



PALANCA PRESS

Yakima Diocese Cursillo Movement

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Spiritual Director's Message

A Bishop's Observation

These are excerpts from an article in the *December 2004 National Mailing* attributed to Most Reverend Victor Galeone, Bishop of St. Augustine that should encourage all Cursillistas:

"My Dear Friends in Christ,
I want to tell you of the marvelous experience I had at Camp St. John.... I made a Cursillo. I admit I was less than enthusiastic about participating in this event, due to the many pressing demands on my agenda. But as the bus rolled off the campgrounds on Sunday evening, I realized that the Cursillo was one of the best religious experiences in my life. Bear in mind that my relationship with the Lord was pretty much the same after the Cursillo as it was before. Why then all the enthusiasm? Because I witnessed firsthand the love and dedication of our laity for the Lord and His church. The testimony of those Cursillo lay leaders moved me profoundly. I found myself repeatedly asking, "If I were married and had a family to support, would I be risking my job to defend my faith like that?"

The Cursillo movement is an excellent way to form lay leaders, as the documents of Vatican II challenge us to do....

...I am personally convinced that the Cursillo Movement is one of the most effective means to revitalize our lay people to assume the role that is rightfully theirs by reason for their faith and baptism."

De Colores!!
Fr. John Shaw

Lay Director's Message

Greetings Cursillistas!

It has been a while since we were able to put together an issue of the Palanca Press. Much has happened and many things are in the planning stages.

I first want to welcome all of the new Cursillistas who lived there three days since the last issue of the Palanca Press. God Bless You, Welcome to the community.

There are a few activities in the planning stages. The first is the Region XII meetings scheduled for April 8, 9, and 10 at St. Paul's in Yakima. There will be an Ultreya on Saturday the 9th at 7:00 PM followed by a Fiesta. Everyone is invited to participate in the full weekend that starts on Friday the 8th at 7:00 PM. Bishop Carlos Sevilla has

accepted an invitation to join us for part of the weekend as his schedule permits. If you can't attend the entire weekend come Saturday evening for the Ultreya and Fiesta.

In July we are planning a Grand Ultreya. It will bring together all the language groups of the movement (English, Spanish, and Native American). Jim Arnoux has requested to put the celebration together. We don't have a date or place arranged yet. We will notify everyone by parish bulletins and email. We had a great day last year. Come and join us.

The National Encounter will take place the last weekend of July in Wichita, Kansas. Check out the National Cursillo web site (<http://www.cursillo.org/>) for details.

Don't forget our next pair of Cursillo weekends will be held on the last two weekends of October. We need to be out in the world to make a friend, be a friend and bring that friend to Christ.

We all need to remember our relationships with God and others. We work on these relationships using the Cursillo Tripod of Piety / Holiness, Study / Formation, and Action / Evangelization.

If you desire to stay more connected to the movement and can't make Ultreyas visit the Yakima Cursillo Website at (<http://www.natl-cursillo.org/yakima/>). In an attempt to reduce expenses the *Palanca Press* is being posted on the Yakima Cursillo Website. If you know of someone who does not have access to a computer and would like a copy of the *Palanca Press* please print off a copy and send it on to your friend.

I wish to extend an invitation to all Cursillistas to come and participate in Ultreyas and Group Reunions. You can find where they are by checking out our website. I hope and pray to see you soon.

Remember to keep the Movement in your prayers every Thursday. That is our Palanca Day.

God Bless You All!!

DeColores!

Gene Drass

Yakima Diocese Cursillo Lay Director

Secretariat Membership

The current membership of the Diocese of Yakima Cursillo Secretariat is made up of Lay Director - Gene Drass, Christ the King Parish, Richland; Secretary - Stephanie Walsh, St. Paul's, Yakima; Treasurer - Diane Turley, St. Joseph's, Sunnyside; Spiritual Director - Fr. John Shaw, St. Aloysius, Toppenish and Assistant Spiritual Director - Fr. Michael Brzezowski, Sacred Heart, Prosser; and Committee Members - Helen and Rick Guerra, Christ the King, Richland, Rita and Virgil Warren, Christ the King, St. Joseph's, Richland and Peggy Champoux, St. Paul's, Yakima. Mary Garcia, St. Aloysius, Toppenish and Jim Arnoux, St. Mary's, White Swan represent the Native American component of the Cursillo Movement. The Secretariat members are from Schools of Leaders and meet about every two months, usually at Sacred Heart parish in Prosser.

There is always need for more Secretariat committee members. If you have interest in helping the Cursillo Movement by participating as a member of the Secretariat please contact one of the Secretariat members.

Notice of National Encounter

It is not too soon to start planning for the Cursillo Movement's 15th National Encounter. The Encounter will be held at Benedictine College in Atchison, KS.

The encounter will start the evening of July 28, 2005 and will conclude the morning of July 31. Cursillistas from all parts of the world will attend workshops and a Grand Ultreya, share their spirituality, renew and develop new friendships,

praise the Lord with music, and share in their joy at fiestas.

Mark your calendar for July 28-July 31,2005.

Prayer for Evangelization

Loving God, you called us each by name and gave your only Son to redeem us. In your faithfulness, you sent the Holy Spirit to complete the mission of Jesus among us. Open our hearts to Jesus. Give us the courage to speak his name to those who are close to us and the generosity to share his love with those who are far away. We pray that every person throughout the world be invited to know and love Jesus as Savior and Redeemer. May they come to know his all-surpassing love. May that love transform every element of our society. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen. Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us. St. Paul the Apostle, pray for us.

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REMINDER

Want to be on a Cursillo Team??

In order to attempt to assure that candidates will be best served when they live their 3-Day Weekend the Secretariat recommends that team members meet certain conditions to work in the different Weekend roles. These conditions are:

Conditions

1. Cursillistas who are Grouping, regularly attending Ultreyas, and have attended Leader's School for 2 years or have equivalent education about the Cursillo Movement and are keeping current on the Cursillo Movement may work in the Rollo room and deliver Rollos and provide support in any other role.

2. Cursillistas who are grouping, attending Ultreyas, and are attending Leader's School may help in the Rollo room and provide support in any other role

3. Cursillistas who are grouping and, preferably, attending Ultreyas may help outside the Rollo Room.

4. Cursillistas who have not practiced the Cursillo Method but want to help on Weekends can provide assistance with setup, tear down and performing Palanca.

Next Scheduled 3-Day Cursillo Weekend

The Secretariat would like to schedule a 3-Day Cursillo Weekend in October 2005 at a currently undetermined parish. Team formation will begin when there is evidence there are sufficient numbers of candidates to conduct Weekends. Currently the number of candidates can be counted on one hand!!! We need to be more mindful of the legs of the Tripod - (Piety/Holiness) pray for candidate selection, (Study/Formation) study environments that need to be Christianized, and (Action/Evangelization) take action to be a Friend bring a Friend to Christ.

The Yakima diocese has more than 400 Cursillistas who probably have family members, close friends, or know of someone who are no longer "religiously" practicing their Catholic faith. These fallen away Catholics should be excellent candidates for preparing for a 3-Day Weekend and their blessed 4th Day.

Think about it. Do you not have any acquaintances that need to become aware of the love of God for them?

Welcome Our Newest Ordained Cursillista

Rev. Wilmar Zabala, associate pastor of Christ the King parish, Richland became a Cursillista this past October 2004. We hope and pray that he will be sustained in his vocation and ministry by his fellow Cursillistas. Pray for him often and be his friend.