

The Rooster Crows

Knoxville Cursillo

2023 – First Quarter

Issue 1 – Volume 1

Piety

A Eucharistic Revival

June 19, 2022, with the Feast of Corpus Christi, the Catholic Church in the United States began a three-year movement known as the National Eucharistic Revival. Put forth by the USCCB, it is a plan to help rekindle understanding and devotion to the Holy Eucharist.

The first year (June 19, 2022-June 11, 2023) is the year of “Diocesan Revival”. Bishops, diocesan ministries, and priests share with the faithful invitation and encouragement to adoration and reception of the Blessed Sacrament. Through homilies, retreats, Spiritual talks, and other catechesis all the faithful should be reminded that the Eucharist is the “Source and Summit” of our faith.

The second year (June 11, 2023-July 17th, 2024) will be the year of Parish Revival. Many efforts are encouraged to be made at the parish level to foster Eucharistic devotion. The Eucharistic Revival apex (July 17-21, 2024) will be the National Eucharistic Revival Congress in Indianapolis, Indiana. This gathering is expected to have 80,000 Catholics come together for talks and celebrations focusing on the presence of Christ with us in the Eucharist. The speakers and opportunities to attend will be announced as we get closer.

Finally, the third year (July 21, 2024-Pentecost 2025) will be the year of “Going out in Mission”. As the title implies, the emphasis will be on helping all to see the call we have to spread the “Good News” and reality of Christ with us through the Sacrament. We will be reminded of the action and charity we as Church are sent forth to live and the Grace the Blessed Sacrament gives us to do so.

The next few years will be a sacred and exciting time within the Church in the United States. As Church leaders and committees work to develop creative ways to help make the Eucharistic Revival a success, a logical tool or method for guiding us to Eucharistic Revival already exists in the Cursillo community. The Cursillo teachings of invitation, small groups, prayer, study and action can and should aid the Church in bringing others to the Eucharist. Let us avail ourselves as a community to be used by Christ and His Church to draw others to the Eucharist so that Graces can flow and our homes, parishes, dioceses, and the Church is renewed, and our society is drawn to better alignment to God’s will. Isn’t that the goal for a Eucharistic Revival?

Deacon Brian Gabor

Study

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Our Secretariat members are attempting to revitalize our movement by beginning to publish a Rooster Crows Newsletter again. It of course will take a little time to return to its previous editions... That is just like our movement before, during and after the Covid19 situation in our world. We were going strong, than came to almost a standstill and now, we are trying to rebuild our movement. We need you!

This newsletter will be quarterly for now and may not look the same each issue as we experiment with the design as well as the number of pages. We would like to have a doctrinal column from our Clergy (Deacons and Priests), a technical column from the Laity and finally a Witness if you might like to share.

We plan to have events listed as well as the Zoom link for you to join us in Ultreyas when you are available.

Let us know what you think and if you might enjoy assisting with this endeavor.

Action / Witness Talk

Johnson City Ultreya

De Colores, my name is Jim Connors. I made the 49th Knoxville Cursillo weekend at Apison, TN in June 2018 and sat at the table of St Anthony. Lynne and I worship at St Bridget in Dayton, TN. And I want to start out with a few lines from Psalm 8. Reading and meditating on this section helps me to understand who God is, and who I am relative to God.

“When I see your heavens, the works of your hands, the moon and stars that you set in place, what is man that you should be mindful of him, or the son of man that you should care for him?”

My Cursillo weekend changed my life for the better and made me more open to doing Christ's will instead of always thinking of myself. This has been frequently prompted by the Holy Spirit and I know that I would have ignored those promptings prior to my Cursillo weekend. I want to share a recent example of how those *promptings* led me in a new and wonderful direction.

A good friend of mine, Nate Schwenk, helped create an orphanage in Kenya about 6 years ago called Zion Home for Children. Lynne and I began sponsoring children there about 2 ½ years ago. My friend Nate asked me to consider making a trip there, but I managed to find excuses not to go until this summer. The more I exchanged letters with the children we sponsor and the more I found out about Zion, the more I was led to make a trip there. In late November Nate and I went there for about 2 ½ weeks.

Things did not start out well. We didn't have the appropriate visa for entry, and weren't able to fix that in

time for our flight out of Atlanta. We spent the night there and tried again the next day only to find that no flights were available until the following day. Fortunately we finally found an airline manager who was able to get us on a flight that afternoon, meaning we'd only be about 1 day late. But that rearrangement of flights eventually caused my luggage to be lost. So I arrived with only a carryon bag and 2 changes of t shirts, skivvies, and socks plus minimal toiletries. Kenya is a 3rd world country, and that became evident during our 5 hour drive from Nairobi to the orphanage. By the time we got there, I was already convinced that without my bags, and living under those conditions, this was going to be a long and hard trip. Then we arrived at the orphanage and I got to see and interact with the children. And EVERYTHING changed. These kids have almost nothing but are so full of joy that instead of me helping them, they blessed me. And I knew then that looking at these kids I was seeing Jesus. I finally had a chance to do something for Him by helping these children. In the Gospel the next day, the Holy Spirit even banded me on the head as a reminder with these words from Luke Chapter 3: Verse 9 *“Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire”*. After ignoring the Gospel message for so much of my life, I was being given another chance to produce good fruit by our merciful Lord Jesus.

Before Cursillo I would make donations and feel like I was being a good Catholic. After Cursillo I realized that I was barely living as

a lukewarm Catholic, and we know what Jesus says about lukewarm. But with 3 ½ years of piety, study, and action having helped reshape my thinking, so many new opportunities to serve the Lord have opened up for me. And seeing the impact that we can make on these children's lives was such a blessing for me.

I wanted to mention how I was even given a chance to live the Cursillo 3 legged stool while I was in Kenya. There was a small Catholic church less than a mile from where we were staying and they had mass every weekday at 0630am. So I was able to attend mass often. After hearing Fr Mike Schmitz's first Advent homily, I would go up to the tabernacle after mass and ask Jesus to reveal himself to me. And after a few days, I realized he was revealing himself to me in the face of each child I saw at Zion, reminding me that *“What so ever you do for the least of my brothers”*.



The mornings were usually fairly nice and quiet, so I would walk for about 20-30 minutes to pray a meditation rosary before breakfast. My Magnificat and other study readings were still stuck in my suitcase which wasn't delivered until the last day of our trip. But Nate loaned me his copies so I could keep up with my study. He also loaned me a pair of pants and a

pair of shorts since all I had were the jeans I wore on the flight over. Jeans were much too hot for Kenya. And I was able to enjoy action every day in so many ways. Teaching electrical basics to an older boy, helping start up a compost bin for the gardens that are used to help provide food for the orphanage, playing games with the kids, even forming a small choir, teaching them a few songs, and then singing with them at their church service, or arranging for some special treats like bananas or mangoes. There were so many wonderful ways to serve while being blessed beyond measure. Granted, these were Christian actions and not Apostolic actions. If anything, the children were the ones doing the Apostolic action, by blessing me and bringing me closer to Jesus.

When my bags arrived the day before we left, we had stuffed them with over 100 bags of candy to be given to the children. And we had received some additional donations before the trip. So the (decision

was made to have a special Christmas dinner the day before we left, as well as Christmas dinner on Christmas day. So we passed out the bags of candy, and the cooks made up a special dinner with the highlight being a soda for each child. We Americans would probably not even eat most of what was served, and it was nothing like a huge turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and stuffing that we are used to. But this meal of corn and beans, a few tiny pieces of goat meat, some rice, and essentially sweet flat bread, along with the soda, was a treat beyond measure for them. And best of all, we were allowed to serve them their meals and sodas while they sat at a long table which had been moved outside to be like a picnic. You can see the joy on their faces over something so small as a soda.

So live your Cursillo method, and open your heart to serving Jesus through whatever means He opens to you. And share Cursillo with anyone that you think would be open to having their lives changed.

Don't worry about someone saying "No" to you. Plant the seed and let God do the watering. And watch as doors are opened to allow you to serve God and to be the hands and feet of Jesus. And instead of singing De Colores, I want to share how these kids offer praise. We know that we must have childlike faith, and that is precisely what these kids have. They pray and praise with complete honesty, faith, and expectancy that God will answer their prayers. When they sing their praise, you know God is smiling. And there is no way you can keep from having your heart swell with love and praise while standing there among them. People in the neighboring villages tell Pastor Harrison that they always know when the children start with their praise because it is so powerful. So I invite you to listen to a portion of one of their praise songs now. De Colores!



Secretariat Members

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 Ultreya – Last Tuesday DOK Zoom Ultreya – Velma Burke – Our Lady of Fatima, Alcoa
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Upcoming dates to remember

ULTREYA

JC Zoom Ultreya - Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88974850171?pwd=SVNnMSs5S2R4VUs3Q3puQXNEcHFTZz09>

Meeting ID: 889 7485 0171

Passcode: 909354

February 9th – 6:30 pm

March 9th – 6:30 pm

April 13th - 6:30 pm

OLOF In person Ultreya – TBA

Meeting day and time are changing.

Last Tuesday DOK Zoom Ultreya - Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89612322462?pwd=VFIRRWRTHTHh3kyZXh6dkwrQTY5QT09>

Meeting ID: 896 1232 2462

Passcode: 055818

Feb. 28th – 6:30 pm

March 28th – 6:30 pm

April 25th – 6:30 pm

Cursillo Weekends

**Send in your candidates applications for the upcoming
Men's and Women's Weekends soon!**

Men's Weekend – April 27-30, 2023 at Christ Prince of Peace Retreat Center
*It is not too early to begin offering Palanca for the team who are in formation.
Watch for news on the Palanca Vigil on the website.*

Women's Weekend – November 2-5, 2023 at Christ Prince of Peace Retreat Center.

School of Leaders
Watch for upcoming details...

