



Green Bay Diocese Cursillo Newsletter

April 2016 – Women’s

Getting ‘In Shape’

Spiritual Director’s Comments

I decided to change calling the bathroom the “John” and renamed it the “Jim.” I feel much better saying I went to the Jim this morning. Cursillo closings often include comments about the fun of sleeping in the gym. Thus, I suppose one could say going on a cursillo is like going to the gym.

That is not really that far from reality, for the three-day experience is like getting one’s soul in shape; the Fourth Day is staying in shape. Twenty-six guys recently got their souls in shape; the overwhelming number of people doing palanca both helped that transformation occur and kept those who were praying and sacrificing remain spiritually toned and fit.

Now we have a chance to commit to that same workout as a group of women, called by God, enter the Cursillo experience. May we do everything we can to ensure that the Spirit has some help in changing lives and inspiring greatness! Our palanca will touch hearts once again. What a graced way to not only keep the faith, but spread it!

De Colores,

Fr. Dave

The Power of Group Reunion

Lay Director’s Comments

As I look outside, I have to remind myself that, according to the calendar, it is spring. So, why does that white, four-letter word keep making appearances, and, why is it that the days that the sun shines so beautifully, teasing me from inside my house, I go outside, only to

be hit with “feels like” temperatures still hovering in the 30’s?

Sometimes, my faith life is much like our current weather. Coming off of Holy Week, I felt so alive inside! Jesus died for my sins and conquered death! Alleluia! I am going to focus more on my relationship with Him, I’m going to pray and fast more-Jesus suffered so much for me, there’s nothing I won’t do for him. The SON is shining in my heart, and I feel so warm inside... and then I face my first day back to work after Easter Sunday. I come home, prepare dinner, watch an episode or two of “Everybody Loves Raymond”, and then pick up my iPad. I’m tired, and Candy Crush is calling my name. My bible (that I promised I would follow Matthew Kelly’s advice and start reading 15 a day of the Gospels), sits on my night stand, also calling my name, but I ignore it. Monday is my group reunion night. So, after losing all my lives in Candy Crush, and going through my 5 lives of Soda Crush and using 5 more given by friends, I take my lazy self to my group reunion. I actually belong to two group reunions (I need all the help I can get), both of which are made up of wonderful women who mean a lot to me, but, I’ve been with my original group since right after living my Cursillo 12 years ago (there are 3 of us, all from the same table in my group)! If you would meet the ladies in my original group reunion individually, you would probably wonder how we get along. Different ages, different stages of life, different interests, yet, we all have the most important thing in common-our love of Jesus Christ, and our desire to see each other grow closer to Him. We are much like a family-loving each other, supporting each other, not always seeing eye to eye, but always respecting each

other's differences, and most importantly, we keep each other accountable. I know if I go too many weeks saying "I still need to get to confession", someone will likely call me out on it, and I am more than likely going to hear about all the places that offer reconciliation at different times. This week, as we shared, I openly "confessed" that I felt like I was doing the same old routine in regards to my piety and study, and that I was feeling I needed to change things up. As the next person shared, (what is shared in Group Reunion is always confidential, but I am sharing the following with permission) she told of how she was taking on Matthew Kelly's challenge to read 15 minutes per day of the Gospels (this suggestion/challenge was made in Matthew Kelly's book-Rediscover Jesus), and was enjoying it so much that she didn't think she could start her day without it anymore! DEAR JESUS, THANKS FOR THE 2X4 TO THE HEAD! It was Easter in my heart, with all the warmth of the "Son", but my actions were like the weather. Cold, dreary and lifeless. I am not sure where I'd be in my faith journey, without my group reunion, well, I'm married to a Deacon, so I probably couldn't stray too far but, my group reunion breathes life into me when I feel lifeless, and, I hope I do the same for them.

If you are reading this and are not part of a Group Reunion, I highly suggest seeking one out. Attend an Ultreya. Seek out other Cursillistas at closings. Surround yourself with people who are strong in their Catholic faith and have a yearning to grow closer to Christ. It will be the best thing you ever do for yourself. And, in case you're wondering, I read my 15 minutes today, and, as always, it was just what I needed to hear!

Have a great 4th day!

Joan VanEperen

Swans & Awareness of Christ

Assistant Spiritual Director Comments

I can remember when I was younger that it was special to hear that first far-off note that caught my ear. I would then listen more intently and fixated on the sound as it continued to build into a chorus. With eyes drawn upward now they suddenly materialized – the

first flock of spring geese! It always warmed my spirits to know that here were birds that literally staked their lives on the promise that spring was here.

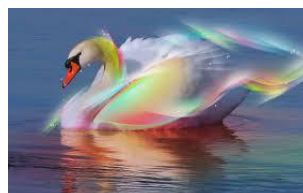
Now, with growing populations and winters where there is still some open water to be had, at least some geese now stay all winter. I live just west of Green Bay and as soon as we had those first warmer days – when you knew that there was still a lot of winter left - the geese from the Bay already could be heard and seen as they came to the neighboring farms fields in search of some waste grain. It has become too easy to hear and see geese that they no longer capture my attention.

But now I have discovered tundra swans. I remember reading about them years ago but it has been only the last 15 years or so that I began to see them. Last year the town converted the farm field adjacent to my property into a wetland area. This spring we heard swans coming in one morning while it was still dark. As soon as it got light enough to see my wife and I went over to where we could see the pond that was freshly free of ice, and there they were – about 500 tundra swans.

Here again is something to catch the eye and ear and the heart. The geese will be here all year but the swans only stay for a week or so as they rest and wait patiently for spring to spread northward.

Life is always wonderful and special. But sometimes if we let it, it can become routine and "usual". I love the fact that I know my fourth day group is going to challenge me each week to recall when I was most aware of Christ's presence. He is always there even in the day-to-day routine of life. So much so that many times we look right past Him. Cursillo is my "swan". It helps me to be more aware of Christ, to be surprised by Him, to be amazed by His desire to be with me and to feel truly blessed and loved.

Deacon Dan Wagnitz



Women's Cursillo #240 April 21-24, 2016 Sacred Heart Parish, Appleton

TEAM

Rector: Diane Pichette
920-655-2605

Vice Rector: Kay Weins
920-475-6460

Spiritual Director: Fr. Ted Hendricks
920-427-1896

Asst. Spiritual Director: Dcn Dave DeYoung
920-606-1635

Proctors: Jenn Jensen 920-279-5982
Carol Miller 920-475-5372
Dianne Diedrich 920-380-9335
(kitchen) Kristin Russell 314-401-3297
(music) Sherry Zwicky 920-810-3046

Palanca Address: Attn: Cursillo #240 Palanca
PO Box 184
Little Chute, WI 54140

Serenade: 6:00 PM – Look for Signs

DAY CHAIRPERSONS

Set Up: Vic Vosters/Gino Frassetto
Wed. April 20th 7:00pm 734-1249/505-0158

Thursday Night: Kris Gerhardt
920-739-7962

Friday: Laurie Overesch
920-882-0553
Breakfast 7:45
Lunch 12:30
Supper 6:00

Saturday: Alicia Salinas
920-538-0757
Breakfast 7:00
Agape 1:30
Supper 6:15

Sunday: Lori Ann Keisic
920-362-2112
Breakfast 7:35
Lunch 12:00
Supper 5:30

Clean Up: Sunday @ 4:30
Vic Vosters/Gino Frassetto

Emergency Phones: 314-401-3297 OR 920-380-9335

Directions: From Green Bay: Take Hwy 41 South, take Exit 145 to Hwy 441 S, go about 6.6 miles. Take Oneida St Exit, turn right onto Oneida St. Go 1.1 mile, turn right onto E Fremont Street. Church is on the left.
From Oshkosh: Take Hwy 41 North, Exit 134 to Hwy 441 N. Take the Oneida St N exit, turn left on Oneida. Go 1.1 miles, turn right on E Fremont Street. Church is on the left.
Sacred Heart Parish address: 222 E Fremont Street, Appleton, WI

2016 FALL CURSILLO DATES

Men's Cursillo #241 is September 22-25 at Sacred Heart in Shawano
Women's Cursillo #242 is October 20-23 at Quad Parish Green Bay, St Joe's site

Sponsors... Please make sure Candidates receive Palanca.

For more information on Cursillo and the Green Bay Diocese Movement go to: www.natl-cursillo.org/Greenbay

To see an updated list of candidates right up to the cursillo e-mail Bob Varick at bvarick@new.rr.com

Prayer Chain Update and Information

This article is going to give a quick update on the Cursillo Prayer Chain and ask for your help on a few housekeeping items.

First, we have exceeded 850 recipients on the daily emails. Our typical open rate for any given “prayer request” email is just over 40%, meaning that a very large group of Cursillistas join together every day in prayer for these intentions. This is not only awesome, but it pleases God when we come together to pray and ask for His grace.

Now, on to those housekeeping issues. Overall, the volume of prayer requests has been increasing, a trend for which we are very thankful. As we grow, we have needed to adapt and make changes. A little over a year ago, we had to change to a professional email service that complies with all federal anti-Spam laws. This change has brought certain needed efficiencies, but unfortunately sometimes the rules imposed by the laws make us seem inflexible.

The biggest issue we hear about is that subscribers get removed by the system halting future emails. If the system removes your address (which can happen for a variety of reasons, including your having clicked the “[unsubscribe from this list](#)” link on the bottom of the email) we cannot add you back in, the system will not allow us to put the same address back in. We are allowed to add an email address once, which is done upon an initial request or automatically for the Babe Chicks upon completion of the Cursillo Weekend. To be added back after that is not difficult but needs to be done by the recipient. Go to any past Prayer Chain email and click on the “[View this email in your browser](#)” link (upper right corner), and this will open a web page. In the upper left of the web page, there is a “[Subscribe](#)” button on the top left. Click this button and enter your email address, first and last name, Cursillo # if you know it and click “Subscribe to list”. This will generate an email to you where you must confirm that you want to be added. Without completing this final step, you are not added. By using this same process, you can also add anyone else you know of who wants to be added.

If you have a new email address or a different change to make, please click on the “[update subscription preferences](#)” link on the bottom of the email. This will display your current information and allow you to make those changes. It is a tremendous help to us if you make those changes yourself.

A few last items to please consider:

- Please proof the prayer requests you are submitting. Occasionally, there are missing words or unclear requests that make it difficult for us to understand. Many of our prayer requests are being sent by smart phones today, but we ask that you still use proper punctuation and take a few seconds to proof read the email first. We do reformat some of the prayer requests to make them clear, grammatically correct and somewhat consistent.
- Please keep the prayer request brief. God knows our complete story, and we can be concise in our prayer request. Also, please do not send attachments or family letters in place of a prayer request.
- Please do not forward other prayer chains. If there is a prayer request that you want to share, please retype it and submit it on its own.
- Please don't repeat the same request multiple times. God hears our request and knows our need. For example, if a surgery is a week away please do not submit the same request everyday leading up to the surgery. It is appropriate to submit a prayer request, and certainly if something changes we welcome your new prayer request.
- Please refrain from sending in anything political or from promoting any causes. Also, please do not send in any non-Cursillo announcements. There are many worthy messages and announcements that people want to share, but we limit our focus to sharing prayer requests and promoting Cursillo activities.
- Sending emails to work emails is not a problem for us, but out-of-office reply messages do clutter our inbox. If you frequently use auto reply messages, please consider using another email address to receive the prayer requests.

Thank you for your help and understanding. Our goal is to keep our prayer chain growing in service to the Cursillistas of the diocese. If you have thoughts, questions or concerns you wish to share, concerning the prayer chain or any Cursillo related matter, please feel free to reply to any prayer chain email, and we will forward your email to the appropriate person.

Randy Barrett