

The Journey

September 2009

Mission Statement

The mission of the Detroit Cursillo Movement is to live the method and strategy of the Cursillo so that each man and woman can be enlightened and transformed to go forth and Christianize their environments in the light of the Gospels and the glory of the Risen Christ

From the Lay Director

Dear Cursillo family,

As I search my heart this morning my dear Cursillo family come to mind and I lift you in prayer. Matter of fact, I do that every morning.

We live in such a fast world everyone going in too many directions at one time. I ask you today to slow down and enjoy this beautiful time of year and be thankful that we are blessed that the Lord has chosen and called us to make a Cursillo weekend. Anyone who has made a weekend has been touched., some in a big way some in a small way. But we have been touched.

I have heard several times over the last year, where have all the Cursillistas gone? While not visible to us as leaders, they are in our churches, our neighborhoods and work places. They are not gone they are out there evangelizing their environments, especially their families. They have received a gift and they are passing it on. This is what Cursillo is all about.

And as good as that is it is at the same time not enough. As is true with our faith and our Church, we can't just focus on ourselves and our little piece of God's kingdom. In order for us to pass on this beautiful gift that we were blessed to receive, some of us have to continue to work in the movement itself.

35 years ago I knew that Cursillo was my apostolate. It touched my heart and soul so completely, that I knew that I wanted to work to keep it alive and I have.

The problem today is that there are only a few of us left that feel the passion that is needed to keep us alive and growing and that truly scares me.

I don't want one day for us to say where has the Cursillo gone because there is no secretariat, no weekends. There will always be Ultreyas. There will always be Leaders. It is important that we support the many people who keep Ultreya and Leaders available.

To help in our current needs, people have stepped up to take over 2 secretariat seats this fall and for that I am very grateful. We still need a Post-Cursillo chairperson and someone who would be interested in taking over as Lay Director.

The Cursillo newsletter list has over 1800 families in the Detroit diocese." Someone in that group can Make A Friend Be a Friend, and bring that Friend to Christ. Bring that friend to Cursillo.

We love the gift that Cursillo was for us, but it is time to pass it on. There is no reason we should be canceling weekends

No one knows better than I how busy we all are, but I ask you again to search your heart and see if the Lord is calling you to a position in the Cursillo movement.

Also I encourage you to attend Ultreya and Leaders. It is what we are all about. The support and knowledge is awesome.

I will continue to pray for you daily and ask you to pray for me, the secretariat, and the working teams.

God Bless you all each and every one.

Ultreya

Joyce Toia

Secretariat/Contacts

Lay Director
Joyce Toia
586.709.7524

Spiritual Director
Fr. Mark Brauer

Secretary
Vacant

Treasurer
Virginia Warwinsky

Weekend Coordinator
Lynne Pfannes

Pre-Cursillo
John Murphy

Post-Cursillo
Vacant

School of Leaders
Gordon Peck

Member-at-Large
Grace Conant
248.391.5928

Webmaster/Mail List
Richard Schnur
586-477-0427

PERSONAL WITNESS

When I made my Cursillo in February of 2001, I had no idea of the journey that I would be embarking on. After I encountered Jesus in a very personal way for the first time in my adult life, my life was (and is)

forever changed.

Today, as I continue on my faith journey, I do so understanding that my true self is unveiled in the heart of Christ. Undoubtedly, it has

been quite a roller coaster ride at times; however, when I remember the friend I have in Jesus – well, there is nothing that matters more.”
Karen Farrar

The School of Leaders

When Spain plunged itself into a blood, destructive, and lethal civil war between the years of 1936 and 1939, many asked the question, 'how could this happen to a nation that was 95% Catholic?' The answer is often stated as follows: "the world (Spain) had turned its back on Christ and the Church. They had a deep seated conviction that life had ceased to be Christian and that the influence Christianity had on everyday life was practically nonexistent, even in Catholic circles." Before we think of this as an isolated historical footnote, consider how closely this statement describes our world today.

We know the antidote to this malady...it is Christ! The founders of Cursillo knew this also...hence their efforts, guided by the Holy Spirit,

has given us a great gift. The Cursillo Movement we love has at its center a mission. The mission is to live the life of grace in Christ that will be evidenced by our desire to evangelize our environments, thus our long cherished saying, "Make a friend, Be a friend, Bring a friend to Christ. Most of us know the joyful feeling of experiencing the "Three Day Cursillo Weekend." Cursillistas often describe Cursillo as a "mountaintop experience and while it is certainly an event to be remembered, it is not the central objective of the Cursillo. The objective is to live the Christian life, leading to evangelizing our environments.

What we currently have been experiencing is a lack of follow up in our commitment to Group Reunion and Ultreya, both essential if we

are to persevere in our environments. The School of Leaders is key to those who want to be involved in the leadership of the Cursillo, or simply want to develop a greater understanding of the Cursillo itself. It is also essential for those who desire to participate as members of a team preparing to conduct a Cursillo. One cannot teach what one does not know and attending the School of Leaders is the best way to prepare ourselves. In fact, the Leader's Manual states that "to have an authentic and truly effective Cursillo, it must be served by a group of leaders who exemplify everything the Cursillo is supposed to "be" Leaders Manual, Ch 6 & F1 #540) and requires a core group of Cursillo leaders who have chosen to serve within the Movement, as their apostolate. (con't pg 3)

Financial Report

There is no question that these are some very troublesome times in the state of Michigan and there is much concern about financial issues within our families. We want to thank you for your contributions to Cursillo especially as many of us struggle to make ends meet. The Cursillo also struggles to allocate funds

in order to help those who cannot afford the \$150.00 cost of a Cursillo weekend. Your continued donations to Cursillo are deeply appreciated. Even the smallest contribution is very much appreciated. Thank you for all that you do to help others to experience Christ in the Cursillo. We pray that God will guide the Cursillo community through these difficult financial

times. Your donations can be sent to :

Detroit Cursillo,
P. O. Box 80695
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080

Thank you for even the smallest gift. It is appreciated.

Post-Cursillo

We would like to offer our sincerest thanks to the people who direct the Ultreyas without fail. Their dedication is key to the success of our Ultreyas, a most important part of the Cursillo experience. These individuals deserve our sincerest thanks for all they do.

The St. Malachy Ultreya is directed by Barb Davis whose dedication has fostered the success of that Ultreya. The St. John Fisher Ultreya is directed by Rita Etlinger who faithfully prepares, the 4th Tuesday of the month to welcome people to the Ultreya. We ask for your assistance in supporting that Ultreya with a

more consistent attendance. The St Elizabeth Ultreya has recently restarted and is working to increase and stabilize its attendees. Laurie Gilbert assumed the responsibility to relaunch this Ultreya along with the support of St. Elizabeth Pastor, Fr. Charles Morris. We offer these dedicated people our sincerest appreciation.

Up Coming Cursillo Weekends

Men's Cursillo Weekend

February 4-7, 2010

Women's Cursillo Weekend

February 11-14, 2010

Pre-Cursillo: We Need Your Candidates !!!

We have two up-coming Cursillo weekends and we are in dire need of candidates, both men and women. We are dependent on the Cursillo community to provide those candidates and so we seriously need your help. There is still time to invite your friends to encounter the risen

Christ in the Cursillo. I would also like to point out that, because these two weekends are one week apart, with the men's weekend first, this is a perfect opportunity to invite husband and wife as candidates for these weekends. That really is the ideal way for a couple to experience

Cursillo. Please take this request to prayer and bring you friends to Christ..

YOUR HELP IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE SUCCESS OF THESE WEEKENDS.

Con't: School of Leaders

"It was the founders, the original School of Leaders , that gave birth to the Cursillo Movement, nurtured it and made it strong enough to survive and branch out into a full movement of the Church. (Leaders' Manual F 1#531).

So if the School of Leaders was

considered to be essential by the founders, and is still portrayed as that by the National Secretariat, what can we do to support it? This is the "Big Question" that remains to be answered. The other question that needs to be answered is, "What importance did Cursillo have in my life and how much

would I be willing to contribute in order to assure that Cursillo survives in the Archdiocese of Detroit .

Gordon Peck
School of Leaders, Rector

Cursillo Picnic

The brave people who were willing to have a fun picnic in spite of the rain this year actually had the opportunity to catch the air show this year. It is a most exciting feeling to have the big jets dive to earth until they seemed to be right overhead as they emit their thunderous noise. It really was thrilling. The show reached it's height right about the time of Fr. Chris's sermon. But even the air force could not sabotage Fr. Chris's homily. He simply found an opportunity to incorporate the deafening noise, never missing a step as he made his point that, "we must not ever allow the noise of the world to keep us from God." How divine! Thank you Chris. Over-
all, a good time was had by all. Several of our new Cursillistas joined us in the sharing, camaraderie, prayer and good food. We all took our turn fighting off the bees who were as intent on eating our food as we were. What is a picnic without bees? We'll look forward to next year's picnic and maybe we'll not have to fight the rain. Plan to join us, it's great fun!

Lets take a short trip, allowing our imagination to go back to the weekend in which we experienced the Cursillo for the first time. Do you remember the excitement and anticipation you felt as you sat in that "upper room" knowing that when you returned home on Sunday, entering your "Fourth Day," you would be looking at family, friends, and co-worker in a totally different light. Were you feeling eager to introduce your friends and family to the wonder of the Cursillo? Can you remember the excitement you felt when the Cursillo community arrived on Sunday evening to welcome you into your "Fourth Day," eager to hear your impression of the weekend and the new life you found in Christ? You now have that opportunity once again to share in the joy of your candidate as you greet him/her on Sunday evening, filled with excitement as they returned to a new life in Christ.. Now we ask you to please be the instrument bringing your friend to Christ and share the Cursillo. There is still time. Contact those that you care about and bring them to meet Christ. Pick up the phone and

ULTREYAS & SCHOOL OF LEADERS

St. Malachy Ultreya

14115 East 14 Mile
Sterling Hts, MI 48312
First Saturday of Month

Contact:

Barb Davis
586 228.0264

ladavis@comcast.net

St. John Fisher Chapel

3655 East Walton Blvd
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
Fourth Tuesday of Month

Contact:

Rita Etlinger
ritaetlinger@aol.com

Laurie Gilbert
734 664. 8803

School of Leader's St Malachy Rectory Base- ment

Third Saturday of Month
10:00 a.m.

North Branch Ultreya

St. Peter and Paul
North Branch, MI
Fourth Sun. after 11 AM
Mass

St. Elizabeth Ultreya

1
Wyandotte, MI
Third Tuesday each Month

Contact:

Contact:

Gordon Peck
586 296-9878