All Things Through Christ by Joe Adcroft

_I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me._

Phil 4:13

Glory to God in the highest and Peace to his people on earth!

We all come from different walks of life and are at different stages in our growing faith. God accepts all of us for who we are no matter what. All we need to do is ask for His grace and He will give us the strength to do all things.

God’s grace comes to us through wanting to walk with Christ. By dying to one’s self, giving up on our own self assuredness and relying on Christ’s perfect strength, we become the instrument for Christ’s grace to work through us.

We can only accomplish these things by choosing Thy Will be done. God’s will. When we follow God’s will, we are then living in God’s grace. We can do these things through Christ, because all good comes from God. We are not creating the good; we are choosing good through the grace of God. Left to our own devices, we choose self, and become selfish and put ourselves at the center of the universe.

It isn’t always easy to be selfless. That is why we need the strength of Christ to walk the path that He did.

The Men’s 50th Cursillo weekend was full of prayer, laughter, singing, sharing, resting, reflecting, and eating. We continued to ask the question: what would my Best Friend do? Christ of course, the one who is always our true BFF (best friend forever).

We all went away with a sense of who we are and what we can be if we all follow the simple formula of Piety, Study, and Action.

I want to welcome all our new Cursillistas. I would like to remind each of them that although we wish we could spend all of our time at St. Gabriel’s, where troubles melt away and we can be with God, we have to return to the secular world. The real challenge is living in the secular world on our fourth day, where we can be swallowed up by life’s problems, like lambs to hungry wolves.

This is why I would like to stress the importance of grouping. In grouping we can continue to find strength in one another through the Holy Spirit.

Our journey to the weekend began 10 months earlier with a lot of prayer and meditation. God has totally taught me the true meaning of “Sisters in Christ,” with each team member throughout this journey more than willing to do whatever, above and beyond, that needed to be done, and with such grace and wisdom, always putting God first. What a gift it was to serve with these women.

Our weekend began with Mass with Father Scott, another blessing to our weekend, with his kind and gentle ways. There was excitement and so much joy as the candidates started to arrive, each a little nervous and apprehensive but anxious to get on with their weekend.

Each and every role by the clergy and the team was exceptional, and as the weekend progressed, the strong presence of the Holy Spirit was evident. Thank you, Holy Spirit.

One particular gift that weekend was when we had our Agape dinner and asked each candidate to say something special to the women at their table. Before long the entire room (continued on page 2)

A single act of love makes the soul return to life. Let us often make use of this means.

~ St. Maximillian Kolbe
You Are Mine continued . . .

was filled with such love
and gratitude as each
Table not only showed love
for the women at their
table but got up and went
to all the other tables. It
was an amazing show of
God's love.

Each night we would play
the song "You Are Mine."
On the last night, when the
song was over, in a
collective spontaneous
motion, everyone
continued to sing and all at
once each and every one
of us found ourselves in
front of the tabernacle
singing praises to God.

To see the transformation of
these beautiful women all
so freely in love with God
and to share that love and
joy with them at that
moment in time, that very
blessed weekend can only
be described as a
metanoia for all of us.
Thank You, God.

All men are called to the
same end: God Himself.
There is a certain
resemblance between the
union of the Divine Persons
and the fraternity that men
are to establish among
themselves in truth and
love. Love of neighbor is
inseparable from love for
God.

~ Catechism
Paragraph1878

Finances and Fundraising

Thanks to all who have
responded to our past
appeals for donations!
Thanks also to all of you
who have paid more than
the cost of the weekend
you attended or served on
team. In order to keep
ourselves in a position to
continue our work, please
consider regular
contributions to the

Scranton Cursillo
movement. You can send
your donation to our
treasurer, Cindy Hogan at
the address below, or drop
it off at any of the Ultreys
or School of Leaders.

Thank You!

Cindy Hogan
125 Cornelia Street
Pittston, PA 18640

Anything done for
another,
is done for oneself.

~ Pope John Paul II
A Message from Bob Blatz . . .

Many of you know that on the evening of January 21st, my house burnt to the ground. I managed to escape in my sweats & slippers. The only thing that survived were my sweats, my slippers, and me. And you may think that is the end of my story. In reality, it only the beginning of how the good Lord has blessed me.

I was sitting in my lazy boy, having decided to watch a little more TV, when I heard the smoke alarm go off in the basement. I got up to check, and when I reached the stair well, I saw the smoke coming up. I then went to the phone but it was not working. I grabbed a flashlight and started for the door. At that point the sparks started flying and my Oxygen Concentrator stopped, and quickly I was out the door. I managed to guide myself from tree to tree until I was far enough away from there, and watched the fire burn.

Someone had called 911 and it wasn’t long before my neighbor down the street, Rob Pizzo, pulled up in his pickup with his son Alec. They guided me into his truck where he let me warm up. A few minutes later the Tafton Fire Volunteers came, Dave Guccini driving the Tanker, and the EMTs from Newfoundland. The fire guys got the fire under control while the girls took care of me and brought a couple of bottles of oxygen. After things “simmered down a bit,” my brother took me home. Before midnight a fellow arrived from Cooney Medical with a new AC powered Oxygen Concentrator and I was set for the night.

For the next several weeks, cards of condolences arrived, some with gift certificates, some with checks, some with cash. And some from people I have not yet met. There was even an envelope with some cash, but no name and no return address. There were also bundles of clothes, new & used.

I have received many Mass cards and donations from my brothers & sisters in Cursillo. My Pastor, Fr. Rick, offered whatever the Church could do to get me back on my feet, and even Rev. Johnson, the Chaplain of the new max security prison where I volunteer to do prison ministry, called and later had the Salvation Army call to see if they could help.

I write all this for two reasons. First to thank all you folks for your generosity, the out-pouring has been overflowing, and secondly, and more important, to let you all know just what kind of a community you live in. It’s been said that “The generous hand receives the most.” I’m sure the Good Lord will bless you all just as He has blessed me, for I have truly been blessed.

Fiat!

By Christina Fleury

Fiat! What was Mary’s fiat? During this month of May, the month traditionally held to be Mary’s month, we can not think of our Blessed Mother without remembering her Fiat. Translated from Latin, fiat is simply, Let it be done.

Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Luke 1:38

May it be done to ME. May it be DONE. May it BE.

What is Mary’s Fiat, but a complete and total surrender to the will of God? A YES, without having to know every single detail of what will happen in her world. A YES to the joy of bringing the Son of God into the world with her quiet cooperation. A YES to the suffering, and the swords that would pierce her own heart for giving everything she had and everything she was to our Father, His Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Do we say YES to our Lord every day? Do we say YES to suffering and YES to loving and YES to giving everything we are to our Father in heaven, His Son, and our sanctifier, comforter and teacher, the Holy Spirit?

Jesus lived His Fiat to our Father in heaven every day of His earthly life. During His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, His remarkable fiat when He said, Not my will, but Thine be done, was nothing less than a complete and total gift of Himself for you and for me. Without this gift, we could have no hope of redemption.

How can we honor God and give ourselves to Him? How can we begin to live our lives more and more for Him each day through our surrender to His Divine will? How can we make Mary’s words our own? Perhaps we should be like Mary and ponder these things in our hearts. Let it be done unto us according to Your Word, Lord. Let it be done.
AN ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

I give myself and consecrate to the Sacred Heart of our Lord Jesus Christ, my person and my life, my actions, pains and sufferings, so that I may be unwilling to make use of any part of my being other than to honor, love and glorify the Sacred Heart. This is my unchanging purpose, namely, to be all His, and to do all things for the love of Him, at the same time renouncing with all my heart whatever is displeasing to Him. I therefore take You, O Sacred Heart, to be the only object of my love, the guardian of my life, my assurance of salvation, the remedy of my weakness and inconstancy, the atonement for all the faults of my life and my sure refuge at the hour of death.

Be then, O Heart of goodness, my justification before God the Father, and turn away from me the strokes of his righteous anger. O Heart of love, I put all my confidence in You, for I fear everything from my own wickedness and frailty, but I hope for all things from Your goodness and bounty.

Remove from me all that can displease You or resist Your holy will; let your pure love imprint Your image so deeply upon my heart, that I shall never be able to forget You or to be separated from You.

May I obtain from all Your loving kindness the grace of having my name written in Your Heart, for in You I desire to place all my happiness and glory, living and dying in bondage to You.

Amen.

~ St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

Regional Service Team
by Maria Kocsis

The Regional Service Team is a supporting group dedicated to the service and the needs of each diocese within each Region. It is the “working arms” of the National Secretariat within the dioceses in each Region. The Regional Service Team is composed of one Regional Coordinator, three Service Team members, and one Spiritual Advisor. The Regional Coordinator is an official member of the National Secretariat “with voice and vote.” All the Regional Coordinators from each Region and all represented Languages form the National Secretariat. They are the ones who establish, develop, endorse, and fully implement the official documents of the Cursillo Movement in their respective Regions.

The Regional Service Team contacts each Diocesan Secretariat through the diocesan lay directors and spiritual directors in their regions for introduction purposes and thus opening the door to a two-way communication. They try to meet with all the dioceses within the Region and practice “personal contact,” which is usually done through the two Region II encounters held each year. And finally, they are available to assist, (put on), workshops when requested by a diocese within their Region.

The Regional Service Team meets at least twice a year, in Spring and Fall and tries to participate at all National events.

Ultreya! Onward!

by Maureen Cure, Post-cursillo Chair

Called to action.

What exactly does it mean? Is the Cursillo weekend retreat all there is for us? Or is there another dimension equally as valuable?

Some people think Cursillo is a one-time event where their personal relationship with Jesus is revived. The values of piety, study and action, the three parts of the tripod, are brought to the fore when we share our lives with each other at Group Reunions and Ultreyas for ongoing renewal. After sharing and listening in Group Reunions and Ultreyas, we sense subtle changes, and sometimes obvious changes in the direction our lives take.

Why does this matter? Cursillo and Ultreya introduce us to a new way of relating to other people……a way that the Church recognizes is a genuine movement of the Holy Spirit. It is exciting to me to be a part of it, especially knowing that the Holy Spirit does the inspiring.

Let us continue to encourage each other and go onward together with God’s blessings.

If not us, Who?

If not here, Where?

If not now, When?

If not for the Kingdom, Why?

Dare the dream . . .
Notes from the Spring Regional Encounter
By Donna Valenti

This April, Tina Filone and I attended the Cursillo Region II Spring Encounter, in Vineland, NJ. (Region II – DC, DE, MD, NJ, Eastern PA and VA). The theme for the weekend was: His face fell and he went away sad, for he had many possessions. Mark 10:22.

Three presentations were given:

1. What are the gods in your life? - Re-establishing the need to put God first to make you better able to love those in your life and be a living witness.

2. Walking the way in the Fourth Day - Recognizing false gods in your life. Pope Benedict XVI identified that the false gods primarily fall into one of three categories – material possessions, possessive love and power. It was a good time to reevaluate your ideal and recognize God as the source of true goodness.

3. Palanca – Exploring the various ways to do palanca and a reminder that the greatest palanca is God the Father giving His Son.

An Ultreya was held, hosted by our Portuguese brothers and sisters. Also present on the weekend were a large representation from the Spanish-speaking movement and a Korean representative. It was wonderful to see all of God’s children from the various cultures praising and glorifying our One Father together, and wonderful to see how everyone embraced each other.

Big excitement for our Diocese occurred at the Region II Secretariat meeting, which is made up of the lay directors of Region II. Maria Kocsis was elected to the Region II Service team!!! Congratulations, Maria!!

At the Region II Business meeting, the lay directors gave reports on their diocese --- a great time for sharing ideas and problem solving. It was a truly wonderful, De Colores experience. The next regional Encounter is in October and you are all invited!

Meet the Assistant Lay Director . . .

Hi, my name is Tina Filone, and I have been blessed with the position of Asst Lay Director for our Cursillo movement.

I made my own Cursillo in April of 1978 at St. Paul’s Center, in Brooklyn, New York.

I lived in the Milford area at the time and became active in our movement along with Felix and Carol Rosado. It was a wonderful time in my life, as I became part of a great community of people.

Unfortunately Cursillo faded away after a few years. It left a mark on my heart and my soul, and I told every one I knew, “If you ever hear about a Cursillo, you must do yourself a great favor and make the weekend.”

Around 1998 I heard about it once again, it was back and I found myself thanking our Lord because I knew that it was all part of our Lord’s plan. I began grouping with great people who have become a part of my life until today. I went on to be on several teams, watching our Cursillo family grow and grow. In 2003 I was assistant to Rectora, Norma Prigge, and then in March of 2004, I myself was Rectora.

I remain an active Cursillo member, watching our men and women candidates transform from loving souls on Thursday to “on fire” for our Lord and His Cursillo family on Sunday. I have been blessed to be a part of this movement and I thank God always.

For the last few years I have been privileged to group at Natalie Kocsis’ home. Both she and Maria opened their hearts and their home to me and everyone every other Monday when we all come together and share with each other our lives, as we answer the questions given to us. We know we are a family….a blessed Cursillo family.

De Colores,
Tina Filone
Upcoming Events!

57th Women’s Cursillo:
September 30 – Oct 3, 2010
Natalie Kocsis, Rectora

51st Men’s Cursillo:
November 11 – 14, 2010
Bob Mayshock, Rector

School of Leaders
June 12, 2010
St. Eulalia’s Church, Elmhurst

July 10, 2010
St Gabriel’s, Clarks Summit

August 21, 2010
St Gabriel’s, Clarks Summit

Ultreyas:
June 13, 2010
St Mary, Help of Christians, Pittston

Go therefore, and
Be Messengers
of JOY!

~ Pope John Paul II

About Our Movement

Cursillo (pronounced cur-see-yo) is Spanish for little course, specifically in the teachings of Jesus. The goal of the Cursillo Movement is to make Christ the prime influence in society. Cursillo is often described as a retreat. While there is quiet time and reflection, there is more discussion among peers than in most retreats.

Perhaps, it is best described as an experience of living in Christian community.

The Cursillo Movement is worldwide. It began in Spain in the mid-1940s and came to the United States in the 1960s. All local dioceses in the US are affiliated with the worldwide Cursillo through the National Cursillo Secretariat in Jarrell, Texas.

The Cursillo weekend in the Diocese of Scranton begins Thursday evening and ends Sunday evening, and is conducted by a team of priests and lay people. Weekends are held at St. Gabriel’s Retreat Center, in Clarks Summit.

Check out our website for other important dates and directions to our events!

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