

CURSILLO News

VOLUME 1, No. 2

JANUARY 2003

... From the Lay Director

We are excited to mail our second newsletter to the Cursillistas of Oklahoma City Archdiocese. Thanks to many that have said "yes" to the call to serve others through the publication and mailing of this newsletter.

This newsletter is designed to provide you insight to key elements of the Cursillo movement and at the same time provide you with important information that will aid you in living your 4th day through Group Reunion, Ultreya and School of Leaders. You will find times, locations and contacts for the major Ultreyas around the Archdiocese ... for attending Secretariat meetings ... and for continuing your knowledge of Cursillo through the School of Leaders.

This issue focuses on excerpts from the Leader's Manual on Palanca. Often misunderstood as only a letter that candidates receive on their weekend, this review gives a much more in-depth explanation of the need for Palanca every day of our 4th day journey. Please take time to better understand how the "levers of the apostles" can be used in your life.

You will also find that we have started an English element of the School of Leaders. This is in addition to the five locations already underway for the Spanish speaking cursillistas. Notice the times and locations of each School session ... come join us to learn more about this wonderful gift of Cursillo.

Certainly, last but not least, visit the OKC Cursillo movement on our website: www.okccursillo.com. If you haven't used the site, I know that you'll be very pleased at how attractive and informative it has grown to be. Until the next time.....

— Ray Haebele

P.S.: We also provide you a Palanca request form and National Cursillo Encounter enrollment form.

... From the Spiritual Advisor

"Christ is counting on you."

"And I on him."

This exchange, which is part of the commission every Archdiocesan cursillista receives, contains a summary message of our faith. It acknowledges the necessity of grace and the vital importance of the grace-filled activity of human work. Both of these are important aspects of our holiness, formation and evangelization.

In this short message, I want to focus on the first statement that is made to us, that Christ in counting on me. These are not merely nice words containing a pious wish. Rather, they strike at the core of Christian faith. The abiding presence of Christ in the world is among his followers, both as individuals and as community. If Christ is not present in the world, then it is because we have silenced his speech, withheld his touch, choked his breath. If he is to be present, it is up to us to make it so.

We have the power and the responsibility to communicate his real presence in all the places we go. Among our family and friends, Christ depends upon us to form a Christian community of love and peace. In places of work and labor, we build not just human structures, but kingdom-charged relationships. In churches and schools, we bring good news of lives centered on God's justice. In the solitude of our spirits, we direct our whole lives to God.

This, and so much more, is what is meant when each of us hears that Christ is counting on me. It is not just a reality at the closing commissioning, but is a task for us to carry out every day, year in and year out. We cannot do it on our own, and so we rely on Christ to give us strength. But more about that next time.

— David Lafferty

Palanca

When anyone takes up the work of the conversion and Christian renewal of persons and the evangelization of human groups, it is absolutely indispensable that the entire work be built upon the grace of God.

This is the foundational stone upon which all other human efforts must be based and developed. This grace can be obtained only through the powerful means of trusting, constant, and humble prayer.

Today, perhaps more than ever, it is necessary to remind ourselves that without God, we are nothing ... and incapable of doing anything. We must reaffirm that before anything else, the most characteristic mark of the Cursillo methodology ties in the whole concept of Palanca prayers, sacrifices and works of mercy. Palanca must be genuine and offered by communities and individuals living in union with Christ and each other if the effectiveness of all other human efforts in the Movement is to be assured. This is to take seriously the promise of Christ: "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you." (Matt 7:7)

A good yardstick of any local Movement is attitude toward Palanca, its overall focus on it, and how the spirit of it is incorporated in the lives of the Spiritual Advisors and Lay leaders. In this regard, a concern for developing a spirit of prayer and self-denial should be the overriding factor.

Within the movement, we must be vigilant that the term Palanca not be misunderstood and abused so that incidental trimmings overshadow its interior call and meaning. Colorful posters and banners are not Palanca; neither are flowers, edibles, friendship letters or good wishes.

This is false Palanca under the guise of "nice things." Prayer and self-denial are not "nice things," but they are more effective in securing God's grace.

It must be understood that letters are not Palanca. Letters are merely a vehicle in which we convey the actual Palanca being done. Keeping this in mind, we must realize that Palanca can be done for a particular purpose without having to write a letter about it. For instance, Palanca can be done for the ef-

forts of Cursillistas in trying to utilize the Cursillo method. All of us need Palanca of this type, but it would be impractical to write letters to thousands of Cursillistas.

Self-denial is part and parcel of the Christian life. Any de-emphasis of it in the Movement would indicate a shift away from Christ-centeredness. In the life of the Church, we are offered seasons such as Lent and Advent to bring us back to the proper spirit. A better way would be to live in a spirit of Palanca each day.

Palanca offerings should not be limited to the three days. The selection of candidates, the study of environments, the growth of Group Reunion, Ultreyas, and especially the work of the Secretariat and the School of Leaders depend mostly on authentic and generous Palanca offered by all, particularly the leaders.

St. Paul reminds us in Romans 12:1, "Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice dedicated to His service and pleasing to Him." This is the true worship we should each offer.

TAKEN FROM THE *Leader's Manual**, pp. 135-136.

Palanca in the Pre-Cursillo

Prayer has always been the strength of the Cursillo. Since grace is an absolute necessity in the re-Christianization of the world, no Cursillo should be prepared or carried out without an appropriate spiritual task force (Palanca), both individual and collective.

Palanca should never be seen as a tool to assist the candidates. Palanca should be seen as a tool to assist the Cursillo Movement.

For this reason, Palanca should be an active part of the Pre-Cursillo. It is important that the prayers and sacrifices, for the work being done to select and penetrate possible environments, be continuous. This Palanca should also be offered for those Cursillistas who are in the process of evangelizing possible candidates. Furthermore, Palanca should be offered for the potential candidates to help ensure that nothing interferes with their plans to attend the Cursillo weekend.

TAKEN FROM THE *Leader's Manual**, p. 137.

Palanca on the 3-Day Weekend

As the original writings of the Movement state, the love of God of all Christians is witnessed during the Weekend through the Palanca performed by the Cursillistas. The Palanca should be presented without treating it as something like a "trump card," without dramatization. It should be made clear that it is normal for a person to make sacrifices for others, even if they don't know them personally.

The role of the outside community is passive and isolated in terms of the Weekend, except for its Palanca. On the Weekend, Palanca letters containing promises of prayer and sacrifice, are to be given to the participants (team and candidates). Palanca gives witness to the solidarity of the members of the Church. The spiritual presence of these praying communities should be communicated to the Cursillistas, but without dramatization. On the contrary, it should be made apparent that it is normal for Christians to pray and sacrifice for others. Though not knowing them personally, these Christians know from experience the effect of their attitude on the conversion process.

The emphasis should be on general Palanca with the outside community offering prayer and sacrifice for the community that is being formed on the three days. Personal Palanca letters should be limited to a relative or a sponsor. Palanca is made in a sacrificial manner for those who are to be converted or better converted to Christ and His Church. On the three days only the spiritual offerings of the Cursillo community ought to be considered as proper Palanca. Any practices which do not fit this description should be excluded.

TAKEN FROM THE *Leader's Manual**, pp. 138-139.

Palanca in the Post-Cursillo

In the past, once the Cursillo Weekends came to a close, the Palanca came to a close as well. After a thorough understanding of the Conversion Process, it should become obvious that Palanca is needed even more during the Post-Cursillo. The newly converted Cursillistas are going to be leaving this cloistered atmosphere of a community centered on Christ.

They will be returning to the unconverted environments that they left on Thursday. They will be returning to the daily pressures and concerns that they did not have to contend with during the Weekend. In other words, they need our prayers, sacrifices, love and support more now than they did during the Weekend.

Furthermore, these new Cursillistas will become integrated within the various local Cursillo environments of Group Reunions, Ultreyas, and possibly the School of Leaders. The Cursillo leaders of these Cursillo environments need to understand the needs of these new Cursillistas. The leaders need to be able to satisfy those needs. All is done for the purpose of building up God's Kingdom here on Earth. The leaders need the ongoing prayers, sacrifices, love and support of the Cursillo community. In other words, they need Palanca for the efforts they are making on behalf of Christ for the Cursillo Movement.

Palanca should not be limited to Cursillistas and Cursillo leaders of a specific area. Palanca should be seen as a universal tool for the Cursillo Movement of the universal Church that we are all part of.

TAKEN FROM THE *Leader's Manual**, pp. 139-140.

Secretariat Officers/Members

Lay Director.....	Ray Haefele
Spiritual Advisor	Fr. David Lafferty
Spiritual Advisor (S)	Sr. Elsa Galdeano
Secretary	Annie Lombardo
Treasurer	Patti Vincent
Palanca Coordinator (E)	Phyllis Miller
Palanca Coordinator (S)	Alejandro Mascote
Pre-Cursillo Rep (E).....	Wayne Willson
Pre-Cursillo Rep (S).....	José Ortega
3-Day Rep Women (E)	Irene Haefele
3-Day Rep Women (S)	Rocio Ayala
3-Day Rep Men (E)	George Bukowski
3-Day Rep Men (S)	Jerónimo Martinez
Post-Cursillo Rep (E)	Kathe Jackson
Post-Cursillo Rep (S).....	Jesus Cipres
School of Leaders (S) OKC.....	Agustin Páramo
School of Leaders (S) Duncan	Marco Ocaña
School of Leaders (S) Guymon.....	Angélica Lucero
School of Leaders (S) Madill	Refugio Fuentes
School of Leaders (S) Seiling.....	Catalina Alvarez

NOTE: In addition to the above names, Ultreya Representatives (identified in the table on page 5), are also members of the Cursillo Secretariat.

City	Parish	Ultreya Day/Time	Contact
Ada:	St. Joseph's		Laura Stanfill (580) 456-7381
Altus:	Prince of Peace:	4 th Sunday, 4:00 – 6:00 pm (Spanish) 3 rd Sunday, 3:00 pm (English)	Felix Santillan (Spanish) (580) 477-0696 Paulette Krueger (English) (580) 482-1025
Boise City:	Good Shepherd	3 rd Sunday, 7:30 pm	Ann Clifton(580) 544-2282
Chandler:	Our Lady of Sorrows	4 th Sunday, 2:00 pm	Rusty Wooden (405)0356-2449
Duncan	Assumption	3 rd Wednesday, 7:00 p,	Andrea Millan (580) 255-4546
Edmond:	St. John the Baptist	2 nd Sunday, 3:00 pm	Rosalie Larkin (405) 722-3165
	St. Monica	1 st Sunday, 3:00 pm	L. Winterscheidt (405) 340-6666
Enid:	St. Gregory the Great	3 rd Sunday, 4:00 pm	D. Cunningham (580) 242-3809
Guymon:	St. Peter's	1 st & 3 rd Friday, 7:00 pm	Adolfo Lucero (580) 338-5081
Konawa:	Sacred Heart	4 th Friday	Semtner (580) 925-3105
Lawton:	Blessed Sacrament	Every Sunday, 3:30 pm	P. Solorzano (580) 667-5518 C. Humphrey (580) 831-4082
Moore/ Norman:		2 nd Friday, 7:00 pm	Call for location, John Prati (405) 605-3431 or Ramiro Rocha (405) 364-7190
Mustang:	Holy Spirit	2 nd Sunday, 6:30 pm (English)	Larry McNeff (405) 376-1010
Norman:	St. Joseph's	1 st Saturday (Spanish)	For time call José DeLoera (405) 360-5897
OKC:	Little Flower	Monday, 7:00 pm (Spanish)	Miguel Leyva (405) 787-5951
	Sacred Heart	Tuesday, 7:00 pm (Spanish)	Agustin Páramo (405) 631-0080
	St. Eugene's/Epiphany	3 rd Sunday, 3:00 pm (Bilingual)	Jeff Robinson (405) 752-0036
Paul's Valley:	St. Catherine of Siena	1 st Saturday, 7:00 p,	Angélica Meave (580) 238-5161
Purcell:	Our Lady of Victory	1 st Saturday, 7:00 pm	Margarita Gomez (405) 872-2824
Shawnee:	St. Benedict	3 rd Friday, 7:30 pm	Kristi Kretchmar (405) 391-2728
Weatherford	St. Eugene's	2 nd Sunday, 5:30 pm	Dixie Hogan (580) 772-2807
Woodward	St. Peter's	3 rd Sunday, 4:00 pm (English) 2 nd Sunday 4:00 pm (Spanish)	Linda Gerber (580) 254-2707 Catalina Alvarez 256-1912

* A publication of the U.S. National Secretariat of the Cursillo Movement, 1998

Please notify us if changes have been made in times, places, or Ultreya reps since we updated our files.

Keep up to date with all OKC Archdiocesan Cursillo events at the Cursillo Web Site:

www.okccursillo.com

WE NEED YOUR HELP: If you know of someone who should be getting this newsletter but is not, please notify us (via e-mail to WCDeli@aol.com or by snail-mail to the return address on the mailing cover) and we will add them to the mailing list.

DATES TO REMEMBER

A. Secretariat Meetings (always start at 10:00 AM):

January 18, Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, OKC

April 12, St. Eugene's, Weatherford

July 26, Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, OKC

November 15, St. Eugene's, Weatherford

All Cursillistas are always welcome to attend Secretariat meetings

B. School of Leaders

English: Meets first Saturday of every month (9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon) at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, OKC.

Spanish: OKC, St. Eugene, Agustin Páramo, Wednesday, 7:00 – 9:00pm
 Duncan, Assumption, Marco Ocaña, 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 – 9:00pm
 Guymon, St. Peter's, Angélica Lucero, 2nd & 4th Thursday, 7:30 pm
 Madill, Holy Cross, Refugio Fuentes, Saturday, 1:30 – 5:00pm
 Seiling, Catalina Alvarez, Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

C. National Cursillo Encounter:

July 17-20, 2003, Xavier University. Cincinnati, OH

D. Upcoming Cursillo Weekends:

#76 English, St. Mary's, Ponca City

Men's March 13-16

Coordinator: Charlie Humphrey

Women's March 27-30

Coordinator: Patti Vincent

77 Spanish, Location TBD

Men's May 23 – 26 (Memorial Day Weekend)

Coordinator: Juan Espinoza

Women's June 5 – 8

Coordinator: Luz Armendariz

#78 Spanihs, Location TBD

Men's August 19 – September 1

Coordinator: Alejandro Mascote

Women's September 11 – 14

Coordinator: Catalina Alvarez

#79 English, St. Eugene's, Weatherford

Men's October 2 – 5

Coordinator: Don Greiner

Women's October 16 – 19

Coordinator: Kathe Jackson

PRAYER REQUEST

Hello,

I am sponsoring someone you know, _____, for a three-day workshop in Christianity called CURSILLO, beginning _____. Prayer is the foundation of our weekend and so this is a request for your prayers for _____. If you would like to send a note telling them of your prayer, I am collecting these notes, to be given somewhat as a pleasant surprise during the course of the weekend. You may use this sheet or your own stationery for the prayer note. Please send it to me in an envelope marked:

"PRAYER FOR _____",

to arrive no later than the Monday before the workshop (i.e., _____). I will see that it is delivered.

Thanks and peace to you.

_____ (sponsor's name)

_____ (address)

13th National Encounter
Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH
July 17-20, 2003

Registration Form

Cost for the 13th National Encounter is \$250.00 if paid in full by May 15, 2003

(Please use a separate form for each registrant)

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY-Thank you ** PLEASE FILL IN ALL THE BLANKS)

Preferred Language: _____

Last name: _____ First Name: _____

Preferred Complete Name for Name Tag: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Home Telephone: (____) _____ Work #: (____) _____

Fax#: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

Diocese: _____

Age group (circle one): Under 30 30-45 45-60 over 60

Health (circle one): Excellent Good Fair Poor

Gender (circle one): Male Female Spouse attending? Yes No

If you desire to room with a specific individual (spouse, friend, etc.) then the other individual's registration form must accompany this form. We will not be able to guarantee any particular roommate if the forms do not accompany one another.

Roommate preference? (Circle one) Yes No If yes, Name: _____

Special needs (dietary/handicap/walking or problems with steps/etc.): _____

Date you attended Cursillo and where: _____

Are you currently involved in music ministry? (Circle one) Yes No

Would you like to be part of the Liturgical Team for the Encounter: Yes No

What is your talent? _____

Send form and payment to:

National Cursillo Center,
P.O. Box 210226,
Dallas, Tx 75211-0226

Phone: 214-339-6321; Fax: 214-339-6322 Email: tomsarg@gte.net

Full payment of \$250.00 per person and form must be received by May 15, 2003.

Registration cost will be \$300.00 per person from May 16, 2003-June 15, 2003

Registration cost will be \$325.00 per person from June 16, 2003-July 10, 2003

Registration cost will be \$350.00 per person after July 10, 2003