



The Fourth Day

February 2025



Going Christian Woke

by Father Tom Galvin,
Pittsburgh Cursillo Spiritual Director

I'm going "woke" and I invite you to do the same. But not in the way you may think.

I love the persistent nature of those people, even though they are trying to get others to believe that men are capable of giving birth as women do, of women being referred to by pronouns which make no sense since a single biological male cannot be a "she" and a biological female cannot be plural, such as being referred to as "them" or "they."

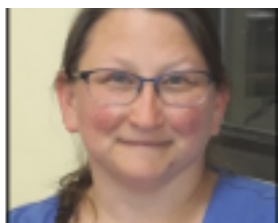
But think about the persistency these people exhibit for a cause in which they believe, as dysfunctional and impractical as it may be. They will scream at a person in trying to force their belief onto others, not realizing that they lack truth and people can easily see this. They are found to not be the sharpest pencil in the box; their crayon box is missing the black and white crayons which help in knowing the truth. Confusion reigns.

And that's why we need to go "woke" – "Christian Woke" that is – a new term I wish to create, and a movement that I'd love to see rejuvenated to be the "movement of the future." "Christian Woke," in its loving way, was the way of life that caused the movement in the Early Church. "Christian Woke" was the profession of truth during and after the Reformation. It was the founding power and willingness to move "Cursillo" into a movement and not simply an event or limited-time movement.

So if Cursillo has only been limited-time program in your life, perhaps it's time to return to speaking the truth in love to those who are struggling to find the truth, to know Jesus, and to understand the love of God. Be persistent in your beliefs and in sharing those beliefs, as others did for you. Some who have experienced their Cursillo Weekend believe that the movement is dysfunctional today. That happens only when Cursillistas stops living what was given them.

Love and prayers,

Fr. Tom Galvin



A Call to Serve: A Father's Legacy

by Julie Fleckenstein,
Pittsburgh Cursillo Lay Director

Most of you remember my father, Wayne Fleckenstein. He served selflessly in Cursillo for the almost-40 plus years that he was a Cursillista. He and my mother held almost every single chairperson position on Secretariat at different times. He also served on the Regional and National levels as well, through the 1990s and early 2000s.

My father did everything with a servant's heart. He thought nothing of spending countless hours on the phone with people, pulling together teams for Cursillo Weekends. However, he also would drop everything for a friend in need, from driving halfway across the state to pick up a stranded friend on the turnpike, to going and sitting at a funeral home to comfort a grieving friend.

Wayne taught me at a very young age that my time is not my own. He and my mother instilled in me that everything we have is a gift from God, so we need to glorify Him as best as possible and give what we can back. Giving of time, especially to something as great as Cursillo, is a tribute to God, saying thank you to Him for giving us this gift, this charism. And if you spent any time with Wayne, you know how generous he could be with his time and his insight into the world around us.

Wayne showed by example (and by words, too) how to live as a Christian in this needy, broken world. He never gave a second thought to rolling up his sleeves and helping a friend, in the parish, or in Cursillo. He was not without his faults, however. His stubbornness (which I also have inherited) and his temper were two things that he tried to curb as he got older.

There is a lot that my father has given me, but the best thing he gave me is wanting to be a servant for the Lord. As Jesus said, "I have come to serve, not to be served..." May we all aspire to serve each other with love, just as Christ does, just as my father did.

Ultreya!~ Julie Fleckenstein

In Memoriam

We remember those who have recently entered
into their Fifth Day.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Father Frank Almada

Jerry Burgman

Cookie Thomas

Living the Cursillo Method is Eye Opening

by Michael Albanese,
Pittsburgh Cursillo Weekend Chairperson

I see God working all around me in even the most humble of daily tasks. I owe much of that to actively living the Cursillo method in my Fourth Day, which manifests in many ways. It could be taking out the trash and something reminds me to grab the can full of diapers. It could be going to my Holy Hour to pray for Cursillo and seeing the newsletter chairperson sitting in Adoration, which was a clear reminder I was late in submitting an article to her. Sometimes it can be something big to keep me from stumbling into harm's way like the day our gas lines were marked incorrectly and uncapped, which would have resulted in death for my family and myself.

Knowing God's presence from living the method has given me the grace to converse about God with people I would not normally. A friend who was helping me at work for a couple months said to me, "How do you end up talking about God every day with your customers?" It really got me thinking about that question, and I think it is getting out of the way and letting Him lead.

I recently went to a lady's house expecting a big job, but it turned out to be a rather small job. I ended up in an hour long discussion with her about God and her desire to deepen her relationship with God. We kept in touch, and at the writing of this article she is working on getting her application for a Cursillo Weekend filled out.

Reviewing my piety, study and action at least weekly has heightened my senses to God's presence and love for me.

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The Second Leg: Study

As we all learned on our Cursillo weekends, we need to study: ourselves, our Faith and our environments, in order to understand ourselves, others and the world around us. Study is also key for us to unlock our potential as Leaders.

Leaders School in Cursillo is an important element of what helps Cursillistas evangelize and help us be better friends to those with whom we are walking on this journey of Faith. Coming together to study as a community is a great way to companion each other while educating ourselves in something we all find valuable.

Leaders School in Pittsburgh meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month and we have studied everything from Papal documents to Cursillo's Leaders Manual. New in 2025 we are starting to do video study, Jesus and the Eucharist from the National Eucharistic Congress.

This study is in 7 sessions, but each lesson is a notable stand-alone study in itself. If you have ever wondered if Leaders School is something for you- IT IS! Come and explore with us the vastness of what our Faith, and Cursillo, has to offer.

De Colores!

Do you feel called to serve in Cursillo as Leaders School Chairperson? If so, contact Julie Fleckenstein at jkfleckenstein@gmail.com or 215-272-3331.

Reflections from a Cursillista

by Joe Zanella

Save the Date:
Cursillo Region III - Spring Encounter

May 2 & 3, 2025

I have reflected on my life as a Cursillista since making Weekend #195. Unbeknownst to me, I had encountered the Holy Spirit, having since put Our Lord at the center of my life and it has never been better! Living our Cursillo Movement can easily change our environment by surrounding yourself with Cursillistas at group reunions and Ultreyas, reading scripture, going to morning Mass, devoting time to Faith based activities and praying constantly. Being bold enables amazing things to happen.

One of these things was when I met my now-wife online seven years ago. Listing my Catholic Faith, followed by my family, as priorities drew her to me. She returned to our Faith, began going to Mass and received the Eucharist for the first time in years after a simple invite to go to confession with me. Fast forward to our wedding rehearsal and imagine our surprise when both of her children that had also fallen away went to confession so they could receive the Eucharist at our wedding. My now-stepson has since worked at our parish flea market and other events. A close moment before this Christmas was when he asked to go to Christmas Mass with us, saying it is his "new tradition." DeColores!

OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY
Remembering Our Past and Giving Hope for the Future

It is 60 years of offering and, in some ways, of fulfilling hope in the lives of Catholics desirous of stronger relationships with our Lord. Yes, 60 years of "Normal Catholics" becoming "Exceptional Evangelists of the Catholic Faith." Sixty years of stories being told of pilgrimages to our Lord.

Please become involved with what we've planned for this anniversary year. They will help us reflect on how our mentalities have changed to be more like our God's. They will also enable us to remember how people changed our lives -- and how we are now called to change the lives of others. Watch for further information in future Newsletters. Or call one of the Secretariat members or Ultreya coordinators for more information.

MARCH -- Weekends at the Martina Spirituality Center
Men's Weekend #225 -- March 6-9, 2025
Women's Weekend #226 -- March 13-16

APRIL 27 -- Fourth Day Welcome and Grand Ultreya
2:00PM at the Martina Spirituality Center

MAY 3 -- Family Mass and Social
St. Francis Cabrini Church, Center Twp. -- 7:00PM

JUNE -- Pilgrimages to Ultreyas around the Diocese, 7:00PM
Monday, June 9 -- Southwest Butler at St. Ferdinand Church
(Cranberry Twp.)
Monday, June 16 -- City North at Holy Family of Nazareth
(West View)
Friday, June 20 -- Young Adults at St. Mary Church
(Aleppo)
Monday, June 23 -- South Hills at St. Thomas More Church
(Bethel Park)

JULY -- Pilgrimages to more Ultreyas (Each at 7:00PM)
Tuesday, July 1 -- Beaver Valley at Our Lady of Fatima Church
(Hopewell Twp.)
Tuesday, July 8 -- Washington County at St. Patrick Church
(Canonsburg)
Thursday, July 24 -- South Central at St. Michael Church
(Elizabeth Twp.)

SEPTEMBER 14 -- Annual Family Picnic and Mass
Cranberry Township Park, 1:00-6:00PM

OCTOBER 12 -- 60th Anniversary Mass and Dinner
4:00PM at St. Thomas More Church, Resurrection Parish
(Full details will be available during the summer.)

NOVEMBER (TBD) -- Family Mass of Thanksgiving
St. Ferdinand Church, Cranberry Twp. -- 7:00PM

Pittsburgh Cursillo Movement
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Aliquippa, PA 15001

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PITTSBURGH ULTREYAS

ALLEGHENY VALLEY

Group Reunion
Victoria Polvocek
Call 724-274-7955 for info.
The meeting location varies.
2nd Tuesday of the month.

BEAVER VALLEY

Tony Manno
412-613-5958
minpin05@comcast.net
Rene Pintado
412-609-3659
rprigorac1@gmail.com
Meet at Our Lady of Fatima
2270 Broadhead Rd.
1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7:00PM

BUTLER

Ron & Ina Kocian
724-445-3326
inaron@penn.com
Meet at St. Peter Parish, Butler
4th Monday at 7:30PM

CITY NORTH

Bob Corcoran
412-931-4928
corcoranr@leidos.com
Meet at JMJ Center at Sisters of
Holy Family of Nazareth
301 Nazareth Way, Pgh. 15229
3rd Monday 7:00PM

SOUTH CENTRAL

Mary Fleckenstein
412-678-1723
mkfleck1963@gmail.com
Meet at St. Michael Church,
Archangel Hall
101 McLay Drive
Elizabeth, PA 15037
2nd & 4th Thursday at 7:30PM

SOUTH HILLS

Kay Houston
412-965-5261
katyann41@gmail.com
Meet at St. Thomas More
Parish (Rooney Room)
(across from South Hills
Village)
2nd & 4th Monday at 7:30PM

SOUTHWEST BUTLER

Joe & Lisa Fix
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

SOUTHERN LAWRENCE COUNTY

Kelly Raybuck
theraybucks2@gmail.com
Holy Redeemer
Ellwood City
Contact Kelly for
day and time

TRES RIOS

Jack Patnik
412-793-0476
jppatnik@hotmail.com
Meeting at St. Bernadette Church
(Biedenbach Hall — under
church), Monroeville
3rd Thursday at 1:00PM

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Jan Cushma
412-523-4057
janetcushma@gmail.com
Meeting at St. Patrick
Parish Center
317 W. Pike St., Canonsburg
2nd Tuesday at 7:00PM

PARACLETE ULTREYA

Julie Fleckenstein
215-272-3331
jkfleckenstein@gmail.com
Location currently varies.
Third Friday of each month.
Always call for details.