



e-ULTREYA magazine

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National Cursillo Center

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Immigrant Worker's Illness Sparks Fourth Day Action

It was a 25-year-old immigrant Mexican field worker that showed me what the Action leg of the Cursillo tripod is all about. He also proved the adage, "it is in giving that you receive."

Shortly after making my Cursillo last October, I learned from our parish priest about Mario Suarez, a migrant tobacco worker who had been hospitalized with leukemia. The man was all alone, had no money, no health insurance, and could not speak English. The minute I met him, I knew I had to help.

My wife and I took Mario some day-to-day necessities, but quickly realized we needed to do more. Since he was no longer working, he couldn't send money home to Mexico for his wife and two young children - the reason he had come to the United States in the first place.

I brought up Mario's plight to my Cursillo brothers at our group reunion. Everyone contributed some money which we sent to Mario's wife in weekly installments.

Meanwhile, things got worse for Mario. After several chemotherapy treatments, his doctors advised him he needed a very expensive bone marrow transplant. Without health insurance, I knew it would be impossible.

I began writing letters to local newspapers, radio and television stations, hoping to spark some interest in Mario's plight. The response was overwhelming. Articles appeared in the Charlotte Observer, our diocesan magazine and the local Spanish language newspaper. Contributions began rolling in.

I passed the word at Cisco systems where I work and received \$17,000 from employees there, including an anonymous gift of \$10,000 from one of the executives.

In addition, children at our parish school held a week-long fund raiser and brought in nearly \$5,500 more. In just a matter of weeks, we had collected almost \$56,000 for Mario's healthcare. To top it off, neither his doctor nor the hospital charged a penny for his treatment.

In April we arranged to fly Mario back home to Mexico to be with his family and to continue his treatment. Since health care is less expensive in Mexico, we know that Mario is in good hands back home.

Mario helped bring our community together, has touched many lives, and made us realize we are all God's children. Because of this, he gave back to me much more than I gave to him.

Greg Mintel
Raleigh, NC

Editor's Note: For follow-up information on Mario, go to <http://mario.muendel.org>

Cursillo Inspires Lawyer To Bloom Where Planted

I did not want to make a Cursillo weekend. Frankly, I imagined Cursillo as some emotional "holy roller" event where people held hands and sang "Kum-Bay-Ya." I was too old for such nonsense.

Despite my attitude, the weekend changed my life. Before Cursillo I would wonder, "Why does God love me?" After Cursillo I began to think, "Thank you God for loving me."

One of the talks on the weekend made a particular impression. It was entitled, "Bloom Where You Are Planted." It made it clear to me that God does not want us to quit our jobs and go preach in foreign lands. He simply wants us to represent Him wherever we are.

I am a lawyer and wondered if there was an exception for attorneys. I could not imagine how I could bloom as a Catholic in my law firm. Still, the message of the weekend stayed with me. Cautiously, I hung a crucifix on my office wall, fearful of what might happen.

Surprisingly, what happened was people suddenly seemed more willing to talk with me and ask my help. It was as though the crucifix told them they could trust me.

Next, I started praying before meals - even in the company of other lawyers and clients. No one objected or criticized me. But even if they had, I knew I had to be willing to proclaim Christ in every part of my life. For that, I am grateful to Cursillo,

Anne Nelson Lanphar

Piety, Study, Action Work Outside Cursillo

I made my Cursillo 20 years ago and have had varying levels of involvement in the movement since then: From seeing Cursillo friends only occasionally, to living and breathing the method day and night as lay director.

Today I see my Cursillo friends mostly at our friendship group. But, it occurs to me that I still live and breathe the Cursillo method just about every day. I find this especially true as I work with a middle school youth group at our parish. When I first took on the job, I wondered how to begin, how could I reach them.

The answer was simple: Piety, Study and Action. Team formation, leadership, sacraments, making friends, being friends and bringing friends to Christ. I treat the core team of adults at the church like a Cursillo team. I encourage friendship groups, suggest study and lead the action. I ask for Palanca, and ask my core team to pray for our efforts.

So even though my involvement with Cursillo is limited, my use of the Cursillo method - Piety, Study and Action - is a full time job.

Debbie Maerzke
Baltimore

Cursillo Provides Missing Ingredient

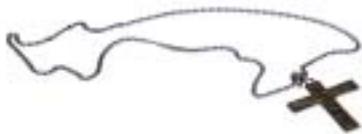
When my husband and I made our Cursillo weekends in 1987, we thought we were good Catholics. We were heavily involved in our parish and volunteered at our parish school. Truthfully, we knew little about Cursillo and thought it was some secret society with its own special language, including words like "ultreya," "DeColores," and "palanca."

It wasn't until the last day of the weekend when I heard the words, "Christ is counting on you," that I began to realize I truly was called and that my religion was missing a main ingredient - a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Today when I succeed, I realize it is because of the unceasing love and palanca of the Cursillo community. And when I fail, I remember that not only is Christ counting on me, but I am counting on Him.

Maria Schinderle
Diocese of Orange County, California

Editor's Note: Several witness articles featured in this edition of *e-Ultreya Magazine* are edited versions of articles that originally appeared in *Ad Veritatem* magazine.



How to submit a Witness article to *e-Ultreya Magazine*

Witness articles should focus on how the Cursillo method has influenced your life. Articles involving Piety, Study, Action or your Fourth Day are best, and should be no more than five or six paragraphs in length. *e-Ultreya Magazine* reserves the right to edit submissions for content and clarity. Please include your name and address on your submissions.

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