

Craig M. Spanjers

From: Orlando Cursillo, Inc. [orlandocursillo@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2012 9:12 AM
To: craig@mycommercialteam.com
Subject: The Cursillo Messenger

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The Cursillo Messenger

Dear Craig,

For the Moment

Year of Faith

By Father Carl Vacek, TOR

October 11, 2012 is the beginning of the "Year of Faith", the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. There is so much to celebrate - to remember regarding this date.



First of all, it strikes me that this was a momentous occasion in the life of the Roman Catholic Church. Pope John XXIII, now considered "Blessed" could not have imagined the magnitude of this Council's impact - an impact not only for the Roman Catholic Church, but because it was called an "ecumenical council", which included Christians of all denominations in its deliberations.

Pope John wanted more for the Church - he wanted it to be open to the Holy Spirit of God's Ecumenical love; a love that "threw open the doors" to the movement of the Spirit. And so it started some 50 years ago and continues still. Certainly this has not been without struggle yet attests to this Church's viability.

To us, the women and men who

It is with great pleasure through much prayer and decision making that we are able to present *The Cursillo Messenger*. Production of the newsletter will occur on a quarterly basis and focus on news and information involving or impacting our Cursillo community. Our hope is through this vehicle of evangelization we will better serve our brothers and sisters in Christ as we go forth to serve.

We welcome your feedback at orlandocursillo@gmail.com

. Thank you.

Your Brother in Christ,
 Craig M. Spanjers, Lay Director



Secretariat update

Busy and building

By Craig M. Spanjers

My favorite storyteller, Garrison Keillor, has been starting out his "News from Lake Wobegon" segment on Prairie Home Companion for more years than I can remember with the statement, "Well, it's been a quiet week in Lake Wobegon, my home town." With deference to our buddy, Garrison, and because imitation is the highest form of flattery, well, it's been a quiet couple of months at San Pedro on our Fourth Day.

Following two wonderful Cursillo weekends in March, a great Fourth Day Reunion at St. Mary Magdalene and our first Cursillo Homecoming at Sacred Heart in New Smyrna Beach, it was good to take a breath.

Our reinforcements (aka: new Secretariat members), Dan Wallace, Greg Lilly and Milena Espinosa-Nelson, have hit the ground running, with Dan serving as "men's three days" representative; Greg helping with everything technology-oriented (the Geek Squad has nothing on our brother, Greg); and with Milena serving as liaison with other movements.

Our fall teams are in the midst of that wonderful spiritual period known as "formation" as they prepare for Men's #90, Oct. 4-7 (Don Stevens, Rector) and Women's #97 Oct. 18-21 (Kathy Becht, Rectora).



have experienced the "Three Days" of Cursillo and desire to live in the "Fourth Day", it is heartening to know that the vision of Vatican II, the vision of the man Jesus Christ, is a living memory of faith. We are celebrating! We are living a fact - even more real than present day economic or social realities. It is heartening to know that this same vision happened long before John XXIII called the Council.

It started in a small Spanish village amidst persecution (the common nutrient of a living faith). It continued, and finally came some 20 years later to the shores of the Americas in the 1950's. Yes, we are the early stages of a revival in the faith, which is far more than a vague hope or a memory dependent upon ritual commemoration.

Christ, the living flesh of God among us is quite alive and is unfolding His life in our very midst. This calls us to attention. It is an attention not to what MIGHT be - as much as it is to what IS.

The Second Vatican Council went beyond the expectations of John XXIII. It has gone beyond ours as well. The 16 documents are the foundations of our Catholic faith. Learning these documents is a good basis for Study, Piety and Apostolic Action.

We know the doctrine of Jesus Christ whose life and preaching called the faithful Israelite to fulfillment of the Law of Moses. Complete, unrestrained charity is the highest fulfillment of this Law not readily codified or legislated. Rather, it impinges upon our personal and communal consciences to always seek out the Divine character of Mercy: the universal (catholic) ethos. Implications?

Perhaps it is a question of not so much "Whom do I invite to the Cursillo Weekend? But rather: Whom do I NOT invite? Who is EXCLUDED from MY mercy?

What of the many who never make it to a "weekend" because they are so far on the margins of my consciousness and my biases?

Our "pescador" work groups have also been getting under way, with some groups well along. Of course, we are blessed to have Mary St. Pierre, who spent many wonderful years with the *Florida Catholic*, serving as our leader of the newsletter pescador group (otherwise you would not be reading this newsletter). Please note: We are updating our database, so that we can get this newsletter to more and more Cursillistas, as well as providing needed information for urgent prayer requests.

Michael Willems, on Secretariat, has been busy helping to get the pescador groups organized. These include groups that are updating our talk packets and manuals (rectoras, kitchen, music); gathering books for our "study" table; and archiving our past history.

And thanks to our pescador group that organizes the Cursillo homecoming events, scheduled for twice a year for taking this on and doing an amazing job. With Cursillo Homecoming I being a great success, Cursillo Homecoming II is scheduled for **September 15, 2012 at St. Patrick, 6803 Old Highway 441 South, Mount Dora (www.stpatrickmtdora.org). Y'all come!**



We are hopefully very close to getting our tax-exempt status on Orlando Cursillo, Inc., so that contributions over and above the costs of one attending a weekend may be tax deductible. This will help us gain more financial stability and allow further opportunities to welcome any and all candidates and team, regardless of their ability to contribute to the costs. We want to be good stewards for a movement that has changed our lives so dramatically.

We held a long-range planning retreat on **Saturday July 28, 2012 at St. Patrick in Mount Dora**, for Secretariat members, which was led by one of our newest Cursillistas, Scott Hammerle, from Corpus Christi Parish, who does this professionally in the business world and wants to use his time and talent in the service of our Lord. Father Carl Vacek, TOR, assisted in all things spiritual at this retreat. Please keep us in your prayers as we discern what the Holy Spirit has in store for us as we take our "pastoral plan" to the next level. In addition, Daniel Hines, our Region VII representative, will be meeting with the Secretariat on the evening of September 7, 2012.

The summer swoon is over and it's time to lower the nets and resume our ministry as fishers of men and women! We know that during the spring and summer months you have made friends in the Lord and that you have shown God's love and friendship to them. Let's bring those friends to Christ and start getting applications to Joyce Dobrozensky, for processing.

And one last **VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: We have a new Ultreya at St. John's in Viera (Jerry Frulio, Ultreya coordinator). Alleluia!**

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God's Plan - Planting Seeds During a Journey

By Bryant Applegate

It was difficult morning for our family as we backed out of the driveway in Orlando to move to Charles Town, West Virginia. I can remember our daughter Kathryn, who attended Saint James Cathedral School from Montessori through sixth grade, tearful on the entire trip. The year was 2001 and I had just accepted a position in Washington DC.

On the drive up, Lynn and I wondered about what God's plan was for us in the move. We loved our Orlando Cursillo and Saint James community. We had both worked many teams and were already missing everyone. But God's plan was yet to be revealed to us.

It wasn't long after arriving that we developed friendships with some amazing people in our new parish. On many occasions we mentioned Cursillo and talked about how we missed our Cursillo community and how much they would love Cursillo.

What of the many men and women whom I encounter who are not wedded to another in the "Sacrament of Matrimony"?

Whom do I choose to associate with that do not fit into the confines of the common understanding of Catholic Morality? What of the man or woman, married or single who struggle with his or her sexual identity, heterosexual or homosexual? What about the undocumented laborer, what do I say to them? Are these my brothers and sisters; people I would befriend in the name of Christ? Who is Christ for me; my "socially acceptable type"?

How much do my own predilections determine the extent of my mercy? Are these worthy questions to consider? Who will this Year of Faith bring to me?

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**ORLANDO CURSILLO
MOMENT IN HISTORY**

The first beginnings of the Cursillo Movement in Orlando are described in the archives by Father Bill Keane.

In the summer of 1967, Father Larry Redmond and Father Patrick Sheedy were studying at The Catholic University in Washington, D.C., when they heard about a new spiritual experience



Bishop William Borders coat-of-arms.

called Cursillo, available in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Both later drove to Baltimore to participate in Cursillo. The following year, then Bishop William Borders, became the first bishop of the newly established Diocese of Orlando.

A Spanish speaking Cursillo was in existence in the Tampa area at the time. Father Fabian Gimeno introduced candidates from Central Florida to Cursillo. Men's Cursillo #1 in Spanish was held in Orlando in April 1968. Women's

In the summer of 2006, Tom Wilkes called and said that he was going to be the Rector for the Men's weekend in February, 2007. I asked him if it would be possible to sponsor 12-14 friends to make the men's and women's weekends. Tom responded with an enthusiastic yes.

A few weeks later, he called again to ask if I knew where Priest Field, WV was located. I laughed and told him it is not a town, but rather the Catholic Retreat Center a few minutes outside of Charles Town. He then informed me that Father Carl Vacek was being assigned to Priest Field.

Shortly thereafter, Jeff and Sandy Strobel, while on a trip to Pennsylvania, decided to spend a few days with us. So we invited 14 friends over for an evening of fellowship during which time Jeff and Sandy explained Cursillo while conveying the love of our Lord Jesus Christ to all of them. It was at that point the Holy Spirit set the hook.

Well OK, you all know the rest of the story. Our Friends made the journey to Orlando and made the weekend. Then, thanks to the efforts and love of a couple dozen Cursillistas from though out the Diocese of Orlando (and all of your prayers), over 125,000 miles were traveled over a four year period to bring Cursillo to the mountains and valleys of a beautiful state.

As Lynn and I look back on those years, and as we begin our journey back to Florida, we realize that we were just instruments of the Lord, along with all of you who prayed for the success of West Virginia Cursillo. The men and women are now in team formation for WV #5 with over 150 Cursillistas already in the fold. Together, as "farmers for our Lord" all of us simply planted seeds in fertile ground and have been blessed to watch the mountains and valleys bloom with love for our Lord.



What a blessing indeed.

A final story: As the men from Florida were driving in over a dangerous mountain road into Charles Town to work #1, a violent storm hit the area. It was truly one of the worst storms in years. It killed livestock, knocked down barns and trees. I remember praying for the safety of my Brothers in Christ. At the same time, Jeff Strobel rolled down the car window during the treacherous ride and yelled to the Devil, "is that the best you got, we are still coming!!"

As Jeff often proclaims about our Lord's work, "I am no longer surprised, just amazed." And Lynn and I are amazed at our journey with all of you. God Bless.

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Answering God's (Phone) Call

By Gloria Spanjers

The phone rings and it's "The Call". The voice on the line tells you God has called your name to serve as Rector or Rectora for the upcoming Cursillo. The first thought is "I need to pray about this, but then again if God has called, this will be hard to say no to!"

So you pray, and the answer is very clear as to whether or not this is your time to serve. Once you have decided to say yes, then the excitement, the fear, and, most of all, the overwhelming sense of responsibility consumes you. Who does God want to serve with you? The first instinct is to think of all the wonderful people you have been blessed to serve with on a team in the past and the wonderful friendships and relationships you have built over the years. Then you realize this is not about you or about them but about who "GOD wants to be there."

Secretariat over the years, has truly worked hard, led by the Holy Spirit to come up with a format that will allow you the opportunity to have your group there, and then weigh out the talents, skills and years of others in the movement in a way that will not only help the weekend be a success but will help grow the movement. I can tell you from my experience, I was



Cursillo #1 in Spanish was held in May 1968. Father Tony Pons and Father Domingo Gonzales worked to establish the Spanish Cursillo in the Orlando Diocese in the early 1970s.

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CURSILLO CALENDAR

September 15

Cursillo Homecoming II

Inviting all cursillistas to attend Cursillo Homecoming II.

September 15, 2012

St. Patrick Parish

6803 Old Highway 441 South Mount Dora.

www.stpatrickmtdora.org

The theme will be "What's the Spirit up to?" Please help us to get this information out to all cursillistas! (please hand deliver this invitation to your parish priests) We encourage Ultreya coordinators to gather groups together and sign them all up at once, sending in information requested on the invitation OR people can sign up individually.

Cursillo musicians needed for the event.



Please contact Peggy Farrell, 352-409-1143 or email mfarrell1500@embarqmail.com.

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**October 12
Personal Invitation from
Bishop John
Noonan for
Cursillistas to
participate as a
group in the
Opening Liturgy
of the 2012**



Marian Congress

Friday, October 12
Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe
7 p.m.

To receive a copy of the invitation letter from Bishop John Noonan, please email orlandocursillo@gmail.com.

To register to be a part of the Cursillo group at the opening liturgy, please send your name,

amazed at how people were put in my path that I did not know, but that GOD knew were meant to serve with me.

I found the human side of me feeling a little frustrated when people outside of Secretariat spoke about "Rules" for working team and who should and should not be allowed to work. I found God reassuring me - The reality is we serve. Work indicates there is some type of payment expected. Serving is just giving totally of oneself.

On every team there will be people who have served consecutively on several weekends and I believe from what I have experienced that it is for whatever reason God has called them. Personally, I don't like to be on too many in a row as knowing how I function it takes away from my family and other ministries.

If I could change anything in the process, I would ask Ultreya coordinators to be more diligent about submitting names as soon as they can so that the rector/rectora will have a good list of who has been grouping and attending Ultreya from whom to choose. I was blessed to have so many day help angels, I have to tell you that that is a true servant heart. To be there to work, to love unconditionally and never be seen, day help angels, get what it means to serve.

The one thing, I took from the weekend was humility. I was humbled by God's servants, the candidates and all my spiritual directors. I was humbled by how no matter what we did, God held us and His master plan in His hands. Pray without ceasing for the movement and those God calls to serve - they need it and believe me they feel it as I knew without a doubt that so many of you were praying for me.

Thank you and God bless.

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FOR THEIR WORKS ACCOMPANY THEM

Remembering our brother - Francesco Paul Frulio

Francesco Paul Frulio made his first Cursillo in 1984 at the age of 45. Frank did not simply make a Cursillo, he BECAME a Cursillista.

Frank immediately began to live his Fourth Day, starting with reconciling something in his own family that had festered for several years. In addition to Grouping and Ultreya, Frank lived the life of a Cursillista, always blooming where he was planted and providing the kind of example that others can't help but notice and be influenced by.

Frank lived a life dedicated to God, country, and family. He was a devoted, loyal, tried-and-true servant to all three - serving his country and being willing to lay down his life as is evidenced by his earning the Distinguished Flying Cross. Even after he was told by his superiors to not attempt to divert enemy fire, he went against orders to save other lives. He was also awarded the Purple Heart and other military honors that qualified him to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, where his body was laid to rest.

It would be difficult to find a more faithful, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, friend, leader, patriot and most notably, faithful in his love for God.

He was kind to EVERYONE, regardless of status or position. He always made each person he interacted with feel like the most important person on earth! He was always 100 percent engaged in every conversation and gave people his undivided attention. And he was humble. In fact, it wasn't until one of his son's delivered his eulogy that most people learned that he had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and many other accolades during his career as an Air Force Fighter Pilot. He rarely, if ever spoke about his achievements.



address, email and phone number to orlandocursillo@gmail.com. Space is limited so RSVP soon.

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CURSILLO NEEDS

MARIAN BANNER

We need someone to take the lead on creating a Marian-themed Orlando Cursillo banner for the October 12th Marian Congress being celebrated by Bishop John Noonan. The event begins with a procession of all associations of the faithful both local and national. Thank you in advance.

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SPONSORS FOR NEWSLETTER

We are currently using the company Constant Contact, which provides us the ability to create and send our quarterly newsletter and will allow us immediate communication with ALL Cursillistas in our database, which is now more than 1,000.

Pope Benedict said, "The new technologies are not only changing the way we communicate, but communication itself, so much so that it could be said that we are living through a period of vast cultural transformation. This means of spreading information and knowledge is giving birth to a new way of learning and thinking, with unprecedented opportunities for establishing relationships and building fellowship." That is our desire, to provide information so that in turn we may all go out to serve the Lord in all we say and do.



If you are interested in helping support the Orlando Cursillo in this communication venture, please email Craig Spanjers at craig@mycommercialteam.com.

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Orlando Cursillo, Inc.

Frank was so passionate about Cursillo that rather than miss giving a talk at a Cursillo weekend, he left to have an 8-hour chemotherapy treatment then returned to give his talk and finish the weekend. Whether on the weekend or not, Frank was a constant participant in Cursillo. When not on weekends, Frank was a dedicated and generous letter writer for Cursillo participants and faithful about palanca. Every Cursillo weekend, Frank and his wife, Gerry, would light a candle for the participants, pausing to say a prayer every time they walked by the candle.

Frank served on eight Cursillo weekends doing five different talks, serving in set-up and kitchen for men's Cursillo's and also served as a Women's Cursillo night angel. He grouped for 28 years and his original group brothers from his 1984 Cursillo came to pray with and over Frank in the hospital, shortly before he passed away. It meant so much to Frank and gave him the kind of comfort only Christian brothers and sisters can understand.

During the last few months of Frank's life, and even now, almost a year after his passing, countless people have witnessed to his family about how profoundly he changed or influenced their lives by his talks and by his example. He impacted so many across multi-generational, multi-cultural, and multi-spiritual lines. His family saw the traits that made Frank so special to them were in no way a secret - they were simply reflected in every aspect of his life without fanfare, boastfulness or a need for recognition.

Frank had a tireless work ethic; was quietly excellent; unwavering in his principles; honest to a fault, and loyal to his faith, his friends, and his family. He truly was a role model for all those whose lives he touched.

Frank transitioned to the next chapter of his life with so much love around him. He wrote his own tribute with silent, unheard words and dynamic heartfelt works. He truly lived the life of a Cursillista.

He is still living his Fourth Day . . .

"What we think or what we know or what we believe - is in the end, of little consequence. The only thing of consequence is what we do." More so than his word, thoughts, or beliefs, Frank's actions ultimately defined his life as a Cursillista.

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PRAYERS AND INVITATION Please continue to pray for our upcoming Men's (90) and Women's (98) fall Cursillo teams and respond to Father Carl's message - Who is Christ calling you to invite during this Year of Faith?

To download Cursillo application forms, please click on [Cursillo Application Forms](#)

Please send completed Cursillo application(s) to:

Joyce Dobrozensky
5398 Cranes Roost
Port Orange, FL 32124
386-299-5197; sjdoobby@aol.com

PO Box 2461
Orlando, FL 32802
863-206-7631 |
orlandocursillo@gmail.com



"IT WAS NOT YOU WHO CHOSE ME, BUT I WHO CHOSE YOU AND APPOINTED YOU TO GO AND BEAR FRUIT THAT WILL REMAIN, SO THAT WHATEVER YOU ASK THE FATHER IN MY NAME HE MAY GIVE YOU".

— JOHN 15:16

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Please continue to visit our website at www.orlandocursillo.org and pray for those listed under [SPECIAL REQUESTS](#). Thank you for your commitment to bear Christ's witness and continue His work through prayer, study and action.

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