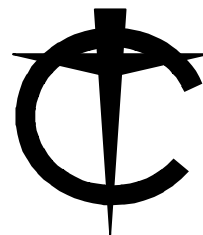


# The Rooster Crows

A Newsletter of the Catholic Cursillo of  
the Diocese of Knoxville in Tennessee  
[www.KnoxvilleCursillo.org](http://www.KnoxvilleCursillo.org)



## Father Alex Waraksa, Spiritual Director

December 2006

I have recently attended the National Encounter and Fall Encounter for Cursillo and as usual have served on weekends as Spiritual Director. A couple of recurring themes to keep the Movement faithful to its original intentions have been discussed. One is trying to keep the Movement united internationally and nationally by examining its origins. Another is to encourage members of the local Movement to dialogue with national and regional leaders to ensure the Movement is authentic and the focus is on the work of the Holy Spirit in service to the Church.

If someone does not have knowledge of the official materials and guidelines of the Movement, this can and has led to differences among persons as to what are the essential parts of the Movement, and what are optional additions and what are items that should not be permitted additions.

For the upcoming weekends for instance the Leaders Manual has been revised and some of the terminology may be different from what some have used, but the fundamental ideas and goals of the Movement are the same. The School of Leaders is the Movement's official way to grow in Formation of the spirit of the Movement and the way it is to be shared with others.

The most fundamental idea being focused upon is Friendship. It was mentioned at one of the Encounters that Eduardo Bonnin, one of the founders of the Cursillo Movement himself had not heard of Sponsorship. My reflection is that perhaps because this term may have become more familiar in the Church after Vatican II. I think he may be discouraged by this term because he does not see it as always including friendship in the way the Movement is being lived out today. The essential, simple gift of the Movement is reminding people: Make a Friend, Be a Friend, Bring a Friend to Christ.

The sad discussions about the Movement are that people are sponsoring people to attend weekends

without first spending the appropriate amount of time developing a friendship with the person before a weekend. Then after the weekend occurs the sponsor does not have a sense of responsibility to the person because they see their sponsorship ending rather than seeing their friendship continuing with a new more spiritual dimension. The friendship also is meant to continue in a social manner as well through Grouping and Ultreya.

As I prepared to speak at the last School of Leaders, I kept trying to be aware of where Friendship might have been taught through the Scriptures and tradition. This perhaps also could be in close family relationships or in mentoring that occurred. Its value could also have been seen by looking at the opposite of friendship in relationships that were not life-giving.

I close with prayers from the Church's liturgy: *Eucharistic Prayer III*: "Welcome into Your kingdom our departed brothers and sisters, and all who have left this world in Your friendship."

*Psalms 25:14* "The Lord's friendship is for those who revere Him; to them He reveals His covenant."

Psalm Prayer from the liturgy of the hours: Father, He who knew no sin was made sin for us to save us and restore us to Your friendship. Look upon our contrite heart and afflicted spirit and heal our troubled conscience, so that in the joy and strength of the Holy Spirit we may proclaim Your praise and glory before all the nations.

Midmorning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours: "All-powerful and ever-living God, in mid-morning You poured out the Holy Spirit as a constant Friend and Guide for Your apostles. Send that same Spirit of love to us to make us faithful witnesses to You in the sight of all mankind.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord."

## PRELIMINARY — 2007 Upcoming Calendar Events

*A complete downloadable PDF Calendar can be found on the Knoxville Cursillo Web site.*

**Secretariat Meeting** — 10 am—2 pm  
 January 13, St. John Neumann, Farragut  
 April 14, TBA  
 July 14 or 21, TBA  
 October 13, TBA

**School of Leaders**—  
 Feb 24, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Knoxville  
 May 12, TBA  
 August 11, St. Augustine, Signal Mountain  
 November 3, St. Thomas the Apostle, Lenoir City

**Grand Ultreya**  
 January 27, St. Augustine, Signal Mountain

**Region IV Fall Encounter**  
 October 26-28  
 Bellville, Illinois

**Women's Weekend**  
 Feb 8-11 / Sept 13-16  
 Apison Retreat Center

**Men's Weekend**  
 April 26-29 / Sept 27-30  
 Apison Retreat Center

**National Cursillo Encounter**  
 June 29-July 2

University of Texas,  
 Arlington, Texas

**We offer our prayers to God in Praise and Thanksgiving for all the blessings he has bestowed upon us during the past year. We pray that all of you have a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and God's choicest blessings and Grace throughout the NEW YEAR.**



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