



November- December 2009

# Fourth Day News

Washington Cursillo Movement

**Informing, Enlightening, and Building Community**

## Secretariat

### Corner



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### Our Heartfelt Thanks "Sharing the Heart of Thanksgiving"



On behalf of your Secretariat, I thank you, our 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community, for allowing us to serve you this past year. Your love and support encourage us, enrich our lives, and unite our spirits as we each strive to be Christ and share Christ with others.

It has been one-year since God called us to guide this beautiful Washington Movement. We are blessed and humbled by His calling and your willingness to accept us as your Servant Leaders.

I thank our Ultreya Leaders, Coordinators, team members, and committee members who unselfishly give of their time, treasure and talents to help grow our Movement. While we each, as cursillistas, are called to make Cursillo a way of life, these Servant Leaders stepped up one rung further to embrace Cursillo as a ministry of the Catholic Church.

I remain in awe of the love, passion and generosity of spirit that is generated when we gather together to witness the presence of God in our lives. I remain grateful to our priests, deacons, and religious who so generously give of their time and lives to further the Kingdom of God through Cursillo. God has blessed the Washington Cursillo immensely.

My most fervent thanks go to our Heavenly Father for giving us the gift of Cursillo; for Cursillo *changes lives*. It offers us a method to deepen our personal conversion. It changes us from being merely a believer in God to realizing that each of us is a cherished child of the Father, a beloved sister or brother of Jesus Christ, and a temple and partner of the Holy Spirit.

Let us continue to grow as a community of and in Christ by persevering in our sustained sharing, prayer and study through the tools of Cursillo: Spiritual Direction, Group Reunion and Ultreya.

And finally, let us share the *Heart of Thanksgiving* together, by *making a friend, being a friend, and bringing that friend to Christ*. Remember that God is counting on us to build His Kingdom here on earth. May we each use this Advent season to become better messengers of the Word by being His friend and challenging ourselves as a community to step up and sponsor... someone is waiting on you!

God bless, and have a blessed Advent

## Focus Article

### Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Hot Off the Press

Are you looking for a great recipe that has been tried and tested? Are you preparing a large meal during the holidays and would like to try a new main dish? Then the Cursillo Cookbook, "Bubblin With The Spirit", is just what you need. It is full of memorable photos and different recipes from the Washington Cursillo Community that are guaranteed to please the palate.

So... Come one, come all – buy one, two, or more cookbooks to share with family and friends! The cookbook will be a great birthday or Christmas gift. It is reasonably priced at only \$15.00 per cookbook! Make sure you get your copy soon!

The cookbook will be available for sale at the upcoming closings, at the monthly School of Leaders sessions, and possibly at other events. Ultreya leaders will also have copies at their monthly gatherings for your review and to solicit sales.

Remember, for only \$15.00 and it can be yours – **YUMMY, YUMMY!**

**NOTE:** If you pre-ordered a cookbook, would like to purchase cookbooks or want additional information, please contact Gwen Sutton, Secretariat Financial Officer (e-mail [gysmouse@verizon.net](mailto:gysmouse@verizon.net) or phone 202-829-3451) or George and Sandy Sullivan, Secretariat Treasurers (e-mail [george.sullivan@comcast.net](mailto:george.sullivan@comcast.net) or phone 410-586-0624).

**Make that special dish for the holidays... get your Cursillo cookbook now.**



## Cursillo Needs You!!!

### Annual Fundraiser

It is that time of year again. It is time for the annual Fourth Day Newsletter fundraiser. You may ask why we need an annual fundraiser and where the money goes. Well, be assured, it is definitely not being squandered!

The Washington Cursillo Movement has not had a profitable income since we last had the Fed Ex Field concession stand. We continue to incur expenses yearly for the following types of expenses: School of Leaders events; Cursillo book sales; Sunday lunches for the weekends; weekend supplies; Fourth Day Events; printing and postage for the Fourth Day Newsletter; and occasionally paying for individuals who cannot afford to pay to attend the weekends.

Unfortunately, we have more money going out than we have coming in; and output with no input will eventually deplete our current funds. To prevent this from happening, we are asking you to be as generous as possible to help build up our current funds. We are not asking for a specific amount because **every dollar will help.**

An envelope has been enclosed in this issue of the Fourth Day News for your convenience in sending your contribution. Keep in mind, that even though this is our annual fundraiser, contributions are **ALWAYS** welcome and will be accepted throughout the year.

If you did not receive an envelope in your newsletter, you can mail your contribution directly to – **Gwen Sutton, 5727 -5<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington, DC 20011**. Christ's work and the Washington Cursillo Movement are counting on your support !

I thank you in advance for your generosity. May God bless you abundantly for your prayers and donations.

De Colores,

Gwen Sutton, Finance Officer

## **Fed-Ex Field Opportunity**

**We need you! We need you, desperately!**

The Washington Cursillo Movement is currently gathering information concerning working a concession stand at Fed-Ex Field for the 2010-2011 season. This promises to be a great opportunity to raise money for our movement, and will be a memorable experience and an excellent tool to evangelize our environments. A typical day consists of an 8-hour workload.

If we decide to have a concession stand, all interested volunteers are required to take a training class in order to work. We need 30 volunteers for each event; and will need many more volunteers trained so that we can rotate people for each event. This will be a serious commitment and undertaking.

If we do not get enough Cursillistas to volunteer (we are looking for 75-100) then the idea will have to be scrapped. So, please pray about it and consider volunteering for at least one event. We cannot do it without you!!

For more information or to sign up to volunteer, contact George Sullivan at [george.sullivan@comcast.net](mailto:george.sullivan@comcast.net) or call 410-586-0624.

## **Cursillo School of Leaders**

### **Calling All Cursillistas!**

Come and see! You are always welcome to join us at our monthly meetings. Since we are all LEADERS in the Movement, Jesus is counting on YOU!

Our sessions are a wonderful opportunity to group with your sisters and brothers from the various Ultreyas. You will definitely be enlightened by a doctrinal presentation based on our study book, *“Whom Shall I Send? Discerning the Will of God,”* by

Father Frank S. Salmani. You will also have the opportunity to hear witness and share insights on this year’s technique theme of Leadership.

*“Whom Shall I Send?”* is an official National Ultreya publication. As Father Salmani states in his Prologue: *“Any community of people will need a retreat for themselves at one time or another. This book addresses two basic questions: (1) What does God want from me right now? (2) Is God calling me to be a Cursillo leader or some other work? Every Christian needs to know what God’s will is for him or her. This book is a process to help discern the Lord’s call. The book does not attempt to tell anyone where they should be or what they should be doing. That is up to the individual. What the book does tell us is what God expects of anyone who commits themselves to him in any way. The specific nature of the call is up to each individual to discern.”*

Cursillo School of Leaders meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 2020 St. Joseph Drive, Largo, MD, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., unless otherwise announced.

One such time is for our Advent Day of Reflection. This year it is scheduled for Sunday, December 6, 2009, at 2 p.m. at the Pastoral center in Hyattsville, MD. The Day of Reflection will take the place of December’s School of Leaders meeting.

We will return to St. Joseph’s for our regular 3<sup>rd</sup>-Wednesday meeting on January 20, 2010.

- Phyllis Winston & Joyce Davis  
Co-Chairs, CSOL



## **Be Accountable: Watch the Company You Keep**

***"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to goodworks:" -- Hebrews 10:24***

Believers are called to think about how to help other believers live right. This not only applies to attending church, but also to being involved in a small group. Believers gather so that they can help one another and be accountable to one another.

I lift weights from time to time, and I've found that it is best to do it when I have a partner. A good partner will not let me skip certain things or slack off, but will force me to go ahead and take an extra set. When I get stuck, a good partner helps me finish what I am doing. In short, a good partner holds me accountable.

James 5:16 says, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed." The word "faults" mean "side slips, transgressions, or sins." Notice that it does not say to confess your faults to your pastor. Your pastor is not the only one you are accountable to. There should be other believers in your life that you are accountable to.

If you're married then your accountability partner should be your spouse. If you are not married, there should be someone of the same gender who can come to you and ask, "How are you doing on this issue?" It should be someone that you will tell the truth to. You don't need to tell everyone your business, but you do need to be accountable to someone who can help you and provoke you to love and good works.

Unbelievers cannot be your hanging buddies. If they are, it will not be long before you are living in sin as they are. You also cannot keep company with those struggling with a sinful area, whether they are an unbeliever or a believer. You might say, "I

can't cut that person off. He's family. She's an old college buddy." But you cannot minister to that person while you are slipping into the very same sin in which he or she is entrapped.

I used to have friends who gossiped about other people. I would be talking with them, and it was not long before they started talking about someone, and I would join in. I soon realized I could not spend my time sinning like that. I had to cut them off for their own good and mine.

You can't say that you can never be around unbelievers, because if that were the case, you would have to leave the planet. Unbelievers are not living right, but you cannot reach them with that attitude. You must operate in love. But keep in mind that you must maintain boundaries. God sets these boundaries because He wants His best for your life, and does not want you to go through things that you do not have to go through.

So, be accountable and watch the company you keep!

La'Mont J Baxter  
Chair - Pastoral Parish Council  
St. Teresa of Avila Parish

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## **ULTREYA LEADERS CORNER**



**Cursillo Awareness Grows On!**

**How it Came to Be:** It all started on May 9, 2009 at an Ultreya Leaders Meeting held at St. John the Evangelist rectory in Clinton, MD. During the meeting, all praise, honor and glory to God wafted upward like white smoke coming from a Vatican papal selection; and with encouragement from the attendees (to include the enthusiastic sincerity of Ms. Jackie DeMesme Gray, lay director of the Washington Cursillo Movement), the Forestville Ultreya immediately began organizing how to sponsor a Cursillo Awareness Sunday.

We tweaked the name of the event to be “Cursillo Awareness and Affirmation Sunday” and coordinated with St. John’s Pastor, Fr. Tom Pollard. We then went to full throttle in a timeline filled with some heavy duty lifting. A team composed of Cursillistas – Flora Solano (and her computer-savvy daughter Barb), Jerri and Less Evans, Diane Miller and John Geron, combined information listed in the (soon to be updated) 2006 Washington Cursillo directory, Forestville membership lists, and the memory banks of those who were babe chicks many moons ago. We met in various locations - the rectory basement, McDonald’s restaurant, and Shoppers Food Warehouse. Pruning down the lists, we finally agreed on a workable list. Now what to do with it?

The Holy Spirit provided us with an “AHA” moment, and we conducted a telephone blitz, contacting everyone we could possibly reach. But we were dealt a real ace in the hole at the annual Cursillo Relax and Reflect retreat. When announcements were made at the end of the retreat, our Lay Leader Jackie gave an open invitation to everyone of the 60+ retreatants to attend the Awareness Day Mass. This was a blessing!

**The Awareness Sunday:** When the cursillistas began arriving on that bright Sunday morning, we were thrilled, for we had spent some interesting moments during the preceding 75 days of planning asking ourselves, “suppose only a handful show up?” The above picture shows that about 60

people attended, including three who were not in the photograph. Afterward, two men not only made the decision to make a weekend, but their sponsors immediately stepped up. Praise God!

**Lessons Learned:** So what were the lessons and insights? 1) Some attendees affirmed that the phone calls they received “brought them back” after several years of absence; 2) Our work team felt uplifted by God’s presence at every session; and 3) It works! We want to encourage every Ultreya to do this, for in doing so you will give praise, honor and glory to our great God! Guaranteed!

De Colores!

- John Geron, Montgomery County Ultreya

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## LET’S HAVE A QUARTERLY!

**What?** The “Taste of Cursillo” Quarterly

**Hosted by** – NE/SE Ultreya

**When?** Saturday, January 23, 2010  
Following the 5:00 pm Vigil Mass

**Where?** St. Anthony’s Church and Hall  
12<sup>th</sup> Street NE between Monroe  
& Lawrence, Washington, DC  
(Red Line Metro Accessible)

**What we will do for fun** – Eat, Of Course!!

“The Taste of Cursillo” begin with the 5:00 pm Mass at St. Anthony’s Church – our spiritual food.

Following the Mass we will move to Margot Hall for a cook-off of our favorite recipes—many of which may be found in our new “Bubblin’ With The Spirit” – tried and true, latest and greatest Cursillo Cookbook!

There will also be prizes!

**Who’s invited?** Everybody!

## Mark Your Calendars Now!

# 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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

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

**John Geron**  
**301-449-6654**

**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 Metzert 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**  
**Spiritually**  
**Uplifted**



## A Triduum To Look Forward To

*John 1:16 – Out of the fullness of His grace He has blessed us all giving us one blessing after another.*

I believe that Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas form a unique Triduum that we, as cursillistas and Christians, should all embrace. Let me explain.

God has blessed us to see another **THANKSGIVING** Day; and I hope that everyone will have a blessed and happy one. But we must also remember that everyday is Thanksgiving, as we thank God for all He has bestowed on us and our families.

As we move into **ADVENT**, we spend four weeks preparing for the coming of the birth of Jesus Christ. Let us make that preparation extra-prayerful by keeping this prayer in mind:

*Spirit of God, you stir our hearts in this Advent season to awaken us from our spiritual doldrums. You urge us to be alert to the coming of the Lord, whether now or at the end of time. You invite us to embrace our longing for fullness of a life without end. Enlighten our hearts with Your holy wisdom so that we might seek to find You, especially in the needs of the poor. Give us the courage and perseverance to look for the Holy One, who offers more than the world can ever give.  
Amen.*

Last but not least, we embrace the birth of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as we celebrate **CHRISTMAS**. As long as we understand the reason for the season (that is, Jesus Christ), and keep in mind the real meaning of Christmas, we can exchange gifts with a joyful heart when we celebrate with family and friends. But don't forget to give Jesus His gift – and that gift is YOU!!

Have a blessed and holy Triduum!

Happy Thanksgiving, Blessed Advent, and Merry Christmas – and God Bless!

Deacon Ira E. Chase, Sr.  
- Secretariat Spiritual Director



## 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](mailto:mjbfuzz@verizon.net) AND [annbatiste@hotmail.com](mailto:annbatiste@hotmail.com)

**Jan-Feb Issue** submissions are due **by 6 December 2009**.

### New Website Is Up!!

Our New and Improved Website is up and running; **but** it is still a work in progress! So 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 new website is –

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

**Check It Out!!**  
**Give us your feedback!!**