



January- February 2010

Fourth Day News

Washington Cursillo Movement

Informing, Enlightening, and Building Community

ULTREYA LEADERS CORNER

*Leaders Reflect on Seeing God in
Daily Challenges*

One of the great things about our Christian Faith is that we can always count on the Holy Spirit and trust in His grace and helpful presence. He certainly was present in us and through us on our recent Ultreya Leaders' Day of Reflection.

Our day started with a blessing from Fr. Peter Daly, another grace-filled Cursillista. He welcomed us to St. John Vianney for the retreat. Stefan Abresch, co-chair for the 4th Day Committee, started the day with a meditative prayer, focusing on the call to be Ultreya Leaders. We were blessed by the presence of Leaders from the Montgomery County Ultreya, Forestville, NE/SE, Laurel and Calvert.

Sue Baczynski, one of our movement's spiritual directors, served as the retreat leader. Sue challenged us on a number of spiritual fronts, but none more challenging than to get us to change our perceptions of the things that try us in our daily lives, spiritually, and in the normal course of our days.

Did you know that your challenges and obstacles are really your gifts? Did you know that your challenges and the obstacles you encounter are markers

along the way, and are gifts from God to bring you closer to Him? Did you know that how you see them and deal with them is your path?

Having the opportunity to take some time to reflect on the things in life that challenge us was a great gift from the Holy Spirit, and it was wonderful to stop and look at those challenges in a different light, turning them from frustrations to graces. This is the work of the saints – to see God's love where Satan would have us see only bleak desolation. (Phyllis and Ginger are still trying to figure out how the clutter in their lives is their gift, but they're working on that!)

We ended the morning with a guided meditation and, of course, a delicious lunch to satisfy the appetite we had worked up. After all, it wouldn't be Cursillo without food and wonderful companions on the journey!



The Happy Participants!!



Inside This Issue

ULTREYA CORNER: "LEADERS REFLECT ON SEEING GOD IN DAILY CHALLENGES"	1
FOCUS ARTICLE: YOU ARE MINE	2
FOCUS ARTICLE: COME, LIVE IN THE LIGHT	2
THE CLOSER I GET TO YOU	3
MISPLACED HOPE	4
ASHES ON MY FOREHEAD	5
ON ROUGH SEAS	5
SECRETARIAT CORNER: A NEW YEAR: SHARING THE GIFT OF CHRIST	6
CURSILLO STILL NEEDS YOU	6
CURSILLO SCHOOL OF LEADERS	7
LIFELINE	7
LIST OF ULTREYAS	8
EDITOR'S CORNER	9
QUARTERLY CELEBRATION	9

Focus Articles

“You Are Mine”

200th Women's Cursillo February 11-14, 2010

Praise our Loving God for His goodness! The formation of His Team 200 was joyfully humming along since All Saints' Day, and His Holy Spirit has been showing up on a regular basis to bind us all together in love.

The Lord has gathered a faith-filled group of amazing women and one awesome shepherd to teach and be the Light of Christ for our new sisters in February. Here are the members of Team 200 in alphabetical order:

Annemarie Abresch, Team Liaison; **Monica Barnes**, Table Leader, Study of the Environment Rollo; **Donna Binney** (1st Team), Table Leader, The Layperson in the Church Rollo; **Joan Bowser**, Head Angel; **Theresa Bowser**, Table Leader, Three Glances of Christ Meditation; **Ginger Caldwell**, Angel, Study Rollo; **Sandra Coles-Bell**, Table Leader, Piety Rollo; **Fr. Bill Foley**, Head Spiritual Director, Know Yourself Meditation, Actual Grace, Sacraments, and Life in Grace Rollos; **Judy Kelly**, Table Leader, Christianity In Action Rollo; **Darah Means**, Head Musician, Christ's Message to the Cursillista Meditation; **Trudy Mihalcik** (1st Team), Table Leader, Action Rollo; **Mimi Nostro**, Angel, Leaders Rollo; **Cheryl Pilkington**, Table Leader, Ideal Rollo; **Barbara Shaw**, Spiritual Director, Prodigal Meditation, Habitual Grace and Obstacles to a Life of Grace Rollos; **Rose Thurston**, Assistant Coordinator, The Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo Rollo; **Gisela Victoria** (1st Team), Table Leader, Person of Christ Meditation; and **Nancy Waskiewicz**, Coordinator, Total Security Rollo.

Please continue to keep us in prayer as we join our gifts and talents in His service and prepare to build up the Kingdom of God on earth through our new sisters. We thank you

for being the vibrant, supportive, Christ-centered community that is the Washington Cursillo Movement! De Colores! Peace and Blessings to all.

-- **Nancy Waskiewicz**, Coordinator
St. John Vianney, 161st Cursillo

“Come, Live in the Light!”

201st Men's Cursillo March 11-14, 2010

As the Men's 201st Cursillo Weekend is being planned and developed, we hope to follow the example of Paul, embracing Christ's personal invitation to each one of us to Come, Live in the Light. We have come together as a team from Laurel, Silver Spring, West Friendship, Bowie, Upper Marlboro, Prince Frederick, Huntingtown, Northeast Washington, DC, Forestville, Fort Washington, Mechanicsville, and even Virginia.

We have **Jack Dunnigan**, Head Musician (Prodigal Son Meditation) and his Protégé **Jim Moran** (Ideal Talk) to lend their musical leadership for the weekend. We have two experienced Shepherds - Head Shepherd **La'Mont Baxter** (Leaders Talk), and his assistant **Darren Barnes** (also giving the Piety Talk). We also have very dedicated Table Leaders. As table leaders, **Dave Hogan** (Three Glances of Christ), and **Brian Fletcher** (Laity) will lead and inspire us through their presentations on Friday. On Saturday, table leaders **Al Dwyer** and first timer **Roland Caldwell** will present the Study and Action talks. And finally on Sunday, table leaders **Rex Elliott** and **Charles Smallwood** will present the Study of Environments and Christian Community in Action talks.

Our team is blessed to have **Fr. Pete Alliata** as our Head Spiritual Director (Christ's Message to the Cursillista) and the recently ordained Permanent Deacons **Cliff Britton** and **Scott Stuart** to assist in the Spiritual care and feeding of the team and new

brothers on the Weekend. They will present the Spiritual Director talks.

Oliver Wilford is my very able and dependable assistant who helps me keep on track. Oliver will present the Figure of Christ meditation on Saturday and The Cursillista Beyond Cursillo Talk on Sunday. Yours truly will be giving the Group Reunion and Ultreya talk on Sunday.

Our initial Theme was taken from the Psalm Response for Sunday March 14th (RCIA Option) - "I am the Light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows Me will have the Light of Life" modified to "I am the Light of the world, follow Me;" it became a personal Invitation from the song "We are Called" when it was sung at the Closing of the Men's 196th Weekend.

Our Blessed Mother and the Holy Spirit are leading a strong team who are ready and willing to present Christ's personal invitation to the new brothers to Come, Live in the Light! Blessings and De Colores!

-- **Arnie Rausch, Coordinator**

"The Closer I Get to You!"

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. 1John 1:3

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I find myself inspired by the Spirit to share witness with you again. This past November was the second anniversary of my Weekend, the Men's 194th, and I found myself reliving that Weekend as if it had just occurred. I have to use that cliché – it truly was a life-changing event. Now as we approach another Weekend, the Women's 200th in February, I cannot help but express how I am affected at each and every one of these Weekend events, and I can say that I find little in life that brings me the sheer joy and lifting of spirit as I experience during my participation in these Weekends.

In the two years since I made my Weekend, I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve

on the Men's 198th Team in March of last year; sit on the sponsors' row at the closing twice; and eagerly look forward to the opportunity to do so again at the Women's 200th. I say this not in a braggadocios way, but for its relevance to what I am about to express.

I won't even attempt to express how truly spirit-filled and joy-filled I was at the end of my Weekend, and I know that I could not have been any closer to Christ than if I were sitting in a room with Him across from me. I was experiencing Him in all of the brothers with me on the Weekend; and with each and everyone who was at the closing, sitting there when that curtain opened. I truly saw the face of Christ many times over that Weekend. I thought, "this will never happen again; there is no way this can ever be experienced more than once in my life. No one can be lifted this high and feel this spirit-filled for a second time." Well, needless to say, I was so surprisingly wrong.

While serving as a team member on the Men's 196th, I remember standing there before everyone in the room as I was about to give the Study Rollo. I was nearly paralyzed by the Spirit that had rushed through me. The room was suddenly as bright as the sun, I became blinded by the radiance of all of those brothers in the room, I was lifted to another realm, somewhere far above this earth on which we live.

Then at the closing on Sunday, as I sat behind that closed curtain, I knew the Weekend was not about me this time, yet I was still moved when that curtain opened. As I listened to each of the babe chicks' witness to their Weekend, I could not help but go back to my own Weekend. I sat there so moved by the experience; I recall one of the brothers who had sat at my table looking over at me and asking, "Why are you crying; you never cried all Weekend?" Since I did not want to take anything away from his Weekend experience, all I could think to say was that I was not crying; and he was not supposed to see that anyway. But, in truth, I could not help it; I was so deeply moved and blessed.

Well, to tell you that it couldn't happen again would be a falsehood. It again occurred when I sat on sponsors' row and looked up at those whom I had brought to this Weekend. I could not sit there and not experience my Weekend again through their witnesses. I looked up at them on

that stage and I was there again, filled with the same Spirit and joy of Christ as I felt during my Weekend. Even during the mananita, I could not help being lifted and filled with the Spirit. As there was no mananita when I made my Weekend, I never had the opportunity to experience that expression of love by so many of you until I served on a team. I stood there amongst the Brothers as they were awakened by the voices of Christ in each of you. Now when I stand out there and raise my voice in love for the new Brothers and Sisters, I know what it feels like to truly know the love of God and offer it so freely and generously to others who you may not even know.

In closing, I would just like to say I hope I never grow weary of these Weekend events because I would lose so much. Each one is a gift of love, both given and received. God has really blessed me with the Cursillo Movement and each of you. Being with you at each of these events is the closest I expect to ever get to Christ here on earth. De Colores!

-- James Brightful, Men's 194th

Misplaced Hope: Pinning Our Hopes & Dreams on the Wrong Thing

by Andrea Y. Hughes,
Editor of ***Selectedly Single Newsletter***

Have you been waiting for the right man or woman or time or job, amount of money or situation or state of life to come along before you believe you can be happy or feel you have arrived? Wondering how you are going to keep yourself "hanging in there" until your ship, Cinderella, or Prince Charming comes in to save you from all the hormones kicking up, down times, and bad days? Could it be that you have pinned your hopes on the wrong thing? Could it be that you are not supposed to be saved from but to *go through* this life in a different way?

Maybe it is not "the pot at the end of the rainbow" at all. Maybe it's the journey *along the way* that's really it, keeping our eyes and senses open while traveling with other companions along *an adventure*, not quite what we wanted, but which has gifts bestowed greater than our misplaced hope in: "just the right job," amount of money, marriage partner, or right place. Ask anyone who finally got "the job," "the money," "*the wife*"

or "*the husband*," and they will tell you along with it came *more* stresses and strains, **problems**.

So where should our "hope" be and what is this long time of going through about? Well the apostle Peter who, like the other apostles, pinned his hopes on being a "big fish" in the Israeli community, and an even bigger king pin than the Scribes and Pharisees (because he was the close buddy of the Messiah), gives us some inside information in Peter's first letter (1 Peter) to the church (us too). In 1Peter 1:3, Peter tells us that our hope should be "lively" (have you ever noticed how dreary many Christians look?). It should not be fixed on dead end, corruptible things. Our hope, he says, should be in *a new life* in Jesus that will never perish (be wiped out by national disasters like Katrina, market crashes, etc.); or spoil (like a marriage gone bad because of an unfaithful or lying spouse); or fade (like that new wardrobe or house or car). Our hope is in God through an ongoing, *adventurous* relationship with Jesus – the real "rock" and way and truth (John 14:6). Moreover, this life is meant to come with *guaranteed trials*. Darn, what a surprise for some of us "do-right" Christians. Remember, "no cross, no crown?"

We are supposed to go through this life and its trials, greatly rejoicing (James 1:2-4). The reasons are two-fold: First, because we were born into this non-perishing inheritance, and second, because God values the growth of our faith. He tells us it is of "greater worth than gold," (James 1:3). He is "refining it" (glory) so that our faith will be genuine and result in praise, glory and honor (instead of shame) when Jesus is revealed! Alleluia! God is interested in our success! My God! And along with His gift of life, God gives us grace (1 Peter 3:10), including the testimony and encouraging words from the prophets like Isaiah (Isaiah 40:15, 55:1-3, 6-13, 30:15-18), Jeremiah (Jeremiah 31:3-4) and Micah (Micah 6:8).

Therefore, look around and ahead for what else the Lord has for you. It is much more than "the pot at the end of the rainbow". In Ephesians 3:20, He tells us He has "more than we could ask or think of." And, amazingly, we don't have to wait for the perfect anything to get it. Our real blessings *come along the way*. Isaiah 30:15 reinforces that it is in **returning** (to Him again and again) and **resting** (in Him) that you will be **saved** (from fretting, worrying, anxiety, false

hopes, etc.); and “in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.” And in Isaiah 40:31, we are told that those who **wait on Him** “shall renew their strength; mount up with wings as eagles; run and not grow weary, walk and not faint.” He also says in Daniel 11:32 that we should “be strong and do exploits.” Isaiah 56:3-7 goes on to tell us that singles will be “better known than those who have sons and daughters”(for all of us who like a little notoriety). Singles (and others) will be *well known* as they honor God’s commands and choose the things that please Him. I could go on. He is faithful.

Our challenge is to participate in some of these great adventures. Join with other singles (other Cursillistas) in pursuit of genuineness and purity in faith and life. Singles, and all those who focus on the development of holiness, will allow the world to observe their good deeds and character, and thus join in glorifying God when He returns (1 Peter 2:1-12).



ASHES ON MY FOREHEAD

Ashes of healing,

remind me to offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and ask forgiveness of those whom I have hurt.

Ashes of love,

remind me of Jesus who loves me infinitely, intimately, and unconditionally; that I may love others as Jesus loves me.

Ashes of compassion,

remind me to offer myself as a gift to serve others in need.

Ashes of humility,

remind me that I must shed traces of arrogance, self-centeredness, and pride.

Ashes of reconciliation,

remind me that our God of Another Chance welcomes all who seek his forgiveness and mercy.

Ashes of hope,

remind me that this Lenten journey leads me to the promise of the Easter Victory.

Ashes of repentance,

remind me that the light of Christ redeems and brightens the dark world of sin.

Ashes of power,

remind me that during these forty days I can open the spirit of God within me through daily prayer, and reflection and meditation on God’s word.

*Ash Wednesday, a cross of ashes,
Good Friday, the cross of Calvary,
Easter Sunday, the cross of Victory,
Forever, the
Cross of Jesus!*

burma hill

On Rough Seas!!!

Last year was a very difficult year for my family and me. We experienced financial challenges like never before. The seas were rough and at times it felt like our boat would capsize and we would drown. We made plans for 2009 but God had other plans. However, I give praise and thanks for my 2009 experience because being tossed around in my boat brought me closer to Him and strengthened my faith.

Not one of us has control over the seas. Thus, when faced with a storm, the only place I could turn was to my Father. There were moments when the waves were high and we were being challenged to stay on our feet. During these times I felt a calm and peace come over me....and I knew that Jesus was with me. He gave me comfort and I gave Him praise. Things that we loved were lost in the storm and our boat was rearranged; but the joy that I feel in my heart surpasses all understanding.

Some friends can’t understand how I can feel tremendous joy in spite of my challenges. Do I feel anxious at times? Yes. Do I feel uncomfortable at times? Yes. But when anxiety and fear creep into my mind I think, ‘*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*’ (Phil 4:6-7). I think of this verse and put it into action.

I am convinced that if we pay close attention and remain prayerful, God will remove unnecessary clutter and rearrange the things in our lives to make room for His plan to unfold. He will place desires in our hearts and people in our paths to

fulfill His plan. All we need to do is be obedient and listen to His whisper.

Though the skies have not cleared and the waters are still rough, I see, through the eyes of faith that calm waters are ahead. Remain faithful and give thanks for every circumstance. God's grace took me through 2009 and I look forward to God's plan for my family and me in 2010.

DeColores!
Nicole Commissiong

Secretariat Corner

A New Year: Sharing the Gift of Christ

...But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ... (Ephesians 4:7, 11-12)

While the celebration of the birth of Jesus has passed, the gift of His birth remains with us throughout the year. God gifts us so that we may be a blessing to others. As Cursillistas, we are called to use this gift by birthing Christ in each of our environments. When we fulfill our calling, we share in the gift of Christ with others.

If we do our work, the work God has called us to do – we will experience the joy of bringing others closer to Jesus. My sisters and brothers, we have four opportunities to do so this year – two women's and men's Cursillo weekends. In some cases it may be a "birth," in other cases it may be a "rebirth" but in each case, with prayer and discernment, it will be a blessing! Our gifting is very simple. We just need to... make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ.

This year, let us join as one Cursillo community to show thanks to God by stepping up and out to sponsorship! Ultreyas, group reunions, cursillistas...let us befriend that special someone to live a Cursillo weekend. Let us take the time to gift others with the great "gift of Jesus" that

some friend took the time to give to us. Blessed gifting....see you in our 4th Day!

The Secretariat wishes you a blessed and Happy New Year! Ultreya!! God bless, and much love.

-- Jackie DeMesme-Gray, Lay Director

Cursillo STILL Needs You!!!

Annual Fundraiser

It is that time of year again. It is time for the annual Fourth Day Newsletter fundraiser. You may ask why we need an annual fundraiser and where the money goes. Well, be assured, it is definitely not being squandered!

The Washington Cursillo Movement has not had a profitable income since we last had the Fed Ex Field concession stand. We continue to incur expenses yearly for the following types of expenses: School of Leaders events; Cursillo book sales; Sunday lunches for the weekends; weekend supplies; Fourth Day Events; printing and postage for the Fourth Day Newsletter; and occasionally paying for individuals who cannot afford to pay to attend the weekends.

Unfortunately, we have more money going out than we have coming in; and output with no input will eventually deplete our current funds. To prevent this from happening, we are asking you to be as generous as possible to help build up our current funds. We are not asking for a specific amount because every dollar will help.

Contributions are ALWAYS welcome and will be accepted throughout the year. They can be mailed directly to – **Gwen Sutton, 5727 -5th Street NW, Washington, DC 20011**. Christ's work and the Washington Cursillo Movement are counting on your support !

I thank you in advance for your generosity. May God bless you abundantly for your prayers and donations. De Colores!

-- Gwen Sutton, Finance Officer

Cursillo School of Leaders

Calling All Cursillistas!

Come and see! You are always welcome to join us at our monthly meetings. Since we are all LEADERS in the Movement, Jesus is counting on YOU!

Our sessions are a wonderful opportunity to group with your sisters and brothers from the various Ultreyas. You will definitely be enlightened by a doctrinal presentation based on our study book, ***“Whom Shall I Send? Discerning the Will of God,”*** by Father Frank S. Salmani. You will also have the opportunity to hear witness and share insights on this year’s technique theme of Leadership.

“Whom Shall I Send?” is an official National Ultreya publication. As Father Salmani states in his Prologue: *“Any community of people will need a retreat for themselves at one time or another. This book addresses two basic questions: (1) What does God want from me right now? (2) Is God calling me to be a Cursillo leader or some other work? Every Christian needs to know what God’s will is for him or her. This book is a process to help discern the Lord’s call. The book does not attempt to tell anyone where they should be or what they should be doing. That is up to the individual. What the book does tell us is what God expects of anyone who commits themselves to him in any way. The specific nature of the call is up to each individual to discern.”*

Cursillo School of Leaders meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 2020 St. Joseph Drive, Largo, MD, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., unless otherwise announced.

We will return to St. Joseph’s for our regular **3rd-Wednesday meeting on January 20, 2010.**

- Phyllis Winston & Joyce Davis
Co-Chairs, CSOL



Lifeline

Regard death
not as a wall,
but a door,
a portal connecting
the physical with
the spiritual
as an umbilical cord
connects a baby
with its life source.

Fear arises because
birth into the spiritual
requires expulsion
from the physical.
Take Heart.

The Spirit is our
umbilical cord,
assuring us of our
Father's love,
and echoing the
words of Jesus,
I am going to
prepare a place
for you.

Peter E. Abresch
October 1, 2009

LIST OF ULTREYAS

Assumption
12:30 pm, 2nd Sunday
Assumption Church

TBD

Bowie-Lanham
8:00pm, 2nd Friday
St. Edward's, Bowie

Al Dwyer
301-341-5076

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

Cassie & Joe Garcia
410-586-1944
Trudy & Joe Mihalcik
410-586-1674

Central PG County
7:30 – 3rd Friday
St. Joseph's, Largo

Theresa Bowser
301-390-1310

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

Jennifer Tilghman
301-982-0641
Pearl Baylor
301-894-8405
Rita Robinson
301-297-7769
Jocelyn Dugue
301-982-0641
John Geron
301-449-6654

Forestville
7:00pm, 2nd Sunday
St. John's Church Hall
Clinton, MD

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

Brinda Albert
301-490-9786
Dee Carroll
301-776-4056
Jean Hannagan
301-776-7496
Oliver Wilford, Jr.
340-294-4278

Montgomery County
7:30pm, 1st Saturday
1733 Metzert Road
Adelphi MD

Joe O'Leary
301-229-2026

NE/SE
7:30pm, 1st Friday
St. Anthony's Chapel

Phyllis Winston
202-723-6756
Joseph Bowser
202-635-3733
Bernadette White
202-269-0710

Our Lady Queen
of Peace
After 10:30 am Mass,
3rd Sunday
Room 1 Our Lady
Queen of Peace

Liz Blake
301-853-3029

St. Teresa of Avila
7:30pm, 2nd Monday
St. Teresa's Church
Undercroft

Kelly/Lamont Baxter
301-780 8815



Come and Be
Spiritually
Uplifted By
God's Light



EDITOR'S CORNER

Calling All Articles!!

Are you a writer?
Do you have thoughts, poems,
prayers, or reflections to share? The
Washington Cursillo Community
wants to hear from you!!

Submit articles **at any time** to
mjbfuzz@verizon.net AND
annbatiste@hotmail.com

Mar-Apr Issue submissions
are due **by 6 February 2010**.

New Website Is Up!!

Our New and Improved Website is up
and running; **but** it is still a work in
progress! So be patient with us as
we continue to develop and build it
into the best it can be!

Darah Means (formatter/designer)
Tom Arnold (web manager)
The new website is –

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

Check It Out!!
Give us your feedback!!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CURSILLO QUARTERLY!

What? “Taste of Cursillo” Quarterly

Hosted by – NE/SE Ultreya

When? Saturday, January 23, 2010
Following the 5:00 pm Vigil Mass

Where? St. Anthony’s Church and Hall
12th Street NE between Monroe
& Lawrence, Washington, DC
(Red Line Metro Accessible)

Who’s invited? Everybody!

What we will do for fun – *Eat, Drink, and Be Merry,
Of Course!!*

The “Taste of Cursillo” begins with the 5:00 pm
Mass at St. Anthony’s Church – our spiritual food.

Following the Mass we will move to Margot Hall for
a taste of our favorite recipes—many of which may
be found in our new “Bubblin’ With The Spirit”
cookbook.

And what better taste is there than that of Cursillo
talent, fun, and fellowship? It can’t get any better
than that!!



See You There!