



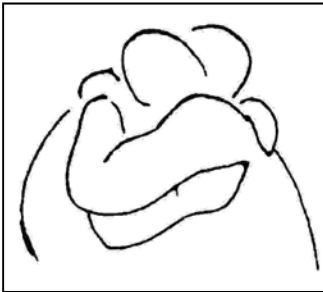
WITNESS

NASHVILLE CURSILLO NEWSLETTER

www.nashvillecursillo.org

info@nashvillecursillo.org

July 2007



40th Anniversary Celebration - Nov 3rd Diocese of Nashville Cursillo Movement

Please join us for this special event at St. Henry Church

- Mass at 5:00 PM, celebrated by Father Charley Giacosa
- Pot Luck dinner, music & fun in Fellowship Hall from 6:00-10:00 PM.
- If you are interested in helping out at this event, please contact Margie Grover at 480-7577 or e-mail at mfgrover@bellsouth.net. You can also go to our web site at www.nashvillecursillo.org for more information.

COME TO ULTREYA!

CHRIST THE KING
CATHOLIC CHURCH
3001 Belmont Blvd
Nashville, TN 37212

ULTREYA: *Every Thursday except on the 2nd Thursday-Mass at 6:00, Ultreya at 6:30 PM.*

SCHOOL OF LEADERS:
2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM. All are welcome to attend!

There are discussions about possibly moving Ultreya at Christ the King to Wednesday evenings. Check the web site for updates and give us your feedback on this topic—we'd love to hear from you!

SAINT ANTHONY
CATHOLIC CHURCH
1900 Huntsville Hwy
Fayetteville, TN 37334

ULTREYA:
Held the 2nd Sunday of each month at 12:30 PM



Welcome New Cursillistas!

Men's #87

Tom Agostini—Cathedral
Ray Alves—St. Henry
Bobby Baskin—St. Henry
Joe Braeuner—St. Henry
Nick Burgdorf—St. Rose
Scott Frasier—St. Matthew
Tom Frazier—Cathedral
David Garcia—St. Edward
Carlos Guerra—Immaculate Conception
Tommy Hagey—St. Henry
Kevin Hennessy—St. Stephen
Darren Hodgdon—Cathedral
Mike Holzmer—St. Henry
John Hoots—St. Henry
Chad Johnson—St. Joseph
Roger Johnson—St. Anthony
John Lynch—St. Henry
Craig Miller—St. Rose
Michael Miller—St. Anthony
Kent Millsbaugh—St. Henry
Norberto Roman—Immaculate Conception
Charles Scott—St. Henry
Joe Wieck—St. Henry
Hal Yarbrough—St. Stephen

Women's #71

Sue Alves—St. Henry
Yitzel Baker—Immaculate Conception
Stephanie Braeuner—St. Henry
Paula Burgdorf—St. Rose
Carol Cala—Immaculate Conception
Kate Cardarella—St. Matthew
Carolyn Clippinger—St. Henry
Peggy Dahlhauser—St. Joseph
Lauretta DeMille—Christ the King
Ruth Dyke—St. Rose
Sue Fair—St. Henry
Yolanda Galo—St. Edward
Viola Guerra—Immaculate Conception
Lucretia Hartberg—St. Stephen
Gayle Hoots—St. Henry
Michele Johnson—St. Anthony
Nicole Johnson—St. Joseph
Katie Kaye—St. Henry
Dolores Lorentz—St. Rose
Meghan Melchior—St. Anthony
Melissa Mosteller—St. Matthew
Debbie Perenich—St. Henry
Donna Roach—St. Henry
Alma Rosado—Immaculate Conception
Ruth Sprouse—St. Stephen
Kathy Stewart—St. Rose
Kathy Sullivan—St. Stephen
Patty Wright—St. Anthony

Are you currently in a Group Reunion?

The current listing of Parish Coordinators is on page 2. Contact one in your area and they will help you find a group—or come to Ultreya! You can also check out our web site for this information at www.nashvillecursillo.org.

Upcoming Cursillo Weekends

Fall 2007 — Men's Weekend, Sept 20th-23rd; Women's Weekend October 4th-7th,
Spring 2008 — Men's Weekend, April 10th-14th; Women's Weekend, April 24th-27th

If you are sponsoring someone you can get an application and information sheet from our web site.

Message from the Spiritual Advisor

By Marty Deschenes

A warm welcome to all our new cursillistas. Now that you have made your Cursillo weekend, you may be asking yourself: What specifically is the purpose of the Cursillo movement?

The purpose of the Cursillo is to form a movement of apostolic Christians who have a unified vision of how to bring Christ to every environment. It is a movement that is working toward the structuring of Christian life. Structuring Christian life means working to have authentic Christianity in each environment of society. More specifically, it means working together to bring others to know and love Christ and, in this way, to progressively transform the environments where we live or work into environments of Christian love and action.

To participate fully in the Cursillo Movement, we must accept and follow this method. First, we must have made a real commitment to Christ. We must have decided to take the Christian ideal as the ideal for our life. In other words, we must try to direct our whole life to God. Secondly, we must always be trying to grow in apostolic effectiveness in our own environments. We should be praying and working to draw others to Christ and to christianize the places where we live, work and play.

*"We must always be
trying to grow in
apostolic effectiveness
in our own
environments"*

To support us in our efforts to bring Christ into our environments, we have the fourth-day tripod: the group reunion, the ultreya and spiritual direction. I would like to encourage all of you new cursillistas to take advantage of these three tools as you bring the love of Christ into your families, your neighborhood and your workplace.

God bless you.

Cursillo History

A layman named Eduardo Bonín participated in the early years of the "short courses" in Mallorca and helped develop the *cursillos* to the point that it became an active renewal movement in the Church. In 1957, the movement had spread to North America, when the first American *cursillo* was held in Waco, Texas. In 1959, the Cursillo spread throughout Texas and to Phoenix, Arizona. In August of that year the first national convention of spiritual directors was held, and *Ultreya* magazine began publication. In 1960, the growth of the Cursillo quickened in the Southwest, and weekends were held for the first time in the East in New York City and Lorain, Ohio.

Until 1961, all weekends were held in Spanish. That year the first English-speaking weekend was held in San Angelo, Texas. Also in 1961, first weekends were held in San Francisco, California; Gary, Indiana; Lansing, Michigan; and Gallup, New Mexico. In 1962, the Cursillo Movement came to the Eastern United States. Weekends were held in Cincinnati, Brooklyn, Saginaw, Miami, Chicago, Detroit, Newark, Baltimore, Grand Rapids, Kansas City and Boston. In the West, the first weekends were held in Monterey, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Pueblo and Yakima. The movement spread rapidly with the early centers carrying the Cursillo to nearby dioceses. By 1981, almost all of the 160 dioceses in the United States had introduced the Cursillo Movement.

The Cursillo is supported by the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church. It is joined to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops through an official liaison in the person of Most Rev. James A. Tamayo, Bishop of Laredo, Texas, and through the Bishops' Secretariat for the Laity in Washington, D.C. The spiritual advisor for the USA national movement is Rev. Einer R. Ochoa of San Antonio, Texas.

Source: www.wikipedia.com

Parish Coordinators

If you are looking to join a group, want help in sponsoring someone, or need other information about the Cursillo, contact a Parish Coordinator from the list below or go to our web site www.nashvillecursillo.org.

St. Paul the Apostle—Tullahoma
—Jerry Bailey, rjm2641@bellsouth.net, 931-723-1042

Our Lady of Lourdes—Springfield
—Sandra Bracy
sbracy@logantele.com, 270-539-6237

Immaculate Conception—Pulaski
—Mike Hume, deaconhume@aol.com

St. Henry—Nashville
—Marty & Margot Deschenes
margotdesch@aol.com, 615-352-2473

St. Rose—Murfreesboro
—Mike & Missy Johnston
mjohn20221@aol.com, 615-893-5164

Christ the King—Nashville
—Sam Francescon
francescons@bellsouth.net, 615-269-0350

St. John Vianney—Gallatin
—Eileen George
george@realtracs.com, 615-826-4040

Holy Rosary—Donelson
—Paul & Therese McLean
tapmnurse@comcast.net, 615-754-2273

Cathedral of the Incarnation—Nashville
—Kevin & Deb McDermott
kpmcdermott@kpmg.com, 615-297-0313

St. Anthony's—Fayetteville
—Church Office 931-433-6525

St. Frances—Lebanon
—Phyrne & Bob Kendall, 615-286-2284

St. Matthew—Franklin
—George & Mary Sloan, sloan385@bellsouth.net, 615-591-4079

Our Lady of the Lake—Hendersonville
—Sharon Ratcliff & Mary Sundermeir
dan-ratcliff@comcast.net, 615-822-4709

St. Christopher—Dickson
—Tom Roche, troche581@yahoo.com, 615-441-3154

St. Thomas Aquinas—Cookeville
—Sister Pat Russell
srpat@citlink.net, 931-526-2575

St. Joseph—Nashville
—Matt & Lisa McConnel
mattnlisa4@juno.com, 615-382-0590

St. Phillip—Franklin
Israel Cordero, israelcordero@aol.com, 615-794-4163

St. Stephen—Mt. Juliet
Jay Hoover, jayhoover@bsh-cpa.com, 615-754-8621

***Make a friend
Be a friend
Bring a friend to Christ***

Excerpts from an Ultreya witness talk

By Josh Melchior, Cursillo #86, St. Joseph table, St. Anthony Parish

The following is an excerpt from the youngest Cursillista in the Diocese of Nashville Cursillo Movement. Josh was 19 years old when he attended his Cursillo weekend.

Before my Cursillo weekend, I was what our society would consider a “good guy.” I was a good son or brother – well, for the most part. If you asked my parents or siblings, they might try to tell you stories to convince you otherwise. Don’t listen to them. I was a good friend, always ready to help someone or listen to his or her problems. I was a straight “A” student that didn’t drink or do drugs. I went to church every week where I was a lector and an altar boy. I even prayed when the time called for it. You know, just the basics; “God, help me pass this test,” or “God, please just write this paper for me,” or, my personal favorite, “God, please don’t let dad yell at me when I tell him about this speeding ticket.” And I was a good boyfriend. I held her hand, I called her when I said I would, I paid for the movie, and I held the door open for her. But I knew something was missing. I just didn’t know what to fill the void with.

I took part in activities I’m not exactly proud of. I pretended that God would just turn a blind eye, or that I could selectively choose what He paid attention to, but deep down I knew differently. I never went to Reconciliation. I knew that what I had done was too big for God to forgive. With that in mind, it’s no wonder that my personal definition for Reconciliation was a complete waste of time. A very uncomfortable waste of time, I might add. I was oh so very ignorant. But I knew enough to know that I needed help.

Then my mom came home from her Cursillo weekend. That exposed me a little to what it was all about. I met some of the people that had already made a Cursillo, and I knew instantly that Cursillo could give me the help I needed. And I was right. I went on my Cursillo weekend in September of 2006, and at 19, I was the youngest Cursillista to come out of the Nashville Diocese. It helped me not just where I needed it, but in areas of my life I didn’t even know I needed help.

Cursillo taught me that Christ needs to be at the center of my life. My first reaction was “What kind of fun could that possibly be?” But I figured that the fifty-something year old movement based on two thousand years of Church teachings might know a little more about it than I do. Or, at least I hoped it did. So I tried it.

I didn’t quite know what I wanted to study, and I was in no spiritual shape to evangelize, so I figured that holiness was the spot for me. One tiny bit of information I took away from my weekend was that there is nothing too big for God to forgive. The cross says that it doesn’t matter what we’ve done or where we’ve been. The cross is love and mercy. I also learned that the word “Reconciliation” translates literally to “eyelash to eyelash” (with God). When taking part in this sacrament, you’re looking God in the eye and asking for the mercy and forgiveness He promised us. Who was I to call that a waste of time? When viewing it that way, and with the feeling of weightlessness I got from the Reconciliation on my weekend, I changed my ignorant mind about it. I reveled in the experience so much that I now go once a month. Once a month I get a clean slate. It’s made that sense of weightlessness a little more permanent.

Visits to the Sacrament also played a huge part in where I got my strength and peace. I’d sit, kneel, or lay down in the presence of Christ for what seemed like days at a time. I couldn’t get enough of it. His presence is what rebuilt my desire to do His will. The sense of fulfillment and the pure joy and lightheartedness I got from the visits, and still get, is indescribable. Even though I still stumble every now and then, I am growing closer to Christ. And it impacted my life in ways I didn’t expect. For example, before my Cursillo, I listened to just about any kind of music, but I really liked what my age group calls “heavy rock” and some “metal,” and what our parents just call “noise.” And I liked it loud. During this time of pursuing a life closer with Christ, my tastes in music changed. I still like to rock out now and then, but not nearly as much, and it’s usually to more suitable music.

Lay Director’s Corner

God doesn’t call the equipped, He equips the called.

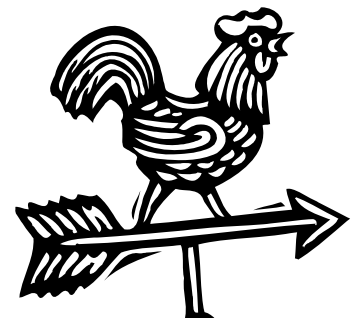
by Jay Hoover

I have clung to this Cursillo bumper sticker like a floatation device the past few weeks before I said “yes” to God’s call (actually Marty made the call). Margie Heiar and Amy Staples have been such marvelous Lay Directors since I have been involved with Cursillo. Their shoes will be hard to fill.

As your Lay Director for the next two years, I will continue Margie and Amy’s efforts to maintain contact with as many Cursillistas as possible and to continually invite you to get involved with the movement in whatever manner God is calling you to service. I firmly believe the Holy Spirit inspired this movement 60 years ago and continues to do so through each of us today.

I invite each of you to become more involved with the movement by saying “yes” to God’s call to:

- Attend Ultreya periodically (one of the best 60 minutes of my week);
- Volunteer to be a witness speaker at Ultreya (sharing your faith is very fulfilling);
- Stay involved with your Group or contact me to find a Group (the only reason I get up early Saturday mornings);
- Sponsor a friend that you prayerfully feel is being called to make a weekend (the best gift you can give someone);
- Attend School of Leaders (all are welcome every month and no preparation is required);
- Meet with your Spiritual Director regularly (everyone needs this type of mentoring);
- Volunteer to be on a weekend team (we need your spiritual experiences); and
- Volunteer to help with our 40th Anniversary Celebration (we need your talents).



Lost your Group Reunion card?

Go to the web site and print a copy to keep with you, or refer to your Pilgrim’s Guide on page 88. Both the Regular Reunion and Ultreya versions are included.

Nashville Cursillo Center
201 I West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203

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E-mail: info@nashvillecursillo.org
Editors: Ray & Mary Beth Brocato

If you are receiving this newsletter in print, that means we do not have your email address. You also are not receiving our monthly email newsletter containing the most current news about Cursillo. Please visit our website and click on the signup icon on the homepage to provide us with your email address.



Thoughts from a Bell Ringer **The Bell Ringer....At Your Service!**



Mary Beth Brocato, Cursillo #68, St. Henry Parish, Table of St. Anne

As an assistant rector on Cursillo Team #71, I had the privilege of serving as “bell ringer” for the Fall Team. I must confess I was a little nervous about being responsible for keeping everyone on track, and especially about being on time! So, I prayed.....I prayed about being an instrument in the hands of Christ, and one of His chosen tools. My prayers were answered! Ringing the bell was a call to serve. Serving the candidates in this way allowed me to witness the beautiful Christian community formed on the weekend, and to once again feel a close connection to the power of Christ’s love.

There are many other ways besides “ringing the bell” to serve on a weekend. Sponsoring a candidate, serving on a team or service team, or even coming to the Palanca chapel to pray for the team or candidates are all wonderful ways to feel a closer connection to Christ through Cursillo. I encourage you to pray about how you might be called to serve!

“I am only a servant;
but God can use me more powerfully in this role than in any other that I might choose.
I am an imperfect earthen vessel, and am blessed to be here as a servant.”
(From the Canon of a Cursillo Team)

De colores!

Our Fourth Day

Joe Braeuner - Cursillo #87, table of St. Paul, St. Henry Church

My Fourth Day started in dramatic fashion with an entire cup of coffee spilled and being late for school. Fresh off of the mountain top, however, it did not bother me. For the first time in a long time, I was at peace with such frustrations and though they bothered me, I did not let them get to me. I was very happy and (this one will stun my wife) I was even nice to other people in traffic. Stephanie and I were not arguing or picking at each other, and I was very excited about the prospects of her Cursillo weekend in 2 weeks.

At my Cursillo weekend (#87, table of St. Paul), I made it my goal to be a better husband and father. I could not wait to get home and try out all of the stuff I had learned in the first 3 days! I just knew that when my wife Stephanie went to Cursillo, everything would be perfect: we would be patient with each other and the kids, and we would be happy doing things for each other. Lofty goals, perhaps, but it’s not hard to imagine up on the mountain top. However, things have not always been perfect since making our Cursillo weekends. We’re only human, and it’s probably safe to say that both of us have temporarily forgotten some of the things we learned on our weekends, but the important thing is that we love each other unconditionally and support each other fully and remember to use all of the tools we discovered during our first 3 days – especially prayer and the giving and receiving of forgiveness.

I was lucky that Stephanie made Cursillo two weeks after I did. I have friends who either have to wait a long time for their spouses to make Cursillo or whose spouses have no interest in making Cursillo, whatsoever. I’m grateful that not only did I not have to keep any secrets for very long, but that I did not have to explain why I was acting so weird, either! Stephanie and I each have our own daily prayer routine, but we currently do not routinely pray together (other than with the kids). That is something that I would like to do, and beginning that practice will only strengthen our relationship with each other and with God.

From a personal standpoint, I struggle every day to take the time to spend with Jesus like I should and I ought. I’d love to say that my other daily pressures and time constraints cannot keep me from saying my morning prayers or from reflecting on Scriptures or some other reading, but I cannot. The fact is that I fall into the same old ruts again and again where I think that I do not have time for the Lord. I know that I have time and must make time for Him, and the good news is that not only do I know that I can do it, but I know that Jesus will welcome me closer to Him – all I have to do is let Him draw me near.

De Colores!