

"Something Worth Crowing About"



Published by The Cursillo Movement of Mobile

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NO ONE LEFT BEHIND IN EXPERIENCING GOD'S LOVE!

This banner from the National Cursillo website caught my attention....Does it catch yours? Does this make you think of your Cursillo experience and how living this out with friends on the same journey made Christ tangible? The dictionary defines friendship as "affection, a pure and disinterested feeling that exists between people, stemming from mutual esteem, appreciation and empathy." As always, the dictionary refers to the concept, to what the word means, but it is life itself that tells us what it really is. Without any doubt the wonder of life, where it can be best captured and most valued, is inside the person, and the quality that can give them more joy is their ability to understand, feel, and spread the joyful experience of friendship.

Speaking of friends in the singular we should speak first about the special friend, the most unique friend, the living, approachable, and close Christ who, when we have internalized Him by Grace, lovingly makes us become aware of that which we have in common with Him.

We have been conceived and created in the image of God. He became like us to befriend us. He is the prototypical paradigm of true friendship, a sort of friendship that spares no sacrifice to make it real in everyday life. He shows us the heights to which friendship can aspire, i.e. to give one's life for the sake of the person we love and to consider it as something possible that we should not rule out in order to avoid running the risk of lowering one's guard. When the person, by conscious and divine Grace, experiences friendship with Christ they gradually come to realize that He is truly a friend, the quintessential true friend Who truly and always loves us; Who always looks at us with enthusiasm and is listening to us with passionate interest; Who knows our intentions, and yet is constantly at our beck and call; Who rejoices in our joy. When the friendship between two people is ratified and strengthened by the friendship that both have with Christ, then the joy of being friends increases and they enjoy a deeper level of friendship, because the friendship forged and cultivated within the light of Christ and warmed by His grace seems to be supported and somehow secured by Him.

Because friendship is precisely the opening of ourselves to others, this opening

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A Word From
Deacon
Joe Mueller

CATHOLICISM: CULTURAL OR INTENTIONAL

What do think of when we say we are Catholic? Is it our Profession of Faith? Traditional Prayers and Devotions? Is it the Sacraments? Yes, it is all of these and a lot more.

I just read a column by Fr. Paul Scalia asking if Catholicism is Cultural or Intentional. Fr. Scalia writes that Catholicism is cultural, but also intentional. It requires a culture for Catholicism to survive and intentional, that is to be disciples spreading the Good News and Evangelizing.. Here's how he describes the culture of Catholicism.

"The Catholic faith is not a hobby that we can relegate to one area of our lives. It is a way of life – indeed, The Way, as the ancient Church called it. It should shape every aspect of the believer's life: thoughts, words, actions, and relationships. It is lived by heart, mind, soul, and body. It takes up our time with its seasons and feasts. It fills up our space with its art and architecture.

A culture properly imbued by Catholic doctrine hands on the faith more easily. We're not meant to learn the faith only in a classroom or through books. We learn it from our parents and grandparents, as

well as by way of songs, sights, and smells. With so many helps around him, a person can embrace and interiorize the faith more naturally, peacefully, and thoroughly. Thus, a Catholic culture produces such extraordinary and diverse saints as Thomas Aquinas, Charles Borromeo, and Teresa of Avila. We should strive to build such a culture."

"This is desperately needed. The external supports that a Catholic culture would provide for the soul are gone. Sure, a parish should try to build a Catholic culture. But that's still a small thing against the tsunami of our toxic culture. For a long time now, it has been foolish to presume that, in our secular society, Catholic trappings could lead to a vibrant Catholic faith. Now, just to survive, Catholics must be intentional and deliberate in professing and living their faith."

As Cursillistas, we are called to be intentional disciples of Jesus Christ. We support one another through our Fourth Day, to encourage and evangelizie one another so that our Catholic Culture and our Faith not only survives but thrives.

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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must always be dynamic, trusting and confident.

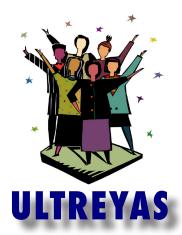
Friendship is one of the best ways of achieving a whole and balanced personality because it awakens, and gradually completes the well-being climate of friendship which is quite apparent.

Cursillo did not invent friendship, because it existed long before its beginning, but it is also true that the essence of what Cursillo is and aims at can only be grasped, understood, comprehended and spread in an atmosphere of deep and true love of Christ. In fact we cannot talk about conclusion because friendship never ends, and its natural dynamism is continuously generating more friendship. Obviously, when there is a collective spirit of friendship that fosters it, we are driven to wanting to achieve a deeper understanding of people, so as not to miss the fascinating adventure of getting to know them as they really are, and to be able to admire them in their determined efforts to progress, despite the difficulties, towards what they are designed to be.

I hope to "see" you at the 31st National Cursillo Encounter -2nd Virtual Encounter 2021 on July 23-24. This is an opportunity to rejuvenate ourselves in the Movement, meet others who are actively living their 4th day and celebrate being Cursillistas together.

May you have a blessed and beautiful day!

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.



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Every Monday morning without failure Jeff Gorman sends out his weekly message, of inspiration,. If anyone is In doubt of what the word Palanca means, Jeff and friends have defined it:

Me and a couple of buddies made a few plates of ribs/beans/slaw 5 years ago. I had some ribs but did not feel like eating them on the 4th of July. So I thought we would cook them and give them away. My pal (prayer brother) Matt is a gifted pit master and agreed to do the cooking. Our pal Pastor Rick is tied closely to the community and serving those in need. Pastor Rick distributes the plates (this year we will have several teams delivering). We made 80 plates the first year. Then 150, them 250 then 380 plates last year. This is the 5th annual "Feed some Folks on the 4th". We now have Country's BBQ doing all the cooking. We have volunteers bringing slaw, beans and desserts. "Pack out is no longer in a home. For the last 3 years we have been at St. Michael's in Auburn as we need the space (and huge kitchen). There are 50 volunteers helping and we will distribute plates this year to those in need in the community (in multiple cities), nursing homes, the local hospital and to veterans. We will pack out 500 plates this year. Please simply pray for our team efforts – coordination, cooking for 500 (that is lots of meat.....31 pork butts...290 lbs), supplies, pack out and travel while distributing the plates on July 4th run smoothly. Pray that the plates get into the hands of those truly in need of a meal "on the house"......last year at a particular apartment complex a little girl about 10 yrs. old took care of 2 plates pretty quick....she was very hungry. We felt bad but we felt good....if you know what I mean. That is what this is all about.

All of these quotes were given to me (I like it when you think if me and send me a quote). Not all the quotes "make it up in lights".....these did.

"Don't worry. Worry is merely a dark room in which the negative is developed." - Eric P. Schultz

"A true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him." – G.K. Chesterton

"If you can't be in awe of Mother Nature, there's something wrong with you." - Alex Trebek

Jeff Gorman



I hope this email finds you well and living your 4th day to the fullest! God is so good in allowing the Holy Spirit to share this charism with Eduardo Bonnin and the other originators of our Movement! Here are some highlights from the National Newsletter for June:

"Group Reunion".....is often called the "perennial Cursillo".....Eduardo Bonnin had several weekly Group Reunions, one of the most well-known lasted for more than 45 years

Ultreya...Onward! Almost there! Straight Ahead! Ultreya! Onward, when we share our lives in FRIENDSHIP Ultreya is where you live what is said in the Cursillo, Eduardo Bonnin was the guest speaker at the School of Leaders' workshop.....Bonnin spoke of the simple concepts involved in Cursillo...simple but not easy Piety, Study, and Action ... was essential to the life of an active Cursillista... He (Eduardo) frequently emphasized that "Action" happens automatically as the natural outcome of Piety and Study, but not vice versa.

I do hope you read and ponder the invitation to join the 31st National Encounter/2nd Virtual Encounter on July 23-24th.