

THE ROOSTER CROWS

Diocese of Knoxville
CURSILLO



WINTER 2019



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VIEW FROM THE TOP WINTER 2019

DeColores! Hello, my name is Angela Feltz; I attended my Cursillo - Women's weekend #5 in English in September 2000 @ Eagle Rock near Maryville Tennessee. I sat at the table of Mary, Queen of Heaven.

I was not expecting to be elected Lay Director for our Diocesan Cursillo Movement and I cannot do it alone. I need all of you, those in Group Reunions, those who attend Ultreyas, those who attend the School of Leaders (or perpetual learners) and the Secretariat Meetings. But most of all I need the rest of you who have encountered yourself, Jesus, and others in your life after the encounter of your Three day Cursillo Weekend. What a Blessing we have received in the Cursillo Movement, in our own lives, in the lives of our friends, in our parishes and in the Diocese of Knoxville as a whole. The Catholic Church is alive and well in East Tennessee as we live out the Charism of Cursillo – Friendship. And we can continue to grow within ourselves and our friends by living the Tripod of Piety, Study and Action. And living the Tripod will help us to make a Friend, be a friend and bring our friend to Christ.

I have been active in our movement even before I made my Cursillo when I worked for Fr. Brando. I have worked with the Newsletter, the Database, attended Group Reunion, Ultreyas, School of Leaders and the Clausuras of many Cursillo weekends. I was on the Secretariat in the Pre-Cursillo position as well as serving 5 years on the Regional Service Team. I have attended many Regional Encounters and National Encounters.

I would like to give credit to God for His presence in my life. Both in the expected and the unexpected times I have been lifted up and have been given the peace that only God can give. I thank all of you for your part in my life. With your friendship and our experiences, you have helped me to be the person that I now am and will continue to bless me as I complete the task that God is calling me to as your servant in Christ. I offer my prayers for you. May your lives be showered with God's many Blessings as you live out your baptismal promises to help others know our Awesome God!

Hail Mary, full of Grace, ...

Eduardo Bonnin, Servant of God, Pray for us!

THE WAY I SEE IT

by Deacon Bill Jacobs



BRINGING THE FAR AWAY CLOSER

All of us ardently wish that everyone could experience the power of the Holy Spirit just as we did on our Cursillo weekends. For some of us, the weekend was a strengthening of our already-strong faith. But for others (like me), the experience was transformational!

The founder of Cursillo, Servant of God Eduardo Bonnin, has left us many of his writings to reflect upon. One of the ideas which we should seek to understand better is the concept of the FAR AWAY.

Bonnin understood that the Cursillo could be experienced by every Christian. He felt strongly, however, that those who are far away from Christ could be most strongly affected by the Cursillo experience. He wrote that the Cursillo's "*first and preferential objective*—though not an exclusive one—should be that Christ's message reach those who are usually called the Far Away; those who do not have faith, or who do not know that they have it [italics added]."

Bonnin wrote that we should be "interested in the fermentation of Christian life within the world, not within our over-tilled selective plot." Too many of us, myself included, reach for possible weekend candidates from the "low-hanging fruit" in our parishes, the people who are already deep in faith and active in the church.

Maybe we put a little too much pressure on those folks to make a Cursillo weekend. But if we look at things from their perspective, we should recognize that we are asking them to put something else on their "faith plate" which is probably already full.

This challenges us in our evangelization efforts. If we really want to change the world for Christ, we need to find the Far Away among us, befriend them, talk to them about faith. These are the people that are more likely to have a life-changing Cursillo experience.

So, let us pray to the Holy Spirit to help us find the Far Away. Perhaps they are among the young adults of our parish, or the folks who sit alone at parish functions, or maybe the ones who leave early right after receiving communion. Or maybe they are members of our immediate or extended family.

May we be blessed in these evangelization efforts, and, with God's grace, may souls be saved and lives transformed for Christ.

Ut benedicat nobis Deus opus.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

As most of you know through our emails and The Rooster Crows, we had our Secretariat Elections on Saturday November 16. There were 3 positions open: Pre-Cursillo, 3 Day Cursillo and Lay Director. I am proud to announce that the new officers are:

Pre-Cursillo- Vicki Johnson

3 Day Cursillo- Jim Connors

Lay Director- Angie Feltz

We welcome them to the Secretariat and look forward to what they have to bring to our Movement. These are all 3 year positions. The new officers terms begin on January 1, 2020. I would like to thank Lance Lyons (Pre - Cursillo) and Debbie Ferreri (3 Day Cursillo) for all their Spirit Filled hard work and dedication.

As the saying goes: "it takes a village" and in Cursillo it takes many people to make it work (many behind the scenes, you know who you are). I ask that you continue to pray for our Secretariat and the work that they do to keep us on track to keep our Cursillo moving in the right direction.

As for me, I would like to thank all of you for your prayers and support over the years that I have served as your Lay Director. I will not be a stranger by any means and will always continue to work behind the scenes wherever needed.

DeColores

Dick Shriver



St Bridget Ultreya

St Bridget welcomed 19 Cursillistas for their quarterly Ultreya on Saturday, November 16, 2019. With a small population of Cursillistas, we do not host regular Ultreyas, but try to have a big one quarterly. We had 5 members from Knoxville including our Diocesan Lay Director Dick Shriver and Diocesan Spiritual Director Deacon Bill and his wife, 5 from Chattanooga including Fr Joe Brando and Deacon Brian Gabor and his wife, and 9 from our local parish for festivities of food and friendship, to hear a wonderful witness talk, and to pray together.

The Ultreya started at about 6:15 pm immediately after the 5:30 vigil mass with grilled chili cheese hot dogs and baked beans provided by Jim and Lynne Connors, as well as side dishes, condiments, and lots of desserts (make that **LOTS** of desserts, after all, what is Cursillo without great food?). After that we heard a very moving and deeply personal witness talk from Baron Johnson. All of us were powerfully moved and could certainly relate to his talk. He followed that up by handing out beautiful prayer cards that he created asking for a deeper relationship and stronger love for the Holy Spirit and the grace to bring even more people to Christ through friendship.

After Echo talks and a spiritual summary from Fr Joe Brando, we moved into the church for meditation before the tabernacle before returning to the parish hall to share in more desserts and fellowship.

Thanks to all who made the long drive to our small parish to help make this a wonderful event. It is worthy to note that we had 5 current or new members of the Secretariat at this Ultreya, and our parish Cursillistas were delighted to have a chance to interface with them and all those who traveled to Dayton for this event.

Jim Connors



4th Day News you can use!

*We will be hosting Spring Regional Encounter !
April 24th-26th 2020 an exciting event for 2 key
Posts: Spiritual Advisor and Lay Director.
More information to follow soon*

ANOTHER ULTREYA IN THE DIOCESE THAT WE CAN BE THANKFUL FOR.....

November Ultreya at Our Lady of Fatima focused on that for which we are thankful, including a variety of foods and the great joy that some folks joined us from St. Thomas the Apostle! We raised our voices in song and prayer to the Lord. We grouped with friends (new and old) and identified closely with our witness speaker's experience with the power of humility and forgiveness. It was a warm and well attended evening-we are so blessed by the Holy Spirit as well as each and every Cursillista. We ended the evening in front of the Blessed Sacrament.



Diocese of Knoxville Cursillo 2020 Schedule of Meetings and Events

TENTATIVE 2020 Cursillo Calendar

(This list may be amended and updated at a future time)

January 11 th	OLOF - Alcoa	SOL and Secretariat Meeting
January 20 th	Step by Step Meeting	St. Thomas, Lenoir City
February 20 th	Foothills Camp and Retreat Center	English Men's Weekend
February 24 th	Foothills Camp and Retreat Center	Men's Clausura
March 14 th	OLOF – Alcoa	SOL and Secretariat Meeting
March 19 th	Foothills Camp and Retreat Center	English Women's Weekend
March 22 nd	Foothills Camp and Retreat Center	Women's Clausura
April 12 th	Easter Sunday	
April 24 th – 26 th	Foothills Camp and Retreat Center	Regional Encounter
May 9 th	OLOF – Alcoa	SOL and Secretariat Meeting
July 11 th	OLOF – Alcoa	SOL and Secretariat Meeting
July 23 rd - 26 th	Creighton University, Omaha, Ne	National Encounter
August ____	Grace Point	Cursillo Picnic
September 12 th	OLOF – Alcoa	SOL and Secretariat Meeting
September 25 th -27 th	Evansville, Indiana	Fall Regional Encounter
October 10 th	St. Thomas, Lenoir City	Retreat & Diocesan Encounter
November 14 th	OLOF – Alcoa	SOL and Secretariat Meeting
December	Tentative Planning Meeting for 2021	

Find us on the web at

<http://knoxvillecursillo.org/>

Life to me is much like a day at the beach. Sometimes the sand is warm and inviting. At other times it is too hot to remain standing. But always, the sand is shifting.

My **piety** practices begin and end with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist and hours in Adoration. As many of you know, I come from a large family and devout parents. They were unable to give us much in the way of earthly goods. But, oh, how they lavished the spiritual life. On May 8, 1959 I received First Holy Communion. Recently I was inspired to calculate the number of times I've received the most precious Body of Christ. To the best of my estimation, I think it is somewhere around 4000. Wow, blessings and thanksgiving for all those grace-filled opportunities.

Our adoration chapel at Our Lady of Fatima opened on May 13, 2001 under the guidance of Fr. Alex and one of our most stalwart Cursillo sisters, Linda Ujich. I had Saturday evening for 8 to 10 PM for many years. My non-Catholic husband understood that all other plans had to work around that appointment. He would send me off to the chapel with his sweet "Be careful and say hello to the Big Guy for me". He saw the effect of my prayer time on my peaceful demeanor. As St. Augustine put it, "You have made me for yourself and my heart is restless until it rests in you." You see, the Holy Eucharist and adoration are my rocks; the cool and steady moments in my hot shifting sands of life.

Study: where to begin? Last year on August 28, the feast of St. Augustine, Father Reisen celebrated Mass at OLOF. In his homily, he asked who had read St. Augustine's Confession. To those who had not, he directed, we "should get at it." I took up his challenge. I take it to adoration and nibble on it. A year later I have some pages to go. The insight that St. Augustine provides is deeply felt. I take these pearls with me to group reunion. St. Augustine's confessions are an excellent model of a witness talk.

Now for my role with the school of leaders, I am voraciously consuming all things Cursillo. My plan is to read as many as I can and give brief book reports at each SOL. I am currently learning more about our founder, Servant of God, Eduardo Bonin. The object of my study is centered in the words again of St. Augustine, "Lord let me know myself and know you." My study helps me discern how best to navigate through the hot shifting sands of life or maybe just how to endure the heat and unsteadiness.

Finally, **Action:** My weakest link to the heavenly reward. I cannot plan or do enough to satisfy myself that I am taking the right route across my shifting sands. Recently I was inspired to focus my efforts on my immediate family. My family needs to know me best. To hide my love of Christ and His Church is a catastrophic error on my part. Why am I eager to give this witness to all of you, but not them? Yes, I pray for them and yes, I tell them that I am praying for them. I have a burning desire that all my brothers and sisters know just how head over heels in love I am with the Lord. I am focusing on my 12 living siblings and relying on the brother and sister already in heaven. My action plan is to learn each of their feast days or the saints designated for their birthdays; then to remind them of the importance of this spiritual connection. In July my Brother Jim's birthday falls on the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. I sent him a text on the feast of St. James, which fell 9 days later. I suggested that perhaps he was baptized on that day as a reason for our parents naming him James. His reply, demonstrating his quick wit, that the feast was for James the Great!

I am working a full "Communion of Saints" genealogy. Here is a list some of the connections discovered. We have Saints Joseph, Mark, Jerome, John, and Rose. There are siblings born on Feast of the Assumption, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Lourdes and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. I have a sister named Madonna, who demonstrates an extraordinary spiritual sense. My youngest brother was born on All Saints Day. Mom was born of the feast of St. Anselm. The superstar of our family is my sweet and gentle brother already in heaven. Lavern was born on Christmas day in the 1947 with hydrocephalus. The resulting mental and physical handicaps shortened his very difficult life. Our Christmas baby, was given the middle name Emmanuel. He died at age 63 on New Year's day, the feast of the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. All these connections serve as my very own army of lifeguards on that hot sandy beach of life. So that's my beach-life story. Sometimes the sand is warm and inviting, at other times too hot to stand still. But always the sand is shifting.

From the Spirit
through the heart
to the page



Velma Burke

ADVENT—A SEASON OF WAITING

Our Sunday Visitor ran an article a few years back on ways to make Advent stress free. In our modern day culture of instant gratification and impatience, waiting creates in us a new kind of self-discipline that helps us to appreciate the present moment and look to the future with peaceful anticipation. Slow down and bring this warm feeling of anticipation and waiting into your ENVIRONMENTS. Learning to slow down and live in the present moment gives us one of the greatest gifts of the Christ-Child.....PEACE. I have elaborated on a few of the article's good ideas to put into ACTION.

START an Advent Journal, record the ways you experience God during the day, and jot down names of people who need prayers.

RECEIVE the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Take advantage of the opportunity to cleanse your soul in preparation for the coming of the Lord. Let go of guilt, doubt, sinfulness or stress.

DO something nice every day: an encouraging word, a phone call, or little act of kindness offers you the chance to move outside yourself. Jesus assures us that anything we do for others we do for Him-so it's a gift to Jesus. (Mt 25:40)

EAT slowly . Savor each bite. Give up the last chocolate, the last piece of pie. Fill up on hugs and good conversation.

STOP comparing. Its tempting to envy the beauty and talents of our neighbors as we decorate for the Holiday. Enjoy what décor you have and lavish love instead.



COMMUNICATE with those who need you –and that is everyone. Everyone is in need of comfort and joy year-round. Reach out to those who are alone this year—just a kind word to ask if they need anything...send a Christmas card if you are not feeling sociable.

Are YOU alone this year? If you are hurting, reach out to a friend at church or call a Church. They will bring the love of Jesus in the manger to you. Let them share with you– Allow the Christ-Child in.....

Mary Morrissey

English ULTREYAS IN OUR DIOCESE

St Jude's Hixson, TN

1st Tuesday of the month 6:30 pm

ST. MARY JOHNSON CITY, TN

3rd Tuesday of the month 7:00 pm

St Therese Cleveland, TN

2nd Thursday of the month 6:00 pm

Our Lady Of Fatima Alcoa, TN

3rd Monday of the month 6:30 pm

St Thomas the Apostle Lenoir City, TN

4th Tuesday of the month 7:00 pm

St. Bridget Dayton, TN

Email jimcbrd@aol.com for information see page 4

Spanish ULTREYAS IN OUR DIOCESE

St Thomas the Apostle Lenoir City, TN

2nd Sunday of the month 2:00 pm

St. Joseph the Worker Madisonville, TN

2nd Sunday of the month 2:00 pm

Upcoming Mens and Womens English Weekends 2020!

Men's English weekend: February 20-23

Women's English weekend will take place: March 19-22

at Foothills Retreat Center 2926 Topside Rd, Louisville, TN.

YES we have moved location! There are many reasons for this move: A few of them are: it is more centrally located in our Diocese, the Retreat Center will do the cooking , clean up is included, all linens are provided and it is possible for each person can have their own room. With these things crossed off of the Team's 'to do list' they can focus more on the Candidates.

We hope this location will make it easier for more of the 4th Day to attend the Closing, as we all know how much it means to have a nice turnout, not only for the Candidates but the Team as well. Please *start praying and doing palanca for the Team and prospective candidates.*

Be advised that the Spanish men's and women's weekends will still be held at Apison.

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Taller PASO A PASO Lugar: 2518 W. Andrew Johnson Hwy, Morristown, TN 37814

Fecha: Sabado 7 de marzo del 2020 hora 8:00am a 5:00pm

Invitados: Juan Ruis y Nadia Lopez

Mas informacion: Israel Figueroa 865-456-9864

FIRST OF THE MONTH: A PRAYER FOR CURSILLO

At our November Secretariat meeting, Deacon Bill Jacobs, our Spiritual Advisor, declared that on the first day of each month we should pray for the Cursillo Movement and its members. The idea was warmly received and we hope you will also participate by praying for Cursillo. The prayer below was created for the occasion by Cursillista Baron Johnson. You are welcome to use this prayer or say prayers of your choosing. Either way, we hope you will continue to pray for this Movement and its success in bringing others the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and also into our lives and our environments.



O Holy Spirit, beloved of my soul, I adore You. Enlighten my mind and heart and mercifully set me ablaze with the fire of your love. Give me a most confident hope in all divine promises which prompts me to abandon myself unreservedly to you and your guidance. Take away from me the heart of stone and give me a human heart. A heart to love and adore You. A heart to delight in You and to follow You. Breathe into me, Holy Spirit, that my thoughts of bringing a friend to Jesus through Cursillo will move in me.

Give me the gift of friendship and the grace to use it wisely helping others to hunger for Jesus in all my endeavors and give me perseverance and fortitude to do your will. Amen.