



CURSILLO NEWS



Archdiocese of Mobile

September 2007

Volume 7 No 1 Page 1

**Make a
Friend,
Be a
Friend
Bring
that
Friend
To
Christ**



Something to Crow about

Good News! After more than a 2 year lapse, the Cursillo newsletter is back and the Cluck Hen is resounding with a healthy Keri, Keri, Keri. That's Cluck Hen language for Pray, Pray, Pray that we have the material, and the willing hands, to keep it coming each quarter of this year, and many years to come. Thanks to the Lord we have had our web site www.mobilecursillo.org to keep us informed of coming events, weekend schedules and locations. The web site can bring you all the latest info as soon as it becomes available. So, check the web site often.

Ah, but this is a newsletter, and it's 3 month old news. So why do we need it at all? Some of the information on the web site will be repeated here, but newsletters have a little something extra. It's called, "the personal touch". You can download it, print it out and read it when you want, where you want. Also, if a member of your group does not have internet access, make extra copies so that your entire group can read it at the same time. Plus, and this is a promise, you will find stories, or mini-testimonies, that will never be seen on the web site. Well, almost never. Now doesn't that rate a Keri of its own, or at least a Pio?

A lot has happened since the last newsletter was published. We have lost two faithful Cursillo friends

Larry Fink, the man known as Moses, because of the longevity of his activity in the Cursillo movement, left this world on October 9th, 2006. Larry made his Cursillo in Battle Creek, Michigan, back before most of us ever heard, or knew the meaning of, the word Cursillo. He was the first lay rector in Mobile, and was instrumental in bringing many new Cursillistas into the fold. Many lives, including my own, underwent great change because of him. You can bet that Larry is still attending every Cluasura in the Mobile Archdiocese, and he's looking down from the best seat in the house.

Also, having passed this way, is Judy Bendel. Although Judy never made a Cursillo weekend, she was a faithful Ultreya attendant with husband Glenn. She passed away on April 9th, 2007. She was the mother of Dennis Bendel, Denise Bowen and Barb Hudson. She left a lot of folks with some great memories and is greatly missed.

If we missed anyone, and we probably have since the last newsletter was published, please accept our apologies, and our pledge to do better.

The Men's Fall, 2007 weekend is scheduled for Sept. 27-30.

The women's weekend is October 11-14.

The keyword is

Palanca
Palanca
Palanca

PALANCA

School of Leaders

The School of Leaders is for all Cursillistas who want to know more about the Cursillo Movement and those who consider the Cursillo Movement as their primary apostolate. The Cursillo Movement began with The School.

For the past two years the School of Leaders has studied the Three Day manual by reviewing all the talks given on a Cursillo Weekend.

For the upcoming 2007-2008 year, The School of Leaders is going to study the Catechism of the Catholic Church for the spiritual portion of The School. This portion is expected to extend over three years. The technique portion of The School will be the study of The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement. We will also spend a few minutes discussing either Pre-Cursillo, the Three Days or Post Cursillo. Each session of The School normally concludes, if possible, with a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. Each School session is scheduled for 1 ½ hours. The presentations are taped in Mobile and sent to each location of The School so all will be studying the same material.

There are Schools functioning in the Mobile/Baldwin area and the Auburn area. The Mobile/Baldwin School meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month at St Pius X church in the Sarto Center from 5:30 - 7:00 PM. Lee Eilers is the facilitator (lee4228@aol.com). The Auburn School of Leaders meets on the 3rd Sunday at St Michael's in Auburn from 6:00 - 7:30 PM. Loveta Culpepper is the facilitator (lovetaculpepper@yahoo.com).

If you are interested in having a School of Leaders in your area, please contact Lee Eilers

The Secretariat has announced that the Fall Men & Women's Weekends at Visitation Monastery in Mobile are scheduled for September 27-30 and October 11-14.

Please pray for the candidates and the team.

Applications will be accepted until September 22nd for the Men's Weekend and October 6th for the Women's Weekend.

There will be a Holy Hour for the Men's Weekend at 7:30 PM on September 26th and on October 10th for the Women's Weekend. Holy Hour will be at the Visitation Monastery Chapel.

HOW, WHY AND FOR WHAT DO WE PRAY?

In his book *Letter to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer*, C. S. Lewis faces the "hard saying" of Jesus, who tells us, "Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you." You can find this saying both in Luke 11 and Matthew 7. But have we not all experienced asking and not receiving, and so forth? Lewis discusses the issue as follows:

We must not encourage in ourselves or others any tendency to work up a subjective state which, if we succeeded, we should describe as "faith", with the idea that this will somehow ensure the granting of our prayer. We have probably all done this as children. But the state of mind which desperate desire working on a strong imagination can manufacture is not faith in the Christian sense. It is a feat of psychological gymnastics...

How or why does such faith [which assures the answer to prayer] occur sometimes, but not always, even in the perfect petitioner [our Lord]? We, or I, can only guess. My own idea is that it occurs only when the one who prays does so as God's fellow-worker, demanding what is needed for the joint work. It is the prophet's, the apostle's, the missionary's, the healer's prayer that is made with this confidence and finds the confidence justified by the event... The fellow-worker, the companion or (dare we say?) the colleague of God is so united with Him at certain moments that something of the divine foreknowledge enters his mind. Hence his faith is the "evidence"—that is, the evidentness, the obviousness—of things not seen.

This comment shouts loudly to us about the role of the tripod in our Christian walk as Cursillistas. Our prayer life is intended to foster union with God, but not for its own sake. We are because of that union called to be on mission for the Kingdom. Ours is a role of evangelical living, supported in community, strengthened by prayer, formed by our study. It's never all about "me," but about "us" and perhaps even more "those others."

If we ask/seek/knock, Jesus assures us in Luke 11, the Father will give us the Holy Spirit from heaven. But such a gift is overwhelming! Empowerment is never about the self but always about the obligation to use the empowerment for God's glory, to further the Kingdom, to live "ultreya!" as bringers of Good News. Are we ready to pray?

Fr. David

Hope that you enjoyed this newsletter. If you did, and even if you didn't, tell your Ultreya leader. Feedback of any kind is always appreciated. The keyword is Kind.

This being a quarterly newsletter, We would like to say that the next one would be available on December 1st, 2007. Add us to your praver list.

In the next issue we hope to have the names of the candidates that make these fall weekends. Until then, Peace, Love & Joy to our Cursillo Community. Pray for protection from storms.

The following item was written for publication in a 2005 newsletter. Now it's 2007 and the information it contains is as noteworthy today as it was in 2005. It is a shining example of the dedication that one person has, so that the rest of us don't stumble in the darkness. It's also a call to cursillistas throughout the Mobile Archdiocese to get involved in the daily duties that make Cursillo what it is today

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. For those who do not know me let me introduce myself. My name is Mary Jo Wilder. I am a member of Little Flower parish in Mobile and I made Cursillo #4 at the Visitation Monastery in 1981. I will be serving you on the Secretariat as lay director for the next 3 years. Please pray for all the Secretariat members as we seek to do God's will for our movement in the Archdiocese of Mobile. We need His wisdom, knowledge, and understanding as we seek to further His kingdom on earth. I have a great sense of joy and excitement in my spirit as I think of the wonderful Cursillo community here in the Archdiocese of Mobile. The recent celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the movement in Mobile brought home to me the fact that the work of Cursillo is successful and will continue to be an effective means of evangelizing in the 21st century. God has blessed us with a powerful method of living our Christian lives to the fullest. I want to encourage you to continue to persevere in your efforts of piety, study, and apostolic action. Belonging to a friendship group is vital in keeping us accountable to our commitments of growth in our spiritual life. Finding a group is not always an easy task. Over the years I have grouped with many different people. You have to work hard and search for the combination of people in whom you can have trust and confidence. Also consider this my personal invitation to attend the School of Leaders in your area. We are just beginning our curriculum for the year. We will be studying the 3-day manual. Please contact your Ultreya leader for the times and dates in your area.

DeColores!

One of the things that web sites and newsletters have in common is the need to know that people look forward to reading them, that we are not just spinning our wheels. Also needed are contributions. No, not money, but informative input, or news that they want to share with their Cursillista Community. It would be nice if every Ultreya leader could contribute something a couple of times each year. Send your input to mamajo54@comcast.net.

On another note, when was the last time that you called a friend, or relative, just to say you was thinking about them. Don't wait 'til the last minute. It may be a minute too late.

Ultreyas

Auburn/Opelika:

Leader: Becky Fullington (334) 887-5590
Meets: 1st Tuesday of each month @ 7:00 PM
Where: St. Michael's Youth Center, Auburn

Baldwin:

Leader: Starr Flynn (251) 626-9583
Meets: 2nd Saturday of each month @ 7:00 PM
Where: Christ the King, Assumption Hall

Dothan:

Leader: Juanita Sykes (334) 673-0556
Meets: 2nd Monday of each month @ 7:00 PM
Where: St. Columba, O'Hara Hall

Enterprise:

Leader: Donna Newell (334) 348-2557
Meets: 1st Monday of each month @ 7:00 PM
Where: St. John's

Mobile:

Leader: John and Doll Rabbiett (251) 476-6139
Meets: 3rd Saturday of each month
Where: Call for time & place

Montgomery:

Leader: Buddy Samford (334) 279-0033
Meets: 2nd Thursday of each month @ 7:00 PM
Where: St. Bede

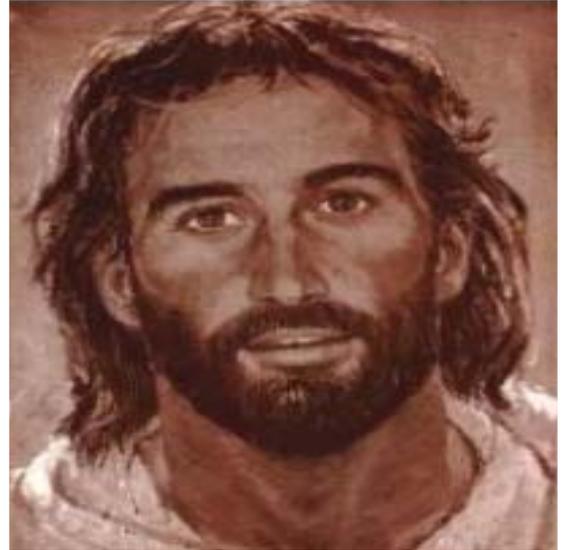
North Baldwin/ Escambia:

Leader: Jean & Philip Kreis (251) 937-1220
Meets: 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 7:00 PM
Where: St. Agatha Parish Hall

Phenix City/Columbus:

Leader: Ismael Nazario (706) 563-4438
Meets: 2nd Sunday of each month @ 4:00 PM
Where: St. Patrick (Phenix City) Social Hall

This picture is just too good to leave out.



Flashlights and Turtles – a Mini Testimony

It was late August, and I was just beginning on my early morning daily 4-mile walk. My neighbor stopped me to tell me that she had just seen that 37 baby sea turtles found their way to the Gulf of Mexico waters. I ask her where, and she told me that it was just up the road. In fact I would pass by the place on my walk. I'd know when I got there because there were a number of baby turtles, smashed on the highway by the late night and early morning traffic.

I said "Oh", not knowing what she meant, and headed out on my walk. Sure enough, about a half mile up the beach road I saw them. There were about 18 or so that were crushed on the pavement. I thought, "How sad", and I tried to envision why these helpless little creatures had to meet such a cruel death. Obviously, the mother turtle must have come through the nearby passage way to the calm waters of the lagoon, found a secluded place on the shore of the lagoon to deposit her eggs, and then returned to the Gulf by way of the pass. This meant that the tiny sea turtles, when hatched, followed their natural instincts to head for the Gulf waters, plunging headlong, across the beach road to the Gulf. But not all made it safely across the paved road. I thought, "How tragic nature could be sometimes." And I continued on my walk.

When I returned from the walk, I saw the son of my neighbor, and he was exuberant in telling me that he, and his son, had gotten 68 baby sea turtles to the Gulf waters, and never lost a single one. What's more, he told me, a man up the road had gotten 88 of them to the Gulf.

I told him that I had seen the dead baby turtles on the road, and told him of my thoughts about the cruelty of nature. He smiled at my ignorance of the situation, and explained to me the manner in which the annual sea turtle saga was carried out.

The mother sea turtle, he told me, has always laid her eggs in nests in the sand close to the gulf waters, not in the lagoon as I had thought. Before there were ever any houses or roads in this area, he went on, there was never any problem for the baby sea turtles to find their way to the Gulf waters. They simply emerged from their eggs beneath the sand, popped their tiny heads up through the sand and saw the reflection of the moonlight on the water. It's the light that draws them to the water, not the roar of the surf, or the smell of the water. Their only casualties were those that fell prey to their natural predators. And, he told me, they hatch at night to avoid those predators, and their other enemy, the hot Gulf Coast sun, which, in daytime, could literally dry them up before they got to the water.

But in this day and age, the beaches are lined with houses, many of which left an inside, or outside, light on all night long. Just beyond the houses was the paved highway, with its light poles. And across the road were more partially lit houses. The poor baby sea turtle emerged from his nest and was surrounded by lights. Confused, he would head for the light, as his ancestors had done for thousands of years in the past. But which Light!

Probably the brightest, but after he had gone so far, he would probably see an even brighter one. He may even wander about seeking the right direction to the Gulf all night. Even until the blazing sun rose in the morning. By then he was surely doomed.

My neighbor and his family would seek out the nests before hatching time, mark their location, and watch them for signs that hatching was imminent. The previous night, he and his son, took their flashlights to the beach at about 11 o'clock at night, and watched the selected nest. Shortly after midnight they could see the sand on the nest start to move a little. Soon a tiny head would pop up and quickly withdraw back into the sanctuary of the sand, only to reappear in a few moments. Soon others popped through the sand, followed by still others. My neighbor and his son would then turn their flashlights on, and, standing between the Gulf waters and the nest, shine the lights on the emerging baby sea turtles. By shining their flashlights from one turtle to another, they led them all toward the water, away from the lighted homes and street lamps. It would take a couple of hours for all the eggs to hatch and the tiny turtles to make their way to the water, following the light. When there were stragglers, the father would stay close to the water, and the son would go back toward the nest and use his light to guide the latecomers toward his father's light. Eventually all 68 sea turtles were safely in the water, and the father and son went home for some well-deserved rest.

I couldn't stop thinking about it all day long. I thought, "I'm so much like those turtles." How often had I been lost and confused, not knowing which way to turn, which direction to take? How many times had I looked for a guiding light? How many times had I sought the way to salvation, to the Father's light? And how many times had I come close to it, only to wander off in some other direction? But always, there was the Son shining His light, leading me back to the Father. Then I thought, "I've been like the flashlight sometimes." Haven't I tried to let my light shine so that someone else could see its beacon and move closer to the safety they sought? But sometimes my batteries fade and dim, and they need to be replaced or recharged. And I find I'm a turtle again. Aren't we all flashlights or turtles? Many of us have been both at various times in our lives. I've discovered that it's easier to be a turtle than a flashlight. And certainly, flashlights have more fun. What are you? Are you a turtle or a flashlight? If you're a turtle, keep your eye on the Son's light. It will lead you to the Father. If you are a flashlight, let your light shine. You are a reflection of a much greater light. The more you face the Son, the brighter your light will become. And, though you can't see it, the Son is smiling excitedly and exuberantly as another of His little ones heads for the Father. Why smiling? Because He loves you, and His love is like His light. It will never grow dim.

The Peace of Christ be with you,
Walter Redmond

Winds of Change

Winds of Change

Our late Holy Father, John Paul II and our current Holy Father, Benedict XVI has recommended that all orders and movements go back and study the charisms of the founders to see if the movements are holding true to the inspiration that the Holy Spirit gave. As a result, the Cursillo movement has done that and found that there have been some deviations from the original foundation of our movement.

In April of 2006, a new Cursillo manual was released for the 3-day weekend. This manual is closer to the original rollos given on the first weekends and developed by the School of Leaders that founded this movement.

It was recommended and agreed on by our School of Leaders that we should implement this new manual beginning with the Fall of 2006 weekends. Some of the changes that took place in this manual were the reinsertion of original terminology, e.g. Piety, study, apostolic action, rollo, **rector**, **rectora**, **etc.** Also several titles of rollos were returned to the original titles that

were on the first weekends. The content of two rollos that we saw most change in was the Study of Environments and Developing Christian Community. These two rollos had changed rather dramatically over the last several decades. We feel fairly confident that the community and those giving these particular rollos can make the transition smoothly.

Something else that will appear differently to the community at large is the 4th Day rollo given at the clausura. Originally this talk called "The Cursillista beyond the Cursillo" was given within the context of the weekend. We did this last fall and found it worked well. This fall we will discontinue the use of 4th Day talk within the Clausura. The School made this decision after much discussion and prayer.

The School of Leaders is the place that discussions and decisions are made. We invite you to all become a part of that aspect of the community.

Mary Jo Wilder

The logo for DeColores, featuring the word "DeColores" in a colorful, multi-colored font with a shadow effect.

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.

Ever wonder how this thing we call Cursillo, with its beautiful strange words, and even stranger song, got started in the United States? Read on and learn from those who were there at the start, as related by Mary Jo Wilder

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I thank God for all of you who have lived the Cursillo weekend and continue to grow in the knowledge of our Lord and work to further His Kingdom. We have been blessed to see God work in many marvelous ways over the past 27 years in the Cursillo movement in the Archdiocese of Mobile.

On June 29 of this year I was privileged to attend the 17th National Cursillo Encounter held in Arlington, Texas with five other cursillistas from our Archdiocese. It was the first National Encounter that I have been able to attend. It was a special encounter because we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Cursillo in the United States. The first weekend was held in Waco, Texas in May of 1957. A pilgrimage was made from Arlington to Waco on the last day of the Encounter to honor the occasion. We were able to visit St. Frances Church and the location called the "upper room" where the weekend took place. The team on that weekend consisted of 2 military men and 1 priest. The candidates were 17 young men between the ages of 18 and 22. What was very exciting to me was that 7 of these original cursillistas were present in Waco! Imagine our surprise when we had an Ultreya with 750 people and the witness speakers were 7 men who were present when this precious gift was given to us in the United States! I cannot describe how moving this whole experience was for me.

All I can say is that I received a vision of God's plan for this movement that I had not had before this encounter. My commitment to see the Cursillo movement grow and flourish has been intensified. Lewis Salinas was the first rector in the USA. He was there and told us of the particulars of that first weekend. One statement that he made really stuck with me and brought me to tears. At the end of his weekend the two Air Force men told them, "If you will commit to meet weekly and build friendship groups these weekends will spread over the entire United States. We did not believe them but we did what they said and look! Now we see that what they said was true because 50 years later you are here! The fruit of our labor!"

Another surprise for us was that that we would be a part of the Clausura of a men's weekend that was being held in Waco that weekend. Image a closing where you are face to face with well over 800 people! It was a Spanish speaking weekend and I could not understand a lot of the sharing but I knew from their demeanors that many had experienced conversion. One shared that during this weekend he had discerned a calling to the priesthood!

Let us not become weary in doing good and spreading the Kingdom of God. Cursillo is one tool the Holy Spirit is using in our midst to bring forth the new springtime of evangelization that John Paul II foretold.