



*Message from the Lay Director
Ed Soistman*

The past few months have been quite challenging for most of us. We need to continue to pray for those who lost their lives and/or their possessions to the storms that have struck.

We also need to continue to celebrate the many gifts and blessings that we as Christians have been given. For people who receive this newsletter, Cursillo is one of the greatest gifts that we've received. Our weekend encounter with Christ began a closer walk with Him that will continue for the rest of our lives. Another of our special gifts is the "Holy Ground" that we call San Pedro. Next year, San Pedro Center will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. This year marks the 25th year that the Franciscans Friars were chosen to facilitate the center.

For a variety of reasons, we have had to cancel several events of our beloved Cursillo and the hurricanes have tried their best to damage our holy ground at San Pedro. So we're going to "make up for lost time" with celebrations that will rekindle the spirit that can't be diminished by stormy times. Please join us.

**"A Thanksgiving For Cursillo" Celebration
Saturday October 23rd at the San Pedro Center**

A shortage of applications and an abundance of hurricanes have robbed us of half of our Cursillo activities this year. First, we had to cancel our August Retreat and the rededication of the Crucifix. Then, several sessions of our School of Leaders, including the planned "forum" had to be cancelled. The last disappointment came when we had to delay both the Men's and Women's Fall weekends.

But, for cursillistas, there's always a rainbow. Whenever we gather in Christ's presence, we remember the love that we felt when we first told Christ that He could count on us and the tremendous relief and security that we felt when we acknowledged that we could count on Him. Christ and I, An Overwhelming Majority! With His help obstacles become opportunities and disappointments become close moments.

We're planning a special "close moment" with Christ for Saturday, October 23rd. We'll celebrate the hundreds of events that weren't cancelled or delayed, we'll share a little piece of each of the events that we missed, and we'll spend some time considering the ways that we can overcome the difficulties that we've recently had with sponsorship.

We'll gather between 12:30 and 1:00 pm in the main hall. Our secretariat will explain all that has happened in the last year. Father Carl will present a talk on our changing environment and the tremendous opportunities it presents. We'll then spend some time at tables and then an open discussion about ways that we can encourage and support our method of Making a friend, Being a friend and Bringing our Friend to Christ. We'll think back to the friends that invited each of us to Cursillo and the ones that we subsequently brought and try to discover ways to rekindle the enthusiasm of sponsorship.

We'll continue with talks that share the themes that were to be shared at the August Retreat and the two weekends. And we'll conclude with a rededication of the Crucifix and celebration of the Eucharist at a special 5:00 pm vigil Mass.

Please come. The afternoon will be enlightening, productive and, most of all, a celebration with our Lord.

From Father Carl

On December 5, 2004, our bishop will be here to celebrate Eucharist for the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of San Pedro as the Spiritual Development Center for the Diocese of Orlando. While 2005 marks the 50th anniversary of "Camp San Pedro", the last twenty-five years have been a transforming time for a "camp".

The late bishop, Thomas Grady envisioned a center for the on-going formation of the people of this diocese. Bishop Grady gave Father Patrick Caverly the charge to oversee the development of the campus and has been a major force over the years to promote its growth. Moreover, if it were not for some very generous and dedicated laymen from the diocese, the vision would simply be that and not a reality. The men and women instrumental in building this place will be honored at the December 5 celebrations. Therefore, I encourage you to mark this date in your calendar and join in the festivities. This newsletter contains a form to send in your advanced reservations for any and all of the day's gatherings.

Since 1979, the buildings and surroundings have provided us all with a space to build a place not confined by acreage and stone. The diocesan programs hosted here and the variety of retreat programs and conferences are vehicles to build the places of love and justice in our souls. Celtic spirituality refers to this as "thin places." Here, the veil that separates earth and heaven is thinner. Here, one can sense, through the attuning of one's heart and mind, the Holy Spirit of God at work. This is a place of welcome where we deliberately invite THE OTHER to dwell. Once the believer has allowed for this inviting, then THE OTHER is perceived through all creation, in all events and in the brothers and sisters. Monasteries and shrines throughout the world testify to the importance and truth of this "thin place". Now, in our own diocese, we have San Pedro. I invite you to avail yourself of the opportunity to come and see. You might wish to visit our website (www.sanpedrocenter.org) and view the video that explains a bit about the Center. Better yet, come by sometime and become familiar with the staff and the Franciscan Friars who minister here.

Each day, the friars and people from the local communities gather for prayer and thanksgiving. Part of each day's prayer is an intercession for the people and leaders of this diocese. I invite you to join us, either for prayers and mass here, or in your homes and parishes. What a force for good in the world is the communion of saints on earth and in heaven! Let us pray that what we celebrate here in this "thin place" may be realized in the hearts and homes throughout our local church.

Pax et bonum - May the Lord give you peace and good! In Christ our Hope,

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

San Pedro Center is celebrating its Twenty Fifth Anniversary with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Norbert Dorsey on Sunday, December 5th at 3:00 p.m. (Camp Side). The Mass will be followed by a reception in the Main Hall and a dinner at the Orlando Hilton, Altamonte Springs.

Please visit the San Pedro Center website for additional details (www.sanpedrocenter.com). If you mark the space below, we can begin to get a feel for how many would be participating in the Mass and the approximate number of plates that will be needed for the dinner. Also, if you would like to make a donation to pay for flowers, musicians and the rental of a tent and chairs, we would greatly appreciate your generosity.

Thank you and I hope to see you at the celebration.

Fr. Carl



I will be attending the Mass on December 5th at 3:00 P.M.
Number attending _____. I plan on attending the
Dinner at the Orlando Hilton, Altamonte Springs. Number
attending _____ (Dinner: \$100.00 per plate)

I would like to make a donation to off-set the costs for the
Mass and the dinner. Amount enclosed _____.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: Daytime _____ Evenings _____

Calendar

School of Leaders 2nd Saturday of every month
Secretariat Meetings 2nd Tuesday of every month

Thanksgiving for Cursillo Saturday, October 23, 2004
San Pedro Anniversary Sunday, December 5, 2004

Men’s Weekend #79 March 3-6, 2005
Women’s Weekend #86 March 10-13, 2005
Fourth Day Reunion **tbd**

Website: (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.

Updates:

We automatically update our Cursillo database and mailing list whenever you contact us or serve on one of our teams. Fortunately, many of you are doing Christ’s work in your original or new environments. Unfortunately, we haven’t heard from you recently. Our address labels (“To the Cursillistas living at”) do not reflect a lack of personalization but rather sensitivity to your current situation. Knowing that many folks have moved or gone to their reward, we’ve chosen to address our mailing this way in the hope that no Cursillista will be overlooked. The information we need is:

Your name and the name of your spouse:

Your current address:

Your current phone:

Your E-mail address (if you have one):

If you know of cursillistas who have died or moved away, please provide whatever information you have.

Ed Soistman maintains our database. He is best reached via email at EdSoistman@Yahoo.com , by phone (407) 496-0395, or by regular mail: 2658 Tierra Circle, Winter Park, FL 32792.

Secretariat

Please join us in thanking the members of our secretariat whose terms ended this year. **Rich Maffei** continued to support the secretariat throughout the year as the “past lay director” and as our primary School of Leaders director. Regardless of his title, Rich will continue to serve the Lord and Cursillo in whatever capacity is asked. Thanks, Rich, for all that you’ve done and continue to do. **Frank O’Rourke, Dale Neely and Dolores Smith** also completed their terms on the secretariat. Each brought their special gifts and talents to our movement. Thanks to each of you and don’t think that we’ll rely any less on you now that you’re “retired”.

Please join us in welcoming Tom Wilkes to the secretariat. Tom has been a cursillista for 20 years. He’s a past rector and past member of the secretariat. Tom brings a wealth of experience and wisdom with him. We look forward to his help and guidance.

Colleen Aboud has accepted the assignment of Lay Director beginning in 2005. Colleen has served on the secretariat for 3 years, and has served in nearly every capacity in the movement, including Ultreya coordinator and rectora. We all look forward to her leadership. Ed Soistman will slip into the Past Lay Director role and continue to support the database.

