

Twin Cities Catholic Cursillo

KINDLING

Sep 2009

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Go Deep!

I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart. Psalm 40:8

Recently we were blessed to attend Cursillo's National Encounter and World Ultreya along with Sonia & Mark Lager and Mary & John Jelinek. At the Encounter we were 6 of 650 4th-Dayers from around the country and parts of Canada. At the World Ultreya we found ourselves surrounded by 6,000+ members of the 4th-Day from around the world. Talk about reinforcing the "Community" aspect of Cursillo.

The Encounter's talks focused on the tripod of Piety, Study, and Action. These are three familiar terms right? After all, we report on them weekly during our Grouping time. But these talks called us to look at the Tripod in a new way. They called us to enter into Piety, Study, and Action at a much deeper level. Piety, Study, and Action are not just to be things we do, they are to be our lives. One speaker said; "The Tripod is not external, it is internal.". Another speaker called the Tripod "our own personal GPS – God Positioning System". Through growth in Piety our hearts are changed. Study changes our mind and Action will change our will from personal to Divine.

Our acts do not make us pious. What makes us pious is Christ in us acting for us. It is through a direct relationship with Jesus that our human acts will merge with His Divine will. The start of transforming our will to His will is understanding that Jesus does these pious acts in us and through us. How much we allow Christ to act in us determines our piety.

To improve the Study leg of our tripod we need to be open to God, ourselves, and the world. True study places us always in the study mode. Our life is the book in which God has left His imprint for us to study. Study puts our minds at the service of the Truth and our study is a life-long journey involving way more than just reading books. We need to be aware of how to grow closer to Christ through all of our normal daily activities. We need to focus more on those things that draw us closer and do less of those things that move us away from Christ.

Action was defined as the perfection of Piety. It is our response to a request from God, it is choosing to love as God loves. As our action moves from good works to Apostolic action we will discover that action is more about being than it is doing. We were given a tough pill to swallow when the speaker shared this thought with us. "If we lack the courage to share Christ's love with our closest friends then we need to look inside ourselves because we can't give away what we don't have." Talk about a statement that cuts through all the excuses offered for not acting when given an opportunity by Jesus to be His hands, feet, or voice.

By the end of the Encounter it was clear that Piety, Study, and Action were to be more than items on our weekly "punch-list" for Grouping. They are the very method to our conversion of heart, mind, and will. What a great gift we have been given in the Cursillo method. We are all blessed to have lived a Cursillo. And to top it all off we were given the tools we need to "Go Deep" in our faith.

To Him be the glory and praise.

Wendy & Mark Mitchell



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

Who is God for You?

When I was growing up I had the notion that to find God's will for me I had to conjure up a future that I would most likely hate and assume that this is what God wanted me to do. Thankfully, I've come to see that God is not a sadistic tyrant but a God of love. What God wishes for us is that which will bring us our greatest fulfillment and joy.

Each one of us is called to greatness, to holiness and to be our own best self. It's important for our children to know that they are part of a great and wonderful story of faith through the ages and that they have a contribution to make and a role to play. God is their greatest ally in both discovering their true path in life and achieving the good they are called to do through their unique gifts. We must teach our children that their strengths, talents and yearnings are holy by recognizing and nurturing those gifts as they blossom in their lives. We need to let our children know that they can turn to God for help whenever they need it and that God accompanies them in every one of their joys and sorrows, indeed, in every moment of their lives. Teach them that sometimes the most effective prayer is simply, "God, help me!" God is out to help us, not get us!

We find God through prayer, in service to others, in sacred scripture, in nature and in a real way in love, because God is love. We hear this phrase so often it can become a cliché. Yet, it's a most revolutionary notion with practical implications for how we should live. God as love will only begin to make sense to our children when they experience loving – and being loved – in their daily lives.

One good way to facilitate their capacity to love is by encouraging empathy. If our children can identify with and feel for others, they will be able to love. Knowing that God is love is a great tool when we feel lost or confused about whom we are, why we're here and what God wants of us. Show and tell your children that when they feel lost in their faith, taking loving action will help them find their way. And in a family, there will always be some person or situation that needs a loving response.

When you are having an especially tough time with one of your children, don't try to change or "fix" him or her – instead, love them through the tough time. Demonstrate that you recognize and appreciate your child's true, best self and that you welcome the person God intends them to become. When your children experience love in the family, you are giving them a taste of God.

Fr. Al Backmann

A Pilgrimage to Rome...experiencing a job lay-off ...to be continued

Last fall, the Cathedral of St. Paul announced a Pilgrimage to Rome that would coincide with the conclusion of the year of St. Paul. My wife Debra and I prayed about this "once in a lifetime opportunity". We felt the Holy Spirit telling us to go. We started saving our money and our prayer during this time was for good health and that our employment would continue. On June 26th, we joined 44 other wonderful new Catholic friends on this adventure.

Those familiar words from Isaiah 40:11 really described our Pastor, Fr. Johnson, who led us on our Pilgrimage. "Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care". Fr. Johnson did much of his study in Rome and was actually ordained to the Priesthood in Rome. Fr. Johnson told us that "a pilgrimage is a whirlwind gathering of graces to be sorted out later".

We traced some of St. Paul's journey from where he landed in Pozzuoli on his way to Rome. We prayed at his tomb in the Basilica of St. Paul outside the walls. We celebrated Mass with the Holy Father on the feast day of Sts. Peter and Paul. We attended the Holy Father's Wednesday General Audience. It was such a blessing for us to see St. Peter's Basilica, St. Peter's Square, and the many other wonderful churches. On our nation's birthday, we were able to pay tribute to over 7,800 soldiers from WW II who rest in peace at the American Cemetery in Anzio.

Some thoughts that continue to be in my mind since the Pilgrimage is the fact that the same Catholic Mass is celebrated every day in countless languages. We must continue to strive to be in right relationship with Christ. The courage of the apostles, disciples, and saints who gave their lives for the church, and did all this work without the church buildings, retreat centers, Catholic Catechism, Papal Encyclicals, and Canon Law. We are to be witnesses of the Gospel in our actions. How do we find a way to see Christ in everybody we meet so they can see Christ in us? Will we see another St. Paul type of conversion in our lifetime?

After a couple days of vacation (ridding myself of jet lag) I was ready to get back to work. On my first day back, I was informed that I would be laid off. After 31 ½ years of continued employment with three organizations, I have my first experience of being unemployed. Disappointed, frustrated, and unnecessary, were some of my initial thoughts. I also know that Debra and I now begin a new chapter in our lives. We will turn this page knowing that, as a wonderful book-"The Red Sea Rules" explains, the good Lord has us right where he wants us to be.

We received a precious wedding gift from our dear friend Msgr. Skonseng who witnessed our marriage. "Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers". It is a great book that has a prayer for anything and everything. It contains a "Prayer for Those Seeking Work". We want to share it with you.

"Loving God, you created the human race and you know each one of us by name. Through Christ you have chosen us to be your sons and daughters and to build up your Kingdom on earth. Give N. the work he/she seeks so that he/she may share his/her talents with others and know the dignity and satisfaction that you give us through our work. Give him/her patience while you open doors, and grant him/her the wisdom to see your will. Keep our family in your care and provide for all our needs. Never let stress diminish our love for each other nor the desire for material things lessen our love for you. With confidence and trust, loving God, we make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

As we continue through this economic downturn, may we all pray for our brothers and sisters who are seeking good and meaningful employment. As we see doors being shut, let's always remember that windows are being opened for each and every one of us. A dear friend of ours reminded us at Ultreya to reflect on whether or not we have what we need for today and the importance to live in the moment. Knowing this, the good Lord will provide.

To be continued.....

Wayne Waldera, Weekend #223.

Calling all Rectors and Rectoras

I felt a twinge of guilt last Thursday night as I was getting ready to go the Evening of Renewal at the Church of the Risen Savior in Burnsville. I realized that I had forgotten to send an email reminder to the Women of Cursillo Weekend #300 of this upcoming event. I quickly said a prayer that maybe their groupies or table leaders from the weekend had extended an invitation to this Cursillo event since I had forgotten.

My thoughts drifted back to February 2009 when I had the privilege of being Rectora for Cursillo Weekend # 300 at St. Mary's of the Lake in White Bear Lake. What a joy to be the "Shepherdess" of a group of faith filled women that the Lord had specifically chosen to make their Cursillo. At the time, these 13 women were always in my thoughts and prayers. I promised in my Total Security Rollo that I would help them get connected to the Cursillo Community. Was I doing what I had promised to do?

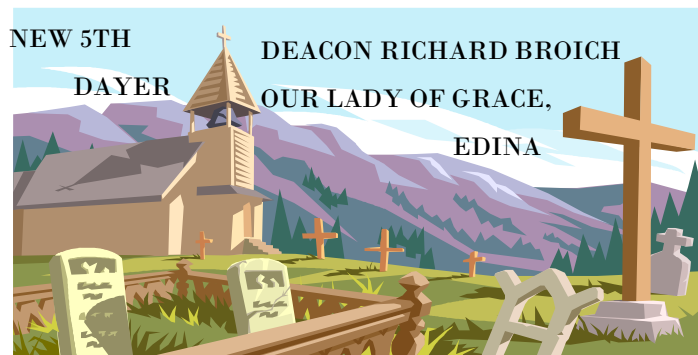
According to the Cursillo Manual, sponsors and table leaders have much of the follow-up role with the new 4th day community. That may be true, but table leaders and sponsors may also work many weekends or sponsor large numbers of individuals. Can they or will they take the time to connect with everyone? But as Rector and Rectora, we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to influence a chosen group of people in their faith journey.

The still, quiet voice of the Holy Spirit reminded me of my commitment to continue to connect with and pray for these beautiful women and extend invitations to Cursillo activities. It is my prayer that Jesus will not let me forget the gift that He gave me as Rectora, not for a weekend, but for a life time.

So the challenge is on. What is the Holy Spirit whispering to you today? Let's dust off the group picture of the weekend we coordinated and reconnect, invite and pray for these beautiful men and women of God that Jesus put in our lives in this special way. Remember that the back of our crosses say, "Jesus is counting on you." Women of Weekend #300, I will be in touch!

Debra Waldera #224

Rectora Weekend #300



Secretariat Members

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|--|---|
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| 5th Day, recently deceased: | Mary Kay Velishek 952.447.3209 |

Ultreya Representatives

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www.tc-cursillo.org

DATES AND NEWS

SCHOOL OF LEADERS

1st Tuesday, September 1, at 7:00 pm

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

Topic: Commissioning

The School of Leaders is open to all

Please consider joining us

Ultreyas' Dates and Meeting Times in September

| ULTREYA | LOCATION | TIME | DATE |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|---------|
| St Cloud | St Mary's Cathedral | 7:00 PM | 3 |
| Northeast | St. Peter, No. St. Paul (Potluck) | 6:30 PM | 4 |
| North Minneapolis | St William, Fridley | 7:30 PM | 4 |
| Western | St Hubert, Chanhassen | 7:00 PM | 13 |
| Spanish Community | Incarnation, Mpls. | 7:00 PM | 11 |
| Restful Waters | St. Nicholas, New Market | 6:30 PM | 12 |
| St. Paul Midway | St. Mark, St. Paul | 8:00 AM | 12 |
| Midwest | St Joseph's, Hopkins | 7:00 PM | 12 |
| Northwest | St Henry, Monticello | 7:30 PM | 12 |
| Highland/OLP | Lumen Christi, St. Paul | 7:30 PM | 10 |
| Deaf Community | Our Lady of Mt Carmel | 11:00 AM | 20 |
| Korean | Korean Catholic Church St P | 2:30 PM | 20 |
| Jacobs Well | Holy Name of Jesus, Medina | 7:00 PM | 19 |
| MN Valley | Risen Savior, Burnsville | 7:00 PM | 19 |
| Vietnamese | St. Joseph Hien | 4:00 PM | 27 |
| Fairmont | St. John Vianney, Fairmont | 6:30 PM | No Mtg. |

Upcoming Cursillo Weekends

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

Formation for Weekends 305 and 306

Will be on Mondays beginning

September 21st

At St. Patrick's Church in Edina

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.

Evening of Renewal

Hosted by Midwest Ultreya

Thursday, October 29th, 2009 6:30PM

Church of St. Joseph, 1310 Mainstreet, Hopkins

Pot Luck Supper and Witness Talk Follow Mass

Look for further details in the October Kindling

OPEN TO ALL † BRING YOUR FRIENDS