

SYDNEY CURSILLO NEWSLETTER

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November 2015

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

To our dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We have just completed the 50th year of the Cursillo Movement's history in Australia and the Sydney area; the first English speaking Cursillo in Australia was held at Armidale in 1965, followed soon after with another one in Sydney in October of that year. Having passed this milestone we should pause to thank the Lord for the richness of His blessings over this period. Surely the choicest of these blessings has been manifested in the people who He has called to take an active role in our Movement. Not least amongst those who have given great service and dedication to the Secretariat over a long period. In thanking them for their dedication we are also asking you to remember them in your prayers.

Over the last 50 years the Sydney English speaking Cursillo has had countless number of candidates who have experienced this taste of community life. This Movement has been the foundation for leadership roles within many lay ministries, including Kairos Prison Ministry, St Vincent de Paull, RCIA, Care Group, Youth Groups, Alpha Course, Prayer Groups, Study Groups, etc. throughout the Sydney and Wollongong Diocese as well as travelling to Perth and New Zealand to assist with the establishment of Cursillo there.

Unfortunately, over recent years it has been increasingly difficult to form teams who are able to make the three month commitment prior to Cursillo and a further 12 month support post Cursillo. It has been difficult to attract candidates who are able to give up three days to "live the retreat" and then attend Ultreyas and form Group Reunions. We have also found it difficult to attract Cursillistas who are prepared to participate in the leadership roles of the Secretariat. Our lives seem to be more demanding and we appear to be time-poor. Additionally we have found it increasingly difficult to find a venue for the weekend which is affordable in the Sydney area.

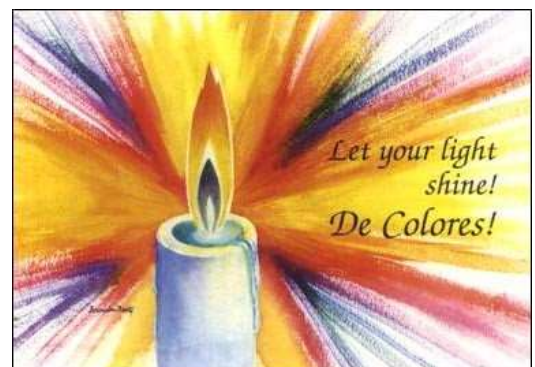
Following discussion with our Spiritual Director, the Secretariat has voted to go into recess. This will be our last newsletter and the upcoming Ultreya in November will be our last. We would love to see as many of our dear brothers and sisters attend this Ultreya for our last hooray.

We have a great love for the Cursillo Movement and all the wonderful people we have met over the years who we consider to be part of a fantastic spirit filled family.

May the Lord bless and protect you,

De Colores, with love from your brothers and sisters in Christ

*Jenny Brady, Charlie Gullo, Jenny Kidd, Fr. Graham McIntyre,
Jennie Myers, Ian Skuse, Wendy Tourle, Kevin Wyrzykowski*



Cursillo Report August 2015:

This year we decided to again run our Cursillo from the Friday evening to Sunday, concluding on the following Friday evening.

At the Clausara we welcomed our new Cursillistas, Cristina, Katherina and Salvatore to the Cursillo family.

We had a small but dedicated team of eight, which included our Spiritual Director, Fr. Graham. Unfortunately due to parish commitments Fr. Graham had to leave us on the Saturday night. We are blessed for any time he can give our movement and pray for all our priests, who are continually confronted with the fact that "the harvest is plenty but the labourers are few".

There was a great sense of peace and the presence of the Holy Spirit over the weekend, and with such a small number of candidates and team there was plenty of opportunity for sharing.

Congratulations to the team who again kept to a high standard of love, commitment and enthusiasm.

Whether we were laughing, having fun, praying, worshipping, crying or eating, we were truly blessed and touched in some way by God over the weekend.

With love and blessings, De Colores
Ian (Rector) and Wendy (Rectora)



PRAYERS and PALANCA

Prayers

Please keep in your prayers the Cursillo Movement worldwide, all those within our Movement who are currently sick or suffering emotionally and those who are unemployed.

Grant Eternal Rest

To all our friends and family who have recently departed our world to rest in the arms of the Lord.



Final Ultreya of The Sydney English Cursillo

will be held at St Joseph's Church,
Cnr Newbridge & Nuwarra Rds., Moorebank,
commencing at 7:30pm with Mass or a Liturgy.

Following this we will meet in
the Parish Hall for our last gathering.

ALL WELCOME, CHILDREN INCLUDED

SUPPER WILL BE PROVIDED





Extract from Sydney Cursillo Newsletter, December 1990

The Opening Prayer on the Service Sheet has an invocative prayer and I would like to share my thoughts with you:

COME HOLY SPIRIT

An invitation to Him to come into our lives.

FILL THE HEARTS OF YOUR FAITHFUL AND KINDLE IN US THE FIRE OF YOUR LOVE

Empower us with your spirit. Give us to us the some boldness which you gave to our Lady, the Apostles and the upper room.

SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT AND WE SHALL BE CREATED

God's spirit in and through us, to help Christianise the world "Create a new heart in me O Lord".

AND YOU SHALL RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH

Through Christian teaching, of love and forgiveness, to be one with our Lord.

LET US PRAY: O GOD, WHO BY THE LIGHT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Opening ourselves up to God. Bringing down barriers, allowing His light to shine in and through us.

INSTRUCTS THE HEARTS OF THE FAITHFUL

Teach us your ways. "I will put my laws on their hearts and in their minds".

GRANT BY THE SAME HOLY SPIRIT, WE MAY BE TRULY WISE AND EVER REJOICE IN HIS CONSOLATION.

That we may understand what God wishes us to do. Listen His voice, enjoy His company within us until we are called home to Him.

THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD, AMEN

So be it, with love in Christ Jesus, De Colores, Brian Bell



Extract from Sydney Cursillo Newsletter, December 1987

MAKING THE MOST OF CHRISTMAS

Instead of bewailing the commercialisation of Christmas, we should be thankful that the community at large is celebrating, in however secular a way, the same Story as we are.

Even though the star has turned to tinsel and carols are only the background music to rattling of tills, there is a universal recognition, however vague and shadowy, of the birth of a unique child.

Dr John Taylor



Extract from Sydney Cursillo Newsletter, December 1981

WHAT ARE YOU GIVING FOR CHRISTMAS?

In addition to material things, some of which you are able to give, how about some pretty important non-material things?

How about more patience?
How about more cheerfulness?
How about more kindness?
How about more love?

The wonderful thing about trying to give these to the best of our ability is that we shall usually find a pleasant response. The good thinks 'bounce back' to us. Or, it's like looking at our reflection in a mirror. We smile, and the smile comes back. We frown, and that is what we see in return. But even when kindness is not returned, we have done our best, and that is all that the "Lord of Christmas" asks.

News of the Fourth Day, Halifax.



Extract from Sydney Cursillo Newsletter, January 1968

FAITH

"No one can come to me unless the Father draws him." (John 6:44) In these words Christ outlines for us what faith does to us. "It is a supernatural virtue that inclines the mind, under the influence of the will and of grace, to yield a firm assent to revealed truths, because of the authority of God." (Tanqueray P.551). It is through this virtue, pure grace – the gratuitous gift of God to each person – that we achieve this confrontation with God – this being drawn to the Father.

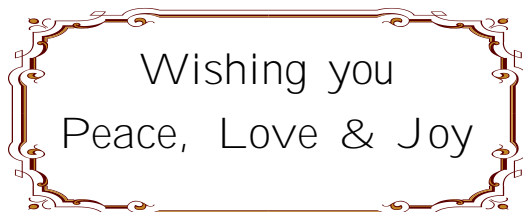
What then is this spiritual confrontation – this meeting of two persons – myself and God? Through this "drawing" of God we are brought to an awareness of His truths; He tells us of Himself. In the depth of His being, things which only a lover would do, a Divine lover. He invites us to participate in His own truth and love – to become of Him – part of His living.

It is for this reason, to give us the capacity to love as we ought, that the Father sent His only begotten Son – "for the Father who is the source of life has made the Son the source of life" (John 5:26). Faith is the "source" of life – the means by which we come to an awareness of God, His place in our lives and our participation in His life. For the Father sent His Son to reveal to us the greatness of Himself – "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through Me. If you know Me, you know my Father too (John 14:6-7). He draws us to Himself through the Son.

But to know God by Faith, to know the Father through the Son, requires generosity, as is the case of all human love, the knowledge and love of God by us is opposed to all self-glorification and egotism. God cannot enter into a heart closed to Him by self-seeking and pride. The proud man is unable to believe, because he fails to acknowledge God and His dominion over him. "How can you believe as long as you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory which is from the only God (John 5:44).

In our generous submission to the will of God, we open our heart to receive the word of God, the source of fullness of life in ourselves. Faith makes us receptive to truth and thus bestows supernatural life, because the Word of God is a life-giving Word.

Reverend D. O'Neill, Lewisham



Extract from Sydney Cursillo Newsletter, December 1968

THE LIGHT OF THE CHRISTMAS STAR by Phyllis Brown

The bright stars in the heaven move
Set there within the laws of His love.
The laws of the earth are in His hands,
Setting the season in all His lands.
Thus the flowers open and the leaves fall,
The law of His love extending to all.
Yet one thing He gave alone to man,
A freedom to love Him within His plan.
But this love, too, in His laws must move,
And this very freedom man's love must prove.
All the stars in their movement are set,
And man must journey to God, and yet,
Not to revolve about Him from afar,
But to shine as the Light of the Christmas star.



TODAY

If we knew that life would end tomorrow, would we still waste today on our quarrels? Would we fritter the precious hours away, taking refuge behind that wall of icy silence, creeping only out to hurl another barrage of angry words – invisible missiles but in every way deadly as broken bricks or bottles?

If we knew that life would end tomorrow, would we keep a tally of wrongs, determined not to be the first one to give in? Or would we cease to care who had started it, knowing that no-one is completely in the right, and that in this kind of war we shall both end up as losers?

If we knew that life would end tomorrow, surely we would treasure today. Fill the hours to the brim with love and laughter instead of anger and bitterness, creating jewel-bright memories which would lighten our hearts instead of dark regrets which would twist and destroy.

If we knew that life would end tomorrow ... but who can say that it will not? That only time of which we can feel certain is today. So today I will reach out for your hand, today I will say "I'm sorry" and "I love you". - *Anonymous*

