



Fourth Day

September, 2020

CURSILLO FAMILY MASS & PICNIC

A large pavilion at North Strabane Park, Mass. plenty of food, lots of friendship, games, prizes, and a basket auction enjoyed by about 60 Cursillistas and friends. Thanks to all who made it such a success.



Silence: The Missing Gift in a Noisy World

Silence is not something that most people invite into their lives anymore. Many people today are even afraid to let silence settle in around them for any length of time; they prefer to be distracted by noise — either by the TV or by music. Sometimes, they just will not stop talking because of the fear that will happen if they are quiet for just a moment.

I was like that for a very long time — TV or music to be on or I had to be on the phone jabbering away to whomever would listen.

That changed for me a few months before the Presidential election of 2016. The rhetoric was too much and one day I shut off my radio while driving to work. For about two years, I hardly ever had the radio on in the car. Instead of listening to the spin doctors and to analysts as I journeyed to and fro, I started to listen and talk to God, and this was such a revelation for me. I left the cacophony of the everyday world when I got into my car. I started to revel in my cocoon where I just got to sit and be with God. Turning down the world, so that I could turn up my relationship with the Lord was a turning point for me in every aspect.



Pandemic Revelation: Spiritual Vaccine Needed

If we think we need a vaccine to stop the spread of Corona-19, we are finding out that we also need a vaccine to combat the spiritual emptiness of many.

In John's Gospel, Chapter 6, at the end of the Bread of Life Discourse, we are made aware that not everyone stayed with the Lord. *"Then many of the disciples who were listening said, 'This saying is hard; who can accept it.'"* (v.60) The teaching of Jesus



feeding his followers with His body was not what they were ready to grasp. So in the end, *"As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him."* (v.66)

This pandemic in which we struggle is also revealing an awful lot about "The Church," — you know, the People of God. Our buildings are open for Mass. One would have thought that the people would be clamoring for a seat, filling the 25% capacity. Such has not been the case.

Now I and others realize that some people should not attend Mass (and have been told so) because of health and age issues. But when we look at the pews, often these are the very people seen. So we have to question, "Where are all the others?" This is

difficult to do without judging.

Is it fear? I don't think so as I've heard of many taking their vacations, going to the pool, shopping, etc., all the while knowing that the strict enforcement of procedures the Church maintains far outweigh those of a store or a vacation locale.

Is it a lack of faith? This needs clarified, I believe that people continue to believe in God. But there are other issues of faith needing explored.

1) Is it not a concern about receiving the Eucharist, or an unbelief concerning the real presence of our Lord in the Eucharist? We may be onto something here.

see PANDEMIC on page 2

See SILENCE on page 3

Providing a RE-ENTRY WAY for the Far Away

We look at our family members and the members of our parish as possible candidates to make a weekend and to experience Christ in a new way.

But what about those who are far away? You know them, the ones who believe in God but don't live a life of faith, or those who have given up finding God in the Catholic Church or any other faith expression. They are everywhere but nowhere.

Cursillo was created to bring Catholics back to the faith and the living of

faith in the Church, particularly those who have shown leadership qualities in everyday life. Make a friend with the people God gives you. They may be looking for a safe way for re-entry into the Church — with no guilt, no blame, no roof collapsing.

See page 2 for the only requirements and begin to befriend that person who God has placed into your life. Offer your life for others as Christ did for you. No cross needed here — just an abundance of love and an awareness of God's love.

UPCOMING WEEKENDS



Men's Weekend: Nov. 5-8, 2020
Women's Weekend: Nov. 12-15, 2020
Martina Spirituality Center

Completed applications should be in the hands of Eileen Schmura by October 8.

All CDC, state and diocesan guidelines will be maintained including social distancing and face masks usage.

A Reminder: Candidates for a Cursillo weekend need only:

- 1) to be Catholic, allowing for non-practicing Catholics to return to the active life of the Church through Cursillo, and
- 2) to have a sponsor who is ready to walk with the candidate well beyond the Cursillo weekend.
- 3) Free to celebrate the sacraments. Those living in invalid marriages need to seek an annulment before being sponsored. These can be obtained easier than thought and be a source of great healing.

Spring Weekends: Men — April 9-12, 2021; Women — April 16-19, 2020

Holy Hours for Upcoming Weekends with Eucharistic Adoration



**Wednesday, Nov. 4
for the Men's Weekend**

and

**Wednesday, Nov. 11
for the Women's Weekend**

7:00PM

**St. Patrick Center
Adoration Chapel**

Prayer Begins The Process And Brings It To Completion

Where do you begin when seeking people to sponsor for a weekend? The starting point is prayer. But before you pray for any specific potential candidate, you need to begin by praying for yourself. You and your group reunion should pray for each other so that you can hear the whisper in your heart as to what Christ's will is. Who does Christ want to sponsor? Who is Christ calling — how does He want to use you? Ask Christ to use you as His instrument. This should be a continual prayer, not just occasionally, but done regularly with your group reunion and in your own daily personal prayer.

After listening to Christ's will, look for the potential candidates and then speak to Christ before speaking to them. Ask Christ what words to use. Ask Christ to open the candidate's heart to hear Christ's message that you are delivering. Only after praying for the specific candidates should you begin discussing Cursillo. Keep praying. Once the candidate says "yes", keep praying. During the weekend — keep praying. After the weekend — the fourth day, keep praying. All of your action should be rooted in prayer.

— Eileen Schmura,
Pre-Cursillo Coordinator

DEVELOPING A WITNESS TALK

A witness talk incorporates three things — a person's piety, study and action — our holiness, formation and evangelization efforts. Without these, there is no witness talk as the prime focus of the talk is sharing our "Planned Action" with the group reunion, Ul-treya, or others. The "Planned Action" of an individual takes root through the group life and a study of the environments. Only then can an action be formulated. "Speak to God about others before you speak to others about God." God shows us where to go and who He wishes to be touched by our witnessing of the love of God.

What is shared in a witness talk may be an action only being developed, or one that has bore fruit, or not bore fruit yet — our successes and failures. It may be that the seeds have only been planted and need time to be nurtured. But is the person witnessing first listening to God and then moving on the promptings by the Holy Spirit?

So we're reminded that it is not just seeing God in an event of our lives — or in and through the lives of others. It is not just a warm story. It is about realizing that God wishes to be known through our encounter with the Lord, listening to His promptings, and then acting upon them.

Only in this way are other Cursillistas being encouraged to try what they may be hesitant to do — be open to God's will, see others with the eyes of God by studying the environments; and then taking action with the strength of the Holy Spirit.

EMAIL US!

Help us to provide instant information to you. We'd like to email the Fourth Day Newsletter as a means of financial responsibility and for preservation of the environment. So please help us in this effort. Thanks! Contact either Patty Joyce or Mike Albanese. Their phone numbers and email addresses are listed on the next page.



REST IN PEACE

*We pray for the soul of Cursillista
JOSIE PIPER
 who recently died, and we pray for family
 members and friends of Cursillistas who have
 also met the Lord in His fullness. May the all
 be in peace.*

CURSILLO CALENDAR

Unless otherwise marked all activities are held at St. Patrick Center, Canonsburg, beginning at 7:00PM

Wed., Sept. 16 — School of Leaders

Wed., Sept. 30 — Secretariat

Wed., Oct. 7 — School of Leaders

Fri.-Sat., Oct. 9-10 — Regional Mtgs on ZOOM at St. Patrick's Center

Wed., Oct. 21 — School of Leaders

Wed., Oct. 28 — Secretariat

Wed., Nov. 4 — Holy Hour for Men's Weekend

Thur.-Sun., Nov. 5-8 — Men's Weekend at Martina Center

Wed., Nov. 11 — Holy Hour for Women's Weekend

Thur.-Sun., Nov. 12-15 — Women's Weekend at Martina Center

Wed., Nov. 18 — Secretariat

Wed., Dec. 2 — School of Leaders

Sun., Dec. 6 — 4th Day Mailing

Wed., Dec. 9 — Secretariat

Wed., Jan. 6 — School of Leaders

Sun., Jan 10 — Fourth Day Welcome — TBD

Wed., Jan 20 — School of Leaders

Wed., Jan 27 — Secretariat

“God, provide me with the opportunity...”

God has blessed me. I ask each day in morning prayer that He provides me with the opportunity to share my faith, and He does.

As a contractor, I have the opportunity to see many people. One evening I went on estimate to the home of an elderly lady, and as she spoke, as usual I looked around for an “opening”; a cross, a Bible, a church bulletin...and sure enough I saw a Bible on her end table. I commented that it's good to see people still reading God's Word. She went on to tell me how her late husband sold Bibles for a living. As we talked, she mentioned how he had passed away recently. I knew God sent me there not just to get another job, but to share some time with her. We sat at her kitchen table and talked for a half hour or more. She thanked me for being there and not hurrying off.

Another time, on a Thursday night, I was reading an article in *Our Sunday Visitor* about where babies go who they die in child birth or miscarriage. I had not given any thought to this subject for years. The next morning I had an appointment with my good customer, Ann, whom I had not seen for over a year. After the job was complete and I sat down to write up the bill, she said, “I know you are involved with your church and maybe you can help me.”

Ann has five children. A month ago she lost her sixth to a miscarriage. Even though she is a long-time Catholic, she didn't know if the Church still teaches about limbo. I took a quick moment to thank God for putting that article in front of me earlier. I shared what I had read, and we prayed for her baby. God brought her comfort that day, through me.

Sometimes God asks us to empty ourselves and be the conduit that brings Him to people we meet.

— Jay Miller

Washington Co. Ultreya



Some visitors with us at our Cursillo Picnic were Fr. Mingwei Li (left), Parochial Vicar of St. Margaret Mary Parish, Moon, and some of Leda and Jay Miller's Family, including these granddaughters.

Be Smart! Be safe! Watch your environments!
This is true for everyone's health —
sanitize, use masks and keep social distancing.
This is also true for everyone's spiritual health.
Know who you're with. Some will
jeopardize your spiritual health
and some will try to undermine your faith and
belief that God is caring for us.
Wear the armor of Christ and speak with the
love of God which sanitizes the environments.

PANDEMIC, from page 1

2) Is their lack of participation their inability to understand that we are called to be present to one another so as to build up the Body of Christ? I'm betting on this one also.

3) And/or is it simply because there is no law requiring “attendance” at Mass?, which may lead to the question, “Do we understand why we go to Mass?”

Our personal relationships with our Lord will be the vaccine against the lack of faith being lived in others. How we witness faith in our lives is to strengthen others — anyone and everyone. Most probably do not know what a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is all about. But they will see the relationship we live, found in the fruits we exhibit.

They probably need encouragement, prompting and an invitation. Allow the power of the Holy Spirit to make you the invitation that will bring a spiritual cure and healing. Rejoice that you have been chosen as the vaccine that will renew life.

— Fr. Tom Galvin

Pittsburgh Cursillo Spiritual Advisor

SILENCE, from page 1

of my life.

I started to reflect on this time in my life after I read and prayed about the reading that I heard on Sunday. In the first reading on the 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time, we read about the Lord coming to Elijah (1kgs 19:9a, 11-13a) after Elijah hid upon a mountain. The Lord beckoned Elijah to come out and stand before

the Lord. As Elijah stood there waiting for the Lord, there was a strong-driving wind crushing rocks, an earthquake, and a fire. The Lord was not in any of them. Only after all these extremely intense and loud events was there a “tiny-whispering sound”. It was then Elijah heard the Lord.

How many times have I missed an opportunity to just be with Christ because of the noise, either outside in the world or inside in my heard and heart? How many times have I missed the tiny whispering sound of the Lord just loving me?

In those quiet moments, I am opening myself up to a portion of grace to which was hidden within the din, and a humility which makes me yearn for a closer relationship with Christ. In turn, there is a wanting to be a better person than I was the day before and to be the friend to others that Christ is to me.

In silence, we can learn who we truly are and what our relationship with Christ is. As Cursillistas, we need to be able to sit quietly with our friend, Christ, who has given us so much. As we start to listen to that tiny, whispering sound, we can just be with our Lord and we can learn to be a better friend to Him, to others, and to ourselves. Ultreya!

— Julie Fleckenstein

Pittsburgh Cursillo Lay Director

PITTSBURGH CURSILLO SECRETARIAT

Lay Director	Julie Fleckenstein	juliefleckenstein@gmail.com	215-272-3331
Secretary	Bridget Wallace	bewall@aol.com	412-897-6921
School of Leaders	Julie Fleckenstein	juliefleckenstein@gmail.com	215-272-3331
Pre-Cursillo	Eileen Schmura	teschnura@comcast.net	412-427-2206
Cursillo	Wayne Fleckenstein	fleckenstein@verizon.net	412-427-6148
Post-Cursillo	Mike Albanese	mikea2002@hotmail.com	724-462-5276
Physical Arrangements	Jim Haefner	jimhaefner@gmail.com	724-321-3723
Treasurer	Peg Lias	plias1@yahoo.com	412-915-2593
Communications			
Data Base	Wayne Fleckenstein	fleckenstein@verizon.net	412-427-6148
Emails/Prayer Chain	Patty Joyce	pattyj7@comcast.net	412-831-1835
Newsletter, Bulk Mailings, Daily Blogs	Open		
Facebook	Julie Fleckenstein	juliethefleck@hotmail.com	215-272-3331
Technology	Open (for live transmission of Leaders School, etc.)		
Webpage	Clyde Werger	clyde@clydew.com	412-486-5702
Calendar	Wayne Houston	waynekayh@yahoo.com	412-520-6681
Diocesan Spiritual Advisor	Fr. Tom Galvin	tgalvin@diopitt.org	724-745-6560

PITTSBURGH CURSILLO MOVEMENT
 203 Maplehurst Drive
 Aliquippa, PA. 15001

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 PITTSBURGH, PA.
 PERMIT NO. 224

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



God's sign to us during our recent Cursillo Mass and Picnic.

Where Friends Share God, Faith & Fellowship

317 W. Pike St., Canonburg
 Parish Center
 Meeting at St. Patrick
lgmiller711@gmail.com
 724-745-7744
 Houston, PA 15044
 247 Reco Ave.
 Leda Miller

WASHINGTON CO.

Always call for details.
 Location currently varies.
juliethefleck@hotmail.com
 215-272-3331
 Turtle Creek, PA 15145

YOUNG ADULTS

Julie Fleckenstein
 264 Seneca St.
 Cranberry Twp., PA 15145
 724-553-1264 (Joe)
 724-553-0137 (Lisa)
JLVfix@verizon.net
 Meeting at St. Ferdinand
 Parish
 (Upper Room of Parish Center)
 Cranberry Township
 2nd Monday at 7:00PM
 One Week later if Holy Day

SOUTHWEST BUTLER

Joe & Lisa Fix
 4336 Glen Eden Rd.
 Cranberry Twp., PA 15066
 724-553-1264 (Joe)
 724-553-0137 (Lisa)
JLVfix@verizon.net
 Meeting at St. Ferdinand
 Parish
 (Upper Room of Parish Center)
 Cranberry Township
 2nd Monday at 7:00PM
 One Week later if Holy Day

SOUTH HILLS

Kay Houston
 4920 Brightwood Rd. Apt C509
 Bethel Park, PA 15102
 412-965-5261
katyann41@gmail.com
 Meet at St. Thomas More
 Parish (Rooney Room)
 (across from South Hills
 Village)
 2nd & 4th Monday at 7:00PM

Meet at Corpus Christi Parish
 Rectory Meeting Room
 2515 Versailles Ave.
 McKeesport
 2nd & 4th Thursday at 7:30

SOUTH CENTRAL

Off 279 at the Ferryville Exit.
 3rd Monday 7:00PM

Clarwin Dr.
 Sister's Motherhouse
 Meet at Holy Spirit
corcoram@leidors.com
 412-931-4928
 Pittsburgh, PA 15229

CITY NORTH

Bob Corcoran
 260 Martsolf Ave.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15229
 412-931-4928

PITTSBURGH ULTREYAS

Meet at St. Peter Parish
inarom@penn.com
 724-445-3326
 Chicora, PA 16025
 682 Cherry Road
 Ron & Ina Kocian

BUTLER

1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7:00PM
 2270 Broadhead Rd.
 Parish (Fatima House)
 Meet at Our Lady of Fatima
joe.butts@novachem.com
 724-779-3194 (Joe)
 724-601-7860 (Gwen)
 Aliquippa, PA 15001
 3001 Floral Drive
 Joe & Gwen Butts

BEAVER VALLEY

Mass
 2nd Tuesday after 12:00PM

Parish, Harwick
 Meet at Our Lady of Victory
 Group Reunion

ALLEGHENY VALLEY