

Rooster Crows

FEBRUARY 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Women's
Weekend April
16-19, 2009—
Portland**
- **Men's Weekend
June 18-21,
2009—Portland**
- **Co-ed Weekend
October 1-4,
2009—Milwaukie**

What Does Cursillo Mean to Me?

At the Ultreya on January 17, 2009 at St. John's Milwaukie, the *3rd oldest church in the state of Oregon*—according to Phil Wallace, the topic of the event was, "What does Cursillo mean to me?"

The Ultreya was a great success as the participants joined in to share their stories.

Several responses to "What does Cursillo mean to me?" were flushed out early in the program, each one as heartfelt as its predecessor.

After that, we had a round of superb music from three guitarists, a clarinet and a violin.

Then another round of different Cursillistas expressing their heartfelt experiences at a Cursillo weekend and the resulting differences the experience had made in their lives.

We had another round of music led by the musicians. Then the Eucharist began, with Father Rick Bullock asking again for *MORE* testimonials of Cursillo. Believe it or not, more experiences were flushed out from others who hadn't come forward before.

The Ultreya was never boring, the music was endless as the audience was petitioned for more requests, and I don't believe anyone that had the desire to share God's experience in their life was denied that opportunity.

The day was amazing.

ULTREYA!
Cindi Caruso

Co-ed Weekend 2009

October 1-4, 2009

St. John the Evangelist, Milwaukie

Rectora - Debbie Fullmer

curtanddeb@comcast.net

Vice-Rectora - Cindi Caruso

cindi@ados.net

Theme: "Ask and it shall be given,
Seek and ye shall find, knock
and the door shall be opened unto you".

Matthew 7:7

The Best Ultreya!

The Ultreya at St Johns in Milwaukee on Saturday, January 17, was different. We began at 8:00 AM in a reunion group at St Johns Milwaukee. There is 15-20 of us who meet on Saturday morning to share the impact of the Gospel in our lives. We experience growing faith, clearer insights into the Word and deepening love for each other as we share the gifts of Grace from God.



The sharing continued with the Ultreya which began at 10:00 AM. Most of the cursillistas had not attended the 8:00 am reunion group so most of the stories were new, at least to my ears. We also had a music team that inspired us to praise and worship together in a joyful spirit.

We did not schedule witness talks or responses as we usually do. We did the right thing. We ministered to each other and blessed each other with the stories of God working in our lives. Fr Rick Bullock, present to celebrate the Eucharist, brought an incredible spiritual gift to us. His homily was to have each of us share something special about our weekend and then he blessed each person. I will always remember that Eucharist as a special event, a point in time when I think we stood on holy ground. Were we as elated as the disciples returning from the villages where they first preached the Gospel. They had preached, healed the sick and cast out demons. Christ saw in their success the fall of Satan, as in a bolt of lightning. I believe that bolt of lightning flashes each time we share a little Grace with others in our environment.

Our environment, the Kingdom of God surrounds us. It is like a mixed neighborhood, a veritable cross-section of mankind. We live in this Kingdom and are charged with bringing the Gospel

to full realization both in ourselves and in those with whom we have contact. That is what we were about Saturday, January 17, 2009. We were receiving the will to live the promises of God in a world that does not always recognize the "pearl of great price." Being in the Kingdom is everything, but it is a gift of seen through the eyes of faith.

We need quiet times in our lives to get close to God to see the kingdom around us. We need fellowship with each other to share what we learned in our solitude with God. "In nearness to God we get our vessels so filled with blessing, that, when we come forth, we can not contain it to ourselves but must, as by a blessed necessity, pour it out whithersoever we go. (Horatius Bonar, *Celtic Daily Prayer*)

"...remember what I have recommended to you, which is, to think often of God, by day, by night, in your business, and even in your diversions. He is always near you and with you; leave Him not alone. You would think it rude to leave a friend alone who came to visit you: why then must God be neglected? Do not then forget Him, but think of Him often, adore Him continually, live and die with Him; this is the glorious employment of a Christian; if we do not know it we must learn it."

Brother Lawrence, *The Practice of the Presence of God*

May we live as standing on holy ground with all nature aflame with the Spirit! Amen

~John Ross, Fourth Day

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
 But the greatest of these is Love!
 1 Corinthians 13:13

**Women's Spring Cursillo 2009
 April 16th thru 19th**

St. Francis of Assisi Church
 Wilsonville, Oregon
 Corrine Bush "Rectora" ohmiss17@verizon.net;
 503-624-8665
 "Beyond Day" May 30th 2009

**We're looking for a few blessed
 angels!!!**

Please come and be filled with the
 Holy Spirit!

Praise God!!!

Angel Walk—Saturday, April 18th
 9:00 PM

Mananitas—Sunday, April 19th
 7:00 AM

Closura—Sunday, April 19th
 4:00 PM

IT'S ALIVE!!!

**Men's Cursillo 2009
 June 18-21, 2009**

All Saints Portland, Oregon
 Pete Hoffman, Co-Rector

(503)861-3290 CELL(503)791-7909 cdrpete@charter.net

John Ross, Co-Rector

(503)658-8754 jracon@msn.com

Better late than never but a few wild and crazy guys for Christ are going to, at this late date, try to pull a Men's Cursillo together at All Saint's Portland on the week-end of June 18 - 21, 2009. WE NEED TEAM MEMBERS!!! Help!! If you think you would like to be part of this mission impossible task then contact the co-Rectors. I am hoping that this challenge call out will be answered by the community...do not linger. Get to your phone or computer and volunteer because if we have to track you down it won't be a pretty picture. Besides, could you not think of a better thing to do on Father's Day than to welcome more brother's into a closer 4th Day walk with our Lord and their brothers in Christ.

Here I am Lord, Now What?

In case you have not yet heard, teams are forming and the 2009 Cursillo weekends are in various stages of development. You didn't get an invitation? Oh, dear! Call your Rector(a) at once! You are wanted and needed to help out with a weekend in some way.

If it is your first time serving on Team, then you are probably watching and learning, and picking up cues about what really goes on behind the scenes of the Cursillo weekend. Team members watch, question, and learn, and sometimes goof up a little here and there as they come to know how to function as a team member. When they have it figured out they will move to a different position on the next year's team, and before you know it they are leading us on the Core Team. Each Cursillo is basically the same, and yet each one is also different. Our Rector(a) will have a vision about how this weekend will be special, and team leaders and team members will work together to help fulfill that vision.

As a team member you will have the opportunity to worship and pray and carry out various tasks both before and throughout the weekend.

Team members have a lot of stuff to do, and struggle with the Mary/Martha conflict; they are tempted to set aside the worship and prayer part of their task list because they just have to get stuff done, and somehow they are shorthanded and running a little behind schedule. They are over tired, overwhelmed, and are not thinking clearly.

I wonder how we could forget that God has everything under control. Worship and prayer bring us back into sync with His plans for the weekend. With God's help we are able to create and maintain a safe and protected space for the candidates to experience their Cursillo with minimal distractions. With God's help we are able to be flexible and cooperate with one another, to see Christ in the eyes of the other, to muster patience, and to act and speak with love and kindness.

I am praying that your experience as a team member will be a blessing to you, the candidates, the team, and will glorify God in all that you do. De Colores!

~Anna Rose (Past Rectora, 2008 Coed Cursillo)

Book Review

The latest book assignment for NECC was "Always Enough" by Rolland & Heidi Baker, who are missionaries. This book follows their adventures in Mozambique. How they were able with God's help to minister to hundreds of Mozambique's throw-away children (those who had no home) and being able to start 5,000 churches within that region.

Just using the simple practice of "ministering to everyone" and choosing to trust God daily unleashes great power to change any situation. This book shows us all that we should have positive Faith in God and what he will do for us all.

We must use our faith and trust in the Lord to help us continue to keep Cursillo going in

each of our communities. We need to invite Him to work His miracles in our own lives.

One final piece from the book we'd like to share with you is from Ephesians 4:1-6.

"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

Debi Rine, Western District Representative

A Moment Closest to Christ

It was a quiet Wednesday morning. Since I have finally retired from the work-a-day world, I have time to relax and participate in things that have always been there, but have been lost to time constraints of a full-time job.

On this Wednesday, I was on-line, looking at local and national news, when I noticed a story about a young mother who had been accused of murdering her infant. The story was one of those truly sad stories of life just plain gone wrong. The mother was a teen ager who had been impregnated by a registered sex offender. The youngster said she didn't know she was pregnant and went into labor on the toilet where her infant eventually drowned - whether by the mother's hand or the force of gravity was unknown. What was known was that the mother put the body in a plastic bag and threw it in the garbage. The question of rape was not mentioned, but the tone of the article pointed towards a consensual act that was statutory rape by virtue of the girl's age.

There was, at the bottom of the article, a link to a comments page, where readers could share their thoughts. Out of curiosity (God's hand, maybe??) I decided to look at the comments, and I was appalled by the vitriol I found. Perhaps the ugliest comment was simply "Kill the B...!" And there were many others of similar vein, all driven by an obvious and self-righteous lack of concern for everyone involved in this sad, sad story.

The next two hours were spent in "discussion" on the site. Here's my original comment, as best I can remember it:

It seems to me that there are two things to consider here. First off, an innocent child has lost its life through the misfortune of having been created by and born to a severely impaired mother. Secondly,



there is a young female whose life is a shambles because she is totally unprepared for what it has to offer, good and bad. This young person is in desperate need of our help, not our anger and retribution. We need, first of all, to love her, unquestioningly, as one of us - a human being with the same warts and foibles we all carry in one form or another. Then we need to work to help her out of the darkness and to do whatever we can, each in our own environment, to try to prevent this kind of tragedy from being a fact of life. Love, not hatred, is the answer here.

That line of thought brought on comments of all kinds, some in agreement, some suggesting ways to begin helping, some neutral, but a large number of them accusing me of "enabling" and being "soft on crime." I was told, pointedly, that "we can't just let this kind of thing happen. We have to come down hard on anyone who would behave in this fashion." I continued the conversation for as long as I could, until other commitments forced me to resign. Through out my time on line, I remained calm and centered and responded gently to all comers with the same message: Love first. It was time well spent, and I trust that some good was done in the process.

It wasn't until later in the day, after I had had the opportunity to reflect on what I had done, that I realized that this was one of those "moments." I had been used by Christ as His tool to present His message in a very unusual location. I'm glad to have been available.

~Pete Hoffman

SECRETARIAT—July 2008

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