



Lansing Cursillo Newsletter

SUMMER 2015

Dates to Remember

NEXT WOMEN'S WEEKEND

October 15-18, 2015

Camp Dainava, Manchester

NEXT MEN'S WEEKEND

October 22-25, 2015

Camp Dainava, Manchester

ULTREYA

Adrian:

St. Mary of Good Counsel

10:30 AM

2nd Saturday every month

Charlotte/Bellevue:

St. Mary, Charlotte

7:00 PM

3rd Wednesday every month

Jackson:

St. Mary Star of the Sea

12:30 PM

1st Saturday every month

Flint:

Holy Redeemer

Following the 6:00 PM Mass

Every Tuesday

Lansing:

St. Gerard Parish Center

7:30 PM

3rd Thursday every month

Saline/Ann Arbor:

St. Andrew the Apostle,

Saline

Following the 7:00 Mass

4th Wednesday every month

Father David Rosenberg, our Spiritual Director and former pastor of the Catholic community of St Mary and St Ann, Charlotte, has been appointed by Bishop Boyea as the new director of the St Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt, after the passing of Father Larry Delaney in June. The appointment is effective August 17, 2015.

This article is Father David's answer to just one of several questions posed by FAITH CATHOLIC magazine.

FAITH: Where do we go from here?

Fr. David:

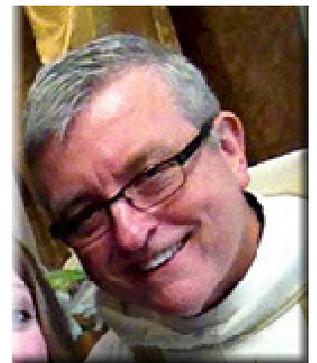
The universal call to holiness: "All the faithful of Christ of whatever rank or status, are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity..." (Pope Paul VI, Lumen Gentium)

In every generation Christians are called to listen to the urgings of the Holy Spirit, to attend to the dynamic and ever-changing needs of His Community and be reminded of our universal call to holiness. Christ is calling us to bring the Good News to our own community, in an ever expanding circle of influence, radiating through the family, rippling out to our parish and the whole world. Key Christian Leadership, which includes *all of us living in Christ's Household of Faith*, must attend to that call, in its ever changing character.

Historically, from the Council of Trent held between 1545 and 1563 to the Second Vatican Council held between 1962 and 1965, lay Roman Catholics were called to docilely pray and support the mission work carried out by the clergy and religious orders of the day. It was for the clergy and religious to attend to the task of evangelization, and go forth and spread the Good News. Vatican II changed all that. The Council Fathers exhorted the laity to a universal call to holiness, as expressed by Pope Paul VI, "*the ultimate purpose of the teachings of Vatican II is the universal call to holiness: all the faithful of Christ of whatever rank or status, are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity...*" We are living in a world that needs every Catholic to bring to it the light of Christ. We no longer can be docile in our Christian Character. We must carry the mission of Christ in our hearts. We must be active, impassioned and unwavering in our role to be Christ Incarnate for others.

The historical nature of the retreat experience was to refresh and enliven the spirit. I envision a third component: in addition to refreshing and

(Continued on page 4)





*St Hippolytus, (8 / 13):
According to Franciscan
Media's **Saint of the
Day**, 'Hippolytus'
means "a horse turned
loose". So, we had two
Hippolyti at Dainava!
Pray for us,
St. Hippolytus!*



St Francis Retreat Center

*I will be **courageous** in
visibly demonstrating my
faith in places outside of
church, Sunday Mass and
grouping.*

God's Creatures — *by Marie Immekus, #240*

Have you ever dealt with horses running loose or dead animals? Let me share my story. The Lay Director asked if I wanted to serve as the General Chair for the Women's Cursillo Weekend #250. I prayed and decided to take a risk, saying "yes". Well, sitting in a crowded office space on the first morning, a woman stepped in and described her concern for two horses wandering on the hill. I thanked her for informing me and put the concern on a list to find out about. I don't know a thing about horses and wondered, "Does this fall into my job description of General Chair?" Perhaps it did. As the morning got under way, my co-chair came into the office. I inquired if he knew anything about the

horses. He told me that they belonged where they were and that the camp manager owned the horses. Before my eyes I experienced a bit of God's beauty.

Later that morning, someone raised another question. "Who empties the trash in the dorm area?" Now there was one more topic to ponder. Soon, I grabbed some enormous black trash bags from the kitchen and ambled up to the second floor. I stopped at the first restroom and almost immediately got the hang of how to lower and gently shake the small waste can contents into the oversized trash bag, dropping just a few wadded up brown hand towels over the side of the bag. Then I saw it: a

dead mouse. I was thankful it was not moving. Gingerly, I picked it up with gloved hands, making certain it was disposed of.

These creatures stayed on my mind. Why? Because they are some of the most amazing creatures who add to the beauty of this camp: God's animals running free on the land which He created. Thank you for these beauties and for bringing a deeper understanding of my tasks as General Chair.

Since living my Cursillo weekend in March 2012, I have served as a Rollista, Cha-cha, Cook and General Chair. Each of these roles has special responsibilities and God-given grace to accomplish them.

The Holy Spirit Soars — *by Lucy Crossey, #244*

You are invited to accompany me on a recent Southwest Airline flight. I was returning from my grand-daughter's First Communion celebration in St. Louis, Mo. My seat was on the aisle and the only other occupant of that row was a lady by the window. My recent habit on airline trips has been to pray a rosary. Sometimes I just count the beads on my fingers,

but on this flight I took my rosary out of the case and had it on my lap.

As the plane landed and taxied to the gate in Detroit, the lady seated in my row turned and addressed me. She said, "When I saw you open your little black case, I thought you were going to buy a drink. And then you said a rosary. Although I did not feel in danger, this was very

comforting and reminded me of my Mother."

This is pretty much the essence of our conversation. But this less than three hour encounter with a stranger has made an impact on me. I will be courageous in visibly demonstrating my faith in places outside of church, Sunday Mass and grouping. The Holy Spirit flies Southwest and soars.

Witness

Given May 2015 at Ultreya — St. Andrew the Apostle, Saline

Before "living" my Cursillo weekend in November of 2012, I truly believed that I was living the Catholic Christian Ideal. Teaching Religious Education, Chairperson for the Religious Ed. Support Team, and Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister were my commitments to serve God. I also attended Scripture Study classes and tried to go to Mass more than once a week. All of these things are really good, but Cursillo pushed me to grow closer to God in ways that I could not see. By attending the Cursillo weekend, monthly Ultreyas, and weekly grouping, my eyes were opened wide to the fact that I was *not* being an Apostle for Christ in all of the environments I find myself in on a daily basis. It's very easy for me to be a Christian when I am at Church or involved in Church activities, but was I being an Apostle for Christ in my work environment?

The answer before November of 2012 was a big fat "no"! I am very blessed to have been given an opportunity to work as a Cardiac Sonographer at the University of Michigan Hospital. Because of my hard work and dedication, I have been able to travel to Europe and to pass on

my knowledge to many different people. I always had so much empathy and compassion for the patients...until about 2-3 years before my Cursillo weekend. With the workload and my responsibilities increasing, I was starting to experience a type of work burnout. For many years I was able to ignore the gossip and negativity which surrounded me every day. Eventually, though, I became a participant in the complaining and gossip which plagued my work environment. I was taking my work burnout to a whole new level! Cursillo helped me to realize that I had one foot in the secular world—following the negative culture being promoted at my workplace—and one foot in the Catholic Church! To be a true Apostle for Christ, I couldn't have it both ways. I now want to be that Apostle in all environments I find myself in, especially my work environment!

Do I find myself occasionally straying down the wrong path at work? Yes, it's a constant struggle, but I have the Holy Spirit working

through all of my Cursillo sisters and brothers to help keep me on the right path! This is the true beauty of the 4th Day. I am continuously uplifted through my Piety, Study, and Action. This reminds me that we all have been called to one great mission, "to be Apostles for Christ" and to bring "The Good News" to everyone.

I had one foot in the secular world (following the negative culture being promoted at my workplace) and one foot in the Catholic Church!... I couldn't have it both ways.

My encounter with co-workers, patients, friends, or family members begins with seeing the face of God in that person. It doesn't matter if the situation is good or bad. Then I ask myself, "What would Jesus say or do?" The Holy Spirit seems to give me the wisdom, strength, and patience to respond appropriately.

It's so hard to live in the current culture, especially working in the medical field. The tools that Cursillo has given me for the 4th Day keep my eyes focused on the "Mission": "to make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ"!

deColores,
Diane Eberhart
St. Rita's Parish in Clarklake

"Every believer in this world of ours must be a spark of light, a center of love, a vivifying leaven amidst his fellow men. And he will be this all the more perfectly, the more closely he lives in communion with God in the intimacy of his own soul" (Saint Pope John XXIII, Peace on Earth, 146, 164).



to **Gary and Laura Langdon** for planning and hosting the **Grand Ultreya in June, 2015**. Another amazing afternoon with "the best Pot-Luck around" being on the menu. And, a Cursillista for the Chef!!!

You are such a blessing to all of us!

Who's Who in Lansing Cursillo

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS:

Fr. David Rosenberg
Deacon Tom Franklin

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR EMERITUS:

Msgr. Sy Fedewa

LAY DIRECTOR:

Jackie Rowe

CURSILLO CENTERS / COORDINATORS

Adrian:

Maria Jaimez (517-902-4334)

Charlotte/Bellevue:

Communications—Marguerite
Johnson (517-663-5163)
New Weekend Applications—
Jan Hankinson (269-763-9620)

Flint:

Marie Luckner (810-275-7789)

Jackson:

Mike & Lisa Dubinski (517-414-
2457 or 517-414-7158)

The Lakes:

Diane Eberhart (734-546-0770)
Deb Spicer (517-250-4868)
Nancy Tuckey (517-581-3076)

Lansing:

Laura & Gary Langdon
(517-484-1812)

Saline/Ann Arbor:

Marie Immekus (734-668-7381)
Lynda Shea (734-904-7388)



Fr. David Q&A (continued from Page 1)

enlivening the spirit, retreat leaders must also equip retreatants with tools to return as evangelizing Disciples of Christ, joined to family and small basic Christian groups. The retreat experience must add to its mission the teaching component that will form groups of Christians so that, at least weekly within that group, they can share their joys and sacrifices, and reflect with each other their life of prayer, study and close moments with Christ. Thus

formed, they will be bonded in charity to Christ's universal evangelizing mission. Thus equipped as witnesses, each will find a friend, make a friend and bring a friend to Christ and his Holy Church.

I invite you to join the ongoing mission of St Francis Retreat Center to provide experiences that foster spiritual development that empower every Catholic to live the Gospel in our contemporary society.

My Journey of Faith — *by Marybeth Kaak*

I am a cradle Catholic who was educated for 12 years in Catholic schools in Jackson and 2 years at Marygrove College.

As I reflect on my life-giving experiences of being the 3rd of 9 children, marriage to a very sweet man for 43 years, becoming a mother and then grandma, I can say that I made numerous mistakes and a few totally awesome decisions.

One of those decisions was to encounter God in a new and closer way through the Cursillo movement. Even through all the years of being a student, then a teacher of religious education, of going on retreats, leading Bible studies, hosting Renew groups, and making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, it was not until I realized that Jesus is *always* with me—in all the good times and the bad times—that I let His truth sink into my very being! Cursillo has given me the joyful awareness of Christ's presence *all* through my days and nights.

I lived my Cursillo Weekend 11 years ago while in the Diocese of Gaylord. I know that He is always there strengthening me and

inspiring me to new things. Returning to Jackson after living in Cadillac for 17 years was in God's mercy and timing. And then, wasn't it just like God's timing that I would make new Cursillo Sisters in the Jackson Center reunion this past summer (2014), preparing me to help at the Women's Weekend later that fall?

Discernment of the Spirit takes time, but "He Who has begun the good work in [me] will carry it through to completion." (*Phil. 1:6*) Last spring, I helped out with the music for the Women's Weekend in Manchester. It had been years since I played my guitar for this purpose, and yet I felt that if I could offer my humble gift to the Lord, he would bless it. I experienced that the guitar was not so much the object of my attention, as the *vehicle* which the Holy Spirit used to have me hear His messages—coming through the Team as well as all the new Cursillistas!

I praise God for His provision for my needs every day! Truly He is teaching me to "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added."