

Green Bay Diocese Cursillo Newsletter

September, 2009



“What Should I Do Now?” Spiritual Director’s Comments

There was a Scottish painter named Smokey MacGregor who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further. As it happened, he got away with this for some time, but eventually the Baptist Church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of one of their biggest buildings. Smokey put in a bid and, because his price was low, he got the job. So, he set about erecting the scaffolding and setting up the planks and buying the paint and, yes, thinning it down with turpentine.

Well, Smokey was up on the scaffolding painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened, and the rain poured down washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Smokey clear off the scaffold only to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by telltale puddles of thinned and useless paint. Smokey was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got down on his knees and cried, “Oh God, forgive me. What should I do now?” And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke, “Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!”

Smokey knew it was a judgment from the Almighty. For so many of us, Cursillo was a moment of judgment, not in the sense of confronting our sins (although reconciliation often plays a huge role in the weekend experience), but in the even larger sense of a judgment on our lives up to that point and where we want to go from there. Our Fourth Day is the result of how that judgment has affected our lives and, as we prepare to welcome more Cursillistas into the Cursillo community, we spend time in prayer and sacrifice (Palanca), since that is one way in which our Cursillo living differs from our pre-Cursillo living.

We make judgments all the time and, as we have come to appreciate, so does our God. The only difference is God’s judgments are always imbued with mercy and love, while ours are often filled with envy and arrogance. Often I judge others based on how they differ from me, or irritate me, or threaten me. God judges us based on how his infinite love can

mold us and shape us, not unlike Jeremiah’s vision of God working at the potter’s wheel (Jer. 18). Whenever there is even the slightest flaw, God reworks us into the image and likeness of God in which we have been created. Yes, God’s judgments are not to be feared; they are to be embraced, for they always result in our growth in holiness

and grace (unless, of course, we choose to not allow God to fashion and recreate us, but then it is ourselves we should fear and not the mercy of God).

As we prepare to celebrate another Cursillo, we pray for the team and candidates and as we recognize the moment of grace it is for all of them, we open ourselves to the moment of grace it is for all of us as well. Let us be open to the judgment of the Almighty; let us rejoice in his overwhelming love and grace; let us repaint and thin no more as our Palanca for the upcoming Cursillo.

DeColores, Fr. Dave Pleier



“A Changing of the Guard” Lay Director’s Comments

The “changing of the guard” is the process involving a new guard exchanging duty with the old guard. Perhaps you have been fortunate enough to have witnessed this rather impressive ceremony as a Great Britain tourist at Buckingham Palace or while touring Arlington National Cemetery right here in the USA.

The Green Bay Cursillo Secretariat (although rather unceremoniously) experienced its own “changing of the guard” earlier this summer. After prayer at the May meeting, the names of our new Assistant Lay Director and our new Executive Secretary were drawn from a pool of Cursillistas who had interest in serving on the Secretariat. The Assistant Lay Director candidate submits his or her name knowing that the total commitment is that of four years; two as the Assistant and two as Lay Director. I am delighted to announce that Pat Mongin was selected as our new Assistant Lay Director. Pat is a member of St. Bernard Parish-Green Bay and has been involved in the Cursillo Movement serving on teams and actively organizing and overseeing the Green Bay Ultreyas.

Joining our Secretariat as our Executive Secretary, which is a two-year term, is Kay Weins. Kay is a member of Holy Cross Parish-Kaukauna, and she too has been active in the Movement serving on team and attending Leader’s School. God has truly blessed us in steering these two very talented cursillistas to serve in their new positions on the Secretariat. Welcome Pat and Kay! Please keep our newly-elected members and the entire Secretariat in your prayers as we strive to serve as “guards” of the Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Green Bay.

Please See “Lay Director” on Page 2

“Lay Director Comments” (from Page 1)

I also want to take this opportunity to extend a giant “Thank You” to Bob Varick who completed his term as Lay Director in May. In addition to carrying out his Lay Director responsibilities, Bob was (and still is) the “Cursillo Champion” to the Green Bay Diocesan Spanish community working tirelessly to help them to organize for the Spanish-speaking Cursillos (men’s & women’s) held earlier this year. God Bless You, Bob, for all you have done and still continue to do for the Cursillo Movement.

Secretariat meetings are held monthly (with the exception of July & Dec.) on the second Tuesday of the month at St. Nicholas Parish-Freedom. Our meetings begin at 7:30 pm., and you are welcome to attend. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any of the Secretariat members. A complete listing of Secretariat names and contact information can be found on our website, <http://www.cursillo.org/Greenbay/>.

DeColores!! Bobbi Hoff



No Leaders, No Cursillo Movement

According to the Leader’s Manual, it is not possible “to have an authentic and truly effective Cursillo Movement unless it is served by a group of leaders who exemplify everything the Movement is supposed to “be”

Cursillo has touched many lives and to keep the movement alive and growing it’s essential that we have a vibrant and well-attended School of Leaders.

Several weeks ago we announced via Cursillo email, that we’ve made some exciting changes to the School of Leaders. Father Dave Pleier kicked off the new school year with the topic, “The role of the Spiritual director - - it’s all about the Spirit!”

Our new meeting place is **St. Nicholas School in Freedom, and we meet every second Tuesday at 6:30 pm.** The Cursillo Secretariat meets later that evening and members of the Secretariat will be joining us as part of this year’s agenda.

Each of the School of Leaders sessions will include three segments. After an opening prayer, we’ll start by discussing a chapter from Essentials of the Faith – A guide to the Catechism for Adults by Fr. Alfred McBride. (Books will be available for a \$10 donation).

Next we’ll focus on a specific function of the Secretariat, such as 4th day, team formation, palanca, locations, Cursillo weekend logistics, etc. Members of the Secretariat who are responsible for those areas will provide an overview and answer any questions. Each School of

Leaders session will close with a group reunion and a prayer.

Please prayerfully consider participating in the School of Leaders. Tuition is free and the fellowship is hard to beat. The Cursillo Movement is counting on you!

Respectfully, Mark Mullins



“A Personal Palanca”

As we, the members of the Cursillo community in the Diocese of Green Bay, begin our 4th Day it sometimes is a bewildering experience. Our journey from the closing can take many turns and forks in the road. My own personal journey started in New Holstein on a very warm, scratch that, hot August Sunday in 1984. Part of my thoughts from that time brings back the admiration and awe I had of the entire experience. But the realization that so many people were praying for me during the weekend was humbling indeed. With the Spirit’s touch I was blessed to be on many teams since that time and able to explain many aspects of the movement during Rollos that I humbly gave.

Over six years ago I was given the opportunity to help further my activity within the community by becoming the Palanca Chair and a member of the Secretariat. The journey since that time has been an awesome ride. The position requires adding our weekends to the National Cursillo website for all weekends around the world. In addition after my e mail is added to the site I begin receiving Palanca from around the world up to the date of our weekend. I open the e mails and print out the Palanca. After collecting these I take them to the weekend site on Thursday to have the proctors put them on the walls outside the meeting room after the Palanca Rollo. As many of you have noticed I also send a reminder the beginning of each month to pray worldwide weekends as well as our own. Comments I have received over these years are all so very thankful for our prayers. The power of the Spirit in the world is truly ‘awesome’.

Now, I humbly say farewell and welcome to the chair a gentleman Greg McLean. Greg has graciously agreed to come on board and take the Palanca program and make it his own. I pray that Greg will come to know the awesome feeling of the Spirit that is truly worldwide. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to help in any way possible. God Bless you all.

Respectfully Submitted, Bob Denor



Important Dates

**Women’s Fall Cursillo - Oct 29-Nov 1-
Most Precious Blood in New London
Day of Enrichment - January 30th, 2010 at
St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Green Bay**

**Men's Cursillo #213 – September 24, 25, 26, & 27, 2009
St. John's - Menasha**

TEAM

DAY CHAIRPERSONS

Rector: **Jim Newhouse**
788-1921

Vice Rector: **Tom Gritton**
729-1368

Spiritual Director: **Fr. Ted Hendricks**
984-3319

Asst. Spiritual Director **Den. Gib Schmidt**
733-4882

Proctors: **Jim Olszewski** (Kitchen) 725-0464
Ron Sanderfoot 788-3135

Al Huss 716.3308
Dave Bonham 469-5696

Set Up: **Vic Vosters**
Wed – 7:30PM 734-1249

Thursday Night: **Lori Gritton**
729-1368

Friday: **Julie Huss/Joan VanEperen**
788-8847 788-6417
Breakfast 7:45
Lunch 12:30
Dinner 6:00

Saturday: **Craig Sachs**
722-1394
Breakfast 7:00
Agape 1:30
Dinner 6:15

Sunday: Cindy VanAsten/Larry Westenberg
619-1899 788-9283
Breakfast 8:30
Lunch 12:00
Dinner 5:30

Palanca Address: Attn: Cursillo #213 Palanca
P.O. Box 184
Little Chute, WI 54140
***(See Story on Page 4)**

Serenade: 6:00 PM - Look For Signs

Clean Up: 4:00
Vic Vosters
734-1249

Emergency Phones: 920-585-9620

Directions: From Green Bay: take Hwy 41 S to Hwy 441 S, take Appleton Rd (Hwy 47) exit, turn left, go 2 miles, take Left at DePere St
From Oshkosh: take Hwy 41 N, take exit 134, merge onto US10/441N, take Racine St exit, keep right at fork, merge onto Racine St,
turn left at 5th street, go two blocks to church at corner of 5th and DePere St.



For more information on Cursillo and the Green Bay Diocese Movement go to: www.cursillo.org/Greenbay
To See an Updated List of Candidates Right Up to Cursillo E-Mail Bob Varick @ bvarick@new.rr.com
or Phone: 920-733-0899

NOTE: The Secretariat has Determined that 12 Candidates are required to hold a Cursillo

Important Palanca Information!

In an effort to streamline Palanca mailing we will be trying something new. All Palanca for future Cursillos will be sent to the Cursillo post office box and will then be brought to the Cursillo location to be distributed to the candidates. In the past Palanca has been mailed to the parish office of the church where the Cursillo is being held. This has been a good system except that many parish offices close early on Fridays, or sometimes letters have been delivered to the school office instead of the parish office, resulting in some Palanca not being delivered. Palanca is truly the act, not the letter, but it is nice for the candidates to actually receive the letter that someone took the time to write. So for the fall Cursillos, please send your Palanca to the Cursillo post office box, or if you like, Palanca can also be dropped off at the mail box on the Cursillo trailer.

Our Post Office Box is:

**Cursillos in Christianity
P.O. Box 184
Little Chute, WI 54140**