

CURSILLO

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

February 2022 In this issue

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Spiritual Advisor Wisdom

Following Jesus into the Desert

Deacon David Paluskiewicz, M81, Caledonia Ultreya
Diocesan Assistant Spiritual Advisor

Imagine you were just baptized by John the Baptist at the Jordan River and you noticed Jesus coming to John right after you. Now, enter into this guided meditation and follow Jesus into the desert.

Meditation by Loretta Pehanich <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/following-jesus-into-the-desert/>

After my baptism, I returned daily to the river and watched. When John said, "Behold the Lamb of God," we applauded. Some danced. Some jumped into the water and splashed each other like children.

People were so busy celebrating that they didn't notice Jesus head toward the desert. I wondered why he left and followed.

He walked for an hour and then stopped. I stayed back, hesitant to disturb him. He stood still, eyes closed, and tilted his neck so the sun could fall fully on his face. The hands at his sides slowly rose. I became self-conscious. Was I intruding? I went home.

Days passed, and I wondered about Jesus. No one had seen him. More days passed, and I decided to return to the desert. I don't know what I hoped to find.

Somehow my wanderings led me to Jesus, who sat with his chest to his knees. He looked thin and tired. His lips were dry and cracked. I stayed back. Had he been praying all this time? I can barely sit through a synagogue service. What self-discipline this man had! And what was he thinking about as he sat there? Did he love solitude so much? Or was he waiting for an answer that was slow in coming?

I wanted to imitate him, so I started praying at a distance. I became aware of stiff limbs before I realized that much time had passed. As I gazed at a full moon, I felt famished. I wanted the comfort of my own bed. What was I doing out here? Why didn't I leave?

A thought occurred to me: "Yours is a useless life. What you do doesn't amount to anything. You don't amount to anything."



The Temptation of Jesus. Filled with the holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry. When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from him for a time

Luke 4:1-2, 13



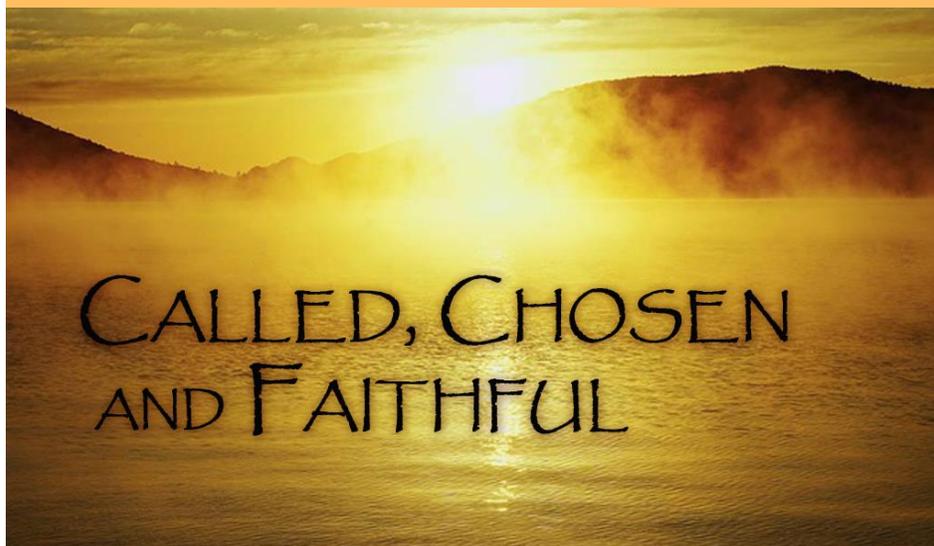
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The Secretariat Page

Notes from February 8, 2022 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!



Updates next month...

Pray for Cursillistas to say YES to serve on the Rochester Cursillo Secretariat. Discern if the Lord is calling you!

❖ Assistant Lay Director
❖ Precursillo Chair
❖ Secretary

Reach out to Mary Liz Bartell or Father Mickey to discuss.

Who are we?

Lay Director:

Mary Liz Bartell, (607) 324-0372

maryliziz@aol.com

Assistant Lay Director:

Is the Lord calling YOU?

Precursillo Chair: *Is the Lord calling YOU?* Donna LaDuca, (585) 342-3234

donnaprecur12@rochester.rr.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: *Is the Lord calling YOU?*

Doreen Gala-Hebert, (585) 236-6049

dgalahebert@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Allan Stone, (585) 269-4640

astone@rochester.rr.com

Donations make out to

News from the Secretariat >>>

We'll Thrive with Five!

Allan Stone, M86, Hilton Ultreya
Treasurer

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 for almost two years, the bowl is almost empty. Rochester Cursillo needs financial help to fund the upcoming weekends in 2022 and to keep Cursillo alive in the diocese.

It's not much, if each Cursillista sent at least \$5, Rochester Cursillo will thrive in 2022 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! DeColores!

Kindly make out checks to **Rochester Cursillo**

Mail to:

Allan Stone, Cursillo Treasurer
35 Cindy Lane
Rochester, NY 14626



School of Leaders Sharing

“My Grandfather’s Blessings”

Book Review by Pat Malach, W35, Geneva Newark Ultreya

A blessing is the holy spark in you touching the holy spark in another. This is the subject of a book, *My Grandfather’s Blessing*, by Rachel Remen M.D. Her grandfather was a Rabbi, well-schooled in the mystical teachings of Judaism. One belief is that in the beginning, the “Holy” was broken into countless sparks that were scattered throughout the universe. There is a God spark in everyone and everything. God’s presence can be encountered daily in the most ordinary ways.

Rachel was born prematurely. Her Grandfather saw her fighting for life and spoke a Hebrew prayer: the Blessing of Gratitude for new life.

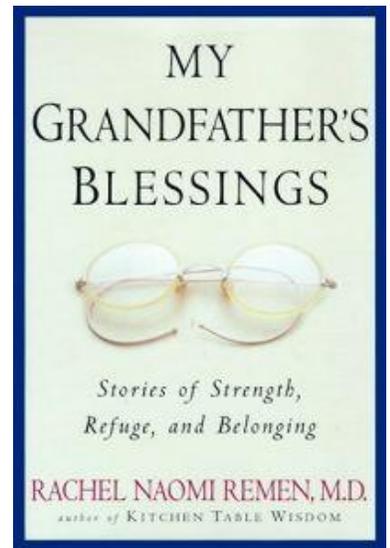
Her grandfather was a man of many blessings. As a child she was caught between her grandfather’s holy nature of the world and her highly academic, research oriented parents. He taught her that we bless life around us when we listen attentively to another, give them a warm smile, hold open a door, or provide a service.

Rachel spent many afternoons with her grandfather. One day he brought her some dirt in a flower pot. He made her promise to water it every day. She did not mind at first, but when nothing happened she became resentful. He reminded her of the promise to water. One morning little green leaves appeared. She could not wait to show grandfather. Carefully he explained that life is everywhere, hidden in the most ordinary places. She was delighted. “And all I need is water Grandpa?” Gently he said, “No, all it needs is your faithfulness!”

Blessings moves us closer to each other. When people are blessed, they discover that their lives matter, that there is something in them worthy of the blessing. When we offer our blessings, the light in the world is strengthened, around us and in us. In our highly technological world, we may forget our own goodness and place the value on our skills and our expertise. But it is not our expertise that will restore the world.

Rachel spent her life as a pediatrician, then counseling people with cancer and chronic pain. Her book is filled with stories of the people she met and how they have blessed her. It is about how we can recognize and receive our blessings and bless the life of others. Serving others, heals us. Through our service, we discover our own wholeness and the way to restore hidden wholeness in the world.

I think that many of us need to be reminded to recognize our blessings and to thank God for them each day. I needed to be reminded of my many blessings. This book really touched me and hopefully will you. 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 Hear Las Mananitas is Back, Why? Answered by Bobbi LaVoie, W71, Fairport Ultreya

Las Mañanitas is a traditional song in Spanish that Mexicans sing to honor a loved one on their birthday or their name day or saint's day, and it is also sung on other important holidays. The original Cursillo weekend did not have Las Mananitas. In or around 1966, Eduardo Bonnin, a founder of the Cursillo movement, was invited to talk to a weekend at Mexico where he was surprised with Las Mananitas on Sunday morning. Eduardo liked the idea and brought it back to Spain. He felt that Las Mananitas shared Palanca with the new Cursillistas. It was a demonstration of the sacrifice made by the community in getting up in the morning to come a distance and sing.

Mananitas can happen in the morning. It does NOT have to be the wake-up bell. Many other dioceses bring the community into the chapel on Sunday morning to sing to the new Cursillistas and team. Organizing the experience to limit personal contact, yet to perfectly demonstrate the support, love, sacrifice and prayers being offered by the Cursillo Community. A brief introduction to the people with whom the new Cursillistas will live their 4th Day. A beautiful portrayal of the information to come on Sunday about Group Reunion and Ultreya! Decolores!

Spiritual Advisor Wisdom (continued from page 1)



I chewed on this idea for a moment. As fear mounted, Jesus turned. He knew I was there. My mind raced. A voice inside accused me: “You don’t belong here. Leave. You are interfering.”

I wanted to run. But Jesus’ eyes contradicted my inclination. I stayed. It was then that I noticed Jesus sweating profusely. Was he going through a battle of his own? His hands were clenched in prayer, and I followed his example.

“God, I belong to you,” I prayed. “I want to follow your plan, but I don’t know what that is. Show me.”

The image of the ill neighbor I care for flitted across my mind. Then I remembered my mother, who lives with us. I do matter, and it’s a temptation to think I don’t.

“Give me courage,” I prayed. “Give me patience and a kind word when I am exhausted.”

I closed my eyes. Peace overtook me. The next thing I knew, sun was warming my cheek. I had fallen asleep in the desert. As I stretched my stiff muscles, I looked around. Where was Jesus?

I began wandering and looking for him. Why was I seeking him? I should be home. I should be... I caught myself in this thought.

“Be kind to yourself. Test your thoughts.”

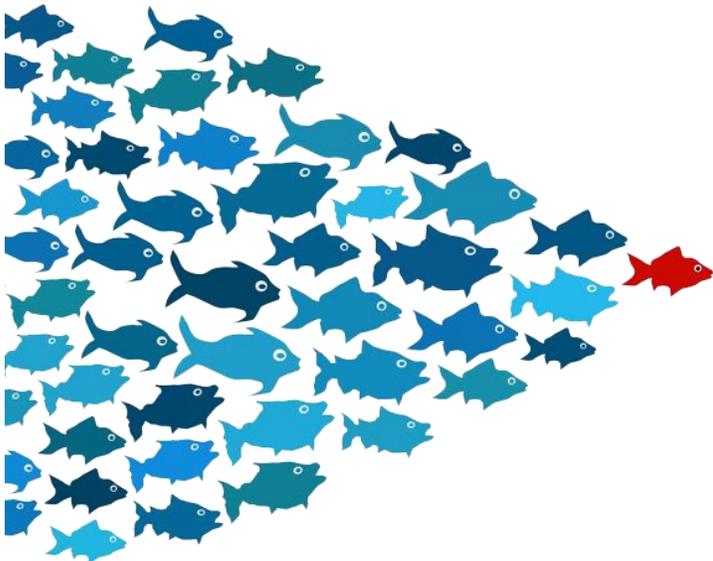
I heard a voice and turned to see Jesus. “We’ve had a lot to think about out here, haven’t we?” Jesus smiled. “Let’s head back. We know what we need to do now.”

As we walked together, he talked about his own temptations. And he invited me to talk about mine. When we reached my house, he thanked me. He thanked me!

“I know you’ll accompany me again,” he said. “Not into the desert, but into your busy life of service. This is love, my friend.”

He turned up the road, and I went into my house to begin my day.

DeColores!



*Join
School of Leaders
to become
Fishers of Men!*

Third Thursday of Every Month
For Zoom invite, contact Sue Lorz
(585) 704-4988
suelarry5644@gmail.com

Witness by a Friend of Christ!

Beth Bullen, W81
Caledonia Ultreya

I am discerning a vocation to the Carmelite Order as a Lay Carmelite. My fourth day journey led me to faithfully pray the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Now my piety includes daily Mass, monthly Carmelite formation classes, and learning Carmelite prayer forms - in particular, the Liturgy of the Hours and Lectio Divina. Over the last year these commitments have become my daily routine. What a wonderful journey.

My home parish does not offer a Mass every morning, so I attend Mass four days a week in in Leroy, once a week in Lima, and twice a week at my home parish. Indeed, this felt a bit awkward at first. I had to learn the priests and congregant's names, not an easy feat for someone who has trouble remembering names. Then I had to learn new routines, such as parking lot intricacies, who proceeds first to communion (in Leroy the left side of the church goes first, then the right side), and learning unfamiliar hymns. However, I am thankful for these new opportunities. I honestly feel at home with my extended church community. I am a part of each parish, making new friends along the way.

As a Carmelite I experience wonderful daily spiritual reflections praying the Liturgy of the Hours. It is beyond precious to receive Jesus in daily communion. And Lectio Divina Wow! I am working on learning to be still and to listen to God. Not a simple undertaking for me because my mind always wonders, but I am optimistic. I am on a journey, and I am thankful to God for creating this opportunity for me. Christ is counting on me, and I am counting on Christ. Decolores!



You are Welcome
to attend any Ultreya!

Hilton Area - Last Saturday (4th or 5th)
In Person & Virtual Ultreya at 6:45pm
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 7pm
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
Virtual Ultreya 7:00pm
Kathy Jacobsen, (585) 755-9578
[kjacobson046@gmail.com](mailto:kjacobsen046@gmail.com)

Rochester SPANISH 3rd Saturday
IN PERSON (tbd) 4:00pm Ultryea & SOL
St. Michael's Office Building
Sr. Theresa Ruddy, (585) 325-4041
truddy46@yahoo.com

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

*This Ultreya is currently not meeting due
to Covid-19. Pray to reunite soon!*

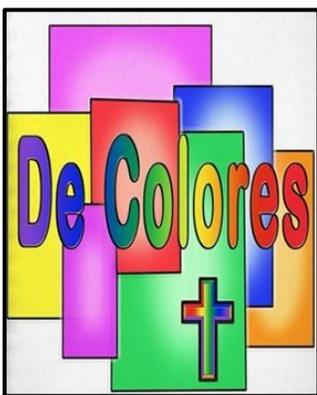
Dansville Area - 2nd Sunday, 11:00am
Sacred Heart Parish, Kennedy House
Bonnie Olsen, (585) 335-5971
summersky252@aol.com

Upcoming Events!

More info on our website www.rochesterkursillo.com

Coming Soon >>>

Check your
Flocknotes messages
for details on events!



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

School of Leaders – 3rd Thursday of the Month
at 7:00pm via Zoom.us - Next meeting is March 17th
For Zoom invite, contact Sue Lorz, (585) 704-4988
suelarry5644@gmail.com

Grand Ultreya (Virtual too) – **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**
St. Dominic's Parish Center at St. Peter's, Shortsville, NY
March 19, 2022 9am-3pm (Mass at 4pm will be available)

Region III Spring Encounter
St. Ann's, Ebensburg, PA
May 6-7, 2022

Women's #89
Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua
June 2-5, 2022

Cursillo National Encounter **Plan to attend!**
Chapman University, Orange, CA,
July 21-24, 2022

Region III Fall Encounter
Stella Niagara, Buffalo, NY
October 28-29, 2022

Men's #95
Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua
November 3-5, 2022

