



MARCH - APRIL 2013

Fourth Day News

Washington Cursillo Movement

Informing, Enlightening, and Building Community

Secretariat Corner



Inside This Issue

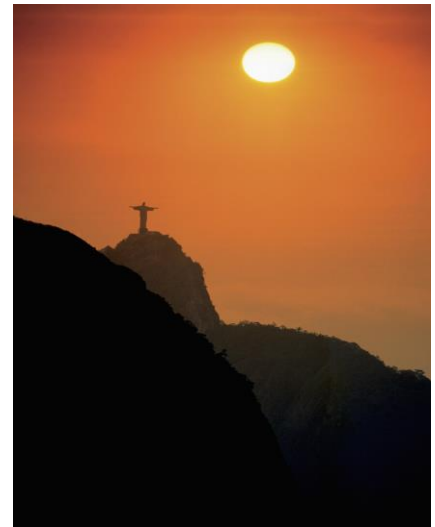
<u>Secretariat Corner</u>	1-2
<u>"Lord Change Me, Not My Family"</u>	
<u>Let's Go To The Hop</u>	2
<u>Evangelization</u>	3-4
<u>Prayer Corner</u>	4
<u>Fifth Day Corner</u>	5
<u>Pictorial Directory News</u>	5
<u>Cursillo School of Leaders "Korner"</u>	6
<u>Region 2 News</u>	6
<u>MADE – A Poem</u>	7
<u>NE/SE Ultreya News</u>	7-8
<u>Editor's Corner</u>	8
<u>Calendar of Events</u>	9
<u>Database Updates</u>	9
<u>List of Ultreyas</u>	10

"LORD CHANGE ME, NOT MY FAMILY"

"Do not conform yourself to this age but be transformed by the renewal of our mind..." Rm 12:2

As I sat quietly that morning, with the sun not yet peaking through the night, I whispered, "Lord Change Me, Not My Family". It seemed that so many things were wrong in my life. My quest to change everyone around me wasn't doing any good and I was becoming more miserable than when I just minded my own business. The thought came to me that perhaps God doesn't require me fix everyone. Maybe, just maybe, he didn't create mothers to fix the family; perhaps He just wants us to conform to ourselves by constant renewal of our own minds.

How many times do we pray for our loved ones and ask God's grace for them to change and be the person He meant them to be? How many times do our tears fall, because we have a child who just isn't doing what we've taught them to do? During this Holy Season, I am reminded of how God must feel about his creation.



My thoughts are of how God, our Father, must feel about how well I am doing with what he wants from me.

How often have I asked Him, Lord, what do you want me to do? How often have I listened for his words? We might find that God is saying, "I need you to be more focused on your change, your renewal, your conforming to my will and my way."

Many times I've heard the phrase, "God is doing a work in me" or "God isn't finished with me yet". Well, it's true, God is doing a work in each of us and it takes the rest of our lives for that work to be complete. For our part, we have to put the focus where it belongs, on ourselves.

Looking inward is difficult but it is what God requires of us. Taking ourselves apart, one piece at a time reveals our weaknesses and allows us to pray in such a way that we might never have thought we could.

As we prepare for the risen Christ, let us reflect on ourselves as Cursillistas, living a life in Christ Jesus. Let us remember why we are on this journey of change and renewal, remembering always that God is the Creator and he doesn't need our help. Lord, change me, not my family. (LARSK)



“Let’s Go To The Hop”

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

The Cursillo Secretariat is excited to announce, “Let’s go to the hop, oh baby;” we are hopping around to different Ultreyas in an effort to stimulate, strengthen, and revitalize faithful relationships, group reunions and sponsorship. We will visit a different Ultreya monthly. The Ultreya we visit will be the host and will set the agenda as we transform the environment. All we need is YOU, your wonderful spirituality; the uniqueness of your small group and food - a dish to share, and we can pull this thing off!

The following Ultreyas have consented to host the first two Ultreya Hops:

Fri., March 8, 2013

8:00 pm

We will meet with the Bowie-Lanham Ultreya

at:

Saint Edwards

1940 Mitchellville Road

Bowie, MD 20716

Sat., April 6, 2013

7:30 pm

We will meet with the Montgomery County

Ultreya at Brother Richard’s house:

Father Judge Missionary Cenacle

1733 Mezerott Road

Adelphi, MD, 20783

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

Please join us! All Cursillistas, Small groups, Ultreyas and future Candidates are welcome to attend and don’t forget to bring some food!

De Colores!



Evangelization



When I began my 4th day, now more than thirty years ago, I found the Cursillo tripod sensible and very useful in trying to live my daily Christian life. Living in God's

light is all about relationship, so piety, the communication of that relationship, was understandably the first of the legs of the tripod. Of course, we can't love that which we don't know and, by engaging in meaningful study of the Word and of our environments, we can grow in the knowledge that will enable us to grow in love. Next came action. If we truly know and love someone, we want the best for her and will lend a hand whenever possible to help the good things happen. These three tools work together to help us grow. To make sure we remember to use these tools and to grow consistently, we share our use of piety, study and action in group reunion and Ultreya. I had it all put together and tied nicely with a big ribbon! I can do this.

Then one day I was told my three legs had been renamed. Piety became holiness and study turned into formation. That was fine. I could do the translation. But it was different when action turned into evangelization. According to Mr. Webster, to evangelize means to preach the gospel or to convert others to Christianity. I'm of a mind with the saints who agree that we must preach the gospel and use words only when absolutely necessary. Maybe I could still preach by my actions, but that second meaning troubled me. When I think about having to

convert others, it's frightening. I know all too well from experience how hard it is to change myself – even with God's help. Yes, I know that Christ and I are an unbeatable majority, but was I really armed for this challenge? I needed a better notion of evangelization— something that brought it back down to the idea of apostolic action that had been my mainstay.

Clearly, I'm not alone in needing a better understanding of evangelization. Last year the Holy Father gathered Church leaders including bishops, priests, religious and laity to a Synod on the New Evangelization. Cardinal Wuerl was among those participating and upon his return wrote his reflections in a book, "New Evangelization: Passing on the Catholic Faith Today". As he talks about the transforming power of faith, why it is needed and what it means for us today, it brought me back to the three legs of the tripod.

The faith once entrusted to the Apostles still has the power to transform the world, one life at a time – my life and yours, our neighbors' lives, our family members' lives. However, one cannot share what one does not have, so this initiative begins with personal renewal in our understanding of the faith, which brings fresh confidence in its truth, and, therefore, a willingness to share it with others. We must come to know the faith revealed to us and understand what it means. We are invited to ask questions and probe more deeply. We need to know it, live it, and share it. (e-letter from Cardinal Wuerl, Feb. 5, 2013)

If I look at living the faith as building a relationship with God and as a consequence with all God's children, then living the faith implies living a God-centered life with prayer at its core. I can paraphrase the Cardinal's last sentence. We need to study, pray and act. But is that enough? I'm still left with the dilemma of having to reach out and do something with the people in my environments.

The founder of our movement, Eduardo Bonnin, tells us that *"We do not spread the Good News – we BECOME the Good New"*.

What is the Good News other than that God loves us enough to sacrifice his Son so that our sins could be forgiven. It's a rather spectacular gift and a cause for living in great joy. The pages of the Acts are filled with that sense of joy, of mutual love and caring. When I was called to be the Rectora of a Cursillo weekend, the friend I sought as my head angel agreed to take that role if I would use as the theme for the weekend a sign that was painted on the side of the church she had attended and loved in Florida. The sign read, "Joy – an Infallible Sign of God's Presence". The transformative power of faith is the Good News. To live as though we truly believe that God's own Son lived to teach us and died to save us is to live in that same sense of joy that filled the first Christians and made their communities so attractive.

Evangelization is beginning to make sense. It starts with God's love and my own act of will to accept that love, to live in that love and to express the joy of that love in my environments. It is not my role to preach the Good News with words, but to accept and live the Good News. If we live the Good News in our homes, workplaces, parishes, group reunions and Ultreyas, others will see the joy and caring and will be attracted to us. Evangelization does not mean changing the other person. Evangelization begins with asking God to change me so that the other person can see the joy of God's love transmitted through my life.



Sue Numrich, Co-Chair
Cursillo School of Leaders



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 MaryAnne Upright at MAUpright@aol.com.



Dear Friends, by the grace of Jesus,

As Palanca for you, all Cursillistas and the suffering sick I offer 41 years 2 months and 11 days of drinking no beverage except water.

My prayer is that this weekend you will open yourselves to Jesus and his grace completely.

Just over 43 years ago after the piety talk on a day much like today I was reading the Palanca letters. I was frightened, felt not worthy and was overwhelmed. My comfort was shattered.

I had this fear that Jesus would call me to witness in far off countries or perhaps become a street preacher or the like.

By Sunday Jesus called me clearly and profoundly. He said "George I'm not sending you to a distant land or a street corner. I am sending you to a mission field that you will never be able to leave; you will be in it twenty four hours a day all the days of your life. Your mission field is at the end of your finger tips it's your family, friends, those you work with, and the least of my brothers, the poor and broken. "

Jesus is counting on you.

There is no replacement for you.

De Colores!

Through the grace of Jesus,
Your brother George Marczewski
Diocese of Joliet Illinois

Where are those Pictorial Directories?

The directories were distributed to all Ultreya Leaders for those Cursillistas who sat for pictures. A few were mailed to those who are sick and shut in, and those out of town who participated in the project. If you did not sit for a photo but would like to receive a directory, you can purchase one for \$10/each. Please send your request to communication@washdc-cursillo.org or telephone Lethia Kelly at 202-425-7034 or Denise Wilson at 301-523-2818. Copies will also be available at all Cursillo events.

Fifth Day Corner



Our fifth day corner is to honor all of our Cursillistas who go on to their heavenly rest, living out their fifth day with our Brother Jesus.

***"Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again: Rejoice!"
Philippians 4: 4***

We have each been given reason to be joyful. We have been given a reason to be positive about our life situations and to see the good about ourselves. We rejoice because we have been fearfully and wonderfully made. We rejoice because we have been granted salvation through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. We rejoice because we are loved above all things by a Father who will soon call us into eternity with him. We rejoice because of all these things and more. Today we enter into the Lords presence and REJOICE!

Dedicated to Alphaeus Demesme who is now living an eternity of rejoicing with Christ. And now my life song sings.

Stephan Abresch
Laurel Ultreya



Mark your calendars!

March 20 – 7:00 pm

St. Joseph's, Largo

Living the Resurrection – Becoming the Good News

We're about to celebrate the Church's greatest feast, Easter. The story we will hear in the Holy Week liturgies, and particularly at the Easter Vigil, remind us of how much God loves us. In March, Janet Sherbert will help us prepare for our Easter celebration by talking with us about how to live the Resurrection in our everyday lives. How better can we finish our Lenten observance and celebrate Holy Week in ways that help us change our lives and make us better heralds of the Good News. Please join us on March 20th at *St. Joseph's in Largo!*

CSOL Workshop

April 2 – 8:30am to 1:30pm

St. Mary of the Assumption, Upper Marlboro
What It Means to Work a Weekend

If you have never worked a weekend or would like to work another weekend and it's been some time since you were on a team, this workshop is for you. While it's not exactly a prerequisite for working a weekend, it will help you decide if being a member of a team is for you. Cursillistas with long experience working weekends, shepherding, angeling, giving talks, working tables and coordinating will give you the benefit of their experiences. They will clarify responsibilities and field all your questions. Bring a bag lunch and all your questions.



Looking Ahead:

May 15 – 7pm

St. Joseph's, Largo

Everything You Need to Know About Group Reunion

June 19 - 7pm

St. Joseph's, Largo

Open Forum: The Secretariat invites you to find out more about how Cursillo functions.

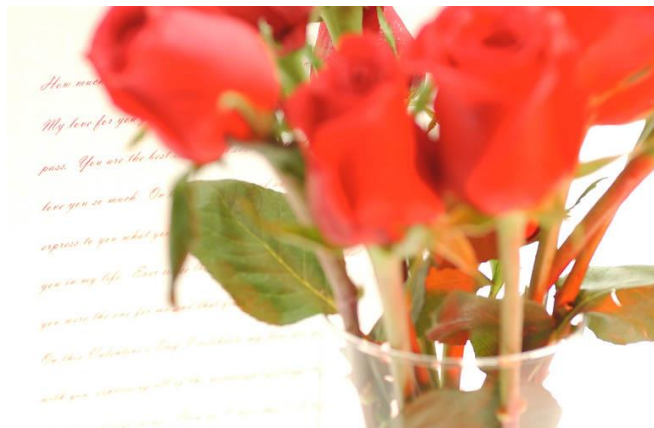
Region II Upcoming Events

**Pope John Paul Retreat Center,
Vineland, NJ**

**April 12-14, 2013
Region II Spring Encounter**

**October 25-27, 2013
Region II Fall Encounter**

MADE



He made me in His image,
At least that's what they say.
But how will I ever find Him
When the mirror looks this way?

I fail to see the beauty,
Perfection's out of reach,
Nor do I have the knowledge
To go out there and teach.

Today's world needs to see Him,
With that I do agree.
So I pray for those who are qualified...
Which means anyone but me.

Finished with my reflection,
I start to turn away.
But I hear Him request one moment,
Before I go to start my day.

This time instead of talking,
I choose to let Him speak.
And He begins with one reminder:
"I am strong where you are weak."

He goes on to say, "your purpose
Was chosen just for you.
I designed you perfectly for it.
Another simply will not do."

With doubt, I ask "why me, Lord?
Surely there must be some mistake."

With a patient smile He asks,
"How many of those do you think I make?"

Suddenly my eyes were opened
and through His love it was revealed:
His Spirit has always guided me
And through His Son, I've already been healed!

I looked back at every scene,
As my life and my past replayed,
And I rejoiced as Wisdom showed me
Just how perfectly,
how deliberately,
how wonderfully I'd been made.

Erin Wiley
Women's 193rd
St. Teresa of Avila Ultreya

4th Day Events



NE/SE ULTREYA CELEBRATES EPIPHANY

On Friday, January 4, 2013, the regularly scheduled meeting day for the Ultreya became a real celebration of the Feast Day. As the Epiphany commemorates the presentation of the Gifts of the Magi to the New Born King, the Ultreya leaders made the theme for the evening "gifts".

The guest count for the evening totaled 40 persons, including members of the Knights of Columbus Shrine Council 4944, Cursillistas from various Ultreyas and guests personally invited by NE/SE members.

For those guests who were not Cursillistas, a brief explanation of some of the evening's Cursillo customs were given resulting in a few expressing an interest in learning more about Cursillo.

To set the mood for the evening a Nativity scene was placed in the center of the large circle of seats. The evening's program began with the presentation of the gift of a Love Offering in the amount of approximately \$130.00 to Father Fred Close, Pastor of St Anthony of Padua, whose parish has allowed the Ultreya to meet on their property for years. Father Close expressed his gratitude to the Ultreya with a brief story of how he had prayed to Saint Anthony for needed funds for the parish and the response he received from St Anthony was that it was not his responsibility to supply the funds, his responsibility was to supply the people. After small grouping the celebration continued when Christina Speaks led the circle in a sing along of "We Three Kings" followed by a presentation titled "The Gift" (an original, one act, three character parable written by James Brightful) which was read by James, Bernadette White and invited guest Marcellino C. Borges. The moral of the parable was that He may not give us what we want, but He always gives us what we need.

After a break to socialize and enjoy the feast, all were called back to the circle for the gift exchange. A rousing rendition of the Nativity Story was read by leaders Bernadette and James instructing everyone as to how they were to pass the gift in their possession which led to a very humorous and animated game of pass and receive. The evening ended with a celebration of those having birthdays during the month, announcements, prayer partner introductions and prayer intentions. The closing prayer was led by Father Tom Reilly followed by Joe Steen on the guitar leading everyone in a spirited version of De Colores.

Bernadette White and James Brightful
NE/SE Ultreya



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 or Denise Wilson at communication@washdc-cursillo.org

May - June 2013 Issue

Submissions are due by:

March 12, 2012

Theme: "Going On"

Website News!!

**Jack McFadden and Tom Arnold
(Web managers)
The Washington Cursillo® Movement
website is**

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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Upcoming Cursillo® Weekends

Josephite Center, Washington, DC

October 10 – 13, 2013
208th Women's Weekend
Nancy Mattingly, Coordinator

November 7-10, 2013
211th Men's Weekend
Tom Arnold, Coordinator

CSOL
March 20 – 7:00 pm
St. Joseph's, Largo

"SPECIAL CSOL WORKSHOP"
April 20 – 8:30am to 1:30pm
St. Mary of the Assumption, Upper Marlboro
What It Means to Work a Weekend

May 15 – 7pm
St. Joseph's, Largo
Everything You Need to Know About Group
Reunion

June 19 - 7pm
St. Joseph's, Largo
Open Forum: The Secretariat invites you to find
out more about how Cursillo functions.

DATABASE UPDATES

The Communications Committee is in the process of updating the way in which we disseminate information to the community. We need your help.

If you receive the 4th Day News by mail, please take a moment and let us know if you still need to. We are attempting to cut down on the amount of return mail we receive after each newsletter mailing. You can confirm your preference for receiving the newsletter by visiting our website at <http://www.washdc-cursillo.org> . Follow the directions for signing up to receive the newsletter by mail or email.

If you do not have access to a computer, and receive your newsletter by mail, please contact either of our Communications Co-chairs, Lethia Kelly at 202-425-7034 or Denise Wilson at 301-523-2818 to confirm your choice.

If you have a change in address, email or telephone number please notify us at: communication@washdc-Cursillo.org.

The deadline for newsletter distribution updates/changes is March 30, 2013 after which time, we will email and mail to those of record with valid addresses. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Lethia or Denise.

LIST OF ULTREYAS

Assumption
12:30 pm, 2nd Sunday
Assumption Church

TBD

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

Arnie Rauch
301-498-8806
Theresa
Szkromiuk
267-205-4739
Wayne Nostro
wnostro@gmail.com
Kathy Schmitt
kschmitt123@yahoo.com

Bowie-Lanham
7:00pm, 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

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

Sonia Melendez
inishlyn@verizon.net

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

TBD

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

Pearl Baylor
301-894-8405
Rita Robinson
301-297-7769

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

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

St. John the Evangelist
7:00pm, 2nd Sunday
St. John's Church Hall
Forestville, MD
MAUpright@aol.com

MaryAnne Upright
Acting Ultreya
Leader

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
Msgr. Clark Hall (MCH)

Erin & Charles Wiley
301-996-6082

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