

CURSILLO

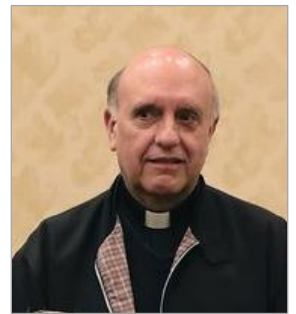
The PRISM - A Monthly Insight into the Catholic Cursillo Community of Rochester, NY

- November 2022 In this issue >>>**
- Ask the Three Wisemen...
 - Worldwide Palanca Chain
 - Spiritual Advisor Wisdom
 - Witness by a Friend of Christ!
 - The Secretariat Page
 - Upcoming Events
 - School of Leaders Sharing
 - Meet our Ultreyas

Spiritual Advisor Wisdom

Spiritual and Political Power

Fr. Frank S. Salmani from *Whom Shall I Send?*



One of the things St. Paul understood about his spiritual life was that his strength did not come from him, but from the Lord. That is why Paul can say that the “folly” of God is more powerful than the greatest human wisdom. Of course, Jesus’ entire ministry was based on a Kingdom of service and humility. Jesus tells Pilate that His Kingdom is not of this world. Pilate asks Jesus, “Are you a king?” Pilate gets no answer because Pilate asks the wrong question. Pilate was concerned about the political upheaval Jesus might cause. Pilate saw Jesus’ power as political, but Jesus’ Kingdom has nothing to do with political power, but **spiritual** power. If we are going to answer the Lord’s call to be true servant-leaders, then we too must seek spiritual power. Sadly, even within religious circles we often spend more time trying to acquire political power, where we should be letting go of all ambition and rely on the grace of God.

Recommended Scriptural Readings:

John 18:33-37
John 19:9-11
1 Corinthians 1:18-25

There are many distinct differences between political and spiritual power. First of all, political power attempts to influence others through coercion and persuasion. One in political power can hire, fire, reward, punish, even kill. This kind of power has nothing to do with one’s personal character or integrity. The power lies in the fact that an individual is in a position to influence others. Ads we see on television or in the newspaper rely on political power. They seek to influence us by persuasive arguments or gimmicks that will make us want that product that is advertised. Political speeches rely on political power. There is so much rhetoric in political speeches that they are designed to coerce or influence an audience. Political power seeks to force others to join with us. This is why many apostolic efforts fail. We try to use political power to win people over to Christ. Spiritual power, on the other hand, is able to influence others simply by ones’ own natural kindness and integrity. Spiritual power is not about persuasion, but humility, wisdom, love, and even humor. The hallmark of spiritual power is humility.

Secondly, political power is temporary. We even refer to the powers of this world as “temporal” because this power can be taken away. This power is based on money, position, and status. The President, for example, is in power because of his position. Politicians are not necessarily people of integrity just because they are elected to office. Spiritual power is based on inner strength, qualities that can not be taken away once the position is taken away. For example, politics aside, many people believe that Jimmy Carter was a man of integrity. Today, Jimmy Carter helps build houses for Habitat for Humanity. Jimmy Carter is not the president anymore, but his goodness and personal integrity stays with him even outside the White House. Some of the great saints of the Church were not prominent people, but people who possessed spiritual strength. As a leader for Christ, it matters not what our position is, as long as we are doing His work.

(Continued on page 4)

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 November 8, 2022 Meeting:

- Treasurer's Report: Allan reported an opening balance of \$1,738.64. Payment to Flocknotes for \$58.00, Donation \$20.00. Closing balance \$1,700.64. Cost of Women's Weekend was \$3600 for 18 people.
- School of Leaders: Fr. Mickey will be present on Beyond Cursillo, 4th Day, Piety, Study and Action. Sue has recording. Focusing on the work of the sections: Precursillo, Cursillo, Postcursillo. What is going well? What needs improvement? Looking for people to volunteer to work in their section of choice. Another way is to have one section alternating at different SOL meetings. Tim asked to begin with the work of Precursillo
- Precursillo: Tim Flynn shared that he used a read receipt when emailing the candidates about the weekend logistics and the medical form. Extra medical forms on hand in case needed on site. Decision was made not to collect cell phones on the weekend. Need to send out sponsor letters with enough time for follow-up and questions.
- Cursillo: Neil Combs shared he has a better understanding of his role. He found a storage facility called "City Me Storage". Includes 2 keys at \$65/month. It is an option if Notre Dame is not available. Need a day to do inventory and organize items in storage before next weekend. He will begin to research alternative weekend venues. Next Men's is holding Aug 17-20.
- Postcursillo: Mary Ellen shared sponsors should reach out to new Cursillistas within 2 weeks. Sponsors are responsible for stressing the importance of grouping and helping to find a group. Suggested there be a special Ultreya. Candidates are invited to Ultreya of choice. Grand Ultreya scheduled for March 18 at Assumption in Fairport, 9am-3pm, Mass 4pm.
- Other Business: Mary Liz shared 7 candidates made W89. New Rector's Guide flowed well. Fr. Mickey commented on the simplified agenda. Prayers for Joe Dibattisto, Kevin Spears, Deacon Bill Lenhardt, and Ukraine. Prayer by Fr. Mickey.

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
ljddb@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 >>>

We'll Strive with Five

*Allan Stone, 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! Following the pandemic and hosting two weekends in the past year, the bowl is almost empty. Rochester Cursillo needs financial help to fund the upcoming weekends and to keep Cursillo alive in the diocese.

It's not much, if each Cursillista sent at least \$5, Rochester Cursillo will thrive in 2023 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

Study – Applying Our Knowledge In Order to Understand

Sue Lorz, W83, Hilton Ultreya



When it comes to following Christ, our **whole** personality comes into play and that includes our intelligence. **Piety** moves us to act but we must use our mind, our intelligence, so that our **action** can be effective. **Study** is the means by which we apply our intellect to know God and to know ourselves.

The Cursillista who knows where he/she is going and wants to go where he/she is headed is moved by his/her Christian ideal toward the authentic Christian life. Christ has called each of us to be holy, to be saints. In order to achieve this, we must fill our minds with enlightened ideas that provide understanding of what our Lord is asking of us and how we, as individuals can move, lead and drive ourselves toward that ideal. Study is the means by which we know and understand how to achieve this goal.

The Gospel tells us that Christ grew in grace, age and wisdom. In order for us to become the saints that God wants us to be, we too must grow in grace and wisdom and we do this through study - through understanding ourselves and our God. St. Augustine tells us “Lord, Jesus, let me know myself and know you”.

We need to know our strengths and our weakness in order for our Christian life to be effective. We must know Christ fully in order to follow Him. This can only be achieved by applying our intelligence to know ourselves and to know Christ.

The most common means most of us use to study are perhaps books, magazines, videos, conferences and Bible Study.

Group Reunion with my Sisters-in-Christ has been one of my most beneficial means of knowing myself and knowing Christ. By attending Ultreya, I learn so much from interacting with those of like mind to help me on my journey. The talks given at School of Leaders have increased my understanding of myself and my role in spreading the Truth. Retreats, silent and group, have helped me to understand God and self. Cursillo gatherings, such as recently attending the men’s and women’s Clausura, have invigorated my faith and driven me to put the results of this study into action.

While study is the third leg of the three-legged stool, we must always keep in mind that the reason for our study is to know ourselves and to know God in order to put our Christian life into action to become holy and to be the saints God created us to be.

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



What are the Four Movements of Apostolic Action?

Answered by Gloria Treis, W29, Fairport Ultreya

In the the book, **Structure of Ideas**, Eduardo Bonnin refers to a technique known as the four movements of apostolic action: To Know, To Place, To Enlighten, and To Accompany. These are essentially the steps of making a friend, being a friend, and bringing that friend to Christ. The first of these is **To Know**. How can I help you if I don’t know you? Initially, we will not win anyone over by telling them about Christ. First, we must win the person’s heart, and then help them to open their mind so they can engage their will. We must first get to know the person, only then can we begin to understand how he thinks, what he wants, and how he acts. Next, we move to the second movement, **To Place**. By placing we mean helping the person to know how to go about their journey. Only in knowing the person, can we know where to place him. All too often and probably with good intentions, we begin telling the person what they need to do and where they need to be without ever really knowing the circumstances; of how they think, what they want, or how they act. Only by knowing our friend, are we able to help them with life decisions. The third movement is **To Enlighten**. We will enlighten the person of the four realities that all Cursillistas have. Outlined in Structure of Ideas, pages 205-207, are the zones of Responsibility, Being Centered, Arranged by Providence, and the Idea Zone. The fourth movement is **To Accompany**. After introducing your friends to Christ, it is an essential responsibility to accompany them through Precursillo, Cursillo, Postcursillo. Eduardo said that if you follow these Four Movements of Apostolic Action you will know the technique to bring others to Christ.

DeColores!

Spiritual Advisor Wisdom (Continued from page 1)

Thirdly, political power is a power achieved and gained. Politicians are elected, bosses are promoted, military men and women work their way up in rank. Those who seek political power are those who are filled with their own ambitions. Spiritual power cannot be attained. Holiness is not a state to reach, but a way of living from innermost self. Spiritual power is a gift from God. No one can give it to us and no one can take it away. The true servant has power because he or she has emptied the self of all desire and ambition. That is why political power is external – it is based on one’s status and position. Spiritual power comes from within and draws its strength from the grace of God.

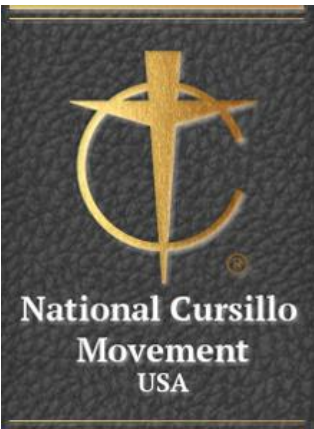
Finally, political power is about control. Spiritual power surrenders control, where one realizes that God is in charge. The true servants see the power they have as total gifts. This spiritual gift is used for service and is nurtured through a progressive conversion and deepening of one’s relationship with God.

It goes without saying that the Church, any group within the Church, the Cursillo movement are most successful when directed by spiritual power. When our primary preoccupation is with power and control, we are weakest. This does not mean that we should have no rules or order (a condition I like to refer to as the “inmates running the asylum”). That would be anarchy, and anarchy is not spiritual power. Anarchy is the rule of Satan. Anarchy says that everyone is in control. Spiritual power says that no one is in control except Christ Himself. To be a leader we need order, a vision and direction, but the guiding power behind that vision is the power of God.

In short, spiritual power is possessed only by those who are free from all ambition. Spiritual power is not about ladder climbing, status or even our importance in the eyes of others. Sometimes we think we best serve by making everyone happy. Most often we do more harm than good. Remember that Jesus was not concerned about pleasing people. He never compromised His teaching or what He was about. The Church breaks down when we are more focused on our ambition and show little concern about doing the Lord’s work.

There are those in the Cursillo Movement who long for the opportunity to be on a Secretariat or even be Lay Director. Why? Do they think there is any special perk for being “higher up on the ladder”? Little do they realize that the “higher up” one is the more responsibility, the more work, the more service there will be. The only reason to be a leader is to do God’s work. That is our function. Where we are on the hierarchical ladder is of little importance because such ambition is not the “stuff” of spiritual power. The power of leadership is the service we give to God’s people, whether or not what we stand for is popular. It is not important to be popular or be in control, but to do God’s work. Consider that the purpose of the Cursillo Movement is to awaken what is dormant, not give people what they do not have. Even the Tripod, *Piety, Study and Action*, is not intended to control anyone. This three-fold life in Christ simply calls forth our God-given gifts. Group Reunion is not intended to be a ball and chain, but a way to continue to draw out the strength of Christ that is within us.

Jesus told Pilate that His Kingdom was not of this world. Jesus also tells us in the Gospel that His disciples are “in the world”, but “not of the world.” The Kingdom is not about position, power and ambition, but love and service. That is the foundation of the ministry Jesus began two thousand years ago with Twelve. We, as leaders and servants of Jesus Christ, are called to that higher power – one that comes not from ambition, but humility – a power and strength no force in heaven or on earth can ever take away from us and whose source is the One who came that we might have life and have it to the fullest. DeColores!



Discover the wonderful resources available on the National Cursillo Website at natl-cursillo.org

[National Cursillo Resource Center \(natl-cursillo.org\)](http://NationalCursilloResourceCenter(natl-cursillo.org))

[Cursillo Literature | Catholic Cursillo Books \(natl-cursillo.org\)](http://CursilloLiterature|CatholicCursilloBooks(natl-cursillo.org))

*Chapter 9, Spiritual and Political Power from
“Whom Shall I Send? Discerning the Will of God”
by Fr. Frank S. Salmani
National Ultreya Publications (2002)*

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Pray for Cursillistas on their 5th Day:
Fr. David Smith, Cursillo Region 7, US National, NACG and OMCC Spiritual Advisor



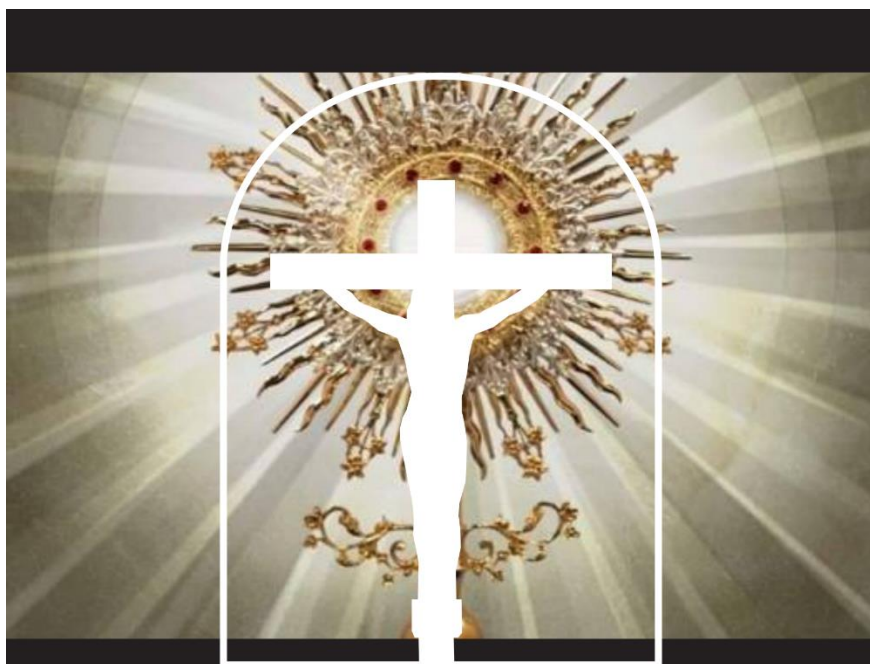
Witness by a Friend of Christ! (Continued from page 6)

Each day I said the Rosary and prayed while he received care. At times, the situation was quite confusing and scary. For patients with diabetes injury to limbs is serious.

Laura and her family arrived in Rochester from their home in West Virginia. She was very upset and worried about her father's prognosis. Also, she was determined to have Tom baptized. So the second day she was here, and about his 5th day of hospital care, we made a visit to the chaplain's office at Highland hospital. The chaplain was not a Catholic, but he arranged for us to talk to Father David Tedesche, the Catholic chaplain. We discussed the situation and he immediately arrived for a visit. He asked Tom if he would like to pray with us and he said "yes". After a few prayers Father asked Tom if he would like to be baptized and he agreed! Tom was very sick, but he did have the ability to make decisions. Of course, we knew the Holy Spirit was working in this situation. The next day, Father returned, and Laura was her father's Godmother! He also received Communion and Confirmation!! Soon after receiving these sacraments, to the doctor's surprise, Tom began to make a recovery. Although at the time his prognosis was questionable, today he has made a full recovery.

This is not the end of the journey, although he was baptized and received the sacraments, Tom still does not fully participate in the Church. However, we continue to pray that those graces will grow in him and that he will fulfill the promise of his sacramental life. For Tom, Carol, and Laura, this was a miraculous experience. DeColores!

Worldwide Cursillista Prayer Chain



NACG PALANCA

Topic: NACG Holy Hour: for the World Encounter Meeting

(Will appear as: Rezando por Martha)

Wednesday - Miércoles

Nov. 30, 2022

Time: 5pm pac - 6pm mtn - 7pm cst

8pm est - 9 pm Carribean

Join Zoom:

Meeting ID: 872 8390 9270

Passcode: 123456

Dear friends and brothers and sisters, we Cursillistas know that all times are times of prayer, and permanent prayer is what we ask of you, because as you may know, there have been several meetings and consultations of the World Cursillo Movement, in which drastic changes have been proposed in the Movement. We turn once again to our friends and friends of Christ to request increased prayer especially before and during the next OMCC World Encounter to be held in Mar de Plata, Argentina from December 1-4, 2022.

We therefore, ask for prayer with your Group Reunions throughout the world, to maintain the unity and friendship of the Movement and to continue being faithful to the charism that, following a living, normal and close Christ, gave fruit to the real and beautiful idea of a lay movement capable, in each diocese, of bringing, mainly to those who are far away, the good news that God loves us, just as we are, original and free people.

WE PROPOSE THIS FORMULA:

Invocation to the Holy Spirit;

Our Father;

Hail Mary;

Intercession to St. Paul;

Glory Be.

Through your email we will be sharing information about an Apostolic Hour that will be held prior to the start of this worldwide prayer chain.

[Sign Up for Worldwide Cursillista Prayer Chain](#)

JOIN HOLY HOUR NOV 30TH 8PM EST ON ZOOM
Meeting ID 87208390 9270 Passcode: 123456

Witness by a Friend of Christ!

Carol Mead, W84, Fairport Ultreya

When my husband Tom and I were married in 1971 we were married at the Church of the Assumption in Fairport. I was a practicing, baptized Catholic. I typically attended Sunday Mass and received the sacraments. However, Tom was not a Catholic, he was not a member of any church. Although he was raised a Methodist, Tom was not baptized and did not express any religious beliefs. In addition, his family did not attend church. At the time I did not see a problem with this situation. We did attend some pre wedding talks with Father Kelly, who was the pastor at the time. Tom agreed that any children we would have would be raised in the Catholic church. Throughout our marriage I have continued to practice my faith alone and Tom continued to be a non-believer.

We were blessed with 1 daughter, Laura, who is married to a Catholic man and they have 2 children. Laura is a devout Catholic. Throughout her adult life she has questioned her father about his religious beliefs and asked him to consider Baptism. His usual response was "No" or "I'll think about it". No progress in his decision. Sometimes their conversation would lead to tears on her part. Laura and her family pray the Rosary daily and always include a petition that Tom would become baptized. Also, Laura's husband Toby has a large family who also have prayed for Tom's conversion for many years. In 2014, at the invitation of my friend and work colleague Sue Lorz, I accepted her invitation to attend Women's '84 and I became a Cursillista. This helped deepen my faith and bring into focus my desire that Tom be baptized and hopefully join the Church.

Now we come to July 2022. Tom suffers from diabetes and has developed neuropathy on the soles of his feet. He has no feeling there. Due to an accident while performing a home improvement project, he stepped on a nail and it went through his foot and was lodged there for several hours. Because he couldn't feel it, he didn't see the damage until he took off his shoe at night. It didn't seem too bad until 2 days later when it became apparent that he had developed an infection in his foot which required a trip to the ER. After several medical missteps he was admitted to the hospital and remained there for a total of 10 days. He had developed an allergy to 1 of the antibiotics and also developed delirium due to medication and hospital environment.

(Continued on page 5)



*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 Rutty, (585) 325-4041
trutty46@yahoo.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 December 15th
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
notestobbi@yahoo.com

