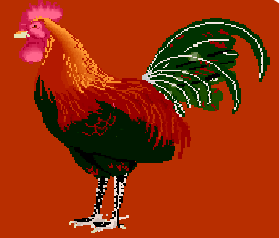


OREGON
CURSILLO

UPCOMING
EVENTS:

- **Men's Weekend**
June 18-21,
2009—Portland
- **Co-ed Weekend**
October 1-4,
2009—Milwaukie
- **Women's**
Weekend Feb.
4-7, 2009-Salem

Rooster Crows



MAY 2009

Bubbles...Beautiful Bubbles!

The bubbles drifted over the edge of the calm and comforting gardens at Elk Rock, home of the Bishop's Close. Our first meeting had just concluded and we were sending God our wishes, and prayers. How awesome to see the crystal clear bubbles sail into the sky! A feeling of peace and comfort filled the air, everything was going to be alright.

As weeks went by and more meetings came to be, more beautiful bubbles were sent to the hand of God. Our comfort zone for the "weekend" was signed and sealed. The Clergy Team and Chairs of committees filled in nicely. There was a sweet calm about the making of this Cursillo weekend. From the very beginning the Holy Spirit led me in the direction of which was to be. Cursillo to me is this beautiful bubble in and around all of us for such a short and glorious time. Of

course we are not meant to be "in the bubble" but to go out and tell everyone of our wonderful experience with the Lord. Pitfalls happen, the smooth waters become rough, and life as we had it in the "bubble" disappears.

It is then that we take time to reflect on the memories during the few days. The Candidates were an inspiration to us all. We prayed, lived, ate and laughed together. Sometimes we cried and hugged. God's love was felt and we knew with Him all is possible. We became support for others and found new friendships to call upon when life seems to be too much. Oh yes, the "bubbles", we blew them over the flowers in the memorial gardens at St. Francis. Floating thru the air,

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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

(Continued from page 1)

dancing with each other like crystals in the sky. We gave our hearts and souls to God in those "bubbles". Again, like a wonderful dream, we feel lifted up and spiritually healed. The "4th" day comes and the real world takes hold. Sometimes so challenging and how I wish for the "bubble" to swallow me up, just one more time. Then I lift up my hand and remember God's glorious love and the beautiful "bubbles", yes, God's beautiful, beautiful "bubbles"!

—Corrine Bush, Rectora Women's 2009 Weekend

My Cursillo Experience



For the past few days I have been thinking how I could possibly sum up my first Cursillo experience in just a few words - where to begin?

Then at church on Sunday Deacon Mimi Eick's sermon gave me the answer! Her topic was 'spiritual energy' and that is exactly what I found during those 3 days at St. Francis. Mimi spoke of rest and renewal as a source of spiritual energy, and of pruning our 'dead wood' to promote spiritual growth. While the Cursillo schedule wasn't exactly leisurely, it definitely offered a period of rest from day-to-day chores, worries and constant running around, and left my mind free to focus on this spiritual journey, with all its wonderful surprises at every turn, and so much fun along the way. I don't know when I've laughed and cried so much in one weekend, or when I've felt closer to God.

I had resisted making my Cursillo since I was first invited several years ago because of silly concerns about sleeping arrangements and bathroom availability! At this point in my life I knew the time was right, and with Corrine as Rectora, Mimi as Spiritual Adviser, Colleen in charge of the kitchen and so many of my friends on the team, how could I fail to have a good time! From the moment I walked into the church on that Thursday evening I felt that was where I belonged, and all my apprehension evaporated. Being among 50 or so like-minded women, listening to their experiences of life, spoken from the heart, and knowing that so many people were praying for me and surrounding me with love was an incredibly powerful and life-changing experience, and one that will stay with me always.

My heartfelt thanks to everyone who offered their support, prayers, time and energy to make this Cursillo so successful and memorable.

—Pat Taylor, Candidate, Women's 2009 Weekend

Co-ed Weekend 2009

October 1-4, 2009

St. John the Evangelist, Milwaukie

Rectora - Debbie Fullmer

debfullmer55@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 co-ed weekend is fast approaching. The team is getting geared up for an awesome spirit filled weekend for both candidates and team. It is never too early to be looking for someone to sponsor. A lot of parishes have joined together to sponsor a candidate. Reunion groups have also joined together to be sponsors. All of us are called to reach out into our parishes and offer to share with others the experience we ourselves experienced. Do you remember when you made your Cursillo? The joy and love you felt. That is what we are offering for this co-ed weekend and we want to share it with everyone. There are still openings on the team as well. If you are feeling called to join in whatever capacity, please contact me or Cindi Curuso. Angels of course are always welcome and very much appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you!

God's Blessings to all,

Debbie Fullmer, Rectora

Plants

I recently moved to Oregon from New Mexico. While there were many hard decisions to make around the move, like selling my house of 20 years, and leaving behind about half of my belongings, and leaving behind 30 years of relationships and familiarity, one of the hardest decisions was: Could I bring my plants? How many? Which ones and How?

Some I was able to give to good trusted friends, others I left with the house, but others...well, I'd had them longer than my children. I'd moved them, repotted them debugged them. So I loaded six of them on the back of the truck and hoped that I wasn't sentencing them to the sure death of a week without water, light and heat.

As I drove through Utah and Idaho I kept a watch on my car's outside temperature gauge and noted that it never got above freezing. It was early March.

Finally, the day came. The house was mine, the truck arrived. The door was raised.

Oh, dear. What could be salvaged? I took the very cold plants into the house and put them in front of south-facing window, brought warm water and hoped for the best.

As the days went by, I had to trim off dead leaves and branches, trying to save the plants. In some cases, the pruning was dramatic and I feared for the plants' lives. But slowly, new growth began to emerge. The plants took on new shapes as the old was cut away to make room and energy for the new.

"Jesus said: My father is the vine-dresser. Every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. Jn 15:1-2. Sometimes I need to be pruned—to have the old, dead, trimmed away-- Old thoughts, old behaviors, old relationship—so that there is room for the new. It isn't always easy and sometimes I don't do this willingly, but when I do, I am rewarded with new growth, new life, new blessings.

—Susan Barnett

A few thoughts...

Two things stand out in my mind: about the recent Women's Weekend:

The amount of loving effort poured out in palancas was stunning. To everyone who wrote a note or created a memento: THANK YOU! I was just reviewing them yesterday, and found myself crying all over again.

The other thing was the message that there should be no "Lone Rangers". I tend to be a loner, shy about asking for help from other people. God has been working on me in this area (among the many others!), so this was a great reminder that many loving hands lessen the hardest efforts.

—Gail Buchanan, Candidate, Women's 2009 Weekend

Transformation

Never, in my wildest imaginations, did I ever think I'd be speaking of God's work among us to the family of a Diocese gathered in convention. But in the summer of 2003, when I graduated from the School for Formation of Lay Preachers and was licensed by the Bishop, Canon Jack Hillyard invited me to do so and after getting over the initial surprise I realized that God's hand was in it somewhere and that if I were patient, I'd eventually understand His direction.

It's now almost six years later and I'm still working on that one, and probably will be for a while longer. The theme of the Convention that year was Transformation and as I began to think about a message for us, the word transformation kept coming back, and with it, various pictures.

My first thought was pretty mundane, borne of my electrical background. Electricity goes in one side of the device we call a transformer in one form and comes out the other in another -- transformed. Then came the image of the caterpillar, whose transformation in God's hand is one of the most dramatic and beautiful in nature. I thought also about the Bishop who began life in a place far from here with a radically different culture. But God took him, and as the years went by, he was transformed, slowly but surely, and he became our Bishop. And finally, something I had been reading back then contained a Tao meditation that talked about worship and devotion.

It was "food for thought" and while I haven't yet come to terms with all of it, the

ending struck me. The writer said devotion was its own reward. "It brings transformation," he wrote. For me, all of these images portray some kind of change, a change of form and substance, always for the better.

It's worthwhile, I believe, to recognize just how long this process has been going on among us. To begin, look at Isaiah, who borrowed imagery from the exodus from Egypt and predicted clearly and powerfully the future restoration of the twelve tribes of Israel. He also wrote of that blessed period when both Jews and Gentiles would assemble under the banner of Jesus and zealously unite in extending the limits of His kingdom. In the earliest parts of the church's history, the chosen of God were to be transformed by His actions in their lives and live together in His love.

In the Book of Psalms, there's at least one psalmist who dwells upon the ideal that God should be known by his people, and that this knowledge as the source of practical piety is man's true wisdom, and the certain cause of lasting adoration. He wrote to arouse us to a remembrance of God's works and the diligent study of them. He knew that transformation would result, and told us about it. We were being called to change then, and we're still being called, daily.

In his first letter, John gives us a warning about what won't work, where it comes from, and a very simple tool with which to test the origin of others' teachings. John

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knew that true transformation by the spirit can have only one source, and it's easy to recognize. Nonetheless, he says, vigilance is healthy.

Lastly, in what is for me one of the most beautiful of the Gospel stories, St. Luke writes of how Mary responds with a simple question when Gabriel announces God's intentions for her. "How can this be?" She was perplexed, to be sure, but she also believed and trusted in God and so she became a model of faith when she quietly and gently accepted the role God had given her. She was about to be transformed, and she knew in her heart that God would take her safely through the change.

So.... This process we call transformation has been going on for a long time. God has called his people to it through the prophets, in the psalms, in a young girl and in countless examples throughout the scriptures and other writings. It comes as no surprise, then, that He will call each of us, to be transformed at some time, in some way, maybe large, maybe very subtle, and to turn that transformation into the life and work of the Church.

In light of that call, I pray that we will all be open to the workings of the Spirit among us as our Fourth Day unfolds. Remember, it's His world. and we are His people. He'll take care of it and us!! And Transformation will continue as it has throughout our wonderful and remarkable history.

Finally, I would add that I experienced a transformation in the process of this "unforeseen" event in my life. God took me and used my mind and heart and voice to provide His message of transformation to His people. I am not the same as I was when I walked up to that podium. I've been transformed too!

--Pete Hoffman



pledge card Oregon Episcopal

CURSILLO

"Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ"

I will support the weekend's so they are FREE FOR ALL.

Team, Pilgrims & Sponsors **Ultrayat**

YES!

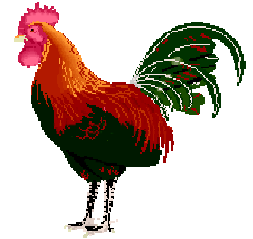
I/we pledge: \$___ per year. \$___ per month. \$___ one time gift. Or:

Please check \$250. \$100. \$50. \$25. \$20. \$15. \$10. \$5. \$1.

I understand Oregon Episcopal Cursillo is a 501(c)3 religious non-profit corporation and I/we will receive IRS-approved statements for tax deduction.

Please make checks payable to: Oregon Cursillo

SECRETARIAT—July 2008



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