

Cursillo Newsletter

March, 2012
429 East Grandview Boulevard
P.O. Box 10397
Erie, PA 16514-0397
Phone: 814-824-1118
Fax: 814-824-1128
E-mail: office@eriecursillo.org
Web site: www.eriecursillo.org



Happy St. Patrick's

Women's Cursillo #225

Women's Cursillo #225 will begin on **Thursday, March 15, 2012** at 8:00 PM at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 837 Bartlett Road, in Harborcreek, PA.

Team: Fathers Tom Brown (St. Raphael - Eldred, Denny Veltri (St. Philip – Linesville) and Deacon Bob Ball (St. George) will join Rector Linda Tolhurst (St. John the Evangelist - Girard) and her assistant, Linda McCamman (Holy Rosary – Erie) and their team: Chief Warden Kelley Majczyk (St. Mark the Evangelist – Erie), Wardens Jean Urash (St. Boniface - Erie), Norma Duska (Our Mother of Sorrows – Erie), Stacy Deemer (Our Lady of Mercy – Harborcreek) and Troubadour/Warden Gail Jerioski (Blessed Sacrament – Erie), and Auxiliaries Janet Russell (St. George – Erie), Brenda DelMaramo (St. Michael – Greenville), Laura Beckes (St. James – Erie) and Mary Skladanowski (St. John the Baptist – Erie).

The Holy Hour: The Holy Hour to support this Cursillo will happen on Saturday, March 17, 2012, 9:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Church, with Deacon Steve Washek presiding.

Palanca: Palanca must be dropped off by **Friday, March 16, 2012** at the following sites:

- 1) The Teacher's Apple Basket, 9 West Main Street, North East, PA 16428
Mon., 10 AM – 5 PM, Tues. – Thurs., 10:00 A.M. – 8:00 PM.
- 2) St. Mark Church, 695 Smithson Ave. in Lawrence Park
Mon. – Thurs. 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM, Friday before 10:00 AM
- 3) Al's Awning Shop, 1721 West 26th St. in Erie
Mon. – Thurs. only between 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- 4) Kelly's Sewing Corner, 3330 West 26th St. in Erie, Village West
Mon. – Thurs. only between 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- 5) For Art's Sake Gallery, 7547 West Ridge Rd., Rt. 20, Fairview
Tues. – Thurs. 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Fridays 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM
- 6) Hofmann's Church and Religious Goods, 420 East 26th St. in Erie
Mon. – Thurs. between 9:00 AM – 5:30 PM, Fri. before 10:00 AM
- 7) The Cursillo Office, 429 East Grandview Boulevard in Erie
Mon. – Thurs. 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

After 10:00 AM on Friday, Palanca should be taken directly to the Cursillo site.

Please remember there should be no flowers sent to this Cursillo. Have them waiting at home if you desire.

Setup:

The **set up** will be **Wednesday, March 14, 2012** at 6:00 PM.

The Thursday Night Snack is the responsibility of the assigned committee.

The Friday Morning Breakfast (be there at 7:00 AM) is the responsibility of St. Mark, Mt. Calvary & St. James Parishes.

Friday Luncheon (be there at 12:30 PM) is the responsibility of St. Gregory (North East), St. Boniface, Holy Rosary, St. John the Baptist and St. Patrick (Erie) Parishes.

Friday Supper (be there at 6:15 PM) is the responsibility of Our Lady of Mercy, St. George, St. Paul, St. Julia Parishes.

Saturday Morning (be there at 7:00 AM) is the responsibility of St. Joseph, St. Peter, Mt. Carmel, Sacred Heart, and Holy Trinity parishes.

Saturday Luncheon (be there at 12:45 PM) is the responsibility of Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of the Lake, All Saints and St. Jude parishes.

Saturday Supper (be there at 6:45 PM) is the responsibility of Holy Cross, Our Lady of Peace, St. Andrew, St. John (Girard) and St. Lawrence (Albion) Parishes.

Sunday meals (be there at 7:00 AM and 11:30 AM) are the **responsibility of the Crawford County!**



For **cancellations** and additions to the Cursillo list, call the Cursillo office at 814-824-1118 or check the web site (bulletin board) which is updated regularly.

The **emergency phone number** at this Cursillo is **814-898-3306**.

Utreya:

The next **Erie Utreya** is set for **March 2, 2012**, to be held at **7:30 p.m.** at Our Lady of Peace Parish, 2401 West 38th Street, Erie, PA 16506. The regular program of the Celebration of Eucharist, our sharing program and our closing social period will be observed. **Babysitting will be available at this site.** Check the dates and times of other Utreyas in the diocese in your area newsletters.

Prayers Department:



Prayers: Our deepest sympathy and prayers go out to the loved ones and friends of Fr. John Buzga, Fr. Donald Cooper, Sr. Lauretane Rupczewski, CSFN, Vic Aiello, Carmelita Dobbs, Thomas Doyle, Lena Evans, Joseph Fontecchio Eileen Gaither, John Holter, Al Kilheffer, Candidate Louis Konkol, Jr., Vincenzina "Jennie" Martin, Margaret McBride, Rosalie McGill, Vic Morealli, Harry "Bus" Plumb, Jr., Steve Rusnak, Dolly Theiss, Jammi Gunter's mother,

Dennis Jobczynski's mother, Tom McAraw's father, Tom Kurpiewski's wife, as well as all those of whom we are unaware.

On our sick and recovering from sickness list we find: Fr. John Walsh, Shirley Byers, Milly Custard, Tina Espin, Ann Feeney, Jacki Ivarone, Mary Ann Lukowich, Cindy Moran, Rob Praetzel, Margie Vallimont, Ruth Zaksheske, Tim Stewart's mother, Candidate Char Warmbrodt's mother, Jennifer Gelsick's father, Jeff Rzepka's father, Mark Alloway's grandmother, Dave Bartkowiak's sister, Janet Chandley's niece, Bill and Mary Ellen Stumpf's nephew, Scott Lee, as well as all those of whom we are unaware.

As always, be sure to keep our seminarians, women and men religious candidates, as well as our deacon candidates and their wives in your prayers.

For the Good of the Movement:

- 1) It has been brought to our attention that, over the past several Cursillos, there have been very few, **if any, men to help serve meals**. We have never had a problem like this before and we need to make sure that it does not continue. Gentlemen, we must rely on your generosity, time and talent to see that this very important duty is fulfilled. The women cannot do it for you. The problem seems to be primarily on Saturday afternoons and all day Sunday. It is especially bad when Erie County is scheduled for the Sunday meals. Even if your parish is not scheduled to serve at these times, feel free to just show up to work for our babe chicks. There can never be too many volunteers. Thank you in advance for your assistance in addressing this problem from the kitchen crew and the office.
- 2) The **Mixed Cursillo Choir** will next join in the Celebration of the Eucharist on March 10, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. at **St. Francis Xavier Parish**, 8880 West Main Street, McKean, PA 16426. Rehearsal will be held in the basement of the church at 4:00 p.m. Dinner will be provided by our gracious hosts and Cursillistas are requested to bring a dessert to share.
- 3) Are you **looking for a GR**? Gentlemen, just contact Randy Crays at rcrays@roadrunner.com or call 814-835-9416: women may contact Lorraine Bucklin at bucklin@roadrunner.com or call 814-899-5399.
- 4) If you are looking for something to do over the summer, make plans now to attend the **42nd Annual Cursillo Picnic** at Camp Sherwin, August 3-5, 2012 and be "Satisfied".
- 5) The **Secretariat Meeting Minutes** from January 7, 2012 can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Heard at the Last Closing:

- I leave here a better father, a better husband, a better man and a better Catholic!
- Cursillo reminded me God will **NEVER** abandon me!
- I learned how to heal and feel God's love!
- I praise God for the investment He has made in me!
- I don't want to be sitting on the bench anymore!



Father Bill's and Father Dan's Comments:

Brothers and sisters, the Secretariat of the Erie Diocesan Cursillo movement met on Saturday, January 7th. Fr. Dan and I rely heavily on the input of these good and holy men and women as we strive to guide the flow of this movement. It is indeed a movement. It is God who moves us; we can only strive to go where the Holy Spirit calls.

One of the concerns discussed in length was the Cursillo Choir. This was appropriate. The Choir is the first face of Cursillo many people see. We were asked to revisit the decision made at the June Secretariat meeting to have both men and women sing in the choir. For many years, the Choir was all male. This was a wonderful thing. There is something about men's voices coming together in harmony. (Remember, Fr. Bill's been singing Barbershop Harmony for 26 years!) However this is a movement. One movement we have seen in the Church as a whole is the recognition that the institution of marriage is struggling. Giving witness to husbands

and wives singing and praying together is a powerful sign. A second movement we have seen in Cursillo is a movement of men away from a commitment to sing at parish masses. Here we must remember that the Cursillo Choir is often the first face of Cursillo many people see. If what they see is a single guitarist and a couple of men, this may not encourage them to make a weekend and is not a true example of what Cursillo is. There was a lot of discussion. There was a lot of talking. There was a lot of listening and most especially there was a lot of respect. The final recommendation and the final decision was that the Cursillo Choir will remain a choir made up of both men and women, as is the church, as is the Cursillo Movement. This is not a decision for women or against men. The practice of including both men and women in the Cursillo Choir does not contradict the original purpose of Cursillo, namely to get men active in the church again. We believe it is a decision to steer this wonderful movement where the Holy Spirit is guiding us.

God bless and De Colores!

Fr. Bill and *Fr. Dan*

Candidates for Women's Cursillo #224:

1. Abby Badach, St. Mark the Evangelist – Erie (Greg & Annie Badach)
2. Malinda Bostick (Zotkiewicz), Our Lady of Fatima Mission – Union City (John & Rita Mineo)
3. Crystal Cicatella, Immaculate Conception Mission – Titusville (Kelly Nordin)
4. Joni Coffey (Edwards), St. Michael – Greenville (Kevin Coffey)
5. Kathleen “Kathy” DeSante (Wisinski), St. George (David DeSante)
6. Gina Marie Flower, No Parish Affiliation – Girard (Linda Tolhurst & Gil Monroe)
7. Toni Frisina, St. Mary of Grace – Meadville (Opie Wuenschel)
8. Stephanie Goodrich (Richnafsky), St. Mark – Emporium (Shelia Guisto)
9. Theresa Kightlinger, St. Mark the Evangelist – Erie (Kelly Kightlinger & Maggie Santiago)
10. Shirley Nichol (Jackson), St. Bernadettes – Saegertown (Gary & Connie Haibach)
11. Kristin Pichler (Wehler), St. Joseph – Force (Patty Krivonyak)
12. Karen Smith (Laine), St. Mark the Evangelist – Erie (Wendell & Kathy Thornton)
13. Josephine “Dolly” Wernicki, Our Lady of Peace – Erie (Peter Wernicki)
14. Ilene Zakovitch (Hornick), St. Teresa of Avila – Union City (Yvonne Stauffer)

WE DESPERATELY NEED MORE CANDIDATES!!!

January Secretariat Meeting Minutes:

Erie Cursillo Movement, Secretariat Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2012

Meeting was held at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 East Grandview Boulevard, Erie, PA 16504.

In Attendance: Fr. Bill Sutherland, Msgr. Dan Arnold, Eileen Gunter, Mike Cross, Joe Hoag, Mary Beth Hoag, Arco Wasserman, Janet Wasserman, Jeff Rzepka, Jay Chandley, Janet Chandley, Theresa Dayton, Bob Dayton, Mary Ann Arnold, Linda McCamman, Mary-Ellen Madigan, John Madigan, Cyndi Pilewski, Bill Pilewski, Michael Rowe, Cari Rowe, Maggie Santiago, Linda Tolhurst, Pete Tolhurst, Dave Jackson, Jim Hess, Wendy Hess, Carole Schenberg, Doug Schenberg, Chuck Faytak, Lew Nordin, Sr., Sue Brown, Mike Brown, Chris Morealli, Jerry Bukowski, Pam McAraw, Tom McAraw, Frank Smeraglia, Lorraine Bucklin, Janet Sedelmyer, Jon Sedelmyer, Tina Piotrowicz, Dave Piotrowicz, Michael McLaughlin, Steve Patterson, Pat Espin, Kathie Iarussi, Linda Major, Judy Diehl, Dave Diehl.

Meeting called to order @ 9:09 a.m.

I. Opening Prayer and Introductions – Msgr. Dan Arnold

II. Treasurer's Report – Pete Tolhurst (see report in office).

III. Area Coordinator Reports:

A. Cameron/Elk County – Bob & Theresa Dayton – 19 Women and 14 men have made Cursillo in 2011. All are still in their GR's and they are recruiting and getting involved in Cursillo. Ultreyas are continuing to increase in #s and participation. They are preparing for their new date in June and facility at Elk county catholic HS. GR's in their area have been instrumental in their area. Since the Cursillo has been brought back to Elk/Cameron, the GR's are continuing to stay together. St. Mary's school district changed their uniforms so Cursillo people packaged them up and sent them to Indian reservations. Crawford County moving to September, Theresa suggested we make it a special time for Crawford since they moved to a new spot.

B. Clarion/Venango Counties – Rod & Rita Hartle – No report given.

C. Clearfield/Jefferson Counties – J & Sue Angelo & Jim & Darlene Davidson – No report given.

D. Crawford County- Jim & Wendy Hess – (see report in office).

E. Erie County – Pete & Linda Tolhurst – (see report in office).

F. Mercer County – Frank Smeraglia – (see report in office).

IV. Spiritual Directors' Report

A. Msgr. Dan Arnold – The Spiritual Directors acknowledged the move of Denny Veltri to St. Philips. They also thank Jack Walsh for his help in moving Cursillo to St. Philips. They are grateful for the participation from the people in Crawford County. Fr. Dan stated he would like to see members of the secretariat participate somehow at the 1st Cursillo at St. Philips. Everything seems to be exactly what Cursillo needs except for the lack of an elevator, right up to the priests' residence being offered to cooks who would be coming in to cook for the weekend.

B. Fr. Bill Sutherland – Fr. Bill noted that Janet Sedelmyer and Dave Piotrowicz are doing excellent jobs picking Erie County teams. The spiritual directors are responsible for picking the top three spots: rector, assistant rector and chief warden. They need input as to people who are going to be good in some of these positions. Please let Fr. Bill know if you have anyone in mind.

V. Reports:

A. Appeal – Joe Hoag reports the annual appeal will be going out in the next couple of weeks. We came up short last year for our expenses, so please, be as generous as possible to help keep this movement going. You will also receive an application to recruit a candidate with your name on it as sponsor. We did have some success with this last year. Crawford County has been very successful with this. Janet Chandley suggested we also recruit people in this letter to volunteer their time at the Cursillos. **Annual** Joe will make a list of open positions to possibly go out in a follow-up letter. This item will be tabled for the next Secretariat meeting. The Pastor's note should indicate what the appeal money has been used for.

B. Prison Ministry – Arco & Janet Wasserman & Tom & Pam McAraw – This position has changed as prisoners are praying every morning at 5:30 am for Cursillo. There were 390 Christmas cards delivered for 130 inmates on Christmas Eve. The GR in the Albion prison is 15 years strong. The Wasserman's and McAraw's are looking for anyone who wants a fulfilling commitment. No dates have been set at this point for upcoming weekends.

- C. **Picnic Report – Mike & Cari Rowe** – The picnic will be held August 3-5, 2012 back at Camp Sherwin. The committee will be meeting early to focus on increasing attendance and acknowledgement of businesses who donate gifts/prizes, etc. The theme of the weekend will be decided soon and t-shirts will be sold prior to the picnic to build up attendance. Early reservations will begin in March, with cut-offs in July. They also want to streamline everything so they do not show a deficit. Mary Beth Hoag thinks that having the Crawford County picnic the week after the Diocesan picnic could be a detriment in getting people to go to both of them. Linda Tolhurst has permission to sell her tee-shirts at the picnic.
- D. **Parish Alive – Kathie Iarussi** – Kathy is very excited about taking over this position. Her parish, St. Paul – Erie, held their last Parish Alive in February 2011 and had 30 candidates, four of them going on to make a Cursillo. She will continue to promote this program and help anyone who is interested in running a Parish Alive Program at their parish. Mike Cross suggested that all County Coordinators pick up a copy from the office before leaving today.
- E. **Marketing and Speakers Bureau – Jay Chandley** – 2011 was a very bad year for marketing and speakers bureau and Jay takes full responsibility for it. He would like to get Cursillo back to the point of having a waiting list. Jay feels we have lost something special in Cursillo and he wants to get it back, continue to reach more people and continue to grow. He has been talking to Joe Hoag and several other people regarding marketing and the speaker's bureau and they intend to start addressing all these issues. Pulpit talks are good, not only for recruitment but to help Cursillistas feel a desire to get back into the movement.

VI. **Old Business: Cursillo Choir** – There was a heated discussion regarding whether or not women should be able to join the men's choir at parish masses the weekend following the Cursillo. Joe Hoag emphasized the fact that men only would serenade the candidates on their way to dinner on Saturday evening and only men would sing after dinner (the Men's Corral). The women are only going to join the Choir at the masses the weekend following the Cursillo. Mary Beth Hoag suggested we have a combined choir and have men sing something alone. It was suggested that it might look like a performance by doing things that way. Fr. Bill Sutherland stated that by not having enough men at some of the church sings, it was the Holy Spirit stepping in and telling us to open the choir up to women. A motion was made to let women sing only at church sings. A vote was held and the motion was carried by majority vote.

VII. **New Business:**

- A. Music for Masses – **Cyndi Pilewski** stated we should select a new mass setting for Cursillo weekends; however, Joe Hoag feels it should be left to the musicians and what works best for them. Carole Schenberg proposes that troubadours meet with the executive committee within the next month.
- B. Fourth Day – **Joe Hoag** wants to promote "Living Out Our Fourth Day" this year. Joe is going to have brief talks about how new Cursillistas can live out their fourth day and he is challenging all area coordinators to do the same.
- C. Website and IContact – **Pat Espin** – There was much discussion about candidate applications/ letters of recommendation and wants to get everything updated. Pat suggested we figure out a way to have the apps go to the appropriate county coordinator so Crawford won't have a need for their own app. He also wants to add something about how to recruit candidates to the website. Additionally, he wants to add to the bottom of IContact a section for people to drop any additional announcements other than the newsletter. Furthermore, Pat wants to look into posting things on Facebook and Twitter. Mary Beth Hoag feels we should open it up to twitter. Doug Schenberg is our Facebook coordinator. Any suggestions, please contact Pat Espin at
- D. 50th Anniversary – **Arco Wasserman** – is forming a committee to work on this project. He wants to bring in Pope Benedict XVI's Year of Faith, which marks the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, and is set to conclude in 2013. Anyone with ideas should contact Arco at gneiss@windstream.net.
- E. **Joe Hoag** stated that he has gotten complaints that Palanca is not being read by spouses (women). He suggested that if anyone has a way to ensure spouses receive their Palanca in a timely manner that they should contact the Warden Advisor, Sue Brown, at skb145@aol.com.
- F. **Linda Tolhurst** suggests we change warden/troubadours to just troubadours on the teams unless we have two of them.
- G. **Fr. Bill** – stated that minutes of the Secretariat meeting will be posted on the website, as well as put into the next newsletter.

Closing Prayer Service – Fr. Bill Sutherland concluded the meeting with a prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.