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To: craig@mycommercialteam.com

Subject: The Cursillo Messenger

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The Cursillo Messenger

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Year of Faith

Vatican II

By Mary Hession

The story is told of a newly-arrived visitor to one of Central Florida's parishes who caused the ushers at



her church some disturbance after Mass one Sunday recently. Like a "babe-chick"

whose zeal had super-charged all her pistons, she mercilessly pestered one usher after another with the request, "Where is Betty Cantu? I want to meet her! Everywhere, I hear about Betty Cantu! Who is she?" Finally, after the last bulletin had been given out, and the missalettes were stacked ready for the late Mass, the senior hospitality minister unlocked her question. "I think she is saying 'Vatican II!' ...it's been in all the announcements lately." And so, a generation was marked!



Fifty years, in Church talk, really isn't very long, so when

Secretariat update

Expanding Christ's Presence

By Craig M. Spanjers

In the last newsletter, I used some material from Garrison Keillor and his radio show, "A Prairie Home Companion," reporting it had been a quiet couple of months at San Pedro. That line won't work this time around. Since August, drinking from the Cursillo fountain has been a lot like trying to drink from a fire hose.



In August and September our Cursillo teams completed their formation with meetings, talk reviews and team retreats. On Saturday, Sept. 7, Secretariat members had a pleasant and informative dinner at Bravo Cucina on Sand Lake Road with Dan Hines, our Region VII representative, as guests of Justin Stratford (food was awesome, so be sure to give it a try). We had our second Cursillo Homecoming, on Saturday, Sept. 15, at St. Patrick's in Mount Dora. As with the first homecoming event, it was well-organized, well-attended and full of great talks, discussion, music and food. We are grateful to all who organized it and participated in it. What a way to live our Fourth Day here in the Orlando Diocese.

October marked the month for our fall men's and women's weekends. Don Stevens formed a wonderful team of men for the 26 candidates who "lived" their three day Cursillo weekends on Men's #90. The closing was powerful and one of the fastest on record.

On October 12th a group of nearly 20 Cursillistas participated as a group in the procession for the opening liturgy and rosaries at the Mary Queen of the Universe Basilica as part of the Fourth Marian Congress held the following day. We proudly carried our new Cursillo banner which was designed and constructed by a team of our best, led by Joanne Cavalleri which included a suspicious, but talented group from her Ultreya. As



scholars call the Vatican Council our Second Pentecost, we truly are included in the event. Yet, current "celebrations" may well serve to show that, as in the Prologue to St. John's Gospel, "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not," the Spirit of the Lord may have brought tongues of fire through the "window" which was opened during the Council, but it seems many simply hid their heads, or went on their way only confused and threatened. Perhaps these "current celebrations" are our "second chance" to open the teachings of the Council for our time. (God is like that!)

Richard Gaillardetz, Massimo Faggioli, Jesuit Father John O'Malley and others like them are teaching through conferences all over the country about the meaning and message given to our Church during that meeting of more than 3,000 bishops and scholars in Rome from 1963-1965. We dare not miss the opportunity now, to fill our minds and our group meetings with such study.

The truth is that the Holy Spirit, present so surely in an ecumenical council, has given us four strong pillars to support our Catholic life. Most simply put, one pillar is the inner conviction that each of us and all of us are called to personal holiness wherever we live and work and are [Christifideles](#) - the document calls us!



Then, we come together to (2nd pillar) pray and participate in worship fully, actively, consciously whether in the back pew or in the sanctuary.



Our Baptism, in God's way, still works as fresh as ever; we have received, as one scholar names it, "a supernatural instinct for faith," so that (third pillar) our listening and reflection on God's Word in Sacred Scripture makes us part of the living tradition of our Catholic faith; that's God's Word written in

the picture taken at the opening liturgy shows, we were well represented by our Cursillistas and our beautiful banner. The opening liturgy was the official opening in our diocese of the Year of Faith.

Kathy Becht led a team of spirit-filled ladies on the women's weekend, in which 36 candidates "lived" their three day Cursillo weekends. What a closing to a very powerful women's weekend! It was awesome! While Women's #98 was being held, Gloria and I attended the Region VII Fall Encounter in Miami, which included the Region VII secretariat meeting on Friday morning. It was a great opportunity to meet our fellow Cursillo leaders from Region VII, which covers the southeast United States. It gave us an opportunity to share our successes and challenges and to take some wonderful suggestions back to our own diocese to make each movement stronger.

On November 3rd, we held our Fourth Day Reunion at St. Margaret Mary, which was well-attended and many thanks to all those who pitched in, including Ed Soistman who replaced Michael Willems on the Weekend Review talk at the last moment, due to Hurricane Sandy duty in the northeast. At Fourth Day we had an enthusiastic breakout session to discuss the activities of our Pescador/School of Leaders groups. Of course, we had a very important election for our country and our local issues. We continue to pray for all those elected and for the good of our country and its people. Our economic and moral problems continue weigh heavily on this country, so it is so important we prayerfully work together.



The Year of Faith (which began on October 11, 2012, the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council) is a wonderful opportunity for Catholics everywhere to develop a closer relationship with Christ, to joyfully learn more about our loving God and to take that love out into the world as we participate in the New Evangelization. Funny thing is . . . this is what Cursillo has always been about! As Cursillistas in the Diocese of Orlando, we are committed to renewing our efforts to "make a friend, be a friend and bring that friend to Christ."

At our long range planning retreat, we concluded that Cursillo must be more visible, particularly in this Year of Faith. We need to wear our Cursillo Crosses or other evidence of our Catholic Faith and be prepared to evangelize to those that the Holy Spirit will send us. We need for Cursillo to no longer be a "shadow" organization within our parishes. List the dates for Ultreya in your bulletins and give a contact person to call. Put on informational sessions, like Tom and Jean Wilkes do. Be on the lookout for the unloved, the marginalized, as Father Carl suggested in our last newsletter and be Christ to them. These are people who very often "should" make Cursillo.

We have some wonderful new Cursillista priests who have "lived" their Cursillo weekends recently. These men, Father John Murray, Father Karl Bergin and most recently, Father Gilbert Medina, Father Stephen Ogoni and Father Blase Romano are on fire. Nurture and encourage that fire in them, for our spiritual leaders are the lifeblood of our movement, whereas the members of the laity are the hands and feet. If you want to become more involved in serving the movement, consider serving on one of our Pescador groups (contact Michael Willems (mwillems@cfl.rr.com)).



What are your plans for the Year of Faith? If you don't have any, time is a wastin! The harvest is plenty and the laborers are few!

I don't know about anybody else, but drinking from a fire hose, when we are

the flesh of our 2012 lives, with the (fourth pillar) adult faith of a pilgrim people. Four power-packed constitutions: on the Liturgy ([Sacrosanctum Concilium](#)), the Church ([Lumen Gentium](#)), the Scripture ([Dei Verbum](#)) and the Church in the Modern World ([Gaudium et Spes](#)) are just the beginning of the Council's teaching (generation-spanning Catholics can learn the Latin titles).

Long ago in the 1950s, a Catholic sister taught her students to enter Church and genuflect with these words, "My Jesus, I adore You present here and in all the tabernacles around the world." That prayer marks a spirit of this Vatican Council in many ways, but one especially is its sense of global Catholicism. For the first time in history, all countries of the world were represented in that one gathering and the voice went out: "The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these too are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ ([Gaudium et Spes](#))."

Critics say that Christianity seems to be moving across Africa, South America, sadly leaving Europe and parts of North America behind. The Council today is a fresh breath of the Holy Spirit of Jesus. The language of the documents is clear, inviting, full of power. Abounding with Scripture, the teachings of all the documents deserve to be shared with our youth (could a group include a youth or two and share a study of a document?) so that whatever our generation has left unfinished may still be for them, and maybe still for us, teaching that is living and effective now.

What stirrings of the Holy Spirit do we experience within the Church and within the world? He has given His Spirit not to be wasted away in us, but to flourish and re-create the face of our earth.

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drinking THE living water, is pretty good stuff! Thanks for everything that the members of our Fourth Day Community, particularly our "pescadors," are doing now and for those who have quietly served our movement for many, many years without fanfare (people like our tireless spiritual directors, Joe Gurtis, Art Dodd, Mike Schuermann, Brenda Jeffers and Rich Maffei, just to name a few)! We are truly blessed!

Yours in Christ,
Craig Spanjers, Lay Director

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From mountaintop to the fields

Journey of a Babe Chick

By Jennifer Hargroves

When asked to write a reflective piece on my year after my Cursillo weekend, I smiled. I left my Cursillo # 96 weekend on the mountain top. I was on fire for the Lord and ready to let everyone know it. My life was transformed in 72 hours. I was going to live my life as the Catholic I was meant to be...

The phrase that keeps ringing in my ear now is "A few steps forward and a few steps back." Life's ups and downs seem to never stop. Just when you read something or are part of an experience that changes your thought process and you think will change your life forever - You realize that everyone and everything around you is still the same.

The biggest transformation for me was what I call the "Big Sponge Theory". On my weekend, I was heavily burdened with the fact that I am a cradle Catholic, yet my knowledge of the Catholic faith was very elementary at best. I began to submerge myself in every lesson available. I continued after my weekend with Why Catholic? and Thursday Bible class. I picked up all of the Catholic Updates in the gathering space at church. This past July, I participated in a silent retreat for women in Alabama. Every time Father Robert (D'Aversa), or pastor, recommended books, I read. I was a sponge.



During all this reading and going to everything the church offered; I was still working as a 4th grade teacher trying to bloom where I was planted. Teachers are given such an amazing gift with big responsibilities. I know I have the ability with my words and actions to lift a child up or scar them. I went in every day trying to reach every child in my classroom. Recalling stories of saints who helped others not thinking of themselves would play in my mind as I taught. I wanted my light for Jesus to shine. I would try to recall what I read and apply it to my four walled classroom filled with children.

Realization that I was in overload happened when I would go to reference something I read or heard and could not relay the specific details. I felt like I was just going through the motions trying to keep up. Work all day striving to be an excellent teacher, trying to keep Jesus at the center of all I did; home, and then out three nights a week for church related activities. It was time to slow it down. I was trying to apply too much! Where was this thing called "Balance" that so many Christians talk about? This sponge is not so absorbent!



If you spend time with avid bicyclists you will probably find yourself buying a new bicycle. When you spend time with heavy drinkers, you will probably consume a few more than you planned to drink. Thankfully, if you spend an hour every week with "Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ" you will probably spend a good portion of your week thinking Piety, Study and Action. I am so grateful for my group sisters who keep me grounded and continue to work on finding that balance thing! I was welcomed into a group of diverse women who have truly become part of my life.

I have always spent every morning in prayer and reading daily Scripture. Now, I

NATIONAL CURSILLO NEWSLETTER

PLEASE take a moment to read the National Cursillo Movement newsletter, so you are well informed on all levels.

[Please click here to download the National Cursillo newsletter](#)

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write little notes to myself of what I want to remember as the day goes on. I put it in my pocket with a small cross. My effort of finding balance is to remember in the daily events of life that my life's sponge will have days of drought and days of expanding to the point of bursting.

A few steps forward and a few steps back...

Christ is counting on me. And I AM COUNTING ON CHRIST.

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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.

From November 12-15, 1970, the first English Cursillo was held in the Orlando Diocese at Camp San



Pedro (now San Pedro Spiritual Retreat Center. Father Richard Kieran of Atlanta was spiritual director and talks were given to the

24 candidates by then Bishop William Borders and Father Joe Nolin.

The first spiritual directors of the Orlando English Cursillo were Father Bill Keane, Father James MacLoughlin and Father Tony Pons. The first lay directors were Dr. Al Corso, Jim Valentine and Dr. Cesar Baro. Notable in the early lay leadership of the English Cursillo were exiles from Cuba and their wives.

The first Cursillo for women was held at Camp San Pedro, October 23-24, 1971. The team was made up of women from the diocese who formerly had made Cursillos in Miami, Tamp and elsewhere in Spanish and English. Lay leaders included: Felicia Baro, Maria Matilda Boudet, Gladys Corso, Miriam Gonzales, Pauline Marino, Marcella Mates, Marlene Besuden, and Dee Valentine assisted from Atlanta. To date well over 4,000 men and women have made English Cursillo and well over 1,000 have attended Spanish Cursillos in the Orlando Diocese. *In our next edition read about Catholic Outreach.*

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Come and See
 By Tom Wilkes

Ever get the urge to invite a bunch of Christian leaders in your parish to attend Cursillo? Ever felt like that would be just what the renewal of your Ultreya needs: a handful of new parish Babe Chicks after each Cursillo?

The Ultreya at St. James thinks there is a way to do just that. We've tried it, and it seems to attract a handful of candidates each time.

We call it our "Come and See" event.

Why "come and see?" Two reasons. First, in John 1:46 (RSV), Phillip did not try to explain to Nathaniel why he should join the followers of Jesus. Instead, he merely said "come and see." And, you may remember that Mother Teresa never tried to explain and rationalize the work of her Missionaries of Charity. She just said, over and over, to everyone who was curious: "come and see!"



"COME AND SEE"

We think it works for the Cursillo. Here's what to do:

1. Identify the Christian leaders in your parish. Not just parish leaders, but the men and women in your parish who are leaders in their environments. Try to identify, say, 15 or 20 leader couples and singles.
2. Get permission from your pastor to use his name on the invitation and to hold the event at the rectory, with the pastor present. Our invitation is formal looking. It is from the pastor and two or three Cursillista couples. It invites folks to "dessert" at the rectory, usually at 7 pm on a Friday or Sunday night.
3. At the event, we spend about 30-45 minutes serving dessert and enjoying fellowship.
4. We then give a brief "Come and See" talk about the Cursillo.
5. We show a list of the parishioners who have attended Cursillo and invite them to talk to our Cursillistas.
6. We hand each of them a candidate application and invite them to sign up.

If you would like a copy of our invitation and the "Come and See" talk, [PLEASE CLICK HERE](#) or email me at tom.wilkes@gray-robinson.com.

Here are some thoughts that underlie what we do.

- The formal invite seems important. If it's held at the rectory, the invitation can be a "summoning" as much as an invite. It should draw a good group.

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2013
CURSILLO CALENDAR

February 28

- Ultreya Coordinators
 Appreciation Dinner and
 Information Session

February 23

- Cursillo Homecoming #3 - Sacred
 Heart Parish, New Smyrna Beach.

February 28-March 3

- Men's Cursillo #91 (Rob Leach,
 Rector)

March 14-17

- Women's Cursillo #99 - (Gerry
 Frulio, Rectora)

April 13

- Fourth Day Reunion - St.
 Margaret Mary Parish, Winter
 Park

September 14

- Cursillo Homecoming #4 - St.
 Patrick's Parish, Mount Dora

October 3-6

- Men's Cursillo #92

October 17-20

- Women's Cursillo #100

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CURSILLO NEEDS

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- If you invite 20 couples, you may get only 3 or 4. Try inviting 30 or even 40. If you are overwhelmed with people showing, so much the better.
- Our experience, however, is that the Holy Spirit will not send huge numbers. He will send the ones He wants to attend. The rest will decline and not attend. Be at peace. You will get just the number He wants and just the number you can handle.
- The "Come and See" talk is meant to be inviting and positive, not cautionary. There is nothing about the prospective candidates being "willing to commit to the Movement". In our experience, asking for a commitment to the Movement prior to attending a Cursillo weekend drives prospective candidates away.
- Do not try to tell them what they will experience. That's the point of "Come and See."
- Do not promise elation or joy or a "high" or anything else. Do not raise expectations beyond what sounds possible - even if it is possible, even if joy and elation likely will occur. Just invite. Tell them to come and see what has been so enduring ... worldwide ... for so many decades.
- Just invite. Just invite like Philip did to Nathaniel. Just invite like Mother Teresa did, relentlessly, when she said "come and see."



The invitation to "come and see" was enough for Andrew to get Nathaniel to follow the messiah. That was enough for Mother Teresa. Let it be enough for your parishes.

And, it will be enough to get the couples the Holy Spirit wants on the Cursillo from your parishes.

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PRAYERS AND INVITATION

Please begin praying for our 2013 Men's (91) and Women's (99) fall Cursillo teams and respond to the call to "Flourish and recreate the face of our earth."

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

Please make sure your Ultreya coordinator signs off and your application is approved and signed by your pastor. When application is complete, please mail Cursillo application(s) to:

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