

Cursillo Newsletter

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Weekly Palanca Intentions

Monday: National, Regional, and Diocesan Secretariats
Tuesday: Schools of Leaders
Wednesday: Cursillistas in the United States
Thursday: National Cursillo Movement's Apostolic Actions
Friday: Cursillo Weekends (local and worldwide)
Saturday: OMCC (World Organization of the Cursillo Movement) Executive Committee

Worldwide Palanca

Please remember to offer palanca for Cursillo weekends, occurring throughout the world. The Diocese of St. Augustine sends out Palanca letters every week. The text of these letter states: "The Cursillo community, the Secretariat, Ultreyas, Group Reunions, and the School of Leaders offer our prayers and sacrifices for the success of your Cursillo. Our prayers, daily Mass, Rosaries, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, fasting, and humble sacrifices..."

UPCOMING WEEKENDS

March 4-7, 2010 Men's #102 (English)
March 11-14, 2010 Women's #101 (English)
September 16 – 19, 2010 Men's # 103 (Spanish)
October 21 – 24, 2010 Women's #102 (Spanish)

School of Leaders

The 2010 School of Leaders schedule (including topics) can be found on page 7 of this newsletter.

It was requested that the agenda for our meetings be distributed. The basic agenda for the school can be found on page 64 of the Leaders' Manual (2006) and will be modified as follows:

Jacksonville Ultreya

The next Jacksonville Ultreya is February 12th. We will meet at 7 PM in Holy Family Parish Hall located at 9800 Baymeadows Road, Jacksonville, FL 32256.

Remember to bring a snack or drink to share. Invite a friend or wayward Cursillista! Questions? Contact Dennis Farmer 904-338-7062 or fple@bellsouth.net Ultreya!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH THE REGIONAL ENCOUNTER

We will need volunteers for the upcoming Regional Encounter in October. We will need volunteers for transportation to and from the airport, for food and for hosting Cursillistas in your home. Please call me, Dennis Farmer, at 338-7062.

Sponsors' / Leaders' Workshop

On Saturday, January 30th, the regional service team travelled to St. Patrick's parish on the Northside to deliver a workshop on Cursillo leaders and sponsoring candidates. The event was well attended, with nearly 50 participants.

Our own Pete Lasher and fellow service team member Becky Guenther presented talks on the essence and purpose of Cursillo, leaders' formation and spirituality, who are leaders, and sponsoring a candidate. Thanks to all of those who sacrificed their time and made an effort to be there!



Cake by Susan Farmer

Cursillo As A Movement

Pete Lasher, Regional Coordinator

Our National Cursillo Movement Preamble states, "The Cursillo Movement is a movement of the Catholic Church that by means of its own method makes it possible for people to live what is fundamental for being Christian, and to live it together; it helps people to discover and fulfill their personal vocations, and it promotes the creation of core groups of Christians who leaven their environments with the Gospel."

Again, Cursillo is not an organization, but a movement within the Catholic Church.

There are twelve Cursillo Regions in the United States, each with its own Secretariat. The Lay Directors of each diocese make up a Regional Secretariat. Bill Farnsworth represents the St. Augustine Diocese on the Region VII Secretariat.

Each of the twelve Regions has a Coordinator and these are the National Secretariat members.

The Regional Secretariat meets twice during the year prior to the Spring and Fall Regional Encounters held in various regional locations. In 2010 they will be in the Atlanta Diocese in April and in the St. Augustine Diocese in October.

Each Region has a Regional Service Team consisting of the Regional Coordinator and three other experienced people, all who are responsible for assisting in the dioceses and conducting Cursillo Workshops.

The National Secretariat also meets twice in 2010 preceding the National Encounter in July in Kansas City and in November in Austin, TX. This group selects four people to act in their name between meetings of the National Secretariat. Known as the Executive Committee, its role is to implement previously established policies and act on such matters as arise between National Secretariat meetings.

Current Executive Committee members are:

Eusbio Elizondo-Bishop	Archdiocese of Seattle
Victor Lugo-National Director	Texas
Bill Steiner-Chair	Idaho
Kathy Springeer-Member	Nebraska
Heriberto Lopez-Member	Missouri
Pete Lasher-Member	Florida

We are each called to serve Christ in Cursillo. The more one becomes involved, the more it becomes clear that service and giving up personal importance is a

reality. The beauty of this movement is that it becomes a way of life. Everything emanates from the School of Leaders, and returns to continue the process. Our past Lay Director, Pete Royal, gives that example. When my assignment is over in 2011, I will also return to the School of Leaders to keep learning and serving.

CURSILLO DE CURSILLOS, WHAT IS IT?

Our Cursillo Movement's Leader's Manual (LM) clearly elaborates on the evolution of the Cursillo Movement, which did not begin by accident. It evolved after a series of events. None of these events were focused on the development of a Cursillo Movement, but all of them led to its development. To view each of these events is an opportunity to witness God's handiwork. It will become quite evident that the Cursillo Movement did not just happen – God willed it to be.

The book also declares the great task of building the Kingdom of God is here and now. This task requires audacious and courageous Christians with personality, firm in their convictions and at the same time docile to the guidance of the Holy Spirit; men and women of the century (laity) who leaven their environments with their witness of life, because they are fully convinced that it is more important "to be" than "to do" (LM Prologue).

The country of Spain painfully suffered from the Spanish Civil war from 1936 to 1939, the most calamitous anticlerical persecution in the Christian history, and which was immediately followed by the Second World War. Consequently, on February 6th, 1940 in Rome, Pope Pius XII gave an address and stated, "It is the duty of the parish priests to look at the dual aspect of his parishioners to form a clear and carefully detailed picture... of his community. i.e.: on the one hand the population of the faithful, especially its outstanding members... and on the other hand, the groups that have moved away from the practice of Christian Life. They are the sheep that belong to the parish; lost sheep, and also for these and even for them particularly, you are responsible custodians, my dearest children, and as good pastors you must not dodge any effort or work to find them and win them over again, nor must you indulge in any rest until all of them have found safety, life and joy in the return to the fold." (My Spiritual Testament", p.28-29, by Eduardo Bonnín).

Inspired by the Pope's address, Mr. Eduardo Bonnin started a thorough study of the scenario and atmosphere in the most concrete way: "From all this in 1943, the "Study of the Environment" was born and it was the beginning of the origin of all that came afterwards." ("My Spiritual Testament", p.30, by Eduardo Bonnin).

In order to help Cursillo leaders with an intensive knowledge of the foundational charism, namely the mentality, the essence, the methodology, the strategy and the purpose of our Cursillo Movement, a special weekend called "Cursillo de Cursillos" was developed by Eduardo Bonnin. It is a working three-day weekend highly recommended for willfully committed and dedicated Cursillo leaders, and the current and/or prospective ones. They must know their Movement well in order to love and serve it faithfully and efficiently. This workshop is the replica of the regular Cursillo Three-Day Weekend, with more or less the same format, schedule, and length of time, except that each Rollo is followed by a careful discussion within each 'decuria' or table group.

Sufficient time is also allotted for questions and answers at the end of each rollo. One member is assigned to represent their decuria in sharing the group's reflections, ideas and questions. This format worked very well and everyone grasped the main ideas of each Rollo adequately. Besides increasing their indispensable knowledge of the Cursillo Movement, the Cursillo leaders will have an opportunity during this workshop to make personal contacts, to strengthen and renew their friendship or to make new friends, to share and learn from one another many useful individual living experiences in discipleship and leadership, and in particular, to deepen their ongoing conversion through their encounters with God, with themselves and with others. Similar to the Three-Day Cursillo Weekend, the Cursillo de Cursillos must be a living experience for all Cursillo leaders.

The Cursillo de Cursillos is not unfamiliar with the Spanish-speaking Cursillo leaders, but it is to the English-speaking Cursillo community. The Cursillo de Cursillos was introduced in Spanish in 1966, but unfortunately, was not translated into English at the time. Some English-speaking Cursillo leaders in the United States and Canada had an opportunity to attend the first Cursillo de Cursillos in 2007 which was given in English in Mallorca, Spain. Then in July 2008, another was sponsored by the Canadian National Cursillo Movement in

Waterloo, Canada, with a team of Cursillo leaders who had lived the experience earlier in Mallorca. In late October, and in early December 2009, a Cursillo de Cursillos in English was held in Miami, FL., and in Forth Worth, TX, respectively. These first workshops in English have greatly impressed the participants, whose inspiration has prompted them to wholeheartedly promote the Cursillo de Cursillos within their own community.

In the Editor's Preface of the "Structures of Ideas", one finds the quote, "Dostoevsky says that the worst enemies of a movement are those who become its promoters without understanding it." Moreover, while emphasizing the Cursillo leaders' dire need to learn, Fr. Frank S. Salmani, in his book 'Whom Shall I Send?' has reminded us that one of several conditions recommended for being a leader for Christ in the First Letter of Timothy, is that we must continue to be students of our faith. The priest has given us this warning, "A leader is not a person who says 'I don't need to hear this stuff anymore!'" A leader is always seeking to learn more and delve more deeply into the mystery of Christ. Further, if we believe that the Cursillo is the best method to Christianize the world, we have to know as much about it as possible. A "little" knowledge is a dangerous thing. What we need is ongoing formation" (Ch. 10, p 62 & 63).

The Cursillo de Cursillos helps the Cursillo leaders delve into all spiritual and technical elements of our Movement in light of its charism. A total of 15 Rollos and 5 Meditations are presented. This workshop starts on Thursday evening and concludes on Sunday afternoon, but unlike the regular Three-Day Weekend, it is more relaxing with much free time for rest, for reflection, for personal contact, for spiritual direction, and for individual visits to the Blessed Sacrament. Everyone feels relaxed with plenty of rest and friendship throughout the three days.

The topics of the 15 Rollos are taken from the Cursillo book entitled "Structure of Ideas" (Vertebration) by Eduardo Bonnin, Francisco Forteza and Bernardo Vadell, a revised English translation with added footnotes, fourth edition, printed in 2007. The rollos are presented by the lay Cursillistas in the following order: (1) The Coordinator's Introductory Rollo, (2) The Mentality of the Cursillo Movement, (3) The Essence and Purpose of the Movement, (4) The Methodology and Strategy of the Cursillo, (5) Living and Sharing What Is Fundamental to Be a Christian, (6) Dangers and Deviations in the Move-

ment, (7) The Cursillo Movement In The Pastoral Ministry of the Church, (8) Pre-Cursillo, (9) the Three-Day Cursillo Weekend, (10) Group Reunion, (11) Ultreya, (12) School of Leaders, (13) Secretariat, (14) The Priest in the Cursillo Movement, and (15) the Functions of the Lay Cursillo Leader.

The five meditations are given by the Spiritual Advisor: (1) Who Am I? Do I know Myself? Why Did I Come?; (2) Who Is Christ? Do I Know Him?, Can He Still Count On Me?; (3) In What Disposition Does Christ See me Now?; (4) Christ The Leader; (5) How Does Christ Want Me From Now On? The Spiritual Advisor also shares the Rollo #14 above. The Workshop concludes with the Celebration of the Eucharist and Clausura. The agenda and schedule are flexible and adaptable to the needs of the participants and the circumstances.

The team consists of one Coordinator, a Spiritual Advisor and Rollistas, who arrange among themselves the assignments of sharing the Lay Rollos. Each Rollista, the Coordinator inclusive, is assigned to sit with a decuria of 6 to 8 members. The kitchen team does not take part in the Workshop.

In "The Structure of Ideas", the authors have written, "What is presented here is not an attempt merely to rework the subject or to make it knottier, but rather to simplify the steps already taken and to un-tie the knots which history has managed to fasten about the Cursillo Movement.

The Cursillo de Cursillos is obviously a fitting opportunity for Cursillo leaders to learn more about our Cursillo Movement as asserted earlier. The best benefits that the Cursillo de Cursillos Weekend participants could receive are the very living personal experiences the Rollistas share in their Rollos and other participants contribute in their discussions. These living witnesses are very unique and helpful. The attendees will learn the best ways to persevere in their progressive conversion, which is indispensable for them to successfully carry out their apostolic and administrative duties as leaders, how and why to help new Cursillistas form and maintain Friendship Groups, how and why to conduct an efficient School of Leaders, how and why to organize a joyful and fruitful Ultreya, how and why to get along with others on the Secretariat, how and why to make personal contacts in a Three-Day Cursillo, how and why to implement an authentic Pre-Cursillo, Cursillo, and Post-Cursillo, how and

why to build a friendly relationship with Spiritual Advisors, and many, many more useful how's and why's.

We, Cursillo leaders, should keep our Cursillo Movement simple and make ourselves humble servants. Mr. Eduardo Bonnín kept reminding us that the Cursillo Movement must be as simple as Our Lord's Prayer. A significant analogy can be drawn between the Cursillo Movement and the Mustard Seed in Jesus' Parable, as Father Gabriel illustrates in his meditation: "Nothing was smaller or more humble in its beginnings than "the Kingdom of Heaven," the Church: Jesus, its Head and founder, was born in a stable; he worked for the greater part of thirty years in a carpenter's shop, and for only three years unfolded his mission to a poor people, preaching a doctrine so simple that all, even the unlettered, could understand. When Jesus left the earth, the Church was established by an insignificant group of twelve men, gathered about a humble woman, Mary; but this first nucleus possessed so powerful a vitality that in a few years it spread into all the countries of the vast Roman Empire. The Church, from a very tiny seed, sown in the hearts of a Virgin Mother and of poor fishermen, became little by little through the centuries a gigantic tree, extending its branches into all regions of the globe, with peoples of every tongue and nation taking shelter in its shade" (Magnificat, Oct. 27th, 2009). Ultreya!

Face the Music

A Cursillo Parable

Jacob "Spice" Plicque, Men's # 58

Remember the group Milli Vanilli? They enjoyed great success until it was revealed that they did not sing on their own records. Everyone found out that Milli Vanilli didn't really do what they said they did. Milli Vanilli had to face the music.

There is coming a day when we will all have to face the music. The phrase, "face the music," originated in Japan. A man was a part of the Imperial Orchestra, but he could not play a note. But because he was a man of great influence and wealth, he demanded a place in the group, because he wanted to perform before the emperor. The conductor gave him a seat in the second row of the orchestra, and he was given a little flute. During each concert, he would raise his instrument, pucker his lips, and move his fingers as though he were playing. But he never made a sound.

This deception went on for two years until a new conductor took over and wanted to personally audition every player. One by one, the musicians performed in his presence. Then came the flautist's turn, and he had to admit he was a fake. He couldn't "face the music."

Source: Pastor Greg Laurie (9-9-09), www.harvest.org

As a teenager and young adult, I often sought to impress friends and others with several different alter egos such as a mask/image of strength & independence and a persona of a do it all friend. The problem with these alternate selves was the necessity of lots of extra time, effort, and energy to project a better than real me. I had forgotten the advice of Shakespeare in *Hamlet*, "to thy own self be true." At a lesser level, I had to face my choice when a young lady confessed that she thought I was a phony. It was a wakeup call to stop being an avatar of me because I could be liked, loved, etc. without straining. What a liberating change that was to me.

Similarly, Christ provides us with a simple exchange which is a gift known as salvation. We get to leave the pursuit of self-perfection by accepting God's free gift. (1 John 5:4-5) ⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? Our human imperfections, insecurities, failures, and weaknesses will fall short of God's glory again and time again. (Romans 3:23) *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Sin traps us in a false self while God's grace, forgiveness, and love help us to find our true ideal. The New Year is a time of resolutions to make a fresh start in life physically (i.e. lose weight), emotionally (i.e. a more romantic relationship), or mentally (i.e. learn something new). However, often we forget to spiritually renew ourselves. We only fool ourselves when we ignore the need to live a more godly life. There is no spiritual status quo because, like exercise improves a muscle, our soul needs strengthening through prayer, grouping, study, etc. Otherwise our soul gets weakened from spiritual starvation. It is a conscious choice that we must make to humbly seek God's will or to hide under a false IDEAL. Eventually we must "Face the Music" in this life or else in the next. Joshua said it best "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."*

Prayerfully I must daily ask myself these questions:

1. Am I using God's grace to honestly help others (& self) face/share/overcome their faults, failures,

problems, weaknesses, insecurities, etc. thru prayer, example, deed, etc. as a true brother/sister in Christ? (Action)

2. Am I humbly trying to be God's man/woman or am I using a mask/image to show value or worth to others? (Piety)
3. Am I living a Godly life and aligning myself with the Gospel? (Study)

In summation, when searching within myself, these ideas show whether I am laboring for the food which perishes, or ... the food which endures to everlasting life (John 6:27). For if I am among those founding their lives on the good news there would be evidence that I am growing in faith, hope, and love as a living witness to others. (1 Corinthians 3:11-15) ¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ... ¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, ... ¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

I believe that much more could be written about these lines. So I request that you share your thoughts with me at jplicque@gmail.com. I marvel at the riches that can be found in the story about a about people who sought fame and notice thru deception instead of seeking their true God given talent. Yet the thoughts the story evokes are applicable today in my life. Hopefully by sharing these thoughts, I have blessed you.

20th NATIONAL CURSILLO® ENCOUNTER

Make plans to attend the 20th National Cursillo® Encounter, to be held Thursday, July 29 – Sunday, August 1, 2010, at Rockhurst University, Kansas City, Missouri.

The Encounter registration fee is \$370, if you register by May 31, 2010. We encourage you to make your plans now to attend the 20th National Cursillo® Encounter by registering on-line at www.natlcursillo.org. Capacity is 650 persons. Rooms will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis. The registration fee includes three nights lodging, dinner on Thursday evening, 3 meals on Friday and Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday morning. **NOTE:** All registrants **must** bring their own bed linens, blanket, and towel. The University **will not** provide these items. There will be transportation to Rockhurst University on Thursday, July 29th, from **Kansas**

City International Airport (MCI) ONLY, and back on Sunday, August 1, 2010.

Looking for a Spiritual Director?

Deacon Steve Turner: renruts@comcast.net

Deacon Tom Hughes: metom@comcast.net

Jack Logue: (Spirituality Center, St. Vincent's Medical Center) 904-308-7303 (w) or 904-477-2345

Winnie Walsh: ogrove2@aol.com

If you are a spiritual director and would like your name listed in this newsletter, contact Cheryl Chascin chascin@comcast.net

Diocese of St. Augustine: Agenda for 2010 School of Leaders

The School of Leaders meets at 9 AM in the Parish Hall of Assumption Catholic Church.

The church is located at 2403 Atlantic Blvd. in Jacksonville.

Outlines for the technique talks can be found at: <http://www.natl-cursillo.org/leaders/>

Date	Doctrinal Talk	Technique Talk	Section Work
2/13	The Spiritual Works of Mercy	Secretariat	Pre-Cursillo (Sponsor's Workshop/Applications)
3/13	The Seven Deadly Sins	School of Leaders	Post-Cursillo (Regional Encounter)
4/10	The Seven Contrary Virtues	Post Cursillo	3-Day Coordinator (Feedback from Week-ends)
5/15	The Seven Chief Virtues	Learning to Live the Method	Communications
6/12	The Sacramentals Part I	The Essence, Mentality, and Purpose	School of Leaders
7/10	The Sacramentals Part II	Palanca	TBA
8/14	The Rosary	Total Security	TBA
9/11	The Stations of the Cross	Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo	TBA
10/09	What is an Ecumenical Council?	Christianity in Action	TBA
11/13	What are the differences between; Decrees; Constitutions and Declarations?	Study of the Environment	TBA

Secretariat

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