



CURSILLO NEWS



Archdiocese of Mobile

December 2007

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Christmas & the Cursilista

It's that time of year.

Time to fight the traffic on the street and in the store.

Time to try to find a parking space within walking distance to the store entrance.

Time to find the shortest line at check-out (there isn't any).

Time to make that final payment on your lay-away. Time to decorate trees and houses, stuff the stockings, feast on your favorite holiday meal, and open gifts, from the latest high tech games to neckties. And through it all, we must keep focused on the reason for the season.

It is a time for prayer around the dinner table with Family.

A time for sharing Christ's love.

A time for a spontaneous "I Love you".

A time for a holy hug.

A time to pray for Peace.

A time to Love thy neighbor.

A time to give to God the only thing that He asks of us. Our obedience. "Follow me".

A time to **make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ.**

MERRY CHRISTMAS

The Crucifix – a mini testimony

It was Sunday at Holy Trinity. It was the clausura of the women's weekend. Probably a dozen years ago and I don't know the young lady's name. I'm sure that there are some readers of this newsletter who will recall this clausura witness.

It was open mike time for the ladies who made the weekend. When the young lady, whose testimony I'll paraphrase, got to the microphone, she answered the three questions and said how much fun she had on the weekend, and how it had affected her. Then she said..(paraphrased).....

When I was a young girl I attended Catholic schools. And, of course, our school day always started with mass. The sisters were always there to take attendance and make sure that we were sitting with the proper class. After mass, they always made sure that we got to our classrooms on time. I would always look at the crucifix, and I always saw the inscription above Jesus's head, INRI. And I always wondered what it meant. But I never did ask because I felt certain that it would come up in one of our classes. Also, I was too timid to ask because I didn't want to seem like a dummy. I was sure that all the other kids knew what the inscription meant. But I did not.

So I made up my own meaning for INRI. I saw Jesus, his arms outstretched, dying for our sins. And the inscription? Jesus was telling us, "I'll Never Regret It." End of paraphrase.

Things like that just clutch at my heart, and I'm usually struggling not let a teardrop fall from my glossy eyes. This time was no exception. I cannot look at a crucifix today without seeing 'I'll never regret it.' inscribed above Jesus' head. Thanks, lovely lady, for a close moment that will last a lifetime.

Walt Redmond

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 teaching moment.....



I recently had the privilege of serving on the Women's team for Cursillo #99 held at the Visitation. I give thanks to our heavenly Father for the graces that were bestowed on us as we gathered to proclaim the Good News of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The living witness of an authentic Christian community is a beautiful thing! There was so much love expressed in a myriad of ways from those who served the meals to those who offered prayers; from the spiritual team who taught us to those who shared their testimony with such joy. We were truly blessed as we gathered to share in the work of the Kingdom of God!

While this experience was so fresh in my mind and heart I wanted to share some thoughts with you on how a team is formed in the Cursillo movement and particularly in the Archdiocese of Mobile. In many dioceses around the country, team formation lasts anywhere from six to eight weeks, meeting consecutive Saturdays. For our diocese, which spans 3-4 hours travel time, we have condensed it into a weekend and a day retreat. The weekend is usually held in the town of the rector/a and the retreat is held in Greenville, which is about midway travel for everyone. When you are asked to work a weekend you are asked to commit to attend these two dates as well as the dates of the weekend. There really should be no exceptions to this. In recent years we have held a 4th Day Reunion the Saturday after the weekend. Team is encouraged to attend this as well.

The formation weekend is a time for us to get to know each other! We come from all over the diocese. In order for us to form true community, we must gather to share, work, pray, and have fun! We are asked to bring the same things to team formation that we ask candidates to bring to the weekend; our idealism, self-surrender, cooperation, and a spirit of Love. By the end of a formation weekend we have many new "best" friends!

The retreat gives us an opportunity to make a "pilgrimage" in the same spirit as those who traveled to the Shrine of St. James the Great at Compostella, Spain. As we journey to our destination, we continue to share our lives, pray for each other, and encourage each other in the gifts that God has given us. I know there have been complaints in the past of the travel time and the cost of gas, etc., but I feel that this is valuable time that we should and must use to continue to form community. The retreat day is given by spiritual team and continues to point us toward our goal of ministering Christ's love to the candidates that we will serve on the upcoming weekend.

As we gather for the beginning of the Cursillo weekend we truly feel that we are friends of Christ and of each other. We come prepared to do the work assigned to us and we are confident that the grace will be provided for us to perform it to the best of our ability and often above and beyond our ability! We watch the Holy Spirit begin to work and stand in awe of the excellence of our God!

If you are asked to work team, consider it prayerfully. It is a commitment and requires much sacrifice... but the benefits are out of this world!

*Mary Jo Wilder,
Lay Director*

The spring Cursillo weekend dates have been set as follows:

Men's.....April 3-6, 2008

Women's.....May 1-4 (note, this is a new date)

Weekends will be held at Holy Trinity. The deadline for submitting new candidates has been extended to January 12th.

Application and sponsor forms are available online at

www.mobilecursillo.org

Talk to God about the person before you talk to the person about God.

Welcome and Congratulations to our new Cursillistas
Women's Weekend #99 - Fall 2007

Candidate	Sponsor	Parish
1 Bobbie Addiss	Jeanette Hall	St Pius X
2 Jennifer Alberstadt	Starr Flynn	Christ the King
3 Sarah Bedia	Eileen Rettig	St Ignatius
4 Russell 'Russie' Blackwell	Jeanne Chartier	St Ignatius
5 Yvonne Boucher	Sonja Brueck	St Ignatius
6 Charlotte Boyes	Leesa Bolling	St Dominic
7 Catherine 'Cathy' Burch	Shirley Allbritten	St Dominic
8 Katherine Cole-Tyson	Lynn McKinstry	St Lawrence
9 Ashley Covert	Mary Jo Wilder	St Ignatius
10 Mary 'MaryLynn' Farrell	Shirley Allbritten	St Dominic
11 Royce Fore	Jackie Simmonds	St Lawrence
12 Dorothy Harris	Elisabeth McCorcle	St Michael
13 Elizabeth Hendrix	Jim Licari	St Bede
14 Mary 'Vangy' Johnson	Eileen Rettig	Sacred Heart (Jackson)
15 Irene Kaiser	Nita Kaiser	St Bartholomew
16 Pam Kirsch	Yvonne Eckroate	St Bede
17 Shirli Kralik	Julia Byrne	St Lawrence
18 Sherry Krauss	Glen Kaiser	St Bartholomew
19 Karen Krauss	Glen Kaiser	St Bartholomew
20 Pearl Lee	Jane Nixon	St Bede
21 Margaret 'Beth' Little	Jackie Simmonds	St Lawrence
22 Adele Logan	Helen Hart	St Lawrence
23 Deborah 'Debby' Marino	Shirley Allbritten	St Margaret of Scotland
24 Judy May	Peggy Cosgrove, MSBT	St Pius X
25 Kathleen 'Kat' McAleer	Mary Jo Wilder	St Patrick's, Robertsdale
26 'Mary Elizabeth' Perkins	Dorothy Beattie	St Pius
27 Jean Powers	Eileen Rettig	Cathedral
28 Sharon Root	Betty Yandrasits	Christ the King
29 Anita Scineaux	Joan Rouchell	Christ the King
30 Frankie Slowey	Mary Lou Roszkowski	St Lawrence
31 Monica Thompson	Anita O'Conner	Corpus Christi

Welcome and Congratulations to our new Cursillistas
Men's Weekend #98 - Fall 2007

Candidate	Sponsor	Parish
1 Jeseph Alberstadt	Jimbo Bailey	Christ the King
2 Barry Ankersen	Joe Roszkowski	St Ignatius
3 Joseph 'Bo' Baker	Jack O'Neill	St Ignatius
4 Jorge Bedia	Charles McCabe	St Ignatius
5 Mcllwain 'Bo' Bishop	James Odom	Our Lady of Victories
6 Ruffin Blackwell	Joe Roszkowski	Christ the King
7 Owen Blackwell	Jack O'Neill	St Ignatius
8 Daniel 'Danny' Cain	Tom McKinstry	Corpus Christi
9 Philip Cole-Tyson	Tom McKinstry	St Lawrence
10 Kenneth 'Kenny' Fann	Joe Roszkowski	St Ignatius
11 David Fore	Tim Simmonds	St Lawrence
12 Horace Hammett	Jerry Allain	St Agatha
13 William Harkins, Jr	Charles McCabe	St Ignatius
14 Greg Hohman	Bernie Scott	Christ the King
15 Ryan Johnston	Mike Hood	Christ the King
16 Darryl Johnston	Steve Elstner	St Dominic
17 Dennis 'Denny' Kaiser	Kenny Kaiser, Sr	St Joseph
18 David Kralik	David Byrne	St Lawrence
19 Richard 'Rich' Krauss	Glen Kaiser	St Bartholomew
20 James 'Jim' Krauss	Glen Kaiser	St Bartholomew
21 Barry Little	Tim Simmonds	St Lawrence
22 Douglas McEney	Tom McKinstry	St Joan of Arc
23 Mark Miller	Larry White	Christ the King
24 Rev Michael Okodua	Bernie Scott	Shrine of the Holy Cross
25 Rev Mr William Pearson	Bill Robinson	Christ the King
26 Thomas 'Tom' Powers	Dan O'Donnell	St Ignatius
27 Tom Price	Charles Fontana	St Ignatius
28 Richard 'Dick' Slowey	Joe Roszkowski	St Lawrence
29 Kyle Smith	Tom Flohr	St John's
30 Rocco Valluzzo	Bernie Scott	Christ the King
31 Rev Steven Williams	Tim Simmonds	St Lawrence
32 Michael Zoghby, Jr	Mike Zoghby	St Lawrence

WHAT DO YOU STUDY? HOW DO YOU STUDY?



It's easy to pick up a book and scan it. Reading takes more effort; true study takes still more effort. But just like digestion, it's important not only to allow the process to move forward. It's also crucial to know how to select what you're putting in your mouth to digest. If you like, I want to offer the rough equivalent of a "South Beach Diet" plan for your Fourth Day study.

This is not the end-all and be-all of study, but I would like to offer you, as a beginning, God's Word: the Bible. NOT to read it 'cover to cover,' though—this is counter-productive at best. I suggest instead the following regimen for the New Testament.

Begin with Philippians, and then go to I Peter, and back to Mark. Fast-forward to James and then back again to Luke. This will keep you busy for a while!

You will need a good guide for this, and I heartily recommend two possibilities: the books by Tom (N.T.) Wright, under the general title of "X" for Everyone, and the pamphlet commentaries that are part of the New Testament Reading Guide series by Collegeville Press. Now: read the New Testament books first, straight-through. Enjoy, savor, but don't spend too much time on them.

Let the words (the Word) wash over you. Read the commentaries next (they come, most of the time, with the text already printed for their discussion). This will be real work, but I think it'll also be pleasurable, especially if you can do this in groups. Finally, go back to re-read the Bible book, slowly and prayerfully, in the spirit of what the monastic tradition calls lectio divina, or spiritual reading. Take your time, and you can sit with perhaps 10 verses for a week. Let the words not wash over you this time but fill you like water in a sponge. This is reading while listening, and it would result in much material for journalizing, or perhaps to take to spiritual direction. All of this is good.

The result of this process is time-consuming, but then we're in no hurry to finish the Bible before the next coffee break, are we? Enter into God's Word and drink deeply.

Fr. David
Spiritual Director

Palanca is prayer in any form. Cursillo thrives on it! A simple, I love you, can be a powerful prayer. Use it often, and watch prayer at work.

SECRETARIAT

December 2007

MEMBERS

Lay Director

Mary Jo Wilder
(251) 476-3471)

School of Leaders

Lee Eilers
(251) 443-5419

Secretary

Dorothy Beattie
(251) 479-9374)

Treasurer

Steve Elstner
(251) 660-6280)

Pre-Cursillo

Beth Saba
(334) 821-4812)

3-Day - South

Jayne Yarbrough
(251) 476-5732)

3-Day - North

Mary Ann Campagna
(334) 821-1483

Spiritual Advisor

FR. David Tokarz
(251) 633-6762
Fax: (251) 633-7790

**Asst. Spiritual
Advisor**

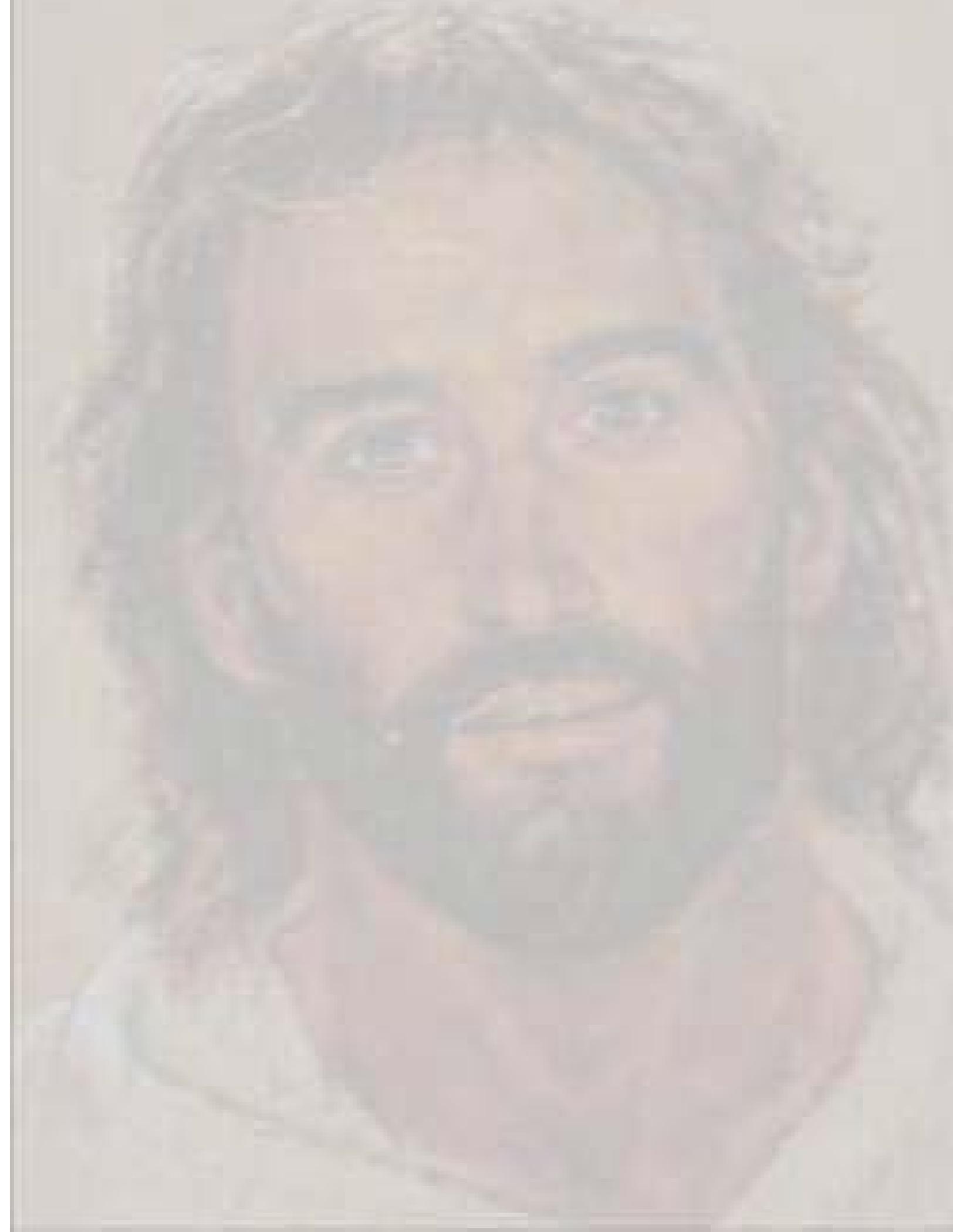
Sr. Peggy Cosgrove
(251) 476-4803
St. Pius X Church
Rect: (251) 473-4381
Fax: (251) 471-2441

**Post Cursillo
North**

vacant

**Post Cursillo
South**

vacant



The previous page is without text, and has an opaque picture, of the so-called motorcycle Jesus, as a background. It can be downloaded separately, or as a part of the Newsletter. You can print out several copies and add your own letterhead to use it as stationary, or just use it for note paper. Enjoy..and Merry Christmas.

Merry Christmas

Christ's Peace to All!