

CURSILLO

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

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Spiritual Advisor Wisdom

Address of His Holiness Pope Francis To The Members of The Movement of Cursillos of Christianity In Italy

Paul VI Audience Hall, Saturday, 28 May 2022

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning, welcome!

It is with joy that I greet all of you, members of the *Movement of the Cursillos of Christianity* of Italy, together with the bishops and priests who accompany you, who have gathered here in Rome for your seventh national *Ultreya*.

You use this ancient pilgrims' greeting, "*ultreya*", to indicate the meaning of these gatherings, which have characterized your charism since the beginning: they are moments of encounter, of proclamation, of witness and prayer, to urge one another to go "further", to "go beyond". They are not organizational meetings, not the "board of directors" of a company, but fraternal gatherings to rediscover the motivation and the impetus of faith that you have all experienced since the first *cursillo* in which you participated and which turned your lives around.

Already in your weekly group meetings you take a step "further". Indeed, you have the opportunity to go beyond a purely horizontal, earthly and materialistic view of life, to rediscover each time the new outlook that faith in Christ has given us on everything: on ourselves, on the world, on the meaning of existence. We are quick, in fact - out of laziness, out of inertia, out of timidity - to lose the outlook of faith and to conform to the mentality of the world, which extinguishes all zeal and all desire to remain faithful to the Lord and to bring Him to others. Now that the pandemic is passing, we are reminded of the admonition in the Letter to the Hebrews, "not neglecting to meet together ... but encouraging one another" (10:25). It is a great grace to have brothers and friends in the faith to support each other and keep alive the love for Christ, the foundation of everything, and to share it with others.

In addition to the weekly meetings, it is above all your "*ultreya*" that propel you "further". I would like to point out two fundamental directions for your "going further".

The first is *moving towards communion*. It means going beyond oneself and beyond one's own group to form a community and grow in the Church, which is always a body and never unconnected, separate members. Therefore, never isolate yourself and never shut yourself in! Always maintain and increase vital links with the places of communion in which we are integrated.

At a first level, you are required to form community with other groups, at regional and national levels, to enrich yourselves with broader experiences and perspectives, which help you understand better the ecclesial and social situation in which you are immersed and which constitutes the concrete field of your mission. In this way, faith and life, the Church and the world are unified in you.

Continued on page 3

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 July 12, 2022 Meeting:

- Treasurer's Report: Allan reported a balance of \$2408.04. Payment to Flocknotes for \$58.00 paid.
- School of Leaders: Weekly Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet are said every Friday at 9pm as Palanca for the upcoming W89, November 3-6. Sue sends out an email with zoom link, Sue is working on getting the section chairs to form committees to meet during SOL to facilitate dialogue and work in Precursillo, Cursillo weekend, and Postcursillo.
- Pre-Cursillo: Tim Flynn will mail out the sponsor letters and applications for W89. He is prepared to help organize the final preparation of candidates. Currently, we have 14 names as candidates for W89 of which seven are confirmed with applications on file. Tim is ordering a new supply of the pink "What is Cursillo?" and the blue "Sponsor" booklets.
- Cursillo: Living the Rector's Guide will be hosted by Region III at Notre Dame, Sept 8-11. This will be an opportunity for Cursillistas to actually live and experience a weekend following the new Rector's Guide, Step-by-Step. All are welcome to attend. Please send in registration promptly since space is limited. Working on dates with Notre Dame for upcoming Men's weekend in 2023. The Cursillo Sound System is in storage, but it was decided to keep it and not sell it since replacing it will be very expensive. Prayers for the selection of the next Rector for the upcoming men's weekend.
- Post-Cursillo: Mary Ellen shared that the family picnic on July 2 at Seneca Lakes State Park in Geneva was wonderful with 25 people attending, "A good time was had by all." Cursillistas are invited to attend a Desert Day at Notre Dame Retreat House on Tuesday, October 4, 9am-3pm. Fr. Mickey urged everyone to come spend a day with the Lord.
- Other Business: Welcome Janice Bradt as the new Secretary! Thank you for saying YES!

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

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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
ljjdb@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 >>>

Cursillo... The Future!

*Keith Bunker, M85, Hilton Ultreya
Assistant Lay Director*



I was a "Sunday-only" catholic for most of my life until I made my weekend. I believed, but only on my terms and at my convenience. My close encounter with Christ was on Men's 85 in 2011.

When I returned home after my weekend I was on fire! It seemed like I couldn't pray enough. My prayer life has leveled off, and I look forward to me morning and night prayer times. Initially I prayed for what *I* want, and now I know that whatever I pray about, it's what God wills. I believe that is how my increasing involvement with Cursillo has been – according to God's will. I was on my 1st team for a Cursillo weekend 6 years after my weekend, and I've done 5 other weekends since then. My attendance at Ultreya has increased, as is my participation in School of Leaders. When I was asked to be the Assistant Lay Director, I was honored and humbled. I prayed about it and I felt at peace when I decided to accept – a sure sign that I'm following God's will!

My goals as Assistant Lay Director are to learn the Cursillo way much better and reignite the Cursillo movement in the Rochester Diocese. As with just about everything else, the pandemic put a pause on many, many activities. You may have heard the mass attendance is still much lower than before Covid. We need to get people back to church! With all the troubles in the world we need God to be part of our lives and our society. We've all seen how each of our Cursillo weekends have touched us – what if God was in the lives of everyone like this? How many problems would go away if that happened? As a friend of mine says often, quoting Mother Theresa, "We cannot do great things, only small things with great love." If we all do small things with great love, we can affect big things!

DeColores!

Pope Francis Address Spiritual Advisor Wisdom (continued from page 1)

On a second level, you are called to form community with the entire *Cursillos* movement. The great challenge here is to maintain a spirit of charity and unity, knowing that the founding charism of your movement is the one that was passed on to you by the initiators and the first generation and for which you are all equally responsible. Unity is not founded on the charism of a single individual or on the spiritual “line” of a “current”. No, unity is founded on the spiritual heritage accepted by all, lived and shared by all, understood by all and entrusted to all. I know that in the next few days there will be a meeting of the World Body of *Cursillos de Cristiandad*, which will be attended by leaders from all continents. I hope that this meeting will be experienced as a synodal event of listening and common discernment among those responsible, that it will give space to all, and that it will welcome the different sensitivities and visions, to create spiritual harmony within you. Harmony of identity, of apostolate, of governance, so that you can be and present yourselves to others as brothers acting in unity.



At a third and even broader level, there is forming community with the Church, which implies being close to and listening to the pastors and participating in the pastoral initiatives of the local Churches where you live. Your groups and your whole movement, in fact, are not “beside” the Church, but are also part of the Church living in that territory. You are therefore called to identify fully with the feeling and action of the Church.

The second fundamental direction of “going beyond”, and therefore of every *ultreya*, is *mission*. Going beyond means going on your mission. Your movement, too, is faced with the challenge of forming communities of missionary disciples who go out to meet those who are far away (cf. Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii gaudium*, 24), going beyond the criterion of “it has always been done this way” (cf. *ibid.*, 33), which is not a Christian criterion. You have a particular charism, which has led you to rediscover and know how to proclaim in a simple and direct way the essential of the Christian experience, that is, God’s love for every man and woman. And you know how to convey this proclamation within the bonds of friendship and closeness that you establish, without pressure, with so many people you meet, even those with stronger personalities who seem almost indifferent or even hostile to the faith. I encourage you, therefore, to allow yourselves to be inspired by this charism that the Holy Spirit has granted you, to experience in this way the sweet joy of evangelizing, in all areas of life, private and public, that is, movement, movement for internal unity and movement to evangelize.

I would like to add one thing: being in the movement also means living the service of proclamation and Christian witness, and this is also up to the people who are in charge or responsible for each country or for the whole movement. A bad thing that you must avoid, before it happens – because it seems that it hasn’t happened with you, but I’ll tell you first – is “eternalizing” offices, that is, always keeping the same person in a given role. Please don’t. Everyone is good, but we are not all indispensable. We are not indispensable. I finish this job as coordinator, I don’t know what it’s called over there, either of the group or of the countries or general, and I go home – that is, I go into the groups as an ordinary person, an ordinary person. “No, but I did this, now we need to...”. You don’t need to do anything, you have to let go! Is that clear? And this renewal, to counteract personal ambitions, which are inspired by the devil, is a task in which you must persevere. Because so many movements have died out in the hands of a sole leader. We have much experience of this in the Church. So, renew the service of authority, let us say, renew it: no one is eternal in authority.

Dear friends, may the Holy Spirit, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, keep you always on the move, never still, always on the move, always ready to “go further”, towards communion and towards mission, and always in service, not scrambling for office. From my heart I bless you all and your loved ones. And you too, please do not forget to pray for me. Thank you!

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Witness by a Friend of Christ (continued from page 6)

Better yet, when I revealed this to our son and his wife, they were speechless, as I imagine will be Joe’s parents.

I try to do things anonymously. I do them for the Lord. I don’t want credit. When I get a nudge, I follow through. Most times I don’t know the outcome. I leave that to God. And when I am identified I want people to know that the glory goes to God...not me.

I have to admit doing things for Joe makes me happy. Joe loves everyone unconditionally. I want to be more like Joe. In this world, he probably won’t make a difference, except to his family and those who love him. But Joe’s already a shining light. His light shines before God, and the fortunate ones who have been blessed with eyes to see. And that, like Joe, is a grace...God’s gift to us. DeColores!



School of Leaders Sharing

How is Your Fourth Day?

Marilyn LeChase, W8, Hilton Ultreya



The founder of the Cursillo Movement, Eduardo Bonnin, back in the '40s was enlightened by the Holy Spirit to develop a message of God's gift – His love for us! We often term this gift the "Good News". The development of the Cursillo Movement, as a course in Christian living, enriched the spiritual lives of many – not just as a gift but as a method to share our Christian lives and pursue our growth in response to God's love. We knew what that meant! We were equipped to participate in our baptismal calling. As Cursillistas and part of God's family, we now had a transparent view of our mission, the Christian ideal. We knew what that meant! We could live our Fourth Day. We had lived our weekend and the tools of living our Fourth Day were explained on the weekend. We were prepared and ready to share our joy, to share our relationship with Christ – to tell our friends about God's gift – His love for them.

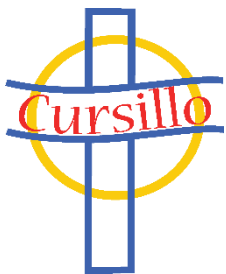
So, how is your Fourth Day going? Have you experienced answers to problems and difficulties? Have the environments that you participate in, been influenced enough to be open to "God's gift"? Do your friends know that you regard them as you brothers and sisters in Christ? Do you regularly experience prayer times that germinate more trust in God's will? Yes, we are all human. Yes, rain brings rainbows. Yes. We live on the real world. Yes, we have our Ideals but our Palanca has not kicked in yet. Our action is in a developmental stage. If only the others could contribute some piety. Yes, we are trying to be patient.

How do we persevere? How do we maintain our determination to share our relationship with Christ? Where are the success stories, the growth, the love? Our short course in Christianity told us PSA (Piety, Study, Action), Ultreya, Group Reunion. We always can realize that there are many unrealized, unfulfilled expectations BUT and there must always be a but. Let's remember our A, B, C's. **A** is for awareness that allows us to accept and trust in God's will.

B is for the belief that God is in charge and results may be invisible but faith is, was and will always be a gamechanger.

C is for commitment which we all know takes us through ups and downs and for the blessed assurance that God loves us.

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



Have You Ever Wondered What Jesus Did During His Hidden Years?

Answered by Gloria Treis, W29, Fairport Ultreya

Well if you haven't, your wise woman this month has and so you are going to learn something about Jesus's hidden years. The New Testament only mentions Jesus being found in the temple by his parents at age 12 and that afterwards "He advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man." (Luke 2:52) He goes to the temple with His parents teaching in His Father's house at age 12 and then begins His public ministry at age 30. This period of time is sometimes referred to as His hidden years. What does He do during this time? This wise woman cannot answer that question, but would like to share some thoughts that I discovered while reading about this time in Jesus's life. First, the Scriptures focus on the work of salvation and the reason for Jesus's coming into the world. Can't argue with that! So a reason it is not covered in the Scriptures. Then I read about Joseph and Mary being just an ordinary couple who raised Jesus. Seems like God could have chosen a better prepared family that would expose Jesus to the culture and context of being the Son of God. It might have been important for the Messiah to grow up in a priestly household like John the Baptist devoting days to prayer and Scripture and daily access to the temple. Or He could have been raised within a Pharisee household as was the Apostle Paul. The Pharisee movement was devoted to God and zealous for application of Old Testament Scriptures. But no, He was born to an ordinary couple whose head of household worked in a secular trade as a carpenter and lived far away from the temple. Jesus followed in this trade according to tradition and labored with His hands during His ordinary time of preparation for God's work. He was fully man full of joy, sorrow, drudgery, excitement and experiences as man. He was truly God and truly man. This is what I found my greatest wisdom in this topic! Jesus was grounded in holiness in normal life and this revealed to me the powerfullness of the opportunities for holiness in our ordinary lives. We can live life to the fullest spreading Jesus's peace, love, joy and compassion to all we meet in our ordinary lives! Does this sound familiar? Like a principle in Cursillo? Decolores!



Region III invites you to **Living the Rector's Guide**

Notre Dame Retreat House, 5151 Foster Rd, Canandaigua, NY

Thursday, September 8 to Sunday, September 11, 2022

Join fellow Cursillistas who would like to experience the Rector's Guide, A Step-by-Step Guide to the Cursillo Weekend. You will get to experience the Cursillo weekend again by actually living the day-to-day timing and inclusions outlined in the guide. Discover the reality of what you have read and studied to better prepare your diocese in following the guide. Our goal is for all participants to understand the what, the how, and the why of the weekend. The fact is that in the past every diocese ran their weekends differently, hence, by having all the regional dioceses come together we will find unity.

This weekend will be a little different since both men and women will be in attendance. However, the rollos and discussions will be split into men's and women's groups with their own teams. We are blessed to have Cef Aguillon, Cursillo National English Coordinator, as rector for the men. Our own, Gail Terrana, former OMCC vice president, will be rectora for the women. The teams are comprised of Region III service team, as well as other regional/national leaders and spiritual advisors.

We encourage all Cursillo leaders, upcoming team members and any Cursillista who is feeling called to better understand the movement to join us in *Living the Rector's Guide*.

Thursday, September 8

Check-in between 3:00-5:00 pm

Since we are traveling from afar Dinner will be provided 5:00-6:00 pm

Orientation of *Living the Rector's Guide* 6:30 pm

Weekend commences with Preliminary Rollo 7:15 pm

Sunday, September 11

Clausura to commence at 3:30 pm - All are welcome to join in the Retreat Center Chapel

Weekend concludes by 5:00 pm (*dinner on own*)

Notre Dame is a very comfortable facility offering single rooms with a shared toilet (showers on hallway) or a limited number of double rooms with ensuite bath for couples. Bed, towels, meals will be provided.

<https://notredameretreat.org/>

Bring something to share for Saturday Fiesta – your talent or a treat!

\$285.00 Per Person Participation

Name _____ Diocese _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Any allergies or issues: _____

If requesting a double twin room, roommate's name _____

Mail registration with payment to: Bobbi LaVoie, Region III Coordinator, 1038 Beaver Creek Dr, Webster, NY 14580 Make checks payable to: Region III Cursillo. Kindly register by August 25th.

For information or questions contact Bobbi LaVoie at 585-727-4866 or notestobobbi@yahoo.com

Witness by a Friend of Christ!

Margi Lash, W11, Geneva - Newark Ultreya

There is a song with the refrain "We are the light of the world, let our light shine before all...so that they may see the good that they do **and give glory to God.**" That song echoed in my heart as I spoke with our son on the phone. He was updating us on his upcoming visit. His wife's sister is the mother of Joe, who we all have been praying for. Joe had a childhood disease that rendered him intellectually impaired. Joe is 27 years-old but functions as a five year-old. He suddenly began having seizures. He went from walking to a wheelchair, eating to being fed, awake to sleeping 18 hours a day, all in a short period of time. Joe lives at home so the workload fell mainly on his mom. The doctors were baffled. I sent out requests for prayer. And we all prayed!

I have never met Joe! But our son loves him and I do through osmosis. I sent Joe a children's book on dogs and he loved it. Joe can't read or speak many words, but he can smile...a big dazzling smile. I signed his birthday card "Rob's Mom." For some reason, Joe touched my heart and I decided to surprise him on other occasions. I sent him popcorn for Christmas and his parents sent me a picture of him smiling. I sent Joe a stuffed dog, not the usual bunny for Easter, with the message "you are special too." I signed the card "Rob's Mom." Now Joe goes to bed cradling his stuffed dog.

I wasn't prepared for my daughter-in-law's call after Easter, telling me about Joe's increasing seizures and how fast he was going downhill. I sent a St. Anthony's medal in a letter enclosed to Joe's mom telling her of all our prayers and encouraging her to trust in God. I don't even know their religious affiliation, but prayers are a universal language of love. Joe's mom and dad are astonished that people they don't even know would pray for a stranger. But they have seen the power of prayer in healing their son.

Joe is now able to walk and eat by himself. He sleeps 8 hours at night. His speech is still limited, but he tries. His smile is back. His family is grateful. And I thank God for my Cursillo community who offered so many palancas for Joe and his family.

This past month, Joe had been on my mind and I saw a colorful fleece blanket and thought it might keep him warm on chilly nights. My commitments kept me busy and I forgot the blanket. One day after Mass I felt a nudge and remembered. I wrapped the blanket and sent it off to Joe. It arrived the day before his birthday! I had no idea his birthday was in June. What a God moment! *(continued on page 3)*



You are Welcome
to attend any Ultreya!

Hilton Area - Last Saturday (4th or 5th)
In Person 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 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.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
notestobbi@yahoo.com

School of Leaders – 3rd Thursday of the Month
at 7:00pm via Zoom.us - Next meeting is August 18th
For Zoom invite, contact Sue Lorz, (585) 704-4988
suelarry5644@gmail.com

Living the Rector's Guide Cursillo Weekend Experience
Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua
September 8-11, 2022

Cursillo Desert Day
Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua
Tuesday, October 4, 2022

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

Women's #89
Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua
November 3-6, 2022

Need Prayer?

