

# Mobile Rooster



June 2021

"Something Worth Crowing About"



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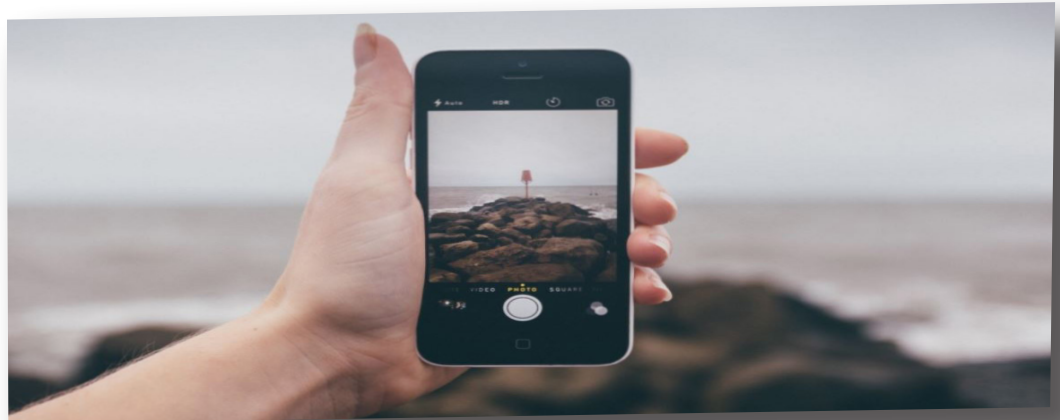
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## OUT OF FOCUS

You may find this an odd title for a Cursillo article, but it really envelops what I believe is at the heart of some of the issues with the Mobile movement since I lived my Cursillo in 2004. Yes, that 3-day weekend changed my life, and my 4<sup>th</sup> day has been a mixture of blessings and struggles. As my husband Jeff says "The 98% is really good...it's that 2% that will get you." Focus is our "2%."

The Weekend is the focus of most Cursillistas. We wrongly "recruit" people to come to a weekend retreat (many times at the last minute) instead of living our command of "Make a friend. Be a friend. Bring a friend to Christ." These, like the three legs of our Cursillo stool, cannot stand without another.. If we "make a friend" by saying hello at church or in our community, but do no more, are we truly making a friend? 'Hello' may be the opening of the door to making, and then being, a friend. Being a friend means getting to know that person: their family, their likes, their hobbies, their interests, etc. If we can do that then we can possibly bring a friend to Christ – and not by inviting them to a 3-day weekend but through the example of us living our 4<sup>th</sup> day. As Cursillistas, we live our 4<sup>th</sup> day in community reflected in our small groups, Ultreya, and School of Leaders.

Each part of our structure (Precursillo, Cursillo, Postcursillo) is as important as the other in our growth as Cursillistas. As we grow in holiness, we grow in the gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord) as well as the fruits of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and

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**A Word From  
Deacon  
Joe Mueller**

## CATECHESIS 101

God made us to know Him, love Him and serve Him. These three things follow one after the other. If we know Him, we love Him.

If we love Him, we serve Him.

An atheist was the guest of a good Catholic man. While at dinner the atheist began to boast saying, "I am proud to say that I am the only one in the room who has the honor of not believing in God." His host, a man who knew God and therefore loved Him said, "I'm afraid you are mistaken. You share the honor with my Airedale in the corner. But he doesn't boast about it."

Unlike the atheist or the Airedale, we are given a knowledge of God from our earliest days. Our belief in God should make us appreciate this fact and let our faith grow in that knowledge.

If we know God, it means we will love Him. There is a plant called the compass flower because it points to the North. When the sun is shining and warm the compass flower points to the North. Even if the heavens are filled with darkness, the compass flower still points to the North. No matter what the weather conditions the compass flower always points northward.

So it is our hearts should point toward God. Like the little compass flower in sunshine or darkness, our hearts should point Godwards. God made us to serve Him. If we know God, we love Him. If we love Him, we will serve Him and if we server Him in this life, we will be happy with Him forever in the next.

*(Adapted from Sunday Morning Storyland, Wilfrid Diamond)*

### **Weekends in 2021**

**ALL WEEKENDS HAVE  
BEEN  
POSTPONED UNTIL THE  
VIRUS  
IS CANCELLED**

### **Prayers!**

Dear Friends in Christ,  
Please continue to pray for Deacon Rick Risher, our Archdiocesan Spiritual Director, who has had a couple of setbacks this week, including a return trip to the ER from an insulin dosage problem. Deacon Rick also has an abscess on his lung that needs to be drained. Please pray for his continued healing, for his family, and for the doctors who are attending to him.

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self-control). In living our 4<sup>th</sup> day and demonstrating the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit, we attract others to ourselves and open conversations about why we are so spirit-filled. We can then share our story as Christians; and after palanca, invite our friend to live their 3-day weekend.

Therefore we need to correct our focus. Let's start by making sure that every Cursillista who wants to be in a small group is given that opportunity. If you have small group brothers or sisters who have not come in a while, invite them back. If you are the person who wants to group but hasn't been able to, reach out to your previous group, Ultreya leader or a Secretariat member.

Next, let's LIVE our 4<sup>th</sup> day. We can now experience community as we feel comfortable. We can re-start Ultreyas. We can invite others to our small groups and Ultreyas so that they can meet the Christ in each of us as we LIVE our 4<sup>th</sup> day. We can share our ideas at School and learn more so that we can share more.

Once we are living our 4<sup>th</sup> day completely, we will attract others to the movement because, like me those many years ago, they will want to know the source of joy shining in the faces of active Christians who are Cursillistas. Let us not focus so much on one part of Cursillo that the rest is lost and out of focus. Together, let's get back to a 20/20 vision of the movement, its charism and its 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 internet formats are being used to hold Ultreyas, School of Leaders and Group Reunions until the Covid 19 situation can be reassessed.



*Something Worth  
Crowing About*

## **Retreat to Go Forward**

A recommendation for spiritual growth is to make an annual retreat. There are many reasons that retreats are important! They help us to remove ourselves from the familiarity of our usual patterns or surroundings, to set aside time to get away with God in His Creation. Often at different points in life, one reason or need may outweigh another. However, there are always valid reasons, no matter what your season of life, that a retreat is very important to schedule, plan, and attend. We, humans, are created to commune with God and with one another. Spending time sequestered in an atmosphere of growth and vulnerability can allow God to move in lives.

**“Jesus often withdrew Himself into the wilderness to pray” Luke 5:16**

The Greek word for ‘withdraw’ means to retire, go back, to *retreat*. We read of Jesus calling his disciples away to retreat at a very volatile and possibly overwhelming point at the beginning of their journey. *“When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida...”* Luke 9:10

What is interesting is that just before being whisked away to withdraw, we read of the disciples informing Jesus of the beheading of John and shortly after this retreat together Jesus feeds the 5000. It is no coincidence that the Son of God Himself sequestered His followers to rest after hearing such devastating news. But also, to prepare for the faith-stretching and physically taxing calling of feeding 5000 people who were in search of answers. He knew that they needed rest to have the ability to feed that crowd. A miracle which helped to prepare the hearts of the crowd for the Words from their long-awaited Messiah! What an honor!

**Both the Son of God and these normal human disciples needed to rest first and then focus—so Jesus Himself led them away to retreat.**

We need to unplug and refocus. It’s widely recognized that we rely upon our phones, screens, and gadgets to function in this century. And while some of them are useful tools, even to catapult Spiritual growth (devotion apps, podcasts, etc.) they often also have distractions that interject through that same tool no matter how hard we try not to allow the invasion. A retreat offers more real face to face time. A retreat offers more one on one time. A retreat offers more undistracted time to hear God’s Still Small Voice. Even if the tool of WiFi is available, community, fellowship and His Creation cries out louder in a retreat setting when we unplug and refocus.

To-do lists and deadlines are just a fact of life. We spend our time ‘doing life’ and often this life, like herding cats, can overwhelm our spirit with all the things (even good things) on our lists and calendars. Not to mention the things that jump on our plate without warning. Pulling away on purpose to retreat from life’s pressure or rut once in a while is a healthy way to balance priorities and seek His Wisdom to put things into a proper perspective. Perhaps you and your group mates can consider retreating together. Whether alone or with others, Jesus invites us ...Come away with me and rest awhile...(Mark 6:31).

*(Continued on page 5)*



From Lay Director Theresa Gorman

Email 101

A Cursillista emailed me recently to ask if I could block the replies to the emails which are sent out. This is not the first time such a request was made. Why is it important? Many of our Cursillistas have opted out of receiving Cursillo emails because of the reply chains. So, I am asking for your help going forward.

Please send information about what you are doing! Let us know about palanca. We love to know about All Things Cursillo.

When you decide your email is ready to be sent, BCC the email to [cursillistas@mobilecursillo.org](mailto:cursillistas@mobilecursillo.org) and/or [prayers-request@mobilecursillo.org](mailto:prayers-request@mobilecursillo.org)

Send the email to your own email address - all replies will then come only to you!

I am so grateful to the Cursillo community. The palanca, the joy, the sharing - it's all part of our 4th day. Ultreya! De Colores!

PS - I'm trying this now.

Learn More at <http://mobilecursillo.org>

Cursillistas mailing list

[Cursillistas@mobilecursillo.org](mailto:Cursillistas@mobilecursillo.org)

Follow the link below to unsubscribe or change your options

<https://pairlist2.pair.net/mailman/listinfo/cursillistas>

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### Retreat Options in the Area

**The Retreat House at The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament** at 3220 Co Rd 548, Hanceville, AL 35077 Can be reached by calling [\(256\) 352-6267](tel:2563526267)

**Our Lady of the Bayous Retreat House** is conveniently located 1318 S. Henry Street, Abbeville, LA, an easy drive from anywhere in Acadiana. We are located 1.3 miles from St. Mary Magdalen Church in Abbeville and only 20 miles south of Lafayette. For more information on booking a retreat please contact [retreats@familymissionscompany.com](mailto:retreats@familymissionscompany.com) or call our office at 337-893-6111.

**Blessed Trinity Shrine Retreat** at 107 Holy Trinity Road, Fort Mitchell, AL 36856 is where many of you lived your Cursillo. Their website is <https://msbt.org/btsr> or facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/msbt.btsr/>

**Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center**, located near I-65 midway between Birmingham and Huntsville, routinely hosts retreat groups and individuals guests not only from Alabama, but also from Tennessee, Mississippi, Florida, and Georgia – and sometimes beyond. We also welcome guests on Zoom through our online offerings. <https://www.shmon.org/retreat-center>

**Casa Maria Convent & Retreat House** 3721 Belmont Road Irondale, AL 35210 205) 9566760 • [retreats@sisterservants.com](mailto:retreats@sisterservants.com)

Submitted by Peg Gawne Mark