

Fourth Day News



Secretariat Corner

“2018 A Year of Discernment”

What is Spiritual Discernment?

Spiritual Discernment is the quest to discover God's will for us so that we can follow that will.

Again, over the last 17 years we have gone from having at least two packed women's weekends and two men's weekends to barely being able to have weekends having only 6 or 8 candidates. Something is wrong with sponsorship, and something is wrong with our spirit of spiritual friendship.

If one looks out at the Ultreyas, one sees once vibrant Ultreyas dying. Forestville will no longer exist shortly because of attendance. Bowie is struggling. Assumption bloomed and died in just a few years. Queen of Peace died because no one would lead it. St. Teresa of Avila for a brief time did not have an Ultreya leader, but because of the strength of the movement in that Parish, they carried on until someone stepped forward. While Calvert Ultreya has enjoyed upwards to 30 people coming on good nights, it is not healthy either.

As most of you know, our Cursillo Movement has declared a process of discernment and while we are in discernment, we have suspended holding weekends. This has been a great vexation for some and it certainly is an inconvenience for others who may want to go on a weekend or sponsor a friend to make a Cursillo weekend. Yet, it is necessary.

Over the past 17 years the society we live in has greatly changed. While we have been given many devices and computer applications to help us reach out to other people, our civil and societal communications have grown coarse and we have become a disconnected people. None of this is Cursillo's fault, but Cursillo must swim in these shark infested waters if it is to continue to achieve its goal of having more saints present on Judgment Day.

So why are we in a period of discernment?

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And while we have mentioned only a few of the Ultreyas across our Washington Movement, all our Ultreyas are finding it hard to replace leaders and to get folks to attend regularly. Something is wrong!

The components of what is supposed to be an alive Cursillo Movement that shines forth as a gem of the diverse communities we come from is still kicking and a great grace. Our period of discernment is a time of prayer and we hope you are praying for the movement. But it also a time for us to seek to tap into the spiritual strength behind Cursillo. The gift of the Spirit that is the source of the Cursillo's spiritual strength and innovative character is called its charism. The specific charism granted to Eduardo Bonnin, the founder of the Cursillo Movement, envisions the vocation of the layperson in the Church is "To Bloom Where They Are Planted," When you look around your parishes, the pews are mostly filled with gray heads.

For our parishes to grow and thrive, the Church must speak to the next generation. Like our churches, Our Washington Cursillo Movement is similarly filled with gray heads. As our Movement has grayed up, attendance at 4th Day events, week night Ultreyas and small groups gatherings, night time meetings of Leaders School have become problematic for the older folks who find it difficult to drive at night. While day time events and weekend events are problematic for those who work or who have children. Attendance at Fourth-Day gatherings, Leader's School, and almost every other Cursillo gathering has been declining.

This says something about the vibrancy of our movement. The components that make up our Secretariat, Leaders School, the Three-Day Committee, Pre-Cursillo, Fourth-Day and Communications all need to take a close look at what we are doing, and we need your prayer – and we mean effective heartfelt prayer to bring us back to our roots of making more saints present on Judgment Day. All of this is what our discernment period is attempting to address.

We need your help to take an honest look at what we are doing so that when someone makes a weekend they really get the idea that this is a way of living one's Christian ideal and not a ministry. We need to take an honest look at what we can do to attract not only gray heads, but younger Cursillistas who can carry the Cursillo's flag forward in our Church communities as us gray heads disappear. And to form enlivened communities of Cursillistas who look forward to gathering to share in the charism that is Cursillo. We need to take a good and honest look at why the number of weekends we hold each year have gone down, specifically from the perspective of why we are only able to get 10 or so women and 6 guys as candidates for each weekend in current times.



Eduardo Bonnin envisioned the creative collision of people from all walks of life, each owning the same mission – to be the Good News in the environments they live in. This Good News is found in the personal encounter with Jesus Christ, lived out through the formation of spiritual friendships whose aim is to help others along the way to heaven. The beauty of the collision of peoples in our Cursillo Movement is the diversity of spiritual friends who willingly come to celebrate the joy that living the Cursillo Method brings, but that only happens when people willingly gather together in love. The charism of Cursillo is experienced, and to experience it you must join with other Cursillistas to empower your walk out into the desert that is modern life. Each of us sensed the love and friendship of the loving community that invited us to join in living the Christian ideal using the Cursillo Method. So, we are praying you will commit some time to join us for our discernment workshops to weigh in concerning what you think we can do to define our communal issues more clearly and talk about solutions.



The first Discernment Workshop was held on March 17th hosted by St. Andrews the Apostle Church, Silver Spring, MD where the topics were Pre-Cursillo and Fourth Day.

The last workshop was on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Washington, DC. The Topic: Three Day & School of Leaders. The next will be a “DISCERNMENT DAY RETREAT” on May 19, 2018 at Holy Family Seminary.

As a community, we can only be successful in this mission for Christ if we all join the process and work together. We cannot do this without our beloved Cursillo community. ***See you on May 19th!***

**Members of the Secretariat
Washington Cursillo Movement**



Fifth Day Corner

As Cursillistas, we live our Fourth Day, preparing to live our Fifth Day when the Lord calls us home. At this writing we say so long to two of our Cursillistas who began their Fifth Day during the end of 2017 and going into 2018. Please keep their families in your daily prayers as they stay here while those so close to them go on without them for a while.

Dick Shaefer

With much sadness we wish to inform the Cursillo Community of the passing of Dick Schaefer.

Dick made his weekend in February of 1999 and has been an active member of the Friday Morning prayer group at Epiphany ever since. Dick had a wonderful sense of humor and deep love for Christ and all his brothers and sisters in Christ. For the past few years he has struggled heroically with COPD. *Please keep his wife, Anna, and all their family in your prayers.*

**Central Virginia Cursillo Community
1 Thessalonians 4:13-14**

Martyn (Monty) Montague

Please pray for the repose of the Soul of Martyn (Monty) Montague, Barbara Shaw's longtime companion.

Please offer prayers for Barbara, her family and the Montague family that they will feel the comforting presence of the Lord during this difficult time.

Revelation 14:13 *"And I heard a voice from heaven, saying write, blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on! Yes, says the Spirit, so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."*

Father, we come to you in prayer for one of our brothers Monty, whom you have called home to be with you and your legions of saints and angels. You have promised each of us a life far greater than that we could ever imagine here on earth and our brother Monty has begun that life with no pain, struggle or hardship. This new life will be everlasting in the glory of Your Kingdom. Let us thank you for the time You allowed Monty to be here with us and in that time, we thank you for allowing him to be of service to you. We ask that you send forth your angels of mercy to be with our sister Barbara, Monty's family and loved ones, during these days of loss and grieving.

We ask that you soothe their wounded hearts and spirits with that ever-healing balm of knowing that their beloved Monty is at peace. We pray that you allow their loving memories of Monty be the light and grace that gets them through this darkest of times. We pray that his 5th day was a day of triumphant singing amongst the celestial chorus as they welcomed him.

We pray that he is now grouping with his brothers and sisters who have preceded him in your Kingdom. We know now when they sing De Colores their voices will ring out in true joy. In Your Precious and ever-loving name, we raise hands in prayer and thanksgiving for the memory of our Brother Monty and his return to You and the promise fulfilled. Amen.

As this beautiful day ends, we look forward to the sun to set as it does every evening. Although we may not see that sun once it has slipped from our view, we know that it is still there for God has designed it to set according to His will and according to His will it will rise again.

We are like that setting sun and according to God's schedule we too, will slip from the sight of those who will miss us. But knowing that we will rise again should bring a sense of pleasure to their lives for we are never gone we are just out of sight below the horizon. Let us remember in prayer this evening a member of our family who has slipped just below the horizon.

LaVerne, Phyllis and Gwen



A Well Earned 5th Day
Deacon Francis L. Hannagan

Cursillo lost a good and faithful friend when Jesus called Deacon Francis L. Hannagan home in September of 2017 to start his fifth day. For those of you who did not know Deacon Frank, he was a short dark-haired man with a twinkle in his eye and a leprechaun's smile.

I was privileged not only know Frank through Cursillo but to work with him at our parish St. Nicholas.

Deacon Frank was a reluctant Cursillo candidate, but once he made his weekend, he was all in. Ultreya and group reunion were a big part of Frank's life, he worked many weekends, both men's and women's where his Irish twinkle and leprechaun smile served him well.

Frank was easy to talk to and would always listen, then reassure the one who was troubled. Always telling them "God loves you". Frank and his wife Jean were members the 3 Day Committee back in the 70's making sure all went well on the weekends. If there was a Cursillo weekend, Frank would make sure that his Palanca got there. If he could not get there, he would ask me to take it. He always supported the Cursillo weekends with prayer.

In our parish Frank worked tirelessly visiting the sick in the hospital and nursing homes as well as shut-ins. He also did marriage prep, weddings, baptism prep and baptisms, and was on the RCIA team. I remember one day getting a phone call from the hospital when they were looking for a priest. There was a man who was ready to die, and the upset family was asking for a priest. It was the pastor's day off and Frank had just come back from seeing his shut-ins. I told Frank about the call from the hospital and asked him if he would go see the family.

Without hesitation he said sure and went to see the family. About an hour later he came back. They will be okay he said they just need someone to pray with them. With gentle soul and understanding Frank brought Jesus to them that day and reassured them that Jesus loved them, but he did that every day wherever he went.

Frank's greatest passion was his devotion to his family, his wife Jean of over 60 years, his children Valerie and Alan and his 7 grandchildren. Whenever they needed him he was right there. When they were suffering so did Frank and when they were happy his world was full of joy. They were his greatest blessing from God, he would say.

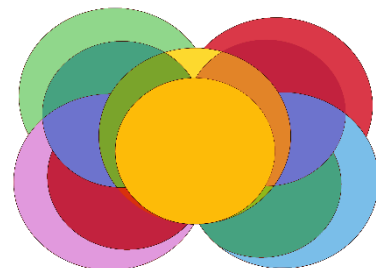
I am quite sure on that September morning when Jesus called Frank home he did so with a twinkle in his eye and open arms and said, "*Welcome home, my faithful servant*".

De Colores
Marion Gould

George Bibbins

George Bibbins was Lay Director along with wife Helga in the 1990s. What I remember about George is that he had a pleasant smile. An awesome thing that he did with his Group Reunion was to take a member of his Group Reunion to his chemotherapy appointments. George was proud of the accomplishments of his children and grandchildren.

Rest in peace my friend,
Bubbles



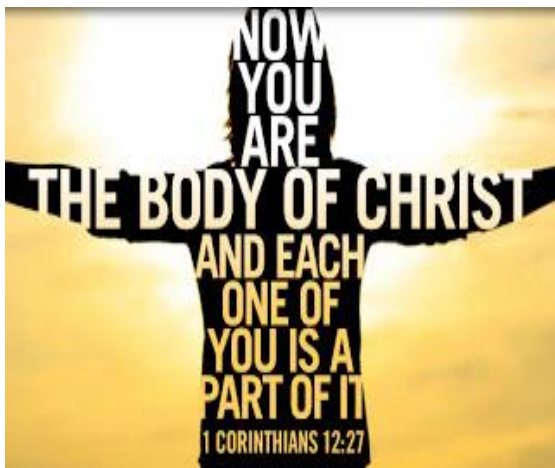
REGION & NATIONAL SERVICE

We are proud to announce the appointments of two of our own who are living their 4th Day in our movement giving service at the national and regional Cursillo Movement levels.

The National Cursillo Movement (NCM) headquartered in Jarrell, Texas, has announced the new 5-member Executive Committee for the World Body of Cursillos in Christianity (OMCC). These appointments will be for a four-year term beginning in January 2018.

The OMCC has four International Groups: Asia Pacific Group, European Group, Latin America Group and the North America/Caribbean Group (NACG). The NACG was selected to serve for the upcoming term, 2018-2021, and the among the members of this **Executive Committee is Jacqueline DeMesme-Gray - Secretary (ET), former Past Lay Director of the Washington Cursillo Movement and on the Region ** Working Group.**

Congratulations Jackie!



The purpose of the Cursillo Movement is to bring about a Christian transformation of all society. To fulfill this purpose Cursillistas must continue to be tireless in their individual efforts to help bring about this Christian transformation.

The Roman Catholic Cursillo Movement of the United States developed a process of service to assist all Cursillistas in fulfilling this purpose. Diocesan leaders oversee all aspects of the local Cursillo Movements and provide the immediate service to the Cursillistas. Regional leaders assist, communicate and support the service of these diocesan Cursillo leaders. National leaders assist, communicate and support the service of these regional leaders.

The nation is divided into 12 regions which include generally contiguous states. Region 2 includes: Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania (Eastern Half) and Virginia. Region 2 has an Episcopal Advisor; a Coordinating Group including English, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, and Vietnamese members; English and Spanish language Coordinators, Spiritual Advisors, Service Teams and Secretariats.

Congratulations to our own LaVerne Atiba, former Co-Lay Director of Washington Cursillo Movement, appointed to represent Washington DC on the Regional II working group.

Community – this is who we are and what we do. Jackie and LaVerne are forging the way and we can move forward in their footsteps.

**De Colores and Ultreya!!!
Communications Committee Staff Writer**



If you need prayer or know someone who does, please send your request to James Brightful at Pray911amen@gmail.com.

Are we truly talking to God when we say our prayers?

Jeremiah 29:12 Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.

Saying our prayers is one of the first activities most of us were taught as small children. How many of you remember “Now I lay me down to sleep...”? We were taught to kneel down beside our bed and recite this before we climbed into bed. We dare not sit down to lift the knife and fork to eat until someone seated at the table recited, “Bless us O’ Lord for these thy gifts...”. But did these words really have much meaning at the time.

Were they just another nursery rhyme that we heard and taught to repeat as a child.

But once we grew older we felt we had out grown these childhood habits and left them behind like those other childhood activities.



Did we ever really listen to those words and understand what we were saying as we recited them from memory.

We grew older and we learned the “Lord’s Prayer” and the “Hail Mary”. We would say these prayers at home.

If we went to Parochial School, we would start our school day and possibly end our school day with these prayers. If we went to Mass on Sunday, we would recite the “Lord’s Prayer” or possibly just listen as the rest of the congregation recited it as part of the service.

Yes, these were prayers that we knew by heart as children would say. They were engraved into our memory, but again did we really understand what we were saying as we said those words from memory?

Going to Catholic School there were other prayers that were a part of our regimen.

One particular prayer comes immediately to mind “The Act of Contrition”. Yes, we were taught to recite this prayer at confession which if not a weekly routine, we went at least once a month. While kneeling there in the confessional did we really hear and understand those words.

Speaking of confession, let me now make one. Like many of my peers once I graduated from Catholic School my visits to confession came to a screeching halt. By the time I resumed a visit to the confessional I was able to start with “Bless me Father for I have sinned it has been many years since my last...” truth is, I could have stated it has been many decades since my last confession. With this being the case my lack of reciting “The Act of Confession” on a regular basis, I soon forgot the words.

To this very day I cannot recall the words and when I do attend confession, I have to read those words because having never really learned the words and listened to them I have no recollection of them.

If you are like me, you’ll appreciate this:

“The Act of Contrition”

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of Thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen.

Reading these words now and really taking the time to understand them, I am ashamed to say that I don’t say them on a daily basis.

That is the problem with so many of us when it comes to our prayers we just learned to recite the words from rote. We never took the time to really listen to the words, nor understand what we were truly saying. Our prayers became a mechanical routine.

We were told to say our prayers before bed, so we said them before bed. We were told to bless our food at mealtime, so we said a blessing before we ate. We were told to repeat the “Lord’s Prayer” at Mass so repeated the words with the rest of the congregation. Now as adults we have grown deep and steadfast in our habits both good and bad and find it difficult to change them. We know what we should be doing, and we sometimes make the attempt to change. One habit I am now trying to change is to listen to these words and not just repeat them. I am trying to understand these words and what I am truly saying. To commit to these words that fall from my lips, I must let them become a part of who I am. These words should be able to come alive in me. I must learn these words are as much a part of my living as my inhaling and exhaling. Once I have come to this point, then I can say I am truly talking to God.

James Brightful
Cursillo Prayer Corner Coordinator

Annual Cursillo Fundraiser

The Washington Secretariat extends our heartfelt thanks to the Washington Cursillo Community for your contributions to our annual fundraisers. It is your generous donations that make it possible to finance activities for the movement. As you are aware, fundraisers are our only means of financial support.

Therefore, we are once again seeking your support by asking you to contribute to our annual fundraiser. All contributions are welcomed.

This kind of support that we receive from our community is very edifying to us and graciously appreciated.

Your contributions are tax exempt and can be filed on your 2018 tax return.

Please make your checks payable to: Washington Cursillo Movement (WCM) and mail them to: Charles H. Smallwood, Treasurer, Washington Cursillo Movement, 90 Turnabout Lane, Huntingtown, MD 20639. **Please complete the Donation Form on Page 13.**

May the Lord bless you in every area of your life, especially in your caring generosity.

**De Colores
Charles H. Smallwood, Treasurer
Washington Cursillo Movement**



A Season for Change

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Mt. 18:20)

The air is crisp with a tingling sensation of ice crystals permeating the skin. It resonates with dark clouds, and a coldness that mired with heavy clothing to protect the body by giving it warmth and a feeling of comfort...Its winter! The time of year when warm clothing, hot one pot meals and staying inside are signs of the season.

As humans that's what we do in the winter, we hibernate. It's the time of year, when we dream of warm days, cool nights, and the earth replenishing itself with new growth of flowers and trees blooming with the richness of God's glory and beauty.

But for many, it's the time when depression, anxiety, loneliness, and isolation enter their lives. How can we as Christians embrace those who experience these profound feelings? Do we ignore them, and say they will get over it once the weather changes? Or is it an opportunity for us to share the beautiful and bountiful richness God gives us in His Word? As Christians it's the latter. God died on the rugged cross, not for self-gratification, but to teach us what love is really about. It's that love that we, as Christians, and most importantly, as Cursillistas must embrace. Our mantra is "Make a Friend, Be a Friend, and Bring a Friend to Christ", and in order to be faithful to this, we must share God's indelible richness of love to those who have not experienced its power.

Just as winter changes into spring with all its fanfare, trees bursting with buds of future leaves, birds singing joyously among themselves, and the soil loosens its hardness with soft rich new growth, so does the metamorphosis of being or becoming a Christian.

We are guided by the principle of God's death to transform ourselves in becoming guardians of His love. Therefore, He gives us daily opportunities to come to Him for this morphosis of change, not alone, but to share with others his divine goodness. What a perfect time to do this...today!

**De Colores,
Joan Newton
216 Women's Weekend
Central Prince George's County**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018 - 2019

Year of Discernment Workshops & Retreats

DISCERNMENT DAY RETREAT May 19, 2018 Holy Family Seminary



CURSILLO SCHOOL OF LEADERS (CSOL)

St. Joseph's Church

2020 Saint Joseph's Dr., Largo, MD 20774
7:00pm – 8:50pm

Wednesday, April 18, 2018, 7:00-8:50pm
Wednesday, May 16, 2018, 7:00-8:50pm
Wednesday, June 20, 2018, 7:00-8:50pm

REGIONAL ENCOUNTER April 20-22, 2018 Vineland, New Jersey

RELAX AND REFLECT September 20-21, 2018

28th National Cursillo Encounter

August 16th - 19th, 2018

Seattle University
Seattle, Washington

See *National Cursillo Center website* at
<https://www.natl-cursillo.org> to register.

2018 Cursillo Alaskan Cruise

- **Book Your Cabin Now:** *Cursillo 7day Princess Alaskan Cruise, August 19th - 26th, 2018*, to depart from the Port of Seattle, immediately following 28th National Encounter.
- Voted the “*Best Cruise Line for Food Lovers*” by the Food and Wine Magazine **and** “*Best Cruise Line in Alaska*” by Travel Weekly for 10 consecutive years.
- Board the Emerald Princess with Cursillistas and others for a spectacular and blessed week at sea along the Alaska-Inside Passage.
- Visit 4 Ports of Call - Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway and Victoria, British Columbia - and exercise the option to book exciting excursions at each port and participate in Mass, Ultreya, rosary at sea.
- Book your cabin at group rate to receive "special promotions" of pre-paid gratuities and on-board credits. Final payment due May 16, 2018.
- Cursillo Alaskan Cruise is organized by a group of Cursillo friends (not sponsored by National Cursillo Center) who were richly blessed by the Cursillo Pilgrimage to the 2017 World Ultreya.
- Those participating at the 28th National Encounter and on the Alaska, cruise will be picked up at Seattle University and taken to the port.

Those cruising only, we will see you at the port. **Contact** Cindy Kryk, Vacations-to-go cruise specialist at: 800-514-9986 Ext 7247 to book your cabin now.

Reference **2018 Cursillo Alaskan Cruise ID# TRFE825** for our group rates and benefits. Together, let us share these wonderful Cursillo opportunities with friends... *together*, let us be blessed and that special blessing to others!

ULTREYA

**2018
PRODUCTION SCHEDULE**

2nd QUARTER ISSUE
April – June
Submission Deadline
July 2nd
Publish Date – July 16th

3rd QUARTER ISSUE
July – September
Submission Deadline
Oct. 1st
Publish Date–Oct. 15th

4th QUARTER ISSUE
October – December
Submission Deadline
December 10th
Publish Date-Dec. 17th

Assumption
1:30pm, 2nd Saturday
Undercroft
Assumption Church

Gwendolyn Jarmon
gwendolyn.jarman@rcn.com
Richard Sylvester

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

Jim Carrier
jamescarrier@comcast.net

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

Ginger Caldwell
goingsouth@olg.com
Cathy Martinoli
auntcathy20736@yahoo.com

Central PG County
7pm, 4th Monday
Rosemont Room
St. Joseph's in Largo

Burma Hill
burmahill57@aol.com
Thelma Adams
thelmaadams1@verizon.net
Vanetta Wallace
nettastnest@verizon.net

East of the River
7:30pm, 4th Friday
OLPH
1st Portable Bldg.

Pearl Baylor
301-894-8405
pearlbaylor@yahoo.com
Rita Robinson
301-297-7769
equityassurance@hotmail.com

Laurel
7:30pm, 3rd Friday
St. Nicholas Church
8603 Contee Road
Laurel, MD 20708

Nancy Bryce
nancybryce@hotmail.com
Mimi Nostro
mimi.nostro@gmail.com
Mary Anastosio
auntmuri0655@ahol.com
Emmeline Thomas-Suah
em_linet@yahoo.com

Montgomery County
7:30pm, 1st Saturday
**Missionaries of the
Most Holy Trinity Home**
1733 Metzertott Road
Adelphi MD

Sue Numrich
SNumrich@ida.org
Faye McAneny
301-806-0960

North Montgomery County
7:15pm, 3rd Friday
St. Paul's Church Hall
9240 Damascus Rd. steve55reeves@outlook.com
Damascus, MD 20872

**Steve & Rosemary
Reeves**
301-391-6580

NE/SE
7:30pm, 1st Friday Carriejohnsonclark@yahoo.com
St. Anthony's Cafeteria **Duane Clark**
Trekkiefu1957@yahoo.com

Carrie Clark

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

Joyce & Willie McNeill
jmdavjan98@aol.com
staultreya@gmail.com

So. Maryland
7pm, 4th Wednesday
St. Mary's Church
Newport

Marc Abresch
tipmanrules@hotmail.com
Christine Abresch
chrisabresch@hotmail.com

Donation Form



Washington Cursillo Movement

"Make a friend, be a friend, bring that friend to Christ!"

Donor information (please print of type)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, ST. Zip Code: _____

Phone 1 (Home): _____

Phone 2 (Cell): _____

Pledge Information

I (we) pledge a total of \$ _____ to be paid now monthly
 quarterly yearly

I (we) plan to make this contribution in the form of Cash Check
 Money Order

Acknowledgement Information

Please use the following name(s) in all acknowledgements:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please make checks payable to:
Sent to:

Washington Cursillo Movement
Charles Smallwood, Treasurer
Washington Cursillo Movement
90 Turnabout Lane
Huntingtown, MD 20639

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Huntington, MD 20639

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