



May/June 2009

Fourth Day News

Washington Cursillo Movement

Informing, Enlightening, and Building Community

Ultreya Corner



OLPH CURSILLO AWARENESS DAY MARCH 29, 2009

On March 29th, at the 8:00 am Mass, the Cursillo Community at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church in Anacostia (home of the East of the River Ultreya in the Washington Archdiocese) hosted their second Cursillo Awareness Day. Many cursillistas from Ultreyas across the Archdiocese were in attendance, making the turnout well over forty members.

The members of the East of the River excitedly took this project on when Fr. William Norvell, SSJ, their pastor, and Head Spiritual Director of the Cursillo Movement in the Washington Archdiocese, asked if the Cursillo Community can take a Sunday every couple of months, to process into church together (as various other organizations do), so that the community can know who we are, and what we are about. On the initial awareness day in

January 2009, one of the Ultreya leaders, Jennifer Tilghman, spoke briefly about our movement (internationally, nationally, and in our archdiocese). She shared about the three day experience, and how the tools, group sharing, community support, and fellowship sustain cursillistas in their fourth day.

The Cursillo Awareness Day is another opportunity for the community to share Christ with other brothers and sisters in the faith. On this awareness day, our very own Lay Director, Jacqueline DeMesme-Gray, introduced the Secretariat, which is the leadership team for the Washington Cursillo movement, and witnessed to the parish community about how Cursillo has been a part of her life.

The Awareness Day is another way for our Cursillo community to share in a Eucharistic Celebration and invite others to a more in-depth relationship with Christ. Please consider hosting an Awareness Day at your parish as another way to live the Cursillo Method and build our church. Ultreya! DeColores!

Submitted by Jennifer Tilghman, Ultreya Leader (EOR)

Note: Contact the Secretariat to hold your Cursillo Awareness Day

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Secretariat Corner

HAVE A CHOCOLATE DE-LIGHT-FULL DAY

"It is Finished"

As a very young child, I longed for Easter with all of its earthly trimmings: Easter baskets, Easter eggs, Easter blossoms and, yes, a great big chocolate Easter bunny. On Easter morning, my curls would sway in the air and my bonnet would blow in the wind as I skipped to Mass anxiously waiting our family Easter celebration. A crowd of family members would arrive and line our dinner table. There would be excitement in the air as we join hands and hearts to share in our Easter blessings.

As I grew older, I long for the glories of Easter - to feast on the Risen Christ. While my eyes still light up when one says, chocolate, I now de-light in God's promise of new life. Easter is a season, not just a day. It gives us the opportunity to enter into the mystery of resurrection as a process, not a completed event. While Jesus' resurrection is complete, our share in that rising to "new life" is ongoing.

My sisters and brothers, do your eyes light up when you hear the name of Jesus? When you grab a morsel of de-light from God's joy, do you share that morsel in group reunion. Go, de-light in His presence and rejoice in His love. De-light the eyes of another by sharing the light of His love with a smile, hug, word of encouragement, and yes, even a chocolate bunny.

Together, let us de-light in rising to new life in Cursillo:

- ☪ Contact other cursillistas who have fallen away from Cursillo and ask them to join you at Ultreya.
- ☪ Offer a ride to Ultreya to a cursillista who no longer drives or prefers not to drive in the evening.
- ☪ Ask a cursillista to participate with you at the Palanca Mass and Clausura.
- ☪ Revive a friendship group or Ultreya in your area.
- ☪ Renew your efforts to sponsor a candidate for an upcoming Weekend.

Easter blessings,

Jackie DeMesme-Gray,
Lay Director

Focus Article On a Mission From God

Recently, I had the occasion to watch the first Blues Brothers movie starring John Belushi as Joliet Jake and Dan Ackroyd as Elwood Blues. The plot of the movie is that after Jake gets released from prison, the first place they have to go is to visit the "Penguin," which was their term for the nun (in full habit) who ran the orphanage where they grew up. She explains that the orphanage is about to be sold and the kids turned out because they do not have \$5000 to pay the taxes. Jake and Elwood do not react suitably and are essentially thrown out of the nun's office. But Jake has a conversion experience and they are off on what they characterize as a "Mission from God" to earn the \$5000, pay the back taxes on the orphanage, and keep it from being sold.

We don't often think of our lives like Jake and Elwood do in the movie, which in some ways is good. However, how would it change your life, if you started seeing your life from the perspective of it being on a "Mission from God?"

One of the great things that Cursillo gave me was a sense of the need for Spiritual Direction, which in turn enlightened me to the need for my development of a mission statement for my life. A mission statement to describe what I see as my life's purpose; what my life is about, and which included both my physical and spiritual purpose before God.

When I first started down the path of trying to decide what that mission statement would be, I failed miserably because, as you see, I started this sentence using "I." I couldn't decide my mission statement because God had to give it to me. Through much prayer, my mission statement came to me one morning in a quiet moment after receiving communion. My mission statement is a simple one and one that is Christian to the core. It probably could fit well with a lot of people. In fact, a lot of Cursillistas I have been blessed to get to know conduct themselves in this fashion even if they haven't thought of it in this way.

My mission statement is a true gift from God and is "I am to leave everyone I meet a little better off than they were before our meeting." This is simple in concept,

but requires that I respond to each person I meet according to where they are and not where I think they are. It requires me to listen to them in order to get a feel for what it is that I can do to make their situation a little better than it was before they met me. But my response can be as simple as a smile to a stranger on the street to whom I never have the opportunity to say a word, or it can be as complex as asking folks to contribute to a fund for someone who is in some financial difficulty.

I have noticed a lot of folks I pass on the street smiling at me, and I began to realize that as I incorporated living my mission statement more and more into my own life, that I was beginning to effect people around me, without even putting a lot of thought into it. One reason I believe my mission statement is from God is that it is simple and is relatively easy for me to accomplish even when I do not have a chance to say a word. A smile to a stranger passing by, in God's hands can bestow a measure of peace or joy, even briefly, that leaves that stranger a little better off than they were a moment before.

So what is your mission statement? Are you living your life as though you are on a Mission from God? De Colores!

- Jim Caldwell, Co-Chair, 3-Day Committee
Men's 160th Table of L.I.F.E. – On a Mission from God

Cursillo School of Leaders ***“Relax and Reflect with Jesus”*** **Retreat**

“Immersed in Christ: Buoyed up by the Five Promises of Baptism”

Are you ready to jump in and be immersed in Christ? You can start from anywhere, but you never know where the journey will take you....

As cursillistas, our actions and our lives should make us “witnesses” to Christ's death and resurrection. As cursillistas, we should live in a way to show that we are united in our Risen Christ and that we are His body; and He has “flesh and bones” in us. Just living good lives and keeping the rules will not reveal this. We

must learn to live *divine lives* by acting in response to the Holy Spirit abiding and speaking in our hearts.

Come; learn how to recognize the whisperings of the Holy Spirit in your heart and respond to God more knowingly; Come; immerse yourself in Christ to unite with Him in mind, heart and will in a life of grace that is conscious and aware. Your spiritual journey will be enhanced forever!

Join us at our ***“Relax and Reflect with Jesus”*** retreat and let **Father David Knight**, an internationally renowned Retreat Master, show you the way. You won't regret it. (Use Registration form enclosed or see your Ultreya Leader)

When: Friday, July 24th from 7:00 p.m. to
Sunday, July 26th at 1 p.m.

Where: Our Lady of Mattaponi, Croom, MD
Cost: \$100.00 (includes lodging, food, teachings, fellowship and fun)

Led By: Father David Knight, SJ, author & Internationally Renowned Retreat Master

Hurry... Space is limited and going fast...

*Contact a Cursillo School of Leaders
Co-chair with questions:*

Joyce Davis at jmdavjan98@aol.com or Phyllis
Winston at 202-723-6756

CURSILLO HELPFUL HINTS

Actually, these are friendly reminders, but I thought you would pay more attention if I called them hints!

Starting with the Fall Closing, there will be a slightly different format – there will be no break between the witnessing and the Mass. We will share the Sign of Peace as the Altar is being brought forward and begin Mass immediately following.

No photographs are permitted at the Closing. We need to be respectful of individuals who may find this uncomfortable or disconcerting.

Do NOT bring foods to the Closing that require spoons or forks – snacks should be foods that can be easily picked up to eat– literally finger foods, even desserts!

We'll be sure to remind you of these before the Fall Closings! Thanks!

Ginger Caldwell, Co-Chair
4th Day Committee

“Bubbling with the Holy Spirit” The Cursillo Cookbook



Coming Soon!

Do you have a favorite recipe? The Secretariat is kicking off its **first** fund-raiser and we need you to help make it a success! This will be a fun, collaborative effort by and for our community as we share with others our “favorite recipes” in a Cursillo cookbook.

Start thinking about recipes you'd like to submit - nothing from a cookbook or magazine, please. More information will be coming soon by way of your Ultreya leaders and the Washington Cursillo website. If you have questions or would like to help, e-mail Darah Means-Ross at dcmeansross@verizon.net or Mimi Nostro at mimi.nostro@gmail.com.

The Reluctant Dragon

- A reflection by Dorie Ranaghan

I began my Fourth Day in May of 1973. I was one of the reluctant dragons – saw no point in going, had a houseful of kids, and a busy job working at Assumption Church. I was finally challenged into attending Cursillo by a question from a friend, “Do you want to miss the opportunity for an Encounter with Christ?”

Obviously, since I am still active in Cursillo after 36 years, I did have a life-changing Encounter. After my weekend, I sent copies of this poem from a long-forgotten source, to express how I recognized myself.

Maybe as you read this, you will recognize some call you are receiving from the Lord and are reluctant to accept.

And the Lord said, "Go!"

And I said, "Who, me?"

And He said, "Yes, you."

And I said-

“But I'm not ready yet

And there's company coming

And I can't leave the kids.

You know there's no one to take my place."

And He said, "You're stalling."

Again, the Lord said, "GO!"

And I said, "But I don't want to."

And He said, "I didn't ask you if you wanted to."

And I said -

“Listen I'm not that kind of person

To get involved in controversy.

Besides, my family won't like it.

And what will the neighbors think?"

And He said, "Baloney!"

And yet a third time the Lord said, "GO!"

And I said, "Do I have to?"

And He said, "Do you love me?"

And I said -

“Look, I'm scared

People are going to hate me

And maybe cut me up in little pieces.

I can't take it all by myself.”

And He said, "Where do you think I'll be."

And the Lord said, "GO!!

And I sighed

“Here am I. Send me.”



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 9 (9am–Noon) Ultreya Leaders Workshop

St. John the Evangelist Church, Clinton, MD

All are welcome – current Ultreya leaders and

any interested Cursillistas. Contact a 4th Day

Committee Co-Chair: Stefan Abresch at 301-

220-1373 (sgabresch@aol.com) or Ginger

Caldwell at 410-535-1041 (goingsouth@olg.com)

May 20 (7-9 pm) Cursillo School of Leaders

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 2020 St. Joseph

Dr., Largo, MD. Divine Chaplet of Mercy at 6:30.

July 24 (7:00pm) to Sunday, July 26 (1:00 pm)

“Relax and Reflect with Jesus” Retreat at Our

Lady of Mattaponi, Croom, MD. Contact a CSOL

Co-Chair: Joyce Davis at jmdavjan98@aol.com

or Phyllis Winston at 202-723-6756

ARISE Cursillista!

- Easter Challenge by Pat Wells

Not knowing what issue this might appear in...let me set the stage. I am writing this on Tuesday of Resurrection week. He LIVES! I have just finished reading an article in the Word Among Us entitled, "To the ends of the Earth". In it, the author explains how the Holy Spirit inspires the Church from it's inception, through the current time... to spread the good news. He calls these interventions of the Spirit "waves". I was studying along (it was very interesting), but patiently waiting for him to get to the 20th Century.

When he does, this is what he said. "Like those of the past, this current wave of the spirit brought people closer to the Lord and resulted in countless conversions. But unlike previous waves, this wave is made up mostly of lay people, everyday, untrained lay people who have experienced a new personal understanding of the Easter miracle. Movements such as CURSILLO, etc., etc. emerged". That's me. That's you. That's us. IT'S IN WRITING IN A NATIONAL PUBLICATION (SMILE)!

I immediately thought about a conversation that I had with a man passing in front of my Church on Good Friday. We recognized each other and struck up a conversation after I invited him in. "The Bible is nothing but stories," he said. "It is the word of God," I replied. "Jesus couldn't have been nailed to the cross. His skin would have been torn and the nails wouldn't have held," he said. "Are you saying you don't believe in the crucifixion," I asked. "Black priests have been crucified in DC for years," he responds. I say to myself, "Oh Lord HELP ME." Out loud I say, "The Church is not perfect" but "whether Jesus was nailed or glued to the Cross, the important thing is that He did it; and if you had been the only person on earth, he would have done it just for you." "But that was in the past," this guy says to me "and this is now." I tell him "Christ's death and Resurrection mean everything to the world regardless of what century you live in. Without it he could not hope to go to heaven." I invite him back to our solemn service at 7:30 to end the conversation. To which he replied "You mean you are coming back later?" and looks at me like I am crazy.

To say I felt inadequate is to put it mildly. Especially, when on Easter Sunday the priest's homily so beautifully replied to all this guy's remarks.

I think about my co-worker. A single Mom with a 12 year old, both un-churched. I have been trying for 3 years to get her to a church – any Christian Church. I have tried jokes, sarcasm, seriousness, teaching, common sense and everything. So far to no avail. I think about my Godchild, who resists regular attendance at any Church and no longer claims Catholicism. Sometimes, my efforts at evangelizing seem fruitless to me. But during Lent I read somewhere that sometimes that's the way it is. While we may only throw a brick onto the structure, we ARE NOT the Master Builder. When I think who the Master Builder is, I just keep on trucking. He has it all under control.

When I share in my group reunion, they point out where I could have done better or where I am being too hard on myself. And, speaking of my group reunion...I think about Joan, who knew death was imminent for a relative and gained his agreement to have the priest come over and administer all the sacraments (including those of initiation) before he left this world. I think about Reton, who was asked by one of the school children, "who 'dat' hanging on that cross around your neck". I think of Karen, who is challenging and praying for her daughter; who is educating her children in the Catholic faith yet actively joining a Baptist church herself.

So arise Cursillistas! We know what we have to do. Let's either get on it, stay on it, or get back to it...whatever point you happen to be in now (I know I flip flop between all three). Let's pray to the Spirit to light in us a **new** fire and to give us a **renewed** love of our **Risen** Lord. Let's remember the promise we all made on our weekends. We know what's expected and I/we need not feel inadequate.

We've got each other; but best of all.... Matthew's gospel tells us what HE said, "AND REMEMBER, I WILL BE WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE!"

LIST OF ULTREYAS

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

Bowie-Lanham **Al Dwyer**
 8:00pm, 2nd Friday **301-341-5076**
St. Edward's, Bowie

Calvert County **Cassie & Joe Garcia**
 7:30pm, 2nd Monday **410-586-1944**
St. John Vianney **Trudy & Joe Mihalcik**
Church Basement **410-586-1674**

Central PG County **Bill Bell**
 7:30 – 3rd Friday **301-437-1920**
St. Joseph's, Largo **Theresa Bowser**
301-390-1310

East of the River **Jennifer Tilghman**
 7:30pm, 4th Friday **301-982-0641**
OLPH **Pearl Baylor**
1st Portable Bldg **301-894-8405**
Rita Robinson
301-297-7769
Jocelyn Dugue
301-982-0641

Forestville **John Geron**
 7:00pm, 2nd Sunday **301-449-6654**
St. John's Church Hall
Clinton, MD

Laurel **Marion Gould**
 7:30pm, 3rd Friday **301-725-1568**
St. Nicholas Church **Brinda Albert**
301-490-9786
Pat Schmidt
301-490-3624
Jean Hannigan
301-776-7496

Montgomery County **Sue Numrich**
 7:30pm, 1st Saturday **301-946-0312**
1733 Metzert Road
Adelphi MD

NE/SE **Phyllis Winston**
 7:30pm, 1st Friday **202-723-6756**
St. Anthony's Chapel **Joseph Bowser**
202-635-3733
Bernadette White

Our Lady **Liz Blake**
Queen of Peace **301-853-3029**
 After 10:30 am Mass,
 3rd Sunday
Room 1 Our Lady
Queen of Peace

St. Teresa of Avila **Kelly & Lamont Baxter**
 7:30pm, 2nd Monday **301-780 8815**
St. Teresa's Church **Lethia Kelly**
Undercroft **301-464-9438**



He is Risen!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia!!



Onward Christian Soldiers

Having worked as a civilian for the Department of the Army for almost all of my 30 years of Federal service, I have always found that the Army's view towards leadership and their associated values are admirable and easily parallel those fostered by Cursillo and other Christian communities. So let me try to show you what I mean using Army's favorite tool – acronyms!

A true Army leader professes and lives Army Values -- **Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage (LDRSHIP)**. Broken down further, we define them as follows:

L = bears true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, unit, and other soldiers;

D = fulfills obligations;

R = treats others as they should be treated;

SS = puts the welfare of the nation, Army, & subordinates before his/her own;

H = lives up to Army values;

I = does what's right legally and morally; and,

PC = faces fear, danger and adversity.

As a Cursillo or Christian leader, we live those same values with the following meanings:

L = bears true faith and allegiance to God and others

D = fulfills Baptismal obligations

R = Do unto others as you would have them do unto you

SS = puts the welfare of those in need before his/her own

H = lives up to Christian values

I = does what's right (i.e., what would Jesus do?), and

PC = faces fear, persecution, and ridicule.

In addition, I profess that there is another word, perseverance, which applies and is essential to both. Again, as an acronym, it becomes for the Soldier -- **People Ensuring Readiness, Securing Environments, Valuing Enduring Relationships, And Needing Courage** (in) **Everything**.

For the Cursillista it is **People Evangelizing Real Situations, Elevating Values, Encouraging Relationships, And Needing Christ** (in) **Everything**.

So, what's my point? We are all Christian Soldiers on the battlefield of a messed up world; and we are needed within **ALL** of our environments (military, civilian, work, church, etc.). We must persevere to foster an awesome witness to the world that God is alive and dwelling among us. We must believe that through the power of the Holy Spirit, we will meet the challenges we face along the way, so that we will one day become the one, holy, and apostolic church! Alleluia! Ultreya!

- Marla-Jo Bonuccelli, 46th Women's Cursillo



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

July/August Issue submissions are due **by 6 June 2009**.

Special thanks to Burma Hill, Assistant Editor/Formatter, and overall Girl Friday!!

New Website Coming Soon!!

Our New and Improved Website is almost up and running!

Special thanks to Darah Means (formatter and designer) and Tom Arnold (web manager). The new website is –

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

Check It Out!!!!

Cursillo School of Leaders

"Relax and Reflect" with our Dynamic Retreat Master, Fr. David Knight
July 24-26, 2009 Our Lady of Mattaponi, Croom, Maryland 20772 (301-952-9074)

"Immersed in Christ: Buoyed up by the Five Promises of Baptism"

Retreat Cost - \$100.00 (includes lodging, food, fellowship, teaching, reflection and fun)

NAME: _____

SEX: Male _____ Female _____ TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Are you a Catholic? _____ If yes, Parish _____

Are you a Cursillista? _____ If yes, Weekend made _____

Special Needs _____

Come join us for a Spirit-filled Weekend of Reflection, Relaxation, Reconciliation and Song along the rolling plains, woodlands and grassy fields of *Our Lady of Mattaponi* - a beautiful, peaceful retreat center. Located at 11000 Mattaponi Rd. in Upper Marlboro, MD, the Center is situated on 30 acres, with a four-acre lake amidst breathtaking scenery. It nurtures a relaxing and spiritually uplifting experience for all.

- + \$100 includes lodging and all meals from Friday at 7:00 p.m. (snacks) to Sunday at 1:00 p.m. Also included - an outdoor swimming pool, volleyball, basketball and chapel.
- + "First-come, first-blessed" basis - Maximum of fifty persons.
- + Full payment required at time of registration. Registrations accepted until all spaces are filled. Submit completed form(s) and full payment to your Ultreya Leader or Joyce Davis at: 6508 Hansford Street, Forestville, MD 20747
- + Make checks payable to: Washington Cursillo Movement
- + Five cottages with bunk beds: two for men; three for women
- + Meals provided: Friday (arrive at 7:00 p.m., snacks only); Saturday (full breakfast, lunch and dinner, with snacks throughout the day); Sunday (full breakfast)
- + Bring your own "single" bed linens, toiletries (soap, towels) and snacks to share
- + Cottages include: Bible for use in cottage... Bring your favorite Bible verse.
 - ❖ Combined living room-kitchenette with small refrigerator and microwave oven
 - ❖ Sleeps 10; each bed has a pillow and pillow cover (bring a pillow case)

Questions: Contact Joyce Davis at (301) 568-4967 or e-mail: jmdavjan98@aol.com
Or Phyllis Winston at (202) 723-6756

- Make a Friend, Be a Friend, Bring That Friend to Christ -

Directions to Our Lady of Mattaponi Retreat Center

Cardinal Hickey Overnight Center – 301-952-6835

Manor House Day Center Phone – 301-952-9074

From Interstate 95/495 take Pennsylvania Ave. (Route 4) East

From Route 4 East take Route 301 South

On Route 301 South get into the left hand lane after crossing railroad tracks

Turn left onto Croom Station Road

Croom Station Road dead-ends at Croom Road – turn left

Follow Croom Road for 2.5 miles

Turn left onto St. Thomas Church Road – look for Merkle Wildlife Refuge (sign just before St. Thomas Church Road)

Travel .9 of a mile

Turn right onto Mattaponi Road

Travel .4 of a mile

Turn left into Our Lady of Mattaponi Retreat Center

From the South take Route 5/301 North

Bear Right onto 301 North

Turn right onto Croom Road

Follow Croom Road for about 5 miles

Turn left onto St. Thomas Church Road – look for Merkle Wildlife Refuge (sign just before St. Thomas Church Road)

Travel .9 of a mile

Turn right onto Mattaponi Road

Travel .4 of a mile

Turn left into Our Lady of Mattaponi Retreat Center

Overnight guests – follow the drive deep into the property. Pass two barns on the left and follow road to a parking lot. Buildings are in a circle with the main building opposite the parking lot. Fire code allows you to park in front of cabins to unload only. Then you must move cars to the parking lot.

Day guests – Once on the property, follow the road to the large Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. Turn left and go up the hill. Turn left into the grass parking area. The Manor House may be entered through the porch. Fire code prohibits parking along the roadway and verge.