



Twin Cities Catholic Cursillo

KINDLING

www.tc-cursillo.org

Apr 2011

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No Hands but Ours!

Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding.
Proverbs 3:5

Aahhh, Spring! What a great time to transition from black, white and gray to rainbow of colors and sounds! The sights and sounds of melting snow, singing birds, neighbors venturing out after months of hibernation, kids on bikes and playgrounds, and the Lenten season are just a few of the reminders that God is in control, and each day is filled with new beginnings.

Now several weeks into our Lenten journey, we have transitioned into a time of self reflection, repentance, sacrifice, thanksgiving, and almsgiving. Our Twin Cities Cursillo community has transitioned through the recent Men's and Women's weekends. We have been blessed with the new 4th day of weekends 315 and 316. What an amazing experience to encounter self, Christ, and Christian community found through Cursillo.

As Cursillistas, we are blessed with the gift of Christian Community. The lasting friendships formed in small groups, Ultreya, School of Leaders, and all of the 4th day events throughout the Twin Cities are true gifts. It becomes easy and comfortable to spend our time with our 4th day friends, as we share similar experiences and interests. These friends are a very important part of our journey, but we are also encouraged to invite others to grow in their faith.

Jesus calls us to continue to reach out to those outside of the Cursillo Community. We are asked to "Make a friend, be a friend, and bring those friends to Christ". Reaching out does not imply that we ignore or abandon our Cursillo friends. No, in fact, the 4th day relationships nurture and provide insights to encourage support and bring others to Christ, just as our sponsor brought us to Christ when we were invited to Cursillo.

Sponsoring is truly the gift that keeps on giving. It is the life blood of the 4th day. Sponsoring allows us to relive our weekend from a different perspective. As sponsors, we are energized and blessed by sharing the journey of the new 4th day. Our own personal experience is evidence that Jesus transforms us, taking us on a unique faith journey that we could not have imagined. When we are called to sponsor, we too are showered with grace and peace of an active and "on-growing" relationship with Christ. Whether individually or as a group, sponsoring is not a difficult task, it is an opportunity to journey with Christ who holds the map and the itinerary! When we trust that Christ has a plan, it is easy to follow His lead.

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**Twin Cities Cursillo
Vision Statement is:**

"As a community committed to spiritual growth through Christ we strive to transform our every day world"

**Twin Cities Cursillo
Mission Statement is:**

"We are a Catholic community committed to growing closer to Christ through prayer, study and service. By living the gospel we invite others daily to join us on our life long journey"

Message from Our Spiritual Director

“HAPPY EASTER ~ ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN!”

This year we will celebrate Easter on April 24, 2011. And celebrate we will. What we celebrate is that Jesus is not among the dead. Jesus is not enshrined in history. Jesus is alive and is with us! He has risen as he said he would. Jesus lives! And like the women at the tomb, we are looking for the risen Christ. He is daylight Himself: the sun of God’s new creation. We will be experiencing a new life and that brings us new excitement. And if we look, we will find Jesus everywhere.

We will see Him present in all the Easter rites and symbols. At the vigil we have the pillar of fire – then the Christ candle, the assurance of God with us, the presence that gives life and protection. That means that we are now God’s people, His holy nation and that this is His land and His eternity which we now inherit.

St. Paul tells us that in all we do and experience, we are made over into Jesus’ risen body – which we have gone down into death with Him and now stand with Him filled with new life. In other words, we ourselves are yet another Easter symbol. We ourselves are signs that Jesus is alive in this Easter. We ourselves are his living flesh and blood. The bread and cup we share transforms us into Him whose flesh and blood they are. Yes, we are living signs of Jesus alive in this world. Jesus has appeared to us. Jesus has come to us in all of His glory.

At Easter we experience the fullness of His life. The realization dawns that the Son has risen. In the gospel story (John 20:1-9) that takes the breaking light of morning as its metaphor, we hear how Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the Beloved Disciple move from darkness to the full daylight of faith. It is this experience of the Resurrection which Peter will give official testimony in his role as witness. The first reading on Easter is the most complete of Peter’s sermons in the early chapters of Acts. His message is the gospel in miniature.

Writing to the Colossians (3:1-4) St. Paul presents the view that the Christian community has a very real stake in the Easter reality. In some ways, we are already risen and with Christ. If there had been no Resurrection, there would probably be no Church today. In fact, there would likely be no followers of Christ at all, for on this historical fact of the Resurrection hangs the hope of believers. St. Paul and the other writers of the New Testament stressed the double aspect of the Christian’s life: union with Christ in His death – union with Christ in His Resurrection.

For some people the thought of dying can be a terrifying experience. It is this ceasing to exist that probably frightens us the most. In some way or another we want to live on, to experience some kind of immortality – to at least be remembered.

Easter gives us that hope. It is a pledge of our eternal life. We are certain that if our lives have been patterned faithfully to Christ’s teaching, we shall someday share His Easter victory in the glory of heaven. This is Jesus’ promise and pledge. Holy Week is the deepest sharing of the mysteries of Jesus. Now we look forward to Pentecost, while sharing daily in His Resurrection.

Happy Easter!
Fr. Al Backmann

Weekend #315 The View from Palanca

When I signed up for this weekend, I wanted to do the Studies talk in the Rollo room. I was asked to work in the Palanca chapel. Now, I wouldn’t trade this experience for anything. The entire weekend was filled with love and blessings.

One of my groupies said that working in Palanca was like being in the engine room of a Cursillo weekend. He was absolutely right. The fire of divine love was burning so intensely I’m certain all the walls are spiritually “scorched”. The first night when I couldn’t sleep I went to the chapel and prayed until 1 am. I could feel the intensity of Jesus’ love coming to me through the tabernacle.

Every speaker prayed over was on fire with the Holy Spirit when he left. When he came back from his talk, we were told he got another hit from the Spirit. We learned our singing could be heard in Kitchen and Rollo. It was miraculous the way the words and tone blended with the speakers’ message. In fact one time, the speaker was stopped so it could be pointed out the words of the songs were augmenting his words so well and so perfectly. Believe me; our Lord himself orchestrated this because we did not plan it.

All the functions of a Cursillo weekend are so important. A logistics general once said that an army marches on its stomach (Kitchen team). Marching also requires the heart (Palanca chapel) to be in good shape. One unsung, but incredibly important job, is when people choose to come in to serve as kitchen angels to Kitchen and Palanca after Rollo has finished Saturday evening dinner. The fresh energy and encouraging smiles feeding tired team members is awesome.

Assistance came from 4th dayers in other ways as well. A man and his wife came to be with Jesus while the Palanca team had a meal and photo taken. The man developed a case of diarrhea. I went to the Rollo supply table but didn’t find anything that would help him. I thought maybe the Kitchen team would have something. On my way to the kitchen I said a silent prayer; “Oh Jesus, please help this man who came to help us serve you and now is suffering”.

Within 60 seconds of saying that prayer, I ran into a Kitchen team member who said, “I have just the thing for you. I was in Europe last week and came down with a case of food poisoning with diarrhea. My associate got me some medication at the local pharmacy. I have plenty here since I have not had time to unpack my suitcase.” He pulled out about 20 pills from his traveling case. Two of the pills did the job for the man and he kept a third pill for security. This is a wonderful example of our Lord’s loving care even in the minor things.

This was one of the most Spirit-filled weekends of my life. Written Palanca notes of love and prayers came from 27 different states. It was unbelievable how much joy and love flowed through the Palanca and Kitchen teams to the Rollo room. We could feel many other 4th dayers’ prayers as well. May God dearly bless everyone who had anything to do with this weekend. May Cursillo grow and flourish forever.

In the love of our Lord,
Bernie Bittner

WELCOME NEW 4TH DAYERS!

Betty & Terry Benson	St Michaels, Prior Lake
Danielle Watkins	Guardian Angels, Chaska
Betty & Albert Schneider	St Catherine's, Prior Lake
Linda Forner	Guardian Angels, Chaska
Loretta David	St Victoria's, Victoria
Sara Hamrick	Guardian Angels, Chaska
Mary Weyandt	Assumption, St Paul
April Beth Olson	St Mary's, Minneapolis
Mary Lou & Dan McElwee	St Henry's, Monticello
Deb Minnehan	Immaculate Conception, Watertown
Lidia Navarro-Haugh	Pax Christi, Eden Prairie
Bobbi Morehouse	Immaculate Conception, Watertown
Patrick Burke	St Andrew's, Elk River
Timothy Cleveland	Immaculate Conception, Watertown
Andrew Landsteiner	St John Vianney, Fairmont

No Hands but Ours! *Continued from page 1*

Perhaps these questions can assist you with your discernment to sponsor a candidate:

- † Are you able to identify someone who may be called to attend a weekend?
- † Are you willing to consider helping a new 4th dayer to find a group and Ultreya, assisting them to see Jesus in their environment?
- † What obstacles stand in your way?
- † Are you able to provide an example of Christian living to others?
- † Are you able to share information about Cursillo and the impact that Cursillo has had in your life?

It is said that Christ has no hands but ours. It is with these hands that we are able to make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ, sometimes even to Cursillo. Please take a moment to look at your own hands as you prayerfully consider each of these questions. Please consider inviting a friend to Cursillo, and the journey with Christ through sponsoring.

We thank you for your continued prayers for the Cursillo Movement and the many lives impacted by His abundant grace.

God Bless, Sonia and Mark Lager

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DATES AND NEWS

SCHOOL OF LEADERS

1st Tuesday, April 5, at 6:30 pm

Location: St. Patrick's Church, Edina -St Martin's Hall
6820 St. Patrick's Lane

Speaker: John Jelinek National and Regional Cursillo

The School of Leaders is open to all

Come join your Cursillo friends

Ultreya Dates and Meeting Times in April

ULTREYA	LOCATION	TIME	DATE
St Cloud	St Mary's Cathedral	7:00 PM	7
Northeast	St. Peter, No. St. Paul (Potluck)	6:30 PM	1
North Minneapolis	St William, Fridley	7:30 PM	1
Western/Midwest	St Hubert's , Chanhassen	7:00 PM	10
Spanish Community	Incarnation, Mpls.	7:00 PM	8
Restful Waters	St Nicholas, New Market	6:30 PM	9
St. Paul Midway	St. Mark's, St. Paul	8:00 AM	9
Northwest	St Henry, Monticello	7:30 PM	9
Deaf Community	Our Lady of Mt Carmel	11:00 AM	17
Korean	Korean Catholic Church St P	2:30 PM	17
Jacob's Well	Holy Name of Jesus, Medina	7:00 PM	16
MN Valley	Risen Savior, Burnsville	7:00 PM	16
Vietnamese	St. Joseph Hien	4:00 PM	24
Fairmont	St. John Vianney, Fairmont	5:30 PM (EOR)	2

Upcoming Cursillo Weekends

Weekends (Spanish) to be held at St. Dominic's, Northfield

#317 Men's: Jun 16-19

Rector: Marco Flores

#318 Women's: Jun 30-Jul 3

Rectora: Magali Perez

Weekends to be held at St Elizabeth Ann Seton Hastings

#319 Men's: Aug 11-14

Rector: Tom Streefland

#320 Women's: Aug 18-21

Rectora: Nancy Curti

Dates and locations for remaining 2011 Weekends are on the Website www.tc-cursillo.org

Please prayerfully consider sponsoring for these or any future weekends. Contact your Ultreya rep for apps and other sponsoring information.

The new team applications are available at Ultreyas and on our web site. After completing the form, email to cursillo-chair@tc-cursillo.org. Applications are kept on file for one year from date of submission and approval. You must have made Weekends #313/314 or earlier to be eligible to work on the next Cursillo weekend.