

NASHVILLE CURSILLO CENTER  
2011 West End Avenue  
Nashville, TN 37203

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**Nashville, TN**  
**Permit No. 2028**



# WITNESS

## Nashville Cursillo Newsletter

MISSION STATEMENT: The Diocese of Nashville Cursillo Movement is intended to help all Catholics develop a thorough understanding of what it means to fully live a Christian life in all their everyday situations. It provides a method to transform all aspects of society through prayer and the development of small Christian communities.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Nashville Cursillo Center 2011 West End Avenue Nashville, TN 37203 cursillotn@bellsouth.net November 2005

**TO:**

**BE SURE TO JOIN US FOR ULTREYA EACH THURSDAY AT 6:30 P.M., CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, 3001 BELMONT BLVD., NASHVILLE, TN. ALSO ON THE FIRST AND THIRD THURSDAYS FOR SCHOOL OF LEADERS FROM 7:30 - 8:30 P.M., AFTER THE ULTREYA.**

**DIRECTIONS TO CHRIST THE KING:**

**Going west on I-440, exit 21st Ave So; proceed to first street on right (Sweetbriar); continue on Sweetbriar till it dead ends into Belmont Blvd, then turn right. Drive another 4 blocks on Belmont, turn right on Primrose and left into parking lot at back of church. Ultreya meeting room in Cafeteria building behind the church.**

### THE POWER OF PALANCA

*Mike Schlacter, Cursillo # 81, St. Henry Parish*

Fill out that card and pass it in quickly...  
What is this one, what do I have to do?  
Take it easy and just put a few down.

Don't over commit. Then just try to remember to do it. That's Palanca! Our work of conversion, evangelization, and Christian renewal needs to be built on grace from God! This grace is obtained through ongoing, relentless humble prayer. The entire Cursillo Movement depends upon Palanca prayer, sacrifice and mercy.

Palanca is offered both by groups and individuals living in union with Christ and one another. "Ask and you shall receive, knock and it will be opened, seek and you will find." Sacrifice and pray. Go to your room and offer prayers to the Father. Miracles are granted to confident prayer that is supported by sacrifice, not by knowledge and experience, etc.

Palanca is the Spirit of prayer and self denial! Palanca is not posters, banners, flowers, edibles, letters, good wishes, etc. These are nice things. Prayer and self denial are not nice things, but are most effective in securing God's grace.

The attitude toward Palanca is a good measure of any Group or Ultreya...how is it incorporated into the lives of the Spiritual Advisors and Leaders? Our challenge is to live Palanca daily!

The Three Day needs much Palanca, but so do ongoing selection of candidates, study of environments, growth of group reunions and ultreyas and secretariats, schools of leaders and the Cursillistas as they return to their environments. Palanca needs to be offered by all of us.

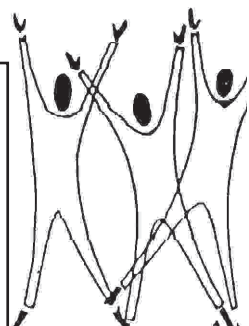
Consider mortification as well; (Scared you on that one didn't I!?) Fulfill the duties of our state in life; develop self control; love where love is not returned; be patient where there is impatience.

We offer Palanca for whom? It is for those we know and also for those we do not know. That should be very normal in our lives as Christians. It is to be offered for Candidates to ensure there is no interference from the work of the evil one. Palanca is a universal tool for the whole Church.

When I have focused on my commitments to do Palanca and on fulfilling my commitments, I have felt an unbelievable amount of outgoing care and peace. I was once rewarded by meeting the person I had been offering Palanca following their Three Day. That even made it all the better, meeting them and finding out how their life was really going. As in going to my room, that person to this day does not know they were my person for the weekend. That would ruin it, I believe

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**TO RECEIVE YOUR COPY OF THE WITNESS ONLINE, PLEASE SEND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS TO:**  
JOHNALANNORFLEET@BELLSOUTH.NET  
OR  
LINDANORFLEET@BELLSOUTH.NET



### WELCOME NEW CURSILLISTAS!

#### WOMEN'S CURSILLO #68

Chris Bontrager - Christ the King	Natalie Hanemann - St. Henry
Mary Beth Brocato - St. Henry	Mandy Hayden - St. Matthew
Brandi Burns - St. Anthony	Cindy Higginson - St. Mark
Roxanne Carreon - St. Joseph	Molly Kinnan - Cathedral
Barbara ClenDening - St. Henry	Teresa Lundberg - St. Stephen
Alison Davis - St. Henry	Kyle Nelson - St. Henry
Kelly Espinoza - St. Stephen	Isabelle Norris - Christ the King
Diahn Flair - St. Anthony	Stacey Pace - St. Anthony
Pam Frazier - Our Lady of the Lake	Rose Rodriguez - St. Paul the Apostle
Monnie Furlong - St. Henry	Maureen Schlacter - Cathedral
Janice Gentry - St. Stephen	Laurie Williams - St. Henry
Carol Geraghty - Cathedral	Mary Ann Wood - St. Henry

#### MEN'S CURSILLO #84

Bob Bontrager - Christ the King	Mark Flair - St. Anthony
Ray Brocato - St. Henry	Mike Hunkler - St. Henry
Chris Burns - St. Anthony	Billy Pace - St. Anthony
Steve Carreon - St. Joseph	Everett Smith - St. Paul
Paul Dahlauser - Christ the King	Paul Taylor - St. Stephen
Tom Davis - St. Henry	Chris Williams - St. Henry

**VISIT OUR WEB SITE FOR MORE NEWS AND INFORMATION AT:  
WWW.NASHVILLECURSILLO.ORG**

### PERSPECTIVE OF A BELLRINGER

*- Jay Hoover, Cursillo #82, St. Stephen*

National security . . . piece of cake!  
Finding a cure for bird flu . . . no problem!  
Being a good Bell Ringer on a Cursillo weekend . . .now that's an important job!

First, you have to study thick manuals that have been color coded to confuse the less able ringers. After you have deciphered the manual, you must make tedious calculations to adjust for the time change, late priests, cooks not on schedule, talks running long, etc.

Proper ringing technique is a skill as difficult to master as learning to play the bagpipes (Trust me. You can't practice enough.).

You must be ever vigilant to guard the bell from rogue Cusillistas-in-training. I found signs with the familiar circle with a red slash are good deterrents.

Oh, and the hours are grueling--first to rise and the last to fall. Truly exhausting work!

If you THINK you have what it takes to be a Bell Ringer, call Margie to sign up for the next 9 month training class.

### MY FOURTH DAY

*Meredith Steve, Cursillo #66, Cathedral Parish*

It has been a little over a year since hearing those powerful words directed towards me "Christ is counting on you." My response -- "and I on Him." Thank goodness God doesn't mind that as I take Him up on His offer and count on Him in more ways than one. At that moment the beginning of my life as a Cursillista started and my life as a cookie cutter Christian ended. Initially this journey was somewhat overwhelming--there was a lot of information to process! Fortunately it was made easy by the resources provided, and the reassurance and support of my fellow Cursillistas to follow this new "blueprint" of life with God.

Holiness, formation and evangelization have been forever sketched in my mind. It has been the implementation of these three areas, actions, processes--whatever one may wish to call them--that has been invaluable and brought me closer to God. I now have a better understanding of what I am called to do while here on Earth. I often find myself asking "Is this an opportunity to spend time with God, learn more about Him, or begin the process of eventually sharing Him with my fellow man?" This is definitely a work in progress for me but each day I feel I have direction for what I should be doing--or shouldn't be doing--as a true Christian.

Although there are a variety of things that attempt to divert my attention from God, I feel I am truly blessed to have experienced the "metanoia" as discussed over my Cursillo weekend. The Cursillo movement has provided me with tools and the desire to persevere, no matter what speedbumps I must cross, in keeping God first and accountable to what his wishes are for me as his child and as a Christian.

*De Colores!*

## LAY DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Cursillistas,

On this crisp fall morning I give thanks for all the blessings God has so graciously showered on me as well as the Nashville Diocesan Cursillo Movement. We have been blessed with 36 new Cursillistas from the fall weekends. Welcome to each of you.

We are also blessed with four Ultreyas in this Diocese held in Nashville, Murfreesboro, Fayetteville and most recently in Clarksville. I receive emails and phone calls daily from Cursillistas sharing with me how blessed they are in their Fourth Day, as well as asking for prayers for healing, support and in thanksgiving. I feel this is a wonderful family with Christ as our Head, and I am thankful to be a part of this family.

The Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas was a perfect setting for the 15<sup>th</sup> National Encounter which Dave and I attended this past July. The workshops centered on "friendship" and how it is integrated within the essence, purpose and methodology of Cursillo. Make a friend, Be a friend and Bring your friend to Christ. Through this genuine friendship, we are able to be true messengers of joy, which was the theme for the encounter.

I would like to thank Lisa McConnell, Mary Rehovsky and Lorraine Simpson for their dedicated service as they complete their terms on the Nashville Diocese Secretariat. I would like to welcome Jay Hoover (Treasurer) Dave Gilles (Precursillo) and Lorine Bourland (Secretary). Please remember all of the Secretariat members in your daily Prayers and Palanca, as we strive to be of service to all of you.

Please join me in giving thanks for our Cursillo Family, and for all of the prayer, Palanca, love and support we receive daily from each other.

Your Servant in Christ,  
Margie Heiar  
Lay Director, Nashville Cursillo



## CLARKSVILLE ULTREYA REPORT

Mike Todd, Cursillo #49, Immaculate Conception

Clarksville had its first Ultreya in several years on Wednesday, October 19th, 2005. It was a joy to see it all come together so well. I think none of us could have imagined the turnout. Perhaps the Lord has a plan for us yet. The Ultreya went exceptionally well and approximately twenty-five people attended. We have decided to try an Ultreya on the third Wednesday of every month and--of course--November will be our first exception. We will meet the Wednesday *after* Thanksgiving and skip December altogether. We ask that you keep our community in your prayers.

## CURSILLO GOOD NEWS

### St. Anthony Catholic Church - Fayetteville, TN

The recent Cursillo weekends have brought an additional three men and three women into the Fayetteville Cursillo group. After a few years of limited candidate success, the local Cursillo group made an all out effort by posting Cursillo weekend information for several weeks in the parish bulletin, and then followed that up with information sessions immediately after both masses. This allowed those interested to get their questions answered, and provided an opportunity for some of the Cursillistas to provide personal testimony of the effect of the weekend on their lives. In addition to those making the weekend we also have several candidates interested for the Spring weekends. While it took some coordination and time commitment the results were certainly worth it. If you try it in your parish perhaps you will achieve similar results.

The new Cursillistas have caused additional group reunions to be formed as well as add to the size of the monthly Ultreya. At St. Anthony the men now meet at the parish hall on Wednesday and Thursday at 7:00 P.M., and the women meet Wednesday at 7:00 P.M., and Saturday at 9:00 am. Our local Ultreya meets on the second Sunday of the month at 12:30 and is always a joyful faith-filled event. If you are ever in the area at that time stop by and join us.

De Colores from Fayetteville!

Richard Paladino, Cursillo #75, St. Anthony Parish

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR  
A CURSILLO CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**  
+ + + + +  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2005**  
**CHRIST THE KING CHURCH,**  
**3001 BELMONT BLVD., NASHVILLE TN**  
**6:00 p.m. Mass**  
**6:30-8:00 p.m. Refreshments & Fun in Marian Hall**

## CURSILLO PARISH COORDINATORS

George Sloan, Cursillo #81, St. Matthew Parish

One of the goals for the Cursillo Secretariat is to have a Cursillo Parish Coordinator in each parish in the Nashville Diocese. We are well on our way with Parish Coordinators in 20 of the 54 parishes and missions in the Diocese.

So what is a Cursillo Parish Coordinator and what do they do? The Cursillo Parish Coordinator is the key to energizing and growing the Cursillo movement in each parish.

They are the communication link between the Parish Cursillo movement and the Cursillo Secretariat. They communicate the news in both directions and spread that news to the parish members.

They assist Cursillistas in finding others to form small groups. They are the spark plugs in the parish for lighting the fires of interest and desire for the Cursillo movement.

They assist sponsors and new candidates in the applications for Cursillo weekends. They are the 'Go To Person' in the parish for any information needed about Cursillo.

If you would like to become a Cursillo Parish Coordinator in your parish, contact George or Mary Sloan, (615) 591-4079.

## RECIPE FOR SUCCESS IN OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Deacon Marty Deschenes



Welcome, new cursillistas!

Every day is a new day given to you by God. Every day you begin the rest of your lives. This day is given to all of us to renew our love for each other or to begin to love again the people around us. Each day is a gift to us personally.

In your prayer, don't be afraid to ask. Ask for the essentials: to love better, to pray better and to serve well. Try to be aware of everything you do, say or think. See if you are acting out of love or selfishness or egotism. Say a short prayer - "Lord, Jesus, have mercy", for instance - and put it in the hands of the Lord. When you say your short prayer, let it be understood that you are asking the Lord to work through you in this action, these words or thoughts in spite of the mistakes you may make, in spite of your weaknesses or the stupidities that may come out of your humanity. Then don't worry about it. Indeed, it is the Lord that created you in your uniqueness, with all your faults. That is humility, the virtue that must be present if you are to be successful in your spiritual and human life.

Perseverance is the key. You will persevere as long as you keep on trying. To persevere, try to be faithful to the prayer commitments you made on your weekend. If you're like me, you won't always be successful. But just keep coming back to them. Adjust your commitments, change them, but never be without them.

The same is true for your group reunion. For your group to work, you must feel responsible for it. Always go to group to give. Again here, you may not always be faithful, but never give up. Keep coming back, even if you feel uncomfortable or embarrassed. Again that is humility. Eventually, it will work for you and for the group. Especially if you keep saying that little prayer I mentioned earlier. If you don't have a group, ask your sponsor or your table leader to help you find one. Or come to Ultreya to group.

Come to Ultreya whenever you can, once a month, once every two months. Come with your group. Here also, come to give. Those of us who go to Ultreya every week need to see you there. We need to hear your stories, your struggles and your progress. We need to see your faces.

Spiritual direction. Pray. Try to find a spiritual director. This seems to be difficult for most of us. But if you want to make progress, find a person who is wise in spiritual matters and matters of the church, and meet with that person. Discuss your holiness, formation and evangelization, and have a plan. Most important of all, talk about your motivations, why you do what you do, say what you say or think what you think.

If you want to serve the Cursillo Movement and give back some of what you have received, come to the School of leaders. Consider sponsoring someone for the weekend.

Just as everyday is a gift to you, what you have received on the weekend is gift to you also. Treasure it but share it with others, on your fourth day and for the rest of your life.

My prayer for you is that each one of your days will be full of the colors of a life in Christ. De Colores!

--Marty Deschenes, Spiritual Advisor

## CURSILLO SPRING WEEKENDS FOR 2006

Men's Weekend - Thurs., April 27 - Sun., April 30

Women's Weekend - Thurs., May 4 - Sun., May 7

## REGION IV FALL ENCOUNTER

Dave Heiar, Cursillo #61, St. Ignatius Catholic Community

A contingent of 14 Cursillistas from the Nashville, Murfreesboro and Fayetteville Ultreyas represented middle Tennessee at the Region IV Fall Encounter. The Knoxville Diocese hosted this year's encounter, held on the last weekend of October at the DuBose Conference Center in Monteagle, TN. Over 70 cursillistas from a six state area represented the 16 dioceses that make up Region IV.

*Building the Body of Christ* was the theme of this year's conference, which centered on the importance of *Personal Contact* in all phases of the Cursillo Movement. Personal contact is not emails, instant messages or even newsletters. Personal contact is that eyeball to eyeball - face to face - contact with our fellow human beings, whether they be potential candidates, babe chicks or long time Cursillistas. Our model for this personal contact is none other than Jesus - whether calling his apostles to follow Him, calling Zachaeus to come down from the tree, or asking the Samaritan woman for a drink - Jesus demonstrated the importance of personal contact.

If we truly demonstrated *Personal Contact* every day, the 3-Day Weekend would not be such a "high" that we feel let down afterward. Whether our Cursillo activities include being sponsors, team members, participants at Ultreya and School of Leaders, or simply remaining faithful to weekly Group Reunion, *Personal Contact* is fundamental. The Cursillo is an encounter with God, an encounter with self and an encounter with others. Living the Cursillo method requires us to share with others the fundamental truth - God loves you - and so do we.

We need to be present to one another. And this works both ways - if we haven't seen you at Ultreya, we need the gift of your presence. Call a friend - maybe someone you sponsored for a weekend - and agree to meet at Ultreya. Better yet, take this opportunity to dig out your weekend roster and call the people who shared your table. Invite them to gather at an upcoming Ultreya so that you can renew that *Personal Contact* that means so much to all of us. *Christ is counting on you ...*

--Dave