



The PRISM - A Monthly Insight into the Catholic Cursillo Community of Rochester, NY

December 2020 In this issue

- *Spiritual Advisor Wisdom*
- *The Secretariat Page*
- *We'll Thrive with Five*
- *School of Leaders Sharing*
- *Ask the Three Wisemen...*
- *Witness by a Friend of Christ!*
- *Upcoming Events*
- *Meet our Ultreyas*



Spiritual Advisor Wisdom

Celebrating Holy Families

Deacon David Paluskiewicz, M81, Caledonia Ultreya

“The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us...” (John 1:14)

Friday, December 25, we celebrated how Jesus came to us, as a baby, born into a human family. Then on December 26/27, we celebrated the Feast of the Holy Family and we also celebrated how we were born into a holy family. How did our family become holy? Like Jesus’ family, holiness comes from ordinary love. I would like to share the following story that was part of my Sacrament of Marriage Rollo.

A group of parents stood before Jesus in heaven. Jesus said to them, “When I was hungry you fed me, thirsty, you gave me to drink, naked and you clothed me, homeless and you sheltered me, imprisoned and you visited me. When you did this to the least of my people you did this to me. Come enter into the kingdom that has been prepared for you.” They said to Jesus, “Not us Lord. When did we see you hungry and feed you?” And Jesus said, “How can you ask me that, you who made me three and half million peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.”

But thirsty Lord? Jesus said, “I was in the Kool-Aid line that came in the summer heat and the flies and the finger prints on your walls, and the mud on the floors and you gave me to drink.” But naked and homeless Lord? “I was born to you naked and homeless, you sheltered me in your arms and you clothed me with your love, then you spent the next 18 years trying to keep me in jeans and sneakers.”

But imprisoned Lord? Jesus said, “Oh yes, for I was imprisoned in my littleness behind the bars of my crib and I cried out in the night, and you came. And when I started to grow and I was imprisoned with my feelings you were patient with me and you helped me. Now, beloved of my Father, enter into the joy which has been prepared for you for all eternity.”

When couples receive the sacrament of Matrimony, they receive a grace that elevates their union to a divine union which means that the love and housekeeping and work and worry of marriage are all deified-- made divine!

DeColores!



Council of Trent

... *By raising the Matrimony of His faithful to the dignity of a true sacrament, [Christ] made it a sign and source of that peculiar internal grace by which 'it perfects natural love, confirms an indissoluble union, and sanctifies both man and wife.'*





The Secretariat Page

Notes from December, 2020 Meeting:

What about these Meetings?

Secretariat Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm. Visitors/Cursillistas are welcome to join the Secretariat meetings. Currently, the meetings are being held virtually. Please contact Allan Stone for the meeting information if you want to join in!

- Treasurer's report: Allan stated we started out with a balance of \$1691.68. We received 2 donations totaling \$55.00. We paid \$58.00 for Flocknotes. Ending balance is \$1688.68.
- Website: Jose Santiago joined the secretariat meeting and began by asking what our intentions were for our website. He will add a tab for the newsletters so they will all be in one place. Jose will explore using Our Sunday Visitor or Text to Give for online donations. It was decided for security reasons, Mary Liz, lay director, will be the only person authorized to request info be posted on the website. Jose will start putting the date of the request next to the prayer posting. After 3 months, they will be removed. Jose is updating the events to be current. Thank you, Jose, for maintaining the website.
- School of Leaders: Newark-Geneva Ultreya will host the January meeting, Caledonia Ultreya will host February.
- Secretariat Positions: Sue Lorz answered our prayers and agreed to coordinate the School of Leaders beginning January 2021. Thank you Sue for saying Yes! Secretariat members are reaching out to Cursillistas asking them to pray about serving as PreCursillo, Cursillo, PostCursillo chairs. Bob and Donna will continue in their positions until they are replaced then mentor the replacements. Tom Treis handed the "gavel" to Mary Liz who becomes our Lay Director as of January 2021. Thank you Tom for your service and love of Cursillo.

Who are we?

Lay Director:

Tom Treis, (585) 223-7166
Tomkt4344@rochester.rr.com

Assistant Lay Director:

Mary Liz Bartell, (607) 324-0372
maryliz@aol.com

Pre-Cursillo Chair:

Donna LaDuca, (585) 342-3234
donnaprecur12@rochester.rr.com

Cursillo Chair:

Bob LaDuca, (585) 943-2427
laduca8@rochester.rr.com

Post-Cursillo Chair:

vacant
Is the Lord calling YOU?

School of Leaders:

Sue Lorz, (585) 704-4988
suelarry5644@gmail.com

Secretary:

Doreen Gala-Hebert, (585) 236-6049
dgalahebert@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Allan Stone, (585) 269-4640
astone@rochester.rr.com
Donations made out to Rochester Cursillo
Mail to Allan Stone, 35 Cindy Lane,
Rochester, NY 14626

Spiritual Advisors:

Fr. Mickey McGrath, (585) 325-4041
Fr.mickey.mcgrath@dor.org

Dcn. David Paluskiewicz, (585) 281-1390
davidpaluskiewicz@gmail.com



News from the Secretariat >>>

First Year Treasurer Report

Allan Stone, W86, Treasurer, Hilton Ultreya

First, I want to thank you all for your support in prayers and financially to our charism and specifically to our Rochester Cursillo movement. I pray you all stay safe and stay healthy but most importantly that you remember you are loved by all of us and especially our Lord Jesus. I have easily transitioned into this role with the training and support of the previous treasurer.

I miss our face-to-face monthly meetings in Pittsford, but these special people moved to video conferencing and learned how to deal with the technical fun of meeting while staying safe. Being Italian I so miss my hugs and expect you all to make up for lost hugs as soon as our cross is over. As we have not been able to enjoy live events, our income has been less than our expenses this crazy year. A year ago we had almost \$4000 in our account and as of today we are at just under \$2000. Major expenses are about \$700 yearly for combined National and Regional dues. Monthly flocknote charges have gone from \$67 to \$58 in October after some cleanup, thusly, saving us over \$100 a year. We added a new yearly expense for our zoom account that secretariat, our Ultreya centers and School of Leaders can and do use. With video conferencing there is no distance, health, or weather excuse not to join your brother and sisters at these events. I hope when things get back to normal we will continue to offer video and dial in capability to those that can't attend physically as we all want. My additional financial related actions are looking into free email that will meet our needs for large 500 or more group distribution emails and discovering how we can use paypal or similar features added to our website to make credit card donations easier and not pay all the transaction charges. My very grateful thanks for allowing me to serve on secretariat. My thanks to all those those have donated to our cause financially. As you can see we are getting to the bottom of the financial barrel but we all know God will provide. There are so many wonderful charities I know we all support. If your heart and pocketbook allow, consider donating to the Rochester Cursillo, we are starting a new campaign "We'll Thrive with Five" outlined on the next page. Donations will be much appreciated.

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We'll Thrive with Five!

Rochester Cursillo needs your help!

Everyone remembers during your weekend hearing that the money you paid for at your weekend was used to pay for future weekends! With the pandemic and hosting no weekends in two years, the bowl is almost empty. Rochester Cursillo needs financial help to fund the upcoming weekends and to keep Cursillo alive in the diocese.

It's not much, if each Cursillista sent at least \$5, Rochester Cursillo will thrive in 2021 and beyond! And we ask you to consider making donations throughout the year—just \$5 a month if possible. Of course, more is welcome if God has blessed you!

Cursillo in Rochester unites Catholics into loving and caring friends. Our friendship in turn brings God's love into our communities. Help keep that friendship growing! Please send \$5 to help us thrive!

Kindly make out checks to **Rochester Cursillo**

Mail to:

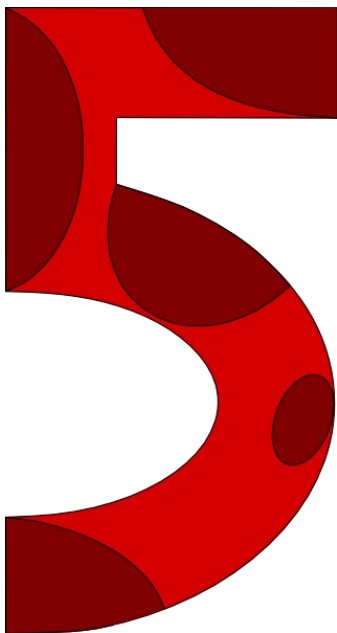
Allan Stone, Cursillo Treasurer

35 Cindy Lane

Rochester, NY 14626

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Wishing you a blessed New Year!



School of Leaders Sharing

Is Step by Step a Big Change?

Peter Connelie, M84, Caledonia Ultreya



I made my 3 Day Cursillo in December 2009 at Notre Dame Retreat House. The weekend was a very powerful spiritual experience for me. It was also the first Men's weekend held at Notre Dame. I was fortunate to have been able to serve on 3 Day Cursillo teams over the next six years. During that time, I observed several changes being made to the events of the weekends. While changes were made to the "details" of the weekends, they did not change the "essence" of the weekends which was an encounter with Christ through meditations, rollos, witnesses and friendship.

When I first heard about Step by Step, I thought it was a plan to completely revise the 3 Day Cursillo. I had no idea what it was about. So, I attended the first Step by Step meeting out of curiosity. Gradually, I became more familiar with it. What I learned is that the 3 Day documents that we were using were not the direct translations of our founder, Eduardo Bonnin Aguilo's documents that are still used in Mallorca, Spain. A team of dedicated Cursillistas from the United States and Canada had been working for several years on translating Eduardo's documents to English. The result is the Step by Step manual. As I began to learn about the changes that are being made to Rochester's 3 Day Cursillo schedule, I realized that Step by Step changes some of the details of the weekend to bring it more in line with our founder's original intent. **It does not change the essential elements of the weekend.**

One change in particular, the clausura (closing), seemed new to me. But it is not new at all. Hosting a Closing Mass has been a unique custom to the dioceses in the Northeast US, which is not consistent with National Cursillo guidelines. Sunday Mass for the new Cursillistas and team is celebrated during the morning between rollos. The outside community should attend Mass in their own parishes. The clausura, the closing ceremony, is the opportunity for the entire Cursillo community to come together to greet each other and their new brothers or sisters in Christ. The clausura continues the tradition of the new Cursillistas witnessing their close moment. It also brings the commitment ceremony to this celebration allowing the whole community to witness the presentation of the crosses. I now understand that Step by Step is not totally new, it's just a new name for the 3 day Cursillo manual. It is important for me to remember that the success of every Cursillo Weekend is not in the details, but in our **encounter with Christ.**

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Ask the Three Wisemen (and women) . . .

Ask a wise Cursillista who has been around forever!

Send in your questions about Cursillo... anything and everything!

Send questions to: notestobobbi@yahoo.com Attn: Ask the Cursillo Wisemen



Help! I was asked to write an article for the newsletter and I don't know where to begin. Can you give me some advice?

Answered by Margi Lash, W11, Geneva-Newark

Fortunately, you are in luck. As a one time newspaper reporter, I can share some tips that might help you begin and even make it fun.

- 1) Pray. Everything we do in Cursillo begins with prayer. And who do you think created writers anyway?
- 2) Begin. Start right away. Make your article a priority. Deadlines can be your mortal enemy.
- 3) Search. There are some really good resources: The Leaders Manual, Cursillo literature, especially Eduardo's books, and the National Cursillo website where there are many articles available. <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/resource-center>

Use your own words. If you quote from an article be sure to list the source.

- 4) Submit. Your article right away and remember to thank God when you win the Pulitzer Prize!

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Witness by a Friend of Christ!

Bobbi LaVoie, W71
Fairport Ultreya

Back in the Spring, a Cursillista from Washington DC, Jackie DeMesme Grey, who was the rectora for the Rochester CDC in November 2019, invited me to join the NACG Ultreya on Zoom. NACG stands for North America / Caribbean Group... one of the four international Cursillo groups around the world that unite into the OMCC, Organismo Mundial de Cursillos de Cristiandad. At first, I found an excuse not to join claiming since I work at night it would interfere with my job. After a few weeks, a second invitation arrived, I logged on to discover about 80 Cursillistas from around the world sharing their faith journey!

This bilingual experience was challenging at first, but I soon realized that you can witness people's emotions, their faith and love of the Lord without understanding the words. Each week, spoken either in Spanish or English, we hear a witness followed by three or four echos then a spiritual summary followed by a visit to the blessed sacrament, and often, song & praise. As time has gone by Marisela Rodriguez Garcia from Chicago, vice president of NACG and the organizer, has found ways to more easily share the language by showing the translation on a slide to read along, following the talk with a translation or doing simultaneous translation (a new zoom feature.) This weekly Wednesday night meeting has become a lifeline for me, a "must do" ritual in my schedule. Meeting with people from South America, Europe, Caribbean, Canada and across the US has made me realize just how alike we all are. We're all in this together. We all have challenges and seek the Lord for his support.

I get to see people that I have met at various Cursillo events! I have enkindled new friendships. I have grown to love and pray for people I would never have had met who live thousands of miles away. To hear of the different ways to worship the Lord has opened my eyes to how much I don't know nor understand about our faith and how it is believed around the world. I feel so blessed to have Cursillo in my life. To feel the friendship from all these people each week fills me with love and a much needed peace. Please join me in 2021 watch for the Flocknote invitation. DeColores!



You are Welcome
to attend any Ultreya!

Hilton Area - Last Saturday (4th or 5th)
IN PERSON at 6:45pm
Tim Spinelli, (585) 395-4510
tspinelli@aol.com -OR-
Randy Campanaro, (513) 314-2999
rayjaycamp@yahoo.com

*Please contact the Ultreya Coordinator
for an invite with virtual meeting ID info!*

Caledonia Area - 1st Saturday
Virtual Ultreya at 7:00pm
Beth Bullen, (585) 538-9406
beth.bullen1@gmail.com

Fairport Area - 2nd Saturday
Virtual Ultreya at 7:00pm
Kathy Jacobsen, (585) 755-9578
[kjacobson046@gmail.com](mailto:kjacobsen046@gmail.com)

Geneva - Newark Area - 2nd Monday
Virtual Ultreya at 7:00pm
Margi Lash, (315) 548-5164
lashmb59@gmail.com

Elmira Area - 4th Thursday
Virtual Ultreya at 7:00pm
Deacon George & Paula Welch
(607) 738-3959
gwelch@tqcp.com

*These Ultreyas are currently not meeting
due to Covid-19. Pray to reunite soon!*

Rochester SPANISH 3rd Sunday
1:30pm Ultreya & School of Leaders
St. Michael's Church
Sr. Theresa Rutty, (585) 325-4041
trutty46@yahoo.com

Dansville Area - 2nd Sunday, 11:00am
Sacred Heart Parish, Kennedy House
Bonnie Olsen, (585) 335-5971
summersky252@aol.com

Hornell Area - 1st Thursday, 7:00pm
St. Ann's School
Mary Liz Bartell, (607) 324-0372
maryliziz@aol.com

Owego Area - 2nd Sunday, 2:00pm
St. Patrick's Church
Jerry & Dodie Ward, (607) 786-0339
grr.ward@gmail.com

Upcoming Events!

More info on our website www.rochestercursillo.com

Check your
Flocknotes
messages for
details on events!

School of Leaders
at 7pm Via Zoom.us
Thursday, January 21st
Thursday, February 18th
Watch for Invite on Flocknote



Region III Spring Encounter
Stella Niagara Retreat Center, Lewiston
May 7-8, 2021

Women's #89
Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua
June 10-13, 2021

*For information on the PRISM, please contact:
Bobbi LaVoie at 585-727-4866 or notestobobbi@yahoo.com*

