



# Cursillo Courier

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Lent, 2012

Archdiocese of  
Newark, NJ  
Cursillo Movement

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## Dates to Remember in 2012:

- ◆ Mar 16 Ultreya
- ◆ Apr 12-15 Men's Cursillo Weekend
- ◆ May 11 Ultreya
- ◆ May 19 Day of Renewal

## I Have Never Seen Anything Like It

By Jean Kalembe, Lay Director

A few Sundays ago, actually it was the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, I found myself at Mass in St Raphael's Church in Englewood, Florida. It's a very nice place to find yourself both physically and spiritually. The first reading that day was from Isaiah 43. The Lord speaks to the prophet, "...see, I am doing something new...It is I, I, who wipe out, for my own sake, your offenses; your sins I remember no more..." The second reading was from 2 Corinthians 1. Paul writes, "...For however many are the promises of God, their Yes is in him; therefore, the Amen from us also goes through him to God for glory..." The Gospel passage was from Mark 2:1-12, a paralytic is lowered through a hole in a roof by four friends so he could reach Jesus.

As I sat and listened my mind linked their message to the message of Cursillo. A message which gives a **new** insight into the degree of God's love for us, a message that leads us to say **yes** to serve without fear or worry, and a message of amazing relationships founded on making a **friend**, being a **friend** and bringing that **friend** to Jesus Christ.

Father Mark Schaffner, pastor and celebrant, did not seem to have the same link; maybe he never made a Cursillo. His homily spoke of a different message - one of surprises - well maybe his link was really not so different from mine. How surprised the Israelites must have been

at Isaiah's proclamations, **who ever heard of anything like that?** Why would the God of our fathers do something new, wiping out offenses! And what of the people of Corinth, were they surprised by Paul's words on the fulfillment of God's promises through Christ? Were there some who said, **who ever heard of anything like that?** And Jesus himself, did it surprise him that four men climbed up to the roof of a house carrying a paralytic? That they cut a hole in a roof, a roof of a house that was not theirs? Weren't they afraid of the consequences? When he looked up and saw the four friends struggling to bring the paralytic down safely to Jesus feet do you think He might have said, "**Who ever heard of anything like this?**" Was He surprised by their faith? Scripture tells us because of their faith the paralytic sins were forgiven. But He did not heal him, not immediately - does that surprise you? It does me, but it makes me think. Why? Why does He wait for the scribe's questions, accusations of blaspheming? Mark goes on to tell us that Jesus, searching the hearts of the scribes, asked - which do think is easier, forgive sins or make the paralyzed walk? We all know what happens next- "...but that you know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth...the paralytic picks up his mat and walks..." and "They were all astounded and

## I Have Never Seen...

glorified God, saying, **“We have never seen anything like this.”**

We have two Cursillo weekends during this Lenten season. Pray that the depth of God’s unconditional, everlasting love surprises and heals each heart and leaves each saying **“I have never seen, heard or felt anything like this love before!”**

De Colores



## Women’s 163rd Hosts January Ultreya

St. Thomas More Church in Fairfield was the setting for the Ultreya held January 20, 2012. Joanne Gebbia, Rector of the Women’s 163rd Cursillo Weekend, served as Mistress of Ceremonies.

Witness was given by Ingrid Alfred. Teri Carr gave the lay response; Fr. Tom Lipnicki gave the Spiritual response.

Ultreyas take place bi-monthly at various locations.



Ingrid Alfred



Teri Carr



Joanne Gebbia



# Ultreya News...Ultreya News...Ultreya News...

This year, Ultreyas are held at various locations throughout the Archdiocese. Next up:

Friday, March 16, 2012  
**Our Lady Queen of Peace**  
 400 Maywood Avenue  
 Maywood, NJ  
 Ultreya following  
**Stations of the Cross**  
 at 7:30 p.m.

ULTREYAS 2012:	
Mar 16	OLQP Maywood
May 11	St. Aloysius, Jersey City
July 13	OL Holy Angels Ltl Falls
Sept 14	Blessed Sacrament/ St. Charles Borromeo Newark
Nov 23	OL Perpetual Help Oakland

## A Simple Lenten Journey

One of my memories of Lent as a boy was giving up something that I enjoyed. We were told in Catholic School that giving up something was a way for us to suffer as Jesus did for us. To me, it always seemed to be a contest as to who was giving up the most precious thing in their life and we compared among ourselves who was suffering the most for Jesus.

One year I decided to give up my favorite kids show, The Sandy Becker Show, as my penance. My sister loved the show as much as I did, so every day I would have to leave the room or go to another part of the house to keep my sacrifice intact. I remember during this particular Lent, I was at a friend's birthday party and at 5pm when the show came on all the kids at the party flocked to the TV to watch. I asked to sit in the bathroom while

the show was on and even though the kids made fun of me I knew I was doing the right thing because I was doing this for Jesus.

Now that I am older, I realize that Lent is so much more than just giving up something as a sacrifice. Lent is a time to reflect on what Jesus did for us by giving his life that we might have everlasting life with Him. It's a time to do more acts of penance by helping a brother or sister in need; a time to deepen our life of prayer by taking time to offer a Rosary, attend a Lenten Series or Mission at a parish, participate in Operation Rice Bowl or giving to a food pantry. Lent should be a time that we fast from gossip and

By Pat Ferrara

judging others; we should mend fences with anyone with whom we have been at odds; we should be do-

ing simple acts of kindness for one another; and we should make a point of reaching out to those who aren't sure or are resistant to God's message.

Most of all, I now realize that Lent is a journey that will have its ups and downs along the way. But at the end of the journey

is the joy of Easter and God should be the driving force behind anything that we do especially during this season. I wish you all a safe and secure Lenten journey and the joy and glory of our Risen Lord this Easter.

De Colores.



## Photos from Women's 164th Weekend...



# Offering More Than a Prayer

By Theresa Taylor

This time of year, we are asked to offer prayers, fasting and almsgiving to share in the Paschal sacrifice of Jesus Christ. There is an example of a disciple sharing much more than that right here is our Cursillo community.

Ralph Savercool, a Cursillista and recent Coast Guard retiree, has been battling a serious kidney disease for the past few years. Ralph made his Cursillo approximately seven years ago and has remained active in the movement, volunteering on Service Teams and recruiting candidates.

As Ralph's health has been weakening rapidly, doctors told him he needed a kidney transplant. Months of testing potential donors finally indicated that the very best match for Ralph is a brother Coastie and Cursillista, Steve Taylor! It was such a good match that Steve was asked if he were sure he was not related to Ralph. Steve is humbled and honored to be Ralph's donor. Steve and his wife Theresa are both active in our local Cursillo movement.

Theresa relays that Ralph had his surgery on February 9th to remove his kidneys and prepare for dialysis. The Taylor family went down to visit Ralph, Judy and their daughter Kelly at the hospital following the surgery. They presented Ralph with a prayer shawl from the Queen of Peace prayer shawl ministry. It was a very emotional, Spirit-filled reunion. Although recovery was difficult at first, he is now on the mend and getting ready to receive one of Steve's kidneys. Ralph goes for dialysis 3 days a week, which takes a lot out of him but once he goes home and gets some rest, he feels better.

After the surgery, Ralph told Steve that he could feel the power of the

prayers from everyone. Ralph and Steve are grateful for all the prayers and good wishes that have been sent their way.

Both men are looking forward to the next Ultreya they can both attend together!



Steve Taylor and Ralph Savercool

Please continue your prayers. The transplant surgery is scheduled for March 13.

## FYI...FYI...FYI...FYI...

### Donations

*The Cursillo Movement gratefully welcomes your donations. They help potential Babe Chicks attend when they otherwise could not afford it. Send donations to our treasurer,*

Bill Dougherty, 26 Division Ave., Belleville, NJ 07109.

### What's Your e-mail?

*Please advise us if you have a new e-mail ID. Send notification to Joanne Rinkus, Secretary:*

*decolores7@optonline.net*

*If you know of someone who does not have an e-mail address and would like a copy of this newsletter, let us know and we will send them a hard copy.*

## A Bond That Is Boundless

It was January 18, 1997 and the outside temperature was 4°. Not just cold but frigid. We literally had to run out to the front of St. Cecilia's Church to have our group picture taken. The 137<sup>th</sup> Women's Cursillo was in full swing. Some of us were freezing in the house; in fact one of the team members wore a hat with earmuffs (Mary Walker). There was frost on the windows on one side of the Casa and on the other side of the Casa it was so hot that some were sweating.

The scene in the Rollo Room was one of attentiveness most of the time; however, when the radiator started to have water pouring out of it the Spiritual Directors (Fr. John Gordon, Fr. Dick Chilmark, and Elaine Pfaff), Rector and Angel were sitting in water, still attentively listening to the talks. Lou Mondello and Johnny Walker came down and used a wet vacuum and rigged a pail attached to the radiator to collect the water. In addition we were accompanied by the pipes pounding very loudly. A couple of men from St. Cecilia's came to bleed the pipes. Three of the candidates came down with a virus but in true Cursillo spirit they stuck it out at their tables or sat in the small kitchen off the Rollo Room so they could hear the talks. We walked in the door as strangers -- we left with lifelong friends.

It was a tremendous and inspirational weekend and we all bonded. When God is our common bond we are boundless. We heard the Cursillo message and carried it into the 4<sup>th</sup> Day. Our theme of the weekend was "Come and Listen, Go and Tell." The women on that weekend took that to heart and certainly have gone

and told the message of God.

Following the weekend we met monthly and had our own Ultreya for the first year. After that we have met almost every year for a reunion although many of us see each other often but never often enough.

Since that weekend, the 137<sup>th</sup> Women's Cursillo has bloomed with 15 team members, 8 rectors, a Diocesan Spiritual Director, and a Diocesan Lay Director. Since that frigid weekend in 1997, several members of our group have given a talk at an Ultreya and have been involved in Cursillo as well as other ministries. We have served on Service Team as a group several times including for the 165<sup>th</sup> Women's Cursillo in March. If you look at the picture I am sure there are very familiar faces.

On January 15<sup>th</sup> we met for our 15<sup>th</sup> year reunion and there were 16 of us present. It was a spirit-filled day with lots of food and a lot of sharing and laughter. We looked at photo albums filled with all of our Cursillo experiences together. This is a unique group that has been praying, rejoicing, and

By Peg Mondello

mourning with each other. We have watched each other grow in our relationship with Our Lord and with each other. We are all 15 years older but none of us looks it!

Sadly, we lost three people from our weekend: Jay Orrico, Liz Rovneyko (my sister) and Fr. Dick Chilmark who are living their 5<sup>th</sup> day. They are greatly missed by all of us.

This group of women and men has certainly been a blessing in my life and are among my dearest heart friends. I would encourage future rectors to keep in touch with your team and candidates. The rewards of staying together as a group are undeniable. My wish for all the babe chicks is that they experience the love and joy of friends who become "Companions on the Journey."

Be Blessed and Be a Blessing!

Peg Mondello

Rector, 137<sup>th</sup> Women's Cursillo



Some of the women of the 137th Cursillo Weekend and Fr. John Gordon.



## Make you own Prayer Requests at [mycursillo.com](http://mycursillo.com)

We are happy to make available to our Cursillo community a new online prayer request site. This site enables you to compose and post your own prayer requests and read requests made by others.

If you so choose, you can have the site send you an email alert whenever a new request is posted.

Simple instructions for using the site are presented whenever you visit there,

as well as rules for proper etiquette and courtesy for others. Most importantly, you will be reminded that when making a request on behalf of someone else, you should have that person's permission to do so.



Visit [www.mycursillo.com](http://www.mycursillo.com) for details on using this new feature.

*(Our thanks to our Webmaster Gordon Roehrer for his genius in developing this site.)*

### Men's 182nd W/E

"Rejoice and Be Glad" is the theme for the upcoming Men's Cursillo Weekend, taking place April 12-15 at Carmel Retreat Center. The Rector is Mat Glowski, Warden is Ron Green with Jim Clough as Support Rector.

Spiritual Directors and Fr. Albert Nzeh, Fr. Tom Lipnicki and Deacon Kevin Regan. The team and their rollos include: Fred Donegan, Laity; Mike Frees, Environments; Gerry DiMauro, Action; Jim Reilly, Ideals; Joe Murray, Leaders; Pete Medellec, Study; Pete Fusco, Christian Community.

Tom Geffert and Bob Oeschlin serve as personal Contact; Frank Coughlin is Music Minister.

Service Team is from St. Anastasia Teaneck with Max Gomes as Service Chief.

Invite a friend for Christ!

### Lenten Revival Offered: "You Have No Idea" Part II

This Friday and Saturday, March 9 and March 10, Blessed Sacrament/St. Charles Borromeo, Newark is offering a Revival featuring the Rev. Dr. Roy A. Lee from Georgia.

Rev. Lee is Adjunct Professor of Theology at St. Leo University, St. Leo, Florida as well as Adjunct Professor of Humanities, DeVry University, Decatur, Georgia. His current research effort is on the State of Affairs with African American Catholics.

Friday, March 9 is Youth Night, 7-9 p.m. and Saturday, March 10 is Open Revival, 9am-4pm. Breakfast and Lunch are provided on Saturday. On Sunday, Mass is offered at 9 am.

Blessed Sacrament/St. Charles Borromeo RC Church is at 610 Clinton Avenue, Newark.

Come ...will YOU be revived?

#### *Cursillo Weekends in 2012:*

*Women Mar 1-4*

*Men Apr 12-15*

*Men Oct 18-21\**

*Women Nov 8-11\**

*\*Returns to Youth Center in Kearny.*

#### **Attention Palanca Writers!!**

When writing palanca, please make sure to state on the envelope whether the person is on team or is a candidate.

If a candidate, please include the initial of their last name in order to avoid misdirecting palanca.