



April 2012

Easter



DIocese of KNOXVILLE CURSILLO

The Rooster Crows



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



We welcome 16 new Cursillistas from Men's Cursillo, No 42. They are likened to the disciples who accompanied Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Their hearts were burning within. These are men who made a decision to choose God over watching the NCAA basketball tournament or relaxing while on spring break from college. God invited them as He invited us to live in His friendship and in His Grace.

“The Three-Day Cursillo could well be compared to a new birth, a rebirth in Christ, to a living communication of being Christian. This rebirth is brought about through authentic communication – that is, through living contact with a community of faith...which is made present here and now, through the communal witness of the leaders.” (*The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement*)

“Let's analyze when we lived our Cursillo Weekend. On Thursday night during the Introduction rollo (talk), we were asked to portray three things: enthusiasm, self-giving, and charity (Love). As we portray these three things, all of that “doing” during those three days were converted into a living (“being”) experience of our piety, study, and action. Everyday we started with morning prayers and offerings. Daily we shared a meditation, Mass, food, rollos, and shared in our groups (Group Reunion), songs, rest, and summaries by posters of the rollos of the day (Ultreya). The visits to the Blessed Sacrament (individual and group), night prayers, rosary, and examination of conscience helped us to reflect over the events of that day. It was that personal contact with each other, which converted that “doing” into a living and sharing. Then we ended with the Clausura (Closing) – Grand Ultreya – “the encounter” and sharing with the Cursillo community.

These are men who made a decision to choose God over watching the NCAA basketball tournament or relaxing while on spring break from college.

“Now let's analyze and compare our daily living with our Cursillo Weekend. What is the difference? In reality there is a difference between the “environments” of our Cursillo Weekend and the “environments” of our Post Cursillo...On our Cursillo Weekend, we were cloistered in a little piece of heaven, while in our Post Cursillo the things of the world surround us; the environment is very different. Nevertheless, our living and our “sharing” in Post Cursillo cannot be different to the sharing in our Cursillo Weekend. Our “sharing” and “living” should not change as we move from one place to another.” (*Cursillo National Mailing, February 2012*)

(Continued on pg. 4)

The Witness Box—

Sorry, we did not get a witness talk.

Diocese of Knoxville Catholic Cursillo Men's #42 - March 15-18, 2012 Apison Retreat Center



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A PARTY IS PLANNED FOR LATER THIS SUMMER TO CELEBRATE FR. JOE BRANDO'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY AS A PRIEST. CHECK HERE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION!

Attending Ultreyas on the Road by Judy Holt, St. Mary's, Johnson City

I love to attend Ultreya. It doesn't matter where I am or whose Ultreya it is, I just love to go to Ultreya. I am always uplifted whenever I go. Since Ultreya is the gathering of the Friendship Group Reunions, it really doesn't matter if I seek out an Ultreyas out of town. That's precisely what we do when we go on trips; we look for Ultreyas.

Whenever Jim and I plan our trip, I go to the Dioceses website of our destination and see if there will be an Ultreya anywhere near our hotel. We've been doing this for years. We've been to Ultreyas in Kansas City, New Orleans, Gallup NM, two places in Australia, and one in Auckland, New Zealand. On the Diocese of Cairns, Australia, website, I was having trouble finding the information I needed, so I just emailed the Bishop and explained what I wanted and asked him to forward my email to the right person. I got an email back from the Lay Director within a week. We had to drive about 70 miles to Mareeba to get to that one, but boy was it fun. Did you know at that time the teams for the Cursillos in New Zealand came from Australia? And I thought I had a long way to go to get to a week-end!

"We don't leave it home when we travel. We live it every day wherever we are."

In March, we were in San Antonio, so as usual, I checked the website for Ultreyas. We found one a little over a mile from our hotel. We walked to the church and I was surprised to see friends I met when I flew to National last summer. What a small world we live in! I was pleased that someone offered to drive us back to our hotel because I wasn't too keen on walking back in the dark and the rain.

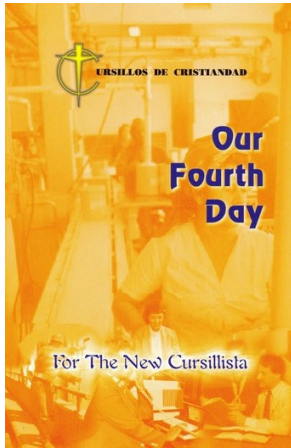
When we go to Ultreyas when we travel, we are told how surprised they are to see us and how inspired they are by our dedication to Cursillo. Cursillo is our primary apostolate; this is our life. We don't leave it home when we travel. We live it every day wherever we are.

I encourage all of you to attend Ultreya at home and on the road. You'll be glad you did!

**Happy
Easter**

(Continued fm pg 1)

Eduardo Bonnin (Cursillo founder), said, "It is easy to have someone encounter Christ; it is much more difficult to have him follow Christ." (Our Fourth Day)



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I would like to introduce or reintroduce you to a Cursillo publication. The title is *Our Fourth Day* (for the new

Cursillista). There is so much to "take in" during the Cursillo weekend. This little booklet will answer any question you may have and provide you with so much more. The booklet goes through the weekend day by day; leads you into what we call the 4th Day, which is the rest of your life; teaches you how to live the 4th Day; and provides other information as well as a glossary of terms. I learned something from rereading this booklet that Cursillistas at diverse functions should not immediately cluster together, but rather mix and leaven the gathering (pg. 55). The cost of the booklet is \$5.00 and is available only in English.

You can purchase a copy at the 4th Day Workshops or by emailing me at schering4@aol.com.

Sofia Delgado is the Rectora for the Spanish Women's weekend to be held on June 21-24. The Spanish men's Rector has yet to be announced but the Spanish men's weekend is scheduled to be held on August 16-19. The fall English Women's Cursillo date has been changed from the end of September to September 13-16. Angie Feltz will be the Rectora. Please pray for these Rectoras, their teams and the prospective candidates.

Carol Rummel is stepping down as Editor of *The Rooster Crows*. *Carol has done an excellent job in organizing the articles submitted, writing articles and making the newsletter appealing to read. There are so many talented people in the Knoxville Cursillo Community that I pray that one of you (seasoned or new Cursillista) steps forward and says, "Here I am." I am willing to be Editor!*

Ultreya!

WANTED (PREFERABLY) ALIVE EDITOR FOR ROOSTER CROWS

Can you use a computer? Do you understand basic grammar and spelling rules?
Are you looking for a way to serve your Cursillo Community?

If you answered yes, we have a job for you!

It is time for you to step up and assist in publishing the Rooster Crows.

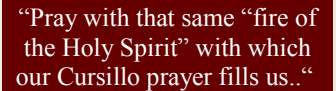
Our newsletter is our lifeline with the Diocese and it contains good and thoughtful information and articles. Won't **YOU** help?!

FROM LENT THROUGH EASTER WITH CURSILLO by Deacon Bill Jacobs

Easter is finally here! For many of us, there is a great sense of relief. Behind us is the somber time of self-reflection, replaced by a sense of joy and celebration! (And we can eat cake and candy again!)

Yet the Catholic celebration of Easter does not end on Easter Sunday night. The glorious Easter season goes on until the celebration of Pentecost. Did you notice how Lent lasts for 40 days, but the rejoicing of the Easter season is 50 days long?

Consider how the Cursillo tripod of piety, study and action sort of overlaps the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Maybe we can take these same somber Lenten disciplines and convert them into joyful Easter celebrations using the Cursillo method.



“Pray with that same “fire of the Holy Spirit” with which our Cursillo prayer fills us..“

Prayer is certainly the cornerstone of our piety. Let us convert our prayers with Easter joy in mind! Let us focus on prayers of thanksgiving and joyful praise. Pray with that same “fire of the Holy Spirit” with which our Cursillo prayer fills us. Let our sad face of Lent be replaced by the permanent smile of an Easter people!

Fasting may not be exactly the same as study, but for some of us, this leg of the tripod can be as hard as giving up jelly beans and donuts. Seek out readings of rejoicing and praise for our study during the Easter season. Search the Scriptures to find the psalms of praise. Turn your Gospel reflections from the passion of Jesus to the resurrection tales, or the miracle stories. Rejoice in the workings of the Holy Spirit with the early Church as recounted in Acts. Reflect on the wondrous visions of Saint John in the book of Revelation.

Giving alms should always be done with joy. May our apostolic action reflect a continued commitment to this great work, yet colored with the great rejoicing of Easter. Give of your time, of your talents, of yourself, and with a permanent Easter smile!

Consider the dining room table set up for the Easter dinner. The Easter eggs, dyed in many hues. The green beans, the sweet potatoes, the fresh salads. Dare I say it—here Easter Sunday shows itself “all in color!”

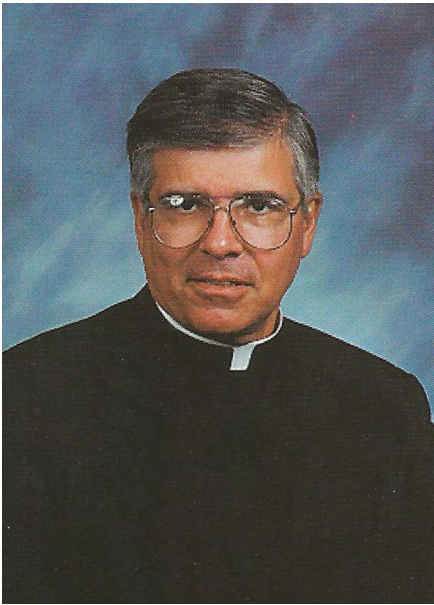
May the fullness of this Easter season be ever present in the hearts of all faithful Christians. May the blessings of the resurrected Christ come in abundance to all our Cursillo sisters and brothers, and their families.

De colores! He is risen! Alleluia!

Forty Years of Service by Carol Rummel

With congratulations, we are acknowledging 40 years of service to the Diocese of Knoxville. Fr. Joseph J. Brando has served us all in his own humble and caring manor. He was ordained June 3, 1972 and has continued to serve his fellow man ever since.

Joseph Brando was born on November 1, 1943 in Brooklyn, New York. The eldest of five children. This fertile beginning cultivated a man with a great sense of humor and a zeal for serving others. Being a big brother to his siblings was probably the training ground for his life of service.



Fr. Joe also served his country in the U.S. Army National Guard and retired as a Lt. Col.. He proudly served in Bosnia, Kosovo, Kuwait and Germany, to name a few places. Lucky for us, he has a passion for Cursillo and has represented it well as the Diocese of Knoxville Cursillo's first Spiritual Advisor. He continues to support Cursillo at every opportunity; attending weekends

and helping out whenever and where ever possible. Fr. Joe offers his insights in each issue of the East Tennessee Catholic. He presents spiritual rollos at Cursillo weekends and offers encouragement to new Cursillistas. I remember my first effort as a team member ten years ago. Fr. Joe attended that weekend and offered his "critique" to a nervous and doubtful speaker. He praised my presentation after I spoke and even convinced me that I might be of some help in this wonderful movement. His encouragement and kindness to a newbie helped me to relax and let God handle the hard stuff. It worked! I have since served on four teams and acted as the team leader twice. Had my first experience on a team not been so positive, I might not be as active as I currently am. Thank you Father!

Fr. Joe loves to travel and has been to Asia, Africa, South America and Europe. He did a 'pulpit swap' with a priest from Wales when he was pastor of OLOF. He is very experienced with building programs and has a true vision for the future. He attended Form and Reform Building Construction; helped in the renovating of the OLPH choir loft and various other building projects in the Diocese. He has also traveled around Tennessee. His assignments since ordination have been St. Peter & Paul, Chattanooga, Sacred Heart, Knoxville, St. Joseph, Nashville, (Nashville Diocese), St. Patrick McEwen, (Nashville Diocese), Cathedral of the Incarnation, Nashville (Nashville Diocese), Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Chattanoo-

ga, St. Patrick, Morristown, United States Army, Our Lady of Fatima, Alcoa, St. Therese of Lisieux, Cleveland, St. Jude, Chattanooga, St. Mary, Gatlinburg.

Marriage Encounter has also benefitted from Fr. Joe's particular brand of dedication. He worked for many years establishing that program in the Diocese.

Though he has had his own personal struggles with illness, you never hear him complain or bemoan his fate. Instead, he approaches it with the same drive and determination that he has lived his life.

THANK YOU, Fr. Joe, for your continued service to the Diocese of Knoxville. As a priest and as a Chaplain you have actually changed your environments and ours as expressed in the Cursillo Movement. You continue to show us the way. We love you and are glad to know you and call you friend.





He learned obedience

In reading an article in the Magnificat in the beginning of March, I was impressed by a thought that was attributed to St. John Climacus by Fr. Andre Louf, O.C.S.O.

stating that “If prayer can never proceed at the expense of obedience, strict

obedience is sometimes preferable to the peace and quiet of prayer. God does not ask for totally collected, concentrated prayer from those who self-surrender in obedience is complete.”

We also might remember the reading from the letter to the Hebrews 5:7-8 that we often read as we prepare for the Lord’s Passion, “In the days when he was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was

heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered...”

Jesus was heard because of reverence. This reverence perhaps flows from his love and respect for

His heavenly Father and this leads to obedience. Obedience in some spiritual writers is seen from its Latin root

which connects it with listening to the one in authority as well, listening with love and respect.

I thought for instance of asking two different persons to do something for you. The first person you ask you totally trust that they will complete the task and don’t give it a second thought. The second person you will probably check one or more times to see if they have completed the task. How much can God rely on us to do something that we are asked?

If we have that close rela-

tionship with God where we are always willing and ready to do what God asks of us and do it without delay, then God will be more ready to respond to our prayers that come from such a loving and holy heart.

Obedience for the Cursillista can be applied to living out their Piety, Study and Action. If we love God, we will love our time spent in prayer and devotion with God. If we love God, we will want to better know this God and know about this God and our God’s teachings and wisdom. If we love God, that love will naturally and supernaturally flow forth in action. Our love and respect for God will lead us to be obedient to using this method of spirituality inspired by the Holy Spirit for our Cursillo movement and the Church. May God help us to love, to be respectful and reverent, and to be obedient even if it means imitating our Savior as God’s suffering servant who gained victory for us over sin and death by His death and resurrection.

“If we love God, we will love our time spent in prayer and devotion with God.”

POST-CURSILLO by Dick Shriver

As you know, we just had our men’s #42 Cursillo Weekend, March 15-18. We had 16 Candidates from 9 parishes. After working as a team member on the weekend, I am still on the Mountain Top. Many of you have been on teams and know that it is a blessing. We learn so much from working on teams. Our goal, after the weekend as sponsors and/or Cursillistas, is to ensure all the new Cursillistas have the opportunity to be in a small group reunion and that they attend Ultreyas. We all need each other to keep us on track. The tripod is essential to our growth as Christians.

We have six Ultreyas monthly in our Diocese, (see the website for schedules) and many small group reunions (see January’s issue of the Rooster Crows). If you know one of the new Cursillistas, please invite him to join you at Ultreya or small group reunion. If your group is full, help him start a new group. These new Cursillistas are counting on us to welcome them and help them transition into our Cursillo family. But more importantly, Christ is counting on all of us!

De Colores!

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2012 Cursillo Calendar

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date/Time/Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>
Secretariat Meeting	Apr 14 , 10:00 – 2:00 OLOF, Alcoa	Lois Schering
Spring Encounter for Spiritual & Lay Directors	Apr 20-22 , Fri-Sun, Louisville, Kentucky	Lois Schering
4th Day Workshop	May 5 , 10:00 – 2:00 St. Thomas, Lenoir City	Jim & Judy Holt Nancy Kinerson
Secretariat Meeting	Jun 9 , 10:00 – 2:00 St. Thomas, Lenoir City	Lois Schering
Spanish Women's Weekend	Jun 21-24, Thurs-Sun, St. Therese, Cleveland	Beatriz Rincon
4th Day Workshop	Jul 7 , 10:00 – 2:00 St. Thomas, Lenoir City	Jim & Judy Holt Nancy Kinerson
Cursillo National Encounter	Jul 19-22 , Fri-Sun Xavier, Univ., Cincinnati, Ohio	Lois Schering
Secretariat Meeting	Aug 11 , 10:00 – 2:00 OLOF, Alcoa	Lois Schering
Spanish Men's Weekend	Aug 16-19 , Thurs-Sun, St. Therese, Cleveland	Beatriz Rincon
4th Day Workshop	Sep 8 , 10:00 – 2:00 St. Thomas, Lenoir City	Jim & Judy Holt Nancy Kinerson
Fall Regional Encounter	Oct 5-7 , Cincinnati, Ohio	Lois Schering
English Women's Weekend	Sep 27-30 , Thurs-Sun, Apison Center	Aurora Gardner
Secretariat Meeting	Oct 13, 10:00 – 2:00 St. Thomas, Lenoir City	Lois Schering
Diocesan Encounter & Reunion	Nov 10 (Sat) 9:30 am-3 pm, OLOF, Alcoa Keynote Speaker T/B/A Mass followed by Grand Ultreya and Fiesta	Lois Schering & Dick Shriver
Secretariat Meeting	Dec 1 , 10:00 – 2:00 OLOF, Alcoa	Lois Schering



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– Men's Weekend #42—Success by David Campbell

With the constant guidance and working of the Holy Spirit, the weekend was a great success! We were blessed with 16 candidates. During the closing, the men revealed the extent of their encounter with the Spirit. To me, the after-response of nearly every candidate joining in a Group Reunion, was the true measure of success for the weekend.

The high point of the weekend for most was Bishop Stitka's presence and Habitual Grace talk.

As everyone knows, the Fall 2011 English Men's Cursillo did not go forward

due to lack of candidates. In September, the team prayed together and prayed a novena with the goal of having 20 candidates for a Spring Cursillo. The Holy Spirit answered our prayers with 20 applications, although through attrition, the final number making the weekend was 16. I know that the team, as well as I, was in awe at the working of the spirit to accomplish this goal within these few short months. With God within, all is possible.

Editor's note: It is not incumbent on the weekend teams to recruit their own candidates. While they are in formation, becoming a team, it is our duty to support them with our candidates. We need to be sharing Cursillo with all likely candidates for future weekends. We should be submitting applications all through the year, not only just before a weekend. We need to know that we have people waiting to make a weekend; not a weekend waiting for candidates. Remember, Christ is counting on us.

Thanks Dave for a job well done!