

# PASS IT ON

## FORT WORTH CURSILLO – ENGLISH

APRIL 2004

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

2221 NW 26<sup>th</sup> St, Fort Worth, TX 76106 (817) 624-8526

[www.ftworthcursillo.org](http://www.ftworthcursillo.org)

[www.natl-cursillo.org](http://www.natl-cursillo.org)



### Men's Team #104:

Dan Martin, Coordinator, Fr. Francis Fernandez, Deacon Ed Bowden, Tim Aziere, Ed Brady, Jerry Burns, David Casselman, Gene Flanagan, Chris Flemister, Zeke Guerrero, Mauricio Hernandez, Tony Hernandez, Jim Hickey, Paul Johnson, Steve Klein, Mervyn Lim, Benny Parades, Tony Perez & Roy Shelton.



### Women's Team #204:

Denise Flemister, Coordinator, Fr. Francis Fernandez, Fr. Jovian Lang, Deacon Ed Bowden, Pat Bach, Mariea Baerd, Nicole Boyer, Debra Brosh, Chris Dossing, Mike Eckhard, Cheryl Greenawalt, Mirna Gonzales, Sally Harger, Carol Hunter, Laura Hoover Kastner, Margo McNeill, Jeanne Miller, Karen Mullen, Mary Munson, Elva Perez, Billie Trenshaw, Mary Trevino, Lana Wilborn and Maryann Zevchak.

Please pray for the Teams in Formation and the Candidates God is calling to come.

### Spring 3-Day Weekends

**Men's: May 13 - 16**

**Women's: Jun 3 - 6**

### Fall 3-Day Weekends

**Men's: Sept. 30 - Oct. 3**

**Women's: Oct. 21 - 24**

### FIESTA DE COLORES Raffle & Dance!

Sat., June 12. Dance 7 – Midnight.  
@ Our Lady of Guadalupe Hall,  
4100 Blue Mound Rd., Fort Worth, TX  
\$10 Admission Fee to Dance  
\$10 Raffle -Need not be present to win.  
For Tickets, contact Roy & Enrie Shelton  
817-569-6858 [royshel@swbell.net](mailto:royshel@swbell.net)



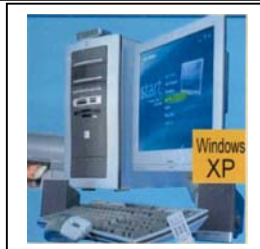
**1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE: 42" Plasma TV**  
(\$4500 Value)

**2nd PRIZE: Dining Room Set**  
(\$3655 Value)



**3rd PRIZE: Living Room Set**  
(\$3200 Value)

**4<sup>th</sup> PRIZE: Computer System**  
(\$2300 Value)



Note: Winners may choose to exchange prize for equal value merchandise.  
Retailers: Havertys & Best Buys

### 'New' Cursillo Center Being Studied

The Fort Worth Catholic Diocese is studying an existing K-6 private school site to see if it could be used for a 'new' Cursillo Center as well as for a Youth Retreat Center.

The 5 acre site is located at 501 Oakland Blvd. (NW of Nolan High School).



The architectural firm doing the study for the Diocese has met with representatives from our Community to define our space and use needs. A visit to the site being studied was also made. The preliminary report from the architectural firm to the Diocese is that the site and buildings would possibly work but would require quite a bit of renovation to meet our needs. A final decision has not yet been made. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will greatly guide ALL the efforts in this endeavor for a 'new' Center.

**Also it will take \$\$\$\$ , so PLEASE support our Community Fundraisers!**

### Upcoming Events

- Thu., May 6, **12 Women's Weekend Candidate Applications Needed**
- Wed. May 12, **School of Leaders**, Cursillo Center, Mass 7pm, Mtg after.
- May 13-16 **Men's 3-Day Weekend**
- Jun. 3-6 **Women's 3-Day Weekend**
- Wed. Jun. 9, **School of Leaders**, Cursillo Center, Mass 7pm, Mtg after.
- Sat. Jun 12, **Fiesta de Colores**
- Sat. Jun 26, **Return Ultreya**, St. Joseph's, 1927 SW Green Oaks, Arlington. 5:30 Mass, Potluck & Ultreya after.
- July & Aug. **NO School of Leaders.**
- Wed. Sept 8, **School of Leaders**, Cursillo Center, Mass 7pm, Mtg after.

## **12 Applications Needed – 4 weeks before a Weekend**

To go forward with a scheduled 3-Day Weekend, we need at least 12 applications in, 4 weeks before. The Men's Weekend has meet its deadline. The deadline for the **Women's Weekend : Thurs., May 6.**

## **Candidate Applications**

Applications are on our Community website [www.ftworthcursillo.org](http://www.ftworthcursillo.org), under Resources. Or contact our Interim Pre-Cursillo Coordinator **Karen Burns 817-447-9760** [kaksattic@hotmail.com](mailto:kaksattic@hotmail.com)

## **Weekend Fees**

Weekend fees have been raised to: \$40 for being on Team and \$80 for candidates

## **Palanca for Candidates**

As the 3-Day Weekends near, the list of candidates is sent out via Community E-mail "Cursillo Announcements and Prayer Request". Often, esp. in the last week before a Weekend, names will be added, deleted or corrected, so keep checking as each notice comes. You can also get the list by calling Karen Burns (817-447-9760), Dan Martin (817-599-3432) for the Men's and Denise Flemister (817-589-2676) for the Women's.

To get your letters of Palanca to the Center, call the Coordinators listed above for names of Team and Sponsors who will be coming to the Center Thursday night to whom you could give your Palanca letters to.

***For the Men's Weekend, you may bring the Palanca letters with you when you come to the Weds., May 12, School of Leaders Mtg.***

## **Community Announcements / Prayer Requests VIA E-MAIL**

To receive, e-mail Tony Perez at [adillo@earthlink.net](mailto:adillo@earthlink.net) If you don't have e-mail and have an announcement, prayer request or praise report, phone Tony at 817-596-8413 (or Mary Casselman at 817-277-2010).

## **School of Leaders**

School of Leaders Meetings include Spiritual or Technical Talks, Fellowship, Community Announcements and Discussions.

The meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month at the Cursillo Center, from 7:30 – 9. ALL ARE WELCOME! Mass is held @ 7 before the meeting.

## **May 12 Elections: Fall Weekend Coordinators and Secretariat Postions**

Nominees:

**Fall Men's Coordinator:** *Tony Perez*

**Fall Women's Coordinator:**

*Yolanda Hernandez, Brenda Wellmon*

**School of Leaders Dir.:** *Dan Martin*

**Treasurer:** *Tony Perez*

**3-Day Coordinator:** *Denise Flemister*

**Palanca Coordinator:**

*Chris Flemister, Cheryl Greenawalt*

Vote by e-mail April 16 – May 11 to [karenaburns@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karenaburns@sbcglobal.net) ONLY.

Vote in person @ **May 12, 2004**

**School of Leaders meeting.**

(Note that only the positions of **Fall Women's Coordinator** and **Palanca Coordinator** require votes.

## **Ultreyas**

Ultreyas offer strength for our journey, friendship, inspiration, fun, singing, and (of course!) food. Please enrich our community by attending one of the following. You will not be sorry you made the effort to attend!

**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.29, 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.

**'Arlington Ultreya' @ St. Joseph:**

First Saturday of each month after 5:30 Mass. Potluck. For more info, call Bill McNeill 817-274-9449

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Keller:**

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

## **Cursillista Parish Representatives**

**Holy Family:** Celine Aaron

**Holy Redeemer:** Gail Arnold

**Most Blessed Sacrament:** Mary Jean Nagy

**Our Mother of Mercy:** Lorenzo & Lana Wilborn

**St. Ann:** John & Billie Trenshaw

**St. Bart:** John & Carol Hunter

**St. Catherine of Siena:** Mo El-Abd

**St. Francis:** Irene Cox

**St. Joseph:** Bill & Margo McNeill

**St. Maria Goretti:** Cliff Sistrunk, Mervyn Lim

**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 –** Roy & Enrie Shelton

**St. Stephen –** Dan Martin, Jim Hickey

**St. Thomas –** Becky Lopez

**St. Rita –** Clyde & Charlene Hymel

If your parish is not listed above, contact

Terry Verbois at 817-460-7828,

[themtguy@msn.com](mailto:themtguy@msn.com) to become your parish's Cursillo Representative!

## **FW English Cursillo Secretariat**

Cursillo Center Director:

**Fr. Francis Fernandez 817-624-8526**

[fferandez@fwdioc.org](mailto:fferandez@fwdioc.org),

Cursillo Spiritual Director:

**Deacon Ed Bowden 817-265-0106**

[EABOWDEN@FLASH.NET](mailto:EABOWDEN@FLASH.NET)

Lay Director/President:

**John Trenshaw 817-295-1830**

[billietren@sbcglobal.net](mailto:billietren@sbcglobal.net)

V. President/Director of School of Leaders:

**Karen Burns 817-447-9760**

[kaksattic@hotmail.com](mailto:kaksattic@hotmail.com)

Secretary:

**Roy Shelton 817-569-6858**

[royshel@swbell.net](mailto:royshel@swbell.net)

Interim Pre-Cursillo Coordinator\*\*\*\*:

**Karen Burns 817-447-9760**

[kaksattic@hotmail.com](mailto:kaksattic@hotmail.com)

Post-Cursillo Coordinator:

**Terry Verbois 817.460.7828**

[themtguy@msn.com](mailto:themtguy@msn.com)

3-Day Cursillo Coordinator:

**Mo Al-Ebd**

[mo@dfwplasticsinc.com](mailto:mo@dfwplasticsinc.com)

Palanca Coordinator:

**Brenda Wellmon**

[bwellmon2000@yahoo.com](mailto:bwellmon2000@yahoo.com)

Treasurer:

**Billie Trenshaw 817-295-1830**

[billietren@sbcglobal.net](mailto:billietren@sbcglobal.net)

Pass It On Editor:

**Mary Casselman 817-277-2010**

[mjcdmc@comcast.net](mailto:mjcdmc@comcast.net)

\*\*\*\*Please note that **Manny Trevino**, has needed to step down from the elected position of **Pre-Cursillo Coordinator** due to unforeseen circumstances taking place in his work and home life. The Community is grateful for all that Manny has done to date and look forward to a time in the future when he can continue to actively serve our Community with his strong love and commitment to God.



## **Get the Spark, Keep the Spark**

By Fr. Francis

We must remember, in our work for the Lord, that there are no failures. We must not lose faith when it seems that our attempts to share our experience of a deeper relationship to Christ with others seem to not be bearing fruit. We must keep pressing on and on. Many times those who have made a weekend have told of how a person kept offering them the opportunity to make a weekend over and over, even when they showed little if any interest. Finally, they agreed to make a weekend (often, just to get the asking person 'off their back!'). The result was a wonderful step in growing closer to the Lord for the person who agreed to make the weekend. What if the asking person had given up asking?

The Lord doesn't need Preachers or Teachers, He needs Witnesses who show, by their lives, that Christ is vitally within them. Christ truly acting within us, as we humbly submit every day to live for Christ, radiates outward to all we encounter. Others sense it in our actions and motivations, even though they may not realize it is Christ within us. It is something they want. They are drawn – to Christ!

The Cursillo Weekend is designed with lively talks, NOT lectures. The content of the Talks is to motivate NOT preach.

The vision that our Bishop Delaney has for our Cursillo Community is that our Weekends will produce Leaders that will be active in Lay Leadership in our Parishes. Not all persons making a Weekend will stay active in 'Cursillo' activities, but, it is the Bishop's desire that the new Cursillistas will be Lay Leaders awakened to serve in our Parishes. Historically this has always been the case. On the weekends, candidates 'Get the Spark'. They burn to serve the Lord. Serving in Parishes is so important – especially in this time of fewer and fewer priests.

It is also important to stay in touch with our larger Cursillo community, even if our main serving area is in our

Parishes. On our Cursillo Weekends, we 'Get the Spark', yet if we lose the link with our fellow Cursillistas, the 'Spark' kindled, may die down. As we 'Get the Spark', we may feel we want to serve everywhere for our Lord. However, this is not possible. We must prayerfully choose where and how we can best serve the Lord. We must pray and choose our particular areas of ministry. God has given us each unique gifts and talents. We must listen to which gifts we have and choose in which ministries our gifts can best be used for God's Glory – to touch others with Christ's Love and Service.

## **Prayers for our Bishop**

By Fr. Francis

Fr. Francis also asks that we all continue to pray for our Bishop for his continued recovery. Bishop Delaney is limited, by pain and fatigue, to only accomplishing a few hours of work each day. It is very frustrating for the Bishop to be so aware of all that needs to be done, all that he wants to get done, yet, due to physical limitations, be able to only do a bare minimum.

Our community is strong in our prayers. We must not slow up in our prayers for a full recovery for our Bishop!

## **Post Cursillo Part of Cursillo**

By Terry Verbois, Post Cursillo Coordinator (817-460-7828)

Once we enter our Fourth Day, having experienced the Weekend, we are each given the opportunity to answer the call "*Christ Is Counting On You*". While the inscription on the back of some of our Cursillo Crucifixes become nice reminders and even quite literally very "close to our heart", we must keep this thought up front and in our conscious mind at all times. It's really not hard to do. It becomes so much more personal, and perhaps more effective, if the phrase you recall during your waking hours is...

*"Christ Is Counting On Me"*.

Christ has never once forgotten about me, in fact, like you I have been in His mind since before time. His Passion before His resurrection was His gift to me of eternal life. This will never be matched by anything I could ever expect to receive from anyone else in the entire cosmos.

These needs of others come in all shapes and sizes. If I am not equipped through formation as an active Cursillista, I may not recognize a real need. The need may come from a Cursillista or a fellow brother or sister, it matters not.

As we grow through regular Ultreya functions and groupings our Christian work in meeting the needs of others in His name expands as does our joy and satisfaction in answering His call. It's all about following Christ and not about foregoing a conflicting event or sleeping in on Saturday morning or catching a movie rather than a pot-luck dinner.

If you are not active in your 4th Day and you think that I can help as a sounding board or resource to help you find a group convenient to your location and/or schedule, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

If your requirements are more spiritual in nature, please don't hesitate in calling your Spiritual Director, Deacon or Priest. I look forward to seeing you soon as we grow together!

## **Peacocks and Feather Dusters**

"A peacock today, a feather duster tomorrow" goes the old saying. Our society wants us to be peacocks; famous, important, wealthy, powerful. Jesus prefers that we be feather dusters. Peacocks love to preen and be admired, to squawk loudly. In their self-admiration they're blind to the needs of others. A feather duster is at its best when it can be of service. People who are feather duster can "redress the wronged, hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow."

The Lord loves the humble of heart. Like Mary, theirs is a heart of good, rich soil that can bring forth the fruits of the Spirit and the flowers of virtue that beautify God's world and bring joy to His servants. The truly beautiful, truly greatest are the one who serve."

From OSV Daily Reflection Book

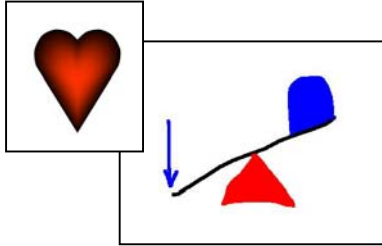


*"Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves."*  
(Phil 2:3)

## WHAT IS PALANCA?

Excerpted from a School of Leaders  
Talk Given by Brenda Wellmon,  
Palanca Coordinator

Palanca is Spanish word for a lever – something that allows a person to move things which are beyond normal strength.



Cursillo has adopted the term Palanca to describe the prayers, sacrifices and works of mercy we offer to God to obtain Grace and Favor from Him for others.

The Palanca concept is the most important and characteristic mark of the Cursillo method. Prayer (Palanca) has ALWAYS been the strength of the Cursillo Movement.

When we work toward the conversion and Christian renewal of persons and the evangelization of human groups, it is crucial that the entire work be built upon the Grace of God.

Our Prayers and sacrifices on behalf of the Cursillo, to obtain God's Grace are critical to the entire Cursillo Movement's spiritual success.

Palanca must be genuine and offered by Communities and Cursillistas living in union with Christ.

A good yardstick of any local Cursillo Community is its attitude toward Palanca, its overall focus on it, and how the Spirit of it (actions, not just letters) is incorporated in the lives of each member of the Community.

We must be careful that the term Palanca not be misunderstood. Palanca is NOT colorful posters or banners, letters, flowers, pins, or candy. These are nice things that we enjoy and they serve as nice reminders to us of our Weekend experience, but they should not be considered Palanca in and of themselves. True Palanca is ONLY the prayers and sacrifices we make to obtain God's Grace for others.

Prayer and self-denial are not nice things, but they are what actually secures the Grace of God for others. We have just finished the Lenten season in which we are encouraged

to live a life of self-denial for a few weeks, in order to put our lives in the proper perspective, to bring us back in alignment with the Spirit of God. Maybe a better way to accomplish this is for us to live in a spirit of Palanca for others, each and every day. Palanca should never be seen as a tool to assist only the 3-Day Weekend candidates.

It is the strength of the entire Cursillo Movement – Pre-Cursillo, 3-Day Weekends, and Post-Cursillo. Pre-Cursillo - Palanca should be offered for those Cursillistas who are in the process of evangelizing possible Candidates. Also, for the potential Candidates to help ensure that nothing interferes with their plans to attend the Weekend.

3-Day Weekends - The Cursillo 3-Day Weekends are supernaturally backed by persons and Communities who pray and make sacrifices for their brothers and sisters, that these might be open to God's Truth and Grace. The love of God for all Christians is witnessed during the Weekend through the Palanca performed by Cursillistas. It should be made clear that it is normal for a person to make sacrifices for others, even if they do not know them personally.

The members of the Cursillo Community are a reflection of Christ. The greatest contribution the outside Community can make to the Weekend is to offer Palanca for it and attend the Closing. These are the initial points of contact between the outside community and the newly formed one.

Post Cursillo - In the past, once the Cursillo weekend came to a close, the Palanca came to a close as well. When we think about it, it should become obvious that Palanca is needed even more during the Post-Cursillo phase of the movement. The new Cursillistas leave the cloistered atmosphere of a Community centered on Christ. They return to the unconverted environments and to daily pressures and concerns that they did not have to contend with during the Weekend. In other words, they need our prayers, sacrifices, love and support just as much, if not more than they did during the Weekend. Palanca is also needed as the new Cursillistas integrate themselves into God's work in their Parishes, as well as in Cursillo environments, such as Group Reunions, Ultreyas, School of

Leaders, serving on Weekend Teams or as elected members of the Secretariat.

Thus we have a very important, responsibility as members of this Cursillo Community to remember ALL our Cursillistas with our on-going Palanca.

During my term as Palanca Coordinator I have noticed the amount of individual letters conveying our Palanca for our Weekends lessening. This concerns me, since these letters are such a powerful part of our Weekend. Prayers and sacrifices help God to break through the walls that the Candidates may have built up around themselves and shower them with His Love and Grace. The letters convey our love and concern for these Candidates.

I remember my weekend and what a blessing it was to receive those letters from people I didn't know, but who cared enough to pray for me, especially those from my own Parish family - some of whom I didn't know were Cursillistas. It made me realize that I had a family to go home to when I left the Center, that I wouldn't be alone, that there would be people to support me!

We talk on the Weekend about how being part of a Community helps to keep us strong in our faith and keep us going when times get rough and we need a helping hand.

As members of the Cursillo Community and of our Parish Cursillo Communities, let us be the first to stretch out our hands in welcome to the new Cursillistas in our Parishes with our Palanca.

We have all experienced the power of Palanca in our own lives. Let us not fail to pass it on to others.

Decolores!





**Letter from Victor Lugo, New Cursillo National Executive Director**

from the March 2004 National Cursillo Newsletter, posted on National Cursillo website: [www.natl-cursillo.org](http://www.natl-cursillo.org)

My Dear Fellow Cursillistas, I would like to thank God for giving me the blessing to serve Him and His Church as the Executive Director of the National Cursillo Movement. I humbly welcome the opportunity to work with Bishop James A. Tamayo, National Episcopal Advisor, all Spiritual Advisors, Lay Directors, National Secretariat and National Staff, in serving Cursillistas through the Cursillo Movement.

The Cursillo Movement was and continues to be a Foundational Charism: a gift of the Holy Spirit, through the Founder of the Cursillos of Christianity, Eduardo Bonnin. We are encouraged to continue to improve the Movement in its obedience to the purpose, method and mentality of our heavenly charge.

The purpose of the Cursillo Movement in the U.S. is to help all Cursillistas and non-Cursillistas to discover the personal and intimate relationship that exists between themselves, our Father in Heaven, and their brothers and sisters - to help Cursillistas and non-Cursillistas progress in their journey towards God. All Cursillistas - laity and clergy - are prayerfully encouraged to constantly and continually rekindle their intimate relationship with Christ, self, and others. Through our free will, we place ourselves in the proper attitude and disposition that allows the Holy Spirit to guide our daily decisions with conviction in order to do God's will everywhere as servants and brothers and sisters of Christ as children of God.

It is critical to our purpose in the Cursillo Movement that we maintain constancy in our relationships and our awareness of where we are and where we should be in our progressive conversion. We are encouraged to promote our Christianity by example of an authentic pursuit of life in a state of Grace. Life in a state of Grace equips us to better accomplish and promote the evangelization of our respective

environments, beginning with one's self - the person who is collectively the most important creation of God - the very persons to whom God has entrusted His plan for salvation.

As Catholic Christians and Cursillistas, we are to live a life that mirrors Christ in all of our acts. It is not necessary for one to be a member of the School of Leaders or the Secretariat in order to proclaim the Good News that God loves us, and to share our intimate friendship with Jesus Christ with our brothers and sisters.

The essence of the Cursillo Movement is to make real the Truth that a human being can have a relationship with God and that he or she can be a transparent image of the Love of God to all persons that he or she encounters. The Movement has its own method, which articulates this reality. This method is a means to place the person in the proper disposition for God to transform the person into conscious and ever growing Grace. Through this transformation, the person can enter God's Will and make decisions constantly with conviction, and consistently in love, so as to have an intimate friendship relationship with themselves, with God, and with others. I call upon you, my sisters and brothers in the Lord, to encourage all Cursillistas to join the National Cursillo Movement in the U.S. in **offering palanca** for the following intentions:

- Mondays** for all Secretariats - national, regional and diocesan;
- Tuesdays** for all School of Leaders;
- Wednesdays** for all Cursillistas in the U.S.
- Thursdays**-for the Cursillo Movement's Apostolic actions; and
- Fridays** for all 3-Day Cursillo Weekends.

Let us go forth in our continuous pilgrimage for Christ, towards the Father, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, with the intercession of our Mother Mary and all the Saints, taking our brothers and sisters along with us, as we work to build the Kingdom of God.

De Colores and God Bless You!  
Your brother in Christ,  
Victor Lugo

National Executive Director

*(Note: PASS IT ON Editor added the above underline and bolding to reinforce Palanca message)*



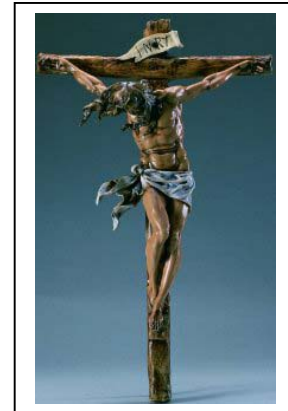
**24 hour Webcam of Blessed Sacrament in Tabernacle**

[www.monks-of-adoration.org](http://www.monks-of-adoration.org) is a website that has a 24 hour a day camera on a tabernacle containing the Blessed Sacrament (and at times the monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament set out on the altar). While this is NOT a substitute for an in-person visit to the Blessed Sacrament, it is a way to 'visit', via the internet, with our Lord, for at least a few minutes.

**Eucharistic Worship**

The Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in the sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration, in contemplation full of faith, and open to making amends for the serious offenses and crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease.

Pope John Paul II in the letter *Dominicae cena - On the Mystery and Worship of the Eucharist*



**God's Immeasurable Grace**

"The cross will not crush you; if its weight makes you stagger, its power will also sustain you." St. Padre Pio

"The cross is like a touch of eternal love upon the most painful wounds of man's earthly existence." Pope John Paul II

"Where the sign of the cross is erected, the wickedness of the devil is immediately repelled."

St. Maximus of Turin



**The Shelter of God's Will**

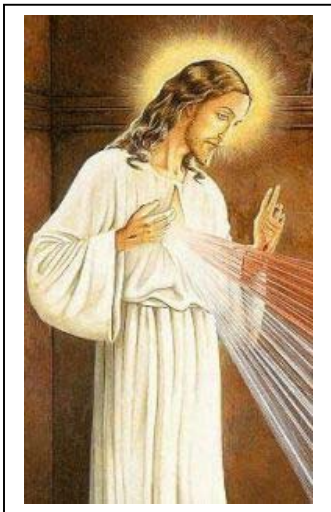
'To do Your Will, O my God, is my delight' Psalm 40:9

What does it mean to do the will of God? And is it possible to bend to God's Will with delight? Through out the ages people have asked this question, often in the midst of painful circumstances. Doing the Will of God can sound like a dreadful chore. Rather than "doing" the Will of God I like to think of us filled with delight because we are "living" in the shelter of the Will of God. Thus the text might read, "Living in the shelter of Your Plan for me I find joy and peace".

Recently a Sister in my community died after ten years of being imprisoned in her body due to

Alzheimer's disease. Many anguished questions passed through my heart about how this could be God's Will. One morning in prayer, it occurred to me, that at times like this, perhaps I can only say that it is part of God's Plan for me to learn how to love in this situation. My presence to this Sister in the midst of being unable to do anything to free her from her prison gave me an opportunity to love. *Teach me, O God, to live in the shelter of Your Will.*

Sr. Macrina Wiederkehr, O.S.B.  
(from Living Faith Daily Catholic Devotions)



*"You should not worry too much about adversities. The world is not as powerful as it seems to be; its strength is strictly limited. Know, my Child, that if your soul is filled with the fire of My pure Love, then all difficulties dissipate like fog before the sun's rays and dare not touch the soul. All adversaries are afraid to start a quarrel with such a soul, because they sense that it is stronger than the whole world..."*

(From Diary of St. Faustina)

**Jesus, I Trust in You!**

**Christian Ideal**

The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult and left untried.  
G.K. Chesterton