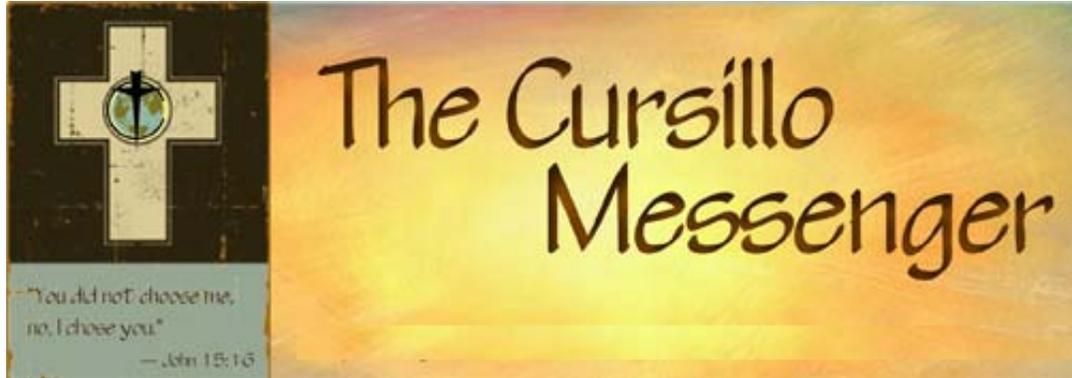


Craig M. Spanjers

From: Orlando Cursillo, Inc. [orlandocursillo@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 12:20 AM
To: craig@mycommercialteam.com
Subject: Times Are Changing



+ MARCH 2013 +

**Times of Change**

By Craig Spanjers

Craig Spanjers looks at our changing times from the Catholic and Cursillo perspective.

The title to the Bob Dylan song, "Times They are a Changin'," sure seems to fit with what seems to be going on around me. Then, the Byrd's classic, "Turn, Turn, Turn" comes to mind. Oh, yeah, that's biblical . . . Ecclesiastes, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven . . ." Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. The retirement of an elderly and frail pope, the death of a beloved bishop, the transfer of our beloved spiritual director, just for starters.

Isn't it appropriate that we are in the midst of Lent? In a few weeks, at the end of the



Lenten Reflection Memorable Mountain Lessons for Lent

By Sister Rosemary Finnega

The backpack got heavier path up the mountain. We six parishioners who were parish in Haiti recently.

On this particular day we had a very steep, rocky, sandy path to reach a remote outlying part of the larger parish. They patiently for us and upon our arrival with song and dance. We were so happy how they were after their recovery from cholera. They shared their joy of losing loved ones to this disease. They expressed their gratitude for the help they had received from our parish as a humbling experience, and we were with them.

When the clouds were getting thicker the climb back up. Ten miles each step became an effort. Did we reach the top; it wasn't through?

- When our guide and I were offered to carry our backpacks they accepted.
- When we met child



Triduum, we celebrate the culmination of the Paschal Mystery with a glorious Easter Vigil. The Risen Lord has conquered death. So, fear not, just as Christ rose from the dead, the Holy Spirit continues to renew the face of the earth, even when times seem to be dark and uncertain.

Soon the Catholic Church will have a new shepherd. Bishop Dorsey rests in our Lord's loving arms ([Click here for obituary](#)). Oh, yes, I mentioned the departure of our spiritual director, Father Carl Vacek. After returning to the diocese from West Virginia, Father Carl briefly reprised his role as the Cursillo Spiritual Director. He now returns to Franciscan "headquarters" in Pennsylvania. We have been so blessed over the years by Father Carl, including the time he sent us Father David while he was away. The Holy Spirit will continue to renew us and will send us a successor to Father Carl.



Pope John Paul II greets then Father Norbert M. Dorsey.

On Secretariat, "times they are a changin'" too, as we will be welcoming three new members, Dennis Lobmeyer, Cindy McKay, and Denise Locetta Farrington, selected through the assistance of the Holy Spirit, who will begin their service in April. Michael Willems, in spite of his heavy load in the diaconate program, has agreed to serve another three-year term. I will be serving the final year of John Edmead's term, which he had to vacate to take care of family and business matters. I will continue as Lay Director for another six months, at which time we will select my replacement. This will give the new lay director sufficient time for transition before my term with Secretariat is done. The reason I mention change as to the composition of Secretariat is to explain how our diocesan movement is trying to make the best of stability and traditional values while being open to new ideas and to understand how our world is changing so quickly.

For those who have followed our diocesan movement in the past couple of years, particularly those who have been to our orlandocursillo.org website and have read our *Cursillo Messenger* newsletter, you know that we have re-tooled our School of Leaders to help it better take on the leadership and support roles called for in the Leader's Manual and other Cursillo literature. Our Leader's School has always admirably carried its load as "teacher". Now, our "Pescadors" aka: "our participants" in the School of Leaders, are forming groups that serve our movement in many ways. Many roles that were assigned to Secretariat members during their terms and moved around as members rotated off Secretariat were suffering from lack of continuity. The Pescador groups are now giving us more stability by assuming some roles that were previously done as Secretariat assignments. For example, our applications are handled by a two-person group led by former



stopped and played with them.

- When Haitian women in flip flops coming back from the market passed us gingerly with baskets of goods on their heads and smiled watching us pant away, we smiled back.
- When we got very weary, a member of our group pulled out jelly beans and told us the sugar would give us a boost.

We talk about Lent as a journey, and indeed, it is. Like our trek up and down the mountain, Lent is full of ups and downs. We start out vigorously with great intention.

Much like the things in our backpack that we took on our climbing expedition, the resolutions we make aren't hard to carry at first. We slip and slide a bit as we get our footing, but we get our balance, renew our resolve and continue on our way. But, as the journey continues and if we are serious about our commitment to reach our Lenten destination, i.e., conversion of heart, the whole journey can, and should, become somewhat challenging and arduous.

What helps us on our journey, especially during those times when the going gets rough? Here are three suggestions:

1. **lighten up your backpack**
2. **find joy along the way**
3. **get nourishment for that needed boost**

Lighten up your backpack

"Surrender your cares to God who cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7.

Who of us isn't carrying baggage that's burdening us down? Cares, concerns, situations, relationships can distract us and cause much anxiety.

Lent is a time to renew our trust in God's ever-loving care for us and to remember the numerous ways in our past that God's presence was felt.

What a relief it was for us when our companions offered to carry our backpacks! So, too, God sends people to us with whom we can share, find comfort, seek advice, and pray.



Find joy along the way

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." Romans 12:12



Lent is a season of graces, sometimes unexpected, sometimes hard to see, but always there. Like the children

Secretariat member, Joyce Dobrozensky. She and her group will continue in this role and will pass along the responsibility to Cursillistas who want to serve in this capacity. Manuals, sample talks and team packets are being reviewed and updated by Pescador groups who have the interest, the experience and the time to take on these challenges (familiar names like Rich Maffei, Jerry McDaniel, Sheridan Becht, Paul Stewart and Evelyn Bean).

There are Pescador groups who help with music, with kitchen issues, with IT (database, website, social media and whatever else comes along). John Barbary and Tony Ziner have done an amazing job of preserving our history on the Archive Pescador group, and they plan to keep it up to date. Mary St. Pierre, former editor of the Florida Catholic, is putting out this dynamite quarterly newsletter.

In February, the third Cursillo homecoming, done by a tireless group of Pescadors (including the Losch's and Cathy King, to name a few), was held at Sacred Heart in New Smyrna Beach. The numbers at each of these homecoming events and the feedback obtained show that Cursillo is alive and well in our diocese. These homecoming events have been amazing. If you have not attended one, you have missed an opportunity to be lifted spiritually in ways that are hard to explain. We have so many enthusiastic Cursillistas in our diocese, including so many who made Cursillo in so many other places, that we are just beginning to scratch the surface of what they can and want to do.



Cursillo has been such a gift to so many of us. It is a gift that can grow and be shared, but it must be nurtured. When everything was being done by Secretariat members, it, quite honestly, was not being done well, because these wonderful servants of the movement were stretched too thin. At times, too, Secretariat members were assigned to tasks that were beyond their skills or assigned to something for which they did not have a passion. We all have our gifts, but some gifts are given to some and not to others.



The first couple of years that our Pescadors have been active have been very promising. We are only scratching the surface of what we can do in this diocese to make Cursillo strong and vital and bring it to as many parishes as possible. We cannot really say "the laborers are few." In truth, we have found there are significant numbers of Cursillistas who have committed to serving the Lord and so many more than willing to help keep Cursillo strong - especially those whose families are grown. Our Pescadors have provided input on persons who might be asked to serve as Secretariat members, as rectoras and as rectors and, thus, broadened these selections beyond a small closed group. A lot of the "heavy lifting" is now being done by Pescador groups, which frees the Secretariat to guide the movement in these "changin' times."

Where do we go from here? We



we met along the way and the women who greeted us and added so much joy to the day, glimpses of God's life are ever present and can only be seen with the eyes of faith. In this "Year of Faith", perhaps we can sharpen our vision to see the divine presence around us.

Get nourishment for that needed boost

So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you." John 6:53



As people on a faith journey, our greatest source of nourishment is Eucharist. Lent affords us another opportunity to reflect on the precious gift that Eucharist is to us. What IS my relationship to the Eucharist? Has it become commonplace for me? Do we appreciate the gift of Christ's real presence? Do we partake on a regular basis?

Lord, thank you for this season of Lent. May it be for us a grace-filled journey of faith and a solemn time to remember the journey to Calvary that you lovingly took for us.

Sr. Rosemary Finnegan, O.P., a cursillista, is director of adult faith formation at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Winter Park.

IV - Jesus Meets His Mother



When Deacon Al Castellano set out on the biggest project of his life, he prayed, listened, planned and acted on creating the Stations of the Cross, beginning with Jesus Meets His Mother.

of the Cross for Sts. Peter and Paul Church. And so he prayed some more.

Deacon Castellano used God's guidance to create Stations

He prayed for nine years asking God to allow him to do something for the Church. Never did he envision the project he would be presented, to build 14 Stations

When Deacon Al Castellano was moved to sculpt the Stations of the Cross for Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Winter Park, he began with the IV Station - Jesus

need to make sure that we stay somewhat organized, without becoming too formal. We are forming a Pescador group to coordinate and empower the other Pescador group and their efforts. This group (we have invited members who are discerning their involvement) will be encouraged to establish a direction for the School of Leaders that will stay consistent to the principles of the Leaders Manual, not only in the support of the movement, but in the continued formation of leaders/Pescadors. We need to form our future leaders from our babe chicks and other recent candidates. Soon we will be developing a training program for all first time team members that will cover things that team formation cannot give justice to. This will be headed up by the Zellers and will be done on video, so new, young team members can receive this training at a time and place that won't disrupt family life. Serving on Pescador groups will take our new Cursillistas to a new level as they work side by side with Cursillistas who have lived their Fourth Days for many years.

"Come Holy Spirit, . . . renew the face of the Earth . . ." and in doing so, renew this wonderful gift of Cursillo so that lives and environments will continue to be changed . . . until all the earth reflects the love that we found on our weekends. Times they are a changing. "*Veni Sancte Spiritus*".

Joe Gurtis, A Man for God's Seasons

Joe Gurtis has been a cornerstone of the Cursillo Movement since the early days. His daughter, Sarah, shares with us his walk with Jesus through her eyes.

Everyone who is reading this newsletter has their own Cursillo story...when you made yours, who was in your group, what about the weekend touched you most deeply. If you were associated with it in the early days, then you likely crossed paths with my father, Joseph J. Gurtis. The profound change that occurred in his heart and faith during "his" Cursillo still resonates in our family.



A younger Joe Gurtis.

We said goodbye on a Thursday morning to the General Manager of the Central Florida office of the New York Life Insurance Company. What returned to us late on Sunday night was a blurry-eyed Jesus freak. The transformation was extraordinary and confounded us in the short term because we just didn't understand what he had experienced in such a brief time.

My Dad had always been a staunch Catholic. He was raised in the pre-Vatican II tradition of Mass and the Sacraments, of rules and order and a strict hierarchy of clergy and lay people. He was devoted to my mother Sally Gurtis and worked hard to ensure that his eight children received a Catholic education. He headed the annual Bishop's Appeal, and routinely attended daily Mass.

Meets His Mother. It was a test sample he committed to clay. It was also the measure that guided the entire project. In Deacon Al's words, "I spent a great deal of time on Mary's touching of Jesus' beard." He wanted to create that really gentle touch of a mother and the same thing of a son holding her face with eyes gazing at each other and yet that moment of Jesus saying, "Mom, I must do this."

The project began in April 2008 after Father Derk Schudde, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul requested it. Before even knowing of the project, Deacon Al had prayed for about nine years asking the Lord to allow him to do something for the Church. His prayers were answered with this massive request by his pastor. Feeling overwhelmed, in prayer once again God assured, "I will teach you."

Deacon Al spent a full year researching stations around the world and settled on 15-inch-by19-inch rectangular high-relief sculptures that arc perfectly around the church columns.

The most difficult station was Station XI, "Jesus is Nailed to the Cross". Deacon Al sensed Jesus' arm being his own arm and his own hand clutching up in pain. The station was cast six times before Deacon Al recreated what he experienced.



XI - Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

While sculpting Station XIII, Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross, Deacon Al envisioned Mary leaning over to kiss her son. When he was doing her face, he sculpted in his hand to get all the detail. As he sculpted, he prayed and in one instant, he moved a piece of clay the size of a half-grain of rice and there she was before him - Mary. A voice said, "Stop." Deacon Al had been praying for help and in that instant, he got it.

Three years later, on his 80th birthday, Deacon Al, saw the culmination of his work unveiled as each of the 14 stations were installed.

Deacon Al has been married to his wife, Kay, for 58 years. They have five children, 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He retired after 31 years as a U.S. Marine colonel and in May, will celebrate 29 years as a deacon. He took time recently to answer the following questions about the Stations of the Cross project.

Cursillo Messenger (CM): It is my understanding it took you two plus years to complete the Stations, which took place on your 80th birthday. Can you share with us the emotion of the entire journey of two plus years and then to actually walk in and place the Stations in the church?

Deacon Al (CA): The concept began sometime in April of 2008. In a conversation with Father Derk Schudde, our pastor, Ted Chuchla, parishioner and

When he told us that he was on his way to attend a religious retreat weekend, I don't remember thinking too much of it other than the name of it was odd...Cursillo. He was at Men's Cursillo #9, March 7-11, 1974 at Camp San Pedro. It was the Monday after the Cursillo when we knew that something big had happened to Dad. That morning before we headed off to work and school, an exhausted Sally moved slowly around the kitchen getting us all out the door. When I asked her why she looked so tired, she was quick to point out that Dad had kept her up all night talking about Jesus being his brother, that his life was forever changed...you know, the usual "I'm a disciple of Christ" sort of thing. If we thought that his religious conversion would wear off or dull over time, we were badly mistaken.

Fortunately for my Mom, she made the Women's Cursillo #5 just a few weeks later and was then able to share fully in the deepening Christian world they were building both inside and outside the walls of our home. Both became involved leaders and it was especially fun to see my mother the "homemaker" stretch her skills into organizer and leader. My Dad's involvement eventually lead him to join with eight other equally inspired men to form Kairos Prison Ministry, where the core values of the Cursillo experience could be shared in an ecumenical way with God's most forgotten sisters and brothers, those incarcerated in our prisons. One of his co-founders Dick Day used to say that if you wanted to see a frustrated Joe Gurtis..."put him in a room where everyone has already made a Cursillo."

What an extraordinary gift it was to witness a true and profound "conversion." To see a man with faith become a man of faith. Seven years after Sally's death, Dad married Beverly Schweizer, widow of Nils Schweizer, one of the "9 old men" who founded Kairos. Thank you Jesus!



In return, the Cursillo community says Thank You to Jesus for Joe Gurtis - a true disciple of Christ.

Cursillo Book Table

Secretariat is requesting that in lieu of selling books, CD's or DVD's after the Study talk on the weekends, candidates will be provided with donated books, CD's and DVD's furnished by Orlando Cursillo Cursillistas.



CALL TO ACTION - This is a call for all of us to dust off the above mentioned, which have touched our lives and share them with others. We ask that Ultreya Coordinators collect books, CD's and DVD's at their monthly Ultreya meetings and then notify Trudy Johnson at gatortrudy@hotmail.com, or 352-406-1620 so arrangements can be made for pick-up.

Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation.

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project manager for our new church and myself, Ted was chiding me to do a sculpture of Jesus carrying a laughing toddler on his shoulders that I had suggested to him during the construction of the church. Father Derk jokingly interrupted saying "I don't want him to do that I want him to do the Stations of the Cross."

That started the wheels turning and on my 80th birthday, November 10, 2010, they were installed quietly, beginning at 10:00 PM and finishing up at 1:09 AM the following morning. To say the least, it was a moving journey those two and a half years. I worked on the project 7 days a week, some days only spending an hour and a half, others as much at 13 hours. It was a somewhat emotional experience being totally immersed in the Passion of our Lord from wake up to sleep. As you would imagine, it never left my mind. Just as you (CM) had expressed some emotion in seeing the Stations, I too experience similar feelings as I watched each of the figures emerge from the clay.

Perhaps my biggest concern towards the end of the project was the installation. The final prep of the stations was a bit difficult. Our son Mark, who is a building construction consultant, helped considerably with that aspect and helped design a procedure for the installation. Since we were to begin at 10:00 PM and go to completion we knew that if we did not bring everything that we needed and planned every detail we would probably not be able to complete as planned. The installation went smooth as silk without a single problem.

CM: What drove you to do this - was there a spiritual drive, a call, a moment of awareness, or was it a request from the pastor?

DA: As noted above, the stimulus to get started came from Father Schudde. I have been doing sculptures on and off for about 40 years as a pastime and as a hobby. Most all of the previous work I have done have been secular. While doing much of that work I would frequently pray that one of these days I would be inspired to do something spiritual. Obviously that prayer was answered. Each Station has such power in the emotion that as I mentioned, it brings this sense of many emotions in those who witness them. I know that I myself went from deep, deep sadness, to a sense of sorrow for what I have done wrong in my life, to a sense of incredible love for the Lord.

CM: What are other descriptions people have shared with you about the Stations of the Cross you created?

DA: Similar comments: One day I was in the church by myself meditating over the Stations when a lady came from nowhere running towards me exclaiming, "I heard Him screaming. I heard him screaming." She was referring to the X Station; Jesus is Stripped of His Garments. She was in tears. To say the least, her observation affected me similarly.

CM: Can you describe for me the process of how the Stations were created?

DA: I had originally conceived doing the stations in earth clay, firing them in a kiln, applying a patina and installing. However, my teacher, David Cumbie from Crealde School of Art in Winter Park, advised that

Women's Cursillo #99

Please remember to keep the team and candidates of Women's Cursillo #99 in your prayers this weekend.

Candidates:

Gloria Kovalcik
 Emily Harris
 Olga Della-Pupa
 Maritza Medrano
 Emily Murphy
 Valerie Snyder
 Cheryl Ayres
 JoHanna Waterhouse
 Elizabeth Beers
 Grace DeRosa
 Carmen Garvey
 Katie Connor
 Michele Tse
 Karen Adam
 Zee Parojino
 Silvia Sanders
 Angela Dana
 Patricia Pettinato
 Cris Sandoval
 Jen Born
 Marie Castatnaro
 Marie Regan
 Barbara Hudson
 Nancy Hastings
 Carol McCarthy
 Carmen Perez
 Leanne Sullivan
 Gracie Mazanec
 Annemarie Wess
 Lisa Smith
 Margaret Simmermacher
 Gloria Wright
 Ruby Johnson
 Peggy Badeau
 Pat Davis
 Patsy Godfrey
 Joan Greary
 Siri Costello-Avila
 Stacy Lytle
 Lydia Denault

Team:

Joyce Dobrozensky
 Judy Neely
 Vickie Davidson
 Silvia Balsam
 Maureen Eaton
 Lori Frank
 Elizabeth Harris
 Sue Lenck
 Sandy Moos
 Theresa Murphy
 Rosemary Skufca
 Sue Marion
 Cathy King
 Linda Bloomer
 Barbara Schoenly

would not work. With 13 to 15 percent shrinkage in the kiln, the final product would not fit on the columns. He recommended that I do them in *plastilina* clay, make molds and then cast them in an appropriate medium. I had taken a mold making class with David some 25 years ago and I know well how complicated the process is and was reluctant to take that route. Needless to say I succumbed to David's well founded advice.

After fabricating replicas of the columns in the church, I made 8 of those called armatures; a 1-inch layer of *plastilina* was applied to the armature. I then sketched the outline of the figures in the station with a stylus. The process was to then continue to apply and shape clay until I was satisfied with the images.

The clay images were then coated with latex to make the molds. It took about 20 coats of latex to get just a 1/8th inch thickness, obviously a laborious process. When the molds were dry, since they were so thin, a shell had to be fabricated to hold the molds in shape and position while the final medium was applied and dried. Those shells were made of plaster of paris and burlap.

When I finally had a raw cast of the station I was satisfied with, a bronze patina was applied and the top and bottom frames applied. Because of casting problems, some of the stations had to be recast as many as six times to get one clear of defects.

CM: Were there ever stumbling blocks in your journey of creation and did it ever cross your mind that you would not finish?

DA: I had done sculptures in wood, clay and stone but had never a project this huge or one that would require great faithfulness to the images and the story. Needless to say, I had doubts till the last peg was installed to cover the screw holes that it would be accomplished as imagined. As a result, rather than embarrass myself or others involved, I chose to keep the project secret with the only other persons in the parish and in town knowing what I was up to were Father Schudde and my wife Kay. The only stumbling block was patience. As I started each station, I was anxious to see what the Spirit wanted us to see. I guess that is probably why I was somewhat compelled to work on the project every single day.

Since I had turned our garage into a studio, my wife Kay was readily available for advice on each tiny detail. To be sure, since everything I did was new ground for me, I constantly sought her view and opinion on everything. This was readily forthcoming along with daily encouragement, sensing that the stations would have the kind of impact they had on you and on most people of faith who viewed them.

CM: I have been told that your intention of the Stations was for people to touch them - Was this a directive you sensed all along, or one that came to you afterwards - and why?

DA: After my initial encounter with Father Schudde and Ted Chuchla, I spent a little over a

Ann Baslee
 Geeta Hyjek
 Cathy Losch
 Jean Chavaree
 Linda Shaughnessy
 Gerry Frulio, Rectora
 Joan Ousey
 Deacon Jim Seidel
 Vicki Seidel
 Terri Tayge
 Mandi Verderosa
 Cathy Brlansky
 Andrea Cavallere
 Melanie Balbanski
 Maureen Branham
 Dee Dee Haggerty
 Cindy McKay
 Pauline Yi
 Tonya DeLeon
 Father Robert D'Aversa
 Mikki Griffin
 Trudy Johnson
 Jody Calabro
 Lisa Johannes
 Beth Ann Ortiz
 Audrey Hoyas

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Fourth Day Reunion

St. Margaret Mary - Winter Park

April 13, 2013: 9 AM - 12:30 PM

Invitation and Refresher Course

The 4th-Day begins on the Sunday night of the 3-Day Weekend and it represents the rest of your life. The Cursillo movement began with the Fourth Day only - small groups meeting regularly in support of one another living as Christians in a predominantly non-Christian world. The three-day weekend came later. (read What is Cursillo? for more information). The weekend experience provides the foundation but the 4th-Day is the real point. After the weekend, those who attended join a Reunion Group and an Ultreya in your area.

The 4th-Day involves:

A rule of life in which individuals are encouraged and stimulated to continue to deepen their spiritual life by means of the sacraments, prayer, individual study, spiritual direction and intentional action

Group Reunions, where committed individuals meet with others in small groups on a regular basis to review their spiritual progress (prayer, study, action) and to plan ways to bring their Lord to other people.

Ultreyas where Group Reunions get together with other Group Reunions to share ideas and apostolic successes and disappointments

year researching other stations from around the world. As you know that is now possible. During that period, I had made drawings of several versions of each of the stations.

At some point it dawned on me that the movie "The Passion of the Christ" was in fact a depiction of the Stations. I had two copies of the movie DVD along with a couple of books on the movie. I watched the movie several times and decided to scrap all my previous work and use the movie as inspiration for the stations. I watched the movie over and over until I found the particular scene I thought was right, stopped the movie, made a sketch and then continued to refine until I was satisfied with the message.

From time to time the image in clay was not what I wanted so I would go back to the movie and work the process all over again.

While working that process, a concept evolved because of the circumstance at Sts. Peter and Paul where in the Ambulatory, where the Stations would be located, one would never be more than 6 to 8 feet away from the images. The concept evolved of wanting the images to be "in your face." That is, cropped in as close as possible so that one was drawn not only into the scene but also into the feelings of the persons portrayed. As such, I wanted viewers to be able to touch and caress the figures as part of that intimacy.

Father Derk wanted the stations to be mounted about 10 inches higher than they are now. I wanted them 6 inches lower so that children would be able to reach them. The current position is a compromise that we both agreed on...63 inches from the floor to the bottom of each station.

CM: Have the Stations of the Cross been a special prayer for you from childhood on?

DA: Not so much from childhood. However, being raised in a Catholic family, the Stations were always a regular event for as long as I can remember. Although some time in the late 60's after my return from Vietnam, I discovered Dr. Pierre Barbet's wonderful book, "A Doctor at Calvary." In it Dr. Barbet describes his 45-year study of the Passion of the Christ from a surgeon's point of view. He describes in detail the trauma experienced by Jesus from a medical perspective. Since that time I have made it a practice to read the book or parts of it every Lent as part of my Lenten devotion.

CM: In summary, what impact in our understanding of Christ, Our Savior do you feel the Stations of the Cross have on us, as we journey to know more about our faith?

DA: As you read the prayers I wrote for the

The point of the 4th-Day is to underscore and support apostolic action. The emphasis is on meeting in order to engage each other in a vital ministry, to share the grace of God with one another, to plan ways to share that grace and to hold each other accountable for carrying out our plans!

Rule of Life

We develop our Rule of Life on the weekend. It consists of a personal commitment to participate in the sacraments, prayer, individual study, spiritual direction and intentional action. Other parts of the 4th-Day are in place to support us as we support others in this commitment.

Group Reunions

Each candidate has a sponsor for the weekend. This sponsor can also help you to get connected with a reunion group and Ultreya in your area. Or you can begin a new group by inviting 2-3 others to meet with you regularly in support each other in and your Rule of Life commitment. Reunion Group members may not have attended a weekend yet. In this case, those who have attended a weekend could assist the newer member in developing a Rule of Life and in sponsorship for a weekend.

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The Conclave

Choosing the 266th Successor to Peter



Who
✂

Will



Be



Chosen

The amount of time it will take to choose our next pope is unknown. We ask the Cursillo Community to please pray deeply during this process so the God's hand guides every step of the way and the final decision.

The conclave to elect a new pope will began Tuesday.

opening and closing of the stations ([Click here for download of prayers and stations](#)), you will get some idea of what I wanted to share with the viewers and prayed that all might envision. I suspect that you said it best in your question number 3 above. That is what I prayed for. The Stations have been in the church now for more than two years - Have they served the purpose you set forth, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit as anticipated? Your comments and this request are evidence that the Holy Spirit is using the gift of the Stations to help people open their hearts to the wonder of the profound love God has for each us. Perhaps our prayers are being answered.

CM: Of your life's work in utilizing the God-given gifts you have been given, are these Stations, a testament of your gratitude to God for all he has given you, or do you feel another emotion you would like to express?

DA: The Stations were not done as a payback although God has showered me with many gifts. I suspect it was more stewardship of those gifts and recognizing that the reason they were given was that they would be shared for the honor and glory of our God.

In the very early stages of this effort, I knew I would need a lot of help. I sought out and adopted the Four Crowned Martyrs, whose feast day is November 8, as my patron saints. The four are Saint Claudius, Saint Castorus, Saint Nicostratus and Saint Sompronian. They were accomplished sculptors who refused to render a statue to the god Aesculapius for the emperor Diocletian. As a result they were scourged, sealed in lead boxes and thrown into a river. Needless to say, I prayed that they would intercede for me with the Great Sculptor that our project might be completed for the glory of God. I suspect they worked very hard for me.

The Cursillo community is invited to Sts. Peter and Paul Church, 5300 Old Howell Branch Rd, Winter Park for Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m. every Friday during Lent.

In the past 100 years, no conclave has lasted longer than five days. While Vatican-based cardinals are hoping a new pope will be installed by next Friday so he can preside over Holy Week ceremonies, with no clear front-runner, some cardinals, according to news reports, expect it may take longer.

Cardinal Sean O'Malley, archbishop of Boston, and former bishop of the Diocese of Palm Beach in Florida, asked everyone to pray to the Holy Spirit, a familiar action of all Cursillistas. And so we pray, Come Holy Spirit.

To help you follow the Conclave process, we have provided the following links.

Catholic News Service

www.catholicnews.com/

The Florida Catholic newspaper

www.thefloridacatholic.org

National Catholic Reporter

www.ncronline.org

National Catholic Register

www.ncregister.com



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Thomas Merton Reflection

Lent Is Our "Holy Spring"



life in which the Church, by celebrating the death and resurrection of Christ, enters into the Kingdom of Life which He has established once for all by His definitive victory over sin and death. We must remember the original meaning of Lent, as the *ver sacrum*, the Church's "holy spring" in which the catechumens were prepared for their baptism, and public penitents were made ready by penance for their restoration to the sacramental life in a communion with the rest of the Church. Lent is then not a season of punishment so much as one of healing.

~Thomas Merton

A Season of Celebration

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see,

everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself...So we are



ambassadors for Christ...we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made himself to be sin who knows no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See now is the acceptable time; see now is the day of salvation!
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-6:2

Prayer

With faith in your resurrection, with hope in your power that undoes every death, I lift up my heart

with love for you. She for your Holy Spirit who makes me more deeply your disciple.

Crossing the threshold of this holy season, I renew my

gratitude for the gift of being alive. As I reflect on Holy Wednesday, my forehead smeared with ashes, I accept my own death as holy: you have sanctified it. I offer my life and my death in thanksgiving to you, Jesus, the Christ, my Savior and my God.



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