

Sharing God's Love Can Be Fun, Too!

I marvel at the Christian parenting I observe in my neighborhood and decided to invite these young families who are home during the day to a children's Christmas party. Four families came: ten children and six available parents. One mom even took off work—it was dad's day to stay home—but she didn't want to miss little Abby's first party. I fixed a cheese and sausage tray, with crackers, and apple slices, and parents brought lots of goodies. Children discovered old toys and games from my grandchildren and were in awe to enjoy their snacks around the dining room table in my big old Victorian home all decorated for Christmas.

Children in a home-schooled family entertained us with Christian Christmas carols. I gave each child a gift of a Christian storybook—colorful fun-shaped hard board books for the toddlers, books about God's love, and modern parable stories. My favorite was *Small Gifts in God's Hands* by Max Lucado, a story about the young boy who gave his basket of loaves and fish, that Jesus blessed to feed the multitudes.

As the home-schooling mother of five wrote in her thank you note: "One of my fondest Christmas memories will be your neighborhood children's party. It was such a treat to be with our neighbors and to see the joy in all the children as they felt truly special and honored..."

Ann Gow



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March 2002

LAY DIRECTORS' LINK

"GIVE ME A DRINK OF WATER" John 4:7

Now that we are about half way through our Lenten journey, we thought it might be a good time to reflect on the gospel story John 4: 5-42 - where Jesus encounters the Samaritan women at the well. Jesus asks someone for a drink - a woman - a foreigner. He stunned her and his apostles because he ignored the rules that said Jewish men were not to talk to Gentile women. Also, the woman at the well was not the kind of person a fine, upstanding man like Jesus was supposed to associate with.

Despite all the evidence and every social and religious value to the contrary, the "God of Life" was with her. God joins us in flesh and blood no matter who we are, no matter what we've done. Our task is not to be perfect, that's God's job. Our task is to be that living presence of God's love and forgiveness for others, so that the whole world may come to believe what we believe - God lives within us.

In what ways do we fail to witness to God's love and forgiveness for all people? In our own mind, do we exclude some others from the love of God? Many Samaritans believed Jesus because of the woman's testimony - they said to the woman "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe - for we have heard for ourselves - and we know that this is truly the "Savior of the World".

Because sin is ongoing in our lives, we need an ongoing sacrament to "re-mind" us of that forgiveness and to renew the reality of that forgiveness within us. Just as the woman in the gospel story was transformed by the love of one who knew everything she had ever done, we too are made new by the same experience in the sacrament of reconciliation.

From time to time we hear at closings as the new Fourth Dayer's witness, what the sacrament of reconciliation meant to them on their weekend. Now during Lent we have that same opportunity, to be transformed by the love of one who knows everything we have ever done.

We mentioned in last month's "Link" about the possibility of a Vietnamese weekend this year. However, the decision has been made by their community to form their own Leaders School first. Also, they plan to hold a Cursillo Leadership Workshop (CLW1) on the weekend of June 21-23, 2002 at the same location, "Home of the Good Shepherd".

A great time was had by all who attended the "Evening of Renewal" at Holy Name. The food was excellent and Fr. Jim Livingston's talk was great as we took advantage of their theme to "Rekindle the Flame".

We pray for you, please pray for us.

Gene & Jean

LEADERS' SCHOOL

When: Tuesday (The 1st Tuesday)
March 5th, 2002, 7pm

Where: Library, Benilde-St. Margaret

Leaders' School is looking forward to stoking-up the old Cursillo wood-stove with all the fresh energy of our new Ultreya reps, section heads, and featured Ultreya-of-the-month attendees. As the weather turns nippy and damp outside, our hearts continue to burn with love for the Lord inside the cozy new library at Benilde-St. Margaret.

March highlights:

1. The featured Ultreya for February is the Northeast Ultreya.
2. Dick Clark will speak on chapter 9 in the study manual.
3. Don Robinson will talk on environmental group reunion.

The *Leader's Manual* Study Group continues to meet the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm on March 12, in the Benilde/St. Margaret's Red Knight conference room.

We invite you to come and join your fellow cursillistas at Leader's School. Continue to learn more about Cursillo.

Inside This Kindling

New Ultreya reps. for Highland park
Cursillo Spring Meeting Scheduled
Cursillo Singles Night Out
Items Lost and Found

www.tc-cursillo.org

Don't forget to visit the Cursillo web site for additional Cursillo information. You will find dates, and maps for the monthly Ultreyas. The 2002 calendar is also available.

Work on a Cursillo Weekend

Want to recall the special feeling of love and kindness shown to you on your Cursillo weekend? Become a part of a team.

A year after your weekend you may apply to work a Rollo, Palanca, or Kitchen team. The coordinator will place you as he or she sees fit. The applications may be picked up at Ultreya or Leader School. Your Ultreya representative must sign the application. During the six weeks prior to the weekend, you are asked to attend formation meetings at Benilde high school. A special spiritual bonding occurs during this time.

The love and warmth you experienced on your initial weekend is renewed each time you work. You may work one team each year.
Decolores!!!

Lu Kempf

Highland Park Ultreya Changes

Congratulations to Tom and Karin Dulka as the new Ultreya representatives for the Highland Park Ultreya. They are replacing LuLu Daly.

Cursillo Spring Meeting

Date: April 26-28, 2002
Location: Immaculate Conception Catholic School
15 South West 3rd. Street
Faribault MN 5502
Emergency Phone: 507.334.3118
Cost: \$30.00 per person. Pre registration by April 10th. reserves a cost or mattress for you.
Make checks payable to Cursillo

Send your registrations to:
Dan and Peggy Betlock
7532 West 111th. Street
Bloomington MN 55438
Phone: 952.942.0801
Email: dpbetlock@gosignup.com

Directions:
From the **NORTH**, take Interstate 35W south to Faribault, MN. Take the Highway 60 exit. Circle around to the right and go East into Faribault. Turn right on Hwy 21 to Division Street and then left to 3rd. Ave.

From the **SOUTH**, take Interstate 35W north to Faribault, MN. Take the Highway 21 exit. Turn right and go East into Faribault. Turn right on Division Street and go to 3rd. Ave.

Cursillo Singles Night Out !

Saturday, April 27th, 2002
6:00 p.m. until ????

at
Howie G's Steakhouse

Located 1 ½ miles west of I 494 on Hwy. 55 at Co. Rd. 24 near Rainbow Foods in Plymouth Station.

A private dining room has been arranged.
Come simply to have refreshments and snacks or to enjoy a complete meal.
You may even grill your own dinner (steak, chicken, fresh fish, kabobs, etc).

"Our only agenda is to have a good time getting to know other Cursillo Singles."

No reservations are required but would be helpful for staffing. To make your reservation or for more information contact: Tammy McCanna at 952.922.7408 or mccanna@fr.com



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

CURSILLO WEEKENDS 241 AND 242

GUARDIAN ANGELS OAKDALE
MEN'S, APRIL 18-21, 2002
WOMEN'S, MAY 2-5, 2002

(YOU MUST HAVE MADE WEEKEND 234 OR EARLIER AND BE GROUPING AND ATTENDING ULTREYA TO BE ELIGIBLE TO WORK.)

CURSILLO WEEKENDS 243 AND 244

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, COLUMBIA HEIGHTS
MEN'S, SEPTEMBER 12-15, 2002
WOMEN'S, SEPTEMBER 19-22, 2002

(YOU MUST HAVE MADE WEEKEND 236 OR EARLIER AND BE GROUPING AND ATTENDING ULTREYA TO BE ELIGIBLE TO WORK.)

CURSILLO WEEKENDS 245 AND 246

ST. HUBERT'S, CHANHASSEN
MEN'S, NOVEMBER 14-17, 2002
WOMEN'S, NOVEMBER 21-24, 2002

(YOU MUST HAVE MADE WEEKEND 238 OR EARLIER AND BE GROUPING AND ATTENDING ULTREYA TO BE ELIGIBLE TO WORK.)

Jesus invites you to consider working one of these weekends. We are His hands and feet. Team applications are available at Ultreyas. They should be filled-out and given to your Ultreya Representatives immediately. Applications are kept on file for one year from date of submittal and approval.

Witnessing

Have you witnessed recently? More specifically, have you witnessed at an Ultreya? I had the opportunity to do just that recently. I happened to have a very busy week prior to my witnessing. I felt that the few moments I stole during all hours of the day would be insufficient to make this brief talk a success. Here and there, I grabbed a few minutes to work on a short outline, collect some themes that may be of use to talk about, and think thru how my dis-jointed thoughts would work or not work. Being prayed over prior to giving my witness was a moment close to Jesus for me that week. It made me feel 10 pounds lighter. I brought a hand scribbled note page with what I thought would be sufficient for 10 minutes. I talked for 20 minutes, and probably didn't use 10 minutes worth from my notes (a parallel to the loaves and fishes). And after having a most difficult work week, my follow up moment was when I received a note in the mail saying "Your delivery was so thought provoking... He will be counting on you again". Are you ready to receive God's blessing through witnessing?
An anonymous author.

All mailing corrections & changes:

**Twin Cities Cursillo
PO Box 68052
Minneapolis MN 55418**

Lost And Found !

Ann Hadel has two items from the women's weekend that ended December 2, 2001. A bible with a colorful material cover and a guitar stand. If you are missing either of these items from the weekend or from the closing, please call Ann Hadel at 651.488.1887.