



May - June 2010

Fourth Day News

Washington Cursillo Movement

Informing, Enlightening, and Building Community

Secretariat Corner

AN ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST

Our three day Cursillo Weekend is designed in such a way, that the candidates might have encounters with Jesus, self, and others. This is precisely what ten Secretariat members experienced during the Region II Spring Encounter at the John Paul II Retreat Center in Vineland, New Jersey.

We encountered Jesus in Mass and communal prayer, first in an intimate little chapel, full of love, then in a quaint, Spirit-filled church, which was opened just for us. Christ came to us in a powerful way at Sunday Mass, as witnessed to in a message from our new Regional Director, Michael Ciccocioppo to our Lay Director, Jackie DeMesme-Gray:

"... Thanks to you and your members for being there with all your Spirit, enthusiasm and talent! When the Gospel singing spontaneously broke out after Communion on Sunday morning, I had my closest moment to Christ! It was so sweet and beautiful. I could see His radiant smile beaming down on us all!"

From the beginning, Regional Spiritual Director, Father Andre Meluskey, guided us into an encounter with self, by proposing the soul-searching question, "Who are the gods in your life?" Fr. Meluskey challenged us to think about who, or what presents obstacles which keep us from surrendering fully to God's will. He urged us to reflect upon the list we made after the Ideal Talk on our weekend in answer to the questions about how we spend/use our money, time, and talents. Has the list changed? Is that change positive, or negative? We must all remain open to self examination.

Sue Wenzlick, Lay Director of the Philadelphia Movement, helped us to take a fresh look at our encounter with others in her talk on *palanca*. Sue focused on the fourth day community, reminding us that we are called to be "levers" for one another. She said that as part of our fourth day mission, we are to reach out not only to potential candidates, but also to our brother and sister Cursillistas. We must keep the prayer line going for all Cursillistas, active or inactive, because we never know when something we say or do could foster recommitment.

In the Regional Secretariat meeting, the four language groups (English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Korean) shared their strengths and challenges. Not surprisingly, many of our movements are facing the same issues, such as attracting younger candidates, and keeping our Ultreyas strong. The warmth and openness of our Regional Director allowed for the free flow of ideas, as we explored and discussed strategies to grow the Cursillo Movement.

Although a few of the Washington delegation had attended other Regional Encounters, for most, this was their first. We all agreed, however, that this had to be the most **POWERful** Encounter ever! There was a record seventy-five Cursillistas from five states and the District of Columbia coming together for the mission of evangelization.



The Happy Attendees



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So what is next? The Fall Encounter will be held at the John Paul II Retreat Center, Vineland, New Jersey, October 8-10, 2010. The cost is only \$100, which covers lodging and meals. The encounter is open to all, and affords a true "De Colores" opportunity for Cursillistas from all language groups and cultures to come together as one. It is this kind of coming together of his people that makes Jesus smile!

De Colores!

*Ann Batiste
Washington Secretariat*

Reflections – Region 2 Spring Encounter

The weekend started with Sandy and me picking up four passengers at St. Joseph's Church in Largo. Before we began our journey north we all formed a circle and prayed for a safe and uneventful trip. I wasn't looking forward to a four-hour trip stuck in a car with five women. As I drove north it became evident to me that these five women were truly very spiritual and that they were a gift from the Holy Spirit. Talking and listening to them made a four-hour drive go by quickly. Thank you Lord for sending me **five angels** to accompany me on a trip that I'll never forget. -- George Sullivan

We had a fantastic Priest, Father Andre Meluskey. After two minutes with him, you felt as if you knew him a lifetime. Two things father said that I brought home: 1) People are not volunteers, they are living out their Baptismal Response. 2) The U.S. is not a Mixing Bowl; we are a Salad Bowl. We each have something unique to bring to the table. -- Sandy Sullivan

It never ceases to amaze me how present the Spirit of God is whenever two or more gather in His name. So you can only imagine the love and joy experienced when 75 Cursillistas come together in one place – a true encounter, a true blessing!

-- Marla-Jo Bonuccelli

Focus Articles – From the Community

Are Group Reunions an Obstacle to Faith?

It has occurred to me that many of us are getting older – we in the Cursillo movement in Washington. I've been a Cursillista for almost thirty years. A lot of you guys a lot longer.

But I'm not talking about years, I'm talking about spirit. I've been asked to be the coordinator for the next men's Cursillo, something I've been able to skip past over the years; and thought I might be able to sneak off to Heaven before I was asked. The Lord had other plans. Ugh. How can you say no to Him? So I said yes.

But in studying what has happened to some of us over the years I wonder if we have become entrenched in our groups. And maybe they have become rote, saying the same old things for piety, study, action. I hear people saying – and I'm not exempting myself – I don't want to sponsor anyone anymore. I've already done that; it's someone else's turn. My group is closed.

Is that what the Holy Spirit is telling us?

Or is She saying open the windows? Open the windows of your soul, your group reunion, your Ultreya. Time to let the Spirit blow in from whence know not, fill the room with exuberance, and move on to where we do not know. Remember our excitement and determination when we stood at the podium and answered those faith-filled questions: How have I encountered the Lord this weekend? What do I intend to do about it? Our fifth day has not yet arrived.

I'm not asking you to give up your group reunions. No way. I'm asking for your help to fill the men's weekend this fall, and the women's weekends this fall and next spring – to bring to our Savior a harvest of souls. And when the weekend is over, to start a

new group, a second group, to get our new brothers and sisters started out on the journey that has held us in good stead, and perhaps it will renew our spirit.

Our Father, Brother, Teacher is still here, not giving up on us.

How have I encountered the Lord this weekend?

What do I intend to do about it?

*Pete Abresch, Coordinator
Upcoming Men's 203rd*

A STORY WORTH TELLING

A few Fridays ago, I went to Ultreya. I expected nothing new, nothing out of the ordinary, and nothing special. Was I wrong! Here is the story. When we broke up into our floating group reunions; I noticed that a new young man was in my group. He was Mexican and very young. 21 as it turned out. As we began sharing Piety, Study and Action, Fidel, with a big smile he also shared his story.

He told us that he didn't go to Church much anymore; because he was working many part time jobs to support himself and his baby brother who was here in this country with him. For this reason he was happy to be among us; people who spoke about God. He explained that recently he had found out his girlfriend was cheating on him. He said he had a very bad temper but for some reason (God) he was able to contain it and the confrontation was mainly verbal arguing.

Fidel told us that he tries to do the right thing...not because he expects something back but because he does believe that "what goes around comes around". Trying to do the right thing is what brought him to us that night.

He was on the subway going to his girlfriend's house when he encountered Patrice. Now Patrice could be a whole other

article and you will see what I mean in a minute. For those who don't know Patrice, she is in our Ultreya and legally blind. Normally she has Metro Access bring her to and pick her up from Ultreya because she is legally blind. She is a living example of what Fortitude is.

This night she found herself on the subway trying to get to Ultreya. She lives in Gaithersburg. NE/SE Ultreya meets in NE Washington. She fills me with awe in her dedication. Her spirit is a reminder to me of how important Ultreya is to my continued conversion regardless of how routine it may sometimes seem. Bravo Ultreya and bravo Patrice!

Anyway, this night God put Patrice and Fidel together. Fidel watched Patrice try to get off the subway and saw that she could hardly even get out the door. He started to help her (if you aren't getting chills now, something is wrong). First he helped her out the door of the train. Then he decided to help her up out of the subway. Once outside and finding out where she was trying to get to...he decided to walk her the 3 blocks to St. Anthony's. And that is how Fidel came to be among us that Friday night. Fidel smiled the entire night he was with us.

Pause here and reflect if you like (this is the most powerful witness I have seen in a long time).

If our Brother Jesus didn't bring these two together...I don't know who did. They needed each other – both for different reasons. One was to overcome a physical challenge. Patrice was determined that nothing was going to keep her from getting her blessing and being a blessing at Ultreya. The other was in need of Spiritual help and by changing his plans and putting himself out there to help another...he found it among us.

God IS good all of the time. And sometimes that goodness is revealed to us so plainly that we can only say thank you, Lord and shake our heads in awe and wonder.

Ultreya....ordinary, routine, sometimes not worth the effort to go when I (we) are tired or whatever???? I THINK NOT! Stay home if you want; but you never know when you might miss a MIRACLE LIKE THE ONE I WITNESSED AT MY ULTREYA.

OUR GOD REIGNS!

Patricia Wells, NE/SE Ultreya

St. Martin of Tours Church establishes a Group Reunion

We would like to announce to the Cursillo Community of the Archdiocese of Washington, the formation of a new Group Reunion at St Martin's Church in Washington DC. As the number of new Cursillistas has grown at the Church, and with the discovery of older Cursillistas who had lost touch with the community, it was decided that a Group Reunion located at our church might benefit all concerned. The reunions will be held once a month in the Church Community Room between the 9:00 am and 12:15 pm Masses, making it more convenient for those who are not able to attend the monthly Ultreya. The date of this first meeting was Sunday April 11, 2010.

We had 12 persons (including myself) in attendance. I have contact sheets on each of them, which will be submitted to the Secretariat to be added to the database.

Three Cursillistas were returning to the community. They are Mr. Gilbert Fenwick, Mrs. Lizette Rouse-Benefield, and Cyndy Taylor-Wolfe who made her weekend as a member of the Episcopal Church.

In addition to myself, the other four active Cursillistas in attendance were Ms. Christine Wilson, Mr. Darwin Kemp, Mrs. Florence Turner, and Deacon Robert "Bobby" White.

We also had one candidate, Ms. Angele White, who is registered for the next Woman's weekend; two potential candidates who expressed the desire to make a

weekend later this year – Ms. Cheryl Reynolds and Mr. Mark Wolfe; and one interested person who was quite impressed with our meeting, Ms. Carrie Diggs.

The reunion opened with song and prayer; and we then read the many palanca messages received from you in the community. We thank each of you who expressed your support and prayer. You cannot begin to understand how touched those in attendance were that you so warmly and prayerfully welcomed them into the community. We then expressed to them what the hopes were for this new ministry at our Church – having the opportunity to meet, group and give witness with their fellow Cursillistas, as they continue to live their fourth day.

They were reminded of the importance of a community that will allow them to practice their piety, study and action while knowing that they are not alone. Our closing prayer was a "Prayer For Evangelization" and we ended the hour-long meeting singing De Colores. One participant expressed how she had not heard that song in such a long time, but she really appreciated the opportunity to hear it and sing it again after so many years.

This is a new beginning for us at St. Martin's. We are starting out by bringing our returning cursillistas together in small community – the one closest to their homes. But with time and prayer, we hope they will soon be ready to reach out and become part of the larger community of Cursillistas, which includes each of you.

All are already looking forward to the next meeting in which we will begin the group process. From the reactions of those in attendance and those unable to attend we are expecting more for the next meeting.

If any of you are ever in the neighborhood and would like to join us for Mass and/or our Reunion, please contact me for the next meeting date and time. We would love to have you join us.

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. 1 John 1:3

De Colores! James Brightful, NE/SE

Cursillo School of Leaders

Speak, Your Servants Are Listening!

It's time to **SPEAK OUT** as a member of the Washington Cursillo Community!! And the **Open Forum** is back to help you do that.

So what is the Open Forum? It is an interactive opportunity to discuss your thoughts, ideas and constructive suggestions for the growth of the Washington Cursillo Movement. It is the place to voice your concerns, issues, and compliments; and to come and meet with your Secretariat members. It is a place of sharing, caring and understanding where we are as a Movement and where we are heading. It is **YOUR VOICE**. So come out and be heard.

The Open Forum will be held at **St. Joseph Catholic Church**, 2020 St. Joseph Drive, Largo, MD, on **Wednesday, June 16th, from 7-9 pm**. Please come. We need your input. And we promise we will listen and address any areas that need to be addressed or clarified. We want to hear from you! Don't disappoint us! See you on the 16th!

Also... Don't forget to mark your calendars now for our **Relax and Reflect Weekend** scheduled for **August 27, 28 and 29, 2010**. This year we will be hosting our retreat at the Holy Trinity Spiritual Center, 8400 Park Heights Avenue, in Baltimore, MD. Details about reservations and the agenda will be forthcoming. General information and a "peek" at the accommodations can be found at www.trinitarians.org.

We look forward to time spent on the journey with you!!!

Phyllis Winston & Joyce Davis
Co-chairs, CSOL

FINANCIAL REPORT

Only a Few Cookbooks Left

Bubblin' With the Holy Spirit Cookbooks are still available for sale. There are only a few left, so hurry to get your copy! The cookbook sells for \$15.00 and mail orders (\$15.00 plus postage) can now be processed.

To purchase a cookbook, please contact George & Sandy Sullivan at 410-586-0624, or Gwen Sutton at 202-829-3451 or e-mail gysmouse@verizon.net. We look forward to your calls and e-mail requests.

Lastly, I am always looking for suggestions for future fundraising ideas, which will continue to provide financial support to the Washington Cursillo Movement. So, please send me your ideas, thoughts, and suggestions at **any** time using the contact information above.

Gwen Sutton
Finance Officer



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 Metzerott Road
Adelphi MD

Joe O'Leary
301-229-2026

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

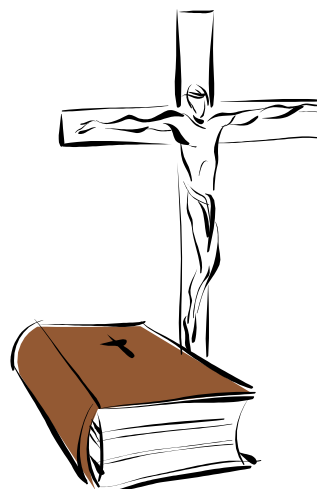
Phyllis Winston
202-723-6756
Joseph Bowser
202-635-3733
Bernadette White
202-269-0710

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
Christ to the
World!



Lord of Love

Lord God,
Master of the Stars,
Rider of the Wind
and Fire in the Night.
How lucky I am to call You
Father,
Brother Jesus,
Teacher Spirit,
to shout thank you's
for Your love for me,
higher than the stars
above the grass of the fields,
from when there was no was,
to when there will be no be.

Peter E. Abresch
April 14, 2010



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!! Articles should be submitted in **Arial** Font, **12** Font Size no later than the submission date below for the following issue.

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

July-August Issue submissions
are due **by 25 June 2010**.

Website News!!

Our New and Improved Website is up and running; **but** it is still a work in progress! So please 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 Washington Cursillo Movement website is –
<http://www.washdc-cursillo.org/>

Check It Out!!
Be Patient With Our Slow Progress!!
Give us your feedback!!