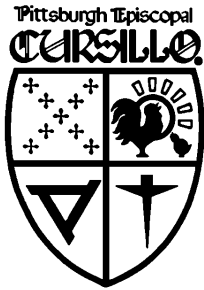


The Rainbow Rooster

Newsletter November 2007



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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Men's #87 Weekend
2/28 - 3/2/08
- ◆ Women's #88 Weekend
5/1 - 5/4/08
- ◆ Co-ed #89 Weekend
9/25 - 9/28/08
- ◆ ¡Ultreya!
See the website for current details

The Lay Leader's Letter: Jesus Is the Reason for the Season

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)
What a blessed season of the year we are in. As I pen this article, Advent is rapidly approaching and then the Christmas season. Unlike those who would rather offend Christians, may I wish you and yours the happiest Christmas and a safe and wonderful new year.

By now you may know that we were forced to cancel the co-ed weekend in September. Sadly, this makes the second year in a row that we had to cancel this weekend because we did not have enough candidates signed up prior to the cutoff date. With that cancellation came several realizations that we must face.

First, are we doing our part to build and support our Lord's kingdom on earth? Do we sponsor new candidates for Cursillo? And if we sign the sponsor form, do we truly follow through with our obligations to that new Cursillista in the fourth day?

Second, are we participating in the fourth day as we understand that we should? If we are not, what can we do to do our part for the Lord in the fourth day?

If we can answer yes to one of these questions, that's a start but if we can answer yes to both questions, then we are on the right track for our Lord and the Cursillo movement.

Our Lord called each one of us to Him when we attended a three day weekend. All that He asks is that we will continue in our love for Him and continue to support His kingdom on earth. Each of us has been called to do our small but important part. Are we honestly doing what He has called us to do?

At the end of February there will be a men's weekend and at the beginning of May we have a women's weekend scheduled. What this means is that we need to have at least 10 candidates signed up by 30 days before the weekend. It seems that we Episcopalians tend to put off until tomorrow what we should have done yesterday. We need to adjust our tendencies toward procrastination and begin to pray now for those whom God has called to attend a weekend. Listen to Him in quietness and prayer. He will come to you with his innermost desires.

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1

As we come to the end of another calendar year, we must again say thank you for a job well done in His service to those Secretariat members whose term has ended. As you know, Dick Halsey left for a university teaching assignment in Turkey and Lisa Bell-Loncella thankfully volunteered to step in again until we were able to find a replacement for Dick. Jackie McKee has come forward and accepted the call to service as Weekend Coordinator.

When I was called to be Lay Leader, we were faced with a vacancy for Special Projects Coordinator. In prayer, I felt the Lord calling Kathi Marks back into service on the Secretariat in this position. Kathi accepted the call and the challenges that we face within the movement. It is our hope that using the gifts that Kathi brings with her, we will be able to find a way to revive Cursillo here by marrying some of the youthful characteristics of Happening and Vocare within the Cursillo movement.

The talents that Lawna Blankenship brought with her as Pre-Cursillo Coordinator were many and varied. The organizational skills that she has should make the transition to Jane Flaherty's service much smoother. Jane too, is an extremely organized and gifted Cursillista who has felt the call to service.

Sue Janiszewski is also leaving the Secretariat but not service to the movement. Sue has agreed to continue her work as Information Specialist, not a Secretariat function, for our movement but the duties of Secretary for the Secretariat will be assumed by Mary Ann Evankovich. Mary Ann feels that she can serve as both Fourth Day Coordinator and Secretariat Secretary and we welcome her volunteer spirit.

May I close in Prayer? *Lord, guide each of us as you have called us to Your service. Open our hearts to Your will and help us to see Your way. Amen*

¡Ultreya!

Ken Herbst
Lay Leader

Jesus said, "Whoever believes in me, as the scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." (John 7:38)

Introducing our new Weekend Coordinator

Last March I wrote that I would be “retiring” as Weekend Coordinator and introduced my successor, Dick Halsey from Christ Church, Indiana. Dick followed in my shadow for the Men’s Weekend #84 last February and “took charge” for the Women’s Weekend # 85 in May. Then Dick went to Turkey for a one-month Rotary trip and returned to the US with a job in hand ... an opportunity to teach at a University in Turkey. We are all very happy for Dick, newly minted Ph.D., for landing such an awesome job!

Ah, but that left a position to fill on the Secretariat. Ken Herbst asked if I would fill in until the Secretariat found a replacement. In my “day job” I’ve spent a lot of time the last couple of years filling vacancies. I’ve learned much from the model the Secretariat uses to search for Weekend Rectors and Secretariat positions. God will provide ... in all the vocations to which we are called. And God did provide! Jackie McKee will be replacing me as Weekend Coordinator. A long-time Cursillista, Jackie comes to the Secretariat from St. Peter’s Butler. She and her husband, Scott, have served on Cursillo in Ohio, Tennessee and Oklahoma and together bring much experience and insight to the Pittsburgh Episcopal Cursillo. Jackie and I have already begun the transition; we’ll be working together to serve the Team and Pilgrims of Men’s Weekend #87 in February. In working with her, I sense that God chosen her and her many gifts to take this job to the next level.

It has been great pleasure and bountiful blessing to serve as Weekend Coordinator for the Pittsburgh Episcopal Cursillo for the last three and a half years. I have enjoyed working with the other members of the Secretariat. Working so closely with the Team members has introduced me to wonderful people throughout the Diocese and I’ve formed some very special friendships. I’ve learned so much about discernment and relying on God for leadership. God has given me just a glimpse of how letting Him lead is the best - no, the only - way to grow!

Thank you for the blessing of serving!

Lisa Bell-Loncella, # 66
St. Mark’s, Johnstown

*When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
John 8:12*

PARENTS OF HAPPENERS -

We want your kids!

No, let's rephrase that. PARENTS OF HAPPENERS- We NEED your kids and so does the Lord! I think that about sums it up. Have you ever thought of your son or daughter as a Cursillista? Has our Lord? Did you ever think to ask Him?

Over the past months the Secretariat has discussed ways to infuse the Pittsburgh Cursillo with some young blood. We've come up with one obvious option and that is to start by asking all Cursillistas to look to their children. Have your kids gone through the Happening teen retreat? Do you know former Happeners who attend your church? Are they 21 years or older? Are they interested in experiencing the adult Happening called Cursillo? If so, we are asking you to consider sponsoring them to a Cursillo weekend.

To make the invitation even more attractive we are offering a special weekend rate to anyone under the age of 29. They are, of course, welcome to attend any Cursillo; but we are especially targeting this group for Cursillo #89 to be held next September 25-28, 2008.

Joe Gorecki, Happening Kitchen Dad, will be the Rector of co-ed #89 and Kathi Marks, Happening Mom, will be the Ding-a-ling. We're hoping that familiar faces will be a draw for this younger crowd.

Your young adults can enjoy the weekend and be blessed beyond anything they can imagine for the special reduced fee of \$25. But remember, the inability to pay for a Cursillo weekend never means a person can't attend. Thanks to St. Michael in the Valley, Ligonier, there is a scholarship fund for those who can't afford to pay; and that information is kept confidential, so don't hesitate to ask Jane Flaherty, Pre-Cursillo Weekend Coordinator when you apply.

¡Ultreya!

Servant Community

Have you thought about what it says on the back of your Cursillo cross lately? There are about 2,000 Cursillistas in this diocese and many of us are extremely busy doing the Lord's work ... often in a way that others would not notice. I guess the question here is, "do you have any more time to give in His service?" If you feel that you do, either call or e-mail Mary Lou Herbst at 724-352-1138 or mlherbst@zoominternet.net and see what work you might be willing and able to do for Him and for this community. Remember, "*The Lord is counting on you.*"

Priests -

Has Cursillo impacted your parish in some positive way? How about those who serve on vestry, alter guild, lay readers, chalice bearers etc.? Have any of these folks attended Cursillo? Has their attitude toward the church changed in some positive way since they attended a weekend? Do the Cursillistas in your parish seem to understand the importance of giving back to His service better than those who have not attended a weekend? If you have experienced anything that might inspire others to support this movement, please share your stories by sending them to kwherbst@zoominternet.net and we will be sure to put them in an upcoming issue of the Rooster.

ROOSTER Readers

Due to the high cost of printing and mailing this newsletter, we are looking for ways that we might still be able to service you and yet save some money. Therefore, if you would like to receive the Rooster via e-mail, in color, please let us know. Send your e-mail address to Sue Janiszewski at PittsburghEpiscopalCursillo@gmail.com and Sue will make the necessary arrangements. If you prefer, you can download the Rooster from our website at www.pgh-epis-cursillo.org

CURSILLO

IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SPONSORED BY THE BISHOP OF PITTSBURGH

CURSILLO (kur-see-yo) is a Spanish word that means “a little course.” A Cursillo begins with a weekend experience during which participants “live what is fundamental to being a Christian” in a Christian community where prayer support, love, and joy are emphasized. A Cursillo weekend enlivens people to the reality of Christ’s love and presence in a way that leads to greater action in witness to Christ, both within the Church and in the world at large. A Cursillo weekend is a blend of seriousness and light-heartedness. It is made up of spiritual experiences and talks by laypersons and clergy, intended to equip one with the basics needed to do Christ’s work in the world. Cursillo is for adult Christians and is meant to be a shared learning and growing experience attained through worship, study, reflection, and fellowship. One “makes” a Cursillo only once, but it will be built upon throughout life.

WHAT IS CURSILLO FOR?

Cursillo is a movement within the church. Its purpose is to help those in the Episcopal Church understand their individual callings to be Christian leaders. It helps to renew and deepen their Christian commitment and ministry, and encourages them to bring others to Christ.

WHO SHOULD GO TO CURSILLO?

Episcopalians in good standing who are leading an active Christian life and are living witness to their love for Christ. Cursillo presumes that those who attend are already well grounded in the faith. It is not intended to be a conversion experience, but an enriching and deepening of what is already there.

WHO SHOULD NOT GO TO CURSILLO?

Individuals whose lives are in turmoil are recommended to wait until things have stabilized before going to Cursillo. For instance, those in the midst of marital disputes or other personal crises should usually defer Cursillo until the difficulties are resolved. Cursillo is not for those uncertain about their faith; it is for Christians who are already committed.

WHAT ABOUT ACCOMMODATIONS?

Furnishings at the St. Joseph Center in Greensburg are simple and functional, and may not be exactly like home, but the spirit of fellowship makes that unimportant. There is ample good food.

Rev. 2007

HOW LONG IS THE COURSE?

Cursillo lasts for three days, from Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon. After the first evening and until the following morning, a time of silence is observed. This is a means of moving from the busy world of work and family into the spirit of the weekend. Thereafter, the basic teachings of Christ are discussed and shared in an atmosphere of joy, music, and laughter. Spiritual and liturgical experiences are those that are traditional in the full Christian experience.

Cursillistas from all walks of life grow closer to one another during Cursillo. They pray, listen, discuss, sleep, eat, sing, and relax in a jovial, family atmosphere.

WHAT IS THE FOURTH DAY?

A Cursillo weekend is a preparation for the “Fourth Day,” a term applied to the spiritual journey each person will experience during the remainder of this life, to begin on Sunday. Without an active, committed Fourth Day, the Cursillo experience is not complete.

WHAT IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO ATTEND A WEEKEND?

- The applicant should be an active Episcopalian in good standing.
- Every applicant must have two sponsors: your parish priest and a lay sponsor who has already attended a weekend. Both must sign the application form.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Applications are available to sponsors through the Cursillo website—www.pgh-epis-cursillo.org. A married couple’s applications should be submitted at the same time so that they may attend weekends as closely as possible to each other. There is usually one men’s weekend per year, one women’s weekend, and one coed.

Sponsors are responsible for getting the application completed, signed, and mailed to the Pre-Cursillo Coordinator with a check for the deposit of \$50, or total amount of \$150.

WHAT IS THE COST?

The cost of the weekend is \$150. If this will present a problem, please discuss it openly with your sponsor. Scholarships and other financial help are available.

Note: Younger adults (age 28 or younger) are encouraged to experience the Cursillo weekend. For them, the Pittsburgh Episcopal Cursillo asks a \$25 minimum contribution only. No further fee is required.

Please visit our website
www.pgh-epis-cursillo.org

Thank you for your interest in Cursillo. Your application is due 30 days prior to the weekend. As your weekend approaches, you will receive more information. Meanwhile, your sponsor will be happy to answer any questions you have.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

PILGRIM CANDIDATE APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____ Nickname _____
Last First MI for name tag
Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____
Phone (day) _____ (eve) _____ (cell) _____ email _____

___ Male ___ Female ___ Single ___ Married Age _____ Occupation _____

Spouse's name _____ Has he/she made Cursillo previously? yes / no Or is currently applying? yes / no

Why do you wish to make a Cursillo weekend? _____

How do you participate in the life of your church? _____

What physical needs do you have that will need to be provided for on a weekend? (for example, special diet)

Are you an Episcopalian in good standing? _____ Have Group Reunion & Ultreya! been explained? _____

I have read and understand everything contained in this application. I have answered all the questions honestly and completely.

Applicant's signature _____ Date _____

PASTORAL / CLERGY SUPPORT

Is this person an Episcopalian in good standing? ___ Yes ___ No . If no, explain. How would you describe this candidate's personality? (outgoing or reserved, leader, follower, etc.) _____

Priest's Name (print) _____ Parish _____ Home Phone _____

Priest's Signature _____ Date _____

SPONSOR SUPPORT

A Sponsor should be actively participating in a Group Reunion and know that the purpose of Cursillo is to help those in the Episcopal Church understand their individual callings to be Christian leaders, and to encourage them to bring others to Christ. Please make sure that all questions are answered. Applications must be mailed at least **30 days** before the weekend that this Pilgrim will be attending in order to reserve lodging. After the deadline, applications may be accepted on a space available basis.

Sponsor's Name _____ Home Parish _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (eve) _____ (cell) _____ email _____

Why did you select this candidate? _____

How long have you known this candidate? _____ Does the candidate have a group to go to? _____

Sponsor's signature _____ Date _____

Return this form with deposit of \$50, or \$150 full amount to: Jane Flaherty, 4302 Summervale Dr., Murrysville, PA 15668
Make check payable to: Pittsburgh Episcopal Cursillo

FOR OFFICE USE: Ck # _____ \$ _____ Date Rec'd ___ / ___ / ___ Acceptance: ___ Weekend # _____

The Weekend Begins with You!

Three years ago, when I was invited to serve on Secretariat as Pre-Cursillo Coordinator, I was flattered and excited. I had the pleasure of registering eager Pilgrims for their Weekend experience and of seeing their transformation at the Closing. My role on Secretariat included working with Christians *on fire* for Jesus and for the Cursillo movement. Together we worked through the change of venue to the Bishop Connare Center in Greensburg, a superb facility that meets the needs of the Weekend, being fully accessible.

We shared in the trauma sorrow of having to cancel two Coed Weekends (Fall 2006 and 2007) for lack of a *minimum* of 10 Pilgrims who must be registered *one month* in advance of the Weekend. We are now faced with having to place a \$1000 deposit to hold a block of rooms to accommodate 45 Pilgrims and Team members. This is going to present a challenge, as our budget will not support such a loss.

I am passing the baton to my successor, **Jane Flaherty #72 of Ascension Oakland**, who will need your help if we are to keep the Cursillo Movement and our budget healthy and alive in the Pittsburgh Diocese. We are optimistic that the Cursillo Community will bring forth, *in a timely manner*, the Pilgrims that our Lord wants you/us to sponsor, in order to accomplish the purpose of The Cursillo movement. So, why sponsor a Pilgrim?

The experience of Cursillo will enrich and deepen one's relationship with Jesus and can empower and encourage one to live their life as a confident Christian, bringing the love and influence of our wonderful Lord into their everyday life. Cursillo may be seen as an opportunity to

grow in faith and spirituality, gaining a deeper understanding of the teachings of Jesus and how one can serve him in the world. Remember, someone invited you!

Now, the Weekends begin with you. It's your turn to invite that prospective Pilgrim whose life **you** will change by **your** action. Discuss with fellow Cursillista/us those yet to be sponsored for these upcoming Weekends:

- **Men's #87**-- Feb. 28-March 2, 2008 (Deadline for 10 Pilgrim's is January 31, 2008); and
- **Women's #88** -- May 1-4, 2008 (Deadline is April 3, 2008).

Sponsor a seminarian, a newly ordained priest, or youth minister serving in your parish. Follow-up in a timely manner so that applications are submitted **one-month in advance of any weekend**, so that your Pilgrim appears on the Palanca list on the website so that they are prayed for by the community, and so that they receive all of the special personal notes that elevate the Pilgrim's experience to mountain-top status. They are *set on fire* for future service, thanks to the Holy Spirit working through you!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I want to extend my best wishes to Jane Flaherty as she joins the vibrant Secretariat in working for the greater good of His Kingdom.

¡Ultreya!

Lawna

Lawna Blankenship #67

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

All members of the Cursillo
community are encouraged to visit our
website at www.pgh-epis-cursillo.org
to access
*Cursillo Weekend Application &
Weekend Expectations*
and upcoming
Ultreya dates and locations.

Upcoming Cursillo Weekends

Men's #87-- Feb. 28-March 2, 2008
(Deadline for 10 Pilgrims is January 31, 2008)

Women's #88 -- May 1-4, 2008
(Deadline for 10 Pilgrims is April 3, 2008)

Co-ed #89 – Sept. 25-28, 2008
(Deadline for 10 Pilgrims is August 28, 2009)

*Now is the time to pray for who Jesus wants you to
invite!*

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 Feb. 10, 2008

Cursillo Community of the Pittsburgh Diocese
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