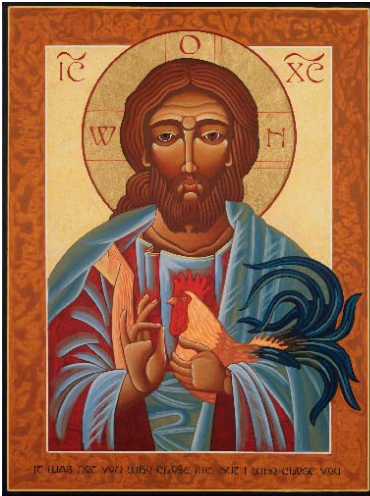


# A NEW DAY

THE DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG  
CURSILLO NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME XXXV, No. 1



TRANSFORMING THE WORLD  
IN CHRIST

JAN/FEB/MAR 2012  
Http://www.harrisburg-  
cursillo.org

## All Things DO Work for Good

By Maria Vitale-Gallagher, Women's 67th

“We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” **Romans 8:28**

I had a co-worker who used to say “Romans 8:28” after the daily disaster occurred. I understood this was the Word of God, but I didn’t really believe it. When something went wrong,

I thought to myself, “How could God let this happen?” I thought it was the end of the world and God could not possibly bring good out of it.

But my thinking changed 180 degrees in August. That was the month that I took on the role of Job in my own family drama.

I had been called back to my hometown of Columbus, Ohio, when my mother was transported unexpectedly to the hospital. After a few days, the nursing staff called me in and said I needed to arrange for nursing home care for my mother and temporary housing for my sister, who had her own health problems and who was quite dependent on my mother.

I could not imagine things getting worse.

Then, “it” happened.

I was stopped at an intersection when I saw a tire fly off a car and head straight toward me. There was no time for evasive action. As this rubber missile was coming at me, I didn’t think to myself “I could die.” I thought, “This means I’m staying longer.”

The tire landed on the door of the drivers’ side of my Honda. No one seemed to notice. I immediately tried to open my car door. No luck. I managed to gesture through the window to a man whose car had also been hit by the flying tire. He said to me, “You’re not going to be able to open that door.” I crawled out the passenger side and assessed the damage. My car door was a crumpled mess. A trip to the body shop would be required. The repair job could take a while.

How could God have let this happen to me? Wasn’t I already going through enough trials and tribulations? What had I done to deserve this latest calamity?

A fellow Cursillista had emailed me about my plight, since I had been besieging PalancaNet with prayer requests for my mother and sister. Could my sister be relocated to the Harrisburg area? I had quickly dismissed the idea for many reasons. But during the two weeks it took to repair my car, I began to reassess things. Maybe I could bring my sister to Pennsylvania to stay with me there. What once seemed an impossibility emerged as the best option.

I also had the opportunity to spend time with my mother—time that I wouldn’t have had, had the tire not gotten in my way. She passed away about a month later, so I will always remember my prolonged stay in Columbus as a precious time.

And my sister has ended up blessing my life in many ways. When I went clothes shopping, I was now able to get a second opinion. I not only gained a sister—I gained a stylist.

When I visit my favorite Chinese restaurant, I now request two menus. And I now have someone who will not only see my Christmas tree—but will help me decorate it! The moral of the story: fear is useless. I believe my fear blocked the working of the Holy Spirit when I had to make a difficult decision. It took the Holy Spirit blowing a tire my way for me to come to realize God’s Will in my life.

So, don’t be fearful. Remember that discouragement does not come from God. But watch out for flying objects!

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## A Sponsorship Workshop Perspective

Kent Smithmyer, Men's 86<sup>th</sup> Weekend, St. Joseph's Decuria, St. Patrick's in Carlisle, PA.

On September 10, 2011 Michael Ciccociopo, Regional Coordinator for the English Region II, Cursillo of the United States, presented some guidelines and essential elements related to Cursillo Sponsorship. Michael began with discussing how important it is for a sponsor to be supportive and caring for perspective candidate. We must be cognizant that precursillo is designed to prepare the candidate for the three day weekend and what they will experience during those three days is the presentation of a method to help transform the person to be Christian and to bring Christ to their environments. A sponsor must be able to provide a foundation so that that the candidate and ultimately the new babe-chick will be able to live what is fundamental to being a Christian- love of God and neighbor experienced through encounters with self, with Christ and with others.

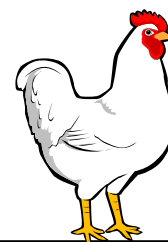
What is the purpose of sponsorship? Sponsors prepare persons to bring about change in their environments. Sponsorship should not be done in haste or haphazardly. There should be a plan to be able to support and help the candidate grow. Sponsors commit to helping before, during and after the three day weekend. So what are the main responsibilities of a sponsor? Sponsors should provide necessary information about the Cursillo Movement, lead by example, and share key activities of the weekend with the candidate. Group reunion and Ultreya should be discussed as a way to sustain oneself after the weekend and be active in grouping yourself. Remember to be a friend, make a friend and lead a friend to Christ. Make sure to have personal contact, authentic witness and provide real Palanca as your relationship grows.

The essential elements of sponsorship are personal contact and communication. Personal Contact is indispensable. Personal interaction and transmission of the Gospel to the candidate and ultimately the Babe Chick remains central to being supportive of the Cursillista. Personal dialogue and sharing are the best way to practice the "make a friend, be a friend, and bring your friend to Christ" method. Although it notable to remember that bring a friend to Christ does not directly translate to bring a friend to Cursillo. The two essential parts of personal contact are: know the candidate as a friend and enlighten your friend with the truth. Make sure to continue to give personal contact to the new Cursillista AFTER he or she experiences the weekend.

Remember to provide an authentic witness of life. Believe what you proclaim; live what you believe; and preach what you live to have real effectiveness in showing how the Word of God has impacted your life. Wordless witness stirs up irresistible questions: why are they like this; who or what inspires them; why are they in our midst? Sponsors can only witness what they live to awaken in the candidate openness to inquire, by displaying friendship and discussing how Our Lord has changed your life. When introducing Cursillo, it should happen in due time, naturally, not forced and not seen as adding "numbers of persons" to our personal sponsorship list.

Remember as a sponsor we need to provide real Palanca to all candidates. Speak to God about a 'prospective' candidate before speaking to him/her about God. Prayer and Palanca are essential before, during and after the Weekend. The Mystery of Palanca is that it is a basic step in working for conversion.

Palanca is to beg God in prayer that is humble, confident and unceasing. Without him we are nothing. Palanca involves prayer, sacrifice and works of mercy. Remember... a letter is not Palanca. The Palanca performed may be explained in a letter or a note but Palanca is the action we do to obtain Christ's promise of grace and mercy for ourselves and the candidates. Sponsors need to continually study the Environment and the study of environment is basically the study of the person. The Spanish word "ambiente" is translated into "environment" but this Spanish meaning is the combination of ideas and circumstances which are sustained by the persons who surround us. Environment is what results from our interaction with others. So



sponsors work not just with persons, but on the environmental situation as a whole. We should evangelize those that surround us where we are at the moment.

Three steps in the process that a sponsor must concentrate on: 1) Ourselves - strengthen and convince ourselves that Christ is the answer by accepting Him as our will through prayer and coming to know Him more fully with all our mind and heart. 2) Others - knowing them, treating them with dignity, respect and as persons. Win the person's heart and mind and then introduce prayer in the relationship and environment. 3) The Environment - those who surround us where we exist. Overcome obstacles, prejudices and preconceived ideas that hinder spiritual growth and Christian vision.

How do we know who should attend a Cursillo? What is the selection process? Those who **should go** should truly be the backbone of their environments. Persons who have influence or the ability to make changes. Those who **can go** should be trying to live the Catholic life as best they know how. Those who **should not go** are dealing with problems for which the Cursillo provides no solutions. Remember only Catholics live Catholic Cursillo Weekends.

What do you do if you are sponsoring a couple? Invite the couple to meet with the Spiritual Advisor and a leader of the Movement. During the meeting, fully explain the purpose and method of the Movement. Explain what is expected of those who attend the Weekend and explain what is expected during the 4th Day - Group Reunion and Ultreya. What to do if only one spouse can attend? If it is agreed that one spouse attending will NOT adversely affect the marriage it is okay to have that person attend.

In conclusion we must remember total security. Perseverance by a sponsor is so important. Sponsors should ensure a new Cursillista finds a Group Reunion and take him/her to Ultreya. Remember, it's okay to tell candidates about the Cursillo weekend! The true mystery is revealed by God to that person in how that person comes to develop their relationship with Our Lord and Savior.



## Back to Basics

By Nancy Keener, Lay Director

I'm sure all of you have played the game of Gossip at least once in your life. A message or statement is started by one person who tells it to another person, who tells it to another person, and so on till it reaches the last person. Then the last person recites what he or she heard and everyone compares it to the original message or statement. Usually the two versions of the message have some key elements in common but in the process of translation it gets mixed up and becomes something quite different by the end of the game.

This is similar to what happens in real life. Even within our traditions of faith and service. As a Church, we are already experiencing some of these reflections and revisions in our liturgical rites, taking us back to the original concepts and meanings of the message proclaimed so long ago. It is not that the changes made to the original declarations of our faith were done to try to change or distort our faith, but that in the process of translation, some of the message was mistranslated or misunderstood, resulting in a slightly different form of the original.

The Cursillo Movement is no exception when it comes to that loss of original formula or intent. It is not that the changes made were intended to disrupt the original service plan established by Eduardo Bonnín. They were made by faith-filled Christian brothers and sisters with the best of intentions. However, it is now time for us, as the Harrisburg Cursillo Movement, to step back, as the Mother Church has done, and reflect and compare our current practices and methods with the original message and practices of the Cursillo Movement established in 1944.

If you love Cursillo, if you know people who have been led to a deeper and more fruitful relationship with their Lord and God through the Cursillo movement, I ask you to join me at the Cursillo Workshop being held at the Cardinal Keeler Diocesan Center in Harrisburg on February 11, 2012. We will begin with Mass at 8:30am and will conclude at 3:00pm. The presentation will relate to how the 3 Day Weekend is structured and reflect on how closely it follows the original format of Cursillo. Everyone will have a chance to question, to review and to comment on the material presented. Be sure to read the article about it in this edition of the New Day.

Come with an open mind, and a spirit resolved to making service to our Lord and our community your priority in 2012. Renew the Charism of Cursillo with us as we seek to find clarity and resolve to remain faithful servants of God.

## Harrisburg Cursillo Plays Role in Region and Nation

by Michael Ciccocioppo, Region 2 Coordinator, National Cursillo Secretariat

The Harrisburg Cursillo Movement touches the regional and national Cursillo movements by virtue of cursillistas from our diocese who play roles in the wider movement.

The Cursillo Movement in the United States is governed by the National Cursillo Secretariat. This body consists of various language coordinators elected from 12 regions across the country. Since October 1, 2009, it has been my humble duty to represent all the English-speaking diocesan movements in, DC, DE, MD, NJ, Eastern-PA, and VA, on the National Cursillo Secretariat.

I also work with other language coordinators to provide semi-annual regional encounters for cursillistas from throughout Region 2. And I work with a regional service team to provide assistance when needed to diocesan movements in the region. This includes conducting workshops, such as the Sponsor's Workshop given in September (*see Kent Smithmyer's article*), and the 3-Day Cursillo Workshop scheduled for February 11, 2012 (*see the Cursillo Connections schedule*). These workshops are for all cursillistas. It is important that all those who serve on Cursillo Weekend Teams from time to time participate in this 3-Day Cursillo Workshop.

As a former lay director for the Harrisburg Cursillo Movement, I am not the only person from our movement serving outside the diocese. The Rev. Andre Meluskey, a long-time cursillista and spiritual advisor to a number of 3-day weekends in our diocese has been serving as the spiritual advisor for Region 2 for over two years. Those of you who know Father Meluskey will not be surprised when I tell you that cursillistas of all language groups from throughout the region LOVE him!

The Region 2 Cursillo Secretariat consists of all the lay directors from the diocesan movements in the region. During his tenure as lay director, Michael Howe represented the diocese in an outstanding matter. As our new lay director, Nancy Keener is now a member of this distinguished body. Her contributions to the region are just beginning.

Finally, Betty Berry, our diocesan director of the School of Leaders, also serves as the webmaster for our regional website, [www.CursilloRegion2.org](http://www.CursilloRegion2.org). This website just went online in 2011 as a service to all cursillistas in Region 2. Betty's husband, Tom, graciously volunteered his time and talent to help us create the site. And Betty volunteered to serve as the first webmaster for the region. I encourage you to visit the site and learn more about what is happening with the movement in Region 2.

Perhaps the Lord is calling you to serve Cursillo outside the diocese. Please consider attending a regional encounter to see if you have a call. The 2012 Region 2 Cursillo Encounters will be held in Vineland, NJ, from April 27 – 29 and October 19 – 21. Check the Region 2 website for more information and to register to attend.



(Standing) Betty Berry and Jim Scheuren of the Diocese of Harrisburg at the 2011 Fall Region 2 Encounter in Vineland, NJ, with (Sitting) Michael Ciccocioppo and Fr. Andre Meluskey

## New Format for Ultreya—Based on National Guidelines

### Format for Ultreyas

..# Opening Song and Prayer

..# Introductions “My name is...”

..# Announcements

..# Group Reunion

..# Witness Speaker

Not a time for “teaching”, but rather sharing the Fourth Day and its meaning to him/her.  
Time should be about 15-20 minutes.

..# Echo Speakers 1 and 2

Witness does not need to know who these speakers will be.

Echo should speak briefly as to how the witness spoke to him/her—should **not** praise or engage the witness in personal conversation.

There is not to be an “open comment” session at all.

..# Closing Prayer—Preferably in front of the Blessed Sacrament

..# Time frame should be followed—allow 1 ½ hours.

# Cursillo Weekend Workshop

Betty Berry, Director of the School of Leaders "Cursillo Connections"

## Mark your calendar!

Saturday, February 11, 2012

### Cursillo Weekend Workshop

By:

Michael V. Ciccocioppo, Jr.

Regional Coordinator - English

Region II, Cursillo of the United States

A workshop prepared for the  
Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Harrisburg

Saturday, February 11, 2012

8:30 – 3:00 (Mass 11:25 – 12:15)

*Lunch available for \$6.00*

Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, PA

### Top 10 reasons why you should attend the Cursillo Weekend Workshop:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 10. To relive your Cursillo weekend in one day.   | 4.. To comprehend how the Cursillo weekend is essential to the strategy of the movement.                   |
| 9. To understand that it is all about the candidates.                                     | 3. To learn about the role of the spiritual advisors from the brand new Spiritual Advisor Manual.          |
| 8. To find out what's missing on our Cursillo weekends                                    | 2. To increase your knowledge about the Cursillo Weekend so that you can pass your knowledge onto others.  |
| 7. To comply with National policies for Cursillo Weekends.                                | 1. To respond to God's personal call to you to participate in this workshop—do it for His honor and glory. |
| 6. To see how the Cursillo Weekend is in organic unity with Precursillo and Postcursillo. |  |
| 5. To believe that it is all about the candidates.  |  |

#### Registration Form for Sponsor's Workshop

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

I will only attend the workshop: \_\_\_\_\_

I will attend the workshop and lunch: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$6.00 for lunch: \_\_\_\_\_

I will pay for my lunch at the workshop \_\_\_\_\_

Submit this form to Betty Berry. Betty's information can be found on page 6 in the Secretariat list.

## Cursillo Connections (School of Leaders)

Ses- sion Num-	Date/ Place	Doctrinal Topic (Personal Spirituality)	Presenter	Cursillo Method Topic (Based on "Study of the Charism")	Rollista
<b>**NEW DOCTRINAL CURRICULUM BEGINS</b>					
36	Jan 14 CKC	<u>The Three Ages of the Interior Life</u> Prelude of the Eternal Life Introduction Part 1 The Sources of the Interior Life— Chapters 1-3	Fr. William Weary	A Gratuitous Gift from God  Chapter 4	Rita Geraci
37	Feb. 11 CKC	"Cursillo Weekend Workshop" Presented by Region II	Michael Cicco- cioppo, Region II Coordinator	"Cursillo Weekend Workshop"	Michael Ciccocioppo
38	Mar. 10 CKC	Part 1— The Sources of the Interior Life Chapters 4-6	Jim Gontis	Recognized by the Hierarchy Chapter 5	Kent Smithmyer
Note:	Sessions will be held in Cardinal Keeler Center. All sessions will be on the 2nd Saturday of the month. Sessions start at 10:00 and end at Noon; except Feb. 11 "Cursillo Weekend Workshop that will begin at 8:30 and will end at 3:00.				

### SECRETARIAT—DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG

### COMMUNICATIONS

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Carlisle, PA 17013  
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**UPCOMING EVENT &  
WEEKEND SCHEDULE**

**Cursillo Weekend Workshop**

Feb. 11, 2012 (CKC)

**Women's 88th Weekend**

March 1-4, 2012  
St. Pius X, Selinsgrove  
(4 p.m. Clausura)

**Men's 92nd Weekend**

March 8-11, 2012  
St. Pius X, Selinsgrove  
(4 p.m. Clausura)

**Spring Regional II Encounter**

April 27-29, 2012  
Vineland, NJ

**Grand Ultreya**

Oct 6, 2012

**Fall Regional II Encounter**

Oct. 19-21, 2012  
Vineland, NJ

**PALANCA**

As you know, your part in supporting the Cursillo weekends is your palanca. Making sure they arrive by the Wednesday before the weekend, please send any letters to:

Jerry and Trish Mazeika  
592 Millertown Road  
Bloomsburg, PA 17815.

**Team Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Place/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Women's 88th – March 1-4, 2012, St. Pius X, Selinsgrove

\_\_\_\_\_ Women's 89th – Summer Weekend – to be announced

\_\_\_\_\_ Men's 92nd – March 8-11, 2012, St. Pius X, Selinsgrove

\_\_\_\_\_ Men's 93rd – Summer Weekend – to be announced

Team applications are and will continue to be accepted for any Men's or Women's weekend. Please mail/e-mail the information above to:

Kim Honabach, Cursillo Committee Chair  
425 South Street  
Catawissa, PA 17820  
Or E-Mail: cursillomovement@verizon.net

**Sponsoring a Candidate ?**

Send applications soon (don't wait until the last minute, please) to:

Steve and Sherry Troelsch  
1146 Snapper Dam Road  
Landisville, PA 17538

**ULTREYA COORDINATORS**

**Berwick**

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570.759.1039  
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tcamillocci@verizon.net

**Carlisle**

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marysneed@gmail.com

**East Shore Ultreya**

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mariaevitale@verizon.net

**Lewisburg/Selinsgrove/Sunbury**

Joe Scartelli  
570.374.9954

**Northern Deanery**

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**West Shore**

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Cursillo Movement  
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Harrisburg, PA 17105

Non-Profit Organization

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Harrisburg, PA

Permit No. 107

## IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION

**Secretariat:** Monthly (1st Tuesday) - Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg. 7:00—9:00 p.m. All are welcome!

**ULTRAYAS—Call your contact in case of inclement weather. Contacts are listed inside.**

**Berwick:** 3rd Saturday of November, Jaccross

Novary and March after the 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph Parish, Berwick

**Carlisle:** Monthly (4th Tuesday), 7:00 p.m. at St. Patrick's School Library, Marsh Drive. (occasionally not held-see p7 for contact information.)

**East Shore** Monthly (2nd Tuesday), 7p.m., Cardinal Keeler Center, Room 105

**Lewisburg/Selinsgrove/Sunbury:** Monthly (4th Wednesday), 7:00 p.m. at St. Pius X Parish, Selinsgrove.

**Northern Deanery:** Monthly (3rd Saturday), after 5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Columba, location and time may rotate. For questions see page 7 for contact info.

**West Shore:** Monthly (4th Thursday\*), 7:00 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Center,  
Mechanicsburg, PA  
\*except November 17, due to Thanksgiving

**Network Sign-up:** Kathi Durborow  
Kathi Durborow  
jcsdove@verizon.net

**E-Mail Address Changes—Contact:** Kathi Durborow  
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**Newsletter Address Changes—Contact:** Gary Honabach, Jr.  
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Catwissa, PA 17820-1042  
570.356.2383  
ghonbach@bloomisd.k12.pa.us

**Newsletter Deadline—** Saturday, March 17, 2012  
Send any information to Mary McShea Sneed at maryesneed@gmail.com