



Message from the Lay Director
Jerry McDaniel

I know...you're looking at my name above and the title beside it and you're thinking...there must be some kind of explanation...well, there is and here it is...God has a wicked sense of humor. I was on vacation in September to visit the Motherland, (Ireland, of course) when I was elected Lay Director. Moral of the story... never, ever under any circumstance take a vacation. It will come back to haunt you.

Seriously though, it's an honor to serve on the Secretariat with these people who are so committed to working for the movement; it's a close moment even when we meet on a monthly basis. Continue to keep us in your prayers as we go about doing the work of the Cursillo movement. Here's some thoughts in just my short tenure in this position as I reflect upon the beautiful witnessing of the Men at the closing last night. Last night I stood at the back and listened to the 4th day speakers make the following comments... As they made the comments and/or questions below, I did some soul-searching...

“Get yourself in a group and attend your local Ultreya”... I've been actively grouping since 1988 and use to regularly attend Ultreya; but lately have I been faithful in attending Ultreya? Or have I come up with a million and one reasons not to attend Ultreya? Make no mistake; the Cursillo movement is only as strong as the Ultreya's; (and as long as the Ultreya's are faithful to the format....grouping, witness, praying) I've decided to renew my passion for Ultreya and get out to attend as many Ultreya's as possible...be on the look-out; I'm coming to an Ultreya near you...to pray; witness and group. See you soon.

“How do you keep this week-end from becoming a faded memory?”...Has my Cursillo week-end and more importantly the movement become a faded memory? Do I pray on the first day of each month for the Cursillo movement? Do I actively engage other Catholics on Cursillo? Do I spread the word about this call to Christian Leadership? Do I talk to parish clergy and religious about their important role in this important ministry? Have I forgotten about the defining and lasting impact my week-end had on me and my family's life? I can't blame it on hurricanes; low candidate numbers, facilities not being ready, etc...those are things...Cursillo is not a thing; it's not a retreat; it's not a week-end; even though importance is placed on the week-end (sometimes too much)...Cursillo is a mind-set and heart-set; it's a way of life and the memory will only become faded if I allow it too...I pledge and pray not to let such a defining moment in my spiritual journey become faded!

“Your sponsor has made a commitment to helping you find a group.”...This one will probably hurt; but as sponsors have we properly prepared our candidates for the week-end? Remember it's a week-end of truths, there's nothing you can't tell your candidate about the week-end...if you're concerned about palanca; remember this...some of us have worked week-ends for many, many years and we know palanca is coming; but it's still powerful when they bring it out. If you're concerned about revealing the closing, simply tell your candidate, there will be a couple of times on the week-end, when they will have to introduce themselves...and leave it at that. Proper sponsorship ensures future success in the movement, which also means accompanying the candidate to Ultreya and if need be; grouping...it's a minimum of a year commitment and God Bless our sponsors for taking on this important calling.

As we move into 2008; let all of us renew our calling to Christ, Cursillo and each other.
Christ is counting on me...and I on Him!

From Father David

The last time I was stationed at San Pedro Center I was a lowly Franciscan novice and the year I spent here was mostly taken up with observation rather than participation. When I returned to San Pedro, a year and a half ago, I became very much a participant in the life and ministry of this place. My return coincided with another sort of return, that of a re-concentration by the friars and staff on the stated mission of San Pedro Center; to be available and of service to the Diocese of Orlando.

That mission was never in peril but in the intervening years, often due to events beyond anyone's control, it was sometimes not able to be fully realized. Hurricane Charlie was one of those events, causing substantial damage to the camp side buildings and displacing some of our bedrock ministries that had always called these facilities home; like the Scripture Camp for Youth, Cursillo, and many others.

Now, within the relatively short span of a year, we have seen a remarkable change in San Pedro Center, not only in our ministerial offerings and diocesan programs but also in the long awaited addition of two camp side buildings including a new dormitory and a separate dining and conference center with its own full kitchen facility. The old 'Main Hall' has been rehabilitated and very shortly the Pavilion, our lovely chapel space in the woods, will be cleaned and screened-in to make it a more comfortable and inviting worship space. Future plans for the camp side include new restroom facilities near the Main Hall and, we hope, an in-ground pool.

How quickly things can change! We could not have accomplished anything without the total support of Bishop Wenski and the Diocese of Orlando whom we serve, not to mention the dedication of Mr. Walter Gardner, who oversaw the new construction and continues to work on the future rehabilitation and expansion of the campus. Yet in all these things we are always led back to Christ with hearts full of gratitude for the blessings we have received. It brings to mind the words of the Second Vatican Council in *Lumen Gentium*: "The Church firmly believes that beneath all changes, there are many realities that do not change and have their ultimate foundations in Christ, who is the same, yesterday, today and forever!"

As we move closer to Men's Cursillo #81 (last night; my bad- Jerry) and Women's Cursillo #89, let us be grateful to Christ for the opportunity to give witness to the Gospel. May we bring a harvest of souls to Christ! De Colores!

Bell Dedication

We recently held a dedication for the new Cursillo Bell, graciously donated by one of our local Cursillistas and there was a reading at the dedication...the author is Walter Gardner and it speaks volumes...

"We considered several methods of mounting the bell; making sketches, etc. This was the best. As we progressed with that design, we found dimensions and placement of the bell to have considerable significance.

The cross is actually 16 feet in height, 5 feet in the ground and 11 feet out or above ground. The 5 feet foundation section reminds us of Christ working in and through the five fold ministry of the church:

Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers

The 11 feet cross reminds us of the eleven apostles who remained faithful to Christ throughout the experience of the Crucifixion.

The placement of the bell is near the heart of Christ when he was on the cross. Its ringing reminds us that he is calling with love, from his heart, for men, women and children to come to the cross, to repent, and to be in Him and with Him for all eternity."

Thanks, Walt...for everything.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WOMENS CURSILLO # 89- March 27th- 30th San Pedro Center

HOLY HOUR- March 27th – 7- 8 pm- San Pedro Center; Mary Mother of God Chapel

APRIL 1ST- Pray for Cursillo Movement (no April Fools jokes...we need it)

As a community we pray for the entire Cursillo Movement on the first day of each month. Without prayer; the Cursillo Movement doesn't have life.

FOURTH DAY- April 26th – 9am -12 noon; St Margaret Mary

WEST VIRGINIA MENS CURSILLO #1- June 5th – 8th

WEST VIRGINIA WOMENS CURSILLO #1- June 19th – 22nd

MENS CURSILLO #82- Oct 9th -12th – San Pedro Center

WOMENS CURSILLO # 90- Oct 23rd- 26th – San Pedro Center

Please visit the San Pedro Center website for details on upcoming events (www.sanpedrocenter.com)



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.

Secretariat

Please join us in thanking the members of our secretariat whose terms ended this year. **Colleen Aboud; Bill Daly, Mary McDaniel and Sandy Strobel.**

Without their tireless efforts, the movement would not be what it is today. Please keep them in your prayers as they move on to other ministries...and rest!

Also please join me in continuing to thank **Rich Maffei** who handles our website. Thanks, Rich!

