

CURSILLO

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

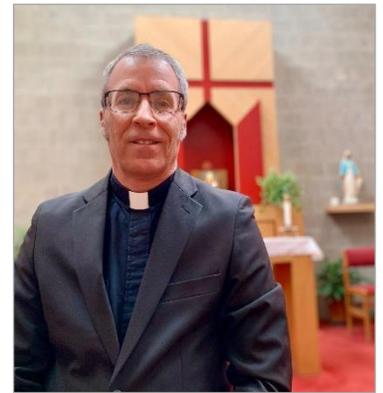
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Spiritual Advisor Wisdom

Candlemas – A Light Then and Now

Fr. Mickey McGrath, M76, Fairport Ultreya
Spiritual Advisor



The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2 offers a beautiful liturgy and tradition. It marks the moment when Jesus was brought to the Temple by Joseph and Mary 40 days after Christmas. Before Vatican II, it was called the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, as well as Candlemas. Each name highlights a different aspect of the feast that the Church celebrates.

First, it is called the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary due to the Mosaic law stating that she must bring to the priest either a lamb, a pigeon, or a turtledove to sacrifice to make atonement (Leviticus 12:6-7). Mary, being a faithful Jew, abided by the law and did what was required of her. After 40 days passed, she approached the priest with the proper offering to be declared “clean.”

This feast is also called the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the first-born to God was to be redeemed (Numbers 18:15). So, Mary and Joseph brought with them Jesus, as St. Luke narrates, “...they brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord’)” (Luke 2:22-23).

In the Temple, the Holy Family encountered an old man named Simeon and what he said next constitutes the basis for why the feast is called Candlemas: “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel” (Luke 2:29-32).

Simeon declared that Jesus would be a “light,” and the Church developed a custom of lighting and blessing candles on this day. Historically the priest would bless all the candles used during Mass for the entire year. The congregation also received candles and the words of Simeon were repeated in song. Thus, we are called to be faithful to Christ, the Light of the World (John 8:12).

Though not a holy day of obligation, it is a beautiful day in the Church’s calendar that signals the end of the “Christmas-Cycle” and looks forward to the light that will shatter all darkness at the Easter Vigil — when another candlelight service is performed in recognition that, “the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen” (Matthew 4:16).

In Cursillo, we speak *of colors* (de colores) which are parts of the light spectrum. They are symbols of our gifts and talents used in service to the Lord. May the gifts and talents we use every day shine forth the colors of the movement and bring the light of Christ’s love to the world.

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 January 11, 2022 Meeting:

- Treasurer's Report: Allan stated we began with a balance of \$4,500.49. He paid out \$58.00 for Flocknotes, \$270.55 for supplies and books for M94, \$2,600.00 to Notre Dame for the weekend. We had deposits of \$800.00 and donations totaling \$417.95. Our ending balance is \$2,790.19.
- School of Leaders: Sue was unable to attend tonight. She has meetings to work on the Apostolic Plan. Mary Liz will send out a copy of the plan which will be submitted to the Bishop.
- Pre-Cursillo: Donna reported that having name tags on weekends will be dependent on each Rector/Rectora. Mary Liz shared we are still looking for a Precursillo Chairperson. Donna suggested that a separate position be made to oversee Step by Step.
- Cursillo: Neal Combs will be taking over this position. Bob suggested we offer Ron \$\$ for storing our supplies for our weekends in Ron's new barn. We decided that \$350/yr be offered to him. Bob will do a inventory come spring.
- Post-Cursillo: Mary Ellen reported a group is planning our Grand Ultreya at St. Dominic's in Shortsville on March 19, 2022. Tim F has offered to do a witness on Men's 94. Deacon David suggested we have a theme like in 2016. Ideas such as "Renew the Fire" and "Cursillo Booster Shot" were suggested. It will be "hybrid" for those who want to attend in person or remotely. Everyone need to bring a dish to pass if attending in person. Our family picnic is July 16 or 23 at Seneca Lakes StatePark.
- Pastoral Plan & Other Business: Mary Liz asked if anything needs to be added to our plan. She, too, asked for discernment and Palanca for someone to step up as Ass't Lay Director. Prayers for the person considering the Secretary position.
- Spiritual Leader's Comments: Offered by Deacon David

Who are we?

Lay Director:

Mary Liz Bartell, (607) 324-0372
maryliz@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 said YES for 2022*

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

Postcursillo Chair:

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

School of Leaders:

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

Secretary: *Pray for a YES?*

Doreen Gala-Hebert, (585) 236-6049
dgalahbert@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 >>>

Welcome Our New Cursillo Chair

*Neil Combs, M80, Hilton Ultreya
Cursillo Chair*

I was born and raised Lutheran, but married my Catholic girlfriend in 1987, and became Catholic in about 2002 or 3. After RCIA classes, I was welcomed into the church with my son and daughter when they were being confirmed. Barely a year later I was a Knight of Columbus, a catechist for the youth ministry, and was asked by Fr Joe to attend a Cursillo retreat. I tried to say no, but with God on his side, I relented and went. To say the least the weekend was eye-opening to my spirituality, but it wasn't until I was asked to join a small group, that was starting that my Cursillo life really took wings. I became more accountable to my faith, and to those men, in many ways, but I also became a better husband and father. I have been grouping with several of those same men for the past 10 or 11 years. They've become my true brothers.

Being the Director of Pharmacy at Monroe Community Hospital for the past seven years has kept me so busy, I've had a hard time expanding my role in Cursillo, and even making Ultreya regularly, but after a small but extremely moving Mens 94 in Dec 2021, I felt called to step out and do something. It was the Site Team that really spoke to me. Hopefully, with retirement in sight in 2022, I will be able to be more active, and play a bigger role down the road. DeColores!



School of Leaders Sharing

A Poem on the World Today

Written by Margi Lash, W11 on January 25, 2022

Take a moment to read and reflect on this message. Live the Cursillo method of Piety, Study & Action in defense of Peace. DeColores!



Holocaust

*Violence, violence!
The evil which I speak.
In home, in womb,
In city street.*

*Who will restore
that fragile peace,
In broken worlds
we desperate seek?*

*Or are we destined
To complete,
A dire trajectory,
So very bleak?*

*Death rattles heard
from week to week.
Nations and armies
remain effete.*

*We have forgotten
pierced hands and feet,
and forsaken love...
Tis the Master I bespeak.*

*Until He takes His rightful Throne,
and evil flees in sure defeat.
We perish sure with no excuse.
And all the lovely trees do weep!*



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*



Is it Right to Worship Mary? Answered by Gloria Treis, W29, Fairport Ulteya

Tom and I just finished a REC {Residents Encounter Christ} retreat in Tuscon, Arizona. [since New York state has not allowed visitors into the prisons yet.] After the retreat one of the prisoners told us that he was sharing about his Catholic experience and he was harassed by fellow inmates about how it is not right that Catholics worshiped Mary. It was a big issue and he did not know what to say. So I thought it might be good for us to review whether we worship Mary. We had given the men rosaries and that may have been one of the points of dissension.

We do know that Catholics do not worship Mary, we honor and venerate her. Many non-Catholics object to the Hail Mary [the prayer not the football play] as disobeying the Bible and committing idolatry by worshiping other other gods. But my friends, where did the words of the Hail Mary come from? It comes from the Bible in Luke 1:28. The King James version of the Scriptures says: Hail, thou art highly favored, the Lord is with thee; blessed are thou among women. The next part of the hail Mary is in Luke: 1:42 which are the words of Mary's cousin Elizabeth when she greeted Mary upon her arrival: Blessed are thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Then the last section of the Hail Mary we ask Holy Mary Mother of God pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen. Most religions do acknowledge Mary as the mother of of Jesus. When we ask Mary to pray for us sinners, it says Catholics view Mary as a helpful ally in our struggle against sin and temptations, We ask her as an ally, not as a goddess. It does not claim that Mary is divine; it is not a prayer of worship, but a prayer request. Most Christians do ask their fellow Christians to pray for them during times of stress and trials. And we sure need this now in these days of turmoil.

Our Lady of Guadeloupe, pray for us! DeColores!

Witness by a Friend of Christ!

Paula Welch, W17
Elmira Ultreya

I am a Bird watcher or as we prefer a birder. I enjoy getting up in the middle of the night and driving two hours north to arrive at Aurora Bay at sun rise, to identify the ducks and geese on the water. I have field glasses, bird books, sunscreen, insect repellent, sturdy shoes, and layers of clothing. All these things to facilitate my birding opportunities. Emma my seven-year-old grand daughter is a budding birder. Her favorite Christmas gift was a course on Warblers at Cornell's Bird Academy. On a recent trip to Georgia, we went on a birding adventure. As we quietly walked through the woods, stopping now and then to listen, communicating with hand gestures, I became aware of the parallels of birding with my prayer life. A good birder is willing to sit in silence for an extended period watching and listening for a bird. We often return to a spot where a specific bird was seen in the hopes of seeing another. We carry equipment to help us. In my prayer I return to the same spot in my living room and sit in silence opening myself to the presence and action of God in my life. I have my special prayer equipment my bible, prayer shawl, rosary, candles all designed to facilitate my prayer.

Birders often are distracted by a bird flitting by. "Oh, look a Green Parakeet. I'm sorry, you were saying something." I often see a glimpse of God in my everyday life. "Thank you, Jesus". There is no such thing as a bad birding trip or a bad prayer experience. Every sparrow and robin counts. Every minute or second open to God counts. I look forward to future opportunities knowing that all comes from God, all is Grace and all will be well.

DeColores!



You are Welcome
to attend any Ultreya!

Hilton Area - Last Saturday (4th or 5th)
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!*

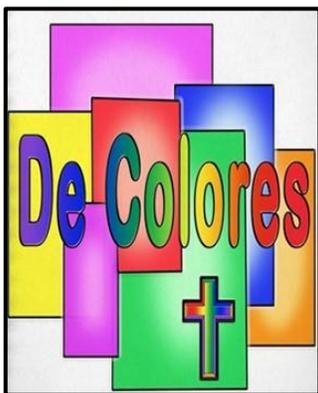
Dansville Area - 2nd Sunday, 11:00am
Sacred Heart Parish, Kennedy House
Bonnie Olsen, (585) 335-5971
summersky252@aol.com

Upcoming Events!

More info on our website www.rochesterkursillo.com

Coming Soon >>>

Check your
Flocknotes messages
for details on events!



School of Leaders – 3rd Thursday of the Month
at 7:00pm via Zoom.us - Next meeting is February
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-4pm (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

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

LET US CONTINUALLY
OFFER UP A
SACRIFICE OF
PRAISE TO GOD

