



*Message from the Lay Director  
Jerry McDaniel*

As my youngest son, Andrew and I were setting up the English Speaking Cursillo booth for the FESTIVAL OF FAITH, I wondered to myself, is this nothing more than a Catholic Trade Show? Is this going to be an effort in futility? Why am I here? What will I accomplish? And where the heck did my son go and why is he not helping me? (just kidding...he's 19 and was a big help) I was to be in the booth all day Friday and we had several people helping in the booth all day Saturday. As the time passed on Friday and I attempted to hide all of the chocolates and mints from the 5,000 school kids that were there, (have to budget resources somehow), an elderly gentleman came up to me and sat down and started to talk about his Cursillo experience...he started to shed a tear when he said he made his week-end back in 1981; what is even more remarkable is that when he was 19, he was stationed at the air force base in Texas when the first Cursillo (Spanish) was held in the US...remember the story about the two airmen who brought it over from Spain? This gentleman was there...but he didn't realize it until his 4<sup>th</sup> day after his week-end some 32 years later. What a close moment!

As he left the booth, I thought to myself, what would it be like to be there...in the beginning? The crowds would not be big; the candidates would not be very many, it would be very humble, very spiritual, very blessed...just like beginnings are meant to be...the start of something truly extraordinary. In June we will all share in this joy as approximately 40 men and women from this diocese will assist in putting on the first Cursillo week-ends in West Virginia in almost 30 years! What an incredible accomplishment as these men and women have put in thousand of miles in team meetings, etc. to create Christian Community. I was fortunate to attend the men's closing back on June 8<sup>th</sup> and; yes there wasn't a big crowd, maybe 30 people, not a large number of candidates; less than 20; but to be in this truly historic situation was absolutely overwhelming.

It is very true; that for evil to triumph all that has to happen is for good men and women to do nothing...let's all pray and continue to offer palanca for the success of the Cursillo movement in West Virginia...we shouldn't have to wait another 27 years for the next Cursillo week-end. And sitting there during the closing, I couldn't help but remember that gentlemen I met at the booth and what it feels like to be at the beginning of something truly guided by the Holy Spirit, and then I shed a tear...and understood.

**From Father David**

Sunday, May 25, 2008 is the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, what we used to refer to as *Corpus Christi*. The gospel for this day does not feature one of the Last Supper scenes from Mark, Matthew or Luke but rather a scene of controversy from the Gospel according to John. In this scene Jesus tells those assembled, "I am the living bread from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever." What is most telling in this story is the response of the crowd who corporately ask the all important question, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

For the last two thousand years people have been asking this same question and their own responses to the mystery of the Real Presence in the Eucharist have frequently driven them to accept or reject Jesus. Believers too ask this question, though their motivation is usually different. Believers frame this question in terms of the incredible generosity of Christ, not just giving himself up to death for us, but continuing to give us his very body as an everlasting sign of the love of God. When you consider how abundant the presence of Christ is in our lives, in the Word of God, in the sacraments, and in each other, what believer would not ask, "How can this man, who has given us everything, give us his flesh too to eat?"

Of course there is one other vital way that we constantly experience the love of God and the true presence of Jesus: in his Spirit; given to us to make us one in the one Gospel and to sanctify our lives. Those who are active in the Cursillo movement know the force of the Spirit of Jesus in their lives and in our world, giving us the gifts we need for our individual vocations and inspiring us to an ever greater witness to Christ in our own environments. What else can we attribute the great gift of the Spirit to, except the generosity of our Savior? And this is a true mystery, that we who are sinners should be loved so much by God. The only genuine response we can make to the generosity of Christ is to respond with our own generous 'yes' to Christ and to the will of God in our lives. We have seen this overwhelming generosity, prompted by the Spirit, in action at Men's Cursillo #81 and Women's Cursillo #90 but we must also remember that our response to the Spirit must be a daily response that is rooted in our piety, study and action.

How can this man, who has given us everything, give us his flesh too to eat?

*Because he loves us! DeCOLORES!*

*(the newsletter was not yet ready, when the above was sent...our apologies)*

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**WOMENS WEST VIRGINIA NO 1- June 19-22...Pray and perform palanca!  
We have several team members from this Diocese...keep them in your prayers!**

**HOLY HOURS-** Will pick back up in October before the week-ends

**JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>**- Pray for Cursillo Movement!

**MENS CURSILLO #82-** Oct 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> – San Pedro Center  
Paul Stewart- Rector

**WOMENS CURSILLO # 90-** Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup> – San Pedro Center  
Marilyn O Shea- Rectora

**Speaking of RECTORS / RECTORAS- An exciting event coming in August for past RECTORS / RECTORAS...more details coming soon!!!**

**APPLICATION UPDATE...**

***GET APPLICATIONS IN QUICKLY...AS WE MOVE INTO THE SUMMER MONTHS WE NEED TO REMEMBER THAT EVERYONE'S SCHEDULES GET HECTIC...IT TOOK A YEAR TO GET 20 MEN AND 33 WOMEN ON THESE PAST SPRING WEEK-END'S... WE HAVE LESS TIME AND VACATIONS/ SCHOOL STARTING UP TO OVERCOME; SO LET'S PRAY ABOUT THOSE CANDIDATES THAT WE ARE GOING TO POTENTIALLY SPONSOR.***

MARY HART handles pre-Cursillo...she is waiting for applications for the fall!

Please visit the San Pedro Center website for details on upcoming events ([www.sanpedrocenter.com](http://www.sanpedrocenter.com))



**Website: ([www.orlandocursillo.org](http://www.orlandocursillo.org))**

Our website is the best source for information about our local activities and provides links to other important sites including the National and Regional websites. Please make it a habit to periodically check it out.

**Trying to explain to potential candidates what Cursillo is? We will be glad to send a brochure to those who need them, including ULTREYA Coordinators for use in the parishes. Also, Rich Maffei has put a link on our website that explains what Cursillo is...be sure and point potential candidates to that link for more information.**

