

Cursillo Canticle

Denver Cursillo in Christianity

Lee Vigil, Lay Director



Our Mission:

To provide a foundation to live what is fundamental for being Christian; experienced through three essential encounters.

- With Self
- With Christ
- With Others

Christifideles Laici

To the Cursillistas, my true brothers and sisters in the Cursillo Movement: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom 1: 8-12 "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. For God is my witness, whom I serve without ceasing I mention you always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you, that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine."

In the Year of our Lord 2008, the Cursillo Movement in the Archdiocese of Denver certainly saw its fair share of transition: from an additional Ultreya, School of Leaders, Spiritual Director, Treasurer, Secretary, Post-Cursillo Chairperson and resignation of the School of Leaders Chairperson. This transition was necessary as we work toward solidarity and building the Kingdom of God with the aid of the Cursillo method.

I would like to thank everyone who has been active in the apostolate of Cursillo. For those who have displayed such determination, passion and love; my spiritual life has grown through your witness and for which I am very grateful.

We now are truly blessed to bring in another year, 2009 the year of our Lord. My brothers and sisters in Christ I appeal to you for continued palanca for the Cursillo Movement throughout the world and most especially within the Archdiocese of Denver. There lies a tremendous amount of work to do. Lk 10:2 "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." I am honored to labor with you in this New Year.

My hope and prayer is to direct, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the three phases of the Movement; Pre-Cursillo, 3-Day Cursillo, and Post-Cursillo, to be as effective as possible in fulfilling the mission of the Church. The progress that was made in 2008 is only to be accelerated in 2009. I anticipate working with the Secretariat, School of Leaders as well as the rest of the community in the harvest of the Lord. I welcome you with open arms to all the Cursillo has to offer in equipping you as you strive for holiness. I look forward to seeing you at Ultreya, School of Leaders and all of the exciting 4th day community events we have planned. I joyfully await seeing the light of Christ shine brightly through you.

Finally, brethren, rejoice! Mend your ways, heed my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

✠ St. Paul the Apostle, Pray for us!

✠ Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pray for us!

¡De Colores!

Lee Vigil, Lay Director

A note from 3-Day Chair

By Stephanie Rodriguez

Happy New Year

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your families, brothers and sisters in Christ.

Let me take this time to wish you all a safe and happy new year! We have just finished a year for the record books that is for sure, however, as Catholics we know that our trust in Christ will bring us through all. My wish for this coming year, not only for my family but also for the Cursillo community, is one of true prosperity. We have many new faces in the community so to all of you I say "welcome and God Bless you for answering God's call." Please know we are a family in God's Church and when one needs support we are here to lend a shoulder to lean on.

Many exciting events are planned for this upcoming year and we look forward to continuing with you on this special journey.

De Colores and Blessings to all in 2009!

Post-Cursillo Corner

By Derek Garcia

Wow! What a year! This year has been tremendous for the Denver English Movement. We have two brand new secretariat members, we started a new Ultreya in the south metro Denver area, and we had a wonderful Christmas Ultreya with lots of great food and company!

Thanks to everyone in the community who made it all possible for us to be where we are today. Without the support of you and the clergy who bless us with their guidance, we could not have done it.

So, in the spirit of support for our blessed movement, please visit our website calendar (www.cursillodenvereng.com) regularly to see when the next Ultreya (north or south), School of Leaders, or other Cursillo event is occurring. We welcome and encourage everyone to attend. Also, we are currently planning for our next 3-Day weekends (women and men) and we need team members. To be part of a team, you must be active in the School of Leaders. Please consider this rewarding opportunity to serve.

And finally, if you are a Cursillista who needs a Group Reunion, please let me know and we'll be happy to find one for you. After all, Group Reunion is the foundation of the movement! I highly encourage everyone to take part in this opportunity to make some really great friends.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at the following:

Phone: 303.521.2284

derek_garcia@yahoo.com (there is an underscore between 'derek' and 'garcia')

God Bless ALL of You!

Derek Garcia

Post-Cursillo Coordinator, Denver English Movement

PALANCA

AS NOTED ON NATIONAL CURSILLO WEBSITE

What is palanca? What is a palanca letter? A palanca letter is one that is sent to the candidates and team, informing them of the prayers and sacrifices that you are offering to God on their behalf. A letter may be sent explaining what type of palanca is being offered, but the letter is NOT the palanca. The actual palanca is the action - **intercessory prayer, sacrifice, or works of mercy**, and it can be done without writing a letter.

Palanca is needed for all upcoming Cursillo events around the world. Please go to the www.CursilloDenverEng.com website and click on the Palanca link on the left side to send an email explaining the prayers and sacrifices that you are making for the participants. All Palancas will be gathered on a weekly basis and emailed to the 3-day weekend participants as they live Cursillo.

God bless you for your efforts.



AN OLDIE BUT A GOODIE...

On the courage to be a Christian

by Archbishop of Denver Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.

Week of August 20, 2008 as written for The Catholic Register

The Roman statesman Cicero once said that, “nothing can be useful if it is not at the same time morally good.” It’s another way of saying that the end never justifies the means. Our goals may be admirable, but if we use evil methods to achieve them, we undermine both our goals and our own moral judgment.

What this means for American public life should be obvious. Politics is the art of the possible. Catholics should be realistic and flexible in their political attitudes. But a hierarchy of truths about human behavior exists, and it needs to guide our decision-making. Some things have more moral weight than others. We all instinctively know this. Cheating on a test is bad. Embezzling from our employer is worse. Murdering our neighbor is worst.

Understanding the moral differences among social issues is crucial. Not all evil things can or should be illegal. A healthy culture can tolerate some forms of evil in the interests of social peace. Nonetheless, some acts are so evil that tolerating them itself becomes a poison that weakens the whole of society. Civil rights were the key moral issue of a previous generation. Historically, most black Americans trace their roots in this country to slavery, and slaves did not have the status of human persons under the law. The work for racial justice was vital. It remains vital today. But civil rights flow from an even more basic human right: the right to life.

In our day, sanctity of life issues are foundational—not because of anyone’s “religious” views about abortion, although these are important; but because the act of dehumanizing and killing the unborn child attacks human dignity in a uniquely grave way. Deliberately killing the innocent is always, inexcusably wrong. It sets a pattern of contempt for every other aspect of human dignity. In redefining when human life begins and what is and isn’t a human person, the logic behind permissive abortion makes all human rights politically contingent.

In offering his own thoughts on Catholic social teaching, the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin warned against the misuse of his “seamless garment” imagery to falsely invest different social issues with the same moral gravity. Many social issues are important. Many require our attention. But some issues have more weight than others. Deliberately killing innocent human life, or standing by and allowing it, dwarfs all other social issues. Trying to avoid this fact by calling the unborn child a lump of pre-human cells is simply a corrupt and corrupting form of verbal gymnastics.

Real Catholic citizenship requires much more than a tribal loyalty to any political party. It demands that we work (and make noise) within our political parties to change them; to force them to recognize and defend the sanctity of human life, beginning with the unborn child and extending to the poor, the immigrant, the disabled and the elderly.

The words of Ignatius of Antioch, the early bishop and martyr, are worth remembering. He said, “Christianity shows its greatness when it is hated by the world.” He also said, “Just beg for me the courage and endurance not only to speak but also to will what is right, so that I may not only be called a Christian, but prove to be one.”

This week’s column is condensed and adapted from Archbishop Chaput’s new book, “Render Unto Caesar: Serving the Nation by Living Our Catholic Beliefs in Political Life” (Doubleday).

One Bread, One Body

Thursday, January 1, 2009,
Mary, Mother of God

*Numbers 6:22-27, Galatians 4:4-7, Psalm 67,
Luke 2:16-21* [Link to Readings -->
http://www.usccb.org/nab/010109.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/nab/010109.shtml)

THE BEGINNINGS

"When the eighth day arrived for His circumcision, the name Jesus was given the Child, the name the angel had given Him before He was conceived." —Luke 2:21

When we become Christians, we start out as babies, "infants in Christ" (1 Cor 3:1). Just as babies must be taught to talk, walk, eat, clothe themselves, etc., so also baby Christians must be taught to talk, walk, think, feel, and act like Christ. We don't know how to live, or even to start the day or the year. We must be taught every little thing. The world has programmed us to begin the new year by staying up late, altering our consciousness with alcohol, being preoccupied with petty pleasures, and amusing ourselves with the TV-hype of parades and bowl games.

However, Jesus begins His days and years differently. He promised the incredible sign of His birth to a virgin centuries before (Is 7:14). He made her immaculately conceived a generation before. He began His life in the obscurity of a teenager's womb in the country village of Nazareth (Lk 1:35). He began His public life as just one of the crowd waiting in line to be baptized by John (Mt 3:13). Then He fasted for forty days in the desert (Mt 4:2). Jesus began His days praying very early in the morning in a deserted place (Mk 1:35).

Jesus' beginnings were hidden, quiet, humble, and prayerful. How will you begin this year?

Prayer: Jesus, may I let Your mother Mary teach me to live as You did. May this be a day of prayer for peace and justice in our world.

Promise: "Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart." —Lk 2:19

Praise: "God Who is mighty has done great things for me, holy is His name" (Lk 1:49).

Rescript: In accord with the "Code of Canon Law", I hereby grant my permission to publish "One Bread, One Body" covering the period from December 1, 2008 through January 31, 2009 †Reverend Joseph R. Binzer, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, June 17, 2008

The rescript is a declaration that a book or pamphlet is considered to be free of doctrinal or moral error. It is not implied that those who have granted ecclesial permission agree with the contents, opinions, or statements expressed.

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Voices of the Catholic Church

To grow in our faith and strengthen our knowledge of Christianity, a Cursillista focuses on Piety, Study and Action. On your road to Study, you may want to consider:

1. **Pope Benedict XVI** – "Fighting Poverty to Build Peace" [MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XVI, FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE WORLD DAY OF PEACE \(Released: 01/01/09\)](#) @ www.Vatican.va
2. **Archbishop Chaput / Bishop Conley**– What are their thoughts? www.ArchDen.org to read Past and Present writings penned by Our Sheppards.
3. **Radio:** You might consider listening to a daily dose of Catholic theology @ www.EWTN.com or www.AveMariaRadio.net online.
4. **CDs:** www.cursillo-lighthousemedia.org to join a **CD of the Month Club** - Over 100 topics on Catholic Theology, Apologetics, Conversion Stories, etc. ENJOY!
5. **Daily Scriptures/Meditations:** One Bread, One Body is a daily email that includes scriptures and meditations. You can sign up at www.presentationministries.com



Have you read a good Catholic book lately?

Let us know if you would like to be part of a Cursillo Book Club. You send us the Title and Author of your book with your personal review and we'll add it to the newsletter.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

With the Various events scheduled for the Denver Cursillo Movement, please mark your calendars for the following events:

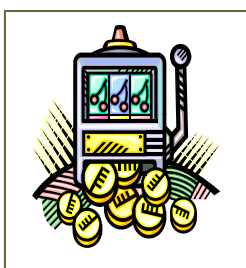
TIME SENSITIVE: SPOTLIGHT EVENT!

National Encounter. July 30 – August 2, 2000 @ California State University in San Bernardino, California. Have your registration submitted before May 31st to ensure lodging and a ride. **Fee:** \$360 before May 31st or \$410 after May 31st. **To Register go to:** <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/encounter/>

Secretariat. Scheduled for the first Monday of every month. Please contact Lee Vigil, Lay Director (English) if you would like to be added to the agenda or Annabelle Vigil (Spanish)

School of Leaders. Scheduled with an agenda to enrich and enlighten Cursillistas in the Cursillo method. SOL is scheduled twice per month the first at Holy Trinity and the second scheduled at Holy Cross.

SPECIAL EVENTS:



Casino Fundraiser:

February TDB – Please check website regularly for details and updates on this event.



Golf Tournament:

May 30th – Please contact Derek Garcia @ 303.521.2284 for more information and volunteer opportunities for players and helpers.

Spanish Speakers: Every Thursday (except the first Thursday) at St. Joseph the Redemptorist on 6th/Galapego @ 7pm

Ultreya. A gathering of Cursillistas and Community. Please invite family and friends to this opportunity to join together in the name of Our Lord. Scheduled 3x/month – two in the north and one in the south.

Spanish Speakers: First Thursday of every month at St. Joseph the Redemptorist on 6th/Galapego @ 7pm.



...The Archdiocese

LIVING THE CATHOLIC FAITH CONFERENCE

February 27th and 28th, 2009

\$55 one day/ *\$75 two days

To Register through the Archdiocese, please go to:

<http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=662325>

***If you would like to jump in on the 10% discounted group rate with Cursillo, please contact Rosalinda Lozano @ 720.320.2449. *We must have 10+ attendees to qualify for the discount. Thanks**



Future Events:

Planning is in the works for future events. For updates, please send us your email address and make our websites one of your regular stops.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.CursilloDenverEng.com