

# Mobile Rooster



December 2023

"Something Worth Crowing About"



Published by  
The  
Cursillo Movement  
of Mobile

Editor  
Bobbie Genovese

Graphic Design  
Sam Genovese

Send articles or information by the  
15th of the month to:

Sam Genovese  
sam.genovese455@yahoo.com  
or phone 334-792-1656

(From the Chaplet of St. Michael the Archangel)

The dictionary's definition of obedience is compliance with an order, request, or law or submission to another's authority. The Biblical definition of obedience means, simply, to hear, trust, submit and surrender to God and obey his Word.

True Christian obedience flows from a heart of gratitude for the grace we have received from the Lord. I for one have received many, many graces from my Lord and it all started after I lived my Cursillo weekend. It was then that I knew HE was always in my life and it was then that I wanted HIM in every part of it, not just on Sunday mornings.

When I think about obedience I think about the last 6 years. During this time I was called to be an Assistant Lay Director, Rector, Lay Director, and now School of Leaders Chairperson. I wasn't just saying YES to my Lord to be involved in Cursillo. I was being obedient to HIS call that came with many obstacles along the way. But just as there have been many obstacles there have been twice as many blessings. Blessings of meeting many people, blessings of getting to know others at a personal level, blessings of being able to see HIS hands at work in others, blessings of seeing the Movement grow even when it is not obvious to others.

To me obedience means many things. Obedience is knowing and accepting the signs HE sends my way that help me to discern.

Obedience is knowing and accepting that things will happen on HIS time, not mine. Obedience is knowing and accepting that HIS will be done, not mine. Obedience is having fear of God, but knowing HE will fill me with the graces I need to do HIS will. Obedience is persevering in my faith.

If we look at rules and guidelines as a negative then that is exactly what we will get -

*Continued on page 4*



## **A Word From** **Deacon** **Joe Mueller**

### **"LIST-LESS" THIS CHRISTMAS**

Many of us live by lists: shopping lists, "things-to-do" lists, lists of dates and schedules. Checking off items on a list gives us some assurance that we're in control of things. Christmas, of course, is the ultimate season of lists. Kim Lawrence is a mom who operates on lists. But one year she began compiling her Christmas lists of presents to buy, goodies to bake, decorations to put up, and the endless tasks and deadlines — and it overwhelmed her. No, she realized, this is not what Christmas is supposed to be. "I looked longingly at our living room lit by the soft glow of the tree. I wanted time to sit in that room, snuggle with my kids, drink eggnog with my husband, and watch a holiday movie. I couldn't ever seem to get there. It wasn't on a list." Kim shared her anxieties with her parish priest.

"What he said is a lesson that will stay with me. He told me to think like a child during the holidays. Rather than worrying about what needed to be bought, cooked, baked, and wrapped, instead try to see the season through the eyes of my way to a poor stable beyond just our own door, to a peace that embraces more than just our own happiness.

So, as Kim Lawrence discovered with her family, let's reclaim the meaning of Christmas in every dimension of our holiday celebrations: let our lights proclaim the dawning of Christ our light; let our cards proclaim the good news of the angels that God is in our midst; let our gift-giving reflect the compassion and generosity of the God who loves us enough to become one of us; let our hospitality mirror God's embrace of all his children.

Many of us will not celebrate this beloved holiday with children or grandchildren. Yet, the message is true: seeing at any age with the eyes of a child

hat he said is a lesson that will stay with me. He told me to think like a child during the holidays. Rather than worrying about what needed to be bought, cooked, baked, and wrapped, instead try to see the season through the eyes of my children. They don't make lists. They know instinctively what is important to them. They'll sit every night and look at the ornaments on the tree. They notice all the holiday lights on all of the houses we pass. On Sundays, they walk up to and ask questions about the life-size manger outside our church.

"I realize I can't live completely list-free. There are things I have to remember, and if writing them down helps, that's OK. But I also realize that not everything has to be remembered, not everything has to be on a list, and fewer lists mean more time to create those meaningful moments we cherish this time of year. So, list-free this Christmas? I'm crumpling my paper now."

In the midst of our endless Christmas "list-making," John the Baptizer appeared in our Advent readings proclaiming the true meaning of Christmas: the dawning of the reign of God, filled with new possibilities to create a more just, a more joyful, a more hope-filled world. Christmas calls us to follow a star outside our own self-centered orbit, to make our way to a poor stable beyond just our own door, to a peace that embraces more than just our own happiness.

So, as Kim Lawrence discovered with her family, let's reclaim the meaning of Christmas in every dimension of our holiday celebrations: let our lights proclaim the dawning of Christ our light; let our cards proclaim the good news of the angels that God is in our midst; let our gift-giving reflect the compassion and generosity of the God who loves us enough to become one of us; let our hospitality mirror God's embrace of all his children.



## Bishop Robert Barron:

Friends, in today's Gospel, Jesus says to the crowds, "From the days of John the Baptist until now, the Kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent are taking it by force." The title for Flannery O'Connor's irresistibly powerful second and final novel, *The Violent Bear It Away*, is taken from the Douay-Rheims translation of this last phrase.

This famously ambiguous passage has given rise to a variety of interpretations over the centuries. Many have taken it to mean that the kingdom of God is attacked by violent people (such as those who killed John the Baptist) and that they threaten to take it away. But others have interpreted it in the opposite direction, as a word of praise to the spiritually violent who manage to get into the kingdom. Flannery O'Connor herself sides with this latter group.

The "violent," on this reading, are those spiritually heroic types who resist the promptings and tendencies of our fallen nature and seek to discipline it in various ways in order to enter into the kingdom of God.



## ULTREYAS

### Auburn/ Opelika

- Leader: Heidi Strother. Phone 334-319-6511.  
auburnopelikaultreya@gmail.com

### Baldwin

- New leaders needed. Currently meeting via committee.

### Dothan

- Leaders: Don and Vickie Gardino (334) 805-3506  
vickigardino@gmail.com

### Mobile

- Leader: Cathy Burch (251) 709-6968  
burchce13@hotmail.com

### Montgomery

- New leaders needed

### North Baldwin

- New leaders needed.

### Phenix City/Columbus

- New leaders needed.

### South Baldwin

- New leaders needed.

### Mobile

- Leader: Nell O'Donnell nellodonnell@bellsouth.net

## SCHOOL OF LEADERS

### Why is Leadership Important?

It is important because it inspires, motivates, and sets an example for people to accomplish positive changes in the world.

Are you the next Cursillo leader?



*Something Worth  
Crowing About*



**Continued from page 4**

obstacles that will only weigh us down and get us nowhere. But if we view them as a positive, a way to help others learn more about the Movement, the Movement that brought us closer to Christ, then it will only lead us to be assets in the growth of others in HIM. Think positive, think obedience, think about bringing others closer to Christ by knowing and understanding the Movement. Pray for us and help us to move this Movement forward in a positive direction. Help us to bring others to a closer relationship with HIM.

**"LIFT YOUR EYES, SEE IT IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT."**

Jesus gave us the example of how to live our lives and how to be a leader. He asked us to follow Him and to lead others to Him. Study the life of Jesus and you will find what a leader should be. We are asked to live in Grace and share our life in Christ with everyone. A leader must be formed and informed (Piety and Study) and be willing to be Christ-like and lead others to Him (Action). We are all called by God to be a Christian leader. We need to take responsibility of forming ourselves into a leader through a balanced life in Piety, Study and Action.

**Godly leaders find strength by realizing their weaknesses. They find authority by being under authority. They find direction by laying down their plans. They find vision by seeing the needs of others. They find credibility**

All of us are leaders for Christ and not just the Spiritual Director, Lay Director, Secretariat, those who attend School of Leaders, or Rectors and Rectoras. All are called and all are needed. That is why you continue to "Make Friends, Be Friends, and Bring (Lead) Friends to Christ. We do most of our leading in our Fourth Days. Cursillo is leading others to Christ in our lives (environments). The weekends are held to welcome new members (leaders) into His family and share our journeys to Him and with Him. This is why Group Reunions and Ultreyas are fundamental. We are formed and lead in these environments, get to know each other, and become brothers and sisters in Christ. This daily reality of self, Christ, and others that we experience in our groups is what we started on the three days of our Cursillo weekend. This is how we lead and evangelize.

**We are all His servants. Let us serve each other and the entire world.**

Christ is counting on You! De Colores!

--Scott Long

*This article first appeared in a newsletter of the Chicago Archdiocese Cursillo Movement. The following article, adapted from Connections for December, appeared in the Boston Globe Magazine a few years ago and has relevance today.*

