



# CURSILLO NEWS



Archdiocese of Mobile

March 1 2008

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## Resolutions and Sacrifices

## Lenten Season and Politics

Since the last Newsletter, we have come through one season, and entered another season, and perhaps, another era. The celebration of the birth of our Savior offered us the opportunity to grow spiritually as a family. With the start of a new year we made our New Year resolutions (most of which we have probably broken already) and, hopefully, began thinking about who we want to lead our country for the next four years. Now we are in the Lenten Season and a new opportunity to make more resolutions, or better yet, sacrifices, to prepare us for the most holy of hols, the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Happy Easter**

At Our Lady of the Gulf, our pastor read the Gospel and gave his usual informative and interesting homily. Just before he stepped down from the pulpit, he said. "This is an election year, and I always wanted to do this." With that, he said, "I'm Father Fulton and I approve this message."

### New Cursillo Ultreya

If you live in Baldwin county or if you are at the beach on vacation, there is an Ultreya starting in April at St Margaret's in Foley. It will on the 1st Saturday of the month following the 5:00 PM vigil Mass.

Contact Dawn Peterson -  
[dpeterson@bcbe.org](mailto:dpeterson@bcbe.org)

Have a close moment or a short witness that you would like to share with your fellow Cursillistas? Send it to a Secretariat member and they will pass it onto the newsletter.



## **A-C-T-S**

**Good things are really happening! With plans for a 4<sup>th</sup> Day Reunion and the usual good effected by the continual weekends, there is no doubt that the Lord is blessing the Cursillo movement.**

**At a recent “School”, when we were talking about prayer, we were reminded of the little word ACTS. Many years ago when I was helping at a girls’ camp in Connecticut (Camp Trinita) the priest spoke to the girls about how we could use the word as follows: A-Adoration, C-Contrition, T-Thanksgiving, S-Supplication. He said if we prayed each of these every day we would surely become saints! Since I wanted to become a saint I have been using this every day in my prayer time. I say to the Lord,**

**“I adore you with all the fervor of my soul. I’m sorry for everything I have done that offends you. I thank you for everything that is. And I ask you for vocations to the Church and to my religious community.”**

**Others may have heard of this way of prayer. It may be new to some of you. Some of you might like to try it!**

**Sister Peggy Cosgrove M.S.B.T.  
Assistant Spiritual Director  
Archdiocese of Mobile**

### **From the Internet**

**Life is too short for drama & petty things, so laugh hard, love truly and forgive quickly. Live While You Are Alive. Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity. Forgive now those who made you cry. You might not get a second time.**

**The Cursillo Spring Weekends at Holy Trinity are ON!**

**Men's weekend is April 3-6**

**Rector is Jean-Paul Nicol**

**Women's weekend is May 1-4**

**Rectora is Melissa Kenamer**

**Please keep the team and candidates in your prayers.**

**Candidate and sponsor applications are available from your Ultreya leader and on the web at [www.mobilecursillo.org](http://www.mobilecursillo.org).**

**Applications will be accepted until the Saturday before each weekend.**

**"A Muslim's first prayer as a Christian"**

**O God , I am Mustafah the tailor and I work at the shop of Muhammad Ali. The whole day long I sit and pull the needle and thread through the cloth. O God, you are the needle and I am the thread. I am attached to you and I follow you. When the thread tries to slip away from the needle it becomes tangled and must be cut so that it can be put back in the right place. O God, let me follow you wherever you may lead me. For I am Mustafa the tailor, and I work at the shop of Muhammed Ali on the great square.**

**From the Oxford Book of Prayer**

**4th Day Reunion**

**A Day of Renewal!**

**Make plans to attend a 4th Day Reunion on June 28, 2008. It will be held in Mobile from 9:30 - 2:30pm and bring a brown bag lunch! The details are still in the works but the plan is to have talks by religious and laity. We'll have time to pray, to share, and also time to renew old friendships! Put it on your calendar now! More info will be released through Ultreyas.**

**The School of Leaders**

**Eduardo Bonin, a founder of the Cursillo in Christianity**

**Died Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at 9 a.m. CST, which is 4 p.m. in Mallorca**

**Let us all pray for the repose of the soul of Eduardo Bonin. He gave us all such a treasure in our respective lives and, significantly, returned to the Lord on Ash Wednesday.**



## Highlight on the secretariat

### Steve Elstner

Steve Elstner lived Cursillo # 21 in 1990 at the Visitation Monastery in Mobile. Steve and his wife Nancy (#18) have served as Ultreya leaders. Steve has also worked on many 3 Day Weekends in Palanca, Set-ups, and Kitchen and has given many rollos. Steve is currently serving as our Treasurer and has been in that position for 2 ½ years. He has agreed to serve another 3 year term and for this we are most grateful.

Steve has 3 daughters, Nikki, Stephanie, and Emily. He also has 3 grandchildren, Benjamin, Mary Michael, and Oliver. He has worked at Safelite Auto Glass for 26 years and his hobbies include playing disc golf and reading.

Steve has been very faithful to Group Reunion and Ultreya. He is a true blessing to our community and we are grateful for his service to the Secretariat!

## It's A Pilgrimage!

I found a statement in the "Leaders" rollo recently that seemed to me to be "new". I know it isn't, but sometimes God will open our eyes to "see" things at a time when He is ready for us to "see" it. (Or maybe I was just ready to see it!)

The statement is as follows: The ideal we want and believe is synthesized in the word "pilgrimage". To be on a Pilgrimage is to journey through Christ to the Father under the guidance of the Holy Spirit with the help of Mary and all of the saints as you bring your brothers and sisters along with you!

What a beautiful summary of our lives! Everything boils down to the fact that we want to go to heaven! We want to be with our Father! We journey with Christ, who has forged the path, we are in company with our Mother and all who have gone before us, and we bring along all those we can! Our life is all about the journey.

When we gather at group reunion we will share the acts of piety that lead us closer to that ideal, we share our form of study that clarify to us the way we will journey, and we share ways in which we have tried to share this with others! All of this is a result of "Grace" and it is all about the journey! We are not boasting, or feeling very puffed up about our accomplishments! We simply stand in awe again of God who so graciously called us and gifted us with the desire to know, love, and serve Him!

I pray that God will renew within us the zeal that we felt as we lived our Cursillo weekend!



**Decolores!**  
**Mary Jo Wilder,**  
**Lay Director**



## **A Mini Testimony**

**Jim had been a Lutheran minister in Wisconsin who had lost his flock, and, subsequently, his faith. We learned this from his wife who had spent some time at our home in Atmore when she came from Wisconsin to visit an inmate on death row, in Holman Prison. She confided deeply with us about Jim's problems and his current spiritual condition, which was non-existent. The odd thing was that while Jim's spirituality was in a dark abyss, his wife was constantly on the mountaintop. She exuded reverence 24/7, I don't believe that I ever heard her talk about anything without somehow managing to praise God. If there is such a thing as a living saint, she fit the mold.**

**The following year, I was on the Board of Directors of a national prison ministry group. Our Annual Summer Conference was to be on Salute St. Marie on the Upper Peninsula in Michigan. My wife & I decided to travel there by way of Wisconsin so that we could stop and meet Jim and his wife. We decided not to tell them that we were stopping by to visit until we had arrived in town. We called and Jim's wife was thrilled to have us visit and gave us directions to their home. When we arrived Jim's wife gave us a holy welcome. Jim was napping because he had to go to his work as a night watchman at a local factory in a few hours. When he woke up, he came into the living room to meet us. We greeted him with a holy hug. It was like hugging the bronze statue of Lenin in Moscow in January.**

**We invited them to have dinner with us and with some reluctance, Jim agreed to go with us. The dinner was cordial and we avoided any controversial subjects. We went back to their house to say our good-byes on the sidewalk in front of the house. Our hugs were returned with a small degree of warmth. Then, out of the blue, Jim said, "You want to know why I'm so mad at God, don't you?" Well, God said, 'I'm through with you Jim, I don't need you any more'. "God has abandoned me."**

**We stood on the sidewalk, in the dark, for the next hour listening to Jim talk about his relationship, or lack of a relationship, with God. Jim did most of the talking and it was obvious that he was desperate to unburden himself. We listened and said, "Jim, you can abandon God if you choose to, but you know in your heart that he could never abandon you."**

**We finally said our good-byes, and our hugs were returned with warmth and friendship. About three months later we received a letter from Jim's wife. Jim had sought reinstatement in the Lutheran church and was currently in a re-training program. He was re-instated within a year. On our next visit to their home, two years later, we stayed in the parsonage as their guests, and attended Pastor Jim's worship services on Sunday and on Thursday evening. It was wonderful to hear his powerful voice, both preaching and singing the praises of the Lord, as we sat in the front row next to his wife.**

**Every story has a moral. In this case the moral is "Never give up on someone even if they have given up on themselves."**

**Walt Redmond**

### The Wisdom of the Saints)

"Do everything without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine like lights in the world, as you hold on to the word of life....." St. Paul the Apostle (1st century)

"He Who sanctified the saints has an infinite desire to sanctify us too."  
St. John Eudes (17th century)

"Daily, cities hitherto deemed impregnable are captured, men launch out into unknown seas, scientists strive to achieve results vainly sought for three thousand years - and yet we pretend it is impossible to become saints."

St. Claude de la Colombiere (17th century)

"All our life is sown with tiny thorns that produce in our hearts a thousand involuntary movements of hatred, envy, fear, impatience, a thousand little fleeting disappointments, a thousand slight worries, a thousand disturbances that momentarily alter our peace of soul. For example, a word escapes that should not have been spoken. Or someone utters another that offends us. A child inconveniences you. A bore stops you. You don't like the weather. Your work is not going according to plan...I know that these are not occasions for practicing very heroic virtue. But they would definitely be enough to acquire it if we really wished to.

" St. Claude de la Colombiere

"May your behavior and your conversation be such that everyone who sees or hears you can say: This man reads the life of Jesus Christ."

St. Josemaria Escriva (20th century)

"Conversion is a matter of a moment. Sanctification is the work of a lifetime."

St. Josemaria Escriva

"Holiness consists of doing the will of God with a smile."

Bl. Teresa of Calcutta (20th century)

"Remember always that your field of apostolate is your own personal lives. Here is where the message of the Gospel has first to be preached and lived. Your first apostolic duty is your own sanctification...It is not what you do that matters most, but what you are."

Servant of God Pope John Paul II (20th-21st centuries)

## SECRETARIAT

### Lay Director

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Jayne Yarbrough

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## MEMBERS

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### Asst. Spiritual Advisor

Sr. Peggy Cosgrove

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### Post Cursillo North

vacant

### Post Cursillo South

vacant



**Please pray for the Spring  
Cursillo Men's Team  
as they prepare to be "Christ's  
Team" for the April weekend.**

Rector  
**Jean-Paul Nicol**

Spiritual Team  
**Rev Jack Kane  
Rev Mr Read Haughery  
Rev Dr Sam Shippen**

Conference Room  
**Ismael Nazario  
Greg Kochak  
Randy Beard  
Perry Burden  
Matt Schultz  
Cam Pearl  
Gerry Shook  
Frank Yandrasits  
Ed Eckroate  
Dave Newell**

Music Team  
**Tom Flohr  
Buddy Samford**

Setups Team  
**Richard Saba  
Ed Clark  
Bob Spano  
Mark Steltenpohl**

Palanca Team  
**Jerry Allain  
Charlie Anderson  
Ben Hajek**

Kitchen Team  
**Bob Fischer  
Hector Donastorg  
Bob Beetz**

**Newsletters never die, they just fade away. And that's the truth. You can help prevent that, after all it is *your* newsletter. Contribute to it! Births, weddings, deaths, birthdays, anniversaries, close moments, ultreya events, looking for a group? Cursillo is community. Your community! Let us hear from you.**

**HAPPY EASTER**

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