



Twin Cities Catholic Cursillo

KINDLING

July 2009

Inside this issue:

Fr. Al *Dare to Dream*

Sharing from the Weekends

Important Dates and News

Lay Directors' Link



Twin Cities Cursillo Meets National Cursillo

..... and forgive us our trespasses

On May 20th Twin Cities Cursillo saw about 40 people gather to meet with Cef Aguillon from the National Cursillo office. National tries to meet with each active Cursillo diocese once every 6 years. We were overdue. The last time National visited here was a little more than 12 years ago.

The evening was filled with good discussion and we came away with a much clearer understanding of National's position on issues. We also gained a better feel for the charter of Cursillo – Make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ (it's not just a catchy phrase ya' know!).

As we live a genuine 4th-Day life our friendships, both old and new, will develop at a much deeper level. Our friendships, now grounded in Christ, may hopefully lead our friends closer to Christ – and maybe even Cursillo.

We know Grouping and Ultreya are key to keeping us on track in our individual faith walks. But let's ask a bigger question. What keeps Cursillo growing and moving forward? While active Grouping and Ultreyas are musts, the Cursillo Movement needs one more element to ensure its growth -- The School of Leaders (the third-leg if you will).

The School of Leaders may just be the most misunderstood term in all of Cursillo. It is intended to educate the 4th-Day about the history, depth, and charisms of Cursillo. The School of Leaders is what gives strength and life to the movement. It connects us to the roots of the movement and it prepares us to go out and share the heart of Cursillo with others. The School of Leaders is to Cursillo what Palanca is to the weekends.

There is much good happening at our School of Leaders. What is needed to ensure its continued growth is the presence of the 4th-Day. Sure, it's one more night of activity that needs to be shoehorned into the schedule. Start small. Shoehorn the School in for just one or two visits over the next twelve months.

Currently in the planning stage is a two-session workshop on Sponsoring. National Cursillo has developed a session that really does a wonderful job of explaining the process for successfully sponsoring a candidate. The goal is to present the information over two months this fall. Look for more information in the Kindling and on the website in the coming months. Several of our Cursillo priests have volunteered to offer formative talks at the School of Leaders. The goal is to offer four to six of these talks over the next 12 months. Again, watch the website and the Kindling for more details. If you see a topic that interests you plan on attending for the evening.

The School of Leaders meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm at St Joseph's on Main Street in Hopkins. It's easy to find and there is plenty of parking. All are welcome.

As for the night with National, we passed. We were told that Twin Cities Cursillo is vital and healthy and that we are blessed to see the candidate numbers we have for our three sets of weekends a year. Our Secretariat is functional, the School of Leaders is active, and we seem to have a good grasp of the true mission of Cursillo.

Our thanks to each of you for all you do for Cursillo.

To Him be the glory and praise.

Wendy & Mark Mitchell
Lay Directors



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

DARE TO DREAM!

I hope that you had a great Fourth of July! The good thing about a day like July 4th, Independence Day, is that it reminds us of our origins as a nation. It takes us back to our beginnings and gives us a chance to evaluate our present achievements in the light of our original purpose. How did we get started? What did the founding fathers have in mind when they pieced together a fledgling new nation they called the United States of America?

To answer that question, it is necessary to go back some 150 years before the Declaration of Independence and think of those people who first began to build little settlements along the Atlantic seaboard. The most famous of these was a group of Pilgrims that sailed on a ship called the Mayflower. They came first - many others followed. Their reasons for coming to this place that they called the New World were many and varied, but most of them had this one thing in common - they were dreamers. In fact, that's about all they brought with them - their dreams.

One can say this nation started out as a dream. They were betting their lives on dreams. The pioneers who moved from East to West, pushing back the frontier, carving civilization out of a wilderness, had little to sustain them but a dream. That's the greatest legacy we received - the inheritance of that dream. We need to recapture its content, to keep it alive and work for its fulfillment.

It was a dream of freedom. They were looking for a place that didn't have tyrants. They wanted the right of every individual to live free. Unfortunately, our record has not been that good. The Civil War let us know that some of our people didn't have the right to be free. It is interesting how some people can carve out freedom for themselves but then neglect to extend it to others.

We pride ourselves on democracy and having majority rule. The genius of our American system of government has not been the commitment to majority rule, but minority rights. Majority rule sounds noble, but without checks and balances it can become tyrannical. We must always work to see that all people have rights. We need to recommit ourselves to the poor, the downtrodden, the oppressed, those least able to help themselves. We must bring that dream to all!

The American dream has always been about unity: "One Nation under God ... with liberty and justice for all." We need to again assume our responsibility under God, holding in trust from Him something full of promise for the whole world. Let us continue to dare to dream - for us - for our children - for all future generations.

Fr. Al Backmann

What's in a Name?

Pat Henderson, Rectora, Weekend #302

We who have experienced God's grace on a Cursillo weekend know that we are sometimes gifted with a fresh insight that touches us deeply and may change us in some way forever. Of course God is gifting us with His grace at all times and places, but there is often a special openness to the Spirit that occurs on the weekend that makes us better listeners! This past May weekend was certainly no exception.

While preparing a Rollo, we are called to surrender ourselves to the Spirit, trusting that when we reach the Palanca chapel, the Spirit will continue to work with and through us to assure that God's desired message is spoken.

As I knelt before the Blessed Sacrament and was being prayed over by my friends, I prayed for the grace to surrender myself to the promptings of the Spirit in spite of what I may have written.

As I began to share my story with the candidates within the final Rollo of the weekend, I told of a time in my life when I was very wounded and felt a deep sense of worthlessness, isolation and of being totally invisible.

In my desire to belong to something somewhere, I began to volunteer with Families Moving Forward when it came to my parish a few times a year.

It was at this point in sharing my story that I felt compelled to share what I thought was an inconsequential detail. It was the simple fact that the person who would eventually befriend and sponsor me always remembered me and called me by name. I was suddenly and powerfully overcome with emotion as I realized how significant that simple gesture was...to call me by name and what an impact that had in giving me dignity and a sense of being visible again.

Our name, is bestowed upon us by our parents, co-creators with God of our very being. Our name is often chosen by our parents to honor an ancestor or to give us an identity to "grow into". In Jewish tradition to have a name is to have an existence. It is precious and sacred when blessed by God at our baptism.

It became clear to me that the significance of our name, to be called by name, to have a sense of belonging was a common thread that had been woven throughout the weekend. Our name, how we are called was a strong theme through the scripture readings of the weekend also. On Friday John's gospel spoke these words,

"I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father."

On Saturday the gospel of John read, ***"If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word they will also keep yours. And they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know the one who sent me."***

And, finally on Sunday, the clearest message from John's gospel to all of us who follow Christ Jesus, ***"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that remains, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name He may give you."***

Shortly after the end of the weekend I began to read a book titled Living the Lord's Prayer, The Way of the Disciple by Fr. Albert Haase O.F.M. In this book Fr. Haase takes the words of the Lord's Prayer and explores a way to discipleship through them. This is a book I strongly recommend and encourage everyone to read.

The chapter on the words, "hallowed be thy name", called me to a deeper contemplation on the vital importance of names in relationship to God. In this chapter Fr. Haase writes that names, "...should express the appropriate level of familiarity and depth of relationship." He goes on to note that in Biblical history, "As God becomes more intimate and gets closer to the chosen people, God reveals more and more of the divine identity in the holy name. And with that revelation of the name the chosen people could approach and know God."

We see God go from the mighty and unapproachable "I Am" in the time of Moses to the loving and merciful and most importantly, approachable God whom Christ called Abba. How clearly our image of and relationship to God transformed in relation to the name we were invited to call Him.

Fr. Haase goes on to further declare that not only is God's name to be kept holy, but also the name of His beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul writes in Philippians 2:9-11,

"Therefore God also highly exalted Jesus and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father."

The name Jesus, the name given to his Son by God Himself, translates to 'Yahweh Saves' which clearly shows how our name speaks to who we are and to whom we belong.

The chapter on "hallowed be thy name", is summed up in this way, "...we are privileged not only to call God Abba but also to be given God's power and salvation on account of Jesus name."

So then, what's in a name? It is identity, dignity, acknowledgment of our existence and a call to relationship. God's holy name and the name of his beloved Son bring us humbly into the presence of the One who has called us by name and loves us as His beloved children.

My experience of being restored to a sense of value, worth and dignity by the simple use of my name reminds me how important it is to honor others by calling them by name. And to have a God so loving as to allow us to call him Abba brings me to a place of such profound gratitude to know that it was He who chose me and has called me by name.

MANY ALTARS BUT ONE GOD

**Nuggets
from
Weekend
#301**

Over the course of a weekend, we gather around many altars to celebrate our unity with Christ for 3 beautiful days. There is the Thursday altar where the team gathers and prays for the success of the weekend. There is the altar in the Palanca chapel where speakers are sent off. There is the altar in the candidate's chapel where the Rollo room prays with the candidates. There is the altar where 4th dayers come for Palanca Mass. These all are dedicated to be the table where bread and wine are turned into the body and blood of Christ.

This last weekend, there was an additional altar, that, aside from making tears come to my eyes the moment I saw it, embodied another Christ, the Christ with skin on. The focal point of the altar was a statue of Christ washing an apostle's feet. Around it was an invitation to a special meal to be held on Saturday night, small clay pots, a card with the "Footprints" prayer on it, and a candle.

Above it was the menu and chores for the weekend and palanca from some incarcerated inmates. You had to but go to the altar to see what to do next. This altar defined what Cursillo is all about. We serve the candidates and each other as Christ washed feet. We are the clay to Christ's potter, as we try to be the potter to the candidates and each other. We carry the candidates and each other in time of need as Christ carried us. A candle of light burns within each of us that also supplies warmth to each other.

Bill Corrigan Kitchen #301

A VIEW FROM THE WARMING OVEN

Well, the last cheese and macaroni has been served, the last mixed vegetable medley has been placed into the disposal, and all the big trays are washed and put away. It is only Thursday and it has already been a long week. Can't wait to be turned off so I can get some rest.

OK, so who are these new people that just showed up. Haven't seen them before, and they just turned me back on and are filling me with things that seem a lot better than the last few meals that I kept warm. No rest for the weary.

It's seven o'clock and I am glad that's over, now I can get some sleep when they turn the lights off. HELLO--it's almost ten, can I get some sleep!! What are you guys doing -- they are making more food -- are you fellows high on something? Finally the lights are off -- time for rest.

Well, we seem to have some kind of wise guy here -- it's 5 AM -- who turned the lights on -- and who are these guys again -- something must be wrong -- they are all smiling and happy at 5 AM -- they must be high on something. Well, the food they just put in me sure smelled good -- it is a smell I have never had before -- wonder what it is -- it smells like LOVE.

Well, to make a long story short, they kept me up until 10 every night over the weekend, woke me up at 5, put things into me that felt more like gentleness, caring, servitude and compassion than food. They were always smiling and happy -- I always thought they were high on something -- then I figured it out, they were high on someone -- a man called Jesus.

Bill Corrigan Kitchen #310

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www.tc-cursillo.org

DATES AND NEWS

NEW 5TH DAYERS

Mary Jean Horan

St. Phillip's & Ascension
No. Mpls.

Chuck Dranginis

Immaculate Heart of
Mary, Mtka.



Ultreyas' Dates and Meeting Times in July

| ULTREYA | LOCATION | TIME | DATE |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|--------|
| St. Cloud | St Mary's Cathedral | 7:00 PM | No Mtg |
| Northeast | St. Peter, No. St. Paul (Potluck) | 6:30 PM | 3 |
| North Minneapolis | St William, Fridley | *6:30 PM | *3 |
| Western | St Hubert , Chanhassen | 7:00 PM | No Mtg |
| Spanish Community | Incarnation, Mpls. | 7:00 PM | 10 |
| Restful Waters | St. Nicholas, New Market | 6:30 PM | 11 |
| St. Paul Midway | St. Mark, St. Paul | 8:00 AM | 11 |
| Midwest | St Joseph's, Hopkins | 7:00 PM | 11 |
| Northwest | St Henry, Monticello | 7:30 PM | 11 |
| Highland/OLP | Lumen Christi, St. Paul | 7:30 PM | 9 |
| Deaf Community | Our Lady of Mt Carmel | 11:00 AM | 19 |
| Korean | Korean Catholic Church St P | 2:30 PM | 19 |
| Jacobs Well | Holy Name of Jesus, Medina | 7:00 PM | 18 |
| MN Valley | Risen Savior, Burnsville | 7:00 PM | 18 |
| Vietnamese | St. Joseph Hien | 4:00 PM | 26 |

* North Ultreya has a pot luck this month and a different start time

Upcoming Cursillo Weekends

Weekends to be held at St. Mark's, Shakopee

#303 Men's Spanish: Aug. 6-9
Rector: Victor M. Guillen

#304 Women's Spanish: Aug. 13-16
Rectora: Karla C. Chavez

Weekends to be held at St. Victoria's, Victoria

#305 Men's: Oct. 22-25
Rector: Stu Walker

#306 Women's: Nov. 5-8
Rectora: Kay Wacek

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 #301/302 or earlier to be eligible to work on the next Cursillo weekend.

SCHOOL OF LEADERS

1st Tuesday, July 7th at 7:00 pm

Location: St. Joseph's Church, Hopkins, 1310 Main St
School Building Room 150

Topic:

The School of Leaders is open to all

Please consider joining us