



Cursillo Rainbow Connection

Volume 2 Issue 3

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Archdiocese of Newark, NJ
Cursillo Movement

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Dates to Remember in 2009:

- Mar 12-15 Women's Cursillo Weekend
- Mar 20 Ultreya
- Mar 27-30 Men's Cursillo Weekend
- May 2 Day of Renewal
- May 15 Ultreya

A Message from Lay Director Joe Clark

Dear Cursillistas,

Friendship is one of the cornerstones of the Cursillo Movement. Friendship assists us with our mission to become living witnesses to Christ in our environments. Small communities of friendships are called Fourth Day Group Reunions. Ultreyas that promote Piety, Study, and Action by living witnesses encourage us to continue on our journey. Group Reunions of friends and Ultreyas determine the true character of the Cursillo Movement. St. Paul, during the course of his ministry, faced situations where he encouraged believers to group together for prayer and study in their small communities. St Paul succeeded wherever he went because he created groups based on the power of friendship. Friendship helps all of us

to walk the straight and narrow path to a life with Christ.

Our present day society and environments are overwhelmed with high tech elements such as telephones, televisions, video games, music, internet, e-mail, message texting, etc, which becomes obstacles to conversation, personal contact and tend to isolate people. Cursillistas are encouraged to overcome these obstacles to become living witnesses to friendship in Jesus. This enables us to share with others what is fundamental for being Christian in the modern world.

The Cursillo Leaders' Manual declares. "The Cursillo Movement, through the experience of the founders, discovered that friendship can be put at the service of Christ and the Church while at the

same time meeting the needs of individuals to be part of the community". Everything in Cursillo starts with friendship.

On May 2, 2009 the Archdiocese of Newark Cursillo Movement is having our annual Day of Renewal. "Come Journey with the Lord" is the theme for the day. All are invited and encouraged to attend. This day will be filled with the Spirit of Cursillo. A day full of love and joy. (See additional details in this newsletter.)

On behalf of the Secretariat and the entire Newark Cursillo Community I wish you and your loved ones a Holy, Happy and Healthy Easter.

De Colores

Joe

Women's 159th Cursillo Weekend: Come to the Closing!

The Women's Cursillo Weekend is happening as you read this! The theme of the weekend is, "You Are Mine, I Have Called You By Name" and is headed by Rector Yvonne Green. Angel is Michelle Seymour.

On Thursday evening, the opening reception was followed by an awesome Sponsor's Mass, celebrated by Msgr. Paul Schetelick. His homily spoke about how we are all so blessed to be followers of Christ as Cursillistas. And the music, provided by the Service Team from Blessed Sacrament/St.

Charles Borromeo was inspired! We all agreed with Joe Clark as he said afterward, "I think that was what heaven must be like!"

So come to the closing on Sunday, March 15 at 4:30 p.m. at the Casa. You'll be inspired!

Newark Cursillo Aids Metuchen Diocese Cursillo Re-Launch

Tony Tangorra, Lay Director of the Metuchen Diocese Cursillo, reached out to Joe Clark, Lay Director of the Newark Archdiocese Cursillo last summer, seeking advice on how Metuchen could revitalize and re-launch their then-dormant Cursillo movement. A meeting was arranged and attended in August by Joe, Tony, Assistant Lay Director Pat Carr and former Newark Lay Director Bob Oeschlin.

At the gathering, Tony expressed that he had met with Metuchen Diocese Bishop Paul Bootkoski and that he had been charged with bringing the Metuchen Cursillo back to life by planning and executing a Women's and Men's Weekend for winter 2009. Known Cursillistas within the Metuchen Diocese had been contacted and teams were about to be put into place. As Tony had never personally helmed a Weekend in the Rector role, he was particularly grateful for the knowledge and insights he gained at the meeting.



Tony shared that space had already been booked at the Blue Army Shrine in East Asbury, NJ (near Hackettstown) for a late January Women's Weekend and late February Men's Weekend. As teams had at that point not yet been formed, it was particularly important for that milestone in the Weekend planning process to get started and off on the right foot. Tony's home base, St. James in Basking Ridge, fortunately had parishioners who had made Cursillo and were willing to act as a core team to help initiate the Men's Weekend planning process.

One thing established at the meeting was that the Newark Cursillo volunteered

to recruit Support Team members as an aid to Metuchen. Support Team as a concept was a new one to Tony. The Metuchen's Women's Team did indeed take us up on our offer and a Newark Support Team made up of our own women Cursillistas acted as an aid in reviewing and critiquing talks and offering advice where they saw fit, much to the appreciation of the Metuchen Women's Team.

The January Metuchen Women's Weekend, incidentally helmed by Rector Marie Pearce, a former Newark Cursillista from Our Lady of the Lake, Verona that relocated to the Metuchen Diocese, went off with great success. They were very appreciative of all the help provided by the women of the Newark movement.

As for the Metuchen Men's Weekend, that went off as planned at the end of February, a few weeks ago. Newark Cursillista Rich Rafanello from St. Philomena, Livingston, served on Team under Rector

Andy Chabak, presenting the Study talk. Rich is a personal friend of Tony Tangorra and was recruited by Tony to serve on Team. The weekend was blessed

with fifteen Candidates, including a priest and two deacons. All shared at the Closing.

Jim Garabo, a western New Jersey Cursillista who had served the Newark movement as a Music Minister on Team last year, was particularly pleased to see the Metuchen Cursillo take flight, as he resides in that diocese. Jim helped this past Metuchen Men's Weekend with their music program, acting as Music Director, and performed at the Closing ceremony and Mass. He also successfully recruited a bunch of his Newark Men's 174th teammates as well as a few other men from the Newark movement, nine in all, to come to

the Metuchen Men's Closing, acting as the Men's Choir for the event. They were: Jim Clough, Gerry DiMauro, Dennis Christiansen, Pat Ferrara, Pat Carr, Bob Cenar (with trumpet), Ken Bransfield, Bill Dougherty and Pete Fusco.

Here is what Jim Clough shared via e-mail to this impromptu Men's Choir that performed at the Closing:

Guys -

What can I say? Your presence at yesterday's closing was a testimony to your love for our Lord. Being there and singing with you brought back many fond memories of our weekend together last year and once again rekindled my spirit. I believe that we had a positive effect not only on the candidates who were there yesterday but the team as well. Fr. Ron was very pleased.

I know those men (and ladies) were just blown away by the love that we showed them. The singing was indeed heavenly. That is the spirit of Cursillo. For those of you who couldn't be there, we missed you and your presence was nevertheless felt among us all.

*Thank you so much for saying yes again! I love you guys.
De Colores! Jim*

That about sums it up. This is another wonderful example of Newark's Cursillo once again stepping up to the plate and proving that we are prepared to go above and beyond the call of duty. Congratulations to all who were able to contribute to this revival of the Metuchen Cursillo by prayer and action.

—Pat Carr

Day of Renewal

Date: May 2, 2009

Theme: Come Journey with the Lord

Place : Corpus Christi Parish Hasbrouck Heights **Our Host:** Fr. Lew Papera

Time: 9:00am to 4:00pm (Lunch will be served)

Keynote: Rev. John Gordon

Presenters: Marguerite Granata & TBD

Celebrant: Fr. Tom Lipnicki

Please RSVP! To register, email Joanne Rinkus, Cursillo Secretary at jtrinkus@verizon.net or call 201 587-1631.

Free will offering as there is no cost to attend this Day of Renewal

HELP WANTED: Service Teams for Future Cursillo Weekends

We are looking for men and women to sign up for Service teams for the 2010 Weekends. We are currently putting together a Service Team for the Fall, 2009 Women's Weekend, as the Women's 158th just volunteered. Thank You!

A team can be composed of people from a parish/combined parishes or a group reunion (team and candi-

dates) from a past Cursillo weekend. Being on a Service team is a unique and enjoyable way to do something beautiful for God, by serving others, as can be attested by anyone who has ever served.

If any group is interested, please contact Ken Bransfield. You will be supplied with the new Service team

guidelines, and a support contact person to answer any question.

If interested, contact Ken Bransfield, cubbs06@aol.com, or call (201) 712-1322; or reach Jean Kalembe at

jean-kalembe@comcast.net or call her at (976) 227-2350.

Men's 176th Cursillo Weekend : Mar 26-29, 2009

The Team for the Men's 176th:

Hap Moran, Rector
 Ron Pepson, Warden
 Fr. Patrick Donohue, Spiritual Director
 Fr. Ernie Rush, Spiritual Director
 Deacon Dominic Messina, Spiritual Director
 Support Rector: John Ventola
 Service Team: Blessed Sacrament/St. Charles Borromeo, Newark

Dave Cammarata
 Ernie Davino
 Lenny Hennig
 John Rizzo
 Dennis Christensen
 Bob Fontana
 Greg Kelly
 Rudy Schwarz, Personal Contact
 John Tronolone, Personal Contact

To Support the Weekend, come to the Casa for the Opening Reception at 7 p.m. and the Sponsor's Mass at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 26. And to hear how the weekend has changed the lives of the candidates, come back to the Casa on Sunday, March 29 and attend the Closing at 4:30 p.m.

You can bet they'll be singing our favorite song!

On Blessings of this Lenten Season

As some of you know this past year I have encountered a few challenges. I have also been graced with many blessings including being on team, becoming a grandfather, and having a Cursillo community that has lifted me up and given me more support than I ever thought possible. (Should I have been surprised?) GOD never ceases to amaze me and show me how much He loves me! So this year I have been looking forward to this Lenten journey and to show God how much I appreciate all the blessings he pours out on me and my loved ones on a second by second basis. I wanted to do something special to gain a closer relationship with Jesus when I came across the Lenten addition of a daily devotional called "The Word Among Us" (WAU.org). I believe it was God reaching out to me with yet another blessing. There were several good articles in this periodical and here are some of the highlights and what I have learned.

Ash Wednesday begins our Lenten journey -- traditionally a forty-day period to examine and renew our spiritual life. It is a time of prayer, service, and fasting. The forty days recall the forty years that the people of Israel wandered in the wilderness before arriving at the Promised Land and the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness after being baptized.

On Ash Wednesday, we receive ashes that remind us of our nature as created beings (Gen 3:19). This practice echoes the Old Testament tradition of wearing ashes as a sign of anguish and repentance. As the ash cross is made on our forehead we hear words that echo John the Baptist's call to conversion, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel". We respond "Amen" meaning "So be it."

Than I went to the cross. It is far more than two beams of wood joined together. It is big enough and impor-

tant enough to contain the whole of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. It is the central point of our whole Christian life! If I think I am going to heaven because I deserve it than I am seriously mistaken. No one can. Christ came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it! He was the perfect sin offering, the un-blemished lamb who God sent to save me, because he loves me that much, so unworthy of his love, because he knows that I can not save myself, only by the blood of his perfect son. What kind of God do we have that is majestic enough to create the entire universe yet loves this sinner enough



to sent His only son to trade a throne in heaven for a cross to save me? Christ conquered evil with love via the cross!

St. Paul knew how important it is. In Gal. 6:14 he said "May I never boast except in the cross of our lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." And Paul had plenty to boast about!

When I choose to act in a way that is opposed to Jesus, the cross becomes a stumbling block for me. When Peter heard Jesus talking about the cross, he took him aside and said "God forbid" which Jesus replied "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as humans do." (Matt. 16:22) I want to embrace the cross, not stumble on it. I want to do the Father's will, not my will. What is it we chide each other, if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plan?

Jesus came into this world so that He could lay down His life for us on the cross. His victory is our victory. How can we ever honor Him for what He did for us? I will meditate on the cross every day. I will turn to Him in prayer. I will tell Jesus that I am a sinner and that I am grateful for the price that He paid for us on the cross. There is power in Jesus' cross - a power that is available to everyone who asks. So let us glory in the cross of Christ so that we can live in the victory that Jesus won for us! So if I am blessed to see you during our Lenten journey, a time of prayer, service and fasting, and I appear to be smiling, you'll know why.

De Colores.

Your brother in Christ,

Bill Dougherty

School of Leaders

Want to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit? Come to the School of Leaders! Speak to anyone who has attended...it is a powerful event that will tough your soul.

Our Secretariat is looking to grow Leaders School attendance to create a stronger backbone for our movement. Please consider coming to the next Leaders School event taking place on **Wednesday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Aloysius, Caldwell**

in the Parish Center. Directions can be found at mycursillo.com.

Many more of you are needed to help our movement be the best it can be.

Share your gifts by attending the next Leaders School gathering.

—Pat Carr

Upcoming Events in 2009:

- March 20 **Ultreya**, at 7:30 p.m. John Paul II Room below the Cafeteria, Youth Center
- March 26 Men's 174th **Cursillo Opening Reception** 7:00 p.m. at the Casa
Sponsors Mass 8:00 p.m. in Sacred Heart Church, Kearny
- March 29 Men's 174th **Cursillo Closing Ceremony** 4:30 p.m. at the Casa
- April 8 **School of Leaders** 7:30 p.m. St. Aloysius, Caldwell, Parish Center
- May 2 **Day of Renewal** 9:00 a.m. Corpus Christi, Hasbrouck Heights

The "**Casa**" is the Archdiocesan Youth Center, 299 Belgrove Drive, Kearny, NJ
Directions can be accessed through our website, www.mycursillo.com.

More Info to Come...

Watch your e-mail for updates and further information on the above events. A USPS mailing will be sent regarding the Day of Renewal, with details and schedule of the day and directions to Corpus Christi.

Cursillo Newsletters are being sent out via e-mail only. If you know of anyone who would like to receive it, please send their e-mail ID to me at jtrinkus@verizon.net.

Joanne Rinkus, Editor

To contact any members of the Secretariat, visit our website at

www.mycursillo.com