



Fourth Day

February, 2024

CHANGE IS CONSTANT ——— GOD IS CONSISTENT

As we move swiftly from Christmas into Ordinary Time, we'll quickly face the reality that it's time for putting ashes on our foreheads as Lent begins extremely early this year. It may seem like time-loss, but has nothing to do with losing time due to age. It's just the way the Church calendar works this year.

The months go by in the blink of

an eye, especially when there are extraordinary things happening in our lives. As we move into a new year it's not bad enough that we need to take time to stow away Christmas for another year. But there are also more pressing issues — deaths, new jobs or positions, retirements, family matters, and so many other events — that can be cause for major

changes in our lives. As more and more people tell me that I need to take time out for myself and self-care, I am reminded of that fad WWJD? What would Jesus do? I tell myself that Jesus left all he knew before he started ministry and spent 40 days by himself praying and fasting in the desert. I look at the stress factors affecting my life and can only dream of a vacation, even if it were in a desert.



Most of us cannot just leave everything for a month and a half to work on ourselves and our faith life. However, we can decide now how we might face the constant changes in our lives — and then stop to know that God's love and presence, his Spirit and strength, are consistent no matter what we may come to face in life.

I am going to paraphrase Mother Teresa: "Small acts can change the world." So, I invite those with grandiose plans, to start small and be happy doing that. I know I'm not going to change how I face life overnight. None of us will. So

LENT: IS IT A ROAD TO GLORY FOR US?

Every year I write a daily book of Lenten meditations for the residents of the nursing homes which I care for. This year was no different, except that (as Julie mentioned above) Lent came way too soon following Christmas. Well, there was another difference from what was experienced in the past — I wasn't able to hear the Lord speak to me about what was to be the spiritual focus for the daily meditations.



I poured over the daily readings — day by day — praying for the Spirit, if nothing else, to smack me upside my head for enlightenment.

To be able to give it to the printer in time to have it back and distributed to the residents in time for Ash Wednesday, I had a date set in my head. That came and went. Thankfully the printer and her workers are wonderful. The residents had everything by Lent.

Long story. The easier story would have been if I had opened my heart and mind to thinking "outside the box" which I usually do. But Lent is Lent! And when we think "Lent" it too

often comes with the same expectations. We need to "Change the mentality!"

God took me to look at Lent as an opportunity to see our call as a sharing of God's life through Jesus Christ, who took us to the Father when he resurrected in glory and ascended to the glory He had from the beginning of time.

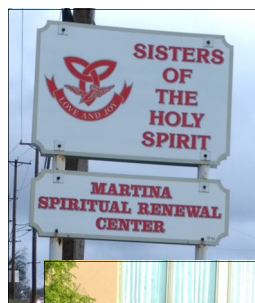
And that's what I invite all Cursillistas to consider in these weeks of Lent. And I encourage all to examine how we, as the early Church did in celebrating their new life, can make that glory realized for others to see in our own world today. But there is more!

see GLORY on page 3

see CONSISTENT on page 2

We're Back at the Martina Center!

The Sisters have reopened for business, and we've committed to two weekends per year. This was based on the number of candidates we've had in the past. These weekends will be consistent (as is God (see above)) — the first and second weekends of March each year. For those new to the area and those not familiar with the Martina Spirituality



Center, follow these directions. The travel is easy — Take US 279 N out of Pittsburgh, exiting at Perrysville. Turn Right, go to the light and turn left on Perrysville Ave. In one hundred yards you'll see the sign for the Sisters of the Holy Spirit. Turn right. This is Clarwin Avenue. Watch for the "Cursillo Signs."

FIRST TIMERS FILL THE TEAM ROSTERS

We sometimes worry about team formation and whether first-time members of the team can handle the stress of giving a talk or fulfilling the obligations of a position.

Sometimes we find that we worry for no reason!

Here's the team rosters, indicating those who will work for the first time and those who will trust God in providing a talk for the first time.

MEN'S WEEKEND

Mike Albanese — Coordinator
 Dan Kubisiak — Asst. Coordinator
 Bob Corcoran — Music
 **Joe Zanella — Auxiliary
 **Jim Ciotti — Auxiliary
 **Mike Cushma — Steward

WOMEN'S WEEKEND

Nicole Albanese — Coordinator
 Daria Kubisiak — Asst. Coordinator
 Peg Lias — Auxiliary
 Jan Cushma — Auxiliary
 Julie Fleckenstein — Head Steward
 **Marta Sasala — Steward
 **Susan Harry — Steward

* **First Time Talk**

** **First Weekend Working**

It should be noted that all those indicated as "newbies" (first timers) have been and are involved in their Ultreyas. This is key for knowing who may be ready to assume a role as a team member.

Time spent with members of an Ultreya helps the Ultreya fulfill its own responsibility — of knowing and recommending capable Cursillistas to the diocesan Secretariat.

Veterans will tell you that you really learn the movement and the content of the talks by working a weekend. So what we are doing is moving "New Cursillistas" into future leadership roles in the diocesan movement.

Running a Three-Legged Race with Two Legs!

I have found the ACTION leg of the Cursillo tripod to be the most challenging to me because it forces me to go outside of my comfort zone, and since I have had the opportunity to group with others who have shared they have the same struggle. Apostolic action according to the Cursillo Manuel, is exercising the power of love — love of God and love of neighbor for God; that based on the exercising of those supernatural powers that impel us to Spread the Kingdom of God.

The term "Action" in Cursillo refers to Apostolic Action. In other words, when we arrive to this leg of the tripod, we should be asking ourselves "How did my love of God and love of neighbor cause me to spread the Kingdom of God?"

I have also had the opportunity to review an older Cursillo Manuel published in 1999, which uses the terms Holiness, Formation and Evangelization in place of Piety, Study and Action. Meditating on these terms helps define in a different light each of the three legs of the tripod.

Looking at Action as Evangelization is a big help to understanding exactly what Action in Cursillo is all about in a short concise term. I constantly need to remind myself: What am I doing to bring others closer to Christ? It's a challenging question I encounter each and every day, and am encouraged by those attending Ultreya and my small group to live this out.

DeColores!
 Mike Albanese

PITTSBURGH CURSILLO SECRETARIAT

Lay Director	Julie Fleckenstein	jkfleckenstein@gmail.com	215-272-3331
Secretary	Janet Cushma	janetcushma@gmail.com	412-523-4057
School of Leaders	Tony Manno	minpin05@comcast.net	412-613-5958
Pre-Cursillo	Rita McCusker	ritamacrn1@gmail.com	412-973-0194
Cursillo	Mike Albanese	mikea2002@hotmail.com	724-462-5276
Post-Cursillo	Lee McFarland	aesopmac@comcast.net	724-312-0452
Physical Arrangements	Jim Haefner	jimhaefner@gmail.com	724-321-3723
Treasurer	Peg Lias	plias1@yahoo.com	412-915-2593
Communications			
Prayer Chain/Emails/News	Marta Salasa		
Data Base	Wayne Fleckenstein	fleckenstein@verizon.net	412-427-6148
Newsletter, Bulk Mailings, Daily Blogs		NEEDED	
Facebook	Julie Fleckenstein	jkfleckenstein@gmail.com	215-272-3331
Technology	Open (for live transmission of Leaders School, etc.)		
Webpage	Clyde Werger	cawerger@gmail.com	412-486-5702
Calendar	Wayne Houston	waynekeh@yahoo.com	412-520-6681
Diocesan Spiritual Advisor	Fr. Tom Galvin	tgalvin@diopitt.org	724-745-6560

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maybe each of us needs to enhance our prayer life and study. Perhaps each of us will look at our lives and recognize those things of value that we've let fall from our lives — like meeting with our small group or attending our Ultreya. Whatever, we're encouraged to enter a **renewed intentionality!**

So WWDJ? Jesus would love. He would pray. He would listen. And he would change His square meter.

DeColores! Ultreya!
 Julie Fleckenstein
 Pittsburgh Cursillo Lay Director

FOURTH DAY WELCOME

Join us on **FRIDAY, MAY 10** at St. John Capistran Church to meet and greet our new Cursillistas — the men and women we've befriended in our evangelization movement.

We'll begin at 7:00PM.

Parking is behind the church.

THANK YOU!

To all who continue to support Pittsburgh Cursillo spiritually and financially!

A “Rookie” Living a Veteran’s Commitment

When I learned of the death of Patty Joyce, I was deeply saddened. I had been working with her for about a year, learning what it takes to keep the communications happening in the Pittsburgh Cursillo Movement — prayer chains and emails, etc. I realized how much of an impact she made in her circle of influence, and how many people she touched with her kind and outgoing personality. Since that day, I have been praying about and reflecting on how important it is to live the Cursillo method: Make a friend, Be a friend; Bring a Friend to Christ.”

Since that day, June 21st, I have understood more clearly my dedication to the Cursillo Movement. I am still new to Cursillo. I lived my weekend in the Spring of 2021, and I have been learning and growing in living out my Fourth Day, sometimes at a slow pace, but this commitment is what God

is calling me to do. Well, let me share with you how Patty Joyce played an important role (in her witness) in my willingness to live this commitment.

I first met Patty at the end of 2021 when I started attending Leaders School. Shortly after, I was asked if I would be willing to help her with the prayer chain emails to the Cursillo community. I graciously accepted and began my “working relationship” with her. Little did I know with whom I was asked to work with. She was very welcoming and helpful. We started communicating often and coordinating our efforts to send emails for prayer requests. What I started to notice soon after was that Patty was in attendance at every Secretariat meeting, every Leaders School, every Fourth Day welcome, picnic, etc. (all thanks to generous Cursillistas who provided the transportation.) Despite her limited mobility and sometimes health challenges, she was there; and I mean present, as in living mindfully — ready to participate, ready for prayer, and with quite the wealth of knowledge of our Pittsburgh community Cursillistas: just ask about the person’s name, last name and year they lived their weekend and she knew it.

I became very aware of Patty’s presence when we saw each other and I enjoyed time spent with her. Not just because she was a very kind and caring person, but also because she lived authentically her Fourth Day. It truly was inspiring to witness the love she gave others and how she lived her faith. She leaves a lasting legacy for our Pittsburgh community, and she will live on in our hearts and minds, reminding us of the commitment of sharing the gift of Cursillo in our environments. As I quote Julie Fleckenstein, “Patty was our institution for Cursillo.” I am now humbly stepping into being the person in charge of prayer chains and email communications, embracing the teachings of a dedicated and wonderful person as Patty Joyce.

DeColores!
Marta Sasala
Communications

IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for
Patty Joyce,
Elaine Suranovich
and all deceased Cursillistas.
May they rest in the arms of our
Lord in His eternal kingdom.

GLORY — from page 1

To fully understand this Lent completely, you also must see how St. Mark builds on the Prophet Isaiah, who referred to the promised Messiah as the “Suffering Servant.” We can only go along the “Road to Glory” when we are ready and willing to join our Lord as “suffering servants” for the world today, for men and women who need to hear a new call that has action witnessed for all humanity.

What the Lord gave me for the residents of the care facilities is also meant for you and I. for our brothers and sisters who are sitting around with dead faith, lacking the glory we are all called to share every day. Lent and Easter are joined not in “seasons,” but in daily encounters.

Love and prayers,
Fr. Tom Galvin, Spiritual Advisor

Upcoming Holy Hours



— for Men’s Weekend
Wednesday, March 6,
7:00pm

St. Eugene Church
1101 Romine Ave
(Liberty Borough /Port Vue)
McKeesport 15133-3515
Sts. Joachim & Ann Parish

— for Women’s Weekend
Wednesday, March 13 — 7:00PM
St. Oscar Romero Parish
St. Patrick Church
317 W. Pike Street
Canonsburg, PA 15317

— for those men and women — our
friends who we wish to bring to
Christ through Cursillo — we pray
Wednesday, May 22 — 7:00PM
St. Patrick Church
Canonsburg, 15317

CURSILLO CALENDAR

*Unless otherwise marked all activities are held
at St. Patrick Center, 317 W. Pike Street,
Canonsburg, 15317, beginning at 7:00PM*

Sun., Feb. 18 — Team Formation, 3:00PM
Wed., Feb. 21 — School of Leaders, 7:00PM
Sun., Feb. 25 — Team Formation, 3:00PM
Wed., Feb. 28 — Secretariat, 7:00PM

Wed., Mar. 6 — Holy Hour for Men’s Weekend
Thur.-Sun, March 7-10 — Men’s Weekend
— Closing Sunday at 4:00PM
Wed., Mar. 13 — Holy Hour for Women’s
Weekend
Thur.-Sun, March 14-17 — Women’s Weekend
— Closing Sunday at 4:00PM
Wed., Mar 20 — Secretariat, 7:00PM
Wed., Mar. 27 — HOLY WEEK

Wed., April 3 — School of Leaders, 7:00PM
Wed., April 17 — School of Leaders, 7:00PM
Wed., Apr. 24 — Secretariat, 7:00PM

Wed., May 1 — School of Leaders, 7:00PM
Wed., May 15 — School of Leaders, 7:00PM
Fri., May 17 — 4th Day Welcome, 7:00 PM
St. John Capistran Church
Wed., May 22 — Holy Hour, at St. Patrick,
Church, Canonsburg 15317 — 7:00PM

PITTSBURGH CURSILLO MOVEMENT

203 Maplehurst Drive
Aliquippa, PA. 15001

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



PLANNING AHEAD: Upcoming weekends — Men, March 7-10; Women, March 14-17
ALL WEEKENDS WILL BE HELD AT THE MARTINA SPIRITUALITY CENTER

2025 WEEKENDS: Men's Weekend — March 6-9; Women's Weekend — March 13-16
Now is the time to begin approach candidates and secure applications for next year.

Where Friends Share God, Faith & Fellowship

Always call for details.
Location currently varies.
jfleckenstein@gmail.com

YOUNG ADULTS
Julie Fleckenstein
264 Seneca St.
Turtle Creek, PA 15145
215-272-3331

WASHINGTON COUNTY
Jan Cushma
324 Buckels Avenue
Houston, PA 15342
724-873-0824
jcushma@gmail.com
Meeting at St. Patrick
Parish Center
317 W. Pike St., Canonsburg
2nd Tuesday at 7:00PM

TRES RIOS
Jack Patnik
2751 Race St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15235
412-793-0476
jppatnik@hotmail.com
Meeting at Christ Divine
Shepherd Parish, Monroeville
Call for dates and specific
Building location
1:00PM

SOUTHWEST BUTLER
Joe & Lisa Fix
4336 Glen Eden Rd.
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066
724-553-1264 (Joe)
724-553-0137 (Lisa)
JLVfix@verizon.net
Meeting at St. Ferdinand
Parish
(Upper Room of Parish Center)
Cranberry Township
2nd Monday at 7:00PM
One Week later if Holy Day

SOUTH HILLS
Kay Houston
4920 Brightwood Rd. Apt C509
Bethel Park, PA 15102
412-965-5261
kayann41@gmail.com
Meeting at St. Thomas More
Parish (Rooney Room)
(across from South Hills
Village)
2nd & 4th Monday at 7:00PM

SOUTH CENTRAL
Mary Fleckenstein
2313 Banker St.
McKeesport, PA 15132
412-678-1723
mkleck1963@gmail.com
Meet at
2313 Banker St.
McKeesport, PA 15132
2nd & 4th Thursday at 7:30

**PITTSBURGH
ULTRAYAS**

BUTLER
Ron & Ina Kocian
682 Cherry Road
Chicora, PA 16025
724-445-3326
inaron@penn.com
Meet at St. Peter Parish
Butler
4th Monday at 7:30PM

BEAVER VALLEY
Tony Manno
412-613-5958
mimpino5@comcast.net
Rene Pintado
412-609-3659
rpigoraci1@gmail.com
Meet at Our Lady of Fatima
2270 Broadhead Rd.
1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7:00PM

ALLEGHENY VALLEY
Group Reunion
Meet at Our Lady of Victory
Parish, Harwick
2nd Tuesday after 12:00PM
Mass

CITY NORTH
Bob Corcoran
260 Martsoff Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15229
412-931-4928
corcoranr@leidos.com
Meet at JMJ Center at Sisters of
Holy Family of Nazareth
201 Nazareth Way, Pgh. 15229
3rd Monday 7:00PM