

CURSILLO

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

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Spiritual Advisor Wisdom

The Virtues of St. Joseph

Fr. Mickey McGrath, M76, Fairport Ultreya, Diocesan Spiritual Advisor

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special "Year of St. Joseph." The Holy Father's intention is "to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal" (*Patris Corde*). The very discussion of virtue is itself a timely matter since it is sadly lacking in today's world. There is so much tension, criticism and acrimony in our society, coupled with the 'dirty laundry' phenomenon that reigns in the news media, such that we see far more vice than virtue.

The book by Fr. Donald Calloway, *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*, is an excellent remedy to this situation. Our parish is among many that have sponsored efforts to get people to make the consecration. I highly recommend it as it is loaded with very thought-provoking material. Great graces are available to us in a year such as this – God wants to pour out upon us an abundance of blessing through the foster father of Jesus, the Most Chaste Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. One of the sections that I found very interesting is called "The Savior of the Savior." Provocative! Think about it: as Joseph received the message of the angel to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt, he was saving the Savior. In this vocation within his vocation, he was both obedient and courageous. He was acting on orders and showed himself to be faithful to his mission as husband of Mary and the spiritual head of the household. He put his trust in God and traversed the desert south of Israel and across the Sinai peninsula. In one mission he showed himself to be obedient, courageous, faithful, and trusting. Still, there is more to this portion of the book. Fr. Calloway focuses much of this section on the suffering that St. Joseph experienced: "God made the sacrifice of Calvary dependent upon the sacrifices that St. Joseph had offered during the hidden years of the Holy Family" (p. 166). He suffered for not being able to supply a place to stay at the time of Jesus' birth (p. 162). He suffered knowing that Mary was to experience the piercing of her heart and that he would not be there for her (at the foot of the cross); so, she would be left to suffer without him (p. 163).

These and many other reflections in the book speak to us of the virtues of St. Joseph and the mysteries of the life of the Holy Family. Our Cursillo family is a little piece of the Church which makes up the family of God. May we turn to St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, this year and allow God to touch our hearts through him who saved our Savior, suffered for love of Him and who wants with all his heart to bring us closer to Him.

[Link to purchase Consecration to St Joseph from Divine Mercy Gift Shop](#)

[Link to purchase Consecration to St. Joseph on Amazon.com](#)



"Unlike the suffering of the martyrs who shed their blood for love of Christ, St. Joseph's suffering was interior, and of such intensity that it is more meritorious than the suffering of all Christian martyrs."

Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father, p. 161

DeColores!

The Secretariat Page

Notes from April 13, 2021 Meeting:

- Treasurer's Report: We began with a balance of \$1940.23. Allan paid out \$58.00 for Flock Notes, \$300 for our Region 3 dues, and \$77.76 for 2 years of Weebly. We received donations of \$530.00 in checks and \$193.60 via PayPal for a total of donations of \$723.60. Our Closing balance is \$2,228.07.
- Pre-Cursillo: Applications are available from Ultreya leaders. Currently, no applications on file. W89 canceled due to no applicants. Donna is actively looking for a person to mentor as Pre-Cursillo chair.
- Cursillo: Planning M84 in December at Notre Dame. Still waiting on Notre Dame for available dates in 2022 for W89 to be rescheduled. Discussed how to get candidates. Mary Ellen will send an application to all diocesan Cursillistas.
- Post-Cursillo: Mary Ellen continues to attend Ultreyas noting members from outside Ultreya areas are attending via zoom.
- School of Leaders: Sue is running a three part series in the Newsletter to help make Cursillistas aware of the work needed in the various sections: Precursillo, Cursillo and Postcursillo. Next SOL is third Thursday of each month.
- Mary Liz made announcements that the Region 3 Encounter will be May 8. Regional secretariat from 9-11 and the Encounter from 12:15-3pm. She asked for palanca for candidates. Then Mary Liz closed with a prayer.

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!

Who are we?

Lay Director:

Mary Liz Bartell, (607) 324-0372

maryliz@aol.com

Assistant Lay Director:

Is the Lord calling YOU?

Pre-Cursillo Chair: *Is the Lord calling YOU?*

Donna LaDuca, (585) 342-3234

donnapecur12@rochester.rr.com

Cursillo Chair: *Is the Lord calling YOU?*

Bob LaDuca, (585) 943-2427

laduca8@rochester.rr.com

Post-Cursillo Chair:

Mary Ellen Darling, (315) 521-8771

maryellendarling@gmail.com

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 make 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 >>>

The 4th Day

Mary Ellen Darling, W83, Geneva-Newark Ultreya
Postcursillo Chair

After praying a great deal, I became Postcursillo chair a few months ago and my first decision was to find out how our current Ultreyas were doing – hoping they were meeting – especially during our Covid pandemic. There are some meetings via Zoom monthly and I have joined many of them to become more aware of their apostolic community. An important part of the Ultreya is the grouping to discuss an individual's piety, study and action and of course, moment closest to Christ.

While attending the various Ultreyas, I have been so impressed with the thoughts and prayers shared by individual cursillistas who offer their many thoughtful, faithful encounters with God in their day to day lives. In times of despair and trouble, they turn to those who give them spiritual, healing thoughts of encouragement.

Ultreyas are mainly made up of local communities but I discovered that many cursillistas from across the Rochester Diocese attend them to be a part of our larger Cursillo community. Did you know that you can attend them too? Check this newsletter for the list of Ultreyas and contact the leader for the link to connect. I am seeing one of the benefits of Covid is the ability to attend Ultreya without leaving your home.

From the National Cursillo website: *The Postcursillo, through Friendship Group Reunion and Ultreya, offers a spiritual community of persons who have the same desire to have an attitude of progressive conversion, and to live according to that attitude. Christians evangelize for the mere fact that they are Christian. This is the only plan that God has for us.*

So, as we move toward post Covid – what are the options for Friendship Group Union and Ultreya? I am interested in hearing from you – let me know your thoughts.



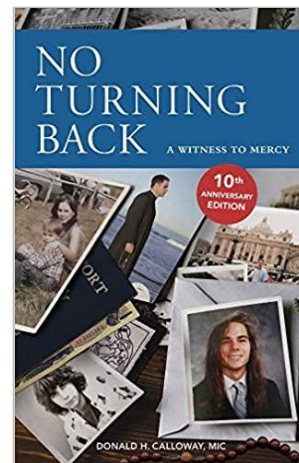
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School of Leaders Sharing

A Must Read Book from an Old Cluck Hen

Rose Carnegie, W19, Elmira Ultreya

NO TURNING BACK, is a book written by The Very Reverend Donald H Calloway, it touched my heart and soul with the power of God's mercy and love sharing it doesn't matter where HE finds you or you find HIM. The author, Donald Calloway was born in 1972 to his 18 year-old mother in rural W. Virginia and a father a few years older. That marriage failed so his mother joined the Navy to support her young son. A second marriage also failed, and later his mother was married a third time to a Naval Officer, Donald Calloway. This man was Episcopalian and at 12 years old, Donald was baptized and introduced to religion. However, military families face many transitions moving from one military base to another and with no spiritual followup by his step-father, Donald never knew or even remembered his baptism. His mother had to resign from the military when she became pregnant. With a young baby at home, Donald was left with lots of time on his hands. He began living two lives—the angelic boy at home and the “bad” boy on the streets. His respect for authority went from bad to worse. He was involved in stealing, smoking, girls and drugs. When his father was transferred to Japan, the situation worsened. The family lived off base so Donald had much more freedom and became involved with dangerous gangs. He eventually ran away from his family and never looked back. It was much easier to steal in Japan than in the U.S. and he was taught all the tricks. Drugs, sex, stealing were all part of his norm. He had so much money in the many pockets of his pants that he would give it away to his friends as it was too bulky to carry around. He and his gang were eventually caught and Donald was deported from Japan. His family too had to leave, his mother and brother left first then Donald and his father followed. Back in the U.S., Donald was put into a rehab institution, but upon release, nothing changed until the night his parents were away and his friends partied at his parents' house and thoroughly trashed it. During the aftermath of that night, he realized that he needed to change. He had experienced every sensual satisfaction one could possibly have with women, music, every kind of drug and all kinds of money and it all seemed worthless. In March of 1992 everything came to a head, he was home alone, sitting alone and started searching for a book, a National Geographic. Instead, he was lead to a book that looked like a classic National Geographic, but when he looked at the title it read, **THE QUEEN OF PEACE VISITS MEDJUGORJE**. Thus began the journey of the conversion of Donald H. Calloway. I strongly recommend this book; I read this book in two nights and was left with the thought of Saul and his conversion. A true testament that our God works in His time. The Very Rev. Donald H. Calloway, MIC, STL is now the Vicar Provincial of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception.



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[Link to purchase No Turing Back on Amazon.com](#)

[Link to purchase No Turning Back from Divine Mercy Gift Shop](#)



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

How do I select a Candidate? Answered by Bobbi LaVoie, W71

In Fundamental Ideas, Chapter 7, the Precursillo is outlined. In section four, Development, the search and selection of candidates is reviewed. We're looking for people to experience an encounter with the Lord, to become authentic Christians and act as leaven in their own environment. Cursillo can not exclude anyone. With the right preparation, anyone can live their weekend. The key is friendship. Truly getting to know the candidate and understanding his/her relationship with family, work and faith. We've all heard that the 'far away' are a priority. Look for people who are dissatisfied with their human and social situation. Are they actively searching for a change? Would they be open to receive and accept the message of Cursillo? These people should be approached in friendship, sharing the love of God, opening up their eyes to the possibility of a new life. The goal is to have the candidates participate fully, actively, and consciously in the Cursillo. What should we achieve in precursillo? First, to raise the awareness of the candidate's own life; clarifying the personal concerns, circumstances, aspirations and limitations. The next step is to encourage the possibility of a fuller life as a Christian. And, to share what is Cursillo as a source for renewal and an expression of Christian faith. In preparing to sponsor a candidate, offer prayer and sacrifice...*talk to God about people before talking to people about God*. The friendship needs to be authentic and sustained forever! Introduce this person to fellow Cursillistas to allow them to experience the joy of friendship from others. Don't be afraid to go out and cast your net, you will be amazed at the miraculous catch the Lord will send to be your friend walking in HIS path.



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Witness by a Friend of Christ!

Gloria Treis, W29
Fairport Ultreya

My story began with an appointment for a dental appointment. I was sniffing and coughing. I thought I had a sinus infection and did not want to spread any germs to my dentist. I called my doctor who said I needed to get a Covid test. That morning my daily prayer from the book Jesus Calling said: "I am training you to practice peace that overcomes darkness. Collaborate with me in this training." I had no idea what that meant until I tested positive for Covid. Ironically, this was probably the only time in my life I had wanted to go to the dentist! While waiting for my result, I read: "Peace be with you. As you sit quietly, let my peace settle over you and enfold you in my loving Presence." The day after my positive test result Jesus Calling said: "Whenever you start to feel afraid, remember that I am holding you by your right hand. Nothing can separate you from My presence." Of course, there were days filled with fear and worry. I was running a fever. When it hit 102.2, I was afraid! Jesus again reassured me that He was holding me by the hand and guiding me with His counsel. I did go to the respiratory clinic and they reassured me that I was okay and probably at the peak of the illness. I had not told my sister-in-law about my Covid as I didn't want to worry her. She is a third order Carmelite and my spiritual director. But she called me that day (a God-incident.) I followed her advice and looked into some alternative medications. I was obsessing about my fever when Jesus Calling said: "Trust protects you from worrying and obsessing!" Thus I began feeling well, resting in His presence daily and recovering. I began packing for our Florida trip when Tom became ill. Long story short, Tom had Covid. No Florida trip, but the biggest spiritual growth for me. I had the Lord's peace and did not have my usual temper tantrum when life doesn't go my way. And God sent me sunshine almost every day and I gratefully shared it with you! When I gave this witness at Ultreya and praised Him for His sunshine, I realized God had a sense of humor. It rained the next 3 days! But, I still have His peace and know God is good... all the time!

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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 Ultreya Coordinator for
an invite with the Zoom info!*

Hornell Area - 1st Thursday, 7:00pm
Virtual Ultreya at 7:00pm
Mary Liz Bartell, (607) 324-0372
maryliz@aol.com

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 Ruty, (585) 325-4041
truty46@yahoo.com

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

Coming Soon >>>

Check your
Flocknotes messages
for details on events!

School of Leaders – 3rd Thursday of the Month
at 7:00pm via Zoom.us
Thursday, May 20th
Thursday, June 17th
Watch for Invite on Flocknotes

Region III Spring Encounter Via Zoom
May 8, 2021

National Cursillo Encounter
Orange County California
July 23-24, 2021
Register Online at [2021 2nd Virtual National Encounter](#)

Region III Fall Encounter
Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua
November 19-20, 2021

Men's #94
Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua
December 9-12, 2021

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

