

# CURSILLO

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

June 2022 In this issue >>>

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## Spiritual Advisor Wisdom

### What's On Your To Do List?

Fr. Tom Galvin

Diocese of Pittsburgh

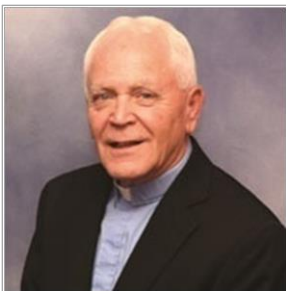
Region III Spiritual Advisor

Links to Referenced Readings in this Reflection:

[Exodus 16](#)

[John 6](#)

[Ephesians 4](#)



What's on your "To Do" list you have created for God to fulfill in the days to come? Stop and think about it before reading any further. What have you taken to the Lord in prayer that, just perhaps, you are to accept rather than have changed? What is on the list that you can change, or that you, or someone you are praying for, can live with despite having to live with a little hardship? Of these things, which are about earthly satisfaction and fulfillment and not directed toward eternal oneness with God? How many have been on your list for a very long time?

In Exodus 16:2-4, the Israelites had not learned to trust God enough to accept His call for them to be His chosen people — and to believe that He would not allow them to die of famine in the desert. So they complained and even considered going backwards to slavery under the Egyptians. They failed to recognize that they were creating a new slavery for themselves by not looking to something greater than the here and now. The same was true for the Jewish people who heard our Lord's call to something greater, and all they wanted was sign after sign after sign. Jesus, in John 6:1-15, had just fed the 5,000-plus. That wasn't a big enough sign to show God's care for them. They weren't satisfied.

There is spiritual as well as physical feeding taking place in these accounts. However, the intentions of the people were only about themselves and their pre-conceived ideas of how God was to act. All this was totally known by our Lord. So in John 6:35, when Jesus says "I AM the bread of life, whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst," their minds, totally worldly, failed to remember how God had just fed the 5,000, nor remember how He fed their ancestors in the desert. St. Ignatius tells of his own conversion to the spiritual from the worldly. He looked for joy in the here-and-now. Slowly his heart and mind moved to the joy he found in reading of the life of Christ and of the saints, finally realizing that God was his joy and Jesus was the fullness of God sent from the Father.

Now, the people in both the Exodus account and the Gospel of John have hearts and minds closed to what God is offering them. The Israelites failed to see what God was doing, so Moses had to explain, "This is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat" knowing that the Lord was to send down bread from heaven. The Jewish people confronting Jesus recall this only to have Jesus correct them by affirming it to be the giving of "my Father". And now Jesus strikes them hard, using a phrase they knew well. He says, "I AM the bread of life..." It is God present, giving in His fullness. Yes, this shakes many of us even today as belief in the real presence of Christ in the Sacrament of the Eucharist is minimized or an unbelief. But as Jesus said, "...whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." It goes far beyond human satisfaction of the fulfillment of human expectations.

*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 June 14, 2022 Meeting:

- Treasurer's Report: Allan reported a balance of \$2466.04. We are down about \$300 in donations from last year. Keith Bunker will get a signature at bank.
- School of Leaders: Sue stated the monthly SOL on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday meetings continue to be a success. In June, Sr. Theresa Ruddy did the doctrinal presentation on Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical "Caritas Veritate", focusing on love in truth. Margi Lash presented "Normality", a reflection from the book "1<sup>st</sup> Conversations of Cala Figuera" as the technique presentation.
- Pre-Cursillo: No updates.
- 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. Women's team are planning to attend. The rector for the men's weekend will be selected soon so that he and team can also participate. A committee is being formed to look for alternative weekend venues considering the forthcoming closure of Notre Dame.
- Post-Cursillo: Mary Ellen is focusing on the family picnic is July 2 at Seneca Lakes State Park in Geneva.
- Other Business: Several people are considering the secretary position. Please pray for a Cursillista to say YES. Fr. Mickey is looking for a replacement for Deacon Dave whose term as Assistant Spiritual Advisor is coming to an end. God bless you Deacon Dave for all you do for Cursillo!

## Who are we?

### Lay Director:

Mary Liz Bartell, (607) 324-0372  
[maryliz@aol.com](mailto:maryliz@aol.com)

### Assistant Lay Director:

Keith Bunker, (585) 613-8036  
[kbunker@rochester.rr.com](mailto:kbunker@rochester.rr.com)

### Precursillo Chair:

Tim Flynn, (585) 281-3816  
[ktflynn32@yahoo.com](mailto:ktflynn32@yahoo.com)

### Cursillo Chair:

Neil Combs, (585) 749-4559  
[whitegremlinny@gmail.com](mailto:whitegremlinny@gmail.com)

### Postcursillo Chair:

Mary Ellen Darling, (315) 521-8771  
[maryellendarling@gmail.com](mailto:maryellendarling@gmail.com)

### School of Leaders:

Sue Lorz, (585) 704-4988  
[suelarry5644@gmail.com](mailto:suelarry5644@gmail.com)

### Secretary: *Is the Lord calling YOU?*

Doreen Gala-Hebert, (585) 236-6049  
[dgalahebert@gmail.com](mailto:dgalahebert@gmail.com)

### Treasurer:

Allan Stone, (585) 269-4640  
[astone@rochester.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto:Fr.mickey.mcgrath@dor.org)

Dcn. David Paluskiewicz, (585) 281-1390  
[davidpaluskiewicz@gmail.com](mailto:davidpaluskiewicz@gmail.com)

## News from the Secretariat >>>

### 3 Day Cursillo...

### A Chance to Experience it Again!

*Bobbi LaVoie, W71, Fairport Ultreya  
Region III Coordinator  
Chairperson, National Secretariat*



Last November, I attended the National Secretariat Meeting in Kansas City at the Savior Pastoral Center. I discovered that just a couple weeks earlier, the local Spanish Cursillistas held a weekend to experience the new Rector's Guide. Cursillistas were the attendees! The regional secretariats and teams from the area dioceses came together to actually live the Step-by-Step guide. They experienced the complete weekend 'again' to understand the reality of what Eduardo Bonnin shares in the guide. They wanted to truly understand the weekend and what better way than to experience it day by day!

The people who participated were on fire! They felt they truly understood not just the what, the how, but the why! They were able to grasp the consistency and the changes suggested. The fact that every diocese does their weekends differently was evident. All these dioceses came together to find unity. I knew I had to allow the dioceses of Region III to experience this same reality.

This September 8-11, at Notre Dame in Canadaigua, the Dioceses of Region III will offer *Living the Rector's Guide* to Cursillistas who would like to experience the new Step-by-Step Guide to the Cursillo Weekend. It 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.

If you would like an opportunity to team, would like to step up in leadership, or you just love Cursillo, I highly recommend that you save the dates and sign up to participate. Space is limited so watch for the flyer to come out on flock notes! Don't miss the chance to actually live the Cursillo Weekend again! DeColores!

## *What's On Your To Do List? Spiritual Advisor Wisdom (continued from page 1)*

As a side note: This “I AM...” is one of 17 times in John’s Gospel when Jesus is directly saying that God is present to them. It is the I AM which Moses heard and used when identifying the God who was going to free them from slavery. They didn’t get it. When Jesus met Nicodemus in the middle of the night and said, “I AM the light of the world,” it caused this Jewish leader to seriously reflect on who Jesus was.

This Gospel account points us to the Eucharist. And we know that in the Eucharist, it is about a spiritual joining of self with God, as He does to us through the ongoing giving of Jesus. St. Paul gives us a directive of what must occur in our hearts and minds through his Letter to the Ephesians 4:22-23, “Put away the old self of your former way of life...and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created in God’s way in righteousness and holiness of truth.” It is what St. Ignatius had learned to do and what we also must do — if for no other reason than to tear up the “To Do” list we expect God to handle.

I am often concerned about how people dress when coming to Mass these days. “Casual Friday” has infiltrated our lives in every aspect. And many often complain to priests about this. But really, what is it all about? May I say outward appearance? I will. Judgment is made in what is seen without the heart of the person ever being known. It is, in modern times, the very people mentioned above — making judgments by what they have seen or perceive which may be far from the truth. But it says to those, who make comparisons to ancient times (our youth), that they do not live in the Spirit of God who knows our inner thoughts and wishes to form the heart and mind to His — since they are more concerned with living what they expect — everything from what to wear, to how to pray, to the actions judged as irreverent.

In one particular nursing home, a man has been in bed — 24-7-365 — for four years. He can never get out, sit up, and is unable to walk, loaded with a slow but aggressive cancer. He has never shown anger at God but rejoices in the Eucharist, God feeding him, and in my short visits with him. There is no desert experience here. There is no demand for a sign. He believes the Eucharist carries him from month to month and his prayers carry him from day to day in the assurance of God’s love. He is one of many I make sure I am present to with each visit to the facilities.

Brothers and sisters, if we live in the Spirit of God, there is no reason to have a desert experience and no demand for a sign — which usually is part of our “To Do” list for God to fulfill. Rather, there is joy in our joining with our Lord in the Eucharist and in the same joining God is calling others to realize and celebrate in their lives, having turned from worldly expectations to new completeness in oneness with our God. We need to get over our “looking for joy in all the wrong places,” as the world is not going to fulfill us or our dreams. Only God, who is always giving of Himself, can fulfill our longings as He did St. Ignatius and any other saint whose life you choose to study.

God is giving — always has been and always will be. And God is patient in waiting for us to accept what He is giving us and of our joining with Him — in the Eucharist where he feeds the soul, heart and mind — and in the world where we become Eucharist, with one Spirit, for the lives of others.

DeColores!



## *Witness by a Friend of Christ (continued from page 5)*

I am in the eyes of a young couple giving each other a long kiss as she boards a train for Poland, with her 3-month-old infant and a 5-year-old holding a puppy, bombs blasting far in the distance as the train departs. Yes Joe, I was there with you at the bedside of your younger brother Albert as he took his last breath. A moment or two later, your mother gently kissed his feet for the last time and said, “May the angels carry you to paradise, where you will remain throughout eternity. I was there in the eyes of your brother Tom., when just days before he passed, gave you a last big hug and thanked you for brining Me to him in Holy Communion. I was there in your mother’s eyes, as she said her last Rosary, sitting on the edge of the bed, minutes before her passing. Most of all I am with you in the sacramental life of the Church. This is my unrelenting promise, to you and to everyone, till the end of time.

Because of this face, we as Catholic, Christian, Cursillistas have a responsibility to not rest in our comfort zones. We must be fully engaged in the Christianization of all our environments by welcoming others in. We must avoid status-quoism, arrogant self-interest, those who’d try to achieve political gain through spreading lies and false stories. We must commit ourselves to the light of truth and foster and grow respect for the scientific community and health organizations. We also must be humble enough to realize that the way through life is not always clear, that we need the help of others just as much as we need the help of God to grow our intellect. Despite our flaws and our sins, we have been redeemed by His blood! May we always rejoice in His Resurrection and Ascension! His mercy is for everyone, all we have to do is ask! Christ is counting on us and we are counting on Christ! DeColores!

# School of Leaders Sharing

## Book Review- "The Cup of Our Life" A Guide for Spiritual Growth by Joyce Rupp

Mary Ellen Darling, M83, Geneva Newark Ultreya

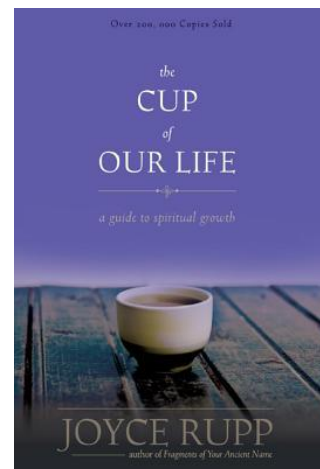
I have been reading Joyce's books for some time now, many of them on my shelf of keepers. This book is one of my favorites. I am a Chai tea drinker, and *The Cup* helps me to enjoy my tea even more. When I was asked by Sue Lorz, our School of Leaders leader, to share a Rollo on Cursillistas Beyond the Cursillo, my mind immediately went to Joyce's book on The Cup.

I shared her words in my Rollo: *The more I became aware of God's presence in my life, the more I thirst to know the Sacred One at an even.... deeper level. Like a cup that seemingly has more and more room to be filled, so I feel that my capacity to be united with Him keeps expanding. The more I know how loved I am by God (the more my cup is filled) the more I am always thirsting for more of God (seeing how much room the cup still has in it to receive).*

*When I think about the spiritual life, I think of a life with God that is healthy and vibrant. The root and foundation of this is relationship. This relationship may have many struggles, crooked paths, and hidden corners but at the core there is a bond that is deep and strong. This relationship feeds and nourishes my inner self and gives a vitality and vibrancy to all of my life.*

*Each one of us is a temple of the Holy One. Each of us carries a spiritual power in us that can cause even the tiniest of faith-seeds to grow. It is vital that we protect and nurture this relationship so that it thrives. The cup of our spiritual life must be cared for and replenished as it pours its contents away in loving service. Like the cup with its boundaries, we, too, need parameters so that our life does not seep away into endless busy-ness and unguarded, unfocused activity.*

I knew I was on the right path when I discovered that Deacon George Welch was also using the same book to share his spiritual thoughts at the School of Leaders night. And there is a retreat on another of her books: *Boundless Compassion* at Notre Dame 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](mailto:notestobobbi@yahoo.com) Attn: Ask the Cursillo Wisemen*



## Why do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

Answered by Margi Lash, W11, Geneva Newark Ultreya

What do you say to good people when bad things happen to them? As Cursillistas, we know our first response should be prayer, "Speak to God about your friend before you speak to your friend about God!" Recently, I have been put into a position of trying to answer the question, "Why did God let this happen?" by three scenarios in my own "square meter": my own family and the family of a patient. All three needed someone to blame, the medical profession... and God.

All three could be considered "far away" inasmuch as one had no religious affiliation and the others were too busy for church. So, I listened. I allowed them to vent. Sometimes this is the best anyone can do. Like a sponge, I absorbed the anger at God and their pain and hurt. I simply said, and demonstrated, "I care."

My patient was a classmate. He was a gentle man, a loving husband, father of three grown children and a wonder grandfather. He was at the House of John where I volunteer. I became close to a daughter who is a colleague. The vigil at the bedside was hard, so I began to share memories of their father from school, bringing in a yearbook and memorabilia. There were moments of laughter amid tears. In conversation, I mentioned that I was praying for them and their father. Later, I visited the funeral home where I was warmly greeted. They thanked me for the stories I shared about school.

I hope my witness spoke much more to them, but that is up to God. They are grateful their father is no longer suffering. I am grateful my classmate has met my Friend through the intercession of Divine Mercy. And, as for the question of why did God let this happen? He allowed His own Son to die on a cross for us and if that is not love... what is?

Decolores!

# Witness by a Friend of Christ!

Joe Keagle, Elmira Ultreya

Alleluia, Christ has risen from the dead! What a miracle that we have been redeemed! The Second Sunday of Easter, St. John Paul II designated this day as the Sunday of Divine Mercy. Because of God's mercy, we all have been liberated from the bondage and slavery of sin. What a miracle, just to think that God sent His only Son to be among us, to teach, pray, live, experience everything it is to be human and then to be put to death to save us all from what we as humans, them, perceived to be eternal death and damnation because of our sinful nature, is a miracle.

I often recall Christ's promise of His Eternal Presence through the institution of the Eucharist, the sacrament of Baptism, Reconciliation, and the rest of the seven sacraments. Often, on warm Spring and Summer mornings, many times after daily Mass, I'll grab a freshly brewed cup of coffee and head out to the back porch swing, sit down and feel Christ's presence in the cool morning breeze that moves across my face. I then hear the melodic sound of as the breeze strikes the wind chimes. I watch the sun emit bold patterns of shimmering mosaic light through the Norway spruce trees that line our back yard. What a miracle God's creation is; and I see Christ in all of it! However, there are times life isn't always filled with butterflies and rainbows. There was a particular point, not too long ago where I was reflection on a broad range of injustice, both historically and contemporary, from the Holocaust, WWII, Vietnam, the murder of George Floyd, to the present war in Ukraine. I was also reflecting on the oppression of Blacks, the LGBTQ communities, women, and Asian members of our society. Welling up with tears inside, I asked "Jesus, where are you in all of this? "I feel empty inside." "I See empty spaces in the church pews, and have seen my favorite churches closed, never to reopen. Jesus where are you!!!! ...

Then ... a quiet, gentle thought came to my mind. "I always have been there with you. I have been there in the eyes of George Floyd as he was murdered, I was there as millions of my people were led to their deaths in the gas Chambers. I am in the eyes of a Vietnam veteran who longs to tell his story of the battlefield. I am in the eyes of a single woman, fired from her job working with youth, because she is a lesbian. I am in the eyes of the 89-year-old woman from Eastern Ukraine as she leaves her home where she has lived for nearly 60 years, with one small bag of clothes and a pet carrier containing a 5-month-old kitten. *(continued on page 3)*



You are Welcome  
to attend any Ultreya!

**Hilton Area** - Last Saturday (4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>)  
In Person at 6:45pm  
St. Leo's Church  
Tim Spinelli, (585) 755-6252  
[TSpinelli@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:pwelch@tqcp.com)

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

**Geneva - Newark Area** - 2nd Monday  
Virtual Ultreya at 7:00pm  
Margi Lash, (315) 548-5164  
[lashmb59@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:summersky252@aol.com)

**Rochester SPANISH** 3rd Saturday  
St. Michael's Office Building  
Sr. Theresa Rutty, (585) 325-4041  
[trutty46@yahoo.com](mailto:trutty46@yahoo.com)

## Upcoming Events!

More info on our website [www.rochesterkursillo.com](http://www.rochesterkursillo.com)

Coming Soon >>>

Check your  
Flocknotes messages  
for details on events!



School of Leaders – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the Month  
at 7:00pm via Zoom.us - Next meeting is July 21st  
For Zoom invite, contact Sue Lorz, (585) 704-4988  
[suelarry5644@gmail.com](mailto:suelarry5644@gmail.com)

Cursillo Picnic, Seneca Lake State Park, Geneva  
July 2, 2022

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

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

For information on the  
PRISM, contact:  
Bobbi LaVoie  
at 585-727-4866 or  
[notestobbi@yahoo.com](mailto:notestobbi@yahoo.com)

My soul finds rest in God alone...  
PSALM 62:1