



# Rooster Crows NY Cursillo English

March 2016

A Message from the Spiritual Director

In This Issue

Let me begin by saying how honored I am to have been appointed by Cardinal Dolan to serve as your Spiritual Advisor. As most of you know, I truly believe that laypeople are the Church. I further believe that the Cursillo movement is one of the lay movements that helps to build the Church. The mission of every Cursillista is to bring Christ to those they meet in their Fourth Day through their actions, word and deed.

I would like to take some time in addressing this Jubilee Year of Mercy. Mercy is what makes God perfect and all powerful, Pope Francis said in his document officially proclaiming the Holy Year of Mercy. "If God limited himself to only justice, he would cease to be God, and would instead be like human beings who ask merely that the law be respected," the Pope wrote in "Misericordia Vultus," (The Face of Mercy).

The Pope proclaimed the Year of Mercy because "it is the favorable time to heal wounds, a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and touch with their hands the signs of the closeness of God, a time to offer everyone the way of forgiveness and reconciliation."

As we begin Lent, let us look deeply within our hearts and souls, let us not only seek forgiveness but also forgive.

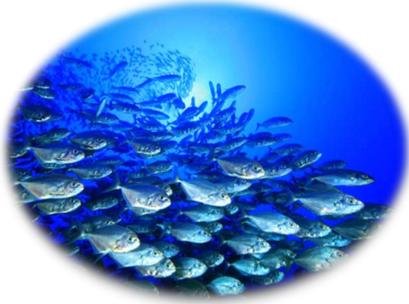
**De Colores,  
Deacon Bill Castellane  
Spiritual Director**

**Visit Us Online:**

<http://www.natl-cursillo.org/newyork/>

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## A Message from the Lay Director



When Jesus asked Peter to put his nets into the water again, after he had fished through the night without success, Peter's nets came back bursting with fish. Jesus then told Peter he would make him a fisher of people. This story is told in Luke 5:4-6 and with similarity after Jesus' resurrection in John 21:3-6.

As Christians and Cursillistas, we know that Jesus asks us to follow in the footsteps of Peter to bring his Good News into our surroundings. The fish of Cursillo include those whom Pope Francis identifies as being on the margins who have run out of hope and drink only of discouragement. Eduardo Bonnín, our Cursillo founder, identifies these same as the "faraway." The message of Cursillo in good part is directed toward serving and bringing the Good News to these "faraway," all the while building a Christian community of friendship that provides a foundation of strength and perseverance in this mission.

As your new Cursillo Lay Director beginning last July, I would like to say that I am humbled and honored to serve the Cursillo community in this position. When I began my Cursillo journey eleven years ago, I certainly could not have expected to be serving in this capacity. John DeJulio, our previous Lay Director, taught me so much in both action and deed. He inspired me with a happy leadership style, and one of doing. John was instrumental in reforming the School of Leaders under one roof at St. Augustine's Church in New City, which has become a blessing in the unity of our New York Cursillo (English). Before that, I served as Pre-Cursillo chairperson with Jim Odell as Lay Director. Jim provided my first introduction to the Secretariat and was instrumental in organizing the first Cursillo de Cursillos for our Archdiocese. The insights and understanding into the foundation and depths of the Cursillo Movement that I gained during that time serves me to the present day.

My hope and prayer during my service as Lay Director is that our Cursillo community grows in numbers and that the foundations of our Fourth Day in Group Reunion and Ultreya are strengthened. The Ultreya, and particularly Group Reunion, provide us with the spiritual food and emotional strength to sustain us on our mission. The bonds of friendship and the tripod of piety, study, and action that give us perseverance are developed and maintained

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in Group Reunion and Ultreya. These friendships and the enlightenments that Jesus gives us on our journey are forged and tempered in His Holy Name so that we may carry on His work.

Some of our Ultreyas are small, and the attendance may have large swings, but I encourage you not to be discouraged by this and to persevere. I have attended small Ultreyas and have felt as spiritually nourished as with larger numbers. Christ is always present. By perseverance in prayer and petition to Jesus Christ, our numbers will grow in accordance with God's will.

Perhaps there are a number of Cursillistas who are no longer active in Cursillo because they let their journey slip for a while and might no longer feel welcome. We of course know differently that they are always welcome and encourage them to be part of our community, no matter how long away. I propose that we do our best to reach out to these. Rebuilding our numbers in this way will also help us build with new candidates. Perhaps you can remember someone you sponsored or who was on your table during the Weekend and can reach out to them and welcome them back. The Group Reunion and Ultreya are so much more than just social gatherings. They have real and sustaining value in helping us hear the words of Jesus and guiding us on our path in Christ.

As we continue our Cursillo journey and mission, we are reminded that the fish are many, but the fishers few. Happy fishing in the name of Jesus Christ!! May you bring them to Christ with the smile of Christian joy.

**Joe Lysonski, Lay Director**

P.S. I would be remiss if I did not mention the members of our dedicated Cursillo Secretariat as they accomplish so much with their service. Deacon Bill Castellane is our Spiritual Advisor. Joe Bisesto is our Pre-Cursillo Chairperson, Martha Santos our Cursillo Chairperson, and Lourdes Blanco our Post-Cursillo Chairperson. Sue Tornatore, our School of Leaders Chairperson, has done a fabulous job in handling our transition to a single School of Leaders. Millie Blanco is our Secretary and Marianne Stabile is our Treasurer. Don Jones is our Ecclesial Movements Liaison within the Archdiocese. Many thanks to our many Ultreya Representatives who help us persevere, to Al Lett who manages our Cursillo-wide email list, and to Tom Kane who is our Communications director and who maintains our web site and produces our fantastic-looking Rooster Crows.

**Men's Weekend #210**  
**September 24-27, 2015**  
**Mt. Alvernia, Wappingers Falls, NY**  
**Rector: Joe Lysonski**

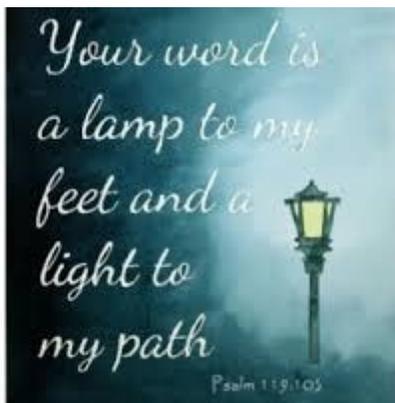


Candidate	Location
Frank Confalone	Ossining
Edward Marchigiani	Carmel
Justin Murphy	Poughkeepsie
James T. Parsons	Staten Island
Joseph Polizzi	Staten Island
Christopher Sena	Ossining
Salvatore Sutera	Staten Island



**COME AND SEE**  
 JOHN 1:46

**Women's Weekend #212**  
**October 22-25, 2015**  
**Mt. Alvernia, Wappingers Falls, NY**  
**Rectora: Yolanda Leavy**



Candidate	Parish
Dorothy Cole	Port Jervis
Rei D'Agostino	Staten Island
Susan Azzara	Yonkers
Jackie Ferretti	Carmel
Kathi DeLisa	Wappingers Falls
Sandra Cummings	New York
Theresa Burdick	Brewster
Gaby Romeri	Ossining
Connie Gardoqui	North Hampton
Lori Mercurio	Middletown
Darlene O'Morrissey	Middletown
Cathy Rubsum	Red Hook
Ivette Guzman	Bronx
Jennifer Batac	Yonkers

## Bowdoin Park Family Picnic August 2015

Each year in either the month of July or August the Cursillo Community comes together in friendship for our annual Bowdoin Park Family Picnic. Both Cursillistas and non-Cursillistas enjoy a day of friendship and outdoor fun. It is a day of rest and relaxation mixed with pleasant conversation and joyful distractions. We are thankful to Jeannette Fitch who for many years prior organized this event. 2014 was Ms. Fitch's last year in planning the activity. Fortunately enough, MaryLou and Ed Koziol were a tremendous help and have agreed to take over the planning for this relaxing family event for the next couple of years. The weather was exceptionally beautiful and we had a great turn out. It was truly a joy to gather together and enjoy our special Cursillo friendships. The day began with Fr. Roch celebrating mass and offering us a warm and uplifting homily. After mass we feasted on and shared all our homemade favorite dishes. We ended the day with a mini-Olympics activity for children ages 5 to 95. It was a tough one as Joe Bisesto and Marianne Stabile were pegged against each other in the tug-of-war event. Thankfully, both remained friends in the end.

**By Lourdes Blanco**

## Cursillo (English) Secretariat Archdiocese of New York

Position	Name	Parish	Term
Spiritual Director	Deacon Bill Castellane	St. Patrick's— St. Mary's, Newburgh	2018 (June)
Lay Director	Joseph Lysonski	St. Pius X, Scarsdale	2018 (June)
Secretary	Mildred Blanco	St. Bartholomew, Yonkers	2018 (June)
Treasurer	Marianne Stabile	Church of the Holy Spirit, Cortlandt	2017 (Dec)
Pre-Cursillo Chairperson	Joseph Bisesto	Holy Name, Valhalla	2018 (June)
Post-Cursillo Chairperson	Lourdes Blanco	Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Ardsley	2017 (Dec)
Cursillo Chairperson	Martha Santos	St. Paul's, Bullville	2017 (Dec)
School of Leaders Chair	Sue Tornatore	St. Mary's, Wappingers Falls	2016 (June)

### Books For Suggested Reading:

**Rediscover Jesus** by Matthew Kelly

If you are looking for a good Spiritual reading, I would like to suggest this book. It is available through The Dynamic Catholic Institute.

This book explores one's relationship with Jesus. It begins with a prologue of a young man rushing to get to the airport. On his way, he knocks over a small produce stand. He stops to pick up the produce and his friends yell to him to forget it because he will miss his flight, but he continues to pick up the produce. The woman behind the stand was crying and was also blind. When finished putting everything back on the stand, he asked her if she was okay and gave her money and said, "This money should cover the damages." She said in reply, "Mister, are you Jesus?" He replied, "Oh no." She replied "I only asked because I prayed for Jesus to help me as I heard my fruit falling all over the sidewalk." **When were you ever asked if you were Jesus?** He did miss his plane.

**Enjoy,  
Deacon Bill**

## A Note from Pre-cursillo Committee...

Welcome to all new Cursillistas of Mens #210 and Womens # 212!

We hope you are living your 4<sup>th</sup> day with joy. Many of you have already been talking to your friends and family about the wonderful weekend you have experienced and may be thinking about who you would like to invite to the upcoming fall weekends. The first step of course is to pray for guidance on whom to ask. Consider bringing a potential candidate to your Ultreya to see what the 4<sup>th</sup> day is all about and to allow your Ultreya the opportunity to make friends with them as well. Talk to your Ultreya representative about your candidate, ask them for both an application and sponsor form as well as the Sponsor Guideline sheet or download the forms on our website. What a gift to give the opportunity for someone to experience the love of Christ as you did on your weekend.

**Men's weekend April 7-10, 2016**

**Women's weekend May 12-15, 2016**

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## Weekend Palanca

**Please show the candidates our support of our community in one of the following ways:**

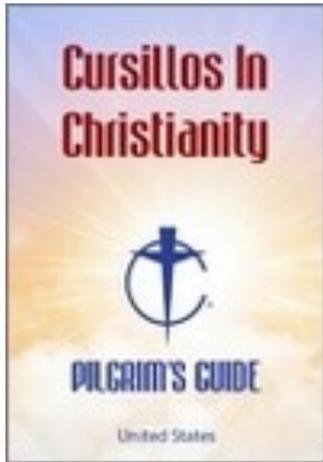
1) **PRAYER PALANCA:** We are using Volunteerspot.com to organize Palanca prayer vigils throughout the weekends. An account is not necessary; all you need is an email address. Please visit <http://vols.pt/s6Y6jf> to sign up. A link may also be found on our NY Cursillo (English) website.

2) **WRITTEN PALANCA:** may be sent to:

Yolanda Leavy  
310 South Centerville Road  
Middletown, NY 10940  
(NYPALANCA@HVC.RR.COM)

3) **KITCHEN PALANCA:** For information regarding Kitchen Palanca please phone Joann Vignini (845-561-7674).

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## Updated Pilgrim's Guides!

By Jim Santos

On January 4 the National Cursillo Movement debuted the new Pilgrim's Guide. Beside having a beautiful new cover, the new guide is a considerable improvement on the Guide that we have been using since 1994.

Our new Guide has revised morning and evening prayers, as well as revised prayers before and after meditation. These new versions are in an easier to absorb tone and vocabulary.

There is a new version of the Stations of the Cross, written by Fr. Christopher Llanos, S.J that rely less on scripture and more on meditation.

The Holy Mass is included, which should be a great help for those of us who are still trying to remember the Act of Contrition and Nicene Creed.

The Saturday Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary (the Sabatina) is now included.

Several items have been removed (such as Group Reunion and Ultreya format) in an effort to tailor the Guide to the individual.

Why a new Guide? In the continuing attempt to move toward a better understanding of the Charism of the Movement, it was decided to use the Pilgrim's Guide currently being used by the Cursillo Movement of Majorca, Spain. Their manual was translated to English for our use. In addition, unlike the older Guides that were different from one another, the new Guides in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese are now identical. One Movement, one Guide.

I believe that everyone that sees the new Pilgrim's Guide will not only agree that it is a great improvement, but will also want to get one for themselves! They are available through the National Cursillo website at <http://www.natl-cursillo.org/cursillo-literature/>

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## School of Leader's Update!

By Sue Tornatore

The School of Leaders has been going strong now for close to two years! We have been enlightened by many wonderful talks both in our doctrinal talks and in our technique talks. For the past year, we have been learning and studying the book, Whom Shall I Send. It's hard to believe we have finished it! We have had thought provoking discussion about it all.

We have been working hard for our movement with work on a new flyer to be given to prospective candidates by the Pre-Cursillo group. The Cursillo group has been working on getting all of the weekend manuals on the same timeline, while the Post-Cursillo team is working on great ideas for different activities and retreats!!!

Coming up in the next few months will be: the doctrinal talks will focus on Pope Francis' Joy of the Gospel, while the technique talks will have many different topics. They include exploring and discussing the new edition of the Pilgrim's Guide from Spain, looking into how to "do" Pre-Cursillo, Cursillo and Post - Cursillo. So many of us know what the definitions of the three parts of the movement are, but many have asked us, how do you do it? This is our way of helping all of us figure out the answer to that question!!!

So come join us on our journey of learning, prayer, and working for our beloved movement! See you there!

## A new brochure for NY Cursillo (English) is now Available!

Attention fellow Cursillistas! A new Cursillo brochure is now available with up to the minute information. The brochure was prepared by the Pre-Cursillo committee at the School of Leadders. It was finalized and adopted by the Secretariat in February 2016. The Brochure was reviewed and modified over a number of months with the help of many Cursillistas including several of our new Cursillistas. In the age of instant information, the brochure can be used for a quick general description of Cursillo and for potential candidates to supplement the "Cursillo, What Is It" and "Sponsor's Booklet". It can be printed as a tri-fold brochure on both sides of paper, or as a 2-page brochure using the single sided option. It can be printed as black and white or in color. Download the brochure from the following link: [https://www.natl-cursillo.org/newyork/Documents/2016\\_NY\\_Cursillo\\_Brochure.pdf](https://www.natl-cursillo.org/newyork/Documents/2016_NY_Cursillo_Brochure.pdf)



*Peter denied Jesus three times before the rooster crowed.*

### What is Cursillo?

Cursillo means "short course" in Christianity.

It is a lay movement of the Catholic Church that started in Majorca, Spain in the 1940's. The first Cursillo in the USA was in Waco, TX in 1952. The founders of Cursillo were dedicated to helping people know Christ better, and to give the laity a renewed spirituality and a better understanding of how God works within us.

- Cursillo provides a method to help sustain and nurture you in your Christian journey.
- Cursillo develops an awareness of the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us.
- Cursillo revitalizes your world and helps you live Christian values within your environment.

### How to participate?

To participate you will have a sponsor who is a Cursillista, a person who has lived a Cursillo. Cursillo is the friendship among people. The sponsor will help you on the weekend, will answer any questions you may have, and will help you find a Group Reunion and Ultreya closest to you.

Don't have a sponsor? No Problem!

Call us and we will arrange for someone to be your guide and sponsor.

### Contact Us

Joseph Bisesto, Pre-Cursillo Chairperson

Phone: (914) 588-2262

Email: [jpbisesto@yahoo.com](mailto:jpbisesto@yahoo.com)

or visit us at:

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



*Cursillo Builds on a Firm Catholic Foundation*

- Focused prayer life
- Better relationship with God
- Faith shared in friendship

**DISCOVER A 3-DAY WEEKEND AND YOUR 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY TO ENRICH YOUR LIFE FOREVER**

NEW YORK CURSILLO (ENGLISH)

## Joe Bisesto

## 20-Week Raffle for 2016

Our annual **Twenty-Week Raffle** for the ENTIRE New York Archdiocese is now underway. This fund raising Raffle is critical for our Cursillo Weekends to continue. The Raffle proceeds allow us to maintain our low \$165 donation for the Weekend, providing support for candidates who cannot afford this amount and most important keeps New York Archdiocese Cursillo solvent in support of other expenses. The tickets are \$20.00 and are being distributed at the upcoming Ultreyas. There are two weekly winners, for 20 weeks: one \$25.00 and one \$50.00. The final drawing includes one \$100.00, two \$250.00, one \$500.00, and one \$1,000.00 prizes. The first drawing is on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the following 19 at various Ultreyas and School of Leaders. The final drawings will be at our Annual Harvest Social on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Please purchase as many tickets as you can and sell even more to your friends as well. We are counting on you for a successful Raffle. Many thanks to all for your outreach and generosity to Cursillo.

**Yolanda Leavy, Raffle Committee Chairperson**

## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As many of you know, our dear brother in Christ Fr. Richard Albertine and a group of committed Christian Men and women from the city of Windhoek in Namibia, Africa are trying to get Cursillo off the ground. A few weeks ago an appeal went out to you to support that effort by contributing to the cost of 100 pilgrims guides.



I am happy to report that they have been successfully delivered via Fr. Emile of Maryknoll and are being used for the weekend underway as I am writing this [9-26-15].

To all who either contributed your extra Pilgrims guides or made a monetary contribution to defray the cost of those provided by the secretariat, many thanks from Fr Richard, myself and all those great aspiring Cursillistas across the pond.

Let's keep them in our prayers as they go forward.

**De Colores**  
**Ed Koziol**

## A Cursillo Legacy

Consider leaving a legacy to the Cursillo (English) movement by including a bequest in your will and/or consider having Cursillo mentioned as a memoriam in your obituary.

Please recognize that there are many of us who will never live 30 years or so to see this come to fruition, but what a wonderful legacy to leave as we know that whatever we donate will be going not only toward the growth of the Cursillo Movement but ultimately to the Spiritual growth of future generations.



Cursillistas meet for a New York Diocesan Ultraya held in The Villages down in Florida. They will be meeting the third Thursday of February and March at 7:30. Let us know if you are going to be in Florida during one of those times.

Their Ultraya was held simultaneously along with the Staten Island Ultraya and both gatherings prayed for the other.

It seems there is a strong Cursillo presence in The Villages during the winter months.

To all of you down there, enjoy the warmth, and congratulations on continuing the journey while you are away. Maybe one day there will be a weekend held down there.

## Cursillo (English) - Our History in the Archdiocese of New York

Did you ever wonder how the Rooster Crows Newsletter got its name and when it started? The name is a perfect fit of imagery. Its origin dates back to a conversation in 1972 between long-time Cursillistas George Burke and Ed Koziol at Ed's kitchen table. George and Ed met while serving on the team of a Cursillo in 1971. Pierre Poux was rector. Soon after, George was asked to organize and create a newsletter for the New York archdiocesan-wide Cursillo community. Ed offered to help. As they sat at the kitchen table, George spotted the Kellogg's Cornflake box picturing the Kellogg's rooster and decided that would be a great logo. The name for the newsletter was a "lightbulb moment". (Or maybe the Holy Spirit).

## In Memory Of

Pray for these Cursillistas who entered their 5<sup>th</sup> Day

***Maria Darocha***

***Joe Laduca***

***Marge McKeon***

***Bob Quinlan***

***Guy Schiller***

“The Lord has called you home to be with Him”



## News You Can Use

Please check out the newly designed National Cursillo website at <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/>. It has a new layout that makes it easier to access a host of information such as Cursillo literature, the National newsletter, Palanca requests, and links to web sites from Cursillos throughout the country. Videos are available on the Resource Center section for the annual National Encounters from 2012 to 2015. A new section provides a biography of Eduardo Bonnín, our Cursillo founder, and some of his writings and interviews. Eduardo, who entered his 5<sup>th</sup> day in 2008, is in the first step in the process for Beatification and Canonization. It's well worth reading for gaining insights into the foundations and mentality of Cursillo.

## From the desk of Martha Gutowski Thornley

WHEN I WAS ASKED IF I WOULD WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR THE ROOSTER CROWS I WAS NOT GIVEN A TOPIC BUT SINCE THIS FEBRUARY MARKS THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF MY ORIGINAL WEEKEND IT SEEMED TO ME THAT I SHOULD SAY "YES" AND GIVE WITNESS TO WHAT CURSILLO HAS MEANT TO ME.

MY FIRST HUSBAND, JOE GUTOWSKI, WHO DIED IN 1993, AND I BOTH MADE OUR CURSILLOS IN SPANISH HARLEM IN 1966. IT SHAPED THE REST OF OUR LIVES. VATICAN II HAD JUST ENDED AND THERE WAS A NEW ENERGY AND SPIRIT BLOWING THROUGH THE CHURCH. THE MESSAGE OF CURSILLO FIT RIGHT INTO THAT SPIRIT ESPECIALLY WITH ITS EMPHASIS ON THE ROLE OF THE LAITY AS "PRIEST, PROPHET AND KING" AND THE EMPHASIS ON GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE WAS A SPECIAL GIFT TO ME. I FELT AS THOUGH, TO BORROW THE TITLE OF A BOOK BY MARCUS BORG, I WAS "MEETING JESUS AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME". I HAD LOST THE JESUS I HAD KNOWN AS A CHILD AND DISCOVERED IN THOSE THREE DAYS THAT HE WAS/IS EVERYWHERE. IT WAS AN INNER HEALING. AND THE TOOLS THAT CURSILLO OFFERS FOR GROWTH, ESPECIALLY ITS EMPHASIS ON THE TRIPOD OF PIETY, STUDY AND ACTION, HAVE KEPT ME ON THE PILGRIMAGE THAT IS OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE. STUDY HAS AT TIMES STRETCHED ME BEYOND MY COMFORT LEVEL BUT IN STRETCHING I HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED TO SEARCH FOR THE "MORE" THAT IS ALWAYS A PART OF GOD. ACTION, "CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU", HAS BROUGHT ME TO PLACES AND PEOPLE AND ACTIVITIES I MIGHT NEVER HAVE PURSUED WITHOUT THE CONCEPT OF THE TRIPOD AS ESSENTIAL TO FOLLOWING HIM. PRAYER IS A LITTLE HARDER TO MEASURE BUT MY CONCEPT OF PRAYER HAS BROADENED. IT HAS BECOME LESS WORDY. THE TRAPPIST MONK, THOMAS KEATING, TELLS US THAT "SILENCE IS GOD'S FIRST LANGUAGE. EVERYTHING ELSE IS A POOR TRANSLATION".

A FEW YEARS AGO ONE OF MY GRANDCHILDREN SAID, "GRANDMA, YOU HAVE THE BEST FRIENDS" .WHEN I ASKED HER WHY SHE FELT THAT WAY SHE ANSWERED, "BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS THERE FOR EACH OTHER". FRIENDSHIP IS AT THE HEART OF CURSILLO, "MAKE A FRIEND, BE A FRIEND.....". MARY RYAN, WHO WITH HER LATE HUSBAND, DON, HAVE GIVEN MUCH TIME AND ENERGY TO CURSILLO, AND I SAT NEXT TO ONE ANOTHER ON WOMEN'S CURSILLO #3 IN 1966. WE HAVE BEEN FRIENDS EVER SINCE. THE LIST OF FRIENDS, ACTUALLY, IS VERY LONG AND, AS MY GRANDAUGHTER NOTICED, WE HAVE BEEN THERE FOR ONE ANOTHER. WE HAVE REJOICED TOGETHER AND WE HAVE GRIEVED TOGETHER. FRIENDSHIP IS NOT UNIQUE TO CURSILLO BUT IT IS BROUGHT TO ANOTHER LEVEL IN GROUP REUNION WHERE CHRIST ANIMATES ALL WE SAY AND DO. IT IS A UNIQUE GIFT THAT CURSILLO OFFERS AND AFTER ALL THESE YEARS I STILL GROUP .

AS WE ALL DID I HEARD MANY TALKS ON MY WEEKEND BUT ONE PHRASE HAS STAYED WITH ME, PARTICULARLY WHEN ALL ELSE SEEMED TO BRING NO RESOLUTION OR CONSOLATION. IT HAS, AT THOSE TIMES, BEEN "MY ROCK AND MY SALVATION" . MSGR. ROBERT J. FOX, THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR, TOLD US THAT "PEACE IS A PERSON AND THAT PERSON IS JESUS CHRIST". NOT ONLY IS "CHRIST COUNTING ON ME" BUT "I ON HIM" ....NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, HE IS PRESENT. I STRUGGLE TO LIVE THAT AND THANK CURSILLO FOR ALL ITS WISDOM AND INSIGHTS. I ALSO THANK ALL THE CURSILLISTAS I HAVE BEEN BLESSED TO KNOW WHO HAVE BEEN MY FELLOW PILGRIMS AND FOR, AS MY GRANDAUGHTER REMARKED, "ALWAYS BEING THERE..."

**Martha is celebrating her 50th year in Cursillo and was the first woman Lay Director!**

## Revitalizing Our Ultreyas

Ultreya representatives were invited to come together to share ideas, positive experiences as well as their frustrations in a one day forum entitled “Revitalizing our Ultreyas” on November 8, 2015. The day began with a short welcome and appreciation to all of for answering God’s call to shepherd other Cursillistas. We were reminded that as Shepherds, Ultreya reps gather their flock monthly, spiritually feed them, and they bring back those who have strayed away. Still, the most important thing that an Ultreya representative does is pray. They pray for guidance in leading their Ultreya, pray for the growth of their Ultreya, pray for help in gathering the lost of their Ultreya. It was so important to have all the Ultreya representatives together in one gathering. In addition to sharing ideas, there is the need to know they are not alone in leading their Ultreyas or in fulfilling their responsibility to our Cursillo Community.

The meditation was followed by two dynamic talks. The first talk, The Role of the Ultreya Representative was given by Jim Santos. Jim reminded us of the hierarchy of commitment and how family comes first. It is important to support our movement, our church and our Ultreyas. Still we need to make sure we are present to those closest to us—our families.

The second talk, entitled “Meaningful Ultreya: Spiritual Armor for the Journey”, was given by John Meenagh . John started by pointing out that Eduardo Bonnín taught that Ultreya, along with Group Reunion, is a key component of the Cursillista’s 4th day. It is what secures our friendship with Christ. Ultreya strengthens our friendships and helps us to persevere on the journey, which is focused on “being Christ” in our environments. Ultreya nurtures the three essential encounters: (1) friendship with myself; (2) with Christ; and (3) with my friends in Christ. John went on to talk about how small group sharing allows us to comfort and encourage one another. "Therefore, along with our blessings we must not be afraid to share our failures, our doubts or our fears because this sharing may help not only the person sharing but also the listeners."

The day ended with an open forum where each Ultreya representative was able to share what is working well in their Ultreya as well as problem solve for things they would like to see different. We walked away feeling inspired and reenergized, with pockets filled with new and exciting ideas and possible solutions.

**By Lourdes Blanco**



## 25th National Cursillo Encounter July, 2015

I feel that one of the best kept secrets of Cursillo is the National Encounter. This past year, 2015, the National Encounter was held at Villanova University in Philadelphia, PA from July 23rd – 26th. Just like a Cursillo weekend, starting from Thursday night and continuing till Sunday morning. There were about 12 people from the New York Cursillo who attend this encounter. People from all over the United States, over 600, come to pray, share, listen, laugh, and of course eat with one another. You develop relationships with other Cursillistas throughout the US and find out that they embrace their Fourth Day as much as you do.

Each year there are different talks from different people, spiritual and lay. This past year the talks included: “Friendship with Christ” by Dr. Ralph Martin, “Prayer and Discernment” by Rev. John Myers, “Charity in the 21st Century” by Deacon Gary Terrana, “Attitude and Reaction” by Maribel Gomez, “Means to Energize our Fourth Day” by Walter Benevido, “The Transforming Power



of God” by Most Rev. Carlos A Sevilla, SJ, “Living the Gift of Cursillo Every Day” by Rev. Alex Waraksa and National Cursillo Center Update by Hoang Tran. Each talk is only about 45 minutes long with time for discussion or “group sharing” (that’s what it is called) with those around you. This makes for a great time to make new friends. There’s also plenty of time for reflection, meeting new friends, sight seeing, shopping. You are not required to attend each of the talks but who wouldn’t want to? Each talk is different and revitalizes your commitment to Cursillo. Also each talk has been placed on the National Cursillo website for you to either hear or read. I encourage you to listen to them.

[www.natl-cursillo.org/resource.intro/2015-national-cursillo-encounter-workshop-sessions/](http://www.natl-cursillo.org/resource.intro/2015-national-cursillo-encounter-workshop-sessions/)

For the spiritual component of the weekend there’s Thursday night: keynote address followed by Holy Hour and Sacrament of Reconciliation; Friday: Morning Prayers, Mass, Ultreya and Night Prayers; Saturday: Morning Prayers, Mass and Fiesta. I have to admit that the Fiesta is the best. There are groups of people from Korean Cursillo, Vietnamese Cursillo, Spanish Cursillo and local English Cursillo who perform a “skit”. These are most entertaining to say the least. Such as a group performing a song from “Sister Act” or another group singing an Elvis Presley song. Each group comes up with a skit that delights the audience and usually ends with a Congo line of 600 Cursillistas around the room.

Although I haven’t been to many – the ones that I have attended always energizes me of the reason why I commit to Cursillo. I encourage you to plan to attend a National Encounter when you can. This year it will be Aug 4 – 7, 2016 Lewis University, near Chicago, Il. You can check the National Cursillo website for registration. Go Have Some Fun with other Cursillistas!

**By Martha Santos**



## 2015 Harvest Festival Recap

November 14, 2015

Holy Cross Church

South Centerville, NY

This year's Harvest Festival kicked off with a mass offered by Father Michael Cedro at

Holy Cross Church. Then, the evening continued with an old-fashioned boot-scootin Harvest Hoedown at the Holy Cross Parish Center. There were over 75 Cursillistas from the various Ultreyas present. The Glory Bound Band provided the entertainment with some Country-Western and Square Dancing music. Finally, we ended the night with the calling of our raffle baskets and 50/50. Thank you to all the Ultreyas and Cursillistas who helped, attended the event, provided a basket, and prayed for us, we could not have done it without you. The Harvest Festival Committee is already hard at work putting together this year's Harvest Festival. Please stay tuned for details.

**By Jackie Mazariegos**





## 2015 Advent Ulreya Recap

December 12, 2015

Mt. Alvernia in Wappingers Falls, NY

On Saturday December 12, 2015 we held our annual NY Archdiocese Advent Ulreya at Mt. Alvernia. Over 60 Cursillistas gathered to share prayer, friendship and good food. Our dear friend Fr. Roch celebrated a simply beautiful Advent Mass in the main chapel, and delivered an equally inspiring homily. He

spoke of Our Lady of Guadalupe and her transformational impact on Mexico and the Americas. Our Cursillo Spiritual Director Deacon Bill Castellane assisted Fr. Roch on the altar. Following Mass we heard from 3 witnesses who gave compelling testimony regarding their 4th day and living the Cursillo tripod of piety, study and action. I wish to thank my dear friends Brian Holt, John Meenagh, and Deacon Bill Castellane for their witness. Each gave such moving and inspiring testimony. Afterwards, our Lay Director Joe Lysonski gave us words of encouragement mixed in with some timely announcements. We then retired to the gymnasium for small group sharing. We broke off into about 15 groups and shared our successes, and our



failures, in our respective Christian journeys and efforts to live our Cursillo tripod. We were blessed throughout with the beautiful guitar music and vocals by Jim Gallaher. We prayed together in adoration and gave thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ for our abundant blessings. Of course what would follow all this worship and witness, FOOD. We frankly had so many folks bring such scrumptious and delightful meals, appetizers, desserts, and other treats that no one could have possibly left hungry. Many thanks also to my wife Marion for her tireless efforts, and to Brian and Mary Holt, Craig and Liz Dieter, Zina Ferro and Yogi, John and Bonnie Meenagh, and Sue Tornatore.



**By Doug FitzMorris**



## 2016 Lenten Ultreya Recap

February 6, 2016

Mt. St. Francis in Peekskill, NY

Our Archdiocesan-wide Lenten Prayer Service took place on February 6, 2016 at Mt. St. Francis. The service began with a talk about how Lent is about drawing closer to God through true transformation of our character. We were encouraged to call upon our Blessed Mother for the

strength and courage to choose to work on that part of us we know we should change; the part of us we generally chose to keep hidden from others. Instead of giving up chocolate, wine or smoking for Lent, we were motivated to give up our anger, our gossiping or our misuse of the internet. By truly transforming our character we begin to grow closer to God; we become the Christian person God wants us to be. We were reminded that Lent should lead to a permanent transformation and that as our friendship with God grows, so does the joy we experience in life.

The talk was followed by a beautiful service where participants were invited to surrender whatever it is that is keeping them from drawing closer to Christ into a bowl of holy water. In silent prayer we lined up and immersed our hand into the water and asked Jesus to wash away all that keeps us from drawing closer to Him. As our Christian brothers and sisters dried our hand, we were given a candle which we lit as we invited Jesus to light all that



is dark in us.

The service included our Remembrance Prayer for all the Cursillistas who have gone onto their 5<sup>th</sup> day. After the service, all were invited to share in a light dinner as we talked with friends, some of whom we have not seen for a while. The service helped prepare us for the gift of Lent.

**By Lourdes Blanco**





## 2015 Annual Communion Breakfast Recap

December 5, 2015

Pearl of the Atlantic, Staten Island, NY

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the New York Cursillo (English) Archdiocese-wide 21st Annual Communion Breakfast was once again held on the Pearl of the Atlantic, Staten Island. For the 4<sup>th</sup> straight year, over 160 Cursillistas from the far away reaches of the Archdiocese, made the journey to welcome in the Advent season. Some travel from over 100 miles away just to attend. The Breakfast food was as good as always for which I am very thankful.

It is always such a wonderful way to jump start the Christmas Holiday, by spending social time with our friends from all over the region. I'd like to thank Father Tom Devery, Deacon Steve Tobon, Deacon Bill Castellane, and one of our newest Cursillistas Father Basil Akut for concelebrating the Mass before the breakfast began. Father Basil made his weekend in the spring of 2015. We are a very blessed Community to have so many Clergy willing to feed us spiritually, whether at the breakfast, or on the weekends, at Leaders School and other various retreats throughout the year. Thanks to all of them. Also a special thank you to Sister Maureen Colleary for her talk on the Pope Francis's granting an indulgence on the occasion of the extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. Five shrines and churches in the Archdiocese of New York are holy sites and places of pilgrimage where a Holy Door, a Door of Mercy, will be opened and where the clergy, religious, and faithful can obtain the Jubilee Indulgence.

The Breakfast is proving to be a major fundraiser for our Community. Thanks to all who donate baskets and prizes and also to those who dig into their pockets to purchase raffle tickets for the many baskets, wreaths, the 50-50, and even a surprise gift, won by our own Jerry Vuoso. It is through everyone's efforts that this has become the success that it is. By the way, Jerry won the last gift of the raffle drawings after becoming almost despondent waiting for one of his tickets to be called.

I was almost, but not quite, embarrassed, as my own mother, Barbara Castaldo, won \$535 in the 50/50. Thank God it was Father Tom Devery who pulled the winning ticket and not me.

**By Tom Castaldo**



## SAVE THE DATE!

For the most up to date calendar, visit our website:  
[https://www.natl-cursillo.org/newyork/Calendar\\_of\\_Events.html](https://www.natl-cursillo.org/newyork/Calendar_of_Events.html)

Date	Event	Location	Comment
March 12	Council of Ecclesial Movements	Maryknoll Ossining, NY	Annual Lenten Retreat
April 7-10	Men's Weekend #211	Mt. Alvernia, Wappinger's Falls	Rector: Don Swanerbury
April 29-May 1	Region 1 Spring Encounter	St. Thomas Seminary Bloomfield, CT	Stay tuned for more information!
May 12-15	Women's Weekend #213	Mt. Alvernia, Wappinger's Falls	Rectora: Deb Swanerbury
Summer, 2016	Summer Picnic / Ultreya	Bowdoin Park, Wappinger's Falls	Stay tuned for more information!
August 4-7	National Encounter	Lewis University Chicago, IL	Stay tuned for more information!
October 15	Region 1 Fall Encounter	St. Thomas Seminary Bloomfield, CT	Stay tuned for more information!
October 27-30	Men's Weekend #212	Mt. Alvernia, Wappinger's Falls	Rector: TBD
November 5	Harvest Festival	Holy Cross, South Centerville	Stay tuned for more information!
November 17-20	Women's Weekend #214	Mt. Alvernia, Wappinger's Falls	Rectora: TBD
December 3	Annual Mass and Communion Breakfast	Staten Island	Stay tuned for more information!
December 17	Advent Ultreya	Stay tuned for more information!	

The School of Leaders meets at 10am on the second Saturday of each month at St. Augustine's in New City, NY in Rockland County. All Cursillistas are welcome to attend.

Join us on March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8 and November 12 (no meeting in December).

## Ultreya Locations

County	City/Town	Meeting Place	Time	Contact
Bronx	The Bronx	St. Francis Xavier	Fourth Tuesday 7:30pm	Ed Shimansky (718) 931-8373
Dutchess	Hopewell Junction	Saint Kateri	Second Thursday 7:00pm	Bonnie Meenagh (845) 227-4347
Dutchess	Poughkeepsie	Mt. Alvernia, Wappingers Falls	Fourth Monday 7:30pm	Mary Lou Koziol (845)-297-1319
Dutchess (North)	Hyde Park	Regina Coeli Parish Center	Third Saturday, 7:00pm	Linda Dalmer (845) 266-3176
New York	Upper Manhattan	St. Charles Borromeo 211 W 141st St	Second Thursday, 7:00pm	Norma Marshburn (212) 410-1974
Orange	Bulville/Goshen/ Middletown	St. Paul's Church	Third Saturday 7:30pm	Jim Santos (845) 692-2338
Orange	Pine Bush	Infant Savior	Second Thursday 7:30pm	Jerry Stabile (845) 454-3268
Orange	Walden	Most Precious Blood	First Thursday 7:00pm	Kathy Livingston (845) 778-0320
Orange	Minisink	Holy Cross, South Centerville	First Saturday 7:00pm	Yolanda Leavy (845) 355-2903
Putnam	Mahopac/ Carmel	Our Lady of the Lake, Lake Carmel	Third Friday 7:30pm	Don MacDonnell (845) 225-8680
Richmond	Staten Island	Holy Child School of Religion	Third Thursday 7:30pm	Howard and Martha Capek (718) 984-2270
Sullivan	Liberty	St. Peter's Church	Fourth Saturday 6:30pm	Nick Pastorino (914) 799-4494
Ulster	Saugerties	St. John the Evangelist	Second Thursday 7:30pm	Judy DeFino (845) 217-1229
Westchester	Bedford	St. Patrick's Church (Basement)	Fourth Friday 7:30pm	Rob Ryser (914) 763-3642
Westchester	White Plains	St. Bernard's	Third Saturday 7:30pm	Don Jones (914) 948-1090
Westchester	Valhalla	St. Bernard's in White Plains	Third Saturday 7:30pm	Joe Bisesto (914) 948-4489
Westchester	Peekskill/ Putnam Valley	Susie Caras and John Keck Home	Third Wednesday, 7:30pm	Marianne Stabile (914) 528 0618
Westchester	Yonkers	St. Bartholomew's McManus Center (2nd floor) 15 Palmer Rd., Yonkers, NY	Last Saturday, 6:30 pm	Mildred Blanco (646) 529-3249