



# The Rooster Crows

## AWARENESS OF GOD IN OUR RELATIONSHIP

By Tony and Marianne Hartman

**Marianne:**

I look at our marriage as a gift from God. He has blessed us in many ways – six children that we are very proud of – eight grandchildren – life in the military that included living abroad, making lifelong friends and being offered so many opportunities to grow in our relationship. One of our first real experiences of growth in our relationship and our love was Marriage Encounter – what a help for our communication. Several years later we were given the gift of Marriage Retorno (a weekend of learning to pray together with scripture that enhanced our love for God and our love for each other). Realizing how present God is in each of us as individuals and as that special entity of Couple is mind blowing. I realized that God has given me that one special person in this world who is my partner and will guide me on this journey to Him.

Where does Cursillo fit into this journey? I must admit that I always felt that Tony had a much better handle on God in general. He seemed to know much more about our religion and his faith was very strong. Mary was always my special friend – I felt she truly loved me and would intercede for me

to her son. His love for me was found in giving me His mother. The Cursillo weekend gave me the gift of finally KNOWING that my God really loves ME! I could hardly wait to get up at the closing and tearfully share this wonderful realization. This awareness of His love has grown by leaps and bounds over the years since I made my Cursillo.

Now I have a deeper awareness of God's presence in our marriage. It isn't just realizing His love for me or my love for Him has grown but that Tony and I are the way that HE makes real His love for us. We are God's conduit of love to each other and then to all those around us.

Every step I have taken on my journey has led me closer to my God and to Tony, my partner in attaining eternal life. I thank God for gently taking me by the hand and offering me so many opportunities to be aware of His presence.

**Tony:**

Believe it or not my spiritual growth has followed much the same pattern as Marianne's. Additionally however, I have been blessed individually with several of those mind blowing metanoia experiences from God both before

and after our marriage. He has been leading each of us as individuals and as a couple on our journey through this life to his eternal reward.

Along the way we heard about Cursillo and determined that it was something we had missed along our way; something more fundamental to our living as Catholic Christians, and that it would be worthwhile for us to pursue it. Little did we know how significant a role it would play in our lives.

You've read about Marianne's experience above. For me it was the road map that showed me how all the little pieces of growth in my life fit together to bring me to the person that I had grown to be. All those pieces fit together like those of a jigsaw puzzle to give me the big picture. Besides having shown me how God had formed me and Marianne into this entity called a married couple and showed us what he expected us to be, Cursillo really make clear to me how God's love comes to me through so many other people in this world, people I don't even know and others who share with me their prayers and experiences that help me grow and allow me to help them grow.

**YOUR  
MOVEMENT  
NEEDS YOU!**

**ATTEND  
SCHOOL OF  
LEADERS!**

**WORK IN  
AND FOR  
CURSILLO!**

## DE COLORES



**CURSILLO'S  
HELPING HANDS  
ARE YOURS!**



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on the  
Secretariat**



**You have mail!!**

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## Knoxville Diocese Cursillo Encounter

Please join us on Saturday, September 11th at 10:00 AM at Sacred Heart Cathedral for our Diocesan Encounter. We will have Mass, a Grand Ultreya and share lunch. You don't want to miss it. Mark your calendar now and bring a dish to share. Bring the friends you've been talking to about Cursillo; we'd love to meet them.

Please update your email addresses and send them to Velma Burke at [velma\\_burke@yahoo.com](mailto:velma_burke@yahoo.com). We have noticed that many of our current email addresses are out of date and we need to be able to contact you with important information from time to time. Stay in the loop and get all pertinent emails by forwarding a note to Velma today. Thanks for your help in keeping our records up to date.