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^ St. A's Players perform skit at Social / Fundraiser- story on page 6

Cursillo Changes Lives <i>Paul Carris</i>	2
Recognizing the Best Gifts <i>Teri Carr</i>	3
Visit from Cursillo National	4
September Ultreya	5
Social a Fundraising Success!	6
Women's 162nd	7
Mens 179th	9
Leaders Spring Forth	10
Advent <i>Pat Carr</i>	12
Advent Truths <i>Jean Kalemba</i>	13
Regional Encounter <i>Pat Carr</i>	14
Huge November Ultreya	16

Ultreya! Friday, January 21st

Join us for our next Ultreya taking place on Friday, January 21 at the Casa starting at 7:30 p.m. The Men's 178th Cursillo, Bob Weiland, Rector, will be facilitating this event. This is a great way to stay connected to the Cursillo community and to be uplifted by Group Reunion and listening to the main speaker's Cursillo-related witness. Watch your email for reminders / details.

Spring Weekends Bring on the Candidates!

Please look to sponsor Candidates for upcoming spring, 2011 Weekends taking place at the Casa in Kearny:

Men's 180th Weekend:
Thursday, March 10 - Sunday, March 13.
Rick Buff, Rector / Mat Glowski, Warden.

Women's 163rd Weekend:
Thursday, April 7 - Sunday, April 10.
Joanne Gebbia, Rector / Kate Cheski, Angel.

Cursillo Changes Lives

Paul Carris

8 years ago I made my Cursillo. Up to that weekend, I had been struggling after surviving the attacks on the WTC on 9/11. I was on the 72nd Floor of the North Tower when the first plane hit and was across the street when the building collapsed. I spent 9 months in therapy for anger that surfaced as a result of my experience.

My Cursillo weekend changed my life. I had a therapy session after Cursillo and my therapist told me that he did not need to see me anymore. I had struggled with him and myself for 9 months. I was trying to figure out what was going on with my head. Cursillo connected me with my heart and everything I could not work out for 9 months became clear. I was looking for God and he was not in my head. He was in my heart. I found my faith in my heart and when God did that for me through Cursillo, all my issues being addressed in therapy were put in perspective. The perspective was that God was with me and with God nothing is impossible. My issues did not go away, but I was given the strength to deal with them. I was energized and not worn down by confronting my demons.

My Cursillo experience directly contributed to removing the walls I had surrounded myself with and allowing me to hear a call to the diaconate. Coming off a Cursillo weekend, we see the world around us differently. I was able to start seeing where God was in my life almost in real time. As we are all told, the world has not changed, but we must go back and live in it. Well, I started living in it more fully by working with fellow Cursillistas to serve others in various endeavors.

My spiritual life soared for many years and then upon being accepted to the diaconate formation program, a new chapter started. I have learned much about our Catholic faith and Church in an academic environment over the last 4 years. Thoughts that I had journaled in silent retreats and a visit to Christ in the Desert Monastery in New Mexico, were crystallized in courses on the Trinity and the study of Jesus' divinity and humanity. I understood the Thomas Aquinas Phrase – Faith seeking understanding. The surprising thing was that although my understanding increased, my spiritual life faltered. I did not feel the same connection I had before I started diaconate training. The academics, tests, reading, papers and daily stresses of work and family brought me back into my head and away from my heart.

Participating in my 4th day group and Ultreya have been my lifeline to reconnecting with my heart during this period. It always seems like a struggle to get to these meetings, but once there, God rewards me with His peace and energy from my fellow Cursillistas. Our Cursillo community is a true blessing.

Then there are the times of “God instances” that always remind me of His presence in my life. Recently, my daughter who graduated college with a Spanish major, was offered an internship in Quito, Ecuador. My wife and I asked her if the company provided housing, or would help her get settled and the answer was - No. Obviously, we were concerned letting a 22 year old head off to Ecuador without knowing anyone there. One of my diaconate classmates, Jorge Ochoa, who made Cursillo last year, is from Ecuador and he connected my daughter with his family members in Quito. She is now living with his family and has only a 10-minute walk to where she works.

God is always here for us, even before we know that we need Him. Living the Cursillo methods continues to remind me that there are no coincidences. And it will be no coincidence, God-willing, that I complete my training and get ordained with 34 other blessed men in May, 2011.

Recognizing the Best Gifts

Teri Carr

On a Christmas Eve several years ago, my sister-in-law, Betsy Mathisen, explained to me that life can be defined by four distinct, though related stages. Clearly and concisely, she identified them as the following: You believe in Santa Claus; You don't believe in Santa Claus; You are Santa Claus and then...You look like Santa Claus.

As Cursillistas, we are living in the third stage of life described, as "You are Santa Claus." Despite the fact that some of us have followed the diet of that "right jolly old elf," we are happily living in the stage where we are exchanging gifts with those whom we love, those with whom we work and play, and those with whom we just cross paths. Perhaps we don't literally have a big, red bag slung over our shoulder and we don't enter a home via the chimney, but we all surely have been given wonderful gifts to share. No, not gifts made by elves in the North Pole. We have gifts given to us by God to be shared with those whom He places in our lives.

Part of the magic of Santa Claus is that his bag is never empty. Even though he travels throughout the world, he always has a gift to leave for each child to open on Christmas morning. Our bag of gifts is never empty either, although we can experience them as empty. At those times of perceived emptiness, what can we do? Surely we must pray, continue to trust in God, and receive the sacraments. We count our blessings and give thanks to God for the indescribable Graces He has bestowed on us.

Perhaps we need a reminder that among those blessings given to us by God is our Cursillo Community. Where better to go to be reminded of our gifts than our Fourth-Day group, an Ultreya, or a Weekend Opening or Closing? Within our community, we hear words of wisdom, encouragement and Faith. We are literally and figuratively embraced and surrounded by others with marvelous gifts to share. We are replenished and renewed and leave with bags overflowing – and we don't have to wait until Christmas comes. There is no visa bill to pay and no "mall madness."

And no, I will not end without a reminder to us all that the best gift that we can share is the Gift of Jesus, which has been shared with all of us.

So Merry Christmas to All and to All a beautiful Christmas Season!

De Colores.

Please pray for family members of Cursillistas who have recently entered into eternal life:

Cursillista Liz Rovneyko, wife of Cursillista Ken Rovneyko and sister of past Lay Directoir Peg Mondello, passed away on October 12.
pegblest@aol.com

Ida Renz, mother of Cursillista Barbara Renz, passed away on November 4.
barbmrenz@gmail.com

Josephine DiMauro, mother of Cursillista Jerry DiMauro, passed away on November 17.
gdimauro@optonline.net

Cursillista Kevin Carr, husband of Cursillista Diane Carr and brother of Cursillistas Betsy Mathisen and Pat Carr passed away on November 27. dcarr17@aol.com, e.mathisen@elkayplastics.com, patrickcarr3@hotmail.com

The following Cursillistas have asked that we pray for healing for their loved ones:

Please pray for Olga Mahoney, wife of Cursillista Brian Mahoney, as she continues to battle breast cancer.

Please pray for Monica Carris, sister of Cursillista Paul Carris. She is deaf and is struggling with an auto immune disease that now may be affecting her brain and motor skills, which are critical for a deaf person who depends on sign language.

Ceferino Aguillon, from Cursillo National, Visits Archdiocese of Newark

Ceferino Aguillon, the English Language Coordinator of Cursillo National, visited the Archdiocese of Newark's Cursillo recently to get a glimpse of how our Cursillo movement is faring here. Cursillo National is Texas-based. As part of his visit, Cef offered suggestions as to how we may improve our local movement, and to encourage us in our Cursillo efforts. Newark's Cursillo was just one of 16 stops Cef made on his tour of Region II.

Timed so that his visit would coincide with our September 17 Ultreya, Cef met with our Secretariat prior to the start of the regularly scheduled Ultreya that night. He was welcomed with a dinner in his honor at the Casa. Newark Cursillo Lay Director Pat Carr chaired the post-dinner meeting that took place prior to the start of the Ultreya. After Secretariat members introduced and told a little bit about themselves, Cef made a presentation about Cursillo National's goals, philosophy and the areas in which we should be focusing our efforts.

He encouraged participation beyond our local movement, which entails potentially attending twice-yearly Regional Encounters and the annual National Encounter. A question and answer period prior to the conclusion of the meeting focused on the content of the more recently published Three Day Manual, the book containing the outlines for talks presented on Cursillo weekends.



Lay Director Pat Carr, National English Language
Coordinator Ceferino Aguillon

Cef was particularly impressed by the turnout at the Ultreya that followed the meeting, and at the warm and welcoming atmosphere present at the event. Our Ultreya format conformed to that prescribed by National, and the sharing was obviously heart-felt. All in all, Cef was left with a positive impression of the Cursillo movement in the Archdiocese of Newark. As with all that were present that evening, he clearly enjoyed himself.

September Ultreya

Sponsored by Holy Angels, Little Falls



Mary Rose Steven witnesses at September Ultreya

Holy Angels, Little Falls
Group Reunion members

The Women's 4th Day Group reunion from Our Lady of the Holy Angels, Little Falls facilitated our late-summer Archdiocesan Ultreya on Friday evening, September 17 at the Casa in Kearny. Barbara Sinatra, acting as emcee, offered a warm welcome and set the tone for a beautiful evening of sharing.

Gordon Roehrer was our music minister. After a rousing gathering song and Welcoming Prayer, the packed house got down to the business of Group Reunion. One of the wonderful benefits of these Ultreyas, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark Cursillo six times per year, is that each of these events gives those in attendance the opportunity to experience 4th Day Group Reunion, typically with Cursillistas we don't normally have the opportunity to share with. As Cursillistas we know that the grace experienced when sharing intimately in these settings is unlike any other. And the bonds of friendship are strengthened all the more.

Mary Rose Stevens, the main speaker that evening, offered a heart-felt witness of her personal spiritual journey before and after making her Cursillo. She said that a Cursillista priest and the love and support of her Cursillo sisters in Christ were instrumental in helping her resolve trials she was facing, and helped her to see the love of Jesus in her life.



Fellow-grouper Mary Jo D'errico offered a lay summation of Mary Rose's witness, reinforcing that the group has bonded to the point that each of them are always there for one another, so much so that she couldn't imagine not having the friendship and support that they lovingly offer to each other.

Fr. Tom Lipnicki, our Cursillo Spiritual Advisor, offered a summary of Mary Rose's witness from a clergyman's perspective. He applauded Mary Rose for not giving up in her struggle to resolve an issue she faced, observing that her faith and willingness to trust were the critical factors to her success.

We had a special guest from Cursillo National that evening, Cef Aguillon, the English Language Segment Coordinator. Cef was visiting all the way up from Texas, where our movement started in this country over fifty years ago and where it remains headquartered today. Cef offered words of encouragement to the group, obviously impressed with the sizeable turnout and boisterous overall spirit always shown at our Ultreyas. One of his main points was that Cursillo, at its most basic, is about coming to know Jesus through the love we're able to share with and through one another.

The evening concluded with a Closing Prayer, loud and happy singing and re-connecting in fellowship with our fellow Cursillistas.

Social / Fundraiser Big Success

Cursillo's recent Annual Social / Fundraiser was a huge success – praise God! Instrumental in funding programs offered throughout the year, the “fundraiser” portion of this event helps us to make down-payment deposits on Weekends, pay National and Regional dues, buy supplies necessary for Weekends and fund our Annual Day of Renewal. Put simply, without the funds realized through this event, we could not continue to offer the programs we've all come to know and love.



Deidre Goebel, Joanne Rinkus cuttin' a rug

Many thanks to the outstanding crew at St. Anastasia for all of their hard work to set up, clean up and facilitate this event.

There were about a hundred Cursillistas in attendance that night. While a great showing, we could do much better than that. The room could easily hold twice that amount. When the notice goes out early next fall to join us once again for the Fall, 2011 Social / Fundraiser, please remember to make a special effort to join us. Our local Cursillo movement is top-notch – let's keep the forward momentum going!

The good news is that this program “seed money” is raised through ticket sales to our dinner dance where everyone in attendance has one heckuva good time!

This year the Social took place on October 1, once again at St. Anastasia parish in Teaneck. Mike and Judy Kelly co-chaired the Social / Fundraiser Committee. A delicious catered dinner was provided and there was live entertainment by Cursillistas Carolyn Messina and Joe McKay. There was an original skit performed by the St. A's Players, to everyone's delight. Our very own Vito Lupo, a professional deejay, graciously offered his talents that night gratis.



Yvonne, Merilyn, Pat and Diane from Blessed Sacrament, Newark commiserate at the Annual Social



Cursillo revelers dance the night away

Anyone wishing to make a donation to Cursillo in this season of giving, please send your check made out to “Cursillo”, and send to our Treasurer:

Bill Dougherty
26 Divison Avenue
Belleville, NJ 07109

**Many blessings to
all Cursillistas this
Christmas season!**

162nd Women's Weekend is Big Success



Msgr. Paul Shetelick, Spiritual Director, Women's 162nd Cursillo, gives Rector Vicky McKoy a congratulatory embrace

The 162nd Women's "Living in His Grace and Mercy" Weekend took place at the Casa in Kearny in October. It proved to be a smashing success. Twenty-two brave souls answered the call from their Sponsors and signed up for a weekend that proved, for many of them, to be life changing.

Rector Vicky McKoy and Angel Trish Ferrara led the Team and Candidates on a three-day journey that came complete with its share of miracles along the way. Of course we all know that a Cursillo Weekend needs to be experienced first-hand to get a glimpse of what those miracle happenings may entail. Suffice it to say that through the laughter and tears, sharing, singing and bonding, God's presence was strongly felt.

Spiritual Directors leading the group included Msgr. Anselm Nwaorgu, Msgr. Paul Schetelick and Sr. Mary Eleanor Thornton. Carolyn Messina served as Music Minister. Leading the Service Team was Marilyn Smith, Blessed Sacrament / St. Charles and her wonderful parish volunteers. Fr. Jack Martin celebrated the Sponsor's Mass.

The theme for the Weekend was certainly appropriate as there was a preponderance of grace readily apparent to all who were blessed to be part of this experience. Christ-based friendships were forged among all Weekend participants. Candidates from a diverse cross-section of parishes signed up for this Weekend. Several parishes sent multiple Candidates, most notably four from St. Andrews, Bayonne and four from Holy Angels, Little Falls.



Team and Candidates of the Women's 162nd Weekend



Candidate Linda Segond of the Women's 162nd Weekend

Congratulations and many blessings to our most recent Cursillistas from the Women's 162nd: Diane Martin, Eileen Smith, Patricia Hogan, Lina Nisivoccia, Janet Rocheny, Rochelle Preston, Jaqueline McNulty, Rose Marino, Janice Reilly, Linda Magala, Dianne Devine, Barbara Laorte, Mary Jo D'Errico, Linda Segond, Maria Chaillet, Marilyn Pereira, Carol Ayers, Agnes Niamien, Brehita Taborn, Rose English, Marie Genitempo and Kate Nwabueze. Our prayers are with you as you journey forward in your 4th Day.

As "practicing" Cursillistas, please help our movement grow by asking your friends, family members and fellow parishioners to consider making the upcoming Archdiocese of Newark Men's March Weekend or Women's April Weekend. Applications can be found at our mycursillo.com website.

**Angel Trish Ferrara and
Rector Vicky McKoy
of the
Women's 162nd Weekend**



Leaders for Spring, 2011 Cursillo Weekends Gather

All Team members for the spring, 2011 Weekends gathered on Saturday, November 6 for a morning of worship, fellowship, instruction and sharing. Both the Women's and Men's Teams were fully represented, including Rectors Joanne Gebbia and Rick Buff, Angel Kate Chesky and Warden Mat Glowski, along with near-perfect attendance by the respective Team members. Also present were Music Ministers Maryellen Weiland and Gordon Roehrer and Service Team heads Annie Ventola and Chris Sontag.

This event took place at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Oakland. The day began with a Mass celebrated by Cursillo's Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Tom Lipnicki, OLPH pastor. The group then shared a light breakfast before assembling for presentations to help then prepare as a group for the upcoming Weekends.



**163rd Cursillo Team at Leader's Training Day:
Joanne Gebbia, Rector, Kate Cheski, Angel**

First up to present was Cursillo Lay Director Pat Carr. One central message stressed was for the group to pray continually, particularly when going about the task of writing out the talks. Pat was followed by Assistant Lay Director Jean Kalemba, who used vignettes drawn from Cursillo-related personal experience to drive home her point that everyone gets a little "opening night jitters", helping to ease any apprehension among those in attendance. The main speaker was Fr. Tom. Taking the group through the flow of the Weekend, he explained each of the presentations and what the expectation is for them. At this point in their Team formation, each talk-giving member has already received the talk they will be giving. In this way, Fr. Tom's pointers offered are directly applicable to each

specific team member. Copious note taking was the order of the day. When the presentations were over, the floor was opened to any questions or concerns among the Team participants. A lively discussion ensued.

The Archdiocese of Newark Cursillo facilitates Leaders Day training twice yearly in an effort to fully ground the Teams in what the expectation is of them, and to teach Team members how they may best contribute to the success of their Weekends. Many thanks go out to all volunteers, without which we would not have an Archdiocese of Newark Cursillo movement.



**Men's 180th Cursillo Team at Leader's Training Day:
Rick Buff, Rector, Mat Glowski, Warden**

179th Men's Weekend is Big Success



Final Mass concelebrated in Chapel by Deacon Kevin Regan, Fr. Charlie Pinyan, Msgr. Paul Bochicchio, Music Minister Anthony Liguori and Candidate Fr. Luke Duc Tran, all of the Men's 179th Cursillo

The 179th Men's "Come Journey With Me" Weekend took place at the Casa in Kearny in November. Twenty-three Candidates came on-board to explore their spirituality and experience the wonder of getting to know Our Lord by way of their shared journeys and experiences.

Rector Tony Seymour and Warden Donovan Green did a first-class job leading the Team and Candidates. Based on the Candidates' witness at the Closing, their leadership skills were quite effective.

The abundant grace apparent on the Weekend was the fuel that powered the Weekend's success.

Spiritual Directors leading the group included Msgr. Paul Bochicchio, Fr. Charlie Pinyan and Deacon Kevin Regan. Anthony Liguori served as Music Minister. Leading the Service Team were Tom Hennessey, Holy Angels, Little Falls and Jerry Vernice, Holy Family, Nutley. Fr. John Gordon was the celebrant for the Sponsor's Mass.

The Team met for many months preparing for this event. Their hard work showed. Miracles are recognized on all Cursillo Weekends, and this one was no exception. Several parishes sent multiple Candidates, most notably six from Holy Family, Nutley, three from Sacred Heart, Rochelle Park and three from Corpus Christi, Hasbrouck Heights.



Men's 179th Cursillo Weekend Rector Tony Seymour, Warden Donovan Green in the Rollo Room

Congratulations and many blessings to our most recent Cursillistas from the Men's 179th:

Leonard D. Joseph	Walter A. Preston	Fr. Luke Duc Tran	Lyndon Gunning
Mark Bergonzi	Brian Cronin	Andrew Marino	Vincent D'Agostino
Mark Cassidy	George Sabatella	Anthony Cangialosi	Peter Nedellec
Richard Swarthe	Robert Santoriello	Richard Dunn	Ken Finn
Conrad Crisafulli	Gerald Fasanella	George Wescott	Stephen Fuhro
Anthony Contorno	Bill Heinzelmann	Bill Angresano	

May your 4th Day journey include more wondrous moments like the one's experienced on this Cursillo Weekend. Our prayers are with you.



Team members and Candidates of the Men's 179th enjoy a meal in the cafeteria

We need your help in recruiting friends, family members and fellow parishioners to consider making the upcoming Archdiocese of Newark Men's March Weekend or Women's April Weekend.

Applications can be found at
mycursillo.com



Men's 179 Cursillo Weekend Service Team

Another Christmas Season Begins

- Pat Carr

The clock ticks. Days pass. Weeks roll into months. Blink and another year has gone by. Where did it go? It seems like yesterday I was doing an early spring cleanup in my yard. Today I did the last of the raking of the fall leaves. The repair shop called the other day. My snow blower is ready for pick-up. Last week marked the end of the Church liturgical year. We're already into the second week of Advent.

Seasons come and go. The cold and bleak winter days give forth to the warm and lush days of spring. The circle of life continues.

A new Church year has begun. We are anticipatory, awaiting the Christmas celebration that marks the arrival of the King of Kings. We are steeped in traditions both spiritual and cultural. From the singing of familiar hymns to the lighting of candles to mailing cards proclaiming our faith to gathering communally in celebration, the season is one of hope and expectancy.

As Cursillistas, as practicing Catholics, we recognize that Advent is a time of preparation for the Second Coming of Christ while commemorating the first coming of Christ at Christmas. The Advent readings reflect the first coming of Jesus Christ as savior and the second coming as judge.

On our local Cursillo calendar, this Advent and Christmas period is a "bridge" period, linking our most comprehensive annual events - fall and spring Cursillo Weekends. I work in marketing and advertising. The basic building blocks of these disciplines are planning and executing. We map out a strategy, and then take a course of action. And so it is too, with Cursillo. For Weekends, the planning process involves the assembling of Teams and all they do to make ready, while the executing process is all about the Weekends themselves.

Weekends transpire, Group Reunions take shape, Ultreya attendance swells. Christ-based friendships are cemented. God is good.

As many of you know, I had a sad event occur in my life very recently. My brother, Kevin Carr, a Cursillista and my Cursillo sponsor, passed away after a long bout with cancer. He died on the last day of the Church year, Saturday, November 27. He met Jesus on the equivalent of our Church's New Year's Eve and started his Fifth Day on our Church calendar's New Year's Day.

I wish to express deep appreciation for so many of my fellow Cursillistas who prayed so diligently for Kevin throughout his illness. It's my honest belief that the many prayers offered on his behalf are what sustained him for far longer than was originally predicted, allowing Kevin many additional months not just to say goodbye, but to say goodbye while enjoying a reasonable quality of life. Again, God is good.

Kevin was surrounded by a full roomful of loved ones when he breathed his last. Here's what I whispered in his ear right after he passed, after kissing his forehead: "Happy heaven".

Advent Truths

- Jean Kalemba -

The psalm of the first Sunday of Advent proclaims “Let Us Go Rejoicing to the House of the Lord”. The billboard at the entrance to the Lincoln Tunnel in Weehawken proclaims “Christmas is a Myth”. And so the journey of Advent begins with anticipation and joy, while the journey under the waters of the Hudson begins with skepticism and disbelief.

God’s Grace falls on all but obstacles to recognition and acceptance abound. St. Mark (4:1-9) describes Jesus teaching the crowds about faith using the Parable of the Sower. God, the sower, continues to shower the earth with seeds of faith but now some are eaten up by despair; some fail to develop because of egotism; others wither for lack of nurturing and still others choke through indifference. How blessed are those whose lives have been touched by people who nurtured and sustained the seeds of their faith; carried them to the Baptismal waters, taught them to pray, and embraced them with love. How blessed are we to have been led to Cursillo by those before us – anxious for us to recognize God’s everlasting, unconditional love.

But during this season of Advent even those who have lived the Cursillo experience can suffer periods of doubt and despair. We grieve for loved ones gone and the joy of this season takes on sadness. Life’s disappointments, a lost job - a wayward child - a past injustice, overshadow the glow of candles we light in preparation for His coming. Once again we need to be carried back to the water, to be nurtured and to be embraced with love. And once more God’s gift of Grace is made visible. We meet in group and are carried back to the water; we go to the altar and are nourished; we are embraced with love each time we encounter our sister and brother in Christ.

The billboard at the entrance of the Lincoln Tunnel still stands; another one has been erected at its exit, this one proclaims the truth of the glory of His coming. Advent is a time of preparation, waiting for the coming of the Light of the world. It requires no billboards, either to support or denounce it. It requires only that we love one another as He loved us – and He loved and forgave all. Together we go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. De Colores.

Cursillo Regional Encounter Gathering Held

Pat Carr

Our local Archdiocese of Newark Cursillo movement is part of Region II, which is made up of Cursillo movements in New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, the District of Columbia and Virginia, fourteen dioceses in all. There are twelve regions that comprise our movement here in the US.

Michael Ciccocioppo serves as our Regional Coordinator.

I recently attended a Regional Encounter held at the Pope John Paul II Retreat Center located in Vineland, NJ. Encompassing a Friday afternoon through Sunday morning, this event took place from Oct. 8 through Oct. 10. All Cursillistas are invited and encouraged to attend Regional Encounters, which are held twice annually. The theme for this gathering was Who Brings Jesus to Your Neighbor. Regional Encounters, along with the annual National Encounter, are opportunities for formation, information and transformation.



Participants in the fall 2010 Regional Encounter relax at dinner

This was a wonderfully refreshing experience for me – I would highly recommend it to all Cursillistas. I had the opportunity to meet and interact with Cursillistas from throughout the northeast, with diverse cultural backgrounds. Some dioceses, such as our own, are divided up into English-speaking and Spanish-speaking segments. I was able to meet my Newark Spanish counterpart, Archdiocese of Newark Spanish segment Lay Director Jorge Villegas.



Archdiocese of Newark Cursillo Lay Director Pat Carr presents at the fall 2010 Regional Encounter

There were specific times allocated for Mass and Adoration, talks, discussion and summaries. Meals were shared and friendships made. Region II has its own Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Andre Meluskey, who was in attendance and who celebrated Mass for the 100 or so Cursillistas present.

Some of the talks, presented by Michael Ciccocioppo, and by what are known as Service Team members for Regional, focused on keeping the movement pure and in-line with the founders' prescribed policies. The goal is for Cursillo Weekends, and subsequent follow-up to the Weekends, to remain true to the original Cursillos. One notion discussed was that of volunteering, and asking people to volunteer. We were reminded that we don't necessarily ask someone to volunteer, more than we ask him to exercise his Baptismal responsibility to live his faith where needed. Gives it a whole different spin, doesn't it?

On Saturday afternoon Michael chaired a meeting in which he related what's happening in National. By way of being Regional Coordinator, he's on the National Secretariat. On Sunday morning, Michael chaired a meeting that asked for reports from the Lay Directors of the local dioceses that make up Region II. Ideas were shared and I'm happy to report that Region II is in excellent shape, representing a vibrant Cursillo community here in the Northeast.



Fr. Andre Meluskey, Region II Spiritual Advisor and Deacon Jose Rodriguez from the Spanish-speaking segment of the Archdiocese of Newark Cursillo, celebrate Mass at the fall, 2010 Regional Encounter

There was an Ultreya on Saturday night after dinner, and following that a Fiesta, comprised of live music and even some dancing. I was very Cursillo-refreshed and re-charged. The whole experience for me was somewhat reminiscent of being a Candidate on a Cursillo Weekend.

The Regional Encounters for next year are scheduled to take place on Friday, April 1 – 3, 2011 and Friday, October 14 – 16, 2011. Please contact me if you're interested in attending this very worthwhile event.

Huge Turn-Out for November, 2010 Ultreya

One of our biggest crowds in a long time attended the November 19 Ultreya that took place at the Casa in Kearny. There was close to one hundred Cursillistas present that evening, fueled by the four successful Archdiocese of Newark Cursillo Weekends that have transpired in 2010.

Hosted by the Men's 178th Cursillo Weekend from last spring, Rector Ron Pepson served as emcee for the evening's events.



Team, Candidates and Service Team members of the Men's 178th gather to lead a closing song



After some welcoming remarks and an Opening Prayer, Jim Garabo led the group in song. We then broke up into groups of six or so for our Group Reunion sharing.

Upon completion of the Group Reunions, Dave Wreck, from Corpus Christi, Hasbrouk Heights, a Candidate from the Men's 178th, gave a beautiful and moving witness talk about where his life was prior to making Cursillo, how the Weekend changed his life, and how he plans to continue with the Cursillo method in helping him on his own personal spiritual journey. Dave shared that he found peace and comfort in his life as a result of his Cursillo experience.

John Ryan, Sacred Heart, Haworth, also a Candidate from the Men's 178th, then offered a lay response to Dave's witness, sharing how Dave's willingness to try something new in the Cursillo method is an inspiration to the wider Cursillo community.

Fr. Don Hummel, a Spiritual Director on the Men's 178th, then gave a spiritual response to Dave's witness, congratulating Dave on his success and offering insights on how we all may learn from Dave's experience.

Lay Director Pat Carr recognized those present that participated in the four Weekends over the course of the past year, particularly congratulating those "first time" Ultreya-attending Cursillistas present from the two recent fall Weekends.



Men's 178th Spiritual Director Fr. Don Hummel gives a spiritual summation of Dave Wreck's witness

Let's continue this forward momentum. Mark your calendars and please join us for the next Ultreya taking place on Friday, January 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Casa. It will be hosted by the Men's 177th Cursillo Weekend, Bob Weiland, Rector.