees that his word will go forth and accomplish the purpose for which he sent it out (Isaiah 55:11).

We can't control the mystery of conversion. Once we sow the seed of God's word, no matter how much we may want to hurry things along, it remains God's work! Conversion doesn't depend on our ability to tell a good story or give a good witness. It depends on the mystery of God's revelation in the secret place of each person's heart. In the same way that Jesus told parables, knowing that people would hear them differently and respond to them differently, we know that our love and service and witness to others will elicit different responses. But even if we can't see the growth, Jesus assures us that our work of sowing seeds will indeed bear fruit.

So what do we do? Keep sowing! Keep praying for people! Keep looking for opportunities to share God's work in your life! Keep giving of yourself, letting your life tell the story of Jesus. Then just trust God to take those seeds and make them grow, bearing fruit for his kingdom!

"Lord, thank you for your work in my life! Thank you for making the seed of faith sprout and grow in me, bringing me to conversion. Now teach me how to sow these same seeds in other people's lives so that you may draw them to yourself."

