

Summer 2011 Edition

A Newsletter for the 4th Day of the Scranton, Pennsylvania, Cursillo Community

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Remembering By Maria Appolonario

Our first Remembrance Mass was held on Aug. 7, 2011 at St. Gabriel's. Fr. Phil Sladicka celebrated the mass, along with Deacons Bill Graham and Leo Lynn. It was truly an inspirational Mass, filled with song and the Holy Spirit. Fr. Phil spoke so eloquently about our Cursillista brothers and sisters who have entered eternal life. He encouraged the congregation to evangelize the gospel, in the same way that our loved ones did while they were alive. Although there were tears shed for those who have died, it was a celebration of how they lived "ordinary lives" in "extraordinary ways." A Meditation Hymn,

"I Will Rise" by Chris Tomlin, was played after Communion. Listening to the lyrics and everyone singing along was overwhelming. The song invited us to envision our loved ones saying, "I will rise when He calls my name....No more sorrow...no more pain." What a beautiful tribute to our deceased Cursillistas, who are continually interceding for all of us!

An Ultreya followed after a delicious lunch. Deacon Carmine Mendicino was our guest speaker. Since our theme for the Mass and Ultreya was "Coming Home to Jesus," he shared many

The New Roman Missal:

Coming to a Parish Near You On November 27th

Michele Fenstermaker

It is an exciting time to be an English speaking Roman Catholic! The current translation of the Mass from the original Latin to English, although sufficient in the past, had lost some of the richness that was part of our long standing tradition. We will be blessed by participating in the changes from that translation to the New Translation this year! Take time to read or listen to the changes and experience

how the subtle changes have enriched the meaning of the Liturgical dialogue. Remember that this is God we are Worshiping!

Beginning on the First Sunday of Advent, November 27th, 2011, we will begin using a new translation of the Roman Missal for our Liturgical Celebrations. To better prepare you for the changes, information is available on the USCCB Roman Missal website as well as in presentations offered throughout the Diocese, and on the Scranton Diocese website under the CTV tab presentation "The Roman Missal, Preparing For the 3rd Edition: A Presentation (Continued on Page 5)

experiences he had with the sick and terminally ill. It was very comforting to hear him explain how some individuals told him how they saw angels, family members who have passed away, and even Jesus, before dying. Deacon Carmine assured us that we should not be afraid of death. Rather, we need to embrace the gift of life and live it to the fullest, serving God and others. When we are called home, our heavenly Father awaits us to share in His Kingdom.

As Cursillistas, we believe that we need to support one another on the journey. Our beloved deceased Cursillistas were friends of Christ and brought others to Him. In spite of their own personal crosses, especially illness and suffering, they still fixed their eyes on the Resurrected Christ. Although they faced challenges, they put their hope in Jesus and believed that Easter Sunday followed Good Friday. May all of us have the courage to follow their example.

De Colores!



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"What can help us keep our conversion "progressive" and ongoing?"



National Cursillo News: <u>Ongoing Conversion of the Person</u> ~ Excerpt from the August 2011 National Cursillo Newsletter

The Cursillo Leaders' Manual reminds us that "the basic purpose of the PostCursillo is to renew, accelerate and continue the conversion of each individual, and as a consequence provide a continuous transformation of the environments for which those individuals are responsible, especially their families, neiahborhoods, places of work, associations and other secular situations. Since these are only transformed from within, we must orientate the new Cursillistas toward their own appropriate environments" (LM Ch. 11).

Our initial conversion experienced in the Cursillo Weekend through our three memorable encounters with God, with self and with others should be maintained in our Fourth Day. The Church asserts to all Christians that "devotion to the Sacred Heart ... calls for a fundamental attitude of conversion and reparation, of love and gratitude, apostolic commitment and dedication to Christ and His saving work" (Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy #166, 172).

In the meditation entitled "Going Further with God" in the "Word Among Us" (WAU) March 2011 issue * www.wau.org , the writer elaborates on the meaning of ongoing conversion as follows: "In this initial conversion, we come to know Jesus and begin to experience the blessings of being members of His Body, the Church. Through conversion and baptism, we are brought into the Kingdom of God and know that heaven is opened to us. Yet within each one of us, there reside pockets of behavior that are opposed to God and need to be eliminated or, as St. Paul says, "put to death" (Colossians 3:5). These negative pockets have the power to bind us up, lead to further sin, and separate us from Jesus and one another. Ongoing conversion is the process of pursuing habits that lead to holiness and rooting out those habits that separate us from Jesus".

Means to Reach Deep Conversion

Fr. Frank S. Salmani, in his book "Whom Shall I Send?", advises us that we should make reference to the Cursillo methodology, "What can help us keep our conversion "progressive" and ongoing? Certainly Group Reunion is a tremendous aid. When we come together for our weekly group we come together with people who share the same struggles and frustrations we have. We realize that we are not alone in our religious journey. Having others to meet with also creates a support system to insure that we do not stray

away from the course. Ultreya also serves this purpose. I am always encouraged when I see that someone has come to an Ultreya and had not been around for a long time. This person knows that the Ultreya is available and feels the stirrings of the Spirit to attend. We see in this case especially how important that large Christian community is. Where would we go for encouragement and support without the Ultreya" (Whom Shall I Send? Ch. 16).

In the abovementioned meditation from the Word Among Us, the author cited "Three Ways to Deeper Conversion" as follows: "Ideally, all of our decisions are made in response to the Holy Spirit's guidance and the teachings of Scripture and the Church. In practice, there are times when this decision-making process is simple and easy to adopt. At other times, however, the issues are more complex, and the decisions aren't as black-and-white. We may not be so sure what the right choice is. Then, there are other times when our own self-drive rises up in opposition to the Holy Spirit, and we knowingly act out of our selfishness.

To read more of this inspirational article, please go to: <u>www.natl-</u> <u>cursillo.org/news/nmail0811</u> .pdf

No Coincidences By Pat O'Reilly

Romans 8:28

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

Well, I am on team again for the Fall Women's Cursillo. I am so excited and honored to be a part of this wonderful group of women who work together in Christ, pray together in Christ and even laugh together in Christ. This will be my second time on team with the first being in October, 2010.

When I was chosen to be a team member in 2010, I was thrilled. I couldn't believe that I would be one of the leaders. After our first few meetings, held after the School of Leaders, I got a shock when I realized I would have to give a talk. I was to give the *Christianity in Action* one. Oh my, where do I start? Ok, someone said to just read the guide and the words will come. I read and no words. I read lots and no words. I thought the Holy Spirit had deserted me – oh no, not now. Where are all these glorious ideas I had when I was sitting at my table back in 2007 when I made my weekend? I made many attempts and just couldn't get past the first page. During this time, my husband Tony and I were handling the World Palanca for the Diocese of Scranton. I would collect all the prayers that our Cursillistas would be dedicating for upcoming weekends all across the globe. One week, I noticed that I was sending one to Ireland. I am first generation Irish and my husband was actually born there. I thought that is was great that even in Ireland there were Cursillos. That week, when all the palanca was sent out, I thought I would just send a quick email to Ireland's Coordinator, Anne Farrelly. I didn't know Anne, but I hoped to maybe get some information about Cursillos in Ireland for my relatives there. Ann was very helpful and emailed me back with cursillo information for Ireland.

So now back to my talk that wasn't going anywhere. Anne and I started to email each other back and forth a few times mostly pertaining to Ireland and Cursillo in Ireland. I enjoyed our emails. In one, I told her that I was on team now and was giving the *Christianity in Action* talk. I explained to her that I was having difficulty putting my thoughts together. Much to my surprise, Anne wrote



"It is impossible for spirituality to be as authentic and effective as it should be if you wish you were someone else, lived somewhere else, or had something else.

You must really find a way to be where you are.

To bloom where you are planted enables you to truly **be**.

To be what?

To be Christ—to be his love, patience, generosity, and all that he is. True spirituality is to be lived, not imagined!"

Living Cursillo By Kay Price

Cursillo and evangelization go hand in hand. We live our faith fully, share it freely with others and in so doing we transform our environment. We are servant leaders, and we are people who put God in all we do. One thing we do is to gather together in groupings in order to discuss our **piety** (our prayer life), study, (getting to know more about our God and our Church) and action (how are we putting God in our everyday life). The closer we come to God through our prayers and studies the more we can help but put God in all our environments.

It is true that people will know we are Christians by our love, our love of God. Cursillo also, has Ultreyas, which are groupings of men and women who, through communication and communion, are strengthened and renewed on their journey. They pray together in a larger community of men and women, and they hear a Christian witness who stirs up in the baptized person, a desire to follow and imitate Jesus Christ, by their witness of promoting the beatitudes, proclaiming and living the gospel. Literally, we have witnesses who transform not only their environments but others of the cursillo movement to put their faith into action. Evangelization is telling the world Jesus is Lord!

We are missionaries who through friendship, Be a Friend (pray to God about your friend), Make a friend, and Bring a friend to Christ.

We live and share what is fundamental for being Christian. We experience ongoing conversion, and we are renewed and (Continued Next Page)

strengthened by our groupings. We are committed to Jesus Christ, our teacher and our Lord, and to the gospel message and to others in charity and justice.

Our School of Leaders (SOL) is about evangelization. It is a school of holiness, of prayer, of nurturing the personal relationships of our members with God. Our knowledge of God and his saving ways are deepened. SOL encourages and empowers us to be evangelizers at home, school, in the workplace, our neighborhood, market places and places of leisure. We are leaders in our environments and we strive to promote consciousness that we are all part of a global community and our actions often have broader implications then just our community. We do palanca, for our world community, and we are not alone---the Spirit of the living God is guiding us on our journey.

Save the Dates! Cursillo Fun, FUN and MORE FUN!

Please save the following dates so you can join your fellow Cursillistas and friends for some laughter, fun and dancing. Ecclesiastes 3:1 states, There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens...4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance...

Let's make some time to laugh and dance!

Please join your fellow Cursillistas and family and friends at Saint Mary's Auditorium in Avoca for our first Cursillo <u>Halloween</u> <u>Party</u>. The party will be held on Saturday, October 29, 2011 at 7:00 PM. Costumes are strongly urged, but are optional. Snacks will be provided. There will be a live band for dancing. There will be fun and games and lots of laughter. The party will be a 'bring your own bottle' event. The Suggested Donation at the door will be \$12.50 per person.

Please save this second date for fun and to help raise some much needed funds for our beloved Cursillo. On Saturday, February 18, 2012, Cursillo will be hosting its second annual Carnival "Mardi Gras" fund raiser. Thanks to Father Phil's generosity, the fund raiser will be held again this year at St. Mary's auditorium in Avoca at 7:00 PM. There wssill be a live band, dancing, basket raffles, 50/50 chances and plenty of food. This event will also require you to bring your own bottle. Admission will be \$30 per person.

Reservations will be accepted up to February 1, 2012.

Hope you and your family and friends can join us along with our fellow Cursillistas on both days of fun!

De Colores, In Christ's Divine Peace, Joe and Marjorie Adcroft



No Coincidences continued from page three

back and said that she had just given that same talk the week before and said she would send me a copy. What a coincidence? I thought how caring of her and how giving of her. The next day I received her email with her talk attached. I couldn't believe that she would do this for me. I knew that day that I was going to finish my talk and that was it! I printed out Ann's talk and I started to read it....I read only the first page and something interrupted me finishing. An hour later, I went back on the computer, forgot about finishing Anne's talk, and an hour or so later I was finished my talk and was pretty happy with it. I sat back and realized after so many attempts, it took me getting Ann's draft and

only reading the first page to know that the Holy Spirit had been sent and filled me with words. I also knew that it wasn't a coincidence at all that Ann and I had the same talk. It was the Spirit working. I did read Anne's talk in full later. I felt from that day on that I knew Ann and that Ann was another piece in my purpose and my life as a Cursillista.

When I was finished, I sent Anne my talk. She said that it was a good talk and that I was a witness for Christ and she thanked me for lifting her day. She thanked me! Oh my, I think the thanks doesn't go to me or even to Anne, it goes to the Holy Spirit for filling us with the words and for allowing us to meet under these wonderful circumstances.

Proverbs 22:11 Whoever loves a pure heart and gracious speech will have the king as a friend

NOTE: (Anne lives in Belfast, Northern Ireland and works as a Senior Consultant in the Human Resource field.

I am retired, after working as a <u>Human Resource</u> Administrator in NYC...*this is* a coincidence!)



Mother Teresa





Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, you allowed the thirsting love of Jesus on the Cross to become a living flame within you, and so became the light of His love to all.

Obtain from Jesus, (Mention your request)

Teach me to allow Jesus to penetrate and possess my whole being so completely, that my life, too, may radiate His light and love to others.

Amen.

The New Roman Missal continued from page one

by Rev. Robert J. Simon".

"Pope John Paul II announced a revised version of the Missale Romanum during the Jubilee Year 2000. Among other things, the revised edition of the Missale Romanum contains prayers for the observances of recently canonized saints, additional prefaces for the Eucharistic Prayers, additional Votive Masses and Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions, and some updated and revised rubrics (instructions) for the celebration of the Mass. The English translation of the Roman Missal will also include updated translations of existing prayers, including some of the well-known responses and acclamations of the people.

The entire Church in the United States has been blessed with this opportunity to deepen its understanding of the Sacred Liturgy, and to appreciate its meaning and importance in our lives. Parishes should now be in the planning process for the implementation, with a goal toward executing that plan in the coming months. The parish's leadership and various sectors of the parish community should be catechized to receive the new translation. Musicians and parishioners alike should soon be learning the various new and revised musical settings of the Order of Mass." From the USCCB website homepage

As you can see, this change has been a long time in the works and as with everything of our Catholic Faith, all details are scrutinized to assure they remain faithful to our long standing traditions.

As leaders of our Catholic Communities, it is our

obligation to learn more about the changes, the reasons for the changes and be able to discuss them with our fellow Catholics. Change always brings with it a certain amount of anxiety, a fear of the unknown. It is our responsibility as leaders to assist others and our pastors with the task of lessening the fear of the unknown by understanding the changes. The only way we can be prepared for this is to gain the knowledge of the "what and why". Part of our Study over the next few months must include gaining this knowledge.

After following the proposed changes for the past 4 or 5 years, I for one am excited about the new translation! I have exposed myself to liturgies in various languages and other Catholic faiths and can see how we will be moving back closer to the original liturgical cadences. The language is an elevated language, more suited for Worship than we currently have and I pray that it will focus the prayer life of more people sitting in the pews. Granted, I am not looking forward to stumbling over some of the responses that have become part of me since early childhood, but becoming humbled is never a bad thing!

I would offer a few examples below of rewording that seem insignificant at first, but after reflection, really offer a whole new meaning to the statement. After reflection on these, I invite you to do the same on all the changes. Remember that we are human and there will always be parts that seem difficult to accept. I pray this will be only a few of the changed words and that you will be able to accept it as the best efforts of man guided by the Holy Spirit and

move on.

From the Eucharistic Prayer:

"Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which will be given up for you." Has been changed to; "Take this, all of you, and eat **of** it: **for** this is my Body which will be given up for you." The additions of the word "of" and the word "for" have changed the intensity of the statement.

"Take this, all of you, and drink from it: this is the **cup** of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me." Has been changed to; "Take this, all of you, and drink from it: for this is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me." The changes from "everlasting" to "eternal" and "shed" to "poured out" have really changed the intensity of the statements.

New Missal Musical Settings for Parish Use: Coming to a Parish near you as early as September! From the USCCB website.

The musical settings of the chants of the acclamations contained in the Roman Missal, Third Edition, are available as free downloads on the USCCB New Missal website: www.usccb.org

Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, USCCB President, has authorized Diocesan Bishops to permit the gradual implementation of various musical settings of the Order of Mass from the Roman Missal, Third Edition, effective September 2011.

"For this is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me"



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Go therefore, and

~ Pope John Paul II

Be Messengers

of JOY!

<u>60th Women's Cursillo</u>: March 22 - 25, 2012 Cindy Hogan, Rectora

Terry Cochran, Rector

59th Women's Cursillo:

Sept 29 - Oct 2, 2011

Carol Proulx, Rectora

53rd Men's Cursillo:

October 6 - 9, 2011

<u>54th Men's Cursillo</u>: April 19 – 22, 2012 Tony O'Reilly, Rector

School of Leaders

September 24, 2011 St Eulalia's, Elmhurst

October 22, 2011 St Mary's, Avoca

About Our Movement

Upcoming Events !

Cursillo (pronounced cur-seeyo) 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 November 12, 2011 St Mary's, Avoca

<u>Ultreyas</u>:

Sept 11, 2011, 3:00 - 5:00 St Mary's, Avoca

Oct 30, 2011, 2:00 - 4:00 St Vincent, Dingman's

Nov 20, 2011, 2:00 - 4:00 St John the Evangelist, Pittston*

National Cursillo Secretariat in Dallas, 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.

Join Together With Your Brothers & Sisters From All Over The Country!

- ✓ Regional Encounter, Oct 14-16, Vineland, NJ
- ✓ Region 2 Spring Encounter, April 27-29, Vineland, NJ
- ✓ National Encounter, Pittsburgh, PA July 2012

Contact Donna V for Info

We're on the Web! See us at: ScrantonCursillo.homestead. com SCRANTON CURSILLO ATTN: DONNA VALENTI 106 EXETER AVENUE WEST PITTSTON, PA 18643-2440

CURSILLISTA NAME

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