

THE GOOD NEWS

December 2011

JANUARY ULTREYA

Place: Our Lady of Hope

Date: January 19, 2012

Time: 7:00 PM

Theme: Talk or Meditation

Scripture: 1 Samuel 18: 6-9; 19: 1-7

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

*Feast of the Immaculate Conception
December 8th*



Father, you prepared the Virgin Mary to be the worthy mother of your Son. You let her share beforehand in the salvation Christ would bring by his death, and kept her sinless from the first moment of her conception. Help us by her prayers to live in your presence without sin. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Hours



AREA 4 ULTREYA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dates to Remember:

There is no regular Ultreya in December. We will resume January 19, 2011. Wishing everyone a very blessed Advent and Christmas, and a safe New Year! See you in 2012!

SPRING WEEKENDS

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

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

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!

NOVEMBER ULTREYA

The Babe Chick dinner was held in lieu of the November Ultreya. The Cursillo community welcomed Angela Gallagher, Janet Rogerson and Pam Willmott. All three women enjoyed their Cursillo experience and are anxious to share their deepened faith in their ministries.

Angela is active in RCIA and spoke about the joy seen in the women who attended Women's #96. Pam is a Eucharistic minister, is active with the Boy Scouts and feels that she is called to continue ministering to these youth. Janet recently converted to Catholicism and is a volunteer with Hospice. She shared an experience that showed God has placed her there for a reason, where her care of a hospice patient helped the person overcome her despair.

As a team member, Patti shared a special moment from the weekend with a candidate, finding out that the candidate's mother was someone Patti knew from previous weekends as someone special who reminded her of her grandmother.

Several members of our Ultreya are team members on the next Men's and Women's Cursillos in the spring. Please pray for those weekends, and pray about sponsoring a candidate.

Cursillo is in charge of coffee and donuts on December 18th!

There will be no meeting in December. Wishing you a very blessed Christmas and New Year with your families.

December 30—Feast of the Holy Family

Dear Lord, bless our family. Be so kind as to give us the unity, peace, and mutual love that You found in Your own family in the little town of Nazareth. Saint Joseph, bless the head of our family. Obtain for him the strength, the wisdom, and the prudence he needs to support and direct those under his care. Mother Mary, bless the mother of our family. Help her to be pure and kind, gentle and self-sacrificing. For the more she resembles you, the better will our family be. Lord Jesus, bless the children of our family. Help them to be obedient and devoted to their parents. Make them more and more like You. Let them grow, as You did, in wisdom and age and grace before God and man. Holy Family of Nazareth, make our family and home more and more like Yours, until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with You. Amen.



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

GET READY, SET, BLOOM!

**Excerpted from National Cursillo
Newsletter, December, 2011**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ:

As we continue on our journey to the heavenly Jerusalem, history reminds us of the fate of humanity to wait and watch; stranded in the interval of time, which itself is meant to encompass the encounter between humanity and God. I believe that God himself had no need for time, but that he created it the moment he made humanity so as to facilitate meeting him at a certain time; at that particular moment when we discovered him during our Cursillo Weekend. The encounter with a person, after all, occurs at a well-defined point in time, and each one of us prepares herself or himself daily for the next close moment with Christ so as to be enabled to live our fourth day, ever-consciously growing in Grace. A spiritual fulfillment which strengthens our conviction (piety) encounter with Christ; in order to make Christian decisions (study) so that our encounter with self enables us to put on the mind of Christ; for our constancy (action) encounter with others in our God-given environment. We live for and toward that moment, full of faith, hope, and love, focusing our minds on what is to come...

How precious, then, is the Cursillos in Christianity Movement and this time in which we may live with what is to us the most treasured thing in the world: our desire to see the Lord. For time meant to awaken, intensify, and deepen our longing to encounter him as often as his Grace allows it. The closer we come to Jesus Christ, the more frequently it seems to us that we are even farther removed from him than ever. The more nakedly immediate the encounter with Christ is, the more relentlessly the years seem to drag on. Time makes us humble and contrite before God. First he purifies our all-too-impetuous enthusiasm, then he gradually brings us back to what is fundamental for being a Christian; namely, the passionate (heart-piety) but peaceful (mind-study) waiting for him whom we love so as to be able to love our sisters and brothers, and ourselves (action-love) and who awaits us even more than we can ever await him...

God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit is greater than time, greater also than our waiting, just as he is greater than our tripod; piety, study and action, which is shared in the best means of friendship, the Group Reunion, and the larger community we call Ultreya. He however, dwells in our God-given environment (square meter) until, with the coming of Christ; this time will pass into eternity. And Christ will come, when he wills, as he wills and where he wills. Therefore, as Matthew 25:13 states, we must "stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour," awake and consciously ever-growing in Grace in order to be a living, normal, and present Christ to all, until the triumphal return of our Lord, King and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Always De Colores!
Victor Lugo
National Executive Director

The Cursillo® Movement



SENIOR DAY: The Relationship Between the Old & New Testament

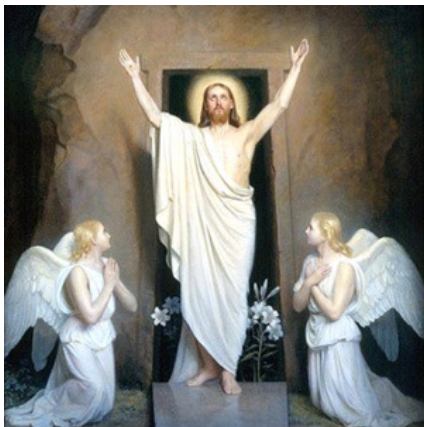
**Thursday, January 12, 2012
9:30 AM - 2:00 PM**

Senior Days are among the most popular offerings of San Pedro Center. Join others for a day of fellowship, learning, a great lunch and celebration of the Eucharist. Bring a friend and meet new friends.
Speaker: Fr. David Kaczmarek, TOR

Suggested Donation \$10

san pedro spiritual development center | 2400 dike road | winter park, florida
32792-8104 | 407-671-6322
info@sanpedrocenter.org

PLEASE PAUSE AND PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING CURSILLISTAS



-  **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!

Orlando Cursillo Center
PO Box 2461
Orlando, FL 32802

November 20, 2011

A "Call for Pescadores" from the School of Leaders

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At the Fourth Day Reunion on Saturday, November 12th, we had our first breakout session to discuss our plans for expanding the focus of our School of Leaders. Simply put, we had an enthusiastic response from those who attended.

As you may know, we (Michael Willems and John Edmead) are the Secretariat Members responsible for School of Leaders. We have taken a close look at what a School of Leaders should be, particularly in our diocese. Through our job experience in our most recent School of Leaders sessions, through our analysis of the needs for our movement here in Orlando and through our study of the Leader's Manual and other Cursillo literature, here is what we found.

In the past our movement has had its ups and downs. Our movement was devastated by hurricanes, saw declining numbers of candidates (both before and after the hurricanes), some Ultreyas stopped meeting and, in some areas of the diocese, the movement was barely alive. We are starting to fill our weekends again and we want that to continue as we seek to evangelize our environments. We need for our movement to continue to be healthy in our diocese. We want our Ultreyas to be strong and for all our babe chicks to be given the best opportunity to experience real group reunion.

The School of Leaders concept was originally based, in large part, upon the need for leaders in our Fourth Day Community to join forces to serve the needs of the movement in order to bring Cursillo to a diocese in the first place (in some instances), to give it life, to sustain it, and to make it all that the Cursillo movement can be in that particular diocese. Part of this includes education in the methods and fundamentals of Cursillo, but only part. A significant portion of what the School of Leaders was intended to do, was to be a support organization where the Leaders come together (similar to a school of fish). In fact, the Leader's Manual states that the School of Leaders is to the Ultreya what the team is to the Three Day Weekend. The Cursillo team provides the labor, the prayers and the interactions that allows the Holy Spirit to touch each candidate uniquely during the Three Days. Along those lines, in the paragraphs below, we want to share our aspirations for expanding our School of Leaders concept so that it truly serves real needs within the movement and in doing so

brings life to the movement here in Orlando in a way that will hopefully keep Cursillo alive and well for many years to come.

We are expanding the School of Leaders to allow and encourage our Cursillo leaders, both the seasoned veterans and the recent babe chicks, to serve together in various areas of real need in our movement. We will be forming “service groups” which are in actuality working group reunions that will serve the movement in our diocese in a number of areas. We are looking for “pescadores” who are willing to serve in areas of need in which they feel called to serve. Just as you were called to be a Christian Leader on Saturday night of your Cursillo weekend, you are being called serve in the School of Leaders. Let us explain this call a bit more specifically, as it may (and in many cases may not) apply to you.

If you are a “geek” with some spare time we invite you to assist us in updating and improving our records in our database, or in improving communications through email or “workgroups.” We need “geeks” to assist with website management and enhancement.

If you are a “study” person, we need help with improving the way we provide books to our candidates on weekends, including developing good lists of the “best books” as reading lists to be given to candidates.

If you are a “piety” person, we need prayer warriors, who will do palanca for movements throughout the world, and we need to expand our prayer request capabilities.

The candidates whom the Holy Spirit entrusts to our care are precious to us, and each one deserves our personal attention. If you want to help make sure that our candidates come to our weekends fully prepared, with questions answered and fully-equipped with pillows, sheets, towels and other essentials and if you want to work with our sponsors to help them understand and fulfill their responsibilities with respect to a candidate who has been accepted to attend a weekend, we need a service group to help our Pre-Cursillo person. Improved communication with sponsors and candidates through follow-up emails and phone calls are needed. Bringing a person to Cursillo, making him or her feel welcome, and helping that person step into the initial phase of his or her Fourth Day as part of our community is an important task that we cannot leave to chance.

If you are a chef, a handyperson, an organizer, or the like, we need help with service groups in the area of kitchen, facilities liaison, storage shed, archiving that will help support our men’s and women’s teams and in some areas support secretariat members.

If you feel our Ultreyas need to share ideas and “cross-pollinate,” we would love to have you involved in assisting our Fourth Day secretariat members in making our Ultreyas strong and lively and in opening new Ultreyas in new parishes.

If you feel writing or reporting is your thing, we would love to make a regular newsletter, sent out electronically, a tool to make Cursillo in our diocese even better.

If you are into audiovisual things, we have some ideas that could become a reality, if you want to get involved.

Music is a part of Cursillo, a very important part. Whether you are actively involved in music in Cursillo or would someday like to be involved in this area, the music service group can be for you.

If you would like to be involved in putting on days of reflection or information sessions as part of the spiritual or educational function of the School of Leaders, we want you.

If you have given a number of talks in Cursillo and want to help develop other leaders to become speakers on weekends, we need help in our talk mentor service group. We already have a group going through our current set of sample talks to make sure that our speakers get really good samples to work from. We need to update and improve manuals used on the weekend by the heads of setup, kitchen, and music.

These are some of the real needs that we see. We know that not everything can be done at once. We need to move deliberately and do this well. If we are all truly open to the Holy Spirit and are willing to be his instruments, many of you may hear the call to be involved in one or more areas of the School of Leaders. It can and should be something that will fit your schedule and won't be more than you should do.

At our breakout session, we had many people who enthusiastically responded and indicated that they would be willing to become involved. We want to extend this invitation to all the Leaders in our movement. We were all called out as leaders on Saturday night. Your leadership role may or may not involve participating in a service group with the School of Leaders. Pray about it. If you do respond with a "yes" we will all be rewarded. If you must respond "no" in order to serve the Lord elsewhere, we will all be rewarded nonetheless. Listen to the Holy Spirit, and you will receive your call wherever that may take you.

Here are the current service groups that we would like to form (in no particular order), if there is sufficient interest:

1. Books for Cursillo Weekend
2. Facilities Liaison
3. Kitchen Support
4. Database
5. Website
6. Applications (Pre-Cursillo)/Sponsor and Candidate Support and Communication
7. Music
8. Prayer Warriors/Palanca
9. Days of Reflection/Information Sessions
10. Ultreya Interaction and Support
11. Talk Mentors
12. Manual Revisions

How do you get involved? Just drop us an email to mwillems@cfl.rr.com or jedmead@cfl.rr.com with your current contact information: full name, mailing

address, parish, preferable email address, and phone numbers. We need to know what area or areas you would be willing to serve.

We plan to follow up shortly after we get our initial responses to establish and organize the various service groups. You will be contacted, whether or not we will be activating a service group immediately in your area of interest. It may be that the response for certain service groups overwhelms the need. We don't want to waste people's valuable time, so each service group will have a practical limit to its size. Your call to serve in an area is something that you can accept or decline. If your available time is changed dramatically, you can withdraw.

All this is voluntary. You do not serve on a service group to "qualify" to serve on team. In other words, you can still serve on Cursillo teams, even if you never become part of the School of Leaders. If you serve out of love of God and love of the Cursillo movement, you will be rewarded many times over for everything that you give. We will all benefit as you help to continue to breathe life into this precious gift from God that each of us has received. This is not intended to take you from your family or from other ministries in which you are involved. We are convinced that our leaders will learn from each other and will be stronger and more united through this effort. That is why we are very excited about the possibilities!

Pray about this now and when you have discerned and are ready we want to hear from you (the sooner the better)!

Yours in Christ,

Michael Willems (mwillems@cfl.rr.com) and John Edmead (jedmead@cfl.rr.com)

