

PASS IT ON

FORT WORTH CURSILLO – ENGLISH

APRIL 2003

(THE ENGLISH SIDE OF THE FORT WORTH ENGLISH-SPANISH CURSILLO COMMUNITY)

2221 NW 26th St, Fort Worth, TX 76106 Phone: (817) 624-8526

www.ftworthcursillo.org



Upcoming Events

- May 1-4 **Men's Weekend**
 - Wed., May 14, **School of Leaders**, Cursillo Center, Mass 7 pm, Mtg after.
 - May 22-25 **Women's Weekend**
 - Tues., May 27, **Secretariat Mtg**, 7 pm, Cursillo Center
 - Sat., Jun. 7, **Fiesta de Colores**, Our Lady of Guadalupe, 3301 Clinton Ave., Fort Worth, 8:00 pm
 - Wed, Jun 11, **School of Leaders**, Cursillo Center, Mass 7 pm, Mtg after.
 - Sat, Jun 14, **Return Ultreya**
 - Tues, Jun 27, **Secretariat Mtg**, 7 pm, Cursillo Center
- NOTE: No July or Aug. School of Leaders Mtg.**
- Wed, Sept. 10, **School of Leaders**, Cursillo Center, Mass 7 pm, Mtg after.
 - Fri.-Sat., Sept. 12 –13 **Regional Meeting**, Cursillo Center
 - Sept. 19-21, **English Youth Retreat**, Cursillo Center
 - Oct. 2-5 **Men's Weekend**
 - Oct. 23-26 **Women's Weekend**

Do not miss out on the opportunity to win a brand new beautiful 2003 Dodge Ram Truck. The raffle is June 7th at the **Fiesta de Colores**. Tickets have been mailed to Cursillistas. Return tickets by May 15th to ensure that they will be in the drawing. For info or tickets contact Billie and John: 817-295-1830 or BillieandjohnT@aol.com. Our goal is to make this the best Cursillo truck raffle ever. Support of the Cursillo Center is counting on you.



Upcoming Election of Fall Weekend Coordinators and 3 Secretariat Positions

Nominations are now open for *Fall Cursillo Weekend Coordinators* and the Secretariat Positions of *Secretary, Pre-Cursillo Coordinator* and *Post-Cursillo Coordinator*. Nominations will end at the May 14 School of Leaders meeting. Elections will occur at the June 11 School of Leaders meeting. Nominees should be active in the Cursillo Method, that is, being involved in at least some of the following: Attending School of Leaders meetings, Involved in Group Reunions, and Attending Ultreyas. Before nominating anyone, please get their agreement to be nominated. To nominate before the May School of Leaders meeting, contact Billie & John: 817-295-1830, BillieandjohnT@aol.com.

School of Leaders

School of Leaders Meetings are for ALL Cursillistas. The meetings are held the 2nd Weds. of each month. The spiritual talk for the May meeting will be given by Deacon Tim Dorsey.

Ultreyas

St. Catherine of Siena in Carrollton: Every Monday at 7:30 pm & Saturday at 10:00 am. For more info, call Diane Trippany 972-306-6148 or John Kalchbrenner 972-394-0624.

St. Bart's in Ft. Worth:

Last Saturday of each month after 6:30 Mass, alternating with St. Ann's (see below). Potluck. For more info, call John or Carol Hunter 817-738-8298. (Next one: May 31, St. Barts)

St. Ann's in Burleson:

Last Saturday of each month after 6:00 pm Mass, alternating with St. Bart's (see above). Potluck. For more info, call Billie Trenshaw 817-295-1830. (Next one: June 28, St. Ann's)

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Keller:

2nd Friday at 7:30 pm. For more info call Mary Munson 817-431-3903.



Please pray for the **Men's** and **Women's Teams** as they prepare for upcoming Spring Weekends: **Men's Weekend** May 1-4 **Women's Weekend** May 22-25 Pray also for the **Candidates** the Holy Spirit is calling to attend.



Cursillo Regional Meeting to be at Fort Worth Cursillo Center

The Cursillo Movement in the U.S. is divided into 12 Regions. We are in Region 8. Regional Meetings, open to all Cursillistas, are held several times a year at different locations. The Sept. 12 –13, 2003 Regional Meeting will be held at our Fort Worth Cursillo Center. We will host this meeting, preparing programs, making arrangements for food, lodging, etc. Much help is needed. Contact Enrie Shelton: 817-569-6858 royen38@msn.com

English Youth Retreat

An English Youth Retreat will again be held this year after the successful first one last year. It will be Sept. 19 - 21 at the Cursillo Center. Sr. Elvira Mata is the Coordinator of this retreat. To help, contact Sister at 817-560-3300.

A Close Moment

By Deacon Ed Bowden

On a cool March morning I joined the community of St. Paul's Parish in celebrating the life of Joane Berry. She was a Cursillista and a member of the staff at St. Paul. I had the joy of working a couple of Cursillo teams with Joane, and that is how I got acquainted with her.

My mind was awash in thoughts stimulated by this event. Perhaps the most striking thought was the witnessing of a community motivated by the Spirit dwelling in the hearts of those present. I thought of the special joy experienced even in the midst of sorrow. Joy in knowing Joane has gone home. A sense of timelessness came upon me as our prayers moved from the present to the eternal and limitless Father.

I thought of the precious treasure that we possess as we live in the Kingdom. Why is it so difficult for the world to see the value of the Kingdom of God? This, the most precious of all treasures, seems to be obscure to so many.

The Lord's prayer was proclaimed by people of all ages, and backgrounds as we were tightly linked together with joined hands extending across the aisles. This joining of hands signified more than a ritualistic behavior. It was an outward sign of an inner state of being, joined spiritually to be the effectors of the work of Jesus in the world. Our hands are indeed the hands of Jesus when we commit our lives to him. Fr. Tom emphasized Joane's understanding and realization of true commitment.

Even though, this was yet another funeral mass, for some reason this one became my closest moment to Christ in a long time. I was reminded of the reasons we work so hard to build up the community centered on Jesus.

As an engineer, I look for facts backed by scientific reasoning to seek truth. Today many have a tendency to rely entirely on this vein of thought in modern thinking processes. Many discoveries were made in the last century as a result. There is a capability for extended comprehension of reality we refer to as faith. Faith enables us to perceive and interpret things that may be invisible to pure reason. Faith enabled me to see and understand to some degree, the spiritual depth of this community experiencing the

passing of one its own. There was a good bit more happening in this liturgy than the eye alone can see. This was actual grace at work.

Grace and faith are treasures that work together. Grace has the power to comfort and embrace us all. Grace has the power to bind us together as a community in faith, even in the most difficult times. Grace is God's presence among us. Joane left a grace filled path in her life. Thanks for your gift to the Kingdom of God, Joane.



How has your Cursillo weekend been evidenced in your life?

Imagine walking on a sunny day, yet you are blinded by darkness. People are talking to you, yet you are deaf to what they are saying. You hear someone calling but you ignore it, in fear. You continue to follow the others in front of you, though you don't know where they are going. You are afraid to be alone and are always lonely. Problems and worries make up most of your thoughts. You have no control of your life, no idea where you will end up.

As you continue to walk in the darkness, suddenly you run into something hard. You fall back and look up to see a light shining through the darkness. Suddenly your heart begins to beat rapidly. In fear you think about running the other direction. But from the light you again hear that someone calling you. This time you begin to listen. You start slowly to feel your way through the darkness towards the light. Along the way, you find steps, rails and ladders realizing they have always been there. Drawing near the light you're afraid to take the final steps forward. Suddenly your eyes begin to see. The light exposes people who welcome you, accept you and love you, though they don't even know you, don't know your faults and past mistakes. They help you realize

that the voice and light calling you is God. They have been praying to Him to bring you here, so He could deliver you. From that moment on, you know you want to remain in this light and love for the rest of your life.

That was me. Living my life in the rat race. I was afraid to leave the crowd, although I was uncertain where they were going. I was afraid to be alone, yet my heart was empty. I could hear God calling, but I chose to ignore Him, in fear of what the crowd would say. So I occupied my thoughts with problems and worries. I believed I had control of my life, but in reality the world owned it.

I ran into something very hard. It was my Cursillo! It was there that I saw the light. And realized the light and the voice calling me was Jesus! Those steps, rails and ladders were the sacraments of the Church; the tools that I need to help me make my walk with God. All of this had always been available to me but I had chosen not to use them. It was through Cursillo that I learned to use them.

Those people that welcomed me and loved me despite my faults, were Cursillistas. They together with the Church are the body of Christ. I saw Jesus on my weekend. He spoke to me, He touched me and He showed me compassion - all through the mouths, hands and love of the Cursillistas. Those prayers to God to deliver me I saw with my own eyes. They were palanca. I know I want to stay in the light of God for the rest of my life.

What has Cursillo meant for me? It has given me the freedom to worship God, to follow Jesus and to help build His kingdom. It has taken away my fear of the crowd. It has given me the ability to utilize the sacraments of the Church. Most of all, it has taught me that though we all fall short of the Glory of God, we, through Christ, are forgiven and given God's grace. We can't be ashamed to receive it. We can't believe we are unworthy. It is God who offers this gift! God wants us to have it, but it is up to us to receive it. DeColores,

Esiquio (Zeke) Guerrero
Cursillo #100

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Hi, my name is Tom Kennedy and my Cursillo was in the spring of 2001. It was fittingly enough number 101. I am

a believer in Divine providence. For many reasons, my Cursillo would prove to be an occasion that has and will serve as a reference point for the rest of my life. In the previous 2 to 3 years I had been seriously trying to discern what I wanted to be when I grow up (I was 45). The path had lead me squarely to a life involved in some way with the service of God's people. I had received notice of acceptance as a Seminarian for the Diocese of Fort Worth earlier in the week before my Cursillo that added to the meaning of the weekend. As that weekend started, we, as a group of men, all shared the same fear and apprehension of the unknown, but it was apparent why God had led us to that time and place. The incredible love and bond that grew from those short days still serves me on those days when I question my worth and whether I am truly following God's will. I now am attending seminary in San Antonio and have found a needed network of Curisillistas here, where we offer support and encouragement to each other when needed. But, more importantly when I return home for visits my list always includes my Cursillista friends whenever possible.

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Wow, what a fourth day! My name is Nicole Boyer and I made my Cursillo in May of 1999 at the Cursillo Center in Fort Worth. I have been on two teams so far and have been blessed abundantly by the presence of all the babe chicks and team members. It was not an easy start, but it sure has taken off like a rocket since then. Right after Cursillo ended, my father-in-law passed away. Since then there have been a series of ups and downs as is to be expected in life. After Cursillo, God moved me from my church home at St. Bartholomew to a new church home at St. Ann's in Burleson. This is where things have really taken off. When I got there I was introducing myself to some of the members and one person who was part of RCIA heard my testimony and invited me to prayerfully consider being a sponsor. Also, I have long wanted to be a Eucharistic Minister but had never gotten the opportunity. Two weeks after arriving at St. Ann's, the door was opened by God and He

has not closed it since. I am now a sponsor for RCIA and I was commissioned a Eucharistic Minister on Dec. 1 of 2002. Cursillo has been a blessing to me from the very start. God is in control of everything and knows what is best for us if we just will trust Him. When I made my Cursillo, I thought there was no way God could love a "wretch like me", then I met Him, got to know Him, and am learning to trust Him more and more. God bless each and every one of you and "buckle your seatbelts, you're in for the ride of your life."

Prayer is the Internet of the soul, reaching around the world.
Rev. Paul Deever, Olathe, Ks.

Do You Also Wish to Go?

By Rev. August P. Bosio, SDB from 'Reflections on the Mass'

Jesus, announcing His intention of giving us His *'flesh to eat and His blood to drink'*, lost all His friends, who now thought Him insane. He then turned to His Apostles: *"Do you also wish to go?" Peter answered for all and saved the day: 'To whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.'* John 6:67-68

My phone rudely shattered my sleep and Gary just spilled his anger over the wires without a simple hello: "The Church is dead," he pounded on the table. "The priests are dull and the people a bunch of hypocrites. I'm leaving. I can't take another mass like this." Gary's voice level kept rising by the minute, and its tone got angrier as the monologue resumed. "I am joining a church on Times Square that's on fire. There the word of God is proclaimed with joy, the sermon touches my life and the music stirs my soul."

I asked Jesus to calm Gary's turbulent waters and give me a chance to reply clearly in defense of the Truth. "Now that you have gotten a load off your chest", I said gently to Gary, "let me tell you that I will always be your friend even if you do leave. But before you go, ask yourself the real reason why people go to mass in a Catholic Church.

Look to the essence, please. They all love good music and a stirring sermon, but they do not go to be entertained. The essence of the mass is what Jesus said and did at the Last Supper: HE OFFERED HIS BODY AND BLOOD UP TO THE FATHER TO GIVE HIM PERFECT GLORY, THEN OFFERED HIMSELF DOWN TO US AS OUR FOOD AND DRINK.

Even a dull, unworthy priest gives us that at every mass. Gary stayed, having found the Times Square Church short on essentials.



Cursillista Parish Reps

- Holy Family – Celine Aaron
 - Holy Redeemer – Gail Arnold
 - Most Blessed Sacrament-Tony & Yolanda Hernandez, Jimmy Johnson
 - Our Mother of Mercy-Lorenzo & Lana Wilborn
 - St. Ann - John & Billie Trenshaw
 - St. Andrew -Ted & Catherine Wilson
 - St. Bart – John & Carol Hunter
 - St. Catherine of Sienna -Louis Larkin and Mo Elabd
 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton – Mary Munson
 - St. Francis -Irene Cox
 - St. George- Evelyn Maxwell
 - St. Joseph – Bill & Margo McNeill
 - St. Mark- Manuel and Mary Trevino
 - St. Mary (Graham)-Dick & Lea Anne Gilley
 - St. Mary the Assumption – Angie Brady
 - St. Paul -Larry Peplenski
 - St. Peter - Mary Flynn
 - St. Stephen – Dan & Sue Martin
 - St. Thomas – Becky Lopez
 - St. Rita – Clyde & Charlene Hymel
- If your parish is not listed above, contact Enrie Shelton 817.569.6858, royen38@msn.com to become your parish's Cursillo rep.!

People are Looking to You for the Light of Faith

(From the message of Pope John Paul II to the World Ultreya in Rome, July 2000)

"Bright colors deck the fields in the springtime. Bright colors clothe the little birds outside. Bright colors paint the rainbow we see shining."

During the days of a Cursillo, the words of this popular Spanish song help the participants to reflect on the multifaceted beauty of creation. In encountering Christ, you have learned to look with new eyes at others and at nature, at everyday events and at life in general. You have experienced that true happiness is found in following the

Lord. This personal and community experience must be passed on to others. Many men and women of our

time, who unfortunately turn away from God, expect from you the light of faith that will help them rediscover the colors of life and the happiness of feeling loved by God.

FW English Cursillo Secretariat

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Post-Cursillo Coordinator:

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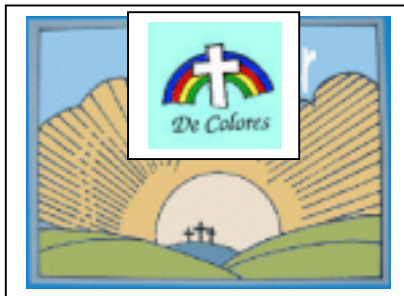
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*I know my Redeemer lives and
will one day walk upon the earth.*

(Job 19:25)

Cursillo in Christianity
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