

Cursillo News for July-August 2007

Calendar of Events

June 24, 2007	Grand Ultreya – Brickyard Park, Hastings, NE. 11:30am Mass with potluck picnic to follow
June 29 – July 2, 2007	National Encounter – University of Texas at Arlington, TX (50 th Anniversary)
July 7, 2007	Secretariat Meeting , 9:30am, Blessed John XXIII Diocesan Center (NO Mass)
July 13-14, 2007	School of Leaders (quarterly reunion)-7:30pm Fri-3pm Sat, (St. Joseph Parish, York)
August 11, 2007	Secretariat Meeting , 9:30am, Blessed John XXIII Diocesan Center
September 14-15 , 2007	Practice Weekend , St. Ann Parish, Doniphan, NE
September 15 , 2007	Secretariat Meeting , St. Ann Parish, Doniphan (following Practice Weekend)
September 20-23, 2007	Men's Weekend , St. Ann Parish, Doniphan, NE
September 23, 2007	Men's Closing , 5:00pm (4pm Mass) St. Ann Parish, Doniphan, NE
September 28-30, 2007	Region VI Spring Encounter – Kansas City, KS (Savior of the World)
October 4-7 2007	Women's Weekend , St. Ann Parish, Doniphan, NE
October 7, 2007	Women's Closing , 5:00pm (4pm Mass) St. Ann Parish, Doniphan, NE

A Grand Ultreya



JUNE 24, 2007

BRICKYARD PARK IN HASTINGS, NE

(SEE DIRECTIONS ON PAGE 3)

ARRIVAL AT 11:00AM; MASS AT 11:30AM

FOOD, FUN (GAMES, ACTIVITIES) AND FRIENDS

From the Secretariat ...

• Precursillo

NOW is the best time to pray about AND invite candidates to live a Three Day Weekend. Please ask our Lord who He wants **YOU** to invite to get to know Him on a deeper and more personal basis. First, speak to our Lord about your friend, and then speak to your friend about the blessings of giving Him Three Days. You should get applications turned in as soon as possible to help the Coordinators properly welcome the candidates with a “welcome letter” received a few weeks in advance of the Weekends, rather than rushing the candidates to the Weekend with last minute instructions about what to bring and what to expect. The process of inviting should unfold gradually and naturally, and not be “forced” at the last minute. The earlier candidates are prepared and invited, the earlier the applications can be completed, and the easier it is to keep the Fourth Day community informed about the candidates for the Three Day Weekends (for offering Palanca and writing letters). **He's counting on YOU ...**

Precursillo Thoughts: My Environment, My Life

Kathy Rowell, Precursillo Chairperson

Last month I spoke about the power of prayer – and how prayer plays an important role in bringing people to the point of saying “Yes” to a Cursillo Weekend. We need to *speak to God about others before we speak to others about God*. First, however, we need to decide who we should invite. Unless, of course, we are just going to pray, “Dear God, OK - I am ready – send me a name.” If that does not work, we can look at our environment.

I must confess that I was totally confused when they talked about environments on my Weekend. Environments brought to mind the environmentalists and issues such as water shortages, air quality, save the whales, pollution, oil spills, more humane mouse traps, and global warming. I was pretty sure that someone else was already studying those environments and they didn't need my help. Eventually I learned that my environment is made up of the people and institutions that I interact with as I live my life. It includes my family, my work, and the culture of our society with its customs, traditions, habits, and values. My environment is my life. It is uniquely my own because one else shares the same set of circumstances of time and place.

It is said that God brings people into our lives for a reason – that paths cross and we affect those we encounter – that it is all in God's plan. People enter my environment – some stay and others pass through, but my actions and reactions have an impact upon them. Sometimes just a smile or a kind word can make a profound difference in another's life. Just as I have a responsibility to care for my physical environment, I also must nurture and care for my spiritual environment so that it will grow and become fruitful. To do this, I must look around and identify those individuals who seem to be leaders, who might, in turn, reach out to others, or who are searching for a deeper relationship with Our Lord. Then I can speak to God about my friend and the precursillo work of prayers and palanca will begin.

(continued on next page)

Someone looked at you and saw something special. They spoke to God about you and He gave them the “go ahead”. They extended an invitation, prayed and offered palanca and you lived a Cursillo Weekend. Right now your friends are waiting for you to invite them to take the “short course” and grow closer to our Lord. Reach out to them. Pope John Paul II said in REDEMPTOR HOMINIS, “*The Church wishes to serve this single end: that each person may be able to find Christ, in order that Christ may walk with each person*”. Remember – **We are the Church** – and now is the time to ask someone to join us on our walk. *De Colores!!**Kathy Rowell*

• **Three Day Weekends ...**

- ◆ Upcoming Cursillo Weekends are scheduled for:
 - **Fall 2007**
 - **Men’s** – September 20 - 23, 2007 (St. Ann Parish, Doniphan, NE)
 - **Women’s** – October 4 - 7, 2007 (St. Ann Parish, Doniphan, NE)
 - **Winter 2008**
 - **Men’s** – **February 14 - 17, 2008 (Location not yet determined)**
 - **Women’s** – **February 21 - 24 2008 (Location not yet determined)**

It’s NEVER too early to be inviting and preparing candidates!!

• **Postcursillo ...**

- ◆ **Grand Ultreya ...** Mark your calendars now ... The Grand Ultreya is scheduled to be held on **June 24, 2007**, at **Brickyard Park** in **Hastings, NE**, beginning with **Mass at 11:30 a.m.** (arrival around 11 a.m.). Join cursillistas from across the Diocese for fun, friendship, faith and fellowship ... see page 2 for more details. If you’d like to help (e.g., music, games/activities, etc.), please contact **Annette Wemhoff, Postcursillo Chair (402-477-1821)**.

Directions to Brickyard Park (for the Grand Ultreya)

- If coming into Hastings from the North (Highway 281), turn right (west) on South Street until Baltimore Avenue. At Baltimore Avenue, turn left (south) to D Street. Turn right (west) on D Street until Woodland Avenue ... the park will be on your left.
- If coming into Hastings from Highways 34/6, turn north on to Baltimore Avenue. At D Street, turn left (west) on D Street until Woodland Avenue ... the park is on your left.
- ◆ **And remember** to continue offering Palanca for Three Day Weekends going on throughout the world EACH WEEK, knowing with certainty that Palanca is the lever of apostles.
- ◆ **Spring Region VI Encounter ...** The Lincoln Diocese hosted the Spring Region VI Cursillo Encounter on April 27 - 29, 2007, at St. Mary School in David City. Eighty-five cursillistas representing 14 Dioceses from 6 states participated. Twenty-seven cursillistas from the Lincoln Diocese participated, including several Vietnamese-speaking parishioners from Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Lincoln. There were conferences given in three languages – Spanish, Vietnamese, and English. This is the first Region VI Encounter to have conferences in Vietnamese, with cursillistas from Lincoln and Minneapolis participating.

The three language groups were blessed to be able to pray together during the Reconciliation service and Masses. Readings for the Masses were given in all three languages, and music was also a cooperative effort. During the Masses, musicians from different dioceses joined together to share their gifts in praise of our Lord. One of the highlights of the Encounter was the singing of the Prayer to the Holy Spirit in Vietnamese at the beginning of the Ultreya on Saturday evening. The Weekend was a great blessing for our Diocese and for all those who participated. Thank you to ALL who helped in any capacity ... you were His hands and feet.

• **School of Leaders (SOL) ...**

Brief thoughts ... on “*Giving to God What Belongs to God*” (the **Magnificat** meditation from June 5th): “... *The one thing that God asks of each of us individually is that we fulfill the duties of our state of life, willingly accepting whatever condition has fallen to our lot. If we fail in this, even though in other ways we may advance and gain distinction, we are displeasing to God ... God does not want to have in His household people who do not fulfill the duties of the office He has assigned to them ... those who neglect their obligations, however hard they may labor to fulfill others which they have taken upon themselves, waste their efforts and forfeit their reward.*”

These are difficult words to hear, but better to hear them now and truly reflect on that to which God calls us than to hear the disappointment in Jesus’ voice when He asks us to account for the time/talents He left for us to ‘invest’ on His behalf. Ask Him sincerely and courageously where He would have you serve ... If the answer is in the Cursillo Movement, then please become part of SOL and see all that there is to do. A priest once said that when we do that which our Lord asks of us, even if it is extremely hard, it will always be easier than trying to take a different path. He loves you no matter what ... but as Mother Angelica says ... He will fill you up to the extent that you allow Him to work in you ... give Him a thimble, and He’ll fill it to the brim ... give Him a barrel, and He’ll fill it to the brim ... Be a barrel!! Give to Him what belongs to Him ...

The work of Cursillo is very, very important in building the Kingdom of God, and He’s always looking for designers and engineers and carpenters and bricklayers and concrete workers and roofers ... plumbers and electricians and heating/ventilation workers and interior decorators ... skilled and unskilled craftsmen of all kinds who know their trade well. Consider putting your talents/gifts at the disposal of our Lord as He changes hearts and minds through Cursillo. HE NEEDS YOU ... your “YES!” The SOL will help you deepen your understanding of how Cursillo helps you witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the places that He put you ... help teach others to do the same. **ALL ARE INVITED** to become active in Cursillo through the SOL. Won’t you at least “*Come and see*”? The next SOL will be **July 13-14, 2007** at **St. Joseph Parish, York, NE** ... see registration form (included). *If you feel God nudging you to make a deeper commitment to Cursillo, come to SOL to learn more ... He can be very persistent ...*

From the Spiritual Advisor ...

On June 10, 2007, we celebrated the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, or The Body and Blood of Christ. Each year as we celebrate this great feast, the Church encourages us to have a Eucharistic procession, and to acknowledge again our belief in the “Real Presence”. We believe that Jesus Christ, the God-man is really and truly present, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Eucharist ... in the Host which looks and tastes like bread, but has been changed from bread into Jesus’ Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. One of the saints said that when you receive Holy Communion, “*The reality that is within you is greater than the reality that is outside of you.*”

When Catholics receive Jesus in Holy Communion at Mass, then the God-Man, our Redeemer, who refashioned us into His image and likeness through His obedient suffering, death and resurrection, comes within us to strengthen us and to be our nourishment. He is our “food for the journey”.

We would not dream of setting out on a journey without bringing along food or making plans for “food stops” along the way. So, too, we need the spiritual food of Our Lord’s Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in Holy Communion for our journey through this life to Eternity.

In addition to our need for receiving Holy Communion, our spiritual Food for the journey, we also need to think about others that we meet along the way in our journey to Eternity. How we live our journey has an effect on others who journey with us and on others who observe us on our journey. Indeed, when others see our love for our Lord present in the Blessed Sacrament, and our joy and true pride in being privileged to be in a “procession” with our Lord, then they might be inspired to seek Him Whom we have found and carry with us.

As Pope Benedict XVI said: “*By carrying the Eucharist through the streets and squares, we desire to immerse the Bread come down from heaven in our daily lives. We want Jesus to walk where we walk, to live where we live. Our world, our existence, must become His temple.*” It is kinda like the idea of “Christianizing the world” ... it is really Christ who does that through us, as we spend time with Him, being present as He is carried through the streets in a Eucharistic procession, or “carrying” Him inside us, after having received Him in Holy Communion, and letting Him change how we live, what we say, and what we do.

Pope Benedict XVI said: “*Indeed, the Eucharist is the ‘treasure’ of the Church, the precious heritage that her Lord has left to her. And the Church preserves it with the greatest care, celebrating it daily in holy Mass, adoring it in churches and chapels, administering it to the sick, and as viaticum to those who are on their last journey.*”

May we each Sunday, and even daily, be strengthened by Him through our participation in the Eucharistic sacrifice and our reception of Holy Communion ... through our time of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament ... through our participation in Eucharistic processions. May we invite others to journey with us, and with our Lord present in the Eucharist ... that “Real Presence” ... and may we one day come to live in that Eternal Presence forever. Remember, Christ is counting on you and you must count on Him.

De Colores!!Fr. Mark Seiker

From the Lay Director ...

De Colores, brother and sister cursillistas!

Just a few weeks ago I read in Mt 24:46-47: “*Blessed is the servant whom the Lord finds watching when He comes; truly I tell you, He will set him over all his possessions.*” I thought, “Well, since we don’t know the day that Christ is coming, maybe we should serve in some way every day.” One thing made aware to me by living out the rollos from my Weekend is that we need to give of ourselves in service to those God places in our lives. God says: “It is in giving that we receive.”

As we grow in holiness, we begin to recognize the areas of our lives that need to be reformed and repaired. By recognizing our flaws and desiring to overcome them, we then have made the first step in remolding ourselves to better serve the Lord; thus, we open ourselves up to the grace God has in store for us. God gives us all things, and He expects us to give back as it is given. The passage in Holy Scripture where the landowner entrusts to three of his hired hands talents used to confuse me because I couldn’t understand why he would take the talents away from the last one, who appeared to me to be very frugal. Obviously, I didn’t understand! The talents were just that, TALENT! If God gives us talent, then we are to use that talent for the building up of His kingdom because, if not used, it is taken away.

Cursillo is not just a gift given for us to use and reform our lives. It is a method learned and practiced, to give of ourselves in service to others in the places God has placed us.

Holiness is our talking to God and God talking to us. Where are we ... what are we doing ... where are we going ... and such ... To work on our holiness is asking the Boss how we are doing, and then ask, “What’s next?” We work all day for earthly bosses, so why not work each and every day for the heavenly Boss? If we claim that we know, love, and desire to serve God, then it is necessary to spend time with Him by asking, and this should happen daily.

Formation is gaining wisdom through what we read, witness and experience in our lives. To gain knowledge about God and His teachings, and the world and its message and our part in it all, we need to form our minds on a regular basis. To seek out the truth and defend the truth, you have to know the truth.

In response to Rom. 14:11, which says: “‘*As I live*’, says the Lord, ‘*every knee shall bend before Me, and every tongue shall give praise to God*’”, the **Magnificat** (June 7th, page 98) states: “*All creation sings praise to God simply by being fully what the Creator intended. Obedience to God’s designs is in itself an act of worship. Worship without obedience is merely hollow flattery. Yet both worship and obedience are less than Christian if they do not spring from the one root, love of God.*”

So, if we love God and we do as He says, that act of obedience in itself is an act of worship? So it sounds. Christ calls us to serve... to obey... and to love.

We are all called in different ways to do different things. Some may be called to Cursillo. Cursillo has changed my life; did it change yours? It has given me a way to give of myself in ways that I never thought possible ... to be courageous in living out what is necessary to be Christian.

Is God calling you to evangelize by going to a SOL and/or Ultreya? Are you grouping? If not, would you like to? Check the dates and times for these events and take the time to stop by and say hi. If you are not grouping, give me a call ... you never know.

May God richly bless you and keep you close to his Sacred Heart. Amen!

De Colores!! ... Mark Pribyl