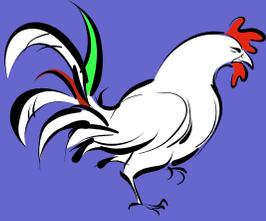




February 2013



Diocese of Knoxville Cursillo

# The Rooster Crows

# Blessed February!

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## DID YOU KNOW...

That Pope Paul VI designated Saint Paul the Apostle to be the patron saint of Cursillo in 1965? And the Cursillo Movement has been blessed by Paul VI, John Paul II, and Benedict XVI.

The statutes of the Worldwide Cursillo have been canonically recognized by the Pontifical Council on the Laity.

So the Movement has lots of friends in high places!

“Dear Cursillistas! Follow confidently the way of formation and Christian life that you have undertaken with so much generosity.

*Duc in Altum!* [Go into the deep!]

--Blessed John Paul II





# The Director's Chair

## Building on a Firm Foundation by Lois Schering

At its October 13 meeting, the Secretariat elected the following members to serve for a three year term, ending December of 2015.

- ◆ *Sofia Delgado* was elected to a new position on the Secretariat as Spanish PreCursillo Director.
- ◆ *Beatriz Rincon* stepped down as Spanish Cursillo Director after six years of service. The position is currently vacant. Please thank *Beatriz* when you see her.
- ◆ *Micheline Parkey* was elected English Post Cursillo Director. She was formerly Coordinator for Cursillo. Welcome *Micheline!*
- ◆ *Dick Shriver* stepped down as English Post Cursillo Director. We thank *Dick* for all his initiative in helping to start a new group reunion, helpful insights in setting up a new Ultreya in Chattanooga, strengthening existing Ultreyas, starting group reunion ministry, setting up a parish reps ministry and revamping the *Rooster Crows*.
- ◆ *Jim and Judy Holt* were elected to a full term as Directors of the English 4<sup>th</sup> Day Workshop.

At the Regional Encounter's business meeting held on Nov 3, 2012, *Angie Feltz* was elected to a three-year term as a member of the regional service team. Congratulate her when you see her.

We have a full schedule this year. The Secretariat and its Assistants began with a Mass and retreat on Jan 12. We learned about the "Joy of Faith" and how to be as children in the eyes of God from Deacon Bill Jacobs, our retreat master.

The regional service team will visit us on March 9 to give the English a workshop at St. Thomas in Lenoir City. The cost is \$10 per person. Please bring a dish to share for lunch.

Juan Ruiz, National Cursillo Spanish Coordinator, will travel from California to give a workshop for the Spanish Cursillistas on the Foundational Charism, the Cursillo Methodology and its Operational Structures from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm on Saturday, April 6. Location is Saint Joseph in Madisonville. The day will end with Sunday Mass. Please bring a bag lunch. Cost is \$10, to defray the cost of Mr. Ruiz' travel and lodging. Bring your Cursillo questions for Juan to answer.

We have four weekends planned this year. The teams have worked very hard in formation. Please offer prayer and palanca to help bring these Weekends to fruition:

English Men's -- April 11-14 at Apison

Spanish Women's -- June 20-23 at St Therese

Spanish Men's -- August 8-11 at Apison

English Women's -- Sept 26-29 at Apison

Here's an update on our African Mission to take Cursillo to Ekiti Catholic Diocese, Nigeria, Africa. The men's weekend will be held on July 11-14 and the men's team will be come from Gibraltar and South Africa. The women's weekend will be held on July 25-28 and the team will be from our diocese. I have set up a separate account for donations to help defray the cost of airfare for our Nigerian Cursillo "missionaries," and for purchasing Cursillo booklets for the weekend. Please make your check payable to *Diocese of Knoxville Cursillo*, write Africa on the memo line and mail it to Lois Schering, 1505 Cavalier Dr., Maryville, TN. 37803. Any questions, please email me at [schering4@aol.com](mailto:schering4@aol.com) or call 865-681-7858.



## Of What Use is the Cursillo?

By David Campbell

I was startled when I first read these words, especially since they were written by Eduardo Bonnin Aguiló (principal founder of the Cursillo movement). It took several more sentences before he asked the question again, saying “Of what use is the Cursillo, if there is nothing which you need to accomplish?” I was struck by this statement on a number of levels, the first being the word *need*. Why didn’t he just say “things which you want to accomplish” or “things which you wish to accomplish” instead?

I took this to prayer, and in the process ended up questioning my real motivation for being active in Cursillo. Over the following few weeks, I found myself making a careful examination of all of my interests and ministry activities, asking myself: What is that I *want* to accomplish here, what is it I *wish* to accomplish here...What is it that I *need* to accomplish here? I discovered that my reflection on these questions has had a true and lasting impact on everything that I do, every single day.

Each of us have different life experiences, and come to serve the Lord by different paths. Most cursillistas I know at have a genuine love of the Lord and possess great enthusiasm for serving Him. The encounter with the Holy Spirit at a Cursillo weekend is a powerful experience, and we respond to that encounter in different ways. Some seem to thrive best in fellowship with other cursillistas, some prefer a more solitary Fourth Day journey, some cannot seem to keep the word Cursillo off of their lips, even years after their weekend.

I frequently hear people describe their feelings about a particular interest or activity as being their **passion**. I’m sure that we each have many things about which we are passionate. Do these represent the things that we *need* to do, versus activities which we find to be just simple pleasures, or find stimulating in some other way? As we examine our lives, and our activities and involvements in our environments, do we find things we have a *need* to accomplish?

I hope that you will take the time to consider what you do, and what you feel you are put there to accomplish. Reflect on Eduardo’s words and see where they may take you. De Colores!

*“Conscience is the light by which we interpret the will of God in our own lives.”*

– Thomas Merton



# NATIONAL CURSILLO ENCOUNTER 2012

By David Campbell

My wife Lisa and I were blessed to attend the 22<sup>nd</sup> National Cursillo Encounter, held at Xavier University from July 19 – 22, 2012. We had a great time and learned many things on that weekend. Not the least of which were:

- (1) Our diocese was well-represented, with 14 attendees
- (2) Our own Father Alex is widely known and respected throughout the National Cursillo Community, and
- (3) Cursillistas are the some of the finest people you will ever meet (of course, we knew that already). Imagine 600 people in one room, all practicing the Cursillo Method at the same time!

At the time of pre-registration, I didn't know what to expect from the National Encounter weekend, but I assumed I would learn practical things (how to be a better sponsor, how to improve my Fourth Day, etc.). I was surprised to find rollos on such subjects as "Attitude," "Creativity," "Communication," and "Confidence." It became apparent that, rather than simply re-stating concepts we learned in our weekend many years ago, this conference would challenge us to re-examine many of our thoughts and beliefs about the Cursillo. We also benefitted from the perspective and ideas of seasoned Cursillistas from around the country, with decades of service in our movement.

The speakers were all of high caliber, and each challenged us to re-think what we thought we knew about the Weekend and our Fourth Day. Our first speaker was Juan Ruiz (Cursillo National Spanish-speaking Coordinator), who presented a rollo entitled "The Meaning of Life."

I was so impressed by his humility, his intellect, and the earnestness of his presentation that I asked him if he could send me a copy of his speech, so that I could consider it further. An email to Juan resulted in a very courteous and humble reply, along with a copy of the talk he delivered. Here is some excerpts of his talk which I found most meaningful to me:

*We all are familiar the Baltimore Catechism definition of the meaning of life being "to know God, to love God, and to serve God..." So then we are left to decide on the values upon which this meaning of life is based. As cursillistas, that includes the definition of our Christian Ideal, therefore our Fourth Day is only as strong as our determination to follow our Ideal...The true meaning of life, which is actually the happiness all human beings seek, is not found in the passing and relative values of the world, but in the Christian values that Jesus Christ himself taught us and left us in the Gospels. We forget or do not know, maybe because nobody has told us in a convincing manner, that by living our Christian Ideal, by living the Gospel of Christ, we find a happiness that multiplies itself with each experience. In our conscious effort to live these values, we begin to see everything around us differently.*

Mr. Ruiz pointed out that, as we begin to live out and persevere in our Fourth Day, we discover many obstacles, which may include over-identification with our environments. He saw this as the tendency to seek logical and scientific answers to things which happen around us, and in doing so, we begin to distance ourselves from the presence of Christ and His values. Then we begin to lose our understanding of the true meaning of life. Little by little, we lose the balance needed to live our Christian virtues. We end up justifying everything we want to be, and how we want to live, and in this process we create our own "meaning of life."

My personal take-away from his talk was this: each of us knows people who came away from their weekend filled with zeal and good intentions, but they allow themselves to backslide from the Life of Grace, consumed by their earthly distractions. Is it poor sponsorship, or an un-inviting Ultreya or small group community, or the absence of palanca support? Do they not have good examples to follow? My personal observation, supported by what I learned from this rollo, is that a poorly-formed Ideal leads to confusion and conflict. This allows the world to rob the cursillista of his or her pursuit of grace.

In my opinion, the first lay talk of the weekend (Ideal), and the response of the candidate to the later challenge of development and formation of their Christian Ideal, is a key ingredient in their ability to persevere in their Fourth Day. In the future, I will be more attentive to the development of the Christian Ideal in the candidates that I sponsor.

To anyone who is looking for a new perspective on their Fourth Day journey, I would suggest attending an upcoming regional or national Cursillo Encounter. Be sure and tell everyone you meet that you are close personal friends with Father Alex!

# 4<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Encounter and 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

by Lois Schering

We celebrated our 4<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Encounter, and 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as Cursillo in the Diocese of Knoxville, at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Lenoir City on December 1, 2012. The day began with Mass, celebrated by *his Eminence Cardinal Justin Rigali*. The Mass was concelebrated by *Rev. Alex Waraksa*, current Spiritual Advisor, and *Rev. Joe Brando*, former Spiritual Advisor. *Rev. David Carter* was the Master of Ceremonies. *Deacon Bill Jacobs* served the Mass.

Before Mass began, the Encounter was opened by processing to the altar with the Bible, candle and Knoxville Cursillo banner, carried by *Nancy Kinerson*, *Lisa Campbell* and *Lance Lyons*.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Reading was proclaimed in Spanish by *Omar Carmona*. Cantor *Micheline Parkey* and musician *Judy Holt* sang the psalm. *Deacon Bill Jacobs* read the Gospel.

*Cardinal Rigali* gave the Keynote Address as part of his homily. (A copy of Cardinal Rigali's remarks in English and Spanish are on the [knoxvillecursillo.org](http://knoxvillecursillo.org) webpage.)

The Prayers of the Faithful were read in English by *Deacon Jacobs* and in Spanish by *Nancy Kinerson*.

Among those in attendance were some of the members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Secretariat: *Roger Jones*, *John and Colette Killebrew*, and *Mike Kernan*, husband of the late Irene Kernan, our 2<sup>nd</sup> Lay Director. They helped bring Cursillo to us, so it was fitting that they bring up the gifts during the offertory.

After Mass, we went to the Parish Life Center to celebrate our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. *Judy Holt* baked an Anniversary double chocolate and almond cake (Mm-Mm-good). Everyone brought a dish to share. *Connie Colucci*, a former Secretariat member from the 1<sup>st</sup> Cursillo Secretariat, joined us at the fiesta. We had our picture taken with His Eminence.

The fiesta was followed by the Grand Ultreya, consisting of a Group Reunion, and then two witness speakers. *Maria Rios* gave the Spanish witness talk and *Dick Shriver* gave the witness talk in English. Our priests echoed the witness talks. Then we shared, laughed, and before the Encounter ended, we held hands and prayed together. A most enjoyable day!



# Secretariat Position Election

Term will be 2014-2017

The **Spanish Cursillo Director** position on the Secretariat is open for election. The term of office is 3-years and is not limited to the number of years served. Please submit a letter or note in writing via email or mail to Lois Schering, [schering4@aol.com](mailto:schering4@aol.com), 1505 Cavalier Dr., Maryville, TN 37803 by April 4 (10 days before the election). A vote will be held on April 13 at the Secretariat's regular meeting. The duties of the Spanish Cursillo Director are: He or she shall present to the Secretariat names of prospective Spanish coordinators and help all leaders to carry out all that is required on the 3-day Cursillo according to the official literature. He or she shall coordinate the Clausura of the Cursillo weekend. He or she will be responsible for getting the new Cursillistas names, addresses and phone numbers from the Rector/Rectora of the weekend (the Roster) and give to the Cursillo Secretariat Secretary to be placed in the archives and mailing list. Be open to the whisperings of the Holy Spirit, pray about it and say "Here I am, Lord, I come to do your Will."

*By your work you show what you love and what you know.*

—Saint Bruno

*Good example is the most efficacious apostolate. You must be as lighted lanterns and shine like brilliant chandeliers among men. By your good example and your words, animate others to know and love God.*

—Saint Mary Joseph Rosello

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## The Deacon's Two Cents



**I've got that joy, joy, joy, joy...**

**By Deacon Bill Jacobs**

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Many of us remember that famous line in the film *Apollo 13*, where Flight Director Gene Krantz bolsters the confidence of NASA workers during the crisis by declaring, "Failure is not an option!" If we read the Scriptures carefully, we can find a state of mind which is an absolute requirement for us as committed Christians, and that is to experience joy, and rejoice in all that we do. It is as though the Bible repeatedly reminds us, "Joy is not an option!"

Many Scripture passages remind us of this requirement for joy. Saint Paul tells the Philippians in Chapter 4: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!" (He has to tell us twice, so that we don't miss the point.) The first letter of Peter says that in believing in Christ, "[we] rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy." In Saint John's account of the Last Supper (chapter 15), Jesus sums up all that he sought to do in his earthly ministry with this prayer: "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you, and your joy may be complete."

Yet we see so many Christians live their lives looking like they are sucking on lemons. They are so serious and unsmiling when they should be rejoicing. Let's face it—who are we attracting to Christianity, when Christ's followers all look like they just had a root canal?

When we reflect on our Cursillo weekend,

we can recall many moments of the joy of the Holy Spirit working in our hearts. We sang songs that were off-key, yet filled with exuberant joy. Our table sharings were often intense, but also filled with the joy of shared Christian experiences. And who can forget the joy we felt when the Christian community welcomed us back during the clausura?

The Cursillo encourages us, and Scripture commands us, to carry that joy into all aspects of our Christian life, so that we may truly "bloom where we are planted." Let us be filled with joy, as we serve our parish in all of our ministries. Let our joy overflow, as we seek to spread the Gospel message in our workplace. Let all of our Cursillo gatherings, from Group Reunion to Ultreya and beyond, be gatherings of pure joy. Let our faces be radiant with joy, as we encounter Our Lord in the sacraments. It is this kind of joy that will attract others; they will want what we have; we will better be able to "bring that friend to Christ."

My prayer for all of us, in the coming weeks and months, is for us to have a joy-filled heart in all that we do. May the completeness of joy, which the Lord wanted us to receive at the Last Supper, help us to become the Cursillistas that Jesus calls us to be.

## Cursillo Calendar 2013

Event	Date/Time/Location	Contact
Secretariat Retreat (incl. Assistants to the Secretariat)	<b>Jan 12</b> (Sat) 10 am-12:30 pm in Chapel at St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Lois Schering
Secretariat Meeting	<b>Feb 9</b> (Sat) 10 am-2 pm at St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Lois Schering
4 <sup>th</sup> Day Workshop	<b>Mar 9</b> (Sat) 10 am-2 pm at St. Thomas (Lenoir City)  Topic: Post Cursillo - 4 <sup>th</sup> Day Involvement (Perseverance & Participation). Presented by Region IV Service Team in English. \$10 per person and bring a dish to share.	Jim & Judy Holt Nancy Kinerson
Spanish Workshop	<b>Apr 6</b> (Sat) 9:30 am-5:30 pm at St. Joseph the Worker (Madisonville) Pre- sented by Juan Ruiz, National Cursillo Spanish Co- ordinator. Rollos on the Foundational Charism, the Cursillo Methodology and its Operational Structures. \$10 per person and bring a bag lunch.	Lois Schering Aurora Gardner
English Men's Cursillo	<b>Apr 11-14</b> (Thurs-Sun) at Apison	Aurora Gardner
Secretariat Meeting	<b>Apr 13</b> (Sat) 10 am to 2 pm At St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Lois Schering
Regional Spring Encounter	<b>Apr 19-21</b> Fri-Sun In Evansville, IN	Lois Schering
4 <sup>th</sup> Day Workshop	<b>May 4</b> (Sat) 10 am-2 pm at St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Jim & Judy Holt Nancy Kinerson
Secretariat Meeting	<b>June 8</b> (Sat) 10 am-2 pm at St. Thomas, Lenoir City	Lois Schering

## Cursillo Calendar 2013 cont.

Spanish Women's Cursillo No. 9	<b>June 20-23</b> (Thurs-Sun) at St. Therese (Cleveland)	
Diocesan Encounter	<b>July 13</b> (Sat) 10 am to 3 pm at St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Lois Schering Micheline Parkey
African Men's Cursillo	<b>July 11-14</b> at Ekiti Catholic Diocese, Nigeria, Africa (Team from Gibraltar and South Africa)	Lois Schering
African Women's Cursillo	<b>July 25-28</b> at Ekiti Catholic Diocese, Nigeria, Africa (Team from Diocese of Knoxville)	Lois Schering
National Encounter	<b>July 25-28</b> at Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY	Lois Schering
Secretariat Meeting	<b>Aug 3</b> (Sat) 10 am to 2 pm Location T/B/A	Lois Schering
Spanish Men's Weekend No. 7	<b>Aug 8-11</b> (Thurs-Sun) at Apison	
4 <sup>th</sup> Day Workshop	<b>Sept 14</b> (Sat) <b>CANCELLED</b> Diocesan 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	
English Women's Cursillo No. 45	<b>Sept 26-29</b> (Thurs-Sun) Location T/B/A	Aurora Gardner
Secretariat Meeting	<b>Oct 12</b> (Sat) 10 am to 2 pm at St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Lois Schering
Fall Regional Encounter	<b>Oct 18-20</b> (Fri-Sun) Bellevue, IL at Our Lady of the Snows Monastery	Lois Schering
4 <sup>th</sup> Day Workshop	<b>Nov 9</b> (Sat) 10 am to 2 pm at St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Jim & Judy Holt Nancy Kinerson
Secretariat Meeting	<b>Dec 14</b> (Sat) 10 am to 2 pm at St. Thomas (Lenoir City)	Lois Schering

# Members of the Secretariat 2013

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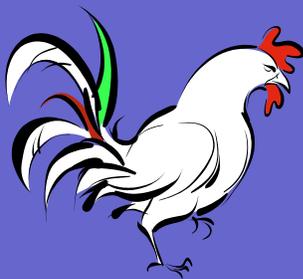
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**Christ is  
Counting On  
You!**

We are on the web at  
<http://www.knoxvillecursillo.org/>