



JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2012

# Fourth Day News

Washington Cursillo Movement

*Informing, Enlightening, and Building Community*

## Secretariat Corner

### UNWRAP THE GIFT OF CURSILLO AND LIVE THE "CHARISM OF CURSILLO" TO THE FULLEST

*We must drink from the source. To return to the source is to drink from the wellspring from which water flows. To drink from the source is to be "reborn" with each sip of the original pure water.*

The above introduction in the book, "The Cursillo Movement - Study of the Charism" from the writings of our founder, Eduardo Bonnin, sums up why we must learn about the *Charism* of our Cursillo Movement to live it. To understand our Charism, thereby live its fundamentals, our School of Leaders will study Bonnin's writings starting January 2012.

A Charism is "a gift or grace of the Holy Spirit to help us live out our Christian lives and serve in the building up of the Church." All movements of the Catholic Church have their own Charism. Our Charism is Spirit-empowerment through Christian community. Its message is, *God loves us*, and its means to convey the message is, *friendship*, living a life in grace. It is this Spirit-empowerment that was the vision of Eduardo Bonnin.

*God gave this special gift to Eduardo Bonnin who viewed it as an answer to his prayers.*

*Eduardo shared his vision and mission with close friends, a group reunion, and from that collaboration of both the human **and** the Divine grew our Cursillo Movement.*

*"The giver of the gift and the receiver of the gift have become one in spirit and this has transformed lives and those lives have transformed environments."*

This explains why our Cursillo Weekends are so powerful. Why we remain with the Movement long after our Weekends. And why we live the method -- Group Reunion and Ultreya—to encounter the Holy Spirit through Christian community in our 4<sup>th</sup> Day.

Our founders knew that it takes more than a gathering of Cursillistas to make a Christian community; it takes the dynamic process of people coming together, sharing their faith, and growing understandings as one — empowered by the Spirit.

Come, share and grow at the School of Leaders. Together let us unwrap the gift that began as a dream for a humble little man from an obscure island in the Mediterranean and which, through his love and dedication to God and others, spread around the globe.

Together, let us capture his dream and live it as intended. It is by examining our roots that we better understand, and better live, the gift of Cursillo given to us by the Holy Spirit many years ago. As Philip said in John 1:46 "Come and see for yourself".



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**Ultreya,**

Jackie DeMesme-Gray, Lay Director



## Lord, I'm Available to You

### Exodus 12:25

It will come to pass when you come to the land which the LORD will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this **service**.

God gifted me with song and I have been told I sound like an angel when I sing. Simply put, I was nicknamed Songbird. I smile now at the comment as I give God all praise for this awesome gift... a gift that I have always used to praise His name in choirs and/or as a cantor. However; I always wanted to do more in my church community.

Enter James Brightful, my Spirit filled sponsor who directed me to my fourth day experience. I reflect back on my weekend (197<sup>th</sup>) and still feel the love that I received from my Cursillo family. The Rollos that weekend inspired to me to do more and now I serve as the Prefect of our Sodality as well as a lector. This is on top of my cantor/choir roles, which are challenging and rewarding.

In service, I am able to reach out to so many people and share God's grace in song or community outreach. In service, it is wonderful to be able to bless others. In the end, I am the one who is truly blessed. The feeling of service is beautiful to know that God used me to make someone's day with a kind word or a memory or an emotion brought on by a song. I am overwhelmed with this feeling now and will leave you, Beloved, with words to a fitting song on service performed by Reverend Milton Brunson.

## I'M AVAILABLE TO YOU

(as performed by Rev. Milton Brunson)

*You gave me my hands to reach out to man  
To show him your love and your perfect plan  
You gave me my ears, I can hear your voice so  
clear,  
I can hear the cries of sinners  
But can I wipe away their tears?*

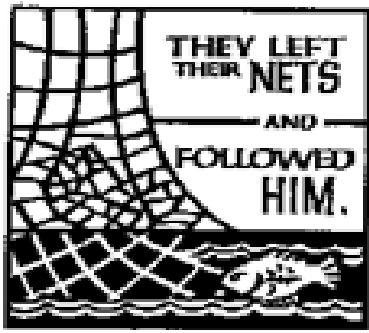
*You gave me my voice to speak your word,  
To sing all your praises to those who never heard;  
But with my eyes I can see  
A need for more availability  
I've seen the hearts that have been broken,  
So many people to be free.*

*Lord, I'm available to you.  
My will I give to you  
I'll do what you say do,  
Use me Lord to show someone the way  
And enable me to say,  
My storage is empty and I am available to you.*

*Now I'm giving back to you,  
All the tools you gave to me,  
My hands, my ears, my voice, my eyes,  
So you can use them as you please.  
I have emptied out my cup,  
So that you can fill it up  
Now I'm free, I just want to be more available  
to you,  
Use me Lord to show someone the way  
And enable me to say,  
My storage is empty and I am available to you.*

I encourage you all to reap the blessings and benefits of service in your own church communities. DeColores!

God's love and mine,  
Christina Wilson  
St. Martin "in da House", NE/SE Ultreya



## A CALL TO SERVE

“Come after me and I will make you fishers of men.” (Mat: 4:12-23)

Along my faith walk, I’ve always had this vision of myself walking with Jesus, taking long strides. But in my vision, I was ahead of him, dragging him by the hem of his garment. I’m reminded with this scripture, of what it means to be a follower.

When Jesus called his disciples, he did not ask them to lead him, he said, “Come after Me [as disciples—letting Me be your Guide], follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men!” (Mtt: 4:19 TAB) Many times, we miss out on our blessings by trying to do everything ourselves. We suit up in our armor by reading Ephesians 6:13, but we fail to understand whose armor is really involved. Like my vision of myself, anxious to do for God, I missed the point. You must “draw your strength from the Lord and his mighty power...” before the armor is effective. The way you do that is to “Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil.”

In living our weekend, we are called to discipleship, a call of service. That service leads us to the place where God can use us, either as leaders or followers. Any calling that comes from God always benefits the people of God. When the calling we hear is our own, guess who benefits?

Today, let us ask ourselves, which cup do I have? Is it empty waiting and willing to be filled or is it full? (LARSK)

Lethia A. Kelly, 104<sup>th</sup> Women’s Weekend  
St. Teresa of Avila



## *The Deep Vessel of My Life*

I am a well containing all the world holds and offers what God has entrusted to me.

This vessel brims over with goodness and light also is filled to capacity with darkness and fight.

I am home for God the divine and when too afraid to open the door, God reminds me, “you will always be mine”.

In God’s own well I’m cradled in love, comforted and held close, it’s the only place safe to fall in too deep. God’s grace catches and strengthens me, a soft landing to just relax and float.

When I need to pour out what can no longer be contained God’s well is open, I hear God say: “Come to me and release it for there’s nothing I can’t hold including you and everything you bring”.

Let me be the vessel for all of your tears I’ll brush them from your eyes and hold them with mine. For I can keep collecting I only overflow with graces and my well never runs dry.

Come to me always with your bucket in tow I’ll empty out your sorrows and pain, fill you up with my Spirit and love that love which from the chalice and my very being flows.

So then you can be a vessel, holding for others what they can’t, giving when they need sharing my life and light.

Remember, though, come back to me, always, always come back to me bring it all to the well don’t hold on too long or too tight.

I am the source of your life giving you all you'll ever need until you rest in peace with me your fountain of love from now throughout eternity.

DeColores  
Theresa Szkromiuk  
197<sup>th</sup> Women's Weekend, Laurel Ultreya



## SPRING QUARTERLY ULTREYA

Listen – I know it is only January 2012, but it is not too early to think about spring. Think about March 24, 2012. Think about a relatively warm Saturday Evening when you can be spiritually and socially revived from the miserably cold and snowy Metropolitan Area bitter winter.

The Montgomery County Ultreya is sponsoring the next Ultreya Quarterly on March 24, 2012. It promises not only to be spiritually uplifting but socially as well. We have not had a Quarterly Ultreya for several years. I am hopeful that there will be a great response to this March Quarterly Ultreya so the Forth Day Committee will feel encouraged to sponsor more such occasions.

The Quarterly will be held at Our Lady of Victory Church at 4835 MacArthur Boulevard, in North West, Washington D.C. We will be attending the regular 5:15PM Saturday Mass. Father Foley, our Current Spiritual Director and a former Pastor of Our Lady of Victory will be offering the Mass. Ginny Novak will be handling the Music and pews in the front of the church will be reserved for the Ultreyas.

Following the Mass, a Pot luck Dinner will be held at the Hess Hall which is immediately adjacent to the Church. We would ask that you make arrangements with Theresa Thomas of our Ultreya for whatever food or drink that you might want to contribute for the success of the dinner. Theresa's phone number is 301-585-2358 and her e-mail is [theresab6@verizon.net](mailto:theresab6@verizon.net).

Finally, following the Pot Luck Dinner, Mike Davenport will be providing music for our dancing and listening pleasure. It should be a very fun evening. I will be working with Mike on some ideas which I hope will add some fun to the night.

I will be coordinating the evening, and if anyone has any exciting ideas that they wish to share to make the evening more spiritual or entertaining please feel free to contact me.

Joe O'Leary, 178th Men's Weekend March 2003  
Montgomery County Ultreya  
301-229-2026  
E-mail: [Inishlyn@verizon.net](mailto:Inishlyn@verizon.net)







# **THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT SECRETARIAT**

## **WHAT IS THE SECRETARIAT?**

A BODY OF PEOPLE COMMITTED TO PROMOTE, ENCOURAGE, AND SUPPORT THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT AND TO SERVE THE CURSILLO COMMUNITY

## **WHO ARE THEY?**

FELLOW CURSILLISTAS!

## **HOW DO THEY WORK?**

AS A GROUP, MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT SHALL GUIDE AND COORDINATE ALL PHASES OF THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON DC WITHIN THE PASTORAL PLAN OF THE BISHOP, AND CURSILLO MOVEMENT

## **WHAT ARE THE POSITIONS?**

- **LAY DIRECTORS**

Through leadership, the Lay Directors unify the movement on all levels and indicate the path to be followed in essential matters of practical detail. They are responsible for the spirit of unity throughout the movement, organization and methodology of Cursillo, and nurturing the leaders of the Movement, especially the Secretariat.

- **SPIRITUAL ADVISORS**

The diocesan Spiritual Advisor(s) make sure that Cursillo stays in line with Church doctrine and tradition. They are proposed by the incoming lay director(s) and approved by the archbishop or his representative.

- **CURSILLO SCHOOL OF LEADERS (CSOL)**

The Cursillo School Of Leaders should be the core of the Cursillo Movement. It is the key source to find and support individuals who take on Cursillo as their primary apostolate, a community of Christians who serve the rest of the Cursillo community. It provides the opportunity for Cursillistas to form and share the vision of god's plan for the movement. It is the community of Cursillistas who grow together in a deeper understanding and living out the Cursillo method.

- **PRECURSILLO COMMITTEE**

This committee works with Cursillistas in identifying environments to be Christianized and assists them in selecting individuals who could be instrumental in the process of Christianization. Individuals within those environments are prepared for the three-day Cursillo and an ultimate commitment to the Fourth Day.

- **THE 3-DAY COMMITTEE:**

The 3-day committee, along with the entire Secretariat, is responsible to the Cursillo Community and to Our Lord Jesus Christ to provide the environment in which His Presence can be shared and celebrated. This commonly is known as presenting a Cursillo Weekend.

- **FOURTH DAY COMMITTEE**

This committee encourages the spiritual formation of Cursillistas and to advance the Cursillo goal of Christianizing environment. This method includes group reunion, Ultreya, spiritual direction and community strengthening events.

- **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

This committee is responsible for informing Cursillistas of planned activities, literature available, Cursillo newsletter (Fourth Day News), as well as Palanca needs for the Washington Movement.

- **TREASURER**

In consultation with the Financial Officer, the Treasurer ensures that the Secretariat is kept abreast of the Movement's financial situation. Advises the Secretariat, and Financial Officer, of any forthcoming financial problems or needed changes.

- **FINANCIAL OFFICER**

In consultation with the Treasurer, makes sure sufficient funds are available in the Treasury so the Washington Cursillo Movement can remain financially viable.

- **SECRETARY**

The secretary transcribes the minutes of the Secretariat meetings and keeps records of this information for the files of the movement.

**The Secretariat is here to serve you...get to know them, and consider volunteering your time and talents for one of the various committees... and as always, pray for them as they pray for you....**

Lethia Kelly and Denise Wilson  
Co-Chairs, Communication



## **A Message from the Fourth Day Committee**

*"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name". (John 15:16)*

First let us say thank you to our Ultreya Leaders, you are truly chosen to lead and be willing and faithful servants. As you recall from the Rollo on leadership we all are capable to be leaders. There is no special qualification or experience needed to be a leader. True leadership cannot be taught or studied. True leadership is a gift, a blessing, a calling, a light, which shines like a beacon calling out to others to follow the light so that they may be set safely on their journey.

*"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven". (Matt. 5:14-16)*

As Cursillistas we all have been called, we all are leaders; we all have a light that shines. But more importantly leadership is not about being in charge or directing others, it is about being the servant, the one that others look to in their time of need. A leader is the one person who will step forward ready to act when action is needed.

A Leader is not one who does what he or she does for the recognition or glory; they are the person who often labors unnoticed or unappreciated for their work. The leader is the one person who is still there tirelessly laboring on when all others have left to go rest. A leader is the one person who no matter how challenging the task, will make the effort to do what is needed to achieve the goal. These and so many other things can be said about those whom have been called to be Ultreya Leaders in our movement. It is because of your tireless and selfless efforts that we continue to live our "fourth day" fruitfully as Cursillistas. It is with you as our leaders, that we know our work, as Cursillistas will produce much fruit and a plentiful harvest for the Lord.

We are truly indebted to all of our past Ultreya Leaders, all of the present Ultreya Leaders and all of those who have yet to step forward. You are a true blessing and gift.

James Brightful & Brian Johnson  
Fourth Day Co-chairs

## "GET A PIECE OF THE ROCK"

*Lord I give you my heart. Form me into your servant. Lord, I want to be a rock for your people. I ask that you continue to strengthen me in those times of weakness. You have chosen me to be that keystone, that foundation, that pillar of support to those in need, so let me continue to do as You have appointed me to do in Your name Amen.*

*"I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it." (Matt. 16:18)*

Many years ago I had a friend who is no longer with us here on earth and I would often say to him, "everyone expects me to be a rock for him or her. I truly felt like the Prudential ad "Get a piece of the rock." My question was whom does the rock go to when it needs help?" For years that were a question which went unanswered. It always felt as if I had to be there for so many others in their time of difficulty and need, but whom did I have in my times of need? Where was my source of support and strength?

In recent months so many different people have called upon me in so many different ways. There have been times when I felt as if the blood in my very body was being drawn from me to nourish the needs and causes of so many others. My time, my finances, my experiences, my guidance, my emotional strength was being sacrificed for the needs and welfare of others. I often felt as if the last bit of me was up for grabs by the most in need. There were nights when I went to bed thinking that there was no more to give. Yet when I awoke the next morning there would still be more to give. No matter how much I gave there was still something left. Even when I felt I was at the end of my resources, energy, time or patience, there was always still more to offer.

*"Thank you, **Jesus**, for being my rock of salvation. Teach me how to build my life on your eternal truths!"*

Now I feel like one of the characters in the "Wizard of Oz". I had gone out on this search for the one thing that was already inside of me. I only needed to look inside of myself to find the answer. Who does the rock go to in his time of need?

I now know the rock goes to the Lord. He chose me to be that rock for so many others just as He chose Peter to be that rock. We all know that Peter often failed or had his weak moments but that is when he called upon the Lord, he was strengthened, he was able to be that rock that he was called to be and that is what I learned I must do. I have learned that if I just ask Him for that needed strength, answer, financial support or vision, I can do what I thought I couldn't do. I can be that person I didn't know I was, I could find that extra bit that I didn't know was there. Yes I was that rock, while time and environment may have worn away some of that rock, what remains is more polished, hardened and colorful. Like the Grand Canyon, time and the elements may have worn away much of the rock's exterior but what remains has become all the more beautiful and pleasing.

*"He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be shaken. On God my salvation and my glory rest; the rock of my strength, my refuge is in God." (Ps. 62:6-7)*

As I have come to realize, I have the support of shoulders far more solid than any here on earth. I now realize I have the arm of the Lord to lean on. I need not be so afraid or uncertain of what I can do or accomplish for I know now that if I am doing it for His cause then there is no doubt as to what it takes to do it. It will be done, as He wills it to be done. As long as I continue to be His instrument and do those works He would have me do then I will always have the strength, wisdom, energy, financial resources and support. Yes I have found that if I have been called to be the rock for others then all I need do is look to the "Rock"!

*"Once God has spoken; Twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God; And loving kindness is Yours, O Lord, For You recompense a man according to his work." (Ps. 62:11-12)*

De Colores  
James Brightful, 194<sup>th</sup> Men's Weekend  
NE/SE Ultreya

## **CSOL Meeting Dates**

Wednesday, January 18, 2012  
Wednesday, February 15, 2012  
Wednesday, March 21, 2012  
Wednesday, April 18, 2012  
Wednesday, May 16, 2012  
Wednesday, June 20, 2012

### **Venue:**

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
2020 St. Joseph Drive, Largo, MD 20774  
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Co-chairs: Shelia Vallot and  
Phyllis Winston (202) 723-6756 or  
[pbwinston1@verizon.net](mailto:pbwinston1@verizon.net)



## **Cursillo Prayer List**

**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 MaryAnn Upright at [MAUpright@aol.com](mailto:MAUpright@aol.com)**



## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**207<sup>th</sup> Women's Weekend**  
February 2 – 5, 2012  
Josephite Center, Washington, DC

**Spring Quarterly Ultreya**  
March 24, 2012  
Our Lady of Victory Church  
4835 MacArthur Boulevard, NW  
Washington D.C.

**206<sup>th</sup> Women's Weekend**  
October 4 – 6, 2012  
Josephite Center, Washington, DC

**208<sup>th</sup> Men's Weekend**  
November 8 – 11, 2012  
Josephite Center, Washington, DC

**Sponsorship Workshop**  
(Spring TBD)

**Relax and Reflect Retreat**  
Date and Location: TBD



# LIST OF ULTREYAS

**Assumption**  
12:30 pm, 2nd Sunday  
**Assumption Church**

TBD

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

**Judy Kelly**  
**301-249-7197**  
**Marguerite**  
**Dobrosielski**

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

**Rita Leclerc**  
**410-326-2078**  
**Gisela Victoria**  
**Linda Pixton**  
**Toni Abresch**

**Central PG County**  
7:30 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday  
**St. Joseph's, Largo**

TBD

**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**

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

TBD

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

**Arnie Rauch**  
**301-498-8806**  
**Theresa Szkromiuk**  
**267-205-4739**

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

**Sonia Melendez**  
**inishlyn@verizon.net**

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

**James Brightful**  
**202-269-4606**  
**Bernadette White**  
**202-269-0710**

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

TBD

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

**Erin & Charles Wiley**  
**301-996-6082**



## 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!! **Ultreya Leaders, please send us your sharing, it would be great to hear from each leader at least once a year!**

Articles should be submitted in **Arial Font, 11 Font Size** no later than the submission date below for the following issue. **Remember to sign your articles with your name, weekend, and Ultreya,**

Submit articles at any time to **Lethia Kelly** at **larsk196@msn.com** or **Denise Wilson** at **w5wilsons@verizon.net**

**March/April 2012 Issue**  
**submissions**  
**Are due by February 14, 2012**

### Website News!!

Jack McFadden and Tom Arnold  
(web managers)

The Washington Cursillo Movement website is  
<http://www.washdc-cursillo.org/>

**WASHINGTON CURSILLO**  
**3509 10<sup>th</sup> Street NE**  
Washington, DC 20017-1749

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