



December 2014

Letter from the Spiritual Director

"Awaiting the Emmanuel"

Advent is a beautiful liturgical time when we prepare ourselves for the Christmas season. The word advent means "coming": The Lord is coming. How can we, as Christians and Cursillistas, keep our spirits in joyful expectation during this season? We can feel overwhelmed with activities, family reunions, gifts, decorations... and lose the true meaning of the season.

The Lord is coming... God is with us! The answer to the question is PERSEVERANCE. In this time of preparation we could choose to do things that recognize the coming of Christ or choose to busy ourselves as an escape of our impatient waiting.

It is clearly more beneficial to take a look into our souls, our families, our communities, and our movement.

How will we recognize the Lord- the Emmanuel- in the midst of our busy but joyful expectation? "...this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." (Luke 2, 12)

This was the sign given to the shepherds by the Angel. Finding God in his vulnerability and closeness, just for you and for me is still the message.

But it does not stop there! This mystery insists upon us to go further if we persevere. In the Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis emphasized the need to "*draw near to new forms of poverty and vulnerability, in which we are called to recognize the suffering Christ.*" I invite you to joyfully persevere together this Advent, so we can rejoice together as the Church and Cursillistas in front of God's vulnerability this Christmas.

Happy Advent!!!

Fr. Rubén Quinteros
Cursillos Spiritual Director
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From the 3-Day Commission:

DeColores!

We've come to the end of another year, and it is so true that time passes faster when you get older! Seems like it was only yesterday that we were preparing to celebrate

the Men's Cursillo that was held in October. That weekend was a very special one in many ways.

I've been asked many times recently if I think that maybe Cursillo has run its course, if it's no longer necessary. I've given this much thought. We've discussed it in great detail at our leaders school. The preparation for this weekend was particularly frustrating. We had a lot of trouble getting enough men who were able to participate. All kinds of things were making it difficult for them. You know what? That may be one of the greatest blessings that we have received!

I know that I personally realized at the closing of that Cursillo that GOD TRULY IS BEHIND AND IN CONTROL OF OUR MOVEMENT. After all the problems we had getting the weekend together, it went off without a hitch. And, it was evident at the closing, that the heart of every man that attended the weekend had been touched by our Lord. Among the men who attended were a Priest and a young seminarian. The Priest is from my Parish and he's already talking about re-invigorating our ultreya. YEA GOD!!!

Does that sound like a movement that has run its course?.... Are there not people in your life who need to have Cursillo in theirs?.... This movement still has God as its Head and as long as it does, we cannot fail.

I'm not sure why God still sees fit to use the same old tired people to get these weekends together, but I've decided that I'm still in!

This is a season of prayer! I wish you would prayerfully discern if God is asking you to re-commit to Cursillo. Imagine how many people we could touch if we were all still living the movement as we were when we first made our weekend. We would love for you to be in it with us!

Next March, March 12 - 15, to be exact, we will be holding a women's Cursillo. If you have a friend in your life who needs more of Christ in hers, please invite her to attend this weekend. We would like to receive the applications as soon as possible so that maybe plans for this weekend can proceed a little more smoothly. And please begin now to do palanca for this weekend and mark your calendars to attend the closing on Sunday afternoon, March 15th.

Christ is Counting on You!

Have a Blessed Advent and Christmas Season
Nancy Christian

Action.....

Action can be defined as the working of one thing on another to make a change. We perform all kinds of actions all day long. Opening the mail, reading this article, going to work, serving as a Mass Minister...these are all examples of action. But the kind of action the Cursillo Movement means is more....its not just doing something, or just doing something nice, its the kind of action that uses God's Love and **our Love of others** to spread the Kingdom of God.

I don't know about y'all, but it I really understand a concept when it's made simple. And one of my favorite Gospel stories is a simple, but great example of action for me. Its the story of the Samaritan woman at the well. She **gives** Jesus some water...action. She **talks** with Him....another action. She **realizes** His love for her....action! She **runs**

to the village and **tells** everyone there about Jesus...two more actions...but **those** actions are ones that just happen to lead others to Jesus!
THAT'S the kind of action I need to practice...that I'm so in love with Jesus, all I want to do is run out and tell everyone about Him....that I want to help bring others to Him. Over the years, I have become more comfortable with action, and have come to realize that its not always as big as leading a whole village to Jesus, it can also be, and usually is for me, the small ways to spread God's love.

De Colores!

Lisa Slaughter
St. Vincent de Paul Church
Rogers, AR
Cursillo #64
St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Table

Welcome!! Men of Cursillo # 108

Ultreyas and small groups, please welcome the men of Cursillo # 108:

Rev. YC Irudayaraj – Benton
Johnnie Patton – Benton
Eric McGuire – Benton
Mark Mize – Conway
Martin Siebold – Conway
Jeremy Skinner - Conway

Allen Glenn – Fort Smith
Gary Barker – Fort Smith
Ken Hunter – Rogers
Peter Metzger – Rogers
Shawn Lawson – Van Buren

What does it mean to sponsor a candidate?

When taking the responsibility of being a sponsor for a candidate, it is our duty to make sure they are prepared for not only the weekend but grouping and Ultreya. If we take the proper time to bring them along the cursillo method we will enrich their lives as well as our own. Taking time to explain the weekend prepares them for the ultimate experience. They will not come in worried about what they have gotten themselves into or what you have gotten them into. It will relax the individual and make them a better candidate. So the time is now to start forming those you would like to see come to the next weekend. If we show interest in preparing them excuses will slowly go away. Make a friend, be a friend and bring a friend to Christ.

God Bless,

Dc. Greg

IMPORTANT CURSILLO DATES

ENGLISH CURSILLO DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR		
Little Rock School of Leaders	2 nd Saturday of the month, 9:00 am to 12 noon	St. John Center, Little Rock
Rogers School of Leaders	2 nd Saturday of the month, 9:00 am to 12 noon	St. Vincent de Paul Church
Fort Smith School of Leaders	2 nd Saturday of the month, 2:00 – 4:00 pm	Immaculate Conception
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<u>2015</u>		
Women's Team Retreat	February 20-22, 2015	
Women's Weekend	March 12-15, 2015	
Team Retreat	October 16-18, 2015	
Weekend	November 5-8, 2015	
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<u>2016</u>		
Men's Team Retreat	February 5-7, 2016	
Men's Weekend	February 25-28, 2016	
Women's Team Retreat	Sept. 30 – Oct. 2, 2016	
Women's Weekend	November 3-6, 2016	
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