



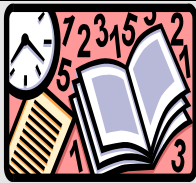
MAY - JUNE 2013

Fourth Day News

Washington Cursillo Movement

Informing, Enlightening, and Building Community

Secretariat Corner



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"Going On"

"To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven..." Ecclesiastes 3:1

I love the changes that the seasons bring, each with its own treasure like the different stages of life. I've been reflecting recently on what it means to be getting older as I move forward in my 4th day. What changes have I noticed and how do these changes affect my spiritual journey? A change in environments, a lapse of memory, an occasional pain, a significant loss, all these remind me that I'm moving into a different stage of life, a new season, and yet one that still comes with new hope and new beginnings, like the season of spring.

Piety, study and evangelization continue to guide me in my 4th day. I still count on my spiritual director, my Group Reunions, and my Ultreya community for support, inspiration, and companionship, even more so in this new season. I definitely spend more time with the Lord in prayer.



As always, I like to begin each day reading scripture and reflecting on it. More often, however, I find myself seeking extra moments of silence throughout the day, just to be with God, to listen and feel His loving Presence.

What a gift to have the time just to 'be' in this communion of love. I've read about Contemplative Prayer, how it calls for silence and openness, and I want to learn more. I've even tried to integrate it (as I understand it now) into my prayer life, but more often than not, I've been challenged by distractions and busy-ness. Maybe this is the season to begin. Silence invites Presence and I am more open to it.

Feeling comfortable in silence has been a challenge, not only in prayer, but in life situations.

When my sister was seriously ill and didn't have the energy or spirit to talk, I'd get so upset by the silence during visits. I felt the need to fill that silence with cheerful chit-chat! But, I have learned that 'presence' is all that is needed now. By 'presence' I mean being totally with another, in God's love, with no agenda and no expectations. Finding peace in silence took time. It called for change. It meant surrendering my own concerns and worries and allowing God to work through me.

This has afforded me great joy in what I do now, not only as a caring sister, but as a companion to the dying and as a Hospice patient volunteer. Through experience and the Grace of God, I've learned the giftedness of silence. It's all in 'being', not 'doing'. It's evangelizing without words. Presence is a grace-filled gift both to me and to the person who is transitioning from this life to eternal life. It's also a gift to the seniors at an assisted-living residence our parish serves. They're so happy when a group of us brings communion and God's Word to them each week. We're gifted, too, by their gratitude, their life stories, and their acceptance of the changes in their lives.

Environments change for each of us, in every season. In my life one environment remains constant - my family. It's such a joy to be a grandparent and to share my love of Jesus with my seven beautiful grandchildren. My family welcomes my being a vital part of their children's lives and so I feel comfortable talking to them about my faith and what I'm doing. There was a season in my life when I hesitated to share my spiritual journey with my adult children. But now I'm comfortable with who I am and with my relationship with God. This frees me to be more open. Aging is freeing for me. I feel free to share the excitement of what I'm learning about my faith through the study of Hebrew Scripture. I feel free to discuss more sensitive topics, like death. I feel free to express my love of God and them!

God, the Source of all love, calls each of us to seek and find Him in prayer, in our relationships, and in our actions. I'm grateful for the season of life I'm now in for I find myself being able to live more fully in the awareness of God and His abiding love. God's Presence invites presence. So, I understand how God wants me to live my 4th day.

Judy Kelly, Co-Chair
4th Day Committee

"Spirit of the living God, be with me in this season of my life that I might see God in all His creation and reveal Christ's Presence to all those I meet."



"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.

**On May 17, 2013, Laurel Ultreya hosted a "Hop".
Our next stop will be:**

**Friday June 28, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.
East of the River Ultreya
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church
1600 Morris Road SE
Washington, DC 20020**

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!

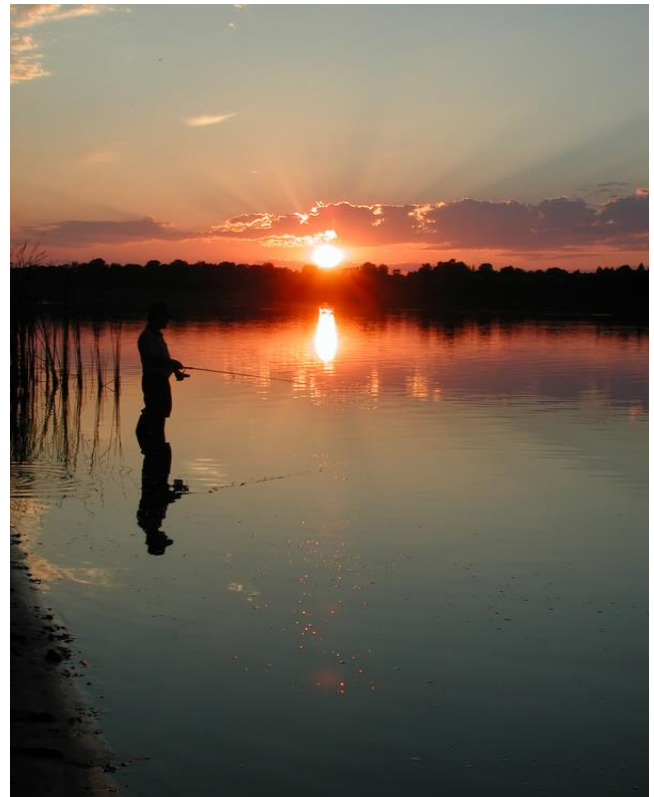
De Colores!

Paul Washington & LaVerne Attiba
Co-Lay Directors

A REFLECTION

"For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead." (Jn. 20:1-9)

When one reflects on the text above, one must recall those moments when the scriptures appeared in a language that was enigmatic to them. I know for myself that there are passages in the Holy Bible that still force me to wonder like Marvin Gaye, "What's going on?" For instance, the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection told in the scriptures is hard to understand. It's no wonder the priest always ask the community to recall the mystery of Christ and we respond "Christ has died, Christ has risen, he will come again." Think about what must have been going through Peter's mind when he arrived at the tomb and the body of Jesus was taken. If I was there, I think that because of the "unknowing" I would do like the disciples and lock myself up in the Upper Room as well. Here are some thoughts for today!



- When was the last time you read a scripture verse and was puzzled?
- Has the Holy Spirit visited you recently causing you to ponder on the mystery of our faith that Christ has died, Christ is risen?
- Maybe there is a critical question that lives in you that you need answers, where will you go to have a dialogue about your personal journey and discover spiritual direction?
- Or maybe when you encounter those difficult passages, do you use a black marker to cover the passage that calls you to repent?

Before we go any further, let's reflect on the disciples in the Upper Room; remember here that Jesus sent them to the Upper Room so that they could wait for the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, "I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that [I] told you" (Jn. 14:26).

Here we notice that if we don't have the Holy Spirit understanding the scriptures will be mission impossible.

SECRETARIAT **SPIRITUAL ADVISOR** **CORNER**

In the Spirit

I think you really want to understand this point here. If one does not allow the Holy Spirit to work in their lives, they will not be able to discern the mystery of the scriptures. The scriptures are not like a good read of "Gone with the Wind" or "Romeo and Juliet." No, the scriptures are the inspired Word of God, "all scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16). Now I ask you, "When was the last time a book like "Gone with the Wind" or "Romeo and Juliet" was used for training in righteousness? Hmm! Exactly, no book has been and will never be printed that is more Holy and Sacred as the Bible.

Therefore, as you live the Easter joy in your life, as you walk by faith and not by sight with the Holy Spirit, trust in the Lord with all your might, your soul and your heart, for the Holy Spirit is there to open the door for your understanding. St. Paul said, "the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness..." (Rom. 8:26). Wow! In my weakness: when I don't understand God's word or direction in my life, the Holy Spirit will come to my aid.

God is Good, for God did not leave us as orphans, "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you" (Jn. 14:18).

Evangelist Michael Howard
"Eat the Scroll Ministry!"
47th Men's Weekend
St. Teresa of Avila Ultreya



Cursillo uses the word process, ongoing change. Hovering above, within around us is the Holy Spirit. Many things can tend to make us have a static view of Jesus. He's in the Sacraments, he's on the Cross,



he's beautifully portrayed in his life's ministry by famous artists. Yes, we believe Jesus is active in the Sacraments, but our busy lives can crowd in to leave Jesus behind when we leave church, or home (little church). The same

can be true with regard to the Holy Spirit. We have the image of the Dove, the tongues of fire.

One of the sisters, years ago in religion class said, "The Holy Spirit is the forgotten member of the Trinity."

The Charismatic Movement as it moved through the Catholic Church was disturbing. Some thought it diminished the traditional faith in the Sacraments. Others were disturbed in a positive way, receiving dynamic and rich insights into the ongoing activity of God. Yes, God is creator, but creation is ongoing. God is Savior, salvation is continuing conversion. God is animator, the God of the present moment, acting here and now.

Once on a Cursillo Weekend, several women who were active in the Charismatic Movement asked me – "Father, are you charismatic." I was happy that our Cursillo methods had given such evidence of our awareness of the Holy Spirit.

The importance of “witness” in the Cursillo flows from the sharing of the activity of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In the book *The Cross and the Switchblade*, an elderly Pentecostal Preacher tells his grandson, also a preacher, “Always preach Pentecost.” He meant, open your hearers’ lives to the activity of the Holy Spirit. Above all, in Small Group, Ultreya and Spiritual Direction, we give the Holy Spirit opportunity to inspire us. We call it a moment closest to Christ, or to God.”

Our Holy Father, Francis, in asking those in St. Peter’s Square and all of us around the world to pray for him, had us all asking the Holy Spirit to renew the church and the face of the earth.

Amen, Fr. Peter Alliata
Spiritual Advisor

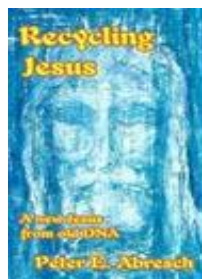
Cursillo® Corner

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.

Celebrate Our Own



Recycling Jesus,
Peter Abresch's 10th
mystery. Stealing
DNA from the
Shroud of Turin
www.sidewalkbooks.com

The premise of *Recycling Jesus* is simple. Steal DNA from the Shroud of Turin, which is supposed to have contained the body of Jesus, and use it to clone a new Jesus. And if you clone one, you can clone a bunch and sell them to billionaires.

So you're saying, it's only the earthly body of Jesus, a look-alike? Maybe not. And anyway for Duncan Crouther it's perception that's important. What's to stop these guys from starting up their own religions with their very own flesh and blood Jesus. If you think we had religious wars in the past, hang onto your testes. Think of it along the lines of *The DaVinci Code*, a mystery wrapped around the church, but with a dash of humor, and a love story as well, between Duncan and a beautiful Italian Carabinieri detective. Written by our own Peter Abresch, please check it out on <http://www.sidewalkbooks.com/>.

***“I will bring about the restoration of my people.”
Amos 9: 14***

Pictorial Directories?

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.

GIFTS FROM CURSILLO



When we made our Cursillo weekends we received many blessings and I am sure each of us could give a whole wonderful list of the blessings we've received through making our Cursillo weekends and through our continued involvement with Cursillo. I know I surely can! Now, yet again, we can add to the list of blessings the upcoming ordination of three Cursillistas as new Permanent Deacons!

For the last several years, Joe Mills (190th), Tom Molineaux (44th) and Jim Caldwell (160th) have been studying to become Permanent Deacons for the Archdiocese of Washington. While the Cardinal has not decided who will be ordained as of yet, and the class of 2013 is awaiting the call, there is a good chance that on June 22nd these three fellow Cursillistas, God willing, may be ordained as permanent deacons at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at 9:30 a.m. If this all happens, they will be joining many others who came before them who discerned a vocation out of their experiences with Cursillo.

If you are not doing anything on June 22nd, please consider coming to celebrate the Mass of Ordination. Remember it starts at 9:30am and there will be many people because it is a large class of potential ordinands, so plan to get there early to allow you to get a seat. The Shrine is expected to be quite full!

Please keep Joe, Tom and Jim in your prayers, along with their 22 other classmates. De Colores!

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***

Alphonse & Dorothy DeMesme

I'm Dorie Ranaghan of St. Nicholas Parish in Laurel, MD. I've been asked by the family to share my little story about this dear man.

Forty years ago, I was Secretary at Assumption Church up the hill in Congress Heights. Fr. Thomas Kane had just been assigned as Pastor for us, after the former pastor had left, telling the Cardinal he should shut the place down.

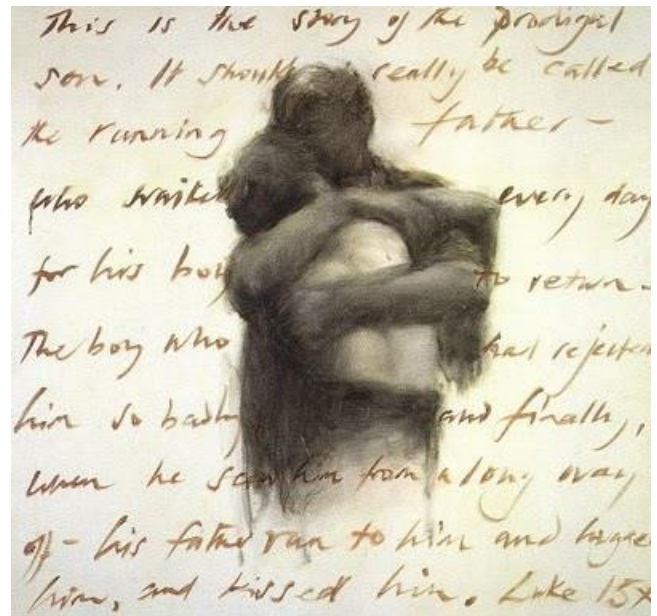
Fr. Kane came up with many ideas to revive us and one of them he brought from his former Parish, St. Nicholas of Laurel. Assumption couldn't afford to heat the church for anything except weekend Masses. So his first Lent with us he started Home Masses on Wednesday evenings. They were wonderful, much like the early Christians gathering in homes before there were even churches.

One of those Wednesdays, Mass was at the home of the DeMesmes. So many people showed up all the seats were taken and folks, especially little folks were lined up against the walls. It was the custom that at the end of Mass, the host and/or hostess would serve refreshments, usually cookies and punch. Well, not the DeMesmes. In that home of southern hospitality, all of us were handed bowls of Jumbalaya, my first experience of that delicious dish.

The whole evening was so full of welcome and light at a dark time in our history, that I never forgot it. Imagine my delight when I began to encounter DeMesmes in Cursillo. I shared with them my glowing memory of that evening in their home when they were just some of the little kids along the walls with my kids. And that's why they asked me to share this with you. It's a treasured memory. I'm sure Alphonse & Dorothy barely remembered their hospitality until I recalled it for them. Then every time we met, we would smile again over that shared experience.

You never know when something you consider a small act of kindness will create such a wonderful time for someone that it resonates for 40 years, as it has for me. May Alphonse and Dorothy be a model for you and for us all. De Colores!

Dorie Ranaghan
10th Women's Weekend
St. Nicholas Ultreya



A Son Returns

"And now my Life Song Sings"

My friend Mike and I have worked together for the past 16 years. In that time I've come to know his family and his have shared many adventures, and misadventures, with him and his son Dereck. We have moved from sharing stories and joking about the job, to sharing our lives and things from simple pleasures, to the major things that are taking place in our lives. Mike is a good person, a great father, and a Catholic. Some of the conversations that we have had have concerned the church. He and Dereck would show up from time to time at St. John Vianney and we'd share first Sunday breakfast together whenever I decided to make the trip down to the country. I saw them for a few times then one day Mike came into the office that we share at work and told me that he had just stopped going. I let him know that I would pray for him and added him to my prayer, trusting that God would always do the rest.

Just before Advent of this year I received a phone call from Dereck asking me to be his God Father. He had been attending RCIA classes since September and him and his Dad had been attending Jesus the Divine Word Parish in Huntingtown, MD. I told Dereck that I would be honored to be his godfather and another life journey began for me.

I attended the Rite of the Elect with Dereck, and his family at the Basilica. I attended the RCIA Scrutiny's with him and after each one he and I encouraged Mike to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Like the Prodigal Son's return to his loving Father, he received the sacrament for the first time in 20 years on Good Friday. At the Easter Vigil Dereck's entire family was in attendance, but when the time for communion came Mike had to take his aging Mother out of the Church.

After Mass Mike let us know what had taken place so I searched for one of the priests so Mike could receive communion. When I found a priest I told him what had happened and he agreed to give Mike Communion.

To be able to witness the joy of this moment, and the true love and emotion shared between Father and Son, Mike and Dereck, and Mike and God, It was the witness of the great feast, not the one where the fatten calf was slaughtered, but the feast when the slaughtered unblemished lamb eh came to give his life in the Eucharist for each one of us.

This is just one journey of life, and we all have shared something similar. Life has become more than just one journey to us, but we have many journeys, each moving us forward and be blessed by the grace of God with moments that allow us to be encouraged to travel on, forever changed. *And now my Life Song Sings.*

Stephan Abresch
Laurel Ultreya

Pre-Cursillo Team is calling all Sponsors and Ultreya Leaders!!!

We are calling on you to let you know that the Pre-Cursillo is the first of three stages of the Cursillo movement. This stage relies primarily on evangelization to achieve its purpose – whose focus is to assist with bringing candidates into the Cursillo. As a part of our mission, we are charged with:

- Studying and selecting environments in need of evangelization. This is done both collectively as a movement, as well as individually.
- Searching out, selecting, and preparing candidates to have maximum evangelical effectiveness.
- Preparing for the Cursillo by preparing and processing applications for a Cursillo, keeping the team and Secretariat informed about the candidate applications, and support sponsors by helping them understand their role and connecting them to that information.
- Making plans with the sponsors to accompany new Cursillistas into the Post-Cursillo and to help them mature in their faith, deepen their Christian commitment, and take their apostolic place in the world.

What then is being asked of you? In order for our brothers and sister to enjoy in the fruits of Cursillo, you the Ultreya leaders and Sponsors are asked to really begin work NOW to seek and prepare new Cursillistas to ready themselves for the upcoming weekends. The upcoming weekends are as follows:

Women's Cursillo Weekend October 10 - 13, 2013	Men's Cursillo Weekend November 7 - 10, 2013
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Please help grow the Cursillo Movement by following the mission of a Cursillo Leader:

“Make a friend, Be a Friend, and Bring your Friend to Christ!”

Charles and Nancy Smallwood, Co-Chairs
Pre-Cursillo Committee

3-DAY CORNER

DeColores to everyone and the 3-Day Committee hopes that everyone had a blessed and wonderful Easter. He is risen!! We also thought that we would give you an update on what the 3-Day Committee is about.

As listed on the Cursillo website the duties of the 3-Day Committee are:

- * Designate the leadership team for the Cursillo weekends.
- * Education Serving Committee in preparing the weekend team leadership for the weekend planning and team formation.
- * Arrange where and when the weekends will be held.
- * Maintain and manage the inventory lists of supplies for the weekends.
- * Be on call during each weekend in case the team has emergency needs.
- * Disseminate information regarding the Weekends and the Cursillo movement.

The 3-Day Committee ideally should be comprised of folks from every Ultreya. Currently Calvert County, NE/SE, Montgomery County, are represented. We really could use help from the other Ultreyas!! As with any group the more folks the lighter the load and more fun is shared. Please let us know if you would like to serve with us. Here is the process as to how the coordinators are chosen for the weekends:

To be eligible to be a coordinator you must first and foremost be practicing the method (being active in group reunion and Ultreya) and have worked at least 4 teams and given at least 3 talks and one meditation or 4 talks. Hopefully the talks have been spread over the 3 days of the weekend. You must also have been an assistant coordinator or shepherd/angel on a core team. Being active in the School of Leaders and other Cursillo events is also taken into account.

If the person meets these criteria the names are listed in order of their longevity in the movement. The list of names of the men and women are submitted to the Secretariat for approval and once approved the candidates each are called in the order of the list. The first one that says yes will be the coordinator.

This process is followed each time the coordinators are chosen. There is a new list developed each time.

One of the great blessings on being part of the 3-Day Committee is the chance to be a liaison with the teams during formation and over the actual weekend. The liaison attends some of the team meetings and is there for support of the coordinator and team as they head for the weekend. They normally attend talk day which really gives you the essence of the "one talk" of the weekend but also to hear where the Spirit is leading the team. During the weekend the liaison also furnishes the food for lunch on Sunday as the kitchen at the Josephite house is closed. The liaison also helps handle any emergency needs that come up during the weekend. After the weekend the liaison attends the learning Ultreya and gathers information to bring back to the committee on how that particular weekend went along with any suggestions on making the subsequent weekends better. It is such a blessing!!

The 3-Day Committee has scheduled their coordinator selection meeting for May 4, 2013 at Brother Richard's home in Adelphi, MD. If you would like to be part of the committee please get in touch with us through the website. We need your help and especially your prayers!!

Nancy & Maury Mattingly, Co-Chairs
3-Day Committee



CSOL Corner

JUNE 19 - 7PM

ST. JOSEPH'S, LARGO

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

DECEMBER 8, 2013

ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION 2013

BROTHER RICHARD'S HOUSE!

23rd National Encounter

July 25-28, 2013

**Hofstra University in Hempstead
New York**

**Registration Fee - \$385.00 to May 31st
\$435.00 per person thereafter!**

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**

COMMUNICATIONS

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

July - August 2013 Issue

**Submissions are due by:
June 17, 2013**

Theme: "You Can't Beat God's Giving"

WHAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT COMMUNICATIONS!!!

Our movement has grown communications and moved into the 21st Century. We have set up a methods to communicate so that information goes to all members directly through email. If your email address changes, please contact us. **All announcements should come through communications so that everyone will be notified.** Please use your communication vehicles, **4th Day News, Hot Topics and Direct Email!** To do so, send your information to our Communication Co-Chairs, Lethia Kelly or Denise Wilson at:

communications@washdc-cursillo.org

**Jack McFadden and Tom Arnold
(Web Managers)
The Washington Cursillo® Movement
website is
<http://www.washdc-cursillo.org>**

LIST OF ULTREYAS

Assumption
12:30 pm, 2nd Sunday
Assumption Church

TBD

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

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

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

MaryAnne Upright
Acting Ultreya
Leader

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

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

Montgomery County
7:30pm, 1st Saturday
Missionaries of the
Most Holy Trinity Home
1733 Metzert Road
Adelphi MD

Sonia Melendez
inishlyn@verizon.net
pfcjai@msn.com

And...

7:30 pm 3rd Friday
St. Paul's Church Hall
9240 Damascus Rd.
Damascus, MD 20872

Steve & Rosemary Reeves
301-391-6580
Cursillo_st.paul@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

TBD

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

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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