"Something Worth Crowing About"



Published by The Cursillo Movement of Mobile

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# A Message from the Editors

To all Cursillistas,

In the years we have been producing the Mobile Cursillo newsletter, we have made every attempt to keep you up to date on the work of the Secretariat, the news of the various Ultreya groups and the calendar of events related to the Cursillo weekends both at the Visitation Monastery and the Blessed Trinity Shrine Retreat center.

However, without information, there can be no newsletter and changes on the Secretariat had hindered the flow of information. We checked the Cursillo website and found that much of the information is no longer current. So we were prepared to announce that this would be our last issue until the Secretariat was able to function again.

Now we have learned that the new Secretariat is being formed. Alex Herren is the new Lay Coordinator and Cindy Hoover is the Post-Cursillo coordinator. Evelyn Pope, the new Secretary, has assured us that further information will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead. Please pray that the Holy Spirit infuses our Cursillo with a new spirit of commitment and enthusiasm as we go forward.

Sam and Bobbie Genovese



# A Word From Deacon Joe Mueller

# WHEN THE WORLD DOESN'T MAKE SENSE

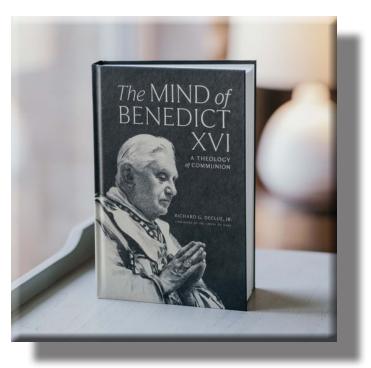
I read a short article about Fr. Mike Schmitz's new book, "A World Undone: Finding God When Life Doesn't Make Sense." In the book Fr. Mike looks at events that occurred in 2020 and how to put these into perspective for 2021. He asks the question, "What Spiritual lessons did we learn from 2020?" Some thoughts on Fr. Mike's 3 Spiritual Lessons from 2020.

- 1) Concentrate on Your Sphere of Influence. Our Church has an awesome task of taking care of its people. We cannot be a St. Mother Teresa or a Pope St. John Paul II with worldwide notoriety and influence. But these Saints give us hope that in our own small corner of the world we can be Christ, to our family, our friends, our neighbor and community. Let our charitable actions be our evangelization.
- 2) Be United with Christ as You Respond to the World. How are we united with Christ? By our Baptism! Not only by Baptism, but by the Holy Eucharist. We also unite ourselves through prayer and worship. Let's not just think if we pray and receive the Sacraments that is the end-all of our union with Christ. We also unite with Christ by taking action, going out into the world. As Jesus commissioned his disciples to go and preach the Good News, so we too are called to do the same.
- 3) God is Acting in the Midst of Hardship. Trust Him!

From time to time, I hear people tell me how distressed they are of all that has happened in 2020 and see little change coming in 2021. They feel lost, disillusioned, asking, "why is God allowing this to happen?" Individually neither of us have any control over world events. Neither of us can predict the future. So do we just hang in the balance? NO! We put our trust in God. We allow God to be in control.

You indeed are my savior, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.

My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me. (Ps 63: 8-9).



# **Bishop Robert Barron**

Friends, it is difficult to overestimate the immense impact that Pope Benedict XVI has had on the Church and the world.

Joseph Ratzinger was a priest, an advisor at the Second Vatican Council, a bishop, a cardinal, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and the 265th pope.

His contributions to the Church as a cleric and theologian are vast and varied, and his life of faith and his theological work are so deeply intertwined that it is impossible to understand Benedict the theologian without understanding Benedict the devout Catholic.

In "The Mind of Benedict XVI: A Theology of Communion," author Richard G. DeClue, Jr., offers an overview of Benedict's biography alongside a comprehensive treatment of his theological method. DeClue highlights especially the unity and cohesiveness of Benedict's thought on topics like the Trinity, revelation, creation, Christology, liturgy, and more.



## 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.

#### **Mobile**

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



# Coming Up May 3-5, 2024, at BTSR!

# Julia Maloney is back for a retreat on discernment! "Discernment in Everyday Life"

Join us for an opportunity to deepen our understanding of our spiritual encounters, enabling us to distinguish God's presence in our lives. By mastering the art of discernment, we liberate ourselves from deception and embrace the freedom to pursue a fulfilling relationship with the Lord. Register online today for this journey to cultivate a discerning heart, one that is capable of recognizing God's direction and embracing the abundant friendship He offers.

St. Ignatius became expert in the art of spiritual direction. He collected his insights, prayers, and suggestions in his book the Spiritual Exercises, one of the most influential books on the spiritual life ever written. (excerpt from ignatianspirituality.com) St. Ignatius, pray for us!

#### 2024 RETREAT SCHEDULE

Gift yourself or a loved one with a retreat.

May 3-5, 2024 Discernment Retreat. The Rules of Discernment. Speaker, Julia Maloney. Join us to broaden your knowledge of discernment and how to apply that knowledge during this retreat for men and women of all ages. Register today online!

June 7-9, 2024 Healing Dreams: Accessing the Deeper Reaches of Your Soul through Dreamwork. Presenter, Carol Whatley, will speak on the symbolic language of dreams. Register today online!

**July 13, 2024 Catechist Retreat Day** A one-day retreat for DREs, religious education teachers, RCIA instructors, parents, grandparents, guardians, homeschool teachers, and pastors. With Kelly Tolman, speaker. Register today online!

October 25-27, 2024 12-step Recovery, Healing and Discernment Retreat. Have you been through or are you currently going through a 12-step recovery program? Are you seeking fellowship, healing, and discernment? This retreat might be the perfect retreat for you. The retreat is open to all adults, both lay and religious. Register today online!