



April 2011



DIOCESE OF KNOXVILLE CURSILLO

The Rooster Crows



The Director's Chair Building on a Firm Foundation by Lois Schering,



Welcome to the new Cursillistas from the Spanish Men's Weekend No. 6! What a blessing you are to all of us. I hope your Fourth Day is going well and that you are actively taking part in a Group Reunion. If you are not yet in a Group Reunion, please ask your sponsor or the team members to help you find a Group Reunion. Grouping, along with attendance at Ultreyas, is the key to keeping your Fourth Day vibrant.

I have been working with the Knoxville Spanish Cursillo Community to help them "build a firm foundation." The following Cursillistas have stepped forward to be Assistants to the Secretariat: *Nancy Kinerson* agreed to be the Leader of the Spanish community and I hope that all of you will support her in her endeavors. *Sofia Delgado* has been named the Spanish PreCursillo Coordinator – please send the Spanish applications to her. Sofia's address is on the Cursillo application. She will be working under Robb Morris, the English PreCursillo Director. *Miguel Jimenez* agreed to be the English and Spanish School of Leaders

Coordinator, helping Jim and Judy Holt and Alicia Mora. The Secretariat plans to create the position of Spanish Post Cursillo Coordinator. If the Holy Spirit is prompting you to consider this position, please pray about it and let me know.

As

most of you know communication is very important since we are scattered throughout the diocese. The Secretariat decided at its February meeting that if a Cursillista expects a response from any communique, please state "confirmation requested" or use a similar wording. If you don't hear from a Cursillista, please follow-up with a phone call. This has been prompted because there was confusion over the cancellation of the January English School of Leaders due to weather conditions. The Secretariat also made a decision that if one School cancels because of weather conditions, both Schools are cancelled. This is important because a

notice needs to be sent to the Cursillo Community in a timely fashion via email or by phone.

It is not too early to begin thinking about at-

"Our celebrant and keynote address speaker will be Bishop Richard Stitka."

tending this year's Cursillo Diocesan Encounter, which will be held on Saturday, July 23rd, at Sacred Heart Cathedral, beginning with Mass at 10:00 am in the Church. Please arrive at 9:30 am. Our celebrant and keynote address speaker will be Bishop Richard Stitka. Mass will be followed by a Grand Ultreya and fiesta, both of which will be held in the Pavilion, located behind Sacred Heart School. Please put the Diocesan Encounter on your calendar now.

Ultreya!

Witness Box—My Cursillo Journey by Phyllis A. Ide

I attended Cursillo # 40 September 30, 2009. It was an overpowering encounter with Gods Cusillo angels. It was the beginning of a life changing Spirit-filled weekend. Our group's patron saint was St. Theresa Lisieur.

I feel like Peter was saying to me: "Be shepherds of God's flock, the believers who are under your care. Serve as their leaders; don't serve them because you have to. Instead, do it because you want to. That is what God wants us to do." 1 Peter 5:2

When looking for a closer more purposeful relationship with God, we are never disappointed. God always gives us much more than we ask for. He already had his Cursillo team on board just waiting for us. My heart was so moved to see all his angels hard at work to make our Cursillo weekend the beginning of a new and wonderfully Spirit-filled awakening. One that moves you to say Yes! Lord, what would you like me to do? After returning home I was so pumped up I thought I could Move Mountains, but then I found myself in the real world. It seemed like Satan was most unhappy with my "Yes, Lord!" attitude and it seemed like my prayer life got harder to accomplish along with daily Mass, Adoration, and the Rosary. Things that normally went smoothly had become difficult. I prayed, "My Lord, please help me."

Before Cursillo and after it, my purpose in life is and was Lord not my will, but Thy will be

done. Going to Cursillo seemed to give me new direction which pointed to Jesus through Mary. We all go through dry seasons and I am no exception. Before Cursillo, I had had my dry season. Cursillo taught me that I needed to try to reach harder for a more personal relationship with God and share it with other Christians. It is important for me to expand my spiritual efforts and not do things out of habit. Cursillo made me look deeper into Gods will in my life and to be grateful for all the blessings that we have in His Church and for creating an open heart in me to welcome the Cursillo community into my life.

"It is a wonderful sharing of our lives with each other as we grow in the Spirit."

While I was on the Cursillo weekend a familiar nagging thought kept coming back to me that I had been pushing to the back in my mind for some time. The thought was "Phyllis you need to do more about abortion". I had prayed for the victims of abortion, and given to the Pro Life monetarily, yet I had not been physically involved. On this Cursillo weekend it seemed like Our Lord was not really happy with this picture. It was as though He were saying to me would you just stand by and watch someone kill another person? I realized that if I don't do everything I can to stop this awful killing that I too will be judged for what I did not do.

You could say that I am doing a few things now that I wasn't doing before Cursillo. For example: I went to the Bishops Pro-Life prayer service out in front of the abortion clinic on Concord RD. and I listened to the Webcast on

Abby Johnson's own true story of a former Planned Parenthood Leader's eye-opening journey as she crossed the line to Pro-Life. Abby has written a new book titled UN-Planned. It tells it all. I have purchased five of her books which I intend to share with others.

I am attending a Time Line Bible Study and Learning just how much our Lord had to put up with, and why He had to come and save us from ourselves. The Old Testament makes it very clear why God had to send His son to die on the cross to save us, and why He needed to create the Holy Eucharist. God knew that we would never make it without His Body and Blood for our nourishment for the journey and that we would need His Church and sacraments to guide us. I am sure that I will be in a Bible study for the rest of my life.

I meet each week with my small group. We follow the regular Ultreya format: Piety, Study, and Action. We all participate in the building of each other's apostolic activities. It is a wonderful sharing of our lives with each other as we grow in the Spirit. Before each meeting we attend Mass and say the rosary. It is so great to see the Holy Spirit working within us.

I am also sure that God is not done with me. I shall be forever grateful for my new Cursillo community, and all of their Palanca. You shall all have my Palanca as well. Thank you for the opportunity to share my journey with you.

De Colores, Phyllis



Inspiration Corner by Fr. Alex Waraksa, Spiritual Director

Faith is one of the essential gifts of God that we put into practice in so many ways that helps us to respond to God's grace. We place our trust or faith in things whether we realize it or not. Some of them because they are almost always reliable; we trust our car to get us places, but at times it breaks down. "In God we trust" is on our money, but many trust their money more than God. We trust the value of our money will always be good. Maybe not as good as we would like, such as it doesn't buy as much gas as it used to, but at least we get something for our money.

Xavier Leon Dufour writes about different types and results of faith in his Dictionary of Biblical Theology. Faith is how we respond to God. In Hebrew the roots of the word faith suggest solidity and sureness,

security and confidence.

Contrary to all likelihood Abraham 'believes in God Gn. 15,6 and in His Word. He obeys this call and wagers his existence on this promise. The God of Abraham visits His unhappy people in Egypt. ... Moses answers this divine proposal by a faith which 'will hold firm' (Heb 11,23-29) in spite of eventual weaknesses. Israel is also called 'to believe in God and in Moses, His servant' with an absolute confidence. The covenant consecrates this engagement of God in the history of Israel. In return Israel was asked to obey the Word of God... the covenant then asks for faith.

Hebrews Ch 11 is a wonderful chapter summarizing the great things God did because of

"In God we trust "is on our money, but many trust their money more than God.

people's faith beginning with this familiar verse 1, "Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen." This chapter draws upon the people and events of the Old Testament to paint an inspiring portrait of religious faith, firm and unyielding in the face of any obstacles that confront it. These pages rank among the most eloquent and lofty to be found in the Bible. In view of the needs of his audience he describes what authentic faith does, not what it is in itself.

"The disciples of Christ are 'those who have believed' Rev. 2,44 and 'who believe' 1 Th. 1,7. One day God will renew their hearts. 26 "I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts.

(Continued of page 4)

News from Our Spanish Cursillo Community

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, my name is Aurora Gardner. I was born in a Catholic family and grew up in a very pretty community, with the Salesianas Nuns and the Seminarians of San Juan Bosco. I had an amazing and happy childhood, because the masses in the Church of Maria Auxiliadora where I lived were surrounded by a great atmosphere. I really liked the joy of the mass in Latin, although I did not understand it all, but I understood that God was there in the Tabernacle. I always followed catholic faith and tried to look for God. I had other spiritual retreats in the course of my life, and finally I attended the cursillo de

cristiandad.

The experience of the cursillo of cristiandad has made me understand that true conversion is to come and to share the gospel day after day.

It was a great gift for me to participate in the cursillo of cristiandad and the most amazing gift of my life; it increased my faith and made me see things with clarity and enabled me to break the life pattern I had been living at that time. Then the cursillo of cristiandad formed me and motivated me. I felt that desire to want to follow the steps in spite of the obstacles of my daily life.

I made my cursillo two years ago and I had a conversion of life experience. The Lord has been so kind in allowing me to participate in the cursillo

of cristiandad. First I became Rectora and later, twice vice rectora. I thank God of being His instrument inside and outside of my Parish according to the plans of the Lord.

De Colores!
Aurora Gardner

Editor's Note: Aurora has become a vital spoke in the wheel of our Cursillo Community. She is even more valuable as she spans both the English and Hispanic communities and has stepped up to serve on the Secretariat coordinating each of our Cursillo Weekends. She truly is an example of an authentic Christian.

(Continued from page 3)

27, I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees. 28, You shall live in the land I gave your fathers; you shall be my people, and I will be your God.” Ez. 36,26. God will fill them with knowledge and obedience of which faith is the source.

The servant of Yahweh will be an exemplary figure for this people of faith. In the midst of a trial that will mean even death, he sets his face ‘like flint’ in absolute faith in God Is 50,7ff. When all salvation disappears from the visible plane, wisdom requires a total confidence in God in a faith which ‘knows’ that God remains all-powerful. “I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be hindered.” Job 42,2

The highest testimonies of faith are the prayers (psalms) in which the faith of Israel expands in and individual confidence of rare quality. The persecuted just man’s faith in God who will save him sooner or later. “A shield before me is God who saves the honest heart.” Ps.7,11-12 “My soul rests in God alone, from whom comes my salvation. One thing God has said; two things I have heard: Power belongs to God; so too, Lord, does kindness. And you render to each of us according to our deeds.” Is 62:2-13

Faith is shown by ‘confidence of the sinner in the mercy of God (Ps.40) ; peaceful assurance in God (Ps.4) ; stronger than death (Ps.16) ; such is the prayer of the poor gather together by the certainty that beyond all trial (Ps. 22). Martyrs do not die only in spite of their faith, but because of it. Faced with this supreme absence of God, the faith of

the martyrs, however, did not weaken, 1Macc 1,62, it deepened, even to hoping through God’s fidelity in the resurrection.

The Faith of the poor receives the good news Lk 1,46-55 shepherds, Blessed Mother – humble. Those believing in John the Baptist are humbly aware of their sin, thus are easily open to Jesus.

Faith is needed for healing , (women with hemorrhage for 12 years). "Daughter, your faith has saved you; go in peace." Luke 8:43-48. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, " 'If you can!' Everything is possible to one who has faith." 24 Then the boy's father cried out, "I do believe, help my unbelief!" part of Mk 9:17-29.

Faith is a confidence free of worry and fear. He said to (his) disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life and what you will eat, or about your body and what you will wear....31 Instead, seek his kingdom, and these other things will be given you besides. (Mt 25-34) This is a Meditation on Thursday night of Cursillo.

Jesus prayed for the faith of his disciples; "Simon, Simon, behold Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, 32 but I have prayed that your own faith may not fail; and once you have turned back, you must strengthen your brothers."

The faith of the disciples had still to take a decisive step to become the faith of the church, the Paschal faith. The step was taken when the disciples, after many hesitations in the face of the apparitions of Jesus (When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Mt 28,7- 9 Faith to believe in the Word of their preaching..

Elements: faith to confess Jesus as lord, initial oral tradition

then it was able to enrich itself and become a more precise teaching. In baptism we confess faith in the Trinity.

Paul says faith opens us to the treasures of God’s wisdom Col. 2,3, Faith leads to baptism, participation in the liturgy, interest in his teaching, living in the spirit. Faith expands by obedience. “ The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly; even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.” Acts, 6,7

Faith unfolds in the activity of the moral life. It acts through fraternal love. Faith maintains itself in a fidelity capable of meeting death after the example of Jesus

“So then, my beloved, obedient as you have always been, not only when I am present but all the more now when I am absent, work out your salvation with fear and trembling.” Phil 2,12

Faith also brings a joyful hope. It assures one of the love of god. Faith in the Word Made Flesh is necessary, in the person of Jesus, his works or miracles and in his teachings Faith is recognized by one who lives without sin, animated by fraternal love, and loves all people. The day when faith comes to an end ‘we shall see God as he is (1 Jn3,2) ‘such is the victory which has triumphed over the world: our faith 1 Jn. 5,4) Faith in heaven. ‘store up four yourselves treasures in heaven where neither rust nor moth can destroy.’ Let us never underestimate what the Scriptures teach us can be gained by faith.



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If you have been a team member on a Weekend please check to see if you inadvertently have the 3-Day Manual that was loaned to you to write your talk. If you do, please email Aurora Gardner at uarora@aol.com and let her know. The Manuals were for your use only to prepare for the weekend. We need all of them to be returned so that future team members can use them. Thank you.

Cursillo Calendar 2011

Event	Date /Time	Location	Contact Person
Spring Encounter for Spiritual & Lay Directors Knoxville Cursillo hosting	April 1-3 (Fri-Sun)	Grace Point (Kingston)	Dick Shriver
Secretariat Meeting Assembly Room	April 16 (Sat) 10 am-2 pm	Sacred Heart	Lois Schering
School of Leaders	May 21 (Sat) 10 am -2 pm	St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Jim & Judy Holt
Secretariat Meeting	June 11 (Sat) 10 am-2 pm	St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Lois Schering
Spanish Women's Cursillo T/B/A (Thurs-Sun)		St. Therese (Cleveland)	Beatriz Rincon
Cursillo Diocesan Encounter	July 23 (Sat) 9:30 -3:00	Sacred Heart Pavilion	Lois Schering & Dick Shriver
Bishop Stika celebrant and Keynote Speaker, Mass followed by Grand Ultreya & Fiesta			
Cursillo National Encounter	July 28-31 (Thurs to Sun)	St. Mary's University, San Antonio, TX	Lois Schering
Secretariat Meeting Assembly Room	August 13 (Sat) 10 am-2 pm	Sacred Heart	Lois Schering
School of Leaders	Sept 10 (Sat) 10 am-2 pm	St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Jim & Judy Holt
Men's English Cursillo	Sept 15-18 (Thurs-Sun)	Apison Center	Aurora Gardner
Secretariat Meeting	Oct 1 (Sat) 10 am-2 pm	Our Lady of Fatima (Alcoa)	Lois Schering
Women's Eng. Cursillo	Oct 6-9, (Thurs-Sun)	Apison Center	Aurora Gardner
Fall Regional Encounter	Oct 28-30 (Fri-Sun)	Covington, KY	Lois Schering
School of Leaders	Nov 12 (Sat) 10 am-2 pm	St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Jim & Judy Holt
Secretariat Meeting	Dec 10 (Sat) 10 am-2 pm	St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Lois Schering

Secretariat Meeting = BLUE

School of Leaders = GREEN

Regional and National Encounters = RED

Cursillo Weekends = BLACK, BOLDED

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HAPPY EASTER!





DIOCESE OF KNOXVILLE CURSILLO



Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ.

We are on the web at

<http://www.knoxvillecursillo.org/>

Cursillo proposes no new type of spirituality, but simply a method through which one's spirituality may be developed, lived, and shared in any area of human life, where there are Christians willing to dedicate their lives to Christ in an ongoing manner. The method is introduced on a Cursillo weekend.

In 1963, Pope Paul the VI appointed St. Paul as the official Patron of the Cursillo Movement. On that occasion he said:

"This method of Christian teaching, commonly called Cursillos in Christianity, extends already over a great number of faithful and has produced abundant fruit; Christian renewal of the family life, visualization of parishes, faithful observance of duties, in private, as well as public. All this has filled the Bishops and other Shepherds of souls with the greatest satisfaction."

Cursillo Basics—Open Letter regarding Ultreyas by Dick Shriver

As Post-Cursillo Chairman, I have visited all of the Ultreyas being held in the Diocese and enjoyed them all. I would like to make some comments about what I observed.

* The Ultreyas that are staying true to the Ultreya format as stated in our National regulations are well attended and are touching those who are attending

them.

* Witness talks should be a priority at all Ultreyas

It is sometimes difficult to get volunteers to present a witness at our Ultreyas. However, we need to hear each other's stories to persevere in the world we live in. Witness talks give us insight to help us overcome obstacles and learn

from one another. May I suggest that if you are having trouble getting a speaker in your parish, go outside your parish. You can call a Secretariat member or Cursillista from a weekend team to help out.

* Ultreyas should start and finish on time.

One hour, including the small group reunion (3-4 in a group will help with the time avail-

able). Social time is optional and can be at the beginning or end for 20-30 minutes.

* Closing prayers should be open for petitions.

We have five Ultreyas regularly scheduled in the Diocese at this time. We are working on starting another in Knoxville for the last week of the month. This will give our Diocese

one or more to choose from every week.

Please call me if I can help in any way to make your Ultreya a source of strength for your Parish and Cursillistas. May God bless you for your work.

De Colores!