

# 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 next School of Leaders meets on November 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM at St. Catherine's in Orange Park. Check out the schedule for the School of Leaders on page 6!

## Jacksonville Ultreya

The next Jacksonville Ultreya is November 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 Bill Farnsworth at [wafarns@comcast.net](mailto:wafarns@comcast.net) or by phone 904-241-0919. Ultreya!

## Advent Ultreya

Join the entire Cursillo community of the Diocese of St. Augustine for our annual Advent Ultreya at the Basilica.

This year we will be meeting to pray the Rosary at 6:20 pm on Friday, December 11, 2009. Mass will again be celebrated by the Bishop beginning at 6:30 pm.

During the Mass the 2010 Cursillo Secretariat will receive their assignments and be charged with their responsibilities by the Bishop.

Immediately following the Mass, we will have our December Ultreya. The evening will end with a Fiesta in the School Cafeteria.

Everyone is invited to attend and parking is available at the School. Please bring a dish or drinks to share with others in accordance with the below suggestions:

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Please Bring</u>
A - D	Main Course
E - H	Appetizers
I - M	Salads
N - S	Desserts
T - Z	Drinks

The Advent Ultreya is the only Cursillo event at which we take a collection. Our Treasury can pay for next year's weekends but there is not enough for our dues to the National organization, to fund a retreat or a 4<sup>th</sup> Day seminar, etc. Your Secretariat requests that you please contribute according to your ability when the baskets are passed.

## The Hand of Our Loving God is Upon Us

Gale Page, Gainesville, FL

Msgr. Joe James used to tell us that the most effective way to get across a point is by telling a story. I loved his down to earth stories that he used in his talks and homilies. Sometimes we all get caught up in theological and moral issues and develop great essays to support our points, but who remembers those "great works". Jesus should be our model of Love demonstrated through our actions as well as how to get a point across by use of a story. If we all showed love and respect in our actions, and told our personal stories about how God loves us, the world would be a different place. Share your story.

The above Old Testament quote (extra credit if you can get the biblical citation) seems to sum up the point of this story that God does intervene in our daily lives through others. This story is about my mother, Alice. She is 89 years old and has lived a full life, traveled extensively (including Poland in '76 and Russia in '94), and learning to drive, write a check, use a credit card after my father died in 1989. She survived small pox as a baby, cancer, and a bowel resection as an adult. She has a chronic lung disease that will not get better, only worse, and currently is on oxygen 24/7. She was hospitalized with pneumonia in 2005, and the doctors said she would never leave the hospital. She is very tough and independent. She lived by herself in an adult community apartment complex until now. Here starts my story.

Since June, mom's lung disease has slowly gotten worse. With lack of oxygen she would forget to eat, take her medications, and was disoriented. At some point in August, I was looking in on her every day. We had had private aides working with mom when she got bad previously, but this was different. We called the doctor and

called in Hospice to have her evaluated. After one week of in home Hospice care, they recommended admitting mom to the Hospice facility where she would have doctor and nursing care of her lung disease to get her stabilized.

Mom was below 80 lbs and with 2 weeks of care at the Hospice facility, on a Friday in September the Hospice social worker said it was time to look for a nursing home. We mentioned that we were going to visit 3 nursing homes over the weekend and get back with her. We did that, and there was only one that stood out as meeting our needs and criteria. As we pulled up, I was reminded that Millie Hale's mother actually went from FL up to a nursing home up in NY (maybe that was a positive sign that this was the one). The admissions person said there was a waiting list and I saw at least 3 patient referrals from Hospice on her desk.

On Tuesday after looking at nursing homes, I got back with the Hospice social worker and told her of our choice. She said that she had already faxed mom's paperwork to another nursing home and they had accepted her, and would have a bed for her shortly. I said that is not what we wanted, and long story short, to fax mom's papers to the nursing home we wanted. The social worker said that there was a patient currently in the Hospice facility that had been waiting for a bed at the nursing home we wanted for 3-4 weeks. I left before I lost my temper.

When I got to my Mom's apartment and calmed down, I called the Hospice social worker, got her voice mail and left her a message to call me. No sooner had I set down the receiver, my wife called to tell me that the social worker had faxed mom's paperwork to the nursing home we wanted and got an immediate reply, and they would transport mom that afternoon.

Well one could say it was the power of prayer, but I believe it was the Hand of our Loving God with a little help in heaven from Mille Hale.

As Catholics and involved in any of the renewal movements of the Church, we may think that we have an inside track or direct line to God, or that somehow our prayers are more effective. Well, it is God who loves each one of us all the time, and desires the very best for us in this imperfect human body and world. God loves each one of us: if we pray or don't pray, if we are good or if we are bad, if we are close to Him or far away (remember the parable of the lost sheep).

You know that really, we are all undeserving. And we are all unworthy of His Love. No matter who we are. Yet the Hand of Our Loving God is upon us all; all the time.

## Cursillo Life Study Being a Real Christian

By 'Spice' (Jacob Plicque - Men's 58)

When he was a young man practicing law in South Africa, Gandhi intently studied the Bible and the teachings of Jesus. After deciding to attend a church service in South Africa, he came across a racial barrier as a church member barred his way at the door. This infamous incident is vividly portrayed in the biopic "Gandhi". He never again considered being a Christian. Yet, his non violent struggle for Indian independence was adopted from what he found in Christianity. He was known for often quoting from the 'Sermon on the Mount' (Matt. Ch. 5-7). He was an inspiration for many, including Martin Luther King.

Gandhi has left us as Christians several quotes which today are convicting words nearly 61 years after his death as follows:

1. "To live the gospel is the most effective way- most effective in the beginning, in the middle and in the end. ...Not just preach but live the life according to the light.... If, therefore, you go on serving people and ask them also to serve, they would understand. But you quote instead John 3:16 and ask them to believe it and that has no appeal to me, and I am sure people will not understand it...the Gospel will be more powerful when practiced and preached."
2. "A rose does not need to preach. It simply spreads its fragrance. The fragrance is its own sermon...the fragrance of religious and spiritual life is much finer and subtler than that of the rose."
3. "If Jesus came to earth again, He would disown many things that are being done in the name of Christianity."
4. "Oh, I don't reject Christ. I love Christ. It's just that so many of you Christians are so unlike Christ."
5. "If Christians would really live according to the teachings of Christ, as found in the Bible, all of India would be Christian today."

Source: various internet sites

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Naturally not one of us would turn anyone away from the church door because they were a different race, color etc. Yet on any given Sunday, we are usually sitting in the same pew and speaking with the same people. When did we last greet someone or a family group before or after a service who were strangers to us? Love and friendship must continuously be shown in our personal contact (**PC**) with others or else our words as well as actions will sound like a "noisy gong" (1Cor 13:1) to people without any genuineness. St. Francis of Assisi said: "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words." On weekend #58, the witness of a local surgeon, humbly and cheerfully scrubbing the toilets by "serving wholeheartedly as if serving the Lord" (Eph 6:7) in set-up, was a strong witness of living the gospel of Jesus by serving us. His act of service had more a powerful effect on most of us than any words in any talk. So a dedicated unassuming person showed "Jesus with Skin On" to a group of seekers in an unspoken example of (Luke 11:33-36) "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." His personal contact consisted of a winning smile and a few quiet words but his actions were a fragrant rose of subtle preaching.

Often we hear about rediscovering the original charisms of the Cursillo that the founders used to create this movement. In reading Gandhi's words, I wonder if the reasons for the success or failure of this one or any spiritual movement are in the realness of its members thru personal contact versus authentically following the foundational ideals. Christ used personal contact in inviting the children into His midst, calling the apostles to follow Him, seeking out sinners, speaking words of comfort, and so on which made Him real to everyone. When I look at my life, I more often complain about the darkness instead of being a "light" (Mark 4:21) of Christian compassion. Prayer and Godly fellowship (*PC*) are the medicinal remedies that I need to break out of this journey to the "darkside." (Rom 13:12-13) Our job as Christians is to be "salt and light" (Matt. 5:13-16) to the world. Father Keller, founder of the Christopher's, wrote in 1948 a bestselling book, "You can Change the World", which espouses that one person, living a faithful life, can make a difference. Everyone can do something to make our world a better place to live in. It is important for us to live our faith and show our faith in public by becoming involved *thru personal contact* in our communities, schools, and workplace for positive change. The influence of one indi-

vidual can be great as seen by the example of Eduardo Bonin or Mother Theresa. While most of us are unable to be like them, each of us must try to make life a little better for others (PC) since (Gal. 5:9) "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." Thus every small action of love and compassion makes the world a little better even if it is a "cup of water" (Mark 9:41) given in Christ's name.

This idea of leavening the environment means that we should be in prayer for our leaders from the dog catcher to the White House, from the secretariat to the Pope, from the janitor to the CEO, and so on. We should want them to serve (1 Peter 4:11) "... with the strength God provides." Otherwise, how can we expect Godly decisions from anyone in charge of any part of our lives? By partnering in prayer with Christ, we become imitators of Christ and thus we live the Gospel through our actions as "blessed doers" (James 1:25).

Prayerfully consider these thoughts gleaned from Gandhi:

1. Daily do I strive to live more like Jesus Christ?
2. Am I practicing my faith without adulterating it or toning it down? (Study)
3. Am I emphasizing "Agape" love and making it my working force? See 1 Cor. 13 for love is central in Christianity (Piety).
4. Do I study others more sympathetically to find the good that is within them, in order to have a more sympathetic approach to the people? (Action & PC)

I pray that each of you consider being real by rejecting wearing a Christian mask around friends, family, and strangers. This month's message tries to uncover a deeper understanding of how true humility, sincere service, personal contact, and agape love are indicators of choosing to be a real Christian. We could be chasing away sincere seekers by trying to show them a super Christian or by showing a false ideal and a sugary piety. By being an obstacle to those looking for God or starting a relationship with Him, we are not in line with God's will which means our judgment/reward will be a "millstone" (Mark 9:42) necklace. Let us set the goal to live as real followers of the Gospel in order to Christianize our family, our church, our neighborhood, our city, our nation and our world. Otherwise, we are one generation from being a pagan nation.

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](mailto:jplicque@gmail.com). Hopefully by sharing these thoughts, I have blessed you.

## We Need Your Recipes!

The Secretariat and the School of Leaders are working to compile a standardized menu for the week-ends. We would like to have 3-4 selections for each of the meals. Many of you have worked in the kitchen and have used some wonderful recipes that received rave reviews from the candidates and team.

We would like your input into this project. Please send us your recipes either as a comment to the post on the blog, an e-mail to [chascin@comcast.net](mailto:chascin@comcast.net), a hard copy at the monthly Ultreya or School of Leaders, or by snail mail to: Chascin, 13832 Hollow Log Ct., Jacksonville, FL 32224.

Thank you in advance for your help!

## We Need Your Gently Read Books!

The Cursillo Library is available at the monthly Ultreya and School of Leaders. In addition to the books available for purchase, we would like to begin offering some free materials, especially gently read books or spiritual aids. Please bring your donations to the Ultreya or School of Leaders. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## Would You Like to Share?

Would you like to contribute an article or reflection to this newsletter? The process is simple. Just compose a written document (in English and/or Spanish) and send it to Cheryl Chascin at [chascin@comcast.net](mailto:chascin@comcast.net) by the first of the month. All submissions are subject to editing. Articles will be published in the order in which they were received or as they fit into the length of the newsletter

## Looking for a Spiritual Director?

Deacon Steve Turner: [renruts@comcast.net](mailto:renruts@comcast.net)  
 Deacon Tom Hughes: [metom@comcast.net](mailto:metom@comcast.net)

Jack Logue: (Spirituality Center, St. Vincent's Medical Center) 904-308-7303 (w) or 904-477-2345  
 If you are a spiritual director and would like your name listed in this newsletter, contact Cheryl Chascin [chascin@comcast.net](mailto:chascin@comcast.net)

## Diocese of St. Augustine: Agenda for 2009 School of Leaders

Session	2009	Doctrinal Talks are from the US Catholic Catechism for Adults		
10	11/14	Chapter 34-The Tenth Commandment Lay Talk: Working a table	St. Catherine's	9:00 AM

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