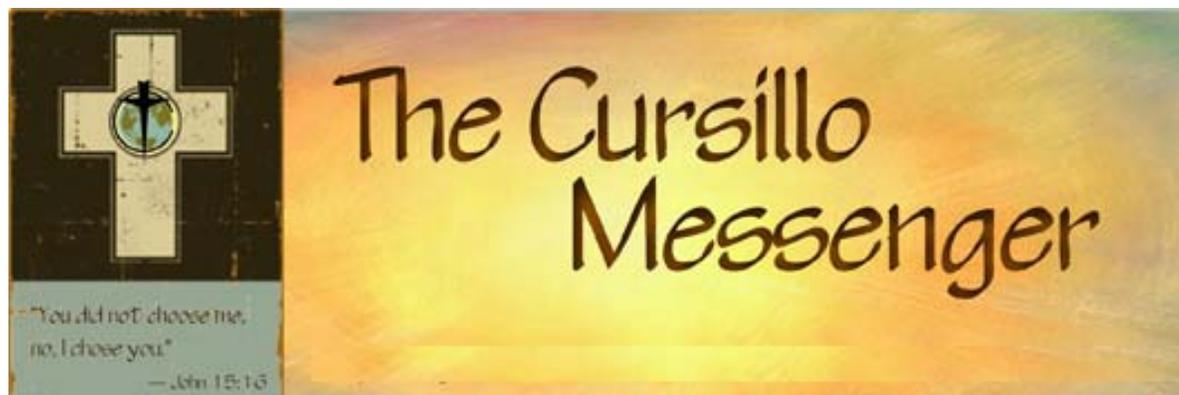


Craig M. Spanjers

From: Orlando Cursillo, Inc. [orlandocursillo@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 02, 2013 8:01 AM
To: craig@myfloridarealtors.com
Subject: Summer Reflection and Renewal



+ SUMMER 2013 +

**Answering the Call to Serve**

By Craig Spanjers

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we all have heard on our Cursillo weekends . . . we have been called. . . Christ is counting on us!

As Cursillistas we are also called to serve our bishop and the needs he has identified in his pastoral plan (Leaders Manual, Section 8, Pastoral Plan, page 79). Here's an excerpt from the Leaders Manual, Section 4, Pastoral Application, entitled, "Mission

Summer Reflection Exhaustion, Renewal Something to Think

By Deacon Tom Tagye

It's summer time, and, us, it's the best season for rest and renewal. The school year is paused, activities slow down, people are taking vacations from their jobs.

Some of you reading might laugh out loud and say "Who has time for that? No time for that kind of life." I get it ... I've been there. But the truth is, we all need a little time to renew, regenerate, to recharge to remain healthy in mind and spirit.

Even Jesus had to get some "alone time" even so he could be at his best for his mission. For example, feeding the crowd (Matt 21), the scripture continues that he made the disciples get into a boat and precede him on the other side, while he dis-

of the Church,"

"We must never forget that above all else, the fulfillment of the Mission of the Church must be foremost in all our efforts. The Mission of the Church, which is Evangelization, is spelled out in the documents of Vatican II."

Recently, Bishop Noonan (a long-time Cursillista, who served on a number of Cursillo teams in Miami before he became a bishop) shared his vision, as part of his pastoral plan for the Diocese of Orlando. As we read from the Diocesan website,

"Teaching and Living the Light of Christ Jesus: Toward Goodness, Righteousness and Truth" is the new Vision, based on Sacred Scripture, Ephesians 5:8-10. The hope is that this Vision will unite all Catholics with their shepherd, Bishop John Noonan, who has been entrusted to lead the people of God in Central Florida and that the Vision will inspire Catholics to know their faith and live their faith as God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit has called each of us to do.

Let's look at the passage from Ephesians -

"... For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord."

In explaining his vision, Bishop Noonan writes,

"We need to help people understand what we believe, the richness of our faith and how to integrate our faith into our world. We need to help people see that the Word of God has much meaning for our lives today."

Bishop Noonan's leadership team began to discern and discuss new diocesan priorities to serve as a light for our path showing us the way to achieve the Vision in a concrete and measureable way. Three priorities: Enkindling Deeper Faith, Forming Leaders in Christ, and Harmonizing Ministries, will serve as these guideposts.

The priorities, which the bishop's leadership team established for the work of the ministries of the chancery are as follows:

- Growing our personal, living relationship with Christ, enkindling deeper faith
- Leading the Church to a new experience of holiness and abundant life in Christ
- Forming leaders in Christ
- Sharing God's love for all people
- Harmonizing ministries

These guideposts and priorities sound a lot like what we have as part of our Cursillo method for living our Fourth Day. Through our Piety we grow in our personal, living relationship with Christ. Through Study, we are helping ourselves, and others, to understand what we believe. Through Apostolic Action, we integrate our faith into the world. In making a friend, being a friend and bringing that friend to Christ, we are simply sharing God's love for all people. Forming leaders for Christ? That's part of what we do, too!

crowds. After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone." (vs 22-23)

I need my "alone time", and I believe those personal moments of solitude are refreshing, even for the most driven person. And the best way to devote some of this "alone time" is in prayer.

Jesus models this for us a number of times in the gospels beyond the one referenced above. During the summer months, most of us can find time for more than a few minutes alone for prayer and refreshment.

Spending some time with nature is



one possibility for renewal after the exhaustion that engulfs

us from a busy year. Day hiking in the mountains of North Carolina was a favorite activity for me in the past. The physical challenge is healthy in itself, but getting to the top for restful prayer, delighting in the beauty of God's creation, and contemplating how God's call might be evolving for me, got me ready for the next ministry action time.

Another person might find this refreshment at the beach, in the desert, or maybe in the snowy far North at a different time of year.



The place is not as important as the activity of "resting in the Lord."

Going "on retreat" alone or with others can be a source of renewal. There are many retreat houses in Florida, around the country, and in other parts of the world. These can be quiet or involve study and activity. You know yourself - what would be the best type for renewal for you? If it feels like "another

So, we're already doing what Bishop Noonan want us to do, but is it enough? Like the rich young man, we might dare to ask Christ, what more can or should we be doing to be His followers?

Maybe it's time for Cursillo to come out of the shadows! Huh? Yep. That's what you just read. Let's be honest. Many of us heard in one of our talks on our weekends the question,

If someone "accused" you of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict?

Now, let's change up the question a little bit. . . if someone accused you of being a Cursillista, would there be even one non-Cursillista who could testify "against" you. Are we operating too much under the radar, hoping that someone will notice something special about us and then ask us what it is that moves us to be the people we are? I am convinced that the vast majority of Cursillistas are truly doing all they can to live out the perfect ideal, a life in grace, and that most interact regularly with fellow Cursillistas as part of living the Cursillo method - but are we living in a closed environment? Are we reaching out enough?

Think about this? How many Cursillistas point to Cursillo as being the turning point in their faith journey? How has living your Fourth Day helped you to grow spiritually, exactly as you were promised on Thursday night of your weekend . . . that you would be shown a



way to be happy for the rest of your life? What percentage of Catholics in this country have even heard about Cursillo? How many people who have heard about Cursillo think that it is a movement that is confined to the Spanish community? If very few people, particularly Catholic Christians, know anything about Cursillo, maybe we need to let people know about Cursillo as a way that they, too, can grow spiritually and find happiness just as we did. Is our lamp, our gift of Cursillo, being kept under a basket?

What can we do? Some Cursillistas are wearing their crucifix, particularly their Cursillo cross in full view, every day. Some Ultreyas are putting bulletin announcements about Cursillo. Some Ultreyas are holding "Come and See" gatherings where people are invited to find out about Cursillo. Some Cursillistas go to their pastors who have not made Cursillo and invite them to attend a weekend. Let your pastor know that an active Cursillo movement in your parish will help Bishop Noonan's vision be realized, in a real and measurable way. Some Cursillistas organize and lead bible studies in their parishes, which creates a thirst for Scripture, that can be fed through the Cursillo method.

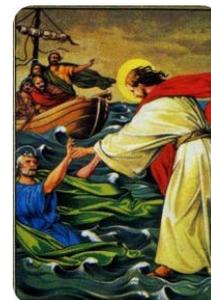
Here's what is suggested on the Diocesan website,

Bishop Noonan asks all of us to look within our own parish communities. Is the experience of the celebration of Mass a priority for your community? If not, perhaps there is an opportunity to embrace the vision.

chore," that's probably not the right choice. It's time for a mental and spiritual health break, not something to stress about.

In whatever way you choose, let your summer-break time get you ready for ACTION. When we are well-rested and renewed in spirit, we are at our best for Action. In fact, one question for our quiet contemplation is, "What action(s) should I continue; what action(s) should I hand on to someone else; and what action(s) should I take on now?"

Jesus moved from one action to the next after his times of rest and prayer. To continue the story from Matthew...after resting and praying, Jesus caught up with the disciples in the boat by walking across the water and calming the storm. Then he went back to his ministries of healing and teaching.



Let's follow the model of Jesus: Act, Pray (and Study) and Rest, then Act again. It's the Cycle of Life for us Cursillistas.

Blessings to all,
Deacon Tom Tagye
Orlando Cursillo spiritual director

Orlando Cursillo Secretariat expresses gratitude to Bishop John Noonan for assigning Deacon Tom Tagye as our new spiritual director.

Bringing What You Learn to Wherever You Are

By Maureen Branham

I rushed to answer the door with a book in one hand and an apple in the other. My dad had just gotten home from the hospital and I wanted to reach the door before the visitors rang the doorbell again and disturbed his rest. I opened the door to four men with arms laden with homemade "get well" signs, cards, food, crossword puzzle books and magazines. With a smile on my face I

The celebration of the Eucharist is so important on the Cursillo weekends. Are you someone who attends weekday masses? As Cursillistas, if we make daily Mass attendance more of a priority, that will help our Bishop's vision be realized. What a great place to find potential leaders while nurturing our own relationship with the Lord!

I have just given you a few suggestions. Email me at orlandocursillo@gmail.com if you have other suggestions. We can assemble them and share them as we serve side-by-side with Bishop Noonan in accomplishing his Vision!

In the future, we plan to look at the vision that Pope Francis has for the Church in the world and how we, as Cursillistas are called to serve under his papacy. As a cardinal and archbishop, our new pontiff was a strong supporter of the Cursillo movement in Argentina. As Cursillistas, we have new leaders who will challenge us, and we need to be ready to respond. We are all in this together! DE COLORES!

Your Brother in Christ,
Craig Spanjers
Orlando Cursillo Lay Director

Group Effort Produces New Orlando Cursillo Website



By Greg Lilly and Marty Tse

"Bloom where you're planted" is a term that all of us who have attended a Cursillo weekend are familiar with. That term took on a new meaning for a particular babe chick and two team members of Men's Cursillo #91. It was no coincidence that all three of the Cursillista's who met on Men's 91 weekend would be instrumental in the eventual evolution of the Orlando Cursillo Website (www.orlandocursillo.org) from the older, difficult to maintain format to the new vibrant, user friendly site that we currently enjoy.

From the moment Marty Tse (Men's 91) mentioned that he was an IT professional working for Daytona Beach, it was evident that the Holy Spirit had something great in mind. Before Saturday came to a close on the weekend, Marty had already offered his talent and expertise to the movement with website and database technology skills.

Fast forward several weeks to a casual Saturday work meeting where Rich Maffei, Marty Tse and Greg Lilly all met at Greg's house in Port Orange with the task to migrate the old Orlando Cursillo website to the new site that Marty had presented to

swung the door open wide and welcomed in my dad's group reunion.

Like the many times before when my father returned home from yet another surgery they came to support him, cheer him up, pray with him and, in our little corner of the world, bring Christ not only to him but to me and my siblings as well.

I was very fortunate to grow up in a Cursillo home.

At a young age I was introduced not just to the words piety, study and action but the incorporation of those concepts in the very fiber of my family. My parents, John and Mary Daly, were one of the first Cursillistas in the Diocese of Orlando. They faithfully attended group reunion and Ultreya and, more importantly, lived out their calling to be Christian leaders in their environments. One of those environments included me - their family!



Fast forward 24 years to spring 1995 when I, along with my blood sister and group sister, Jeanne, made Women's Cursillo #64. As a veteran of many retreats with an eight year old at home recovering from chicken pox and two more little ones masquerading as viral incubators I showed up Thursday night with a less than open mind. Been there done that. Although I had actively lived out my faith prior to making my weekend I became much more focused and aware of the environments to which I belonged.



Like my parents before me my primary environment was my growing family. In addition to my three little ones my husband, Jeff, and I welcomed into our home a 14-year-old boy who was one of his guardian ad litem children. My youngest followed a year later and we quickly became a family of seven! I really didn't have much time or energy for more than my primary environment, my family. I took to heart the phrase that resonated so loudly on that weekend in the spring of 1996 - Bloom where you are planted! I was a proud

Secretariat as a proposed format. Several chicken wings, Cheese Crackers and Fruit Bowls later (and a few hours to boot) and the new Orlando Cursillo website made its Internet debut. The dedication, cooperation and talent that went into the new site is a true testament to "Blooming where you're planted".

- Greg Lilly

Babe chick sees and hears the call to help

During the course of my Cursillo Weekend, I felt the Holy Spirit directing/calling me to be a part of something 'bigger' than myself. Reflecting back I remember in my Pilgrim's Guide glued on the inside cover, the words, "Speak Lord I am listening, plant your word down deep in me, Speak Lord I am listening please show me the way." This I felt was what made me decide to put my hand up and offer my time, talent and treasure to the Cursillo Movement.

So I volunteered my services to help update our website (www.orlandocursillo.org), a project the Secretariat had been talking about doing. So here was my calling and I had set a goal for myself of two months - one month to research and come up with a user friendly interface for the current Web administrator, Rich Maffei, and month two, to have a total redesign, keeping the Cursillo Message Alive. My goal was to have it be a simple, clean look and be easy to navigate. So after several weeks of collaborations, comments, red-lines via email to Greg Lilly, Rich and Craig Spanjers, we were able to get the basic framework in place and take it live within 2.5 months from the inception. With the new website, we can edit it anywhere there is an Internet connection. This is my "Apostolic Action" that I learned from my Cursillo Weekend & I bring to Orlando Cursillo movement.

The photo I chose for the Orlando Cursillo website (www.orlandocursillo.org) is one I took in Rome of St. Peter's Basilica. I felt this would be a good fit for the since Peter "the Rock" is who Christ chose in his words, "And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it (Mt 16:18). This feeling was very strong for me when I was at the Vatican and the same feeling I felt when I finished my Cursillo Weekend.

- Marty Tse

Upcoming Fall Cursillos

Please continue to pray for our upcoming Cursillo teams and candidates. Encourage couples and single adults to discern their call to apply for the weekend. Couples planning to attend should submit their applications at the same time. On this page (www.orlcursillo.org/?page_id=147) you will find links to the Applications for Sponsor and Candidates. Both forms will need to be filled out for each candidate. There are detailed instructions regarding sponsorship included with the Sponsorship form. Each Sponsor should carefully read these instructions before you approach your potential candidates about attending a Cursillo weekend. If you have any questions about sponsoring, please contact Joyce Dobrozensky at 386-299-5197 or email: sidobby@aol.com.



gardener, and my father would have been prouder if he had lived to see the day, when my son, Jay, made his Cursillo weekend last fall becoming the third generation of Orlando Cursillistas in our family!

As years have gone by the environments I have found myself to be a part of have expanded or contracted, come and gone, with my family being constant. As I write this I am facing the last year of an ever-dwindling nest. My youngest begins her last year of high school this fall and soon my nest will be empty. As my children have each left home to transform their own environments I have found myself with increasing time and renewed energy to be the Lord's instrument in new ways.

The Holy Spirit in His wisdom has recently steered me to an opportunity to serve on Secretariat as the Liaison to Other Movements. I am very excited and humbled to be part of such a vibrant and Spirit-filled movement. While I have not gone to the far corners of world to be Christ's hands and feet I have tried to embrace what Mother Teresa put so simply, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

- Maureen Branham
*Orlando Cursillo Secretariat
Liaison to Other Movements*

Letter to Cursillistas



he
was archbishop of Buenos Aires.

Dear Cursillistas,
"The Good Seeds are those who belong to the Kingdom"(Mt. 13:38). As we get closer to the solemnity of Saint Paul, your Patron and Model of how to "live de colores," we give thanks to God for all the fruits that throughout the years the work of the Cursillos de Cristiandad have generously given the church.

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 gatortrudyj@hotmail.com, or 352-406-1620 so arrangements can be made for pick-up.

Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation.

Please continue to prayer for our upcoming Cursillo teams and candidates. If you have any questions regarding Cursillo or would like to get more involved, please email orlandocursillo@gmail.com.

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to craig@myfloridarealtors.com by orlandocursillo@gmail.com | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Orlando Cursillo, Inc. | P.O. Box 2461 | Orlando | FL | 32802

Your Service of announcing Christ, being witness in the everyday environments, is to live and renew in a concrete way the Baptism that in HIM we have received and therefore transforms you into disciples and missionaries of the Word.

[Click here to read letter in its entirety.](#)