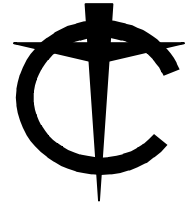


The Rooster Crows

A Newsletter of the Catholic Cursillo of
the Diocese of Knoxville in Tennessee
www.KnoxvilleCursillo.org



September 2006

Be a Committed Sponsor; Not a Recruiter

By Carol Rummel, Director, Pre-cursillo

Being a Cursillo sponsor can sound like an easy thing to do. You ask someone from church if they would like to go on a faith filled weekend retreat, right? **Well, not exactly!** What's the problem? What makes it so difficult? What makes it difficult for some is that they feel pressured to "recruit" more Cursillistas for each up-coming weekend. Is that what the movement is about? Numbers!? I submit that it isn't. I believe it is about changing our world, one environment at a time. So how do we go about doing that?

First, I believe we, as Christians, as Cursillistas, and as sponsors, need to study our environments and select those areas that can make the strongest impact on our society. Next we need to identify those people in those environments that once awakened to the Cursillo movement will act as agents of change. Then, of course, we must get to know those individuals, become their friends, live the message ourselves and then share that message with our new friend.

We need to be watching out for those in-

dividuals who have a depth of personality, an ability to make decisions, a capacity for acting freely, and a capacity for love. We should be looking for actual or potential leaders so that they can and will make an impact on others. We need to find people who are generous and who exhibit a "caring" for others. Well, while we're at it, perhaps we should identify those for whom it would not be a good idea to live a Cursillo weekend. We should not invite anyone who would not benefit from the movement; those who have problems for which Cursillo cannot provide the solutions and people with deep psychological abnormalities or someone who cannot receive the sacraments.

As a Cursillo sponsor, we must know and understand the goal of the Cursillo movement. We should have read and agree with the information contained in the Sponsor's Booklet and/or the Cursillo tri-fold. We should be participating in Ultreyas, group reunions, and School of Leaders. Once we have identified po-

tential candidates, we should get to know them as well as possible and pray for direction from the Holy Spirit: Remember "Speak to God about the candidate before speaking to the candidate about God." We must be witness to an authentic Christian life; in other words, **we, as sponsors should be living the message.** Sue and Jim Heath were my sponsors and were living a life full of faith that I noticed the first time I met them. A good sponsor should provide the candidate with as much information as possible. They are encouraged to explain to each candidate that the weekend will present a series of 15 talks by Clergy as well as their peers with discussions to follow. Give your candidate the Diocesan tri-fold and give them time to read it. We should spark the desire for God and make it grow, while promoting an attitude of conversion. The Heath's lifestyle creates an atmosphere of love around them. I enjoy their company and admire their marriage. It is obvious to me that they both have a very close relationship with God. This is what Pre-Cursillo is all about. It is about the "Preparation". And this preparation cannot be hur-

ried or coercive, which will only generate a defensive attitude. We must take all the time necessary to sow the seeds. It must be done with humility and with the idea that the one to whom we are speaking is not an object of apostolic endeavors, but he or she is part of our own conversion. We must pray and make sacrifices for each candidate. We must continue to follow and work with our potential candidate by maintaining close contact. Phone them, invite them to Ultreyas, even before they make the weekend in order to encourage their enthusiasm. Follow-up with them after their application has been forwarded so you know which weekend they will be attending and you can ensure they are included on the candidate listing with the Pre-Cursillo Representative. **These are our friends and we want to look after them to assist in their positive experience of Cursillo.** As good sponsors, we should take responsibility for the candidate until he or she is fully incorporated into his or her own Christian community. So, I submit to you that you cannot do all of that in a few days or weeks before a scheduled weekend. **It takes time and commitment.**

National Encounter, Villanova, PA.

The National Cursillo Encounter was held July 20-23 at Villanova University in Philadelphia, PA. I was proud to be in attendance. Approximately 800 "fired-up" Cursillistas were there from around the globe. Vietnam, Korea, Guam, Europe, South America, and the United States were some of the areas represented. Showing their support of the movement, 28 priests and deacons joined the Archbishop and Auxiliary Bishop in celebrating Mass for the multitude. The talks and workshops presented were stimulating and inspiring. We heard, once again, what is fundamental to being Christian. The last night of the encounter offered "Fiesta," which was enjoyed by all. If you have not had the privilege of attending a Regional or National Encounter, please give it some serious consideration. You won't regret it! Keep posted for more information.

Sign up now for the Palanca/Prayer Vigil for the Men's Weekend #29. We hope to fill in the hours at least one week prior to the beginning of the weekend. You can find it on the web site at www.knoxvillecursillo.org. Look on the menu for Weekend

Calendar of Events—2006

Secretariat Meeting—10-2 pm

September 30, Apison Retreat Center

Contact Jim Heath for directions

School of Leaders

November 4 — 10 am—3 pm

St. Alphonsus, Crossville

Grand Ultreya

September 16—9 am—12 noon

Our Lady of Fatima, Alcoa

Following the 8 am Mass

December 9 Location TBA

Region IV Fall Encounter

October 27-29—Cincinnati, Ohio

Men's Cursillo Weekend # 29

September 7-10—Eagle Rock

Arrive by 3:30 pm on Sunday for the Closing

Don't Forget the Men's Weekend

Sept 7 - 10

Eagle Rock

Palanca, Palanca, Palanca

Come to the Closing!



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Are you interested in serving on the Secretariat? Please contact Jim Heath; we have an opening.

Please send Mailing Address, Email addresses or phone number changes to jimheath@charter.net.