



CURSILLO NEWSLETTER

Archdiocese of Mobile



July 1, 2009

Vol. 3 Page 1



Love one another as *I have loved you*



The 2010 Holy Trinity Spring dates
Men - March 4-7
Women - March 18-21.

The 2010 Visitation Monastery dates
Men - Sept 23-26
Women - Oct 7-10 Women.

The **Rector for the Men's Fall Cursillo weekend is**
Bill Cotton.

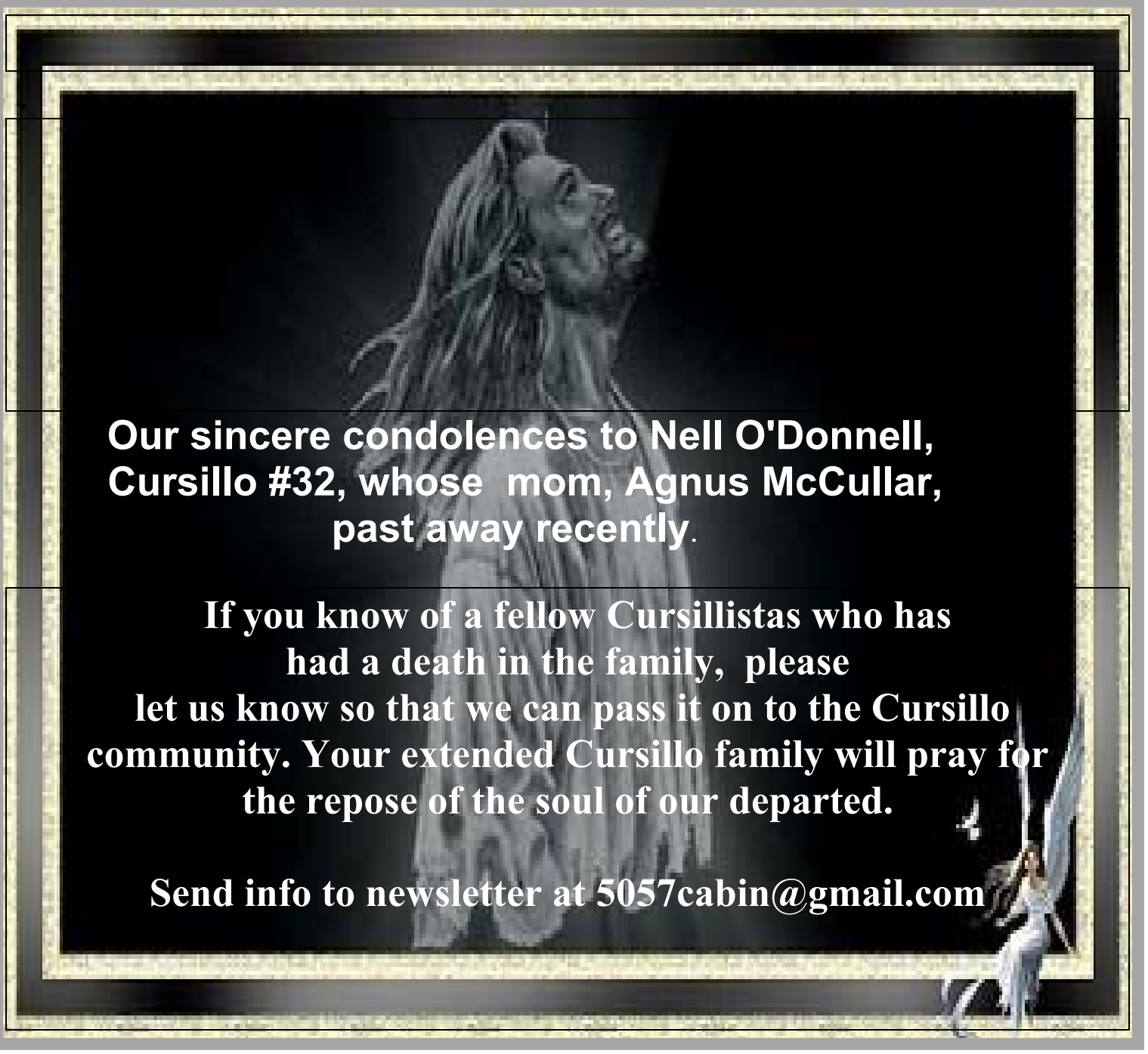
Men's weekend will be **September 10-13.**

The **Rectora for the Women's Fall weekend is**
Beth Perkins.

Women's weekend will be **October 8-11.**

Weekends will be at Visitation Monastery in Mobile.
Sponsor and candidate applications are available on line
at www.mobilecursillo.org

or from your Ultreya leader.



**Our sincere condolences to Nell O'Donnell,
Cursillo #32, whose mom, Agnus McCullar,
past away recently.**

**If you know of a fellow Cursillistas who has
had a death in the family, please
let us know so that we can pass it on to the Cursillo
community. Your extended Cursillo family will pray for
the repose of the soul of our departed.**

Send info to newsletter at 5057cabin@gmail.com

**Did you know you can go to the National Cursillo website
and order Lighthouse Media CD's and a portion of the cost
will go to National Cursillo?**

**The website is natl-cursillo.org Click on "Enrich your
Faith" link and place your order from there. Lighthouse is
a great source of books and CDs from many noted
Catholic authors, and at excellent prices. Check it out.**

**GOD OUR FATHER,
WALK THROUGH MY HOUSE
AND TAKE AWAY ALL MY
WORRIES AND ILLNESSES;
AND PLEASE WATCH OVER AND
HEAL MY FAMILY
IN JESUS ' NAME. AMEN**

Do you remember?

Remember your Cursillo weekend? Remember the Palanca? Did it make you misty eyed? So much Love! Did it make you feel that you were a part of something bigger, something more spiritual than you ever imagined?

Palanca! A lever with impossible strength. Did it lift your spirits? People out there care, really care, about me! I'm special! God made me! God loves me! I Love God!

Please remember the fall candidates. Take time to write palanca and make sure that you get it delivered in time to be distributed on the weekend. It is an important part of the life changing experience that we call Cursillo. Your Ultreya leader can help you deliver it on time.

What's the most important part of being a Cursillista? There are many possible answers—making a Weekend; working a Weekend; Group Reunion; Ultreya; Fourth Day events; School... You get the idea. A multiplicity of options—and all have a claim to the title.

After all, making a Weekend is one's entry-way to the Cursillo method. The method itself involves Group Reunion and Ultreya as means of perseverance. Fidelity in these areas is usually a criterion for (and seen as deserving the 'reward' of?) working a Weekend. The School is a way of furthering one's formation, particularly in study of Cursillo documents like Fundamental Ideas. Renewing fellowship via Fourth Day events re-connects and re-vitalizes people, reminding them they are not alone.

I want to suggest that NONE of these is the right answer. There is only one purpose for Cursillo—it is to make effective disciples of Jesus Christ. Our goal is to have a Church bursting at the seams with prayerful, faithful, giving, active followers. "Christ is counting on you"/"And I am counting on Him" is the bottom line for the whole movement. We crave people who count on, lean on, learn from, our Lord, and who eagerly (humbly) live the Gospel life of faith, hope and love.

Should we lament when folks who have made a weekend "move on"? I suppose it depends on what "moving on" means. If it's a polite phrase for backsliding, then there is every reason to lament! And if we are sponsors for these people, what are we doing to encourage (knowing that we cannot manipulate)?

On the other hand, what if folks have "moved on" from a weekend and a Fourth Day lifestyle into things like Kairos, or permanent diaconate, or priesthood? Might their notions of study have grown to the point, for example, of earning an MA in theology from Spring Hill and becoming a parish DRE? Could their sense of apostolic action have evolved such that they are now managing a center for Catholic Social Services? Has their prayer-life evolved through the Spring Hill College Spirituality Institute to the point where they are not only engaging in spiritual direction but also directing others?

"An isolated Christian is a paralyzed Christian." The strength of Cursillo is to be a source of community, a model for a mini-Church, to make more potent members of the Body of Christ. We cannot do it alone, and Cursillo is a wonderful, viable means of enabling Christians to be who/what they are called to be. But in the last analysis it is a means to a glorious End, not an end in itself. When the members realize their potency and exercise it, who knows what can happen?! Praise the Lord when this happens! Remember: Christ is counting on us...

Fr. Dave Tokarz

The Word Among Us

I know that many Curillistas use “The Word Among Us”, but I really enjoyed the article by Patricia Mitchell in the Easter issue. She is talking about what a great help to her spiritual life St. Francis de Sales has been. In his “Introduction to a Devout Life”, he encourages us to follow:

Patricia says; “I learned from Francis that my vocation was to a wife and mother, and that I needed to attend to the responsibilities that my vocation entailed. It wasn’t that God did not want me to pray, rather, I had to learn that my prayer didn’t mean much if it wasn’t reflected in loving actions and obedience to God. Also, I need to calm down and look patiently for time to spend with the lord without getting anxious if it wasn’t long enough or quiet enough.”

Patricia is the mother of toddlers and is in demand for their needs. In another place she says;

He is a cheerleader who tells us that we can be close to the Lord and that our many responsibilities to family, parish and workplace are not obstacles, but paths to God. He encourages us not to waste time looking back in regret over our past sins or looking too far forward and fretting about the future. He reminds us instead to focus on what’s right in front of us – the very next thing that God is calling us to do.

Along the way, we can practice those little virtues that Francis recommended: patience, forbearance, humility, simplicity, and joy. As these soften our hearts, we will be able to truly “Live Jesus!”

Sr. Peggy Cosgrove

Reprinted from the Catholic Week

Subject: from our savior: entering into dialogue on life

In his address at Notre Dame this past weekend, President Obama suggested that truth is great and will prevail, and that (taking up an image from Fr. Ted Hesburgh) “we are all fishermen,” struggling in spite of our differences to find a common solution to a problem. In the spirit of offering dialogue points to help truth prevail, I respectfully would like to ask the President some questions with regard to his stance on respect for human life.

Dear Mr. President:

- 1. You support a woman’s right to an abortion. Is this on the basis of a belief that a pregnant woman is not carrying a human life, or on the basis of a belief that that human life is not worthy of protection?**
- 2. In either case, what is the scientific/medical information that leads you to this conclusion?**
- 3. In either case, when do you believe that human life (or human life worthy of protection) does begin, and how scientifically/medically did you determine this?**

- 4. If an unborn child at 8-1/2 months of gestation can be aborted by the mother, what logical barrier is there for not following Prof. Singer of Princeton and thinking that a baby 2 weeks after being born cannot also be “aborted”? The answer must surely involve more than “location”...**
- 5. You have said you are “wrestling” with the issue of life. If the unborn child is not a human life or a life worthy of protection, with what are you are wrestling?**
- 6. If induced (adult) stem cell research is offering such promising results, as opposed to the results of any kind of embryonic stem cell research, why is the Administration reducing funding for such research?**
- 7. If the unborn child is not human life or human life worthy of protection, why express willingness to work to reduce the numbers of abortions?**
- 8. If the unborn child is not human life or human life worthy of protection, why should the slaying of a pregnant mother be regarded in a court of law as a “double homicide”?**

These are questions that not only deserve but cry for an answer in honest dialogue. Mr. President, can we be fisherman together? Can we talk?

**Respectfully,
Rev. David J. Tokarz, Pastor
Our Savior Catholic Church**

A very interesting piece of history. Please take a minute and read on.

LAUS DEO

Do you know what it means?

One detail that is never mentioned is that in Washington , D.C. there can never be a building of greater height than the Washington Monument . With all the uproar about removing the ten commandments, etc., this is worth a moment or two of your time. I was not aware of this amazing historical information.

On the aluminum cap, atop the Washington Monument in Washington , D.C. , are displayed two words: Laus Deo.

No one can see these words. In fact, most visitors to the monument are totally unaware they are even there and for that matter, probably couldn't care less.

Once you know Laus Deo's history , you will want to share this with everyone you know. These words have been there for many years; they are 555 feet, 5,125 inches high, perched atop the monument, facing skyward to the Father of our nation, overlooking the 69 square miles which comprise the District of Columbia, capital of the United States of America

Laus Deo! Two seemingly insignificant, unnoticed words. Out of sight and, one might think, out of mind, but very meaningfully placed at the highest point over what is the most powerful city in the most successful nation in the world.

So, what do those two words, in Latin, composed of just four syllables and only seven letters, possibly mean? Very simply, they say ' Praise be to God!'

Though construction of this giant obelisk began in 1848, when James Polk was President of the United States , it was not until 1888 that the monument was inaugurated and opened to the public. It took twenty-five years to finally cap the memorial with a tribute to the Father of our nation, Laus Deo 'Praise be to God!'

From atop this magnificent granite and marble structure, visitors may take in the beautiful panoramic view of the city with its division into four major segments. From that vantage point, one can also easily see the original plan of the designer, Pierre Charles l'Enfant ..a perfect cross imposed upon the landscape, with the White House to the north. The Jefferson Memorial is to the south, the Capitol to the east and the Lincoln Memorial to the west.

A cross you ask? Why a cross? What about separation of church and state? Yes, a cross; separation of church and state was not, is not, in the Constitution. So, read on. How interesting and, no doubt, intended to carry a profound meaning for those who bother to notice.

Praise be to God! Within the monument itself are 898 steps and 50 landings. As one climbs the steps and pauses at the landings the memorial stones share a message. On the 12th Landing is a prayer offered by the City of Baltimore ; on the 20th is a memorial presented by some Chinese Christians; on the 24th a presentation made by Sunday School children from New York and Philadelphia quoting Proverbs 10:7, Luke 18:16 and Proverbs 22:6. Praise be to God!

When the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid on July 4th, 1848 deposited within it were many items including the Holy Bible presented by the Bible Society. Praise be to God! Such was the discipline, the moral direction, and the spiritual mood given by the founder and first President of our unique democracy 'One Nation, Under God.'

I am awed by Washington 's prayer for America Have you ever read it? Well, now is your unique opportunity, so read on!

' Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.'

Laus Deo!

When one stops to observe the inscriptions found in public places all over our nation's capitol, he or she will easily find the signature of God, as it is unmistakably inscribed everywhere you look. You may forget the width and height of 'Laus Deo ', its location, or the architects but no one who reads this will be able to forget its meaning, or these words: 'Unless the Lord builds the house its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.' (Psalm 127: 1)

It is hoped you will send this to every child you know; to every sister, brother, father, mother or friend. They will not find offense, because you have given them a lesson in history that they probably never learned in school.

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Post Cursillo North

Vacant

Post Cursillo South

Vacant

From Church Bloopers on-line.
For those of you who have children and don't
know it, we have a nursery downstairs.