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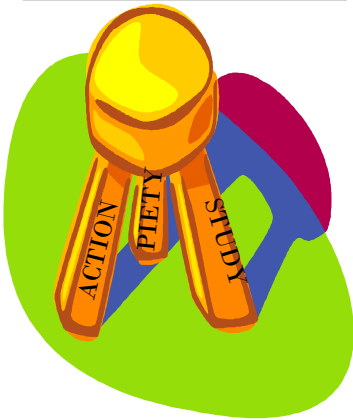
Lay Directors' Link



Why it Matters

Recently our parish launched a "campaign" called "Mass. It Matters". Parishioners of all ages were interviewed to find out why Mass, ministry programs and our school matter to them personally. It has been interesting to read all of the reasons that are given. Probably not a surprise, two common themes are the Eucharist and our community. Isn't that really the basis for our faith? Through celebrating the Eucharist we are joined together with Christ and others. It has been a time to stop and think about all that is offered, while reminding us to take a moment to appreciate everything we have. Our family focus has been on finding a way to stay connected to the community of which we so love being a part.

At the same time, we started thinking about what matters to us within Cursillo. We have been blessed with so many opportunities in our current role as Lay Directors. So we came up with a list that is on our heart:



- † Coming together as a team during formation. Just think of all of the new friends you have made by "working" a weekend. No matter if you are part of the Rollo, Palanca, Kitchen or liaison team, it's a faith filled opportunity to serve others. In our current role, it has been so rewarding to watch teams come together.
- † Bringing candidates closer to Christ by our commitment to "working" a weekend. It's so amazing to see God work through the candidates on a weekend.
- † Serving on secretariat. Just another opportunity to get closer to new friends in Christ, while helping to serve Christ in a leadership role.
- † Finding new ministry opportunities through the Cursillo community. So many people give of their time and talents to outreach. What a wonderful way to get involved in the larger needs of our community.

When we live or work a weekend, we take a moment to fill out a preference sheet. Remember what you said was important to you? Pull out your last preference sheet. Now might be a good time to see where you are in life and if there are any updates that need to be made. Are the three legs of the stool incorporated into that sheet?

The more authentic we are in our faith life, the more people we will bring along in our journey with Christ. What a better way to figure out this journey than with other 4th day members.

So, what matters to you on your journey with Cursillo? If the answer is nothing, go on with your day-to-day prayer life and consider this just another article from the Lay Directors. But if you can list reasons that Cursillo matters to you, ask yourself, "What is God calling me to do in the Cursillo community?"

- † Sponsor –make a friend, be a friend and bring that friend to Christ.
- † Attend Leader's School – 1st Tuesday of every month
- † Work Team – Call up a friend and put your applications in together!
- † Consider a position on Secretariat
- † Palanca for Cursillo – Palanca is not a just a note, it's the prayers and sacrifices. Those can be done year round.
- † Gather friends and find an outreach opportunity.

If it really matters, now is the time to show it.

May God Bless You!
Wendy and Mark Mitchell
Lay Directors, Twin Cities Cursillo

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"



FROM WEEKEND #301

If I were to tell you "WOW, what a weekend", it would not only understate but also oversimplify the Palanca chapel journey. This weekend at St. Hubert's marked my 5th anniversary where right there in February 2004, I made my Fourth Day. I was especially excited because my wife and I sponsored a candidate and we both worked the weekend: I served as a musician in the Palanca chapel, and my wife was on the kitchen team for the women's weekend.

Palanca started out at a trot, just ho-humming along so to speak, but we finished at a full gallop. After unloading, we started with a humble opening of the Palanca chapel. God's word was the predominant thread in the fabric, as could be anticipated. First we read Biblical selections designated from the speakers. At some point, I realized patterns formed via these requested readings-- I found it a joy to see these patterns and themes come to life through the Gospels.

Another thread was comprised of the many personal reflections, prayer requests, and individual prayers that saturated the chapel. Visitors, Palanca volunteers, and the proctor openly shared reflections on the Gospel, contributed personal prayers, and offered Rosaries. We were immersed in Marian devotions, chaplets of Divine Mercy, and prayers from the Catholic devotional interlaced with humor and good spirit. All this prayer seemed to build to a crescendo, and just when we thought we couldn't go any higher the Holy Spirit would reveal something and WHAM-MO, we were at another level.

We never seemed to spin down--- not bad for a bunch of guys. You can't put a finger on all the steps but there were several: like Greg reading a moving prayer after a send off, or John leading the rosary, or Phil giving rousing send-offs, or John and Jeff reading scripture and digging deep into interpretation, or Paul and I playing music together and all of us singing our lungs out.

Music requests before, during, and after the talks also seemed to further align into themes threading throughout that served as the binding agent to hold the Rollo and Palanca together. Lyrics tied into the prayers and scripture as we gave thanks and praise in song to the Lord with strong participation - unfettered and open in the Holy Spirit. The Song of the Body of Christ became a theme song. It was so perfect and so beautiful in its simplicity, yet so profound in its lyrical relation to scripture, Eucharistic sharing, palanca, and grouping.

Several themes evolved during our encounter with the Holy Spirit. Theme A: Lowering of the Paralytic into the home where Jesus and the disciples sat in dialog with each other: "Stand up now walk and live". Theme B: the parable of the prodigal son: A model of service without judgment welcomes us home. Theme C: the Road to Emmaus where Jesus appeared to two travelers, conversing along the way, and partaking in a meal with them: Jesus is among us. Theme D: Touching the hem, Christ's authority was such that he felt when someone was healed even by their touching his garment: We begged to touch the hem and humbly asked for mercy under his gaze. These revelations were so powerful you cannot capture it in words. I beseech the 4th day to read and meditate on these scriptures.

Then in the closing of the chapel, the Eucharist was so humbling. It seemed as if all the prayers and trials and challenges of formation and the weekend were poured into that sacrament entirely. I think we felt as the disciples at the Transformation. Fearful of touching the Eucharist, not feeling worthy at all, yet by the grace of God through Christ's expiation -- a pure act of love -- given this sacrament. Then at Closures: I never sang so loud before.

I was so charged up that I went home, showered, and went to adoration for 3 hours before I could come home and go to sleep. I think I had a glimpse of the excitement that Jesus generated as he walked about caring for humanity. The team was exhausted but happy. As a good friend of mine once said, "Praise the God for the grindstone that sharpens the steel".

Jeff Olson, St. John the Baptist, Savage
Palanca Musician, Weekend #301

Secretariat Members

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| | |
|---|--|
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| St. Paul Midway: Alice & Jerry Kern 651.645.3161 | |
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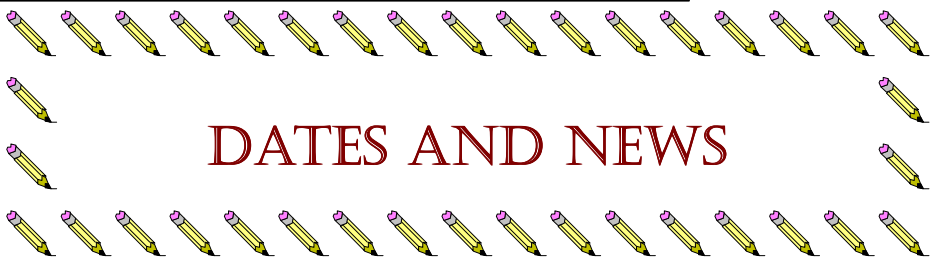
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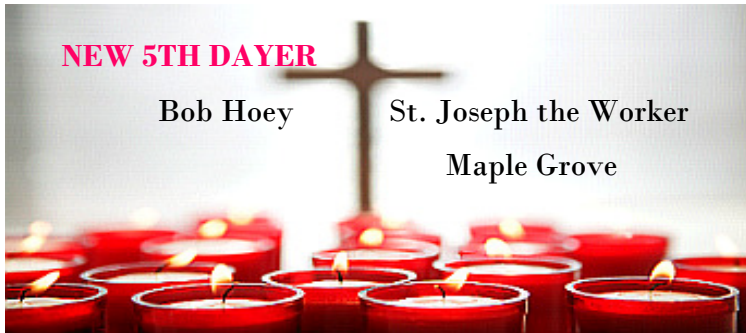
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www.tc-cursillo.org



DATES AND NEWS



NEW 5TH DAYER

Bob Hoey St. Joseph the Worker
Maple Grove

| <u>Ultreyas' Dates and Meeting Times in June</u> | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------|--------|
| ULTREYA | LOCATION | TIME | DATE |
| St. Cloud | St Mary's Cathedral | 7:00 PM | 4 |
| Northeast | St. Peter, No. St. Paul (Potluck) | 6:30 PM | 5 |
| North Minneapolis | St William, Fridley | 7:30 PM | 5 |
| Western | St Hubert , Chanhassen | 7:00 PM | No Mtg |
| Spanish Community | Incarnation, Mpls. | 7:00 PM | 12 |
| Restful Waters | St. Nicholas, New Market | 6:30 PM | 13 |
| St. Paul Midway | St. Mark, St. Paul | 8:00 AM | 13 |
| Midwest | St Joseph's, Hopkins | 7:00 PM | 13 |
| Northwest | St Henry, Monticello | 7:30 PM | 13 |
| Highland/OLP | Lumen Christi, St. Paul | 7:30 PM | 11 |
| Deaf Community | Our Lady of Mt Carmel | 11:00 AM | 21 |
| Korean | Korean Catholic Church St P | 2:30 PM | 17 |
| Jacobs Well | Holy Name of Jesus, Medina | 7:00 PM | 20 |
| MN Valley | Risen Savior, Burnsville | 7:00 PM | 20 |
| Vietnamese | St. Joseph Hien | 4:00 PM | 28 |

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, June 2nd at 7:00 pm
Location: St. Joseph's Church, Hopkins, 1310 Main St
School Building Room 150

Topic: Cursillo Section Update
The School of Leaders is open to all
Please consider joining us