



January – March 2014 – First Quarter Edition

Fourth Day News

Washington Cursillo Movement

Informing, Enlightening, and Building Community

Secretariat Corner

GROUP REUNION

*“They devoted themselves to the teachings of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers.”
(Acts 2: 42)*



There is one all-encompassing question that guides the Cursillista who lives the Cursillo Method as part of our Movement. In writing I am always answering that same question: “How does my action build God’s community?” If our goal is to have more saints in heaven, we will accomplish it by living the Method to build strong communities on earth in our parishes, deaneries and the local Church in the Archdiocese of Washington. It is hard to achieve the goal if the primary community is not rooted in the faith. In our movement the primary community is the Group Reunion.

Group Reunion is love in action – loving a particular group of individuals and sharing the intimate details of your faith walk.

We are all on the road to Emmaus, and Group Reunion keeps us moving in the right direction on this road. I am one who practices the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa and I will talk about my first Group Reunion using the fundamental questions of Kwanzaa to share about my first Group Reunion. The questions are: (1) Who am I? (2) Am I the person that I say I am? (3) Am I the person I ought to be? Kwanzaa is very much like Cursillo – these questions cannot be adequately addressed in isolation. There is an imperative to ask these questions in community.



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We are all on the road to Emmaus, and Group Reunion keeps us moving in the right direction on this road. I am one who practices the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa and I will talk about my first Group Reunion using the fundamental questions of Kwanzaa to share about my first Group Reunion. The questions are: (1) Who am I? (2) Am I the person that I say I am? (3) Am I the person I ought to be? Kwanzaa is very much like Cursillo – these questions cannot be adequately addressed in isolation. There is an imperative to ask these questions in community.

When I address the questions in my small community and walk with others who are seeking a deeper relationship with our God, every member of the group becomes a worker in the Garden of Eden planting roses and bringing light into dark and life into places that were once barren.

Group Reunion seeks God's way, not our way. *And he appointed twelve so that they would be with him and He could send them out to preach and to have authority to cast out demons (Mark 3: 14 – 15).* The Group Reunion goes into the world the same as the twelve did, spending lots of time with Christ before going to do his Father's work in the world. In a lesson from Father Pat Smith, the Group Reunion is called to "do the work that God is blessing (living the sacramental life) which is quite different from asking God to bless our work." Father Pat continued saying, "You know that you are doing God's work when the fruit greatly exceeds your expectations."

Group Reunion is full of surprises because God is bigger than our imaginations. There were four men in my original group reunion, restless souls according to St. Augustine. Kerry Dugue, Steven Bell, Levester Jones and me. I moved from the Coast Guard to my life's work, community organizing.

Life got better at the job for Steven and Levester. Kerry married a woman who described the great blessing in her life as "a God-fearing man of faith." Kerry would not have used those words to describe himself when the group formed. We heard of Levester's and Steven's call to the priesthood at Group Reunion meetings in the late 1990's. Steven left town to continue his formation for the priesthood, while Levester and Kerry continued to walk with me until Levester's death in February 2010, four months before my deacon ordination.

Group Reunion is one of many ways that God transforms lives. The best witness I have ever heard on the dignity of human life came from Kerry who told me that he did not realize that life began at conception until his wife Tracy was pregnant with their 5-year old twins. He missed that part of his adult son's lives because he was working in the rat race and running alone.

Group Reunion is a place where vocations become reality. Please note that each member of the group made strides in the world before three members got ordained. The transformation that we call "metanoia" or "progressive conversion" **changes the way we approach our vocations in secular occupations,** because people will say, "there is something different about him or her." That is the God within presenting Himself to those who are "poor in spirit" but have yet to find their way to the Eucharistic banquet table where we dine at Mass and in Ultreya.

Group Reunion is the small community that is immersed in the Word of God. After we have been touched by the Good News of the Gospel, we begin to write our chapter in the Acts of the Apostles.

When filled with the Good News, a small group of men and women gathered in the Upper Room (cf. Acts 1: 14) to share lessons learned from the Master Teacher and witnessed to what they had seen and heard (cf. Acts 2: 5 – 13). Their witness transcended culture and language. Those who experienced the group's witness asked to be initiated in to the community that exuded love and new life (cf. Acts 2: 37-41). This is the fruit of Group Reunion. The one question changes slightly: Are you eating and serving this fruit to build God's community? Life itself depends on your answer to this question! ULTREYA!

Deacon Timothy E. Tilghman
Spiritual Advisor to the Secretariat



CURSILLO – LIVING THE METHOD

My journey to Cursillo began approximately 12 years ago. I was working in youth ministry with my sponsor's husband, Steve Reeves. Each year he would gently remind me of the coming weekend.

But, I was too busy with finishing my degree, then masters, raising three sons and working full time. As I reflect on my journey, it simply was not my time yet, and God knew that I would need the graces of the Cursillo movement and the special time of the weekend at a later time in my life. If I had made a Cursillo weekend then, I believe the beauty of the spiritual encounter would have fizzled into the reserves of my mind as I continued with my secular activities that were necessary for me to be where I am now in life.

Life marched on and I endured struggles that were not part of my life plan. Thankfully, I have been blessed with the gift of faith. As my husband and I were challenged with the drug and alcohol use of our oldest son, then his completed suicide, it was our faith that sustained us. I learned that daily prayer and the Eucharist was a profound component to my healing. But, I still felt as if I was slipping into a spiritual desert. Something was lacking in my individual spiritual life even though I was surrounded by the beauty of our Catholic faith.

Meanwhile, my sponsor gave me the time necessary to grieve without another invitation for a Cursillo weekend; until this fall. God had designated this as my time to take the leap of faith with the Cursillo Movement. I really did not ponder or think of the decision to go or not. I just did. Even though I lost the first form and the email with the attachment; I still enrolled without a second thought. An invitation to a bridal shower and my two military sons visiting home both occurred on that weekend; but I still felt drawn to attend. I knew that there must be more to my spiritual life that I had to explore. God gave me the foresight to understand that the boys needed the weekend alone with my husband. God had orchestrated the perfect two women from my parish to attend with me.

My companions were a long-time friend that I have shared some of my most profound spiritual encounters with and a woman that I consider to be a friend, and spiritual role model in which she also serves in the prayer and healing ministry.

The weekend arrived with anticipation, fear, excitement, and joy. I realized there was very little that I knew about what to expect during the weekend, which is not my usual planning nature. When we arrived at the location, I immediately felt that I was somewhere special. Everyone was extremely welcoming and joyful! The reception was filled with past Babe Chicks all wearing their "Cookies" and giving hugs and encouragement. However, a feeling of fear set in as the bell rang and everyone left the room. I mentioned to my friend that I felt like a lamb going to slaughter as we lined up two by two in parochial school style to begin our journey. But then again, maybe we were leaving our old lives behind as we journeyed on to our next life; our fourth day. The fear was my human reaction to change and needing to control my destiny on my own and misunderstanding that in fact God was in charge and would bring me great joy if I surrendered; starting with my watch and cell phone.

Little did I know that what came next was my first of many encounters with the face of Jesus. When the doors opened to the reception room for us to walk down the hall to our first session, the community was lined up along the hallway singing and clapping for us! I cannot explain sufficiently the joy and love that I felt at that moment. It was as if I knew right away that I was being guided out of my spiritual desert by the love and compassion of the community. It was apparent that there were people who are willing to share their faith in order to grow the Kingdom of God.

I never would have imagined that in that short walk from the reception room to the first session in the basement, my life would change forever. God spoke to me when I heard "Who are you; and where are you going!" during the first meditation. I am reminded of this phrase many times since then when I am making decisions. The beauty of Cursillo is knowing that I am a child of God and that I have people to share my faith on this life journey.

As a start to my new journey, God ensured that the perfect people were at my table. Even the table name, Unwavering Faith embraces our ability to see God even through our shared life struggles. We developed a lifelong bond with each other during the talks, discussions and most certainly the Saturday night skit. The comfort of the experience released many tears that seemed to never end. It was a cleansing and necessary part of my weekend.

Love is the one word that sums up my Cursillo weekend. God is love. Therefore, because love was everywhere I turned, I know God was present the entire time. The love that was felt came in the form of palancas, music, dancing and prayer. Many of us sat up late on Saturday night sharing life stories and laughter with an early morning serenade to wake us up. I can't imagine anyone not feeling the profound love that was freely given all weekend!

The weekend ended with a beautiful mass in the chapel and ceremony to welcome us into the community. Never would I have expected to hear the words "Christ is counting on you." I never thought of life and the work I do in that beautiful perspective. It was a profound awareness of the relationship that I have and need to continue with Christ. In knowing that he is counting on me, I am able to have the faith necessary to count on him.

The ceremony highlighted the wonderful working relationship with Christ that I can count on throughout my life.

Therefore, because I am in a relationship with God, I learned that the Cursillo community will be with me on my journey. It was an experience that opened up an entirely new perspective on life. Seeing the community all together and clapping when the curtains opened was the beginning of a sense of loving support that I have never experienced in any other area of my life. I learned that as I participate in the small groups and Ultreya, I am strengthening my ability for Christ to count on me, and that Christ is with me and supporting me along the way. The Cursillo weekend opened my eyes to the need to share my faith with the community in order to walk my Catholic life with courage. The exercise of reflecting on my piety, study and action with others forces me to acknowledge if I truly am able for Christ to count on me. Inevitably, I always see how I can count on Christ when I share with the small group. Even if it is in the most unexpected ways, I am learning to identify his work and love in all aspects of my life. Since God is love, I am better able to identify his love and then share the love that we are all called to give everyone. De Colores!

Sharon Casey
208 Women's Cursillo Weekend
Montgomery County Ultreya



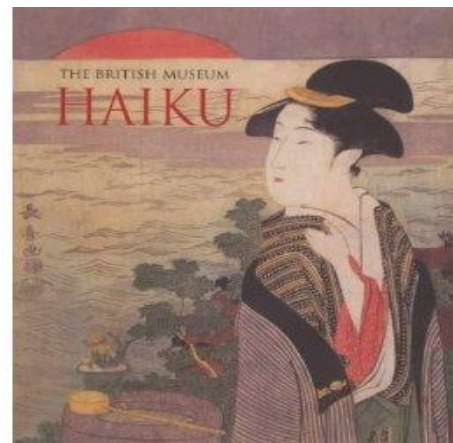
“Let’s Go To The Hop”



**Calling All Cursillistas Babe chicks,
Cluck hens and Roosters**

If your Ultreya wants to be a “**Hop Host**”, please contact Paul Washington or LaVerne Atiba: at LayDirector@washdc-cursillo.org or Paul Washington on 202-302-3518; LaVerne Atiba on 202-494-0060.

212TH WOMEN’S WEEKEND CURSILLIO “**HAIKU**”



Ushering in with the new sisters is a new vision from the 212th weekend.

The Women of the 212th grew in the spirit and their expressions of faith and response to summaries.

#Cursillo and everything else was the norm for this group. After each talk and summary, Babe Chic, Stefanie M. Miles energized the group with a "Haiku". Now for those who don't know what a "Haiku" is, here is the definition: Haiku is a very short form of Japanese poetry typically characterized by three qualities:

- The essence of haiku is "cutting". This is often represented by the two images or ideas and a "cutting word" between them, a kind of verbal punctuation mark showing how they are related;
- Traditional haiku consist of 17 words, in three phrases of 5, 7 and 5 *on* respectively;
- A seasonal reference usually drawn from an extensive but defined list of such words.

Here are the Haikus from the 212th Women's Weekend:

Total Security

Cursillo starts it
Ultreyas, group reunions
Keep growing in faith

Cursillista Beyond Cursillo

I'm available
Know God, love God, and serve God
Strength from each other

Christian Community in Action

Roll up your sleeves
Small groups to retain God's grace
Go make a difference!

Study of the Environment

Cannonball... Oh, no!
We use heart, mind, will and pray
De Colores, ya'll

Leaders*

YES! Chosen by God
Make our talents bear much fruit
Bloom where you're planted

Obstacles

Evil comes, God help
Pray, confess, sorry and friend
Also direction

Action

Head, hands, arms and knees
God's supernatural pow'r
Apostolic acts

Study

Knowledge of self comes
Only from Godly study
I seek help from him

Piety

How we grow in God
Giving of ourselves in love
Living for God's vital

#De Colores

Region 2 Message to the Cursillistas



**Join in a Spirit-filled Family
Multicultural Cursillo Weekend
Fun, Faith, Friendship and Food**



De Colores, my dear sister and brother Cursillistas,

Have you registered for the upcoming Multicultural Golf and Soccer Family Weekend? Join in our Region 2 “First Cursillo Multicultural Golf and Soccer Family Weekend” on May 3-4 at Andrew Air Force Base (AAFB) in Maryland. All proceeds go to our Region 2 budget to defray costs for Cursillo in Region 2 (Washington, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania and NJ).

On Saturday, May 3, join our Region 2 Golf or Soccer Tournaments, as a player or observer, and participate at our Region 2 Awards Dinner. All activities will be held at AAFB and are open to all -- Cursillistas and non-Cursillistas, golfers and non-golfers, and soccer players and non-soccer players.

On Sunday, May 4, 2:00 pm, participate at our Multicultural Mass hosted by our Vietnamese Cursillo brothers and sisters at Our Lady of Vietnam Catholic Church - faith, food and fellowship.

Support our Hospitality Committee, led by our Lay Directors, LaVerne and Paul, to welcome our guests and make money for our Diocese.

See Ann Batiste about buying event golf and soccer polo shirts, T-shirts, caps and tote bags...our very own Brother Richard drew our logos.

Contact LaMont and Kelli Baxter to sign up for golf. Go to Region 2 website at: <http://www.cursilloregion2.org> for information and registration.

By the Grace of the Holy Spirit we are richly blessed to have a community of Cursillistas actively engaged in spreading God’s love. We must “bloom where we are planted” and bring the fruits of our faith into the ordinary moments of our everyday lives. Join our Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese and Korean sisters and brothers, and share your gifts, grow our Movement and have fun at our event.

Let's Make a friend, Be a friend, and Bring that friend to Christ!

Ultreya,
Jackie DeMesme-Gray, Region 2
Coordinator



If you have prayer requests or want to be added to the mailing list to receive prayer requests, please submit your e-mail information to MaryAnne Upright at MAUpright@aol.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

UPCOMING WEEKENDS

JOSEPHITE CENTER WASHINGTON, DC

OCTOBER 9-12, 2014

213th Women's Cursillo Weekend
July Kelly, Coordinator

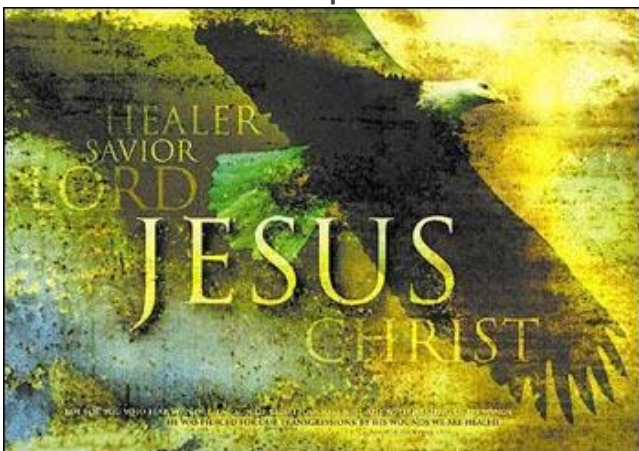
NOVEMBER 6-9, 2014

214th Men's Cursillo Weekend
Joe O'Leary, Coordinator

CURSILLO SCHOOL OF LEADERS

ST. JOSEPH'S, LARGO

2020 Saint Joseph's Drive
Upper Marlboro, MD
7:00pm



2014 CSOL Schedule

Wednesday, May 17th
7:00pm
"Sing and Play with Cursillo."
St. Joseph's, Largo

June 13-14, 2014

"Relax and Reflect"

Holy Trinity Spiritual Center
8400 Park Heights Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21208

Registration Deadline: May 20, 2014

Please go to the Cursillo website at:
<http://www.washdc-cursillo.org> and
download the registration form.

Wednesday, June 18th

OPEN FORUM

St. Joseph's Largo



Sponsor Workshop

Saturday, September 20

Music Workshop

Saturday, November 15

REGION 2 UPCOMING EVENTS

April 25-27, 2014

Spring Encounter

John Paul II Retreat Center, Vineland, NJ.

For registration information please go to the
Region 2 website at:

<http://www.cursilloregion2.org>.

May 3-4, 2014

Region 2 "First Cursillo Multicultural Golf
and Soccer Family Weekend"

Andrews Air Force Base

4TH DAY NEWS

2014 - PRODUCTION SCHEDULE



2ND QUARTER ISSUE

April – June 2014

Submission Deadline

June 1, 2014

3RD QUARTER ISSUE

July – Sept., 2014

Submission Deadline

Sept. 1, 2014

4TH QUARTER ISSUE

Oct. – Dec. 2014

Submission Deadline

Dec. 1, 2014



Editors Corner

Are you a writer? Do you have thoughts, poems, prayers, or reflections to share? The Washington Cursillo® Community wants to hear from you!! Ultreya Leaders, please send us your sharing – it would be great to hear from each leader at least once a year! Babe Chics your articles are the most important ones. Let us hear from you. **Articles should be submitted in Arial 11 Font Size no later than June 1st. for the 2nd quarter issue.** Please see the “Production Schedule” for story deadlines for each issue this year. Remember to sign your articles with your name, weekend, and Ultreya.

Submit articles at any time to Lethia Kelly or Denise Wilson at communication@washdc-cursillo.org

Website News!!

Jack McFadden and Tom Arnold
(Web managers)

**The Washington Cursillo®
Movement website is**

<http://www.washdc-cursillo.org>

LIST OF ULTREYAS

Assumption

Not Currently Meeting

Gwendolyn Jarman

gwendolyn.jarman@rcn.com

Forestville

St. John the Evangelist
7:00pm, 2nd Sunday

MaryAnne Upright

MAUpright@aol.com

Bowie-Lanham

7:00pm, 2nd Friday
St. Edward's, Bowie

Judy Kelly

301-249-7197

Marme1999@gmail.com

Marguerite Dobrosielski

Laurel

7:30pm, 3rd Friday
St. Nicholas Church

Arnie Rauch

301-498-8806

adarausc@earthlink.net

Wayne Nostro

nostro@gmail.com

Kathy Schmitt

kschmitt123@yahoo.com

Katie Schall

301-906-9435

amydom21@aol.com

Calvert County

7:30pm, 2nd Monday
St. John Vianney Church Basement

Rita Leclerc

410-326-2078

leclercrita@hotmail.com

Gisela Victoria

gizelstix@comcast.net

Linda Pixton

410-610-9193

lindapixton@gmail.com

Toni Abresch

tabresch@comcast.net

Leanne Stivers

lcstivers87@gmail.com

Montgomery County

7:30pm, 1st Saturday
Missionaries of the Most Holy Trinity Home
1733 Metzert Road
Adelphi MD

Sonia Melendez

pfcjai@msn.com

And...

7:30 pm 3rd Friday
St. Paul's Church Hall 301-391-6580
9240 Damascus Rd. Cursillo_st.paul@verizon.net
Damascus, MD 20872

Steve & Rosemary Reeves

Central PG County

Not Currently Meeting

Burma Hill

burmahill57@aol.com

East of the River

7:30pm, 4th Friday
OLP
1st Portable Bldg.

Pearl Baylor

301-894-8405

Hpearlbaylor@yahoo.com

Rita Robinson

301-297-7769

equityassurance@hotmail.com

NE/SE

7:30pm, 1st Friday
St. Anthony's Cafeteria

James Brightful

202-269-4606

James@amphitriion.com

Bernadette White

202-269-0710

bcw3056@yahoo.com

List of Ultreyas Continued...

Our Lady Queen of Peace

Not Currently Meeting
St. John's Church Hall.

Shelia Vallot

202-583-0271

svallot@verizon.net

St. Teresa of Avila

7:30pm, 2nd Monday
St. Teresa's Church
Parish Life Center (PLC)
14th & V Streets, SE

Jennifer Ferguson

301-996-6082

calypsofergie@gmail.com

So. Maryland

7pm, 4th Wednesday tipmanrules@hotmail.com
St. Mary's Church
Newport
chrisabresch@hotmail.com

Marc Abresch

Christine Abresch

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