

Fourth Day

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER, 2013



Cursillo Does Not Operate With Tricks or Illusions!

Alakazam - - as the magicians say-- as they pull a rabbit out of a hat, or make an elephant disappear, or cut their assistant in half on stage. Great tricks and illusions.

We at PittsburghCursillo are not so talented to do any of those fetes. All we can do is provide a tool -- the Cursillo method on a weekend where the candidates in 72 hours are given the opportunity to open their hearts and minds and allow God's Holy Spirit to enter, and where they receive something greater than any magician's trick. And although God's Grace is free to us, the Movement works simply as a conduit to illuminate the way; but in spite of the freedom which this grace imparts upon us on the weekend, we can still become burdened with life's practicalities while living our 4th day. It's easy to be distracted out there and be forgetful of our personal Cursillo beginnings.

Our Cursillo home for the last few years is here at Mt. Nazareth, a place of peace and serenity and a powerhouse of prayer and activity, and our being here is a blessing for our Movement for it is the place where many in recent years have begun their 4th day walk. But we constantly need to remind ourselves that we are not only pilgrims, but tenants as well, and as tenants we must rightly pay our just dues at the end of the month.

We are asking again for your financial help and support as we try to keep our heads above water for the sake of our Movement, even as St. Paul sought funds during his missionary journeys. We are fiscally conservative and take great care to use the monies wisely. So please help us to keep the lights on for Pittsburgh Cursillo during this spring appeal by making a donation to Pittsburgh Cursillo Movement. Any amount is greatly appreciated.

With prayerful thanks,

Fr. Stan Gregorek



CURSILLO PICNIC

SUNDAY

AUGUST 18

PARISH HILL BUILDING
NORTH PARK

Begins at Noon

Mass at 1:30

~

PICNIC WILL BE CATERED

BYOB

Soft Drinks, Tea, Water, Coffee
will be provided

FREE WILL OFFERING

(Please be generous to cover the cost
of food and shelter rental.)

~

**CHINESE AUCTION
OF THEMED BASKETS
50/50 RAFFLE**

Consider Making Cursillo Your Main Apostolate

By Gary Smith

Lay Director

Time goes so fast. My time as Lay Director is almost 2/3 over. Another year and I will need to be replaced – as will others on Secretariat.

We do have Add Your Voice (formerly called Sections) on the last Wednesday evening of each month. This is much needed – not only so Cursillo can function properly, but to get people used to participating and stepping up into higher positions to insure the continuation of the Cursillo Movement.

A lot of people come through the Cursillo Weekend, maybe stay for a certain period of time, find an interest in another ministry or activity, then move on. It would be great if they would commit to at least a three-year term in service to Cursillo so others could experience what they had the opportunity of doing.

I had to be content serving over the years without making a serious commitment to Cursillo. I found something special when I got involved in the Karnes Prison Ministry over six years ago and another special ministry close to my heart, the Appalachian trips to W. Virginia. However, I was asked to take on this present position – to come back and assist Cursillo in a way that I never thought of. It meant leaving those other “mountain top” experiences and going back to labor “in the valley” – not that Cursillo isn’t a mountain top experience – but Cursillo needed some special attention. And it still needs attention. It needs a new set of Cursillistas to step up, not a year from now, but RIGHT NOW – to get in tune with what you need to keep Cursillo going.

We had a Region III Meeting in Pittsburgh in April. It should have been better attended. You get a chance to meet with other Cursillistas from other states and share what’s going on in their areas, too. We have a lot of the same issues that need addressed – it’s a good way to bounce ideas off one another. We also just had our own Cursillo Spring Retreat with Fr. Frank Erdeljac – who I feel does an outstanding job whenever he speaks; that, too should have been better attended. It’s been said that 80% of it is just showing up – God will do the rest. Just by saying “yes” to the Lord, God gives you the grace to do what needs to be done.

Any fish can float down stream with the current, but it takes a strong fish to swim against the current – and so it is THAT we are asked to do. And we should not be content to just compare ourselves to others. We are Christians, and therefore we should compare ourselves to Christ, who would want us to live by the higher standard.

As Fr. Frank said, “If there is no struggle, where’s the merit? Christ came to serve, and so should we.”

So I’m asking each of you now –wherever you are in your journey – whatever weekend you made, give it serious thought to making Cursillo your main apostolate for a 3-year period.

At the last set of weekends, I explained the difference between a Volunteer and a Servant: A Volunteer agrees to show up on certain days, at certain times, for a certain job. And he or she may specify – not too hot that they sweat, or too cold that they catch a chill -- not too stressful -- and it has to be clean and maybe fun too.

A Servant shows up, says “Put me anywhere you need me, for any time slot, no matter what the conditions” (as Christ did – stress included).

So I am hoping you will pray on this. Say “yes” Just as Mary and Joseph did. Roll up your sleeves and step up.

I can only say that it wasn’t until the past seven years (out of the 19 ½ years in Cursillo) that I agreed to do more – that God blessed me more. It’s really a no-brainer for me.

Hope to see some new as well as old faces at our meetings.

De Colores



Stewardship Prayer

Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands, no feet on earth but yours,
yours are the eyes through which
He looks with compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which
He walks to do good.

Yours are the hands with which
He blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet.
Yours are the eyes, and you are His body.

Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.

O Lord, as Your Body,
help us to be faithful stewards of all
you have given to us,
so that we may continue to build up
Your Kingdom.

Allow us to be generous with our
gifts of time, talent and treasure,
Just as You have been generous to us.

May we, your Body,
be faithful to the mission and ministry
You have called us to,
for love of You and our neighbor.

Amen.

Requests:

Pray for our Cursillo
priests and Religious each day

Sponsor and turn in
applications now. Don’t wait!

Make a Cursillo
phone call or write a Cursillo letter
to someone each day.

Do You Know Where Your Candidate Is?



Maybe It's Time to Reconnect!

By Andi Zientara
Pre-Cursillo

It's 2013. Do you know where your candidate is? If you don't know, or haven't been in touch with them for a while, wouldn't now be a good time to reconnect?

If the pre-Cursillo process was followed as intended, your connection to your candidate would have had a close personal friendship at its foundation. Now, it's true that even close friends lose touch at times, sometimes over great distances and for many years. Lives change. Families evolve, and often an activity that put you in frequent company with your friend is no longer a part of your life. But shouldn't the friendship between a Cursillo sponsor and candidate be held to a higher standard of commitment for keeping in touch?

The close personal friendship you once enjoyed led you both to take that relationship and elevate it to the ultimate friendship...a friendship with Christ at the center. Beyond that which the secular world can offer, your friendship brought you both closer to Christ, both closer to fulfilling your Baptismal commitment to live as a Christian, and both of you closer to knowing what it means to resolve to build the kingdom of God on Earth. If that's not worth more than a yearly Christmas card or 4th of July barbecue, what is?

We are, all of us, being commissioned as Catholics to embrace the New Evangelization as set forth by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Much is being written and talked about these days in our parishes about the New Evangelization, and, to those who have lived a Cursillo Weekend, a great deal of it should sound very familiar -- especially the part about reaching out to those hungering and thirsting for the Good News of the Gospel and a personal relationship with Christ. Why not start by reaching out, again, to someone you know has already been there? For at least 3 days that you know of, your candidate encountered Christ in a personal way, had a hunger and thirst for Him awakened in their heart and was presented with a way to bring Christ into their environments in order to grow the kingdom of God on earth.

If reading this article has brought someone to mind, then why not take the next step. Pray for your friend, your candidate, and then get in touch with them, even if it has been a long, long time since you have been together. Pick up the phone. Compose an email. Or really make their day and, just for the nostalgia of it, send them a "Thinking of You" card delivered the old-fashioned way -- by the Post Office! Plan to perhaps meet for dinner and then go together to Ultreya or to see what Leader's School is all about. Invite them to the Cursillo picnic in August -- wherever and however the Holy Spirit leads you to see where your friendship is today. The Cursillo community is a great place to rejuvenate old friendships that were once so special they gave you a little glimpse of Heaven on Earth!

Sometimes We Forget to Put God First in Our Lives!

We are preparing to put our house up for sale and as I was going through some things. I was overwhelmed by all the STUFF we had accumulated in 17 years. That night, I began to think about my spiritual life and how I get bogged down by all the things I have to do and how easy it is to get wrapped up in life and forget to put God first. I have asked God to forgive me so many times and start over again that it's amazing to think that He is still willing to forgive me and that He still loves me that much.

I think that it's the same with Cursillo; we get so wrapped up in life and the things we have to do, that we lose sight of how much good we can accomplish in Cursillo and the enthusiasm that we had when we first lived our Cursillo weekend.

We at Secretariat and the School of leaders are working hard to revitalize our Cursillo movement, but we need your help. We would love to see the faces of old and new friends -- especially at our meeting on the last Wednesday of each month for our ADD YOUR VOICES meeting. God's blessings to you all.

Kay Houston

SCHOOL OF LEADERS SCHEDULE

The schedule may be adjusted from time to time. Please check pghcursillo.com for updates. All meetings begin at 7:15 in chapel and 7:30 for meeting unless otherwise noted

July 10 Secretariat

July 17 Healing Mass—St. Paul Parish, Greensburg

July 24 Review of Fundamental Ideas 2013 edition/ Whom Shall I Send?

July 31 Add your voice

Aug. 7 Secretariat

Aug. 14 Review of Fundamental Ideas 2013 edition/ Whom Shall I Send

Aug. 21 Healing Mass—St Francis of Assisi Parish, Finleyville

Aug 28 Add your voice

Sept. 4 Secretariat/ Team Formation

Sept. 11 Healing Mass—North American Martyrs Parish, Monroeville/ Team Formation

Sept. 18 Review of Fundamental Ideas 2013 edition/ Whom Shall I Send?

Sept. 25 Add your voice/ Team Formation

Oct. 2 Secretariat/ Team Formationm

Oct. 9 Healing Mass—St. Therese of Lisieux Parish, Munhall

Oct 16 Review of Fundamental Ideas/ Whom Shall I Send?

Oct. 23 Continue study of Catechis

Oct. 30 Add your voice

Nov. 6 Healing Mass—Holy Family Parish, Latrobe

Nov. 13 Secretariat

Nov. 20 Review of Fundamental Ideas 2013 edition/ Whom Shall I Send?

Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 4 Healing Mass—Word of God Parish, Swissvale

Dec. 11, 18 Christmas break—Have a very blessed Christmas

Frequently Asked Questions About Cursillo Applications:

When can I send in my candidates application for the Fall 2013 Weekends?

We must have a **minimum of 10 women's and 10 men's applications** on hand by **August 15, 2013** in order to have **both** Fall Weekends in 2013. As of this newsletter, we have 3 Men's and 1 Women's application. If 10 applications are *not* on hand by this date for **either the women and/or the men, the Fall 2013 Weekend for them will not take place.** If you have a candidate in mind, ***get their completed application in NOW!***

Why such an early date? Especially for the Weekends that are months away?

Much planning and preparation for the Weekends begins long before the actual dates. We have to reserve the space at Mt. Nazareth for both Team Formation and the Weekends themselves which means paying for the space. In addition to monetary considerations, Teams must be chosen that commit to a Formation process, which involves a great deal of time and energy. Also, Spiritual Directors, often priests with parish responsibilities, must arrange in advance for their duties to be covered for the Weekend on which they will serve.

Will applications be accepted for the 2013 Fall Weekends after August 15?

Yes. Additional applications will be accepted even as the Formation Process is underway, but a **minimum of 10 applications must be received before August 15 in order to have that process begin.**

Does a \$25 deposit for the Weekend have to be sent with the application?

No. A letter of invitation will be sent to the candidate once the Weekends are confirmed. A return envelope will be enclosed to insure the candidate's reservation for the Weekend and a deposit check can be sent then. However, candidates and/or sponsor's who wish to include the deposit fee are welcome to send it along with the application if they wish.

**Completed applications should be presented to Ultreya Pre-Cursillo Chairpersons or Coordinators to check for accuracy of information / signatures and then mailed to:
Andi Zientara, 747 Ravenswood Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15202**

Questions or concerns? Contact Andi at 412-761-1044 or andizi56@verizon.net

Materials available: "Cursillo: What Is It?" – a booklet explaining Cursillo to be given to potential candidates
"Sponsor's Guide" - fully explains the role and responsibilities of the sponsor

Official Applications can be downloaded from www.pghcursillo.org ,
or call Andi, or ask your Ulteryia Coordinator.

Are YOU Pushing On the Lever???

Do you remember on your Cursillo Weekend during the Faith talk when you saw and heard those letters from the Greater Cursillo Community that revealed how they were offering prayers and sacrifices for you and your Weekend? Some of them came from other cities and towns in the United States, others were from far off countries and some were even written in a foreign language, but they were all doing the same thing for us...PALANCA!

You may or may not be aware of this but, Pittsburgh Cursillo faithfully sends out these same types of letters to other Cursillistas in the U.S. and around the world when we learn of their Weekends. The question is: are we doing the Palanca we are proclaiming to do in these letters? Some are, for sure, but...are YOU doing your part to "push on the lever" and lift these Teams and new Cursillistas with prayer and personal sacrifice? (Remember: the word "Palanca" means "lever"...that which can lift up and move something greater than we humans can move by ourselves!)

Palanca isn't just a Weekend phenomenon...it is the power of prayer in our lives! Plan to do Palanca for Pittsburgh Cursillo, all the Cursillistas who count on us throughout the world, and the world itself which needs what we can bring to it...the Good News of the risen Christ!

Ultreya – Most Important Part of Our Fourth Day

We've all heard it before -- Make a friend, be a friend and bring a friend to Christ.

I learned that phrase on my Cursillo weekend. At the time, especially during The Layperson in the Church talk, I was a bit uncomfortable with it. I could usually make friends. I could even be a friend, most times even a good one at that. Bring a friend to Christ was another story. I had my Faith but didn't always share it. I thought it was a personal matter. It is of course, but as we have learned in Cursillo, it is also meant to be shared.

As I live in My Fourth Day, I am blessed to have to this day, a small group to share my life with. It is in this group reunion I fully realize what Cursillo is all about. My two sponsors are still here by my side to support me in my journey with The Lord. They have taught me how to do the same, and I do. It is an intimate relationship as it is meant to be.

Anyone in a small group reunion has a similar story. We are Cursillistas. We are the laity in The Church. We welcome the opportunity. We have something worthwhile to share, Jesus Christ, and it doesn't get any better than that. We are asked to live our lives in our communities as Christians. As we have come to understand,

Spring Retreat

Fr. Frank Erdeljac Presents Excellent, Insightful Talks

Pittsburgh Cursillo Spring Retreat was held at the Mount Nazareth Center Friday night, April 12, through Saturday, April 13, 2013. Father Frank Erdeljac, a long time Cursillista and spiritual director for the Pittsburgh Cursillo was the presenter.

A total of 28 participants attended Father Erdeljac's excellent and insightful four sessions talks emphasized the "Glory of God". Each of the four sessions explained God's unconditional love for all mankind and God's call for man to love God always. Some additional highlights of this series were:

- If you believe in God, show God
- Here I am Lord, I come to do Your Will;
- Grace is a gift
- God never loses; God always wins eventually in God's time.
- Do not despair, God is patient.
- God raises us up to be able to love Him
- The church needs conversion constantly; we need conversion daily
- Man needs to ask every day – how can I please God today
- Obedience to God is hard – it is against man's nature

The participants were blest by Father Erdeljac's words, and I pray that Father Erdeljac will continue to conduct future retreats.

Thank-you, Father Erdeljac, for teaching the absolute truth that God waits for mankind and may God grant you many blessings

DeColores,

Tom Schmura

South Hills Ultreya

bloom where you are planted.

That's what an Ultreya can help us with -- a community of likeminded people coming together to share their life and life experiences with each other. It also supports us in our own efforts to be the Face of Christ to others in our own environments. We join together in prayer, song, witness and even fun. We are strengthened by each other to be the apostles we are meant to be.

I'm asking all to remember their weekend and what we may have learned. We know small group reunions and Ultreya are the most important part of our Fourth Days. It is at the core of Cursillo. We all have something to share, and there is no better way to do it. Be the support someone may need and bring a friend.

Please visit the Pittsburgh Cursillo website and find the Ultreya in your area. They're waiting for your support as we are in our newly formed Southwest Butler Ultreya. We're fortunate to have four or five parishes represented in our infancy. We meet at St Ferdinand's in Cranberry Twp. the first Monday of each Month at 7:30 PM in The Upper Room located across the driveway from the Church.

De Colores!

Dan Kulisiak # 157

Upcoming Events -- Pittsburgh Cursillo Movement

Keeping my commitment to Jesus and Cursillo

Revised Weekend Dates:

The Cursillo weekends have been scheduled to October 17 - 20, 2013 for Men's # 189 and October 24 - 27, 2013 for Women's # 190.

Men's Weekend – October 17 - 20, 2013 -
Donation \$150.00 per person.

Holy Hour may change due to physical arrangement changes at the Mt. Nazareth Center.

Women's Weekend - October 24 - 27, 2013 -
Donation \$150.00 per person.

Holy Hour may change due to physical arrangement changes at the Mt. Nazareth Center

Fourth Day Welcome – Sunday, November 10, 2013, – 2 – 4 p.m. Mt. Nazareth, Bellevue
– Fourth Day Welcome begins in the 3rd Floor Conference Room with Lay Director, Gary Smith.

Joyful sharing; Pittsburgh Cursillo Information Update; Overview of 2014 Spiritual & Cursillo Movement Programs.

School of Leaders – Wednesdays 7:15 – 9:15 p.m at Mt. Nazareth Cursillo Center, 285 Bellevue Road, Pittsburgh (Bellevue), Pa. 15229, 2nd Floor Cursillo Office Meeting Room.

Growth in Cursillo and your Catholic faith, full or part time attendance is encouraged for all Cursillistas. The School of Leaders made some changes to the weekly meeting format. The School is also using on-line skype as a way for you to be at the meeting using your computer.

On the 4th Wednesday of each month we have an “**Add Your Voice**” session.

Questions & Answers, and interaction of your voice to the vision of Pittsburgh Cursillo.

Since Pittsburgh Catholic Cursillo covers the entire Diocese of Pittsburgh the Movement needs a broad base of representation from all corners of the diocese. We need your knowledge and commitment to Cursillo to energize all programs, activities, weekends, group reunions and Ultreyas.

Post Cursillo...

Cursillo Picnic

Sunday, August 18, 2013 – Location will be North Park at Parish Hall. Begin at 12 p.m. with Mass and then a Pot-Luck style dinner. A Cursillo social event which renews friendships.

Pre-Cursillo

See information on Page 5

Team Formation School of Leaders - Weekends # 189 - 190

Team Formation for the Fall, 2013 weekends will consist of five two hour sessions and

one Saturday six hour session. Team/Sponsor

Mass will be October 2nd.

Wednesday, September 4, 2013, 7:30 –

9:30 p.m., Mt. Nazareth Cursillo Center

Wednesday, September 11, 2013, 7:30 –

9:30 p.m., Mt. Nazareth Cursillo Center

SATURDAY, September 14, 2013, 9:00 a.m. –

3:00 p.m., Mt. Nazareth Cursillo Center

Wednesday, September 18, 2013, 7:30 –

9:30 p.m., Mt. Nazareth Cursillo Center

Wednesday, September 25, 2013, 7:30 –

9:30 p.m., Mt. Nazareth Cursillo Center

Wednesday, October 2, 2013, Team & Sponsor

Mass, 7:30 p.m., Mt Nazareth Cursillo Center

National Cursillo Activities/Notices:

23rd National Cursillo Encounter, Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York.

Thursday, July 25 – Sunday, July 28, 2013.

Hofstra University, 1000 Fulton Avenue, Hempstead, NY 11549

\$ 485.00 per person

Registration info can be found on the National Website: www.cursillo.org

Other dates of interest for Cursillistas:

FRATERNITY OF PRIEST

HEALING MASSES, 2013

July 17 at St. Paul Parish, Greensburg

August 21 at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Finleyville

Sept, 11 at North American Martyrs Parish, Monroeville

Oct. 9 at St. Theresa of Lisieux Parish, Munhall

Nov. 6 at Holy Family Parish, Latrobe

Dec. 4 at Word of God Parish, Swissvale

**Pittsburgh Cursillo Movement
Pittsburgh Cursillo Center
285 Bellevue Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15229**

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Ultreyas

ALLEGHENY VALLEY

Peg Heiry - 724-274-7973

BUTLER

4th Monday, St. Peter's
St. Peter's Church Basement
Franklin Street, Butler, 7:00 p.m.
Call Ron Kocian - 724-445-3326

CITY NORTH

3rd Monday, Mt Nazareth Center
285 Bellevue Rd.,
Ross Twp, 7:30 p.m.
Call Clyde Werger - 412-213-8150

SW BUTLER

1st Monday, St. Ferdinand's
Cranberry, 7:30 p.m.
Call Dan Kubisiak - 724-584-7842

SOUTH CENTRAL

2nd & 4th Thursday, Corpus Christi Parish
2515 Versailles Ave. - McKeesport, PA 15132
Parking & enter far right behind church. 8pm
Call Erma Woolaghan - 412-461-1332

SOUTH HILLS

2nd & 4th Monday, St. Winifred Church
Mt. Lebanon, 7:30 p.m.
Call Kay Houston - 412 833-3867
or Natalie O'Loughlin - 412 831-3319

TRES RIOS

2nd & 4th Tuesday,
St. Bernadette Church
Monroeville, 1:30 p.m.
Call Larry Boehm - 724-568-1843

The Pittsburgh Cursillo Movement
offers prayers and congratulations
in celebrating
the ordination of
Fr. Lawrence Adams
who was ordained in June
in St. Paul's Cathedral.
Fr. Adams
became a Cursillista
in the Fall, 2006, Men's Weekend.

