

Green Bay Diocese Cursillo Newsletter

July, 2007



Today's Lesson: Don't Laugh Last! ***Spiritual Director's Comments***

Here are some of Murphy's Lesser-known Laws...

1. Light travels faster than sound. That's why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. He who laughs last thinks slowest.
3. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
4. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
5. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of winning something, there's a 90% chance you won't.
6. The things that come to those who wait will be the things left by those who got there first.
7. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he'll sit in a boat all day drinking beer.
8. The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.
9. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
10. When you go to court, you're putting yourself in the hands of twelve people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

I am sure you could add some of your own to this list, maybe some that are faith-related, such as, "The less people go to church the more demanding they are when they knock on the door for a wedding or funeral." or "The bigger the SUV, the less likely its driver will be on time with a tuition payment." Ah, yes, the challenges of June—ten weddings and the close of the fiscal year. Nevertheless, no matter how many the challenges, the rewards of summer are a gazillion times more abundant.

Summer is that time when the pace slows. That doesn't mean our faith gets no attention; it actually means we can focus on it more fully because there are fewer meetings, scheduling conflicts, or church activities (unless you're in charge of your parish picnic). For us Cursillistas, that should mean it's more likely we'll show up for an Ultreya or a small-

group reunion. Let's do that—spend more time to pray and share with friends and co-disciples. May your days be filled with peace and warmth!

DeColores, *Fr. Dave Pleier*



Newsletter Costs

The cost of the last Newsletter mailing was \$899.03, which was done just prior to the most recent postal price increase. Green Bay Cursillo does 6 mailings per year and that relates to an annual cost of about **\$5400.00**. Six publications are necessary in order to share information and spread the word about upcoming weekends.

The Secretariat is addressing this cost and has come up with some ways to control the cost:

- 1 We can utilize modern technology – we are experimenting with publishing the newsletter, beginning with this issue, on the website: www.cursillo.org/Greenbay you could request to join the "Do Not Mail" list, the Master List would then be coded to "do not mail" and we would save the cost of postage. In order to join the status, please notify the newsletter coordinator, Julie Huss, at ajatjhuss@new.rr.com or by mail at P.O. Box 184, Little Chute WI 54140. The Cursillista will be notified via e-mail when a newsletter is posted on the website. In order to protect their privacy, candidates will not be listed in the website newsletter; this list will be available via a separate e-mail.
- 2 Anyone receiving duplicate issues, unwanted issues, etc should also notify Julie Huss to have the situation corrected.

With the help of all Cursillistas, we are hopeful that we can greatly reduce this cost.





***“The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same!”
Lay Director’s Comments***

At my most recent Group Reunion, one of our group shared his Group Reunion Card that he received when he lived his Cursillo weekend in the 1970’s. Remarkably it is no different from the card that we are using today. But there would be no reason for it to be any different.

The dynamics of Cursillo are the same as they were 42 years ago when Cursillo came to Green Bay, 50 years ago when Cursillo came to the United States or in the 1940’s when Cursillo began in Spain. In fact, the dynamics of Cursillo are firmly embedded in Scripture most notably in the Acts of the Apostles and the letters to the early Christians.

As Cursillistas we need to focus our lives beyond the Experience of the weekend into our living our Cursillo in our 4th day.

Through regular Group Reunions we can hold ourselves accountable to acts of Piety, which lead to a holy life, our acts of Study which helps us to grow in knowledge of the Word and our acts of Action which lead to a life of evangelization to a full life with God.

At the School of Leaders we study the dynamics of Cursillo and how they develop for the candidates throughout the weekend.

Cursillo has been a gift to us and we need to follow the tradition on which Cursillo has been founded.

The Cursillo movement in Green Bay is committed to follow this tradition.

Ultreya (Go Forth)

Bob Varick, Lay Director



Moment Close to Christ

I made my Cursillo 5 years ago in April. (#187) The more active I am in my "Fourth Day", the more I realize, there is almost never a moment when I am not aware of Christ being present in every single situation where people are involved.

For example, when I read the prayer requests on our "prayer chain", I am humbled by people sharing their requests from the heart. I am blessed and inspired by the dedication and love of my Godly "brother in Christ" who puts these requests out so diligently. I am also privileged to be an instrument of prayer and love in this powerful ministry. Another example is when I hear a witness talk and Bible reflection at an Ultreya. These messages are so up close and personal; I swear I

can feel the gentle breeze of the Holy Spirit soaring around the room. Again, I am humbled by their personal faith. I am blessed by the courage and trust it takes to share their story. The privilege of being able to hold them up in prayer as I listen with my ears and my heart helps me grow closer to Christ through His people.

I would like to encourage all Cursillistas to become active and involved in as many "Fourth Day" encounters as possible. Small group reunion and Ultreya have helped me to see the face of Christ in people and places I would never have imagined. I know it can do the same for you. "Christ needs YOU", and we need each other"! I praise and thank our heavenly Father daily, for giving us the "GIFT" of Christ in our lives. He is the only "way" to the Father. He is the bright "light" in this sometimes dark world. He is the real "truth" that has set us FREE. What an awesome GIFT!

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Scheibe



School’s Out for Summer

Thanks to all those who participated in the School of Leaders over the past ten months. Now that summer is here, we’re taking a break and will reconvene in September. Also, thanks to all of you who completed the feedback survey. Over 170 Cursillistas provided insights on how we can continue to improve the School of Leaders. Overall, for those of you who have attended a School of Leaders session, 82% rated the experience as “very good” or “great”. Almost 10% of those who responded “didn’t know about it”, which tells us we need to do a better job of getting the word out. The top two reasons for not attending were “too busy” (45%), and “dates/times don’t work” (19%). Many respondents appreciate having two options (Kaukauna & Green Bay), and several Cursillistas would like us to consider moving up the start time.

Based on this feedback, we plan to make a few changes. First, we decided to move up the start time from 7:30 PM to 7:00 PM. Sessions are generally 90 minutes long, so they will be ending at 8:30. Secondly, we will be moving the location of the School of Leaders in the Fox Valley from Kaukauna to St. Bernard’s in Appleton. We’re hoping that this move will make the School of Leaders more accessible to Cursillistas in the Oshkosh area while retaining those who already attend from throughout the Fox Cities. If you have other ideas, please pass them along. Our goal is to continue improving the School of Leaders to strengthen the Cursillo movement in the Green Bay Diocese.

As a reminder, all Cursillistas are encouraged to participate in attending the School of Leaders to enrich their Fourth Day experience. The School of Leaders is not a school to train speakers for the weekend, but rather an opportunity to further develop each of us into Catholic Christian leaders in our communities. So enjoy the summer and as you're relaxing, consider making time to join us in September when school is back in session!

Mark Mullins, Leaders School Committee



Spanish Cursillo Update

A few years ago a remark was made at a Secretariat meeting: *"The Spanish community has given us this wonderful gift of Cursillo and we need to share it back."* After a year of regular meetings, the Spanish Community with the support of the English Secretariat has plans to hold weekends for both men and women this coming fall. Dates are:

Men's Spanish #205 – August 31 – Sept 3, 2007 at St. Philip in Green Bay

Women's Spanish #207 – October 4 – 7, 2007.
St. Philip in Green Bay

The weekends will be hosted by a team from Milwaukee, hopefully with some help from Green Bay Cursillistas.

You will notice that the weekends are numbered along with the English weekends. The Spanish Community is setting up a Spanish Secretariat as directed by Cursillo National but we consider ourselves ONE CURSILLO in the diocese of Green Bay.

Spanish Ultreyas are held every second Sunday of each month at St. Willebrord in Green Bay from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. Please spread the word about the weekends. You may use the English application and any Cursillista, Spanish or English may Sponsor a Candidate. We will need people to help on these weekends. An appeal for help will be sent out on the Cursillo prayer chain as the dates get near but please you can contact Bob Varick, 920-733-0899 – bvarick@new.rr.com ahead of time with your willingness to be of service.



Guidelines for Ultreya Witness Talks

With an ever increasing percentage of our Green Bay Diocese Cursillistas attending Ultreyas, more and more of us are having opportunities to share a Witness Talk. The first and best advice, when called upon, is to speak from your heart. Here are some other suggestions:

Good Christian witness talks are not what we are looking for. These can be found in any Christian publication. A good "Cursillo" witness is what we need. Do not witness to the greatness of the Cursillo organization or to the excellent 3-day weekend that you experienced. We have all been there. We are not trying to sell the Cursillo. We are trying to learn from each other about how we use the Cursillo method to bring our families, co-workers, and friends closer to Christ. Illustrate your point using personal examples of the application of the Cursillo method.

Keep it simple, like a gospel. Your witness should be a maximum of 15 minutes. Talk about something specific. Don't try to persuade or convince. An outline may help to keep you on track.

The witness talk should answer some of the following questions:

- How is using the tools of Cursillo making a difference in your fourth day? If they are not, explain why.
- How is the method changing you?
- How has the method allowed you and your group to bring a friend to Christ?
- How are you living out your commitment to a life of prayer and metanoia in your daily life?
- What has kept you active in Cursillo?
- What continues to draw you back?
- How are you living your 4th day? Give real life examples.
- Do others see you differently since Cursillo? How have you changed?
- How have you made an impact in your community since Cursillo?
- How close have you come to Christ in your 4th day? How is your personal journey going?
- How is Cursillo changing your environment?
- If people didn't know you, would they know you are a Christian by your action? How do we maintain those actions, continuing to bring joy to ourselves and others?
- Are you the type of person you want to be? If not, what needs to be changed?
- What is not working and what effort have you put forth to correct your failure?

Be sure to wrap up by turning it back to your audience with something to ponder in their own 4th day. Oh, and by the way... Thanks for saying YES!

Important Notice! - Mark Your Calendars!

Here are the dates for the fall Cursillos:

Men's Spanish Cursillo #205

August 31 – September 3, 2007

St. Philip, Green Bay

Men's English Cursillo #206

September 27-30, 2007

St. John - Menasha

Women's Spanish Cursillo #207

October 4 - 7, 2007

St. Philip, Green Bay

Women's English Cursillo #208

October 25-28, 2007

Holy Cross - Kaukauna