



## The Rooster Crows

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

November  
2007

### Persevere—by Father Peter Iorio

*De Colores!* is the rainbow that glows with many bright colors! And that is exactly how the first Diocese of Knoxville Cursillo in the Spanish language seemed to me. The diverse colors shone in the faces of the 29 men that originally came from so many different countries. The colors also expressed their diversity in a symphony of language. Like speakers of English from places like the US, Britain, Ireland, Kenya, and Australia, Spanish speakers have different ways of expressing ideas and have varied accents. "Go out and make disciples of all nations" ... from Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Honduras (to name a few) was what God was making happen during Cursillo Numero Uno from October 18-21.

When I arrived on Friday afternoon at the Apison Retreat Center, I was greeted by friends and accompanied to the prayer room where Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament greeted me and focused me. "All for Your Glory, Lord," was my prayer. The *Palanca* clock on one side caught my eye and reminded me that I was not alone. Cursillistas from different times and places were praying and offering sacrifices for those making the Cursillo and for the team. Jesus and His Body, the Church were present in a



powerful way. The rainbow of *de colores* flashed like a prism, lifting my spirit with even more excitement as I realized the immensity of the catholic - universal - worldwide Church.

A modest amount of fear accompanies me as I regularly preach in my native tongue of English ...even after 14 years of priesthood. When I am aware of this anxiety, it is always an invitation for me to let it go and to have faith that God is using me as an instrument to spread His Word. An even greater

degree of fear, let's call it "horror," overcame me as I prepared to present a talk on grace to this eager group of faith-filled native Spanish speaking men. But it was grace, God's grace, that permeated the room and spread throughout my soul as I prayed the familiar prayer to the Holy Spirit with the whole group and sang "Envia tu Espiritu" ("Send your Spirit") before I uttered a word on my given theme.



God's grace works through a person's limitations and in spite of them. God always shows us that He is the one in charge. I have shared these two messages many different times with others as I assisted them discern whether or not to accept an invitation to be a member of a Cursillo team. We identified fears and asked God to help the person to let go of them so as to make a decision in faith. When we discern that God's Will is inviting us to follow Him in new ways, and when we say "Yes," the Lord always has many divine graces to pour upon us. When we move through any fears we have, it always feels like I imagine what it would be like to find a wonderful treasure at the end of the rainbow.



What tremendous treasures we have in the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Knoxville in having put on our first Cursillo in the Spanish language! I have great faith that we will continue to reap many spiritual rewards through our continued sharing as Our Lord Jesus Christ's disciples who come from all nations. May Pentecost continue! Come Holy Spirit! Fill us all with the fire of your love!

De Colores!

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## 2007 Upcoming Calendar Events

School of Leaders 10 am—2 pm

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Nov 3 St. Thomas the Apostle, Lenoir City

### English/Spanish School of Leaders

Nearly every diocese with a Cursillo Movement has also formed a School of Leaders. Just as the first School of Leaders in Mallorca developed a mature Christian community prior to launching the Cursillo Movement, each diocese with a Cursillo Movement is required to form a School of Leaders. The School leads by example, emphasizing holiness, formation and a strong Christian community. The School studies key environments in the diocese and key people within those environments. It supports the Group Reunions and Ultreyas and trains leaders for working on the three-day Cursillo weekend. Finally, the School invigorates the diocesan movement to align it with the National Cursillo Movement.

In the diocese of Knoxville, the English School of Leaders meets quarterly at parishes throughout the diocese for a day long workshop. Topics chosen enhance our 4th Day. There are technique talks given by veteran Cursillistas and a doctrinal talk(s) given by a priest, religious or deacon. All Cursillistas find themselves exchanging ideas on the talks and recommendations are given to the Secretariat for implementation. It is a vibrant, spirit-filled session, which leaves you uplifted and re-energized.

The English School of Leaders will hold its quarterly School at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, 1580 St. Thomas Way, Lenoir City TN on Saturday, November 3, from 10 am to 200 pm. Theme Spirituality (as it relates to the Cursillo Weekend) Topic Saturday morning. Please bring a dish to share for lunch. Any questions, please call Lois Schering at (865) 681-7858. Directions are on the web page.

The Spanish School of Leaders has just started this year. They plan to meet at the same time as the English School of Leaders at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, Lenoir City TN on Saturday, November 3, from 10 am to 2 pm.