



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

December 2022 In this issue

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



Spiritual Advisor Wisdom

Friendship, Compassion and Christmas

Deacon George Welch, M21, Elmira Ultreya
Spiritual Advisor

"Joy is the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing – sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death – can take that love away."

Here and Now
by Henri Nouwen

Christmas is the season of joy. Or at least it should be. Henri Nouwen reminds us that joy is not the same as happiness. We can be unhappy about many things. But joy is rock-solid, unwavering, and undiminished.

The greatest gift we can give each other as friends in Christ is to be aware of the presence and action of God in each other. When we are present and alive to the other, we embrace the points made in the Sanctifying Grace Rollo. We are created in the image of God (Imago Dei) and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. It is a circle of compassion, our permanent group and Ultreya. We are present to each as Christ is present to us. What a gift we give to each other just by our presence in friendship. These are difficult times. We extend this gift when we make this Christmas a twenty-four seven, three hundred- and sixty-five-day reality. The content like the story of Bethlehem includes an acceptance of what Edwardo taught us. We are all pilgrims on a journey. In that pilgrimage we are a circle of friends. Here are some touchstones of how we are in our friendship groups. We extend and receive welcome. We learn best in places of hospitality. Be present as fully as possible. Be there with all that is happening as you listen as well as speaking. We speak our truth in ways that respect other people's truth. You don't have to interpret or correct or debate. Your views of reality may differ. So, no fixing, no saving, no advising and not setting each other straight This is hard. Friendship groups invite the soul of the other. Questions are to hear each other in deeper speech. Set aside judgement to listen closely to others and to yourself more deeply. In friendship we gather in hope that we will receive what God has for our growth. Trust in your permanent group and Ultreya. Honor confidences and keep each other safe. Christ is counting on you.

The Eucharist our Mass gives us so many ways to enter this mystery of the indwelling of the Spirit. In the Latin Mass we said Dominus vobiscum. The Lord be with you. Each time we respond and with your spirit. This is a recognition of our faith that God dwells with you. I invite us as a community to say to each other "I see Christ in you." We respond and I see Christ in you." This practice affirms our belief in the indwelling and of our being created in the image and likeness of God. Last month from our groups we said goodbye to Mary Gray a member of our community who could not make a Cursillo because of severe health issues. After she passed, they found the following prayer in her bed. "Wake up saying "Jesus, I love you." When leaving say "Jesus come with me." When sad and crying say, "Jesus, I need you to hug me." When happy say "I adore you." When wrong say "please forgive me Jesus". In this community of compassion, we remember that God loves, and that God is counting us to love one another.

O What Joy!!

DeColores!

The Secretariat Page

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!

Notes from December 13, 2022 Meeting:

- Treasurer's Report: Allan stated we began with a balance of \$1,700.00. He paid out \$50 for Flocknotes, \$600 for Women's weekend, \$150 storage supplies, \$400 National dues. We did receive donations of \$3,795.73 which includes weekend fees. Our ending balance is \$1,288.37
- School of Leaders: Sue reported that they are meeting monthly on Zoom. In December, Deacon Jeff Serbicki spoke on the Immaculate Conception and Allan Stone addressed Friendship.
- Pre-Cursillo: Tim Flynn shared that we have 1-2 possible applications for Men's 95.
- Cursillo: Neil Combs shared that Notre Dame can continue as home to the Cursillo weekends.
- Post-Cursillo: Mary Ellen scheduled a Grand Ultreya, March, 18, 2023 at Resurrection in Fairport. Ultreyas continue both in person and on zoom.
- New Business: Discussed Team selection for Men's 95. Review of attendance lists from Ultreya, School of Leaders and Cursillo events to determine most appropriate members. About 5-7 lay people plus 2 ordained. Next week to meet to review the Annual Report to Bishop to be sent to Fr. Paul Tomasso. A revised copy will be shared with secretariat via Flocknotes.
- Apostolic Plan: Two meetings are scheduled in January for secretariat to finalize.
- Spiritual Leader's Comments: Prayer to our Lady of Guadalupe on her Feast Day.

Who are we?

Lay Director:

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

Assistant Lay Director:

Keith Bunker, (585) 613-8036
kbunker@rochester.rr.com

Precursillo Chair:

Tim Flynn, (585) 281-3816
ktflynn32@yahoo.com

Cursillo Chair:

Neil Combs, (585) 749-4559
whitegremlinny@gmail.com

Postcursillo Chair:

Mary Ellen Darling, (315) 521-8771
maryellendarling@gmail.com

School of Leaders:

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

Secretary:

Janice Bradt, (585) 281-1091
ljdbc@frontiernet.net

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 >>>

Notre Dame Update

Neil Combs, M80, Hilton Ultreya
Cursillo Chair

Greetings from your Cursillo Chair!

Good news, we will be able to continue to plan our Diocese of Rochester Cursillo Weekends at Notre Dame Retreat House... Read the news!

To all our dear supporters,

Thanks to your prayers and support, Notre Dame Retreat House will remain open for the foreseeable future! The Redemptorists have approved a plan to turn management of the facility over to a volunteer lay council beginning August 1, 2023. While many details remain to be resolved, the hope is to continue to work with Redemptorists and other clergy to maintain the retreat programming that we have all come to love.

While this is a time to celebrate, it is also a time to intensify our efforts to ensure the viability of this Finger Lakes' treasure for Christians of all denominations. Maintenance and upkeep of the facility will be the responsibility of the unpaid lay council, including immediate needs to upgrade the HVAC system.

The best way you can help secure a long future for Notre Dame Retreat House is to make a retreat and experience the deep spirituality waiting for you here. Visit our website at www.notredameretreat.org for details on 2023's retreat offerings. While on our website please consider making a direct, year-end, tax-deductible contribution to the cause. **Any donation is deeply appreciated, along with your continued prayers.**

Thank you again for your past and future support. The sun is not setting, but rather rising on a new day at Notre Dame!

Blessings,

Paul Peterson Gary Keating

Co-chairs of the Notre Dame Retreat House Lay Council



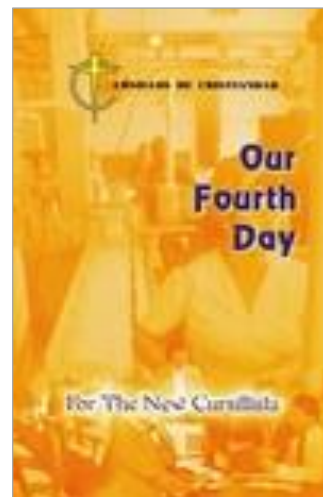
School of Leaders Sharing

Our Fourth Day – For the New Cursillista

Reviewed by Mary Ellen Darling, W83, Geneva-Newark Ultreya

We have experienced a Three-Day Cursillo, and it has led us into Our Fourth Day which is the rest of our life

My Three Day Cursillo was over 10 years ago and my role in the Secretariat is Post Cursillo Chair. I had read *Our Fourth Day* many years ago but thought it was time to reread it in light of my role. How can I be of assistance to our new Cursillistas????? - for the rest of their lives. We have Cursillistas who have been with Cursillo for many, many years. As we listen to them, we can learn so much about the Cursillo movement and this book only enhances their experiences.



The book reviews the Cursillo Weekend, shares what happens after the Weekend, Living the Fourth Day. It also includes the History of the Movement, its Purpose and Organization and includes special resource material and a glossary of Cursillo terms.

One of my favorite paragraphs from the book: *To live as Christians in today's anti-Christian world is quite a challenge. Our society is not conditioned to Christian intentions and devotion, he/she still will have a difficult time living as a Christian in the world without the help, support and contact of other Christians. To capture the vision, the desire and the fervor to live as a Christian in the Three Days and then to leave afterwards and attempt to do it on one's own in the Fourth Day are impossible without the support and help of other Christians who feel likewise. We need the contact with others who share the same restlessness and the same desire to grow in the Christian life and the same desire to change the world for Christ. That is why the Cursillo offers the forms of perseverance of the Fourth Day, such as Ultreya and Group Reunion. ... These forms provide us with a means by which, with others like ourselves, we can share, support and sustain one another.*

I had been fortunate to participate in my group for reunion, and, because of the Pandemic, have been able to attend many of our Ultreyas digitally. The witnesses, echoes, and sharing have kept me supported and sustained in my faith as a Christian and a Cursillista. Cursillo – Living our Fourth Day across the Rochester Diocese is there and available to all Cursillistas, new and experienced. Check out the list of Ultreyas and consider joining one or more each month. DeColores!



Ask the Three Wisemen (and women) . . .

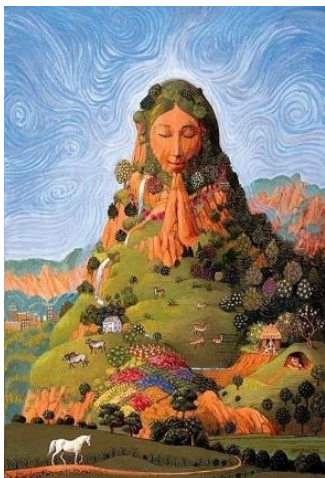
Ask a wise Cursillista who has been around forever!

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

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



I saw a picture of the Virgin Mary with a triangular dress, what does this mean? Answered by Bobbi LaVoie, W71, Fairport Ultreya



Primarily in the 1600s, when missionaries from Spain and Portugal brought Catholicism to the Amazonian countries, they used imagery to share the stories. To help relate Catholicism to the indigenous people's belief in the goddess Pachamama, earth mother, the missionaries started to paint the Virgin Mary wearing a triangular dress. As well, it may be noted that painted depictions of the triangular Virgin and Child in Peru during the Baroque period featured a preference for bright color pallets such as red indicating the Sacred Mountain and the Ancient Peruvian devotion to Pachamama. Red, since it is the color of blood, in Catholic iconography signifies the saving nature of the resurrection, the life-giving energy and love of Christ's sacrifice. Most depictions of our lady remain faithful to a cloak or dress of blue which can be traced back to the Old Testament as the color of the people of Israel and its iconographic representation of transcendence, mystery, and the divine. It is the color of the sky and as a result is viewed as a heavenly color.

DeColores!

Witness by a Friend of Christ! (Continued from page 5)

The baskets of glistening bobbles, trinkets and gifts near the front checkout. They all called for my attention...look at me ...look at me.... At that time the notion of Advent was unfamiliar to me. On Christmas eve, we had a lavish, traditional Italian meal at Grandma's house with the extended family followed by Midnight Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Church. She loved it. I am so grateful for my grandmother and her inspiring faith. At that time, I was more enamored with Christmas Eve mass because of the pageantry, the dark church, lighted candles flickering and casting shadows on the religious paintings. It made them look alive and moving around. I was probably thinking this Christmas eve mass is weird but cool.

Thanks be to God my faith has grown since those early years. Today I celebrate the season of Advent. It is about reflecting on how I can prepare my interior disposition and make a home for Christ's birth. It is more than a memorial. It is real presence and a memorial that gives me fruit of the holy spirit for action. At each meal, I light an Advent candle to remind me that God is present now. I carry a little baby Jesus in my pocket to remind me he is with me. He presents himself to me in the daily reception of the Holy Eucharist, in prayer, in my family, in fellows, friends and strangers. Do I look for Him? Do I see Him? In the Gospel Matt 9:22, Jesus passed by two blind men. They followed him and cried for pity. They wanted to see. He said "let it be done according to your faith" and their eyes were opened. I am asking Jesus to do the same for me. I desire the faith to have my eyes opened to him, He loves me, uplifts me, encourages me in a personal relationship. He has chosen me, a beloved daughter and sinner as I am, to receive Him in the Holy Eucharist each day by which I am strengthened and nourished. To think that the almighty, King of Kings, Lord of all touched earth in a lowly stable and was laid in a feeding trough. A manger. My grandmother would say "mangia, mangia Beverly" at Christmas dinner. Now it is Jesus at the altar saying "mangia." At a recent mass I heard a beautiful story about a Sister here in Rochester who went on a mission trip to Chili. There was a woman there who insisted that Sister go to her house immediately in haste (like Mary went to Elizabeth's house). Upon arrival there, Sister observed the abject poverty in which she lived... dirt floor, no running water, ramshackle house, and a crate of some sort that had a tattered picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The woman was so excited and joyful to show Sister the picture. The woman was ecstatic. Sister was amazed that in spite of her obvious impoverished physical surroundings she was so joyful. How am I carrying a bit of that joy because of my personal relationship to Christ to those in my daily life? My grandmother was so joyful to introduce me to her co-workers. Am I a joyful co-worker with Jesus? The delicious grilled cheese and tomato soup I shared at the Sibley's lunch counter replaced by food from heaven and I have co-workers to share Him with and who share Him with me. At Holy Mass especially, but beyond the altar, heaven and earth touch. The altar that extends to the realms of heaven in the company of Angels and Saints. I have come to believe the paintings at St. Anthony's of Saints and Angels that seemed to be alive and moving depict the awesome reality that they are. They are here as messengers to help. At Mass, I receive spiritual food that sustains me; uplifts and encourages me. All those years ago, I sensed it at the Sibley's lunch counter in the grilled cheese and tomato soup, and shopping at Neisner's. Now, it is the dark, quiet and lowly stable today that I find what lights me up. I feed on the bread of life that lies in the manger...in the feeding trough. I am back at Holy Mass with my Grandma in the excitement of the light of the world. Now, Christ has no body but yours and mine by which he blesses all the world. It would be nice if someone would say, "what is with Bev...what flavor "Kool-Aid" does she drink? Why is she so joyful? I want some of that. Give me a double." Advent is a wonderful time of watchful preparation. To be star struck like the Magi and follow the stars to the stable with awe and wonder. I was in awe and wonder about the gigantic tree in Midtown plaza. Now I am in awe and wonder of our generously good and gracious God. When I was a kid...belief was easy. I believed my landlady saw a hoof flying by the window and it altered my behavior. In faith, I believe my Lord Jesus Christ was born to the Blessed Mother, and it alters my behavior. What is easier to believe? That reindeer can fly or Jesus Christ is here? In the Charles Schultz classic Linus says as he stands on a spotlighted stage "for behold, I bring unto you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you. Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." (Luke 2:1)

Joy is a spiritual action and it leads to gratitude. It comes through discipline. It requires prayer. Feelings don't dictate beliefs. Joy is a choice. Choose it every day. There is never a moment when God isn't leaning toward me kindly and favorably. It is His initiative and pleasure. It's got nothing to do with whether I deserve it. Now that's a tidings of great joy. Decolores!

We'll Thrive with Five!

It's not much, if each Cursillista sent at least \$5, Rochester Cursillo will thrive in 2023! Please consider making donations throughout the year—just \$5 a month if possible. Kindly make out checks to **Rochester Cursillo** and mail to:
Allan Stone, Cursillo Treasurer
35 Cindy Lane
Rochester, NY 14626



Witness by a Friend of Christ!

Bev Stephenson, W88
Caledonia Ultreya



Which is Easier to Believe...That Reindeer Can Fly or Jesus is Here?

When I was a kid, I remember visiting our landlord on Christmas Eve. While we were talking, she stopped abruptly and said, "I think I just saw a reindeer hoof fly by the window". With her words, my desire to eat the delicious homemade fudge she prepared was gone. I believed Santa was here. Kids believe easily. I believed what she said. I believed in Santa Claus. In "you better watch out, you better not cry, you better not pout, I am telling you why, Santa Claus is coming to town. He sees you when you're sleeping. He knows when you're awake. He knows if you've been bad or good so be good for goodness sake". I believed Santa was watching. My behavior was altered. I wanted to get in bed quick and close my eyes and at the very least, pretend to sleep.

As a teenager, I remember going downtown to Rochester to meet my grandmother on her lunchtime. She was a retail clerk in the housewares department at Edwards and then Sibley's. She would always be happy to buy me things and get me that 10% discount. The store was all decked out with bows of holly and fa la la la la...la la la la...Poinsettias, evergreen branches, red bows, Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby music and the smell of peppermint and chocolate. My grandmother was so proud to greet me. She would embrace me with warmth and put her arm in mine as she introduced me to her co-workers. She would say, "this is my granddaughter Beverly", with warmth of heart and a big smile. I felt so loved. I would spend her lunchtime with her. She would often treat me to a bowl of tomato soup and grilled cheese. Deliciously wrapped in the warmth of her love. During the early 70's, Downtown Rochester was popping. Many people were there at Christmastime shopping, to see the big tree lighting and ride the Midtown monorail. I often wondered where that huge tree came from in Midtown plaza and how they got it in there. It was a wonder. The five and dime stores were on the street - Woolworth's and Neisner's. I was lit up by shopping in there. *Continued on page 4*

You are Welcome
to attend any Ultreya!

Hilton Area - Last Saturday (4th or 5th)
In Person at 6:15pm Potluck, Ultreya
7pm
St. Leo's Church
Tim Spinelli, (585) 755-6252
TSpinelli@aol.com

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

Elmira Area - 4th Thursday
IN PERSON & Virtual Ultreya at 7:00pm
St. Mary's Faith Formation Center
Deacon George & Paula Welch
(607) 738-3959
pwelch@tqcp.com

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

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

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

*Please contact Ultreya Coordinator for
an invite with the Zoom info!*

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

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

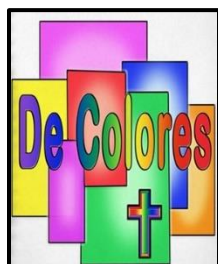
Rochester SPANISH 3rd Saturday
St. Michael's Office Building
Sr. Theresa Ruddy, (585) 325-4041
truddy46@yahoo.com

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 - Next meeting is January 19th
For Zoom invite, contact Sue Lorz, (585) 704-4988
suelarry5644@gmail.com

Second Touch, Stella Niagara, Buffalo, NY
January 27-29, 2023

Grand Ultreya, Church of the Resurrection, Fairport, NY
March 18, 2023

Region III Spring Regional Encounter
Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg, PA
May 5-6, 2023

National Encounter 2023
Creighton University, Omaha, NE
July 20-23, 2023

Men's #95
Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua, NY
August 17-20, 2023

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

Joy TO THE WORLD