

The Rainbow Rooster

Newsletter July 2007



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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Co-Ed #86 Weekend
9/27 - 9/30/07
- ◆ Men's #87 Weekend
2/28 - 3/2/08
- ◆ Women's #88 Weekend
5/1 - 5/4/08
- ◆ ¡Ultreya!
8/19/07
Christ Church
New Brighton

The Lay Leader's Letter: A Time For Everything

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:" (Ecc. 3:1) As I began my tenure as the lay leader for Cursillo for the Diocese, my mind was drawn to the book of Ecclesiastes and in particular, Chapter 3. God calls each one of us to do His work in His time, not ours. God called Ron Benson to four plus years of service as the lay leader of Cursillo here and I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Ron for a "job well done." For Ron and Polly the time has come for God to call them on to other work in His name. Thank you my friend for all of the hard work for our Lord.

So too it is with others called to the work of Cursillo on the Secretariat. In August, Dick Halsey our Weekend Coordinator is off to Turkey and a new career as a college professor at Bilkent University in Ankara. Dick was new to the secretariat this year and he continued the work begun by Lisa Bell-Loncella to update and streamline the ominous and daunting task of Weekend Coordinator. We will all miss you, Dick, and we wish you well as you move on.

As Dick leaves, we must find a replacement for him as quickly as possible. Lisa Bell-Loncella has agreed to help with our

September co-ed weekend but we need others to step forward to the call. Have you ever felt the call to a leadership role in Cursillo? Think and pray about it as we will.

I served two positions for Cursillo and both must be replaced. Several years ago, Ron asked me to consider the position of editor of the Rooster. Mary Lou and I sort of 'double teamed' that role and we continue to prepare this publication for the press today. But with my new responsibilities as Lay Leader and Mary Lou's role as Servant Community Coordinator, our available time is rapidly becoming more scarce. Therefore, if you feel that you have a talent for preparing this publication and the time necessary to do it, please let me know. At the present time, about all it takes is the willingness to try, a computer with MS Word and an e-mail account.

My other position on the Secretariat was Special Projects Coordinator. A very gifted and talented Cursillista is praying about this role and we will know soon if they will accept it.

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At the end of this year, two other Secretariat members' terms will conclude. At that time we will be seeking additional support from those of you willing and able to serve. Terms on the secretariat are for three years and they do provide us with an extremely rewarding way to serve God and His church.

The upcoming co-ed weekend is scheduled for September 27 through September 30 at Bishop Connare Center. Joe Gorecki has assembled an outstanding team for the weekend and we ask that you pray for both the team members and those on your hearts as candidates for the weekend. Let's all strive to make this one of the best attended weekends in years. Both the men's and women's weekends were spectacular. Let's keep up the great job for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Mary Ann Evankovich has been planning and holding an ¡Ultreya! each month in different districts in the diocese. If you have not had an opportunity to attend, please check the website for updates on both locations and dates and come and join in the fun. Remember, you can bring friends, even those who have never attended a Cursillo.

Mary Lou held her first Servant Community meeting in early June at St. Martin's in Monroeville. The meeting provided information to all who attended about just what the servant community is and how we expect it to function. If you were not able to attend that meeting or did not know about the meeting and you would like more information about the servant community or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Mary Lou at 724-352-1138 or via e-mail at mlherbst@zoominternet.net.

As you can see, "there is a time for everything." As you search your heart over the next few months, listen for that quiet call. Will you be ready to say, "Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?" Is it your time to step up to more continuous service for our community? We may be calling on you.

¡Ultreya!

Ken Herbst
Lay Leader

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

The Fourth Day

As Fourth Day Coordinator part of my job is to schedule and to work out the details of the Ultreyas that are being held every month in different geographic areas of the Diocese. The objective of an Ultreya is to generate activity in the Cursillo Community and to strengthen all of our Fourth Days. The logistics of setting up and scheduling an Ultreya have been somewhat "easy". Finding a **Lay Witness** has been the most challenging component. There have been 3 Ultreyas so far this year and as each came and went with no Lay Witness Talk I began to have some personal "worry." I put that worry quickly into prayer and my trust in the Lord for I had faith that He would provide. I knew that the person who would finally come forward to volunteer to do a LWT for an Ultreya would be a person who 'heard' Him and was obeying His call.

The "Ultreya Program" has been exciting - the June 10 Ultreya was attended by over 50 Cursillistas including 12 of the 15 newest Cursillistas from the Women's Weekend #85! **PRAISE GOD!** The music was uplifting. The Floating Group Reunions were fulfilling. The fellowship was awesome. It was a very blessed time of praise and worship... BUT, again, there was still one important component missing -- there was **NO Lay Witness**.

Why are these talks so important? To "give" a Lay Witness Talk may bring the normal "public speaking" reaction of "nerves and butterflies", but who better to "practice" sharing about Christ in front of if **not** a group of Cursillistas? To "hear" a Lay Witness Talk is to have an opportunity to see another's apostolic action and to learn from that action. Lay Witness Talks **given or heard** provide an opportunity for all to grow spiritually on a path that as Cursillistas we are walking on - **the path of service to our Lord Jesus**.

In hopes of "demystifying" a Lay Witness Talk - the **Guidelines for a Lay Witness Talk** are printed elsewhere in this newsletter **READ** them - **PRAY** about them and **LISTEN** for His call on your life and then get on the schedule.

Our God is an awesome God and He does provide - a volunteer has stepped up for the next Ultreya - July 29, Christ Church Brownsville at 7p.m.

In HIS Service,
Mary Ann Evankovich

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again. ... no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the spirit." John 3:3 & 5

Lay Witness Talk Guidelines

All witness talks deal with this very same topic:

“How I Am Changing My Environment for Christ.”

The talk should be brief, no longer than **10 minutes**.

It is a **personal, experiential** story that centers on **Christ**.

It a **simple** talk about a recent experience in which the speaker tried to do something to bring his or her corner of the world closer to Christ using the Cursillo method.

It should be an **example of apostolic action** that was entered into prayerfully, where the speaker studied an environment and planned some action.

If this sounds intimidating, it should **not** be, **BECAUSE** the lay witness is **NOT** expected to do something spectacular or awe inspiring. All of us can and should have a simple, faithful witness in the normal, ongoing process of our lives.

When doing a real Lay Witness Talk - you must ask yourself these questions to **keep your talk on target**:

1. Does the experience show that Christ is at the center of my life?
2. Does it show how much I want to follow Him?
3. Is Christ the most important person involved in the talk? (Is the topic more about me or Christ?)
4. Will sharing this experience possibly help someone else to think of things they might use to transform one of their environments for Christ?

The talk should always **include the results** of the action whether it is an apostolic success or disappointment.

The Lay Witness Talk should NOT be:

- Too long (10 minutes)
- Overly sensational,
- Overly emotional,
- Specifically Cursillo oriented,
- Instructional (i.e. “my latest insight”),
- And especially it should NOT be a “testimonial”

(A testimonial is what Jesus has done for you, NOT what you have done for Him.)

At the end of the witness talk there is a period of time (usually 10 minutes) for responses from the listeners.

Generally a selected lay witness responder will offer an echo response (2-3 minutes) and then the remainder of the allotted time will be open to the floor for further responses.

The lay witness must provide the Spiritual Director and the Lay Witness Responder(s) a copy of his/her talk to prepare them for the presentation.

The lay witness responder should also begin praying for the speaker and the talk.

After the allotted 10 minutes of responses, the Spiritual Director of the Ultreya will do a gospel response tying the lay witness talk and responses to scripture

The intention is for the Spiritual Director to relate what has been said in the witness talk to something from the scriptures, primarily the New Testament.

By this teaching, the Spiritual Director helps everyone at the Ultreya to grow spiritually by showing how scripture relates to daily life.

PRAY – LISTEN – Is He calling your name to talk to our Community?

Mary Ann Evankovich

Servant Community

“The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us”

The Servant Community organizational meeting was held on June 2. All Secretariat members attended and explained their responsibilities and gave ideas on what was needed from the servant community. Here are some of the highlights of the meeting.

Deacon Marion Kush led our worship for the meeting and will continue to act as our spiritual leader for the Servant Community.

Gail Simpson has been working to recruit parish coordinators.

Stacey Regan agreed to be the music coordinator for the diocese. That will involve working with and training musicians, creating a new songbook and other activities. If any musicians would like to assist with the music for Cursillo we would appreciate your help. You do not have to be an “accomplished” musician to assist in this endeavor.

Darla Johnson and Ginger Machak have agreed to assist in updating weekend manuals to try to make them easier to use for the weekends; Greg Schaffer is going to assist the Fourth Day in assisting with group reunions and Scott McKee has offered his help with organizing district Ultreyas. Julie Polczynski is doing the prayer vigil for the weekends; Tom Meyers has agreed to help with weekend clean-up and Shelly Meyers has agreed to help the Weekend Coordinator with altar guild activities. Wendy Scott is currently working as a parish coordinator.

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Kairos Prison Ministry

On Thursday, April 12 a team of 18 men from Kairos Prison Ministry went into the State Correctional Institution Greene in Waynesburg, PA to present a 3-day retreat program to 24 inmates. This was the third Kairos weekend in this institution. SCI-Greene (Waynesburg, Greene County) opened in November 1993 as a close-security institution for men. SCI Greene houses most of the state's capital case inmates. As always, we saw miracles on the weekend. The prison administration is saying that we already are having a favorable impact on the environment of SCI-Greene after only three weekends. Our Prayer and Share Fellowship sessions on Friday nights are well attended.

The Kairos Prison Ministry addresses the spiritual needs of prisoners. Kairos volunteers go into penitentiaries in teams of 20 to 40 to pray, share the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ, share meals, and fellowship with the incarcerated on a one-to-one bases. The first visit is a three-day event, during which time the team presents a short introductory course on Christianity. Subsequent visits are weekly evening small group meetings with the "residents" and a Saturday retreat every 6 months. In most cases, 2 weekends are held each year for additional residents to experience the love of Christ and to form, in God's time, a strong Christian community within the prison which will be used by God to transform this hostile environment for Christ.

In addition to SCI Greene, Kairos of Western PA currently has ongoing ministries in SCI-Albion, an adult male institution and SCI-Cambridge Springs, an adult female correctional facility. We are expanding to other state correctional institutions as opportunities present themselves. To accomplish this we will need additional help in the form of prayers, volunteers, and funding.

How can you help?

The goal of Kairos is to continually involve new people in the Teams of weekends. The local Advisory Council for SCI-Greene places recruitment of additional Kairos volunteers as a high priority. Teaming dates for K-4 at SCI Greene in Waynesburg will be held from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on August 18th, September 8th, September

22nd, and October 13th at Crossroads Vineyard Church in Plum Borough. The overnigher will be Friday October 26, 2007 at 7 PM and end at 3 PM on Saturday, October 27th, 2007 at the First United Methodist Church in Waynesburg. The K-4 weekend will be held at SCI-Greene on the Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday of November 8th—11th, 2007. The weekend leader for K-4 (the Kairos term for Rector) is our own Stu Simpson. Stu's wife Gail is also involved with the Kairos Outside team which provides meals and prayer support for the weekends.

If you are interested in serving on a Kairos team, please email the Simpsons at stugail@verizon.net

Scott McKee is the Chairman of the Kairos Advisory Council for SCI Greene. Scott made Texas Episcopal Cursillo #47 and attends St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Butler. One of the things that the Kairos team does for each weekend is to organize a Prayer Vigil for the weekend. Each team volunteer is asked to solicit people to pray for 30 minutes sometime during the weekend for God's guidance, empowerment, and blessing. The entire prayer vigil is put on a large poster to be shared with the inmates who participate on the weekend. Many are moved by this act of love and sacrifice by individuals whom they don't even know.

The cost of the weekend is approximately \$50 per participating inmate. If you would be willing to sponsor one or more residents to attend a weekend or would be otherwise willing to make a financial contribution, please make your check out to Kairos, Inc., Western PA District. If you would like more information on Kairos, please visit the website www.kairosprisonministry.org.

Another way to participate is by writing notes of encouragement to the residents on the weekend. All we ask is that you write 24 notes, so that each participating resident has an equal share of God's love. Just address your note "Dear Brother in Christ" and sign it with your first name, and the team will deliver these notes to the residents sometime during the weekend. Please do not share any personal information (names, addresses, etc.) in these notes.

Please pray for the team, residents, and staff of SCI-Greene and that God may continue his mighty work in this place.

TO THE CURSILLO PILGRAM SPONSOR

IS CURSILLO OPEN TO EVERYONE?

Because Cursillo is licensed by the Roman Catholic Church specifically for developing Episcopal lay leadership and ministry, we ask that only members of the Episcopal Church be invited. Lutherans, Methodists, and Roman Catholics have their own movements of this kind. If you believe there is a special circumstance that should result in an exception to this policy, please call the Pre-Cursillo coordinator before you invite a non-Episcopalian to apply.

You have offered to be a sponsor for a person attending a Cursillo weekend. Sponsors should know their Pilgrims well enough that they feel comfortable talking with them about their relationship with God and God's church.

Cursillo is not a one-time weekend retreat. It is the start of a journey and it is a method of teaching people to understand what is basic to being a Christian, while training them to return to their environments able to live out a personal vocation and act as leaven in society.

This is the beginning of your Pilgrim's life in a new relationship with God. You have important responsibilities to your Pilgrim and to the Cursillo community. The following is provided to give you some minimum requirements for sponsorship and some practical suggestions for sponsoring Pilgrims.

If you feel you do not have the time or desire to proceed with sponsorship at this time, please realize that it will happen in God's time. It is better to wait for God than to sponsor a Pilgrim without the necessary support.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

Is my Pilgrim searching for a deeper relationship with Christ? Does my Pilgrim have the potential to see Christ in others? Does my Pilgrim possess depth of personality and exhibit self-control? Is my Pilgrim reasonably informed on church matters, current events, social conditions? Is my Pilgrim generous with his or her time in helping others? How active is my Pilgrim in parish, social, and civic life? Do others in my Cursillo community agree that my Pilgrim will grow from the Cursillo experience?

Is my Pilgrim willing to be part of my Group Reunion or other group of believers to whom s/he is accountable for living the Christian life? Are there other Cursillistas in the area available for the 4th Day activities? Has Cursillo been discussed with my Pilgrim's spouse? Has the spouse made Cursillo or is s/he interested in doing so now? Will you, as sponsor, support your pilgrim in the 4th Day activities following the weekend?

Note: Because St. Joseph Center requires reservations for lodging and food to accommodate team and pilgrims, the application and deposit are due 30 days before the weekend. Afterwards, only on a space available basis.

HERE ARE SOME SPECIFICS

Palanca and its importance. A Palanca letter is one that is sent to the Pilgrims and team members, informing them of the prayers and sacrifices that you are offering to God on their behalf. The letter is not the Palanca, the *action* is. As a sponsor you are also expected to solicit notes of love and support from the Pilgrim's spouse, family, friends, and community during the month(s) before the weekend to assure s/he does not miss out on this important component. Please, avoid any large gifts and mementos. Such expressions should be presented *after* the Pilgrim leaves the weekend.

Before the weekend. Check with your pilgrim

to ensure their family responsibilities are covered, such as childcare, meal preparation, or transportation. Help with or arrange any necessary assistance.

During the weekend. Drive your pilgrim to St. Joseph Conference Center on Thursday evening. Follow up with planned assistance, checking in with your pilgrim's family—prepare a meal, offer transportation or after-school care—making sure they are okay.

Holy Hour and Serenade. Please make every effort to attend Holy Hour on Saturday evening. Plan to arrive at 7:00 P.M. The evening is a time for prayer, Eucharist and a special serenade to the Pilgrims.

Clausura. Plan to attend, and if not, make arrangements to have someone from your community there in your place for support and to transport the pilgrim home.

Fourth Day. Take your pilgrim to the Day of Deeper Understanding—Back to the Mountain—or make arrangements for someone to do so.

Group Reunion. Arrange for your pilgrim to be in a Group Reunion, preferably before the weekend, and definitely after the weekend.

Ultreya. Bring your pilgrim (and spouse or friend) to an Ultreya. This is the pilgrim's opportunity to feel part of the larger Cursillo community, to enjoy Christian fellowship, and to realize that s/he can become a leader and/or a servant in the Cursillo movement. Remind Pilgrim to wear their Cursillo Name badge to all events.

Responsible sponsorship is a large part of what enables the Cursillo Movement to build up the church through the development of mature Christian leaders.

UNLESS YOU ASSUME THESE RESPONSIBILITIES, THE APPLICANT CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO MAKE A CURSILLO.

A True Servants Heart

A woman priest!!!! Oh no!!! Our vestry's heads were on a chopping block. People wanted to "fire them". People were refusing the sacrament of communion. I even had an uneasy feeling because I had never before dealt with a woman clergy person and when I called her home her answering machine said "Mick and I are not available right now". What!!! I thought she was divorced. I found out later that Mick was her cat. Eventually things quieted down and Mother Lang Pegram started turning negative opinions into positive. She has shown us all she is truly an answer to our prayers. She follows the word of God and sets an example for all of us.

Mother Lang has lived in numerous states and two foreign countries (France and Japan), traveling with her father who was an Army chaplain. She attended 11 different schools before going to college. Lang skipped her senior year of high school and went directly to college. She wanted to be a doctor but was told that women are not doctors because they do not do well in chemistry; they are nurses or school teachers.

So Lang went to college and received a B.A. in Elementary Education and English in 1967 and an M.A. in Counseling in 1972 from Stetson University in Deland, Florida.

Still wanting to be a doctor she took a course in Chemistry and lo and behold she passed. So she went to Texas A&M College of Medicine where she received her M.D. in June 1984 and was named Outstanding Pathology Student that year. She did her Residency at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota and was named Outstanding Junior Resident, 1984-85.

Lang became a U.S. Air Force

pediatrician and was stationed at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan where she achieved the rank of Major. She was the only pediatrician on the Family Advocacy Committee, which was responsible for investigating suspected child abuse. Can you imagine Mother Lang with a rifle and full military gear? Being on that committee she probably felt like using that rifle on a few people.

At the young age of 16 Lang felt a call to the priesthood however at that time women weren't being ordained. This was put on the back burner for a long time. With 2 young children she repressed the call until it started bothering her again. It was when she was in Okinawa that the Lord started calling her again. She was directing the choir there and was the Liturgist. When 3 different people within a short time told her she should become a priest, she felt that she had to look at this again. The call ignited such a passion in her that she could not ignore it.

As a result, she moved to this area and began attending Trinity Episcopal School of Ministry in August 1997 and graduated in 2000. She was ordained Deacon on June 10, 2000 and Priest on December 17, 2000.

Lang made her Cursillo in Texas in 1978 at a Roman Catholic weekend. She severed on several teams there before coming to Pittsburgh where she now serves on team here.

From teacher to doctor to priest. Lang has been a true blessing to us. Gob bless you Mother Lang.

Marcie Williams

Do you have a story to tell about how Cursillo has affected your parish? Send it to us so that we can share it with everyone in the community as well as all parish priests in the diocese. E-mail to kwherbst@zoominternet.net



Christ is
counting on
you!

We're on the Web!
www.pgh-epis-cursillo.org

Church Army & Community of Celebration

Our friends and fellow Christians at the Community of Celebration and the Church Army in Aliquippa suffered substantial losses in early July as Franklin Avenue became a river of water, mud and sewage. Please keep our brothers and sisters in Christ in your prayers and when possible, offer them your help in recovery. All sustained major property damage in the flood. They truly need our prayers and monetary gifts. John Stanley of the Church Army who has worked to build up the "Uncommon Ground" café into a wonderful ministry to men, women, and children in the Aliquippa area has also served on a number of music teams for our Cursillo weekends. Bill Farra and Joe Beckey of the Community of Celebration have also served on teams over the last several years. The music of these three brothers inspires all who attend a weekend when they are on team.

Continued from page 4

Jeff Minshall is willing to assist us in one of the secretariat's main focuses for next year—how to attract younger people to Cursillo. We need someone to take charge of this activity.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the meeting and offered their support. We have a long way to go, and much help from all Cursillistas is needed. Please pray about where you may be called to serve! Contact Mary Lou Herbst at mlherbst@zoominternet.net or phone: 724-352-1138

Editor's note:

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all who contributed to this issue of the Rainbow Rooster. We could not do this without your help. Thanks for all of your contributions and keep them coming.

Mary Lou and Ken

Next issue articles due Nov. 1, 2007

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