



*Message from the Lay Director
Ed Soistman*

August Retreat

Our August Retreat is titled: “The Beatitudes, Being Christ-like in our Attitude.” based on Chapter 5 of Saint Matthew’s Gospel. The team has been formed, the place is readied and the invitation is out. For those of you who have not yet experienced one of our August retreats, be prepared for a spirit filled weekend that is easy going, relaxing and co-ed!! It’s a great opportunity for you babe chicks to share the Cursillo experience with your spouses. For all of us, it provides a refreshing and rejuvenating opportunity to spend some time with the Lord.

The retreat begins at 6:00 pm on Friday 8/20 and continues through 10:30 Sunday morning. There will be 8 talks (note the coincidence with the retreat title), spiritual exercises, songs, prayers and discussions. Meals will be provided. The suggested donation is \$30 per person and \$50 per couple. The registration form is included within this newsletter.

Holy Ground

Everyone who has made Cursillo or another spiritual encounter in the Orlando Diocese knows what we mean when we refer to San Pedro as “Holy Ground”.

Many of us experienced our closest moments to Christ right there. For some of us it was our first encounter with Him. For all of us, it’s a special place where God’s presence is easily recognized.

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of San Pedro as the Spiritual Development Center of the Diocese of Orlando and Bishop Grady’s invitation to the Franciscan Friars to facilitate it. The Victorious Cross stands out as a hallmark for all those who come to San Pedro for prayer and renewal. To celebrate, we will have a special Mass and rededication of the Cross.

It will follow shortly after the conclusion of the August Retreat. The Mass will be held in the main hall at 11:00 am on Sunday, 8/22. You are asked to arrive between 10:30 and 11:00. After Mass, we will all proceed to the crucifix where we’ll have a brief ceremony.

We will re-adjourn into the hall for a potluck brunch. Everyone who has ever had special feeling for San Pedro and the Crucifix are invited, so we hope for a large turnout. We ask only that everyone bring something to share at the potluck lunch.

Whether or not you’re able to make it to the retreat, try to attend the rededication. You might just run into friends that you haven’t seen since your first weekend.

Upcoming Three-Day Weekends

We are starting to receive applications for the Fall Men’s and Women’s weekends. If you are considering sponsoring a candidate, please remember to start the process early and make sure that both you and your candidate are properly prepared. As we’ve discussed in the last several newsletters, Cursillo offers a method of growing

closer to Christ, bringing others to Him, and persevering in our commitment to Him. The three-day weekend is a phenomenal experience. But it is only the “short course” that prepares us for a lifetime of grace. Your candidates should be told the big picture. You as a sponsor should be prepared to support your friend before, during and after the weekend.

School of Leaders

By our baptism, we are all called to be Christian Leaders within our environments. The three-day weekend reminds us of the obligation and gives us tools to be more effective leaders. The Study (or Formation) Talk reminds us that to “Be Christ to Others” we must continually grow to a deeper understanding of Christ and His Church. We are asked to pursue a “metanoia” which means that we put on the mind of Christ and His Church. You cannot fully share what you do not fully understand. Many cursillistas chose to live the Fourth Day using the Cursillo methods of evangelization and perseverance. Others continue their apostolate with methods other than Cursillo. Both ways are good since both lead us and others closer to Christ. In addition, many of us are also called to be leaders within the Cursillo movement itself. Those of us who are called to be Sponsors, Team Members, Ultreya Coordinators, etc need a deeper understanding of Cursillo to properly explain and share it with others. For us, some form of “continuing education” is needed. Over the years, the concept of a School of Leaders has taken on many forms. Currently we are holding sessions monthly on Saturday mornings. Unfortunately, no matter how or where the School is conducted, it fails to reach all of the cursillistas who would benefit by participation and whose leadership is needed within the movement.

There have been many suggestions concerning the School of Leaders ranging from “Eliminate it.” to “Mandate it”. We, on secretariat, do not believe that either extreme is appropriate so we’ve discussed some alternative methods for “delivering” the information that is essential for the leadership within the movement. We have scheduled an open forum meeting to present the ideas that we’ve discussed as well as your ideas and concerns. Most cursillistas have an opinion about the school. We’d greatly appreciate your input and participation in the forum so that we can arrive at the best approach for going forward. The forum will be held from 1:00 – 3:30 pm on Sunday, 8/15/2004 at Saint Stephen’s Parish in Winter Springs. Please plan on attending.

Calendar

August Retreat	August 21-22, 2004
Men’s Weekend #79	October 14-17, 2004
Women’s Weekend #85	October 21-24, 2004

School of Leaders	Monthly - 2cd
Saturday	
Secretariat Meetings	Monthly - 2cd
Tuesday	

Website

Please continue to visit the website at www.orlandocursillo.org

We will be posting the newsletter on the website as well as other helpful items such as the application for the August retreat as well as Sponsor forms.

There is plenty of fantastic information there, so make sure your place into your favorite’s folder.

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