



“Come Holy Spirit!”

Every Cursillista has said these words many times. When we pray these words we are desiring an increased sense of God. We long to be ever so close to Him. But, what do these words mean to our life and how we live it? I love how the Cursillo weekend is centered on the Eucharist...and how through the lever of Palanca we can actually experience the Holy Spirit working through the weekend...changing lives and bringing God closer to each person gathered. God is so good... He understood by giving us Jesus in the Eucharist we could be constantly joined together with Him and by filling us with the Holy Spirit we could always draw close to Him. These are both amazing gifts from God that we have each received...and were made even more present during the Cursillo weekend. Do we really understand the magnitude of what we have received?

Scripture tells us that when God formed man...He **breathed** into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being.” (Gen 2:7) There is no clearer image than this of God’s desire to impart His own life into man, who is made in His image and likeness. When we look at JN 20:19-22 we experience Jesus in the upper room with the Apostles... (21) “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” (22) And with that he **breathed** on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit” This was on Resurrection day... a gesture to begin the divinization of man which was always God’s intention for His children. The **renewal of man once again begins with the breath of God**. This unique action allowed the apostles to truly be Jesus’ continuing presence on earth. We know through scripture, that it wasn’t until Pentecost that the disciples received the fullness of the Holy Spirit that they were meant to have. When we truly study the history of Pentecost we can begin to see many connections and symbolisms... the descent of the fullness of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost becomes an explosion of fulfilled promises. The Apostles were on fire so to speak...they could not contain their joy and conviction. They were sent and they exuded the glory of God.

We know from Acts 2:38 that we too are offered to receive the Holy Spirit. “Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38) Jesus wants to breathe on all of us too...and renew the face of the earth. **“Lord send out your spirit and renew the face of the earth.”** (Psalm 104)

Our Bishops and Pope are meeting right now in Rome...our Church needs renewal. Our world needs renewal, our parishes need renewal, and our families need renewal. WE have received the Holy Spirit ...the Holy Spirit lives in US... WE are being called to renew the face of the Earth! Lukewarm Christianity is not acceptable, not in our leaders or in us...not in the lay people sitting in the pews! The Church is the best hope for repairing our broken world. For this to happen we must live our baptismal call every day trusting the Holy Spirit to guide us!

Cursillo offers an opportunity of renewal and a plan to sustain a life with Christ. We all know others that long for hope and renewal. We have received this precious gift and we have this same precious gift to offer others...**to LIVE a Cursillo weekend! Make a friend, be a friend, invite that friend to Christ. How many have you invited?** Our Men’s weekend is quickly approaching, March 14-17. **CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU!**



Appeal for Palanca...

There are many reasons why Palanca is needed for the Cursillo Movement, i.e., Kalamazoo Diocese Cursillo weekends, Worldwide Cursillo weekends, Team formations, Ultreyas, Secretariat responsibilities, as well as the continuing enthusiasm of ALL Cursillistas. Palanca is particularly needed to ensure a successful Kalamazoo men’s weekend on March 14-17.

Remember...Palanca can include Masses, Holy Communion, Adoration/Visits to the Blessed Sacrament, Rosaries, or any prayers you wish to offer. Palanca can also be any sacrifices or good works you perform. Palanca you make specifically for the Kalamazoo Cursillo weekends should be emailed to kalamazoopalanca@yahoo.com

Please remember to check the National Cursillo website for a list of all weekends world-wide, and consider praying for some or all of them. Check out the link below: <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/palanca-requests/>

24 Hour Palanca NEEDED...

The **Kalamazoo Men's Cursillo in English #71** will be **March 14-17**. Once again, we call on all Cursillistas to offer Palanca around the clock from 5pm Thursday to 5pm Sunday. Please sign up to offer a minimum of one hour of prayer or sacrifice during this 72 hour period for the success of our men's weekend. Please reply to this email address with the the times (on the hour) that you're willing to pray kalamazoopalanca@yahoo.com. Further reminders will be sent prior to the weekend.

Final preparations underway for Team 71!

With the Kalamazoo men's weekend just 3 weeks away, **Rector Mike Metzger** and **Asst. Rector Eric Baker** have been busy leading the entire team through the formation process the last several months. The team will gather in Sturgis next Saturday to complete final preparations. Included will be a tour of the Amigo Center, the location for the weekend.

Those who have answered the call to be on Team 71 are **Father Dan Hyman-Spiritual Advisor, Mike Metzger-Rector, Eric Baker-Asst. Rector, Andy Boyd, Patrick Campbell, Jeff Chancey, Brett Cutshall, Gary Dunlap, Mike Collins, Dave Garwood, Keith Kalinoski, Keith Keyser, Jim Lewis, Bob Matkin, Bernie Panone, Ben Rambadt, Joe Rambadt, Bob Rolek, Jeff Swett, Dennis Traxler, Richard Yesh and Tom Woerdehoff**. Please keep these men in your prayers.



- **February 24th** – Ultreya, 2:30 p.m. St. Thomas More, Kalamazoo
- **March 14-17, 2019** – Men's English Cursillo, Amigo Centre, Sturgis
- **March 24th** – Ultreya, 2:30 p.m. St. Thomas More, Kalamazoo

CALLING ALL CURSILLO WOMEN!

Special day of prayer and sharing!

March 16, 2019 Holy Angels, Sturgis MI
12:00 – 3pm. **Eat, Pray, Love** sharing with one another! We will have a salad bar potluck! Dressings prepared by Olive Fresh...a new Oil and Vinegar shop owned by two Cursillistas! (can even purchase if desire)

Let us embrace Lent together, hold up the men's weekend in prayer, and through grouping and sharing empower one another to walk closely with the Lord! For more info and to RSVP please contact Sharon at 269-689-9087 or by email to srmatkin@gmail.com

Help another Live the Cursillo!

We are attracting more and more young people to the Cursillo weekends. Some need assistance. Would you be willing to help sponsor a candidate! As Christians, we are called to evangelize and bring others to Christ. Cursillistas have been given a gift and a plan to do this through our Cursillo weekends. If you can help, checks can be made payable to the Diocese of Kalamazoo with English Cursillo on the memo line. Send to our Treasurer: Diana Godish, 1431 Northampton Rd., Kalamazoo, MI 49006

Ultreya...Don't Miss It!
Sunday, February 24th,
2:30pm St. Thomas-More
Kalamazoo

Come and pray for the Men's
Team of Cursillo #71

2019 Secretariat

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