



Cursillo Rainbow Connection

Volume 3 Issue 2

Advent, 2009

Archdiocese of
Newark, NJ
Cursillo Movement

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Dates to Remember in 2009–2010:

- Dec 10 Mass/Christmas Gathering
- Dec 12 Advent Revival
- Jan 15 Ultreya
- Mar 11–14 Women's Cursillo Weekend
- Apr 8–11 Men's Cursillo Weekend

We Gather as a Community of Faith

There is one common denominator among all reading this newsletter: we have faith.

Christian faith is encapsulated in this famous passage from John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life."

Perhaps the most famous of all bible verses, this says that because our Creator loved us, He offered us His only Son so that through our belief in Him we too may reach heaven. There are some heady themes of love, redemption and salvation in this one brief scripture passage. At its most basic, this verse affirms that belief in Jesus is the only path to eternal life.

The Advent season, which inaugurates the new Church year, is all about making ready, a holy expectancy, marking time, and preparing for the birth of Jesus. Advent also affords us the opportunity to contemplate the triumphant return of Jesus for the Final Judgment. Through our Baptism and Church teaching, we are instilled with the faith

that Jesus was born, died, rose from the dead and will come again.

To me faith is best experienced in community. I have deeply held beliefs that I need to have constantly reaffirmed. At the celebration of the Mass we come together to celebrate our faith through the liturgy of the Word and its interpretation and through our partaking of the Holy Eucharist, which offers each of us the miracle of kinship with Jesus.

What really charges up my faith life is experiencing Christian community through Cursillo. Every greeting, every hug, each of the many gatherings we participate in, be it Group Reunion, Ultreya, School of Leaders, an Opening or Closing, helps me to feel the love of Jesus and the grace of God. We come together, we sing, we pray, we share. In an unspoken manner we tell one another "Our God is an awesome God, we are one body in Christ, and the Christmas spirit is all about the Holy Spirit!"

I offer thanks to God for another two miraculous Cursillo Weekends in our local Church. Plenty of prayers, palanca and hard

work went into making these events gifts from God. Each of the Teams and Service Teams bent over backwards preparing and executing these Weekends. Bravo! God bless our newest Cursillistas. May their respective faith journeys continue to be filled with the wonder of Cursillo.

In closing, I'd like to share this Advent scripture reading from Luke 10: 21-24

"No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal Him."

Turning to the disciples in private He said, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it."

No, prophets or kings we are not, but our gift of faith continues to allow us to experience the glory of God and the love of Jesus Christ. Let us rejoice in our vigilance!

Wishing all a Grace- and Peace-filled Christmas!

—Pat Carr

Posada

This past summer I was at a social gathering of Cursillistas; as with all gatherings when brothers and sisters meet, it was delightful. And as with all Cursillo gatherings the evening chatter turned toward our spiritual journeys and the women's conversation drifted off speaking of their various diverse images of our Blessed Mother. The images discussed were not those based on church teachings of Mary, but of those portrayed by artist, paintings, sculptures, statues, etc. We all had our favorites or those which spoke to us on a personal level; that is the image to which we as individuals could best relate. As the night drew on we realized of all the images we could not think of one that represented Mary pregnant with our Lord. This was more than a little unsettling to us; after all Mary's pregnancy was a very human condition, a condition commonly shared by many of us at one time or another in our lives. And although our conception processes were not Divine in nature as hers was, our periods of gestation were often times when we most sought her intervention.

The months have passed and quite frankly I forgot about that discussion or the indignation felt. After all my plastic Mary is standing on the window sill at my kitchen sink. I put her up there back in May when my mother came to live with me. I fig-

ured I would need our heavenly mother to remind my mom and myself of how to live with grace and love. If you saw her you might laugh. Someone must have given her to me in the 50's, she is made of that plastic that must have once glowed in the dark and somewhere along the way she has lost her fingers on both hands. But I know she's my Mary and although she may look cold and distant I know she is not because over these months she has brought the peace



of her son into my home and into the hearts of both Mom and me. I've added a little ritual. (I'm getting like my Polish grandmother who had a saint for every occasion with candles burning in front of each.) I have tucked the names of

By Jean Kalemba

people who are in need under that plastic statue, so when I do the dishes or look into my back yard I remind Mary of their need of her intervention.

Last Saturday evening a small group of Cursillistas gathered at my home for dinner. It seems that not everyone had forgotten about last summer's discussion. One searched the heavens (ok, searched the internet) for that pregnant Mary we so desired and gifted me with a remarkable statue of Joseph leading a very pregnant Mary on a donkey. It is called Posada and is based on the Latin American custom, La Posadas, the reenactment of Mary and Joseph's search for shelter on that first Christmas Eve. It is a gift that touched my heart, a gift I will treasure.

I still have plastic Mary standing watch over my brothers and sisters in need; but during this season of Advent Posada has a special meaning to me. Redemption was brought to the world through the yes of a woman; Hail Mary, the Lord is with thee, blessed are you among women. Blessed are we to be your sons and daughters. Blessed are we to be a Cursillo family who gathers and speaks of the things of love and peace and redemption. Advent blessings to you dear brothers and sisters.



Please note: the Cursillo Secretary has a new e-mail ID!

From now on, please use decolores7@optonline.net for any e-mails concerning Cursillo.



Capital Campaign Update

Our local Cursillo movement sponsored a fundraising campaign this past fall to pay off our outstanding debt and to raise funds for future events and for future Weekend deposits.

The Secretariat extends sincere gratitude to all who were able to contribute to this fundraising endeavor. The good news: we realized over \$3,500 in much-needed profits from these efforts! The funds were raised through sales of tickets to our Annual Social, through fundraising that took place at the Social and through an appeal for cash donations to those who weren't able to attend. Many thanks to all, especially during these tough financial times, for the financial support our movement desperately needs.

Debts were paid and deposits for future

Weekends were made using funds collected. Thankfully, the Weekends that were just completed just about funded themselves through the payments made by the direct participants and generosity of the Service Teams. The bad news: while we're financially stable at the moment, hovering just under the \$2,000 mark in reserves, we could still really use more cash in the treasury in order to remain solvent.

Once again, we humbly implore our loyal base of Cursillistas to consider sending a donation check during this season of giving in order that we may not be weighed down by pending financial obligations, including funding our annual Day of Renewal coming up this spring. Please consider donating to our movement by mailing a check to our Treasurer, Bill Dough-

erty, 26 Division Ave., Belleville NJ 07109 or our Secretary, Joanne Rinkus, 37 Terrace Ave., Rochelle Park, NJ 07662.

Any amount you may be able to spare, large or small, is greatly appreciated!

Thanks again to all who contributed to this fundraising effort. Your generosity is exemplary and your rewards will be great. And thank you in advance to those of you who will be sending in donations! When times are tough, no matter what the circumstances, Cursillistas always come through for one another.

—Pat Carr, Lay Director

Leaders Day Training Held for Team Members



A Leaders Day Training seminar was held on Saturday morning, Nov. 14, to familiarize the spring, 2010 teams with various aspects of executing their upcoming weekends. Held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish in Oakland, the day started with a Mass celebrated by our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Thomas Lipnicki, OLPH pastor. This Training Day is offered to every team in their preparation phase and typically falls as the third gathering of eight for the teams on their road to the Weekend.

A light breakfast was provided courtesy of the upcoming Weekend Service Team Co-Chiefs present for the event. Lay Director Pat Carr introduced the spring '10 Team Rectors and Angel/

Warden: Rector Michelle Seymour and her Angel Joanne Gebbia and Rector Ron Pepson and his Warden Rick Buff. He then gave a presentation that touched on the history of our movement as well as some themes that run through the weekend, goals of the weekend and some practical advice.

The main speaker, Fr. Tom, then gave a Weekend overview, speaking about each one of the various talks that are presented over the course of the Weekend, offering sage wisdom on how the talks should be approached. As both Teams assembled are at the point of their formation where team members have received the talks they will be presenting, there was copious note-taking when Fr. Tom spoke about each of the specific talks.

The presentation

concluded with a question and answer period, further helping to increase the comfort level of team member volunteers.

All present agreed that the day provided an opportunity for them to get more comfortable with the structure of the Weekend and how the rollos flow from one Team member to the next; and hopefully minimized any trepidation the team members may have had about the writing of the talks.

Many thanks to all those involved in making this Leaders Day a success, but especially to all of the team members who give so selflessly in the preparation and implementation of our Cursillo weekends. May you be richly blessed!



Another Fall, Another Round of Successful Weekends



The Men's 177th theme banner and Spiritual Directors, left to right: Deacon Kevin Regan, Msgr. Paul Bochicchio, Msgr. Ken Herbster

As Cursillistas we are called to evangelize. Evangelization entails attempting to bring others to a more meaningful encounter with Jesus. What better way to achieve that goal than to invite others to the potentially life-changing experience of a Cursillo weekend?

Many from our Cursillo community did exactly that by recruiting candidates for the Women's and Men's Cursillo Weekends held at our beloved Casa this past fall. Sponsors, you are to be commended and congratulated.

Each of the two teams started working all the way back in January in preparation for these Weekends. The



Candidates from the Women's 160th Cursillo Weekend.

Women's Team was headed up by Angela Vomero as Rector and Vicky McKoy as Angel. Spiritual Directors included Fr. Jack Martin, Sr. Edie Cheney and Sr. Mary Eleanor. Music Minister was Janet Gyss. Women from the 158th Weekend served as Service Team with Co-Chiefs Mary Lyne and Joanne Rinkus. Fourteen candidates participated in this Weekend. Fr. John

Gordon from Holy Family, Nutley was the celebrant for the Sponsors Mass.

The Men's Team was headed up by Bob Weiland as Rector and Tony Seymour as Warden. Spiritual Directors for this Weekend included Msgr. Paul Bochicchio, Msgr. Ken Herbster



Tony Seymour, Warden and Bob Weiland, Rector of the Men's 177th Weekend, November 12-15.

and Deacon Kevin Regan. Music Minister was Mike Kelly. Men from Sacred Heart, Haworth made up the Service Team with Co-Chiefs Chris Giancarlo and Jean-Francois Gueguen. There were a total of eighteen candidates on this Weekend... God is good - all the time!

Fr. John



Heading up the Women's 160th is left to right Fr. Jack Martin, Sr. Edie Cheney, Sr. Mary Eleanor, Angela Vomero, Rector and Vicky McKoy, Angel.

Michalczak from the Chapel at Holy Name Hospital, Teaneck was the celebrant for

they could not happen without you! Thanks also to the Support Team, the Service Team volunteers and music "helpers" including our Sponsor's Mass musicians. Thanks to all who performed palanca for the success of these Weekends. Also, special thanks to all Homecoming Coordinators. While you generally work "in the background" your hard work does not go unnoticed. Last but not least, a special thanks to the Candidates, our newest Cursillistas, for trusting your Sponsor to steer you in a spiritually enriching direction.

These weekends are tangible proof that Cursillo is alive and well in the Archdiocese of Newark. Each of the Openings and Closings were spirit-filled and joyful. The witness of the Candidates at each of the Closings

was a testament to the success of these Weekends. Praise God for empowering all who participated in these events - each and every one is a stand-alone miracle.

Please continue to recruit new potential Candidates for the upcoming spring, 2010 Weekends!

the Sponsors Mass.

Thanks to all who worked so hard in making these weekends such a big success. Team members, you are the backbone of these Weekends -



Candidates from the Men's 177th Cursillo Weekend.

Come and Listen! Come and Speak! - Ultreyas

The purpose of the Cursillo Movement is the leavening of environments with the Gospel, and making Christian communities possible, in our families, in our neighborhoods, in our work environments - wherever people spend their time. But, after the weekend, where are WE leavened, renewed and re-filled, so that we can continue to do the work of Cursillo? There are many answers: Openings, Closings, Serving on a team, Sponsor's Masses, Group Reunions, and Ultreyas. Let's look at how this happens at an Ultreya.

At Ultreyas, we can reconnect with friends that we have met through our Cursillo experiences, and also make new friends. Since many Ultreyas are hosted by weekend teams, most of the people who attend Ultreyas are somehow related to that weekend - parishes, spouses, friends, etc. That's great, but, there is a small group of people who come and listen regardless of who the host is - simply because they want to be renewed and leavened themselves. Why not



Fr. Anselm gives a Spiritual Summation at the Ultreya on November 20.

consider coming out on a Friday evening more often, and see how that influences your life?

Like many Cursillo events, Ultreyas start with Group Reunion. We connect with a few Cursillistas and listen and share the highlights of

our 4th Day journeys, through Piety, Study and Action, or our moment closest to Christ. We can see how Christ is working in each other's lives, and how we bring Christ to others. By listening to what other Cursillistas are experiencing, we can gain strength, spiritual insight and support from each other.

This will also be echoed in the witness talks and summations, as we see again how the Spirit is moving among us, within us and flowing out to others. Cursillistas share their personal growth in Christ, their growing knowledge of Christ or how they brought others to Christ. By their example, we will see what is fundamental for being a Christian in family, neighborhood, place of work and friendships, and are encouraged in our own efforts to become better Apostles.

The evening is concluded with lots of talk, as Cursillistas meet up and talk about what they heard, or how their friends are doing. It is something to behold, as the joyful noise of these conversations echoes throughout the room, and makes it difficult to flick the lights to signal an end to the night's events.

We hold six Archdiocesan Ultreyas each year - on the third Friday of the odd numbered months throughout the year. For some time now, we have been asking recent Rectors if they would consider hosting an Ultreya. This allows us to tap into the joy and exuberance that Cursillistas experience on recent weekends, when their memories are not hindered by the passage of time. We provide the outline and some key points to remember. Rectors select someone to give the witness talk - it could be someone who has been around the movement for some time, or a new Cursillista. There is a simple formula for Ultreyas, one that we could probably list if we thought about it for a moment: Song, Opening Prayer, Group Reunion, Witness Talk, Response, Spiritual Summation, Announcements, Closing Prayer and Song.

It only takes a minimum of 3-5 people to host an Ultreya, but can include many more.

However, as our Lay Director, Pat Carr, mentioned at the last Ultreya, we hold four Cursillos each year - so



Robyn Padia presents the Witness Talk

we need to find alternate means in recruiting hosts for our Ultreyas. We would also like to offer the opportunity to host an Ultreya to a larger group of people - maybe those who were rectors some years in the past, or, 4th Day groups that have been in friendship for some time.

We have contacted 4th Day Group Reunions and/or parish Cursillista groups we know about, and that has helped. But we don't know about all the 4th Day or parish Cursillista groups in the Archdiocese.

So, we come to you and ask if you or your group would consider hosting an Ultreya during 2010. Pray over it, discuss it among yourselves, and if you find Jesus prompting you to step out, please contact Donovan Green (Dgreen6196@aol.com) or Rosemary Lisa (rosemarylisa@optonline.net). We'll be glad to hear from you.

De Colores!

—Rosemary and Donovan

Downtown NYC Group Reunion Launched

As a result of the recent Men's 177th Cursillo Weekend, participants recognized the need to form a new Fourth Day Group Reunion. Because some of those Cursillistas work in downtown Manhattan, they proposed that lunchtime would be a convenient time to gather, re-connect and share about their respective journeys.



This new "Environmental" Group Reunion is now up and running! The first gathering took place recently and was a great success. Bob Weiland, Rector of the Men's 177th, and the leader of this Group Reunion, is spearheading this effort that includes a small but hopefully growing group of Cursillistas.

Their next meeting date is Wednesday, January 6 at 1:00 p.m. This group meets at Merritt & Harris, 90 John Street, Suite 503. If you or a fellow-Cursillista happen to work downtown and would like to join up with these Cursillistas for Group Reunion, please email Bob Weiland at rgweiland@gmail.com. In the spirit of the theme of the Men's 177th please note that "All Are Welcome!"

School of Leaders Report Card

Another successful semester of the Archdiocese of Newark Cursillo School of Leaders was recently completed. We tried something new this go-around: taking it on the road! Whereas past semesters have fixed the venue for Leaders School at one specific location, this time the venue was at varying locations around the Archdiocese.

Appropriately enough, this semester's theme focused on "Being a Christian Leader". The first Leaders School event took place in September at St. Anastasia parish in Teaneck. Keynote speaker Mat Glowski gave witness to Cursillistas that have aided him on both his spiritual jour-

ney and his life journey. He spoke about how Cursillo quite literally changed the course of his life.

The October session took place at Blessed Sacrament / St. Charles Borromeo parish in Newark. Yvonne and Donovan Green together gave a beautiful witness as to how they have grown individually and as a married couple to be leaders in their church community and in our Cursillo movement.

The November gathering was held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oakland. Dawn Torpey witnessed on being a family leader, a church leader and a Cursillo leader. Each one of our

three keynote speakers this semester provided inspiration to all in attendance. Lively discussion always followed the presentations. Many thanks to each of these dedicated Cursillistas for volunteering to give witness.

At Leaders School we seek to know Christ through one another, and learn how to share this most special gift we have received. This is a great way to develop and explore our spirituality while learning more about Cursillo goals. We hope to see you at Leaders School next semester - all are welcomed and encouraged to attend!

Photos from Autumn Social/Fundraiser



Annual Autumn Social / Fundraiser Big Success

Everyone in attendance agreed our annual early-fall Social / Fundraiser was a huge success. The crowd topped out at almost 100 Cursillistas at this Friday evening bash held at St. Anastasia parish in Teaneck.

Mike Kelly spearheaded the planning for this event, reserving the venue and marshalling a volunteer committee second to none. This committee's hard work preparing for the party was readily apparent. Food needed to be ordered, the room set-



up needed to happen, supplies purchased, entertainment lined up. The evening went off flawlessly, from the music provided by deejay Vito Lupo to the room décor courtesy of Dot Hoffman to the serving of the delicious catered fare. The St. Anastasia



Men's Fourth Day Group Reunion really stepped up to the plate for this one, helping tremendously with the set-up, clean-up, room break-down and last-minute trips out to the store. You never saw a harder working bunch of guys!

Carolyn Messina serenaded us with original songs, and Jim Reilly and Dot Hoffman provided hilarious stand-up comedy. The food was delectable and the dancing great! The room was buzzing all night long. This was a great way for Cursillistas to unwind, relax and re-connect.

As if that weren't enough, Cursillo made a lots of much-needed cash on this event, including sizeable proceeds from raffled gift baskets and 50-50 drawings.

A special "thank you" goes out to Joanne Rinkus for publicity, Kathy Glowski for helping with the food and caterer coordinat-



ing and Bill Dougherty for funds management. Quite honestly, a good time was had by all. For those



of you unable to make this event this year, next year's party should get a "high priority" on your social calendar!





**Blessed Sacrament/
St. Charles Borromeo
Roman Catholic Church**

ADVENT REVIVAL
A Unique Experience!

Theme:
"BEHOLD YOUR VICTORY!"

Presented by:
Rev. Longinus Ugwuegbulem
Parochial Vicar

Saturday, December 12th
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Continental breakfast and lunch provided.

Blessed Sacrament St. Charles Borromeo Church
Clinton Ave. and Van Ness Pl.
Newark, New Jersey
973-824-6548

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—Joanne Rinkus, Editor