



Cursillo Rainbow Connection

Volume 2, Issue 1

Fall, 2008

Archdiocese of Newark, NJ
Cursillo Movement

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Dates to Remember in 2008–2009:

- ◆ Sept 19 Ultreya
- ◆ Oct 3 Autumn Social
- ◆ Oct 9-12 Women's Cursillo weekend
- ◆ Oct 21 School of Ldrs
- ◆ Nov 14 Ultreya

Lay Director Joe Clark Reflects on the Year

Let the Spirit Continue

Dear brother and sister Cursillistas:

Where did the long days of summer go? I hope this message finds you well and full of the Spirit. I would like to thank the secretariat for all their support and love they have shown to me during the past year. A special thanks to Steve Taylor for a job well done. Steve served as our treasurer for the past three years. Bill Dougherty has agreed to be our new treasurer. Good luck and welcome aboard Bill.

As we move into a new Cursillo year let us reflect and give thanks for the many activities that took place through the past year.

In April our Day of Renewal was held at Corpus Christi parish in Hasbrouck Heights. Father Lew Pappera, our host, welcomed the Cursillo community with open arms. The talks were presented by Father Tom Lipnicki, Lorraine Oechslin and Jim Clough. All of the talks were wonderful examples of what it means to live the Cursillo. Under the direction of Mike Kelly, several of our men and women music ministers treated us to music throughout the day. This

special day ended with a Mass and a beautiful homily by Father Lew.

I would like to thank Pat and Teri Carr for their commitment to the School of Leaders this past semester. They developed a curriculum that was not only enriching and educational in nature, but also community and Spirit driven. The program aimed at educating and enlightening us to the Cursillo methods through **Our Call to Discipleship**. The School of Leaders was held at St. Aloysius in Caldwell. A total of 60 Cursillistas attended the four sessions. Each session had a different theme connected to Central theme of Discipleship. Thanks to our four presenters, Bill Dougherty, Trish Ferrara, Donna Brauchle and Bob Oechslin for their inspiring talks and provoking follow-up questions.

I want to thank Rosemary Lisa and Donovan Green for their assistance in setting up the six Ultreyas that were held at the Casa. The Ultreyas were sponsored by former teams and candidates, a forth day group reunion, and Cursillistas from the School of Leaders. Thanks, also, to all who

attended, shared their story, played music, or contributed in any way to these "moments closest to Christ." All your efforts and support were most appreciated.

The past year had four Spirit-filled weekends led by the following rectors: Valerie Messina, John Ventola, Teri Carr, and Gordon Roehrer. A special thank you to all the Spiritual Directors who served on these teams, for the devotion, loyalty and love they brought to the weekend. A heartfelt thank you is extended to Fr. Joseph Juracek, Fr. Charlie Pinion, Fr. Jack Cryan and Fr. Robert Sandoz who celebrated our sponsor Masses.

Thanks much to the support, service teams and music ministers who help make these weekends filled with joy and love through service.

Please consult the Cursillo web sight: www.mycursillo.com, email and newsletter for additional information regarding all Cursillo events.

In His Love,
De Colores,
Joe

Pat Carr and the School of Leaders Relaunch

The School of Leaders completed its spring gatherings in June having met four times with the goal of building a leadership community within our local movement. The re-tooled school's goal of training willing, able and Christ-focused leaders to bring Cursillo to the "next level" of excellence was off to a flying start.

Our Mission

While all Cursillistas are charged with being leaders in their environments, Leaders School attendees learn ways in which they can *directly* serve our Cursillo movement. The School of Leaders helps to develop the talent necessary to sustain our growth. The success of our beloved movement completely depends on volunteers like you. At its most basic level, at Leaders School we seek to know Christ through one another, and learn how to share this most special gift we have received.

Spring Summary

Approximately 60 Cursillistas from throughout the archdiocese participated in the Spring School of Leaders program. The theme last spring was Discipleship. At each gathering, a pre-designated "home grown" Cursillista presented an originally-developed talk that focused on a specific aspect of discipleship, an essential directive for all Cursillistas. These four talks, 15 minutes in length, each included some aspect of the presenter's

personal journey as it related to the topic.

Our kick-off was in March and we concluded this series in June, having one get-together each month. Spring presenters included Bill Dougherty, Trisha Ferrara, Donna Brauchle and Bob Oeschlin. We offer our most sincere thanks to these presenters for accepting the call and doing such a great job on their talks.

After the formal presentation, a group discussion ensued that allowed for all to contribute and participate. This is perhaps where the most learning took place. Sharing opinions and ideas on spirituality in an informal setting facilitated a true Holy Spirit presence, all seemed to agree. We were of one mind and purpose, all learning from one another. Moving together as a cohesive unit caused leadership qualities within participants to bloom and flourish. Many new friendships formed. Participants came away with a better perspective on the goals of the Cursillo movement.

We prayed, sang, laughed, shared and loved. It was a beautiful experience.

What's Coming Up

Building on the success of the Spring School of Leaders, the follow-up semester will start in October. In keeping with the Catholic Church's celebration of the 2,000th anniversary this year of the birth of St. Paul, talks will focus on various aspects and teaching of St. Paul, the patron saint of Cursillo. What better way to synchronize with Rome this year than to make the effort to learn about St. Paul from a Cursillo perspective? This next installment of Leaders School promises to be as equally engaging as the spring series.

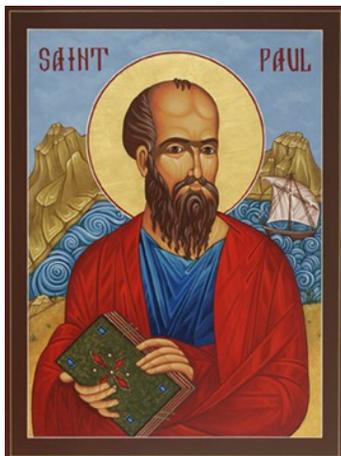
Our first fall gathering will take place on a Tuesday evening, October 21, starting at 7:30 p.m. at St. Aloysius parish in Caldwell. While the spring gatherings took place on Saturday mornings, we're interested in trying evening sessions this go-around to get a feel for what works best with our participant's schedules. We hope to get another excellent turn-out for Leaders School this fall. Many participants traveled in "twos" - bring a friend!

For Directions to St. Al's, visit our website mycursillo.com

A Year Dedicated to St. Paul, Patron Saint of Cursillo

This year will have new focus on Saint Paul, the Apostle of the gentiles, who dedicated himself to spreading the good news to all people.

The Holy Father Benedict XVI has declared June 2008-June 2009 the year of St. Paul in celebration of the 2,000th



anniversary of the saint's birth. Saint Paul is the patron saint of Cursillo. The Church throughout this year will celebrate a series of events, as well as various pastoral and social initiatives, all inspired by Saint Paul.

Meetings for study will be promoted and there will be special publications on Saint Paul, to promote the immense richness contained in his teaching.

This fall the School of Leaders will conduct their session on the Life and Letters of Saint Paul. Please make every effort to attend the School of Leaders

Joe Clark on Answering That Question....

When you invited someone to make a weekend, have you ever been asked, "What is Cursillo?" I think we all have been asked this question at one time or another.

There are several different definitions for the purpose of the Cursillo Movement. While the wording may vary, the idea is the same. This is due to the fact that the purpose of Cursillo is multifaceted. No one definition can truly explain what Cursillo is about. However, all definitions can give a much richer meaning to the purpose of Cursillo.

One definition: "The purpose of the Movement is to make Christian community possible in neighborhoods, parishes, work situations and other places where people live the greater part of their lives. It makes possible for anyone in the world to live a

Christian life in a natural way."

A second definition: "The leavening of environments with the Gospel."

A third definition: The fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement stated: "Since it is a movement of the Church, the Cursillo Movement has the same apostolic purpose as the Catholic Church herself. And the Church, as Pope Paul VI told us, exists to evangelize."

A fourth definition: "The Cursillo Movement is a movement of the Church which by means of its own method makes it possible for people to live what is fundamental for being Christian, and to live it together; it helps people to discover and fulfill their personal vocations, and promotes the creation of core group of Christians who leaven their

environments with the Gospel."

Cursillo means "little course" in Christian living. It is Spanish in origin and made its first appearance in the United States in 1957.

The Cursillo Movement is focused to help each of us fulfill our baptismal responsibility to go forth as apostles and proclaim the Gospel and some times use words.

Knowing the purpose of the Cursillo Movement, we can now focus our thoughts on the purpose of sponsoring. Keep in mind that this must be a conscientious act and the results will be life changing. I know in my case the Cursillo changed my life and my way of living and thinking.

DeColores!!!! Joe.



Men's 175th: "Send Us Your Spirit"

Men's 175th Weekend Nov 20–23, 2008

The Men's 175th Weekend will take place November 20–23, 2008. The Theme is "Send Us Your Spirit." This year's Rector, Chris Sontag; Warden, Bob Weiland. Spiritual Directors, Rev. Tom Lipnicki, Deacon Mike Chechony. Team members: John Landers, Bill Dougherty, Greg Miskell, Doc Peterson, Paul Caris, Harold Uche, Greg Young. Personal Contact: Donovan Green. Music Minister: Joe McKay. Support Rector: Gordon Roehrer. Service Team is from Corpus Christi, Hasbrouck Heights: Joe Blythe and Mike Frees, Co-chiefs.

Please keep the teams and candidates in your prayers. Applications can be obtained on our web site (MyCursillo.com). Completed applications should be sent to Ed Alger, Saddle River Road, Montvale, NJ 07645.

Upcoming Women's Cursillo Weekend Oct 9–12, 2008

The Women's 158th Weekend will take place October 9–12, 2008. The theme is "Lord, You are the Center of My Life". The team: Rector, Linda Armonaitis; Angel, Angela Vomero. Spiritual Directors, Rev. Tom Lipnicki, Rev. Robert Sandoz, OFM. Team members: Diane Hamilton, Anne Sophie Gueguen, Mary Lyne, Regina

Giancarlo, Dawn Torpey, Pamela Streisel, Joanne Rinkus. Music: Pat Assan. Personal Contact: Peg Mondello, Kate Cheski, Marie Fox; Support Rector, Ronnie Corso. Service Team is from Holy Angels, Little Falls: Jean Kalemba and Phyllis Cangialosi, Co-Chiefs.



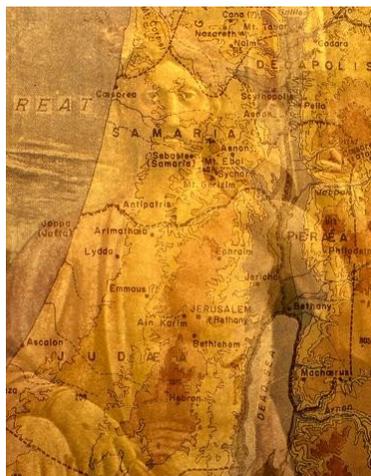
"Lord, You are the Center of My Life"

To Walk Where He Walked

by Jean Kalembe

This spring 49 pilgrims embarked on a journey - a journey of change. I was blessed to be among those traveling to Israel, the Holy Land, with the Friars of Our Lady of the Holy Angels. When I returned I was asked to share this experience with you, my brothers and sisters in Christ; I thought it would be easy. It is not. Perhaps if my heart could speak then the story would flow, but all I can do is use words and pray they convey the feelings of the heart - so I begin.

I will not speak of landmarks, historical or commemorative, but I will speak of the wonder felt as I walked, stood, sat, kneeled - crumbled in the land where Jesus breathed. At first I just wanted to take off my shoes, to put my bare feet on the same ground that touched His feet. (OK, I know that the actual holy ground is now far below the surface, but the thought of it still fills me with joy). But I soon learned that the Spirit of this Jesus, in this most sacred of lands, was most alive in those I traveled with. We celebrated Eucharist each day at a place where scripture tells us Jesus left the mark God, each celebration included scripture readings that reflected the impact made. First was the Church of the Annunciation - This is where I first learned that there was no need to take off shoes. To know His presence all I needed to do is to touch those around me. The mass took place in a sunken chapel surrounded by brass railing; as we celebrated visitors would enter the church and stand at the railing peering down at us - but soon they no longer peered, but joined in the celebration - some kneeling, others standing and singing



along with us as we sang of the glory of Gabriel's announcement to this handmaiden of the Lord. Our tears flowed as we embraced each other at the sign of peace. When we left Little Falls, NJ many of the 49 of us were strangers, but at that first shared Eucharist we truly became brothers and sisters in Christ. That kinship only deepened as we continued to walk where He walked.

So many moments, so much joy, so many tears - so many songs of praise, how can I capture them for you. Galilee left me breathless. We stayed in a Kibbutz turned hotel on the Sea of Galilee. We sat and drank wine at its shore, we rolled up our pants and splashed in its waters, and we sat on a wooden boat in the middle of that sea and listened breathlessly to scripture passages of Jesus on its shores - stories of His calming the sea, walking on its waters.

We journeyed on to Mt. Carmel, the site where Elijah slayed the prophets of Baal; we viewed the peaceful valley of Armageddon; to Cana where our married pilgrims renewed their vows; onto Capernaum where Father Bob celebrated mass

I soon learned that the Spirit of this Jesus, in this most sacred of lands, was most alive in those I traveled with.

while under us lay the ruins of Peter's house, the place Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law. We walked next to the ruins of a temple where Jesus taught, once again I am breathless. We travel to the Mount of Beatitudes, celebrating Eucharist out doors on a hill overlooking the sea. We need to leave our

bus to get to Mt. Tabor. The road is so steep, we need to go by car. We reach the Church of the Transfiguration - Father Greg reads Matthew's account of the Transfiguration, we see the brilliant mosaics depicting Jesus with Elijah and Moses and the Spirit of God breathes around us, in us, through us. We stop at the River Jordan, our Friars wrap up their robes and lead us into the waters of Baptism and once again blessings are pouring on the heads of this group of pilgrims over and over again - and we are transformed.

But we must leave Galilee, on to Jerusalem and we sing "Jerusalem my destiny..." as we travel through the desert. We pass through the Palestinian-controlled West Bank with ease. We marvel at the peacefulness of our journey. We have reached the Dead Sea, we would return here later to float in this infamous sea, to visit the ruins of Masada, and Qumran the home of the Dead Sea Scrolls, but not now, now we must reach our destiny.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem! From the Mount of Olives we view the old city. We can see the gate, now closed over, through which Jesus entered the city on Palm Sunday. We visit Dominus Flevit, the site where Jesus wept over the Holy City, we listen to Luke's words and we too weep. Gethsemane, the Basilica of the Agony, holds a huge rock that lies before its altar. We sit and contemplate what took place here, the Son of God knelt in the agony of death. We kneel at the rock, bend over to kiss it - I return to my seat sobbing. Lord I am not worthy... One morning before dawn we entered the old city through Saint Stephen's Gate and travel the Way of the Cross, Via Dolorosa. In groups of four, each pilgrim taking turns carrying the cross. Except for the readings at each station we are silent, the city around is waking up, the markets are opening, but we are silent. Lord Jesus how you must love us to have

suffered this for us, we are silent in our grief.

Our journey ends at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the site of Calvary - the cross and the tomb. As I kneel before the tomb and kiss the stone on which you were laid dear Jesus my heart aches for still there is not peace in this holy place. Where is the love that you called us to, even among the Christians that watch over this site, there is discord. It is a day of profound humility, a day when all masks are removed and the soul is laid bare.

But it is still the Easter Season and He is risen and His spirit dwells so strongly here in this Holy City that we leave knowing that we have been given a grace that we could never earn, never be worthy of, but has been given to us freely by our loving God.

We pilgrims are changed. We have seen, we have touched, we have felt - blessed are those who have not but still believe.

For more information on any events, see our web site at mycursillo.com

2008-2009 CURSILLO EVENTS:

- Sept 19** **Ultreya** hosted by Paul Rota Memorial 4th Day Group
- Oct 3** First Annual Autumn Social
- Oct 9—12** Women's Cursillo Weekend
- Oct 21** School of Leaders, St. Aloysius Caldwell
- Nov 11** School of Leaders, St. Aloysius Caldwell
- Nov 14** **Ultreya** hosted by 156th Women's Cursillo Weekend
- Nov 20—23** Men's Cursillo Weekend
- Mar 12-15** Women's Cursillo Weekend
- Mar 26-29** Men's Cursillo Weekend



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE FIRST ANNUAL CURSILLO AUTUMN SOCIAL !!!



DATE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2008
TIME: 7—11 P.M.
PLACE: ST. ANASTASIA'S
1095 TEANECK ROAD
TEANECK, NJ
REDMAN CENTER IN
CHURCH BASEMENT
COST: \$30 PER PERSON



Refreshments include a delicious hot buffet dinner, coffee and desserts. Music will fill the evening not only with a talented DJ, but also the one-and-only Mike Kelly and the Cursillo Saints! Oh, it's BYOB.

Send payment by September 25 to Joanne Rinkus, 37 Terrace Avenue, Rochelle Park, NJ 07662. Indicate number of tickets. No tickets will be sold at the door!

Make checks payable to Cursillo Movement. Any questions, call Joanne at 201-587-1631 or jtrinkus@verizon.net

Experience Thérèse Live

Thérèse *the Story of a Soul*

Thérèse's message is life-changing, and her story will especially touch young people, who need to encounter her encouraging message of trust in the mercy of God.



Don't miss this live presentation of *Thérèse: the Story of a Soul*

Wednesday October 8, 2008 at 7:30 pm

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

910 Birch St. Boonton, NJ 07005

All Are Welcome - Free Will Offering

For more information contact Barbara Renz at 973-257-0310



Dorothy Pawlowski, a talented young actress of strong faith, stars in this one-person live production, closely based on Saint Thérèse of Lisieux's famous autobiography, *STORY OF A SOUL*. The haunting musical score, performed by a full orchestra, was composed by a cloistered Carmelite Nun for this play.

"Thérèse shows faith blossoming. Audiences often leave the performance weeping."

--Dubuque Telegraph Herald