# Novile 1005 EH



"Something Worth Crowing About"



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Editor Bobbie Genovese

Graphic Design Sam Genovese

Send articles or information to:

Sam Genovese

sam.genovese455@yahoo.com

or phone 334-792-1656

https://mobilecursillo.org



"The Rosary is a long chain that links heaven and earth. One end of it is in our hands and other end is in the hands of the Holy Virgin...the Rosary prayer rises like incense to the feet of the Almighty. Mary responds at once like a beneficial due, bringing new life to human hearts."

St.Therese of Lisieux

# Happy May! What a wonderful month to be a Catholic Cursillista!

May is a Marian month. As we recognize our earthly mothers, let us not forget to recognize our heavenly Mother, Mary. Celebrate each day in May with special Marian devotions like a May crowning; prayers such as the Regina Caeli, Rosary, and the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary can be prayed and meditated on; and/or plant your own Mary garden. Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

Mary is one of the patrons of our movement as well. Our movement needs her intercession and grace. The Region 7 Encounter held in April was filled with grace and joy. Cursillistas getting together, even virtually, is a time of joy and refreshment.

Topics during the Encounter included "Encountering God during the Pandemic", Sustaining Friendship during the Pandemic", and the reflection by Deacon Ramon Rodriguez about the impact of COVID on Christians and what it means to reflect the living Christ during these COVID times. I hope that you will be able to join in the National Encounter on July 23 – 24. This is the 31st Encounter (2nd Virtual). Lastly, as we begin to emerge from the pandemic and its isolation, remember to stay true to the charism of "Make a friend. Be a friend. Bring a friend to Christ." De Colores!



# A Word From Deacon Joe Mueller

### DO YOU HEAR AND UNDERSTAND WHAT HE WAS SAYING?

Everyone likes to hear a good story. Not just a story with a happy ending, but a story that leaves an impression or one that strikes at the heart. There's a couple of times people have come up to me and told me how much they enjoyed my homily, especially the story I used. Other times I was told, I don't remember anything about your homily except that was a good story.

Jesus used stories to get a point across to his disciples and followers who longed to hear the wisdom coming from his lips. But the parables didn't always hit their mark. Some of Jesus parables left people confused and wondered

What leaves us confused about Jesus' teach-

ings? We shouldn't be confused about any of them, because we have the Word of God in the Scriptures. We rely on the Word of God to continually teach us. The words of Scripture are always there to refresh us with the lifegiving words Jesus spoke during his ministry on earth.

We can continually contemplate Jesus' words over and over, letting them enlighten our minds, speak to our hearts. Be like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road...". (Luke 24:32). Let the words of Jesus always burn in our hearts.

#### Weekends in 2021

ALL WEEKENDS HAVE BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL THE VIRUS IS CANCELLED

#### **Prayers!**

Please pray for Deacon Rick Risher's speedy and complete recovery as he is now home after being in the hospital. Deacon Rick serves as the Spiritual Director for the Mobile Cursillo movement, has served on many teams and has a heart for the movement and its members. As Deacon Rick recovers, we pray also for patience, wisdom and quietude. Prayers for Georgia and other family members would also be appreciated.



#### **Your Secretariat Needs You!**

Many have asked when the next weekend will be — next Spring!

What can we do to help? — Make a friend. Be a friend. Bring a friend to Christ. AND if after praying you feel led, we have open positions on your Secretariat.

School of Leaders
Postcursillo North 3-Day — North
May your life be filled with blessings,
peace and JOY!

De Colores! Theresa Gorman



## **ULTREYAS**

#### Auburn/ Opelika

 Leader: Celeste Boydston (205) 821-1024 auburnopelikaultreya@gmail

#### Baldwin

• Leaders: Jackie Simmonds (251)379-6799,

#### Dothan

Leaders: Bobbie and Sam Genovese (334) 792-1656
 Sam.genovese455@yahoo.com

#### Mobile

 Leader: Jorge and Sarah Bedia (251) 454-3176 swmbo6@gmail.com

#### Montgomery

 Leader: Evelyn Pope (334) 233-1657 montgomerycursillo@gmail.com

#### North Baldwin

 Leaders: Ann McAdams (251) 580-2389 sdcale@gmail.com and Anne Henley (251) 379-1383 jrhanley@bellsouth.net

#### **Phenix City/Columbus**

 Leader: Sam Hoover (334) 614-0065 samdhoover@yahoo.com

#### South Baldwin

 Leader: Diane Perdue (251) 504-8904 d.c.perdue@gmail

Skype and similar formats on the computer are being used to hold Ultreyas, School of Leaders and Group Reunions until the Covid 19 situation can be corsessed.





#### THE GOOD SHEPHERD

A man comes upon a shepherd guarding his flock and proposes a wager: "I will bet you \$100, against one of your sheep, that I can tell you the exact number in this flock". The shepherd accepts the wager. "973," says the man. The shepherd, astonished at the accuracy, says "I'm a man of my word; take the sheep you have won." The man picks a sheep and begins to walk away. "Wait," cries the shepherd, "Let me have a chance to get even. Double or nothing that I can guess your exact occupation." "Sure," replies the man. "You work for the Tax Bureau," says the shepherd. "Amazing!" responds the man, "How did you deduce that?" "Well," says the shepherd, "if you will first put down my dog, I will tell you."

The shepherd knows his sheep. This is so true of the shepherd. The shepherd knows each one of his sheep. He develops a relationship with his flock. The shepherd is so intimate with his flock that he knows each one individually.

When a shepherd in Lebanon was asked how he can keeps track of his sheep if he doesn't count them, he replied, "If you were to put a cloth over my eyes, and bring me any sheep and only let me put hands on its face, I could tell in a moment if it was mine or not." That's the intimacy the shepherd has with his sheep.

Jesus has that same intimacy with us. When Jesus says He knows His sheep and mine know me, He means it. He knows each one of us by name. He knows who we are. This relationship with Jesus as the Good Shepherd is out of the love He has for us.

Another characteristic of a shepherd's life is it is one of the most humble and oldest professions. From the beginning of time, shepherds have been the proverbial "ditch diggers," the downtrodden, the disrespected. Yet God sent angels to the shepherds, the lowliest of all men, to share the good news of the birth of Christ.

How often did Jesus associate with those who were looked down upon? Jesus worked outside the elite circle of the Pharisees and Religious Leaders. Jesus himself was often criticized for being a friend to those who were looked down upon. Jesus took his shepherding seriously. He wanted to, he chose to take care of the lowly, the sick and the dying. He still does today through the shepherds in His Church.

Jesus being identified as the Good Shepherd isn't about what Jesus looked like. It's about the attractiveness of what, as a shepherd, he was doing. When he calls people by name, they want to come. When we realize Jesus died for us, we desire to follow him all the more. The point of calling Jesus the 'good shepherd' is to emphasize the strange, compelling power of his love