

THE ROOSTER CROWS

Diocese of Knoxville
CURSILLO

Autumn 2018

*Our Cursillo National
leader will be in
Knoxville for a one day
session on October 13th!
See page 10 for details*



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VIEW FROM THE TOP

Dear Brothers And Sisters In Christ

As I write this there are so many great things happening in the Cursillo movement in our diocese. The very first thing is a visit from our National Leader, Cef Aguillon, who will be giving a talk on obstacles in the fourth day as part of a daily workshop put on by our regional service team. Space is limited, sign up today!

2018 Weekends-We have had two very successful weekends so far in 2018, the women's closing in February almost filled the auditorium at the Apison center! We were blessed with 18 candidates on the men's weekend in June. There are two pages of photographs taken during the celebrations after. *Find yourself and your friends!*

New Ultreya! We are pleased to announce that there are four new Ultreyas! started this year, see your schedule on page 12.

Father Alex Waraksa continues his servant leadership of the Cursillo Movement by accepting the position of Spiritual Advisor for all of North America and Central America. Congratulate him next time you see him!

Finally, David Campbell asked me how was my PSA? My very first thought was "none of your business" but then I realized that he was talking about my Piety, Study, Action. This is the first part of a two-part discussion of one person's journey in the practice of Cursillo.

As I look back on my 34 years of Cursillo, I realize that through my tiny sacrifices of time and comfort, I have seen real changes in my environments, and I'm sure that you have too.

Ultreya! (onward!).

De Colores

Dick Shriver, Lay Director

A reflection for the season from Father Brando

Dear Cursillistas,

We've just passed into October. One of the ways of finding that out is to go shopping. Virtually every store you enter has a large section that tell you we're entering the season of Halloween.

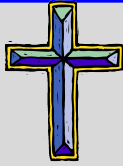
From my vantage point it seems that this upcoming Halloween will be more scary than any one up to now. That was not the original idea. Halloween was meant to be a remembrance of the deceased who were not declared saints. If these men and women are relegated to purgatory– they should be in our prayers.

We should spend Halloween praying, not scaring others.

Perhaps the best way for us to celebrate the season is to look through the list of gatherings, classes, programs that are offered through our parishes and ministries and choose one that best suits our spiritual needs and interests.

An even better idea is to choose an event that you would enjoy and take a friend out with you. Growing in knowledge and understanding with that friend would make this year's Halloween enjoyable all the way to Christmas and beyond!





The Deacon's Two Cents



REALLY pray the Holy Spirit
Prayer...

By Deacon Bill Jacobs

What a beautiful prayer is the prayer to the Holy Spirit. Traditional in the liturgy for Pentecost Sunday, this prayer has become an important part of our Cursillo experience. We have all been praying it since our Three-Day Weekend, when we were instructed to “turn to page 63 in your guidebooks.” (The new guidebooks have the prayer on page 129.)

Most of us have this prayer committed to memory. And therein lies a problem. Our continual repetition of this memorized prayer may have caused some of us to fail to appreciate exactly what it is that we are praying for.

We ask the Spirit to “fill the hearts of us your faithful.” We have been granted the Holy Spirit by virtue of baptism and confirmation. But does He fill our hearts? And if He does, do we act like it? Is our every thought and action “flavored” by the Spirit at work in us?

We ask the Spirit to “kindle in us the fire of Your love.” How “fired up” with love are we? Does love inform and guide our every action? Or do we act more out of fear, or jealousy, or self-centeredness, or a desire to follow the ways of the world?

We pray that, with the Spirit, we “will be created.” What can that mean? Aren’t we all created already? We need to be open to the fact that the Spirit in us will make us “a new creation,” different than we were last week, or last month. That’s what we pray for!

Finally, do we have the courage to be an important part of God’s plan to “renew the face of the earth,” or are we timid and withdrawn in our faith? Responding to the promptings of the Spirit in our life will renew our world, if we trust in Him.

We all love this special Holy Spirit prayer that we learned on our weekend. Let us continue to pray this prayer, with renewed fervor. Let us truly be instruments of the Holy Spirit, so that our lives, and our world, will change for the better.



Men's weekend Closing
June 24, 2018



All participate in the Evangelization, some plant, some water, some harvest!



Make a Friend,
Be a Friend,
Bring a Friend to Christ



MEET OUR LEADERS

Hello! My name is Vicki Johnson. I lived my Cursillo at Apison, Diocese of Knoxville Cursillo No. 46 in 2016, I have been married to Baron Johnson for 43 years and we have two adult children. Originally from the Midwest, we moved to Knoxville area in 1991 and worship at Our lady of Fatima in Alcoa. Some of you know me and many of you have received emails and or letters from me; and soon I hope to be speaking with you as well. I serve as the Knoxville Diocese Cursillo Parish Rep Coordinator-which basically means I contact people in each of our parishes to be able to share information about Cursillo weekends, workshops, regional and national meetings, various Ultreyas throughout the diocese, etc.

If you would like to be more actively involved with Cursillo, I would love to hear from you so I can update my contact list. Do you remember how focused and intentional you felt after completing your weekend? Did your friendship group help you to stay accountable and on track to work to become the best version of yourself? Did you embrace making a friend, being a friend and bringing a friend to Christ? Let's work together so that Cursillo can help breathe Christ's love into our Parishes, creating a strong community and support in the face of the challenges we all face as Catholics and Christians!

We know the truth: God is good....all the time

.... Excerpted from an Ultreya Witness talk

God is good... All The Time!

My name is David Campbell I lived my Cursillo in October 2003, Number 19, Diocese of Knoxville, Table of St. Paul.

I've read several different guides on preparing an Ultreya witness talk. Dick Shriver says that you could just talk about how God is working in your life -- you can never go wrong taking his advice, so that's the approach I'm taking on this day.

My experience of life tells me that we need to renew ourselves periodically in order to sharpen our focus and maintain our perspective. It's like when you need to reboot your computer, and when you do it everything is fresh and runs better. I did this recently by rethinking my *piety, study, action* and what I call my practice of Cursillo, and it has refreshed my entire outlook.

How do we define piety? The blue sheet asks how we nourished our vital union with Christ this week... The Ultreya sheet asks how has our mentality changed to be more Christian.... Yet another asks how I have oriented my entire life toward Christ this week? A lot of weeks I don't have much to say, I go through my routine but I don't think I feel much closer, or that I have accomplished very much. **So what do we do in life when the same same-old same-old begins to take over?**

We need to refresh our personal screens. Move outside our box, pray about it, re-think how we have done things in the past.

It seems like I make more progress by examining my obstacles to piety rather than simply practicing piety. As an example, we have a delicate problem situation in our house with our littlest girl, who has a problem with eating too much. She was having test anxiety in college, so bad that it was alarming all of us. She visited our family doctor, and she came home and said that, he had asked her *if it was possible* that she ate in order to reduce her anxiety levels. She told us that she had thought about it and realized that it could very well be true. She didn't see that my eyes filled with tears as she was saying this, because I knew how painful this was for her to share, but I was so happy and relieved that she had made this realization. Later I found myself thinking about whether my obstacles to piety could be things I use to reduce my anxiety. Maybe binge-watching Netflix, too much ESPN on weekends, or other such trivial pursuits? And I found that it could very well be true. So what do I do about it? Last week's Sunday readings told us that God will save us from all of our fears, so part of my piety is trying to rely on God more, and myself less. I believe that the real answer to all of our human problems is prayer, prayer, prayer. I thank God for this awareness, so that there can be awakening, there can be new perspective, there can be growth. I have found that the fruit of piety is joy! I remember from my Cursillo weekend that we were told that, although we had changed, that the world is still the same, and it is waiting to strip away the joy that we have found, that Satan was ready and willing to rob us of that joy. I try to keep that in my mind all the time, so that I can remind myself continually that I am called to joy.

In conclusion, I decided a long time ago that, if I thought there was a better way to help people discover the love of God than the Cursillo, then I would be active in it. But I have not found it. In Cursillo I find the Holy Spirit working like I've never experienced before, I see people expressing joy and living out authentic feelings.

DeColores!

In accordance with the rotation practice, the NACG (North America and Caribbean Group) is transferring its seat to the United States in January 2018. The National Secretariat has selected the following servant leaders to serve on the Executive Committee of the NACG for 4 years (2018-2021):
Hugo Valverde - President

Marisela Rodriguez-Garcia - Vice President Jim Santos

Treasurer Jackie DeMesme-Gray - Secretary

Fr. Alex Waraksa - Spiritual Advisor

The World Body of Cursillos in Christianity (OMCC) is also transferring its seat to the Latin American Group (GLCC) and the GLCC has selected Mexico to serve on the Executive Committee of the OMCC for the next 4 years (2018-2021).

Please join the National Secretariat in congratulating these servant leaders as they begin to serve our brothers and sisters at the international level. Let us extend our best wishes, support and prayers for their efforts in promoting the Cursillo Foundational Charism, Unity and Friendship worldwide.



4th Day News you can use!

Fr. Richard Armstrong will be our keynote speaker at the **Diocesan Encounter on November 17th**.

This will be our **Grand Ultreya** and held at Our Lady of Fatima in Alcoa, TN. Join Us!

Upcoming Mens and Womens Spanish Weekends

Women's already took place: September 27-30th

Men's Spanish weekend: October 18-21st
at Apison Retreat Center

Mens and Womens English Weekends

The dates for the Spring 2019 English Mens and Womens Weekends have been set.

Mens #50 will be March 21-24 with David Campbell as Rector. And the Womens #51 Weekend will be April 25-28 with Velma Burke as Rectora. They both will be held at the Foothills Camp and Retreat Center, 2926 Topside Rd, Louisville, TN.

YES we are moving locations! This is on a trial basis to see how it works out. There are many reasons for this move: A few of them are: it is more centrally located in our Diocese, the Retreat Center will do the cooking, clean up is included and also all linens are provided. With these things crossed off of the Team's 'to do list' they can focus more on the Candidates.

We hope this location will make it easier for more of the 4th Day to attend the Closing, as we all know how much it means to have a nice turnout, not only for the Candidates but the Team as well. *It is not too early to start praying and doing palanca for the Team and prospective candidates.*



The Regional Service Team
will be at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
1580 St. Thomas Way (off US 321), Lenoir City, TN
on Saturday, October 13, 2018
for a Workshop from 9 am - 4 pm

Topics: Pre Cursillo, Cursillo Weekend, Post Cursillo, Dangers
in Cursillo, School of Leaders, and Reaching a Unity of
Purpose & Understanding of the Foundational Charism

Ceferino (Cef) Aguilón, Jr., National English Coordinator
from National Cursillo will be there
to answer all your questions about Cursillo

Please bring a dish to share for lunch

Cost: Donation

English ULTREYAS IN OUR DIOCESE

St Jude's Hixson, TN

1st Tuesday of the month 6:30 pm

St. Joseph the Worker Madisonville, TN

2nd Sunday of the month 2:00 pm

ST. MARY JOHNSON CITY, TN

2nd Monday of the month 7:00 pm

St Therese Cleveland, TN

2nd Thursday of the month 6:00 pm

Our Lady Of Fatima Alcoa, TN

3rd Monday of the month 6:30 pm

St Stephens Chattanooga, TN

3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm

St Thomas the Apostle Lenoir City, TN

4th Tuesday of the month 7:00 pm

Spanish ULTREYAS IN OUR DIOCESE

St Thomas the Apostle Lenoir City, TN

2nd Sunday of the month 2:00 pm



Find us on the web at

<http://knoxvillecursillo.org/>

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Music – vacant