



April 2008

The Rooster Crows

A Newsletter of the Catholic Cursillo of the Diocese of Knoxville

www.KnoxvilleCursillo.org

The Group Reunion— Velma Burke

The keystone of the Post Cursillo is the Group Reunion and offers each of us the opportunity to grow in what we have learned from the “Four encounters on the Cursillo weekend: 1) Self 2) God 3) Community and 4 World. The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo movement defines a group reunion as a group of persons who are friends and Christians who come together to become better friends and Christians. You are allowed to live out in an authentic continuing and progressive way what is Fundamental for being Christian through sharing, reviewing and encouraging one another. The Group Reunion is an instrument of the Cursillo Method, like “YOU” are an instrument of God. Group reunions provide us with an ongoing means of conversion.

The Group Reunion encourages and increases the realism, self-surrender, and spirit of charity in each of its members. “The Group Reunion is friendship raised to the sphere of the Transcendental: friendship converted into permanent actual Grace.” You come together to pray before you begin, so you have already called the Holy Spirit to you group.

It is the responsibility of the sponsor and the team to introduce the new cursillista to a Group Reunion so as to not loose the “high” they have obtained while on the weekend. And Ultreya’s are another good place to bring the Cursillo’s newest members. A group should consist of 2-6 members who are likely to want to share their faith and grow in Christ. You should meet on a regular basis-once a week. Follow the group reunion format. Don’t get sidetracked talking about other things. This format is used because it increases the efficiency of the group. But most of all we must be aware of these four characteristics in order to maintain a stable and well-run group. They are: Seriousness, Sincerity, Regularity, and Confidentiality.

When following the format, we begin with a review of opportunities of piety during the past week.

The second question on the reunion is “When was I most aware of Christ’s presence.” If we were living out our piety fully, it would be impossible to share all the moments close to Christ. Therefore, we share only the moment at which the living experience has reached its highest or most intimate point. Communicating to others an encounter with God brings all members closer to each other, and therefore closer to God. The format then moves to the “Study” questions. What have I read or experienced this week to help change my mentality to be more Christian? The final section is on Apostolic Action. Success or failure is not something that we can be certain of. Only God knows the outcome of our efforts. But first of all, we have to make an effort.

The recommended closing prayer is the Our Father, “for the failure of each one or for a member who is absent”. And a prayer of thanksgiving is also suggested. “The Lord has been among us and has let an endless number of graces fall upon us.”

The church is essentially a community, and no one can live in it without being bound to the others. The Group Reunion is a living experience of the dogma of the Mystical body on a small scale. In Romans 1:11-12 St. Paul writes, “I desire to see you, to communicate to you a spiritual gift, to confirm you, or better to console myself with you, through the mutual communication of our common faith.”

The goal of the Cursillo Movement is achieved as a consequence of the way the group members live their lives, and share them in friendship with one another. If every Cursillo succeeds in yielding several groups that can become, as it were, seeds of Christian communities, the Movement will be accomplishing its purpose: to build Church. So please do your part and if you are not in a group reunion... find one! Sources for the above article were taken from the *Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement* and *Structure of Ideas*.

2008 Diocese of Knoxville Cursillo Calendar

Apr 12	Secretariat Meeting	St. Therese of Lisieux, Cleveland 10 am-2pm
May 3	Spanish School of Leaders	St. Therese of Lisieux, Cleveland 10 am-2pm
May 10	School of Leaders	All Saints, Knoxville 10 am-2pm
Jul 12	Secretariat Meeting	St. Alphonsus Crossville 10 am-2pm
Jul 24 - 27	Spanish Men's # 3	Apison Retreat Center,
Jul 31-Aug 3	National Encounter	Catholic University, Washington DC
Aug 16	School of Leaders	St. Therese of Lisieux, Cleveland 10 am-2pm
Sept 11-14	Men's # 35	Apison Retreat Center
Sept 25-28	Women's # 36	Apison Retreat Center
Oct 11	Secretariat Meeting	St. Thomas the Apostle
Oct 31- Nov 2	Region IV Fall Encounter	St. Meinrad Archabbey, Indiana
Nov8	School of Leaders	St. Alphonsus Crossville 10 am-2pm



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