



THE FOURTH DAY

A NEWSLETTER OF CURSILLO OF THE DIOCESE OF UPPER SOUTH CAROLINA

FEBRUARY 2006 HIGHLIGHTS: Christian Community In Action—a Cursillo Rollo [3] A Call to Clasura for Cursillo 104 [4] Cursillo Council Notes

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ACTION

This article is a written copy of Stan Rogan's talk given during Cursillo 103. It was preceded by the song "They will know we are Christians by our love."

Yes, they will know we are Christians by our love as we work side by side. I love that song and am excited to have this opportunity to talk about the Christian Community in Action and how we can show others the love of Christ. All of God's people are a part of the Christian community. It is not just bishops, priests and deacons who are the ministers of the Church; laypersons are ministers too. Each ministry has its place and purpose in the community. Our faith in Christ makes us saints and our action makes us apostles.

Why do we get involved? Our call to action comes from our baptismal covenant: 1) We are called to be in community, to "continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers." That community is the church, the body of Christ, in which we worship together and pray together, learn and grow together, and are nourished by the sacraments. 2) We are called to persevere in resisting evil and in penitence. 3) We are called to tell the story of faith. 4) We are called to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves".

Growth in Christ changes and molds us as a community into the image of Christ. The word "saint" comes from the

Latin word "sanctus" which means "holy" or "set aside for God's use"—we are instruments for God's purposes. Ongoing growth in Christ happens within the church through worship and study, as well as in the Group Reunion which will be discussed later today.

Once growth in Christ begins, we are "sent" (in Greek, "apostolos") to serve the world in Christ's name.

For some, our service is to others in the community of faith; for instance getting involved in Cursillo. Each person who serves on the team has a particular role to fill and a particular service to perform for the community. Table leaders have striven to form an even smaller community where the members serve one another as they learn and grow during the weekend. Others have helped make this Cursillo possible in various ways through palanca and prayer chains, or as kitchen angels, cha chas, and music

chas just to mention a few.

For others, our service is outside of the community of faith to those in the outside world. There are SO many ways to do this. There is Kairos, the prison ministry. There is Habitat for Humanity. I have been amazed to see homes built in a week by volunteers. There is Crop Walk—a great way to increase awareness for the hungry in this World by walking three to five miles to raise money for your local food bank. As a result of Hurricane Katrina, many people lost their homes and are needing assistance of all kinds. In Columbia you volunteer through Blossom and Pickens, a evacuee processing center. They will be glad to get some help. You can also visit a nursing home. The folks there just love seeing you come to visit them just to talk. It just makes their day!

My wife Nancy works at The Women's Shelter in Columbia. The women come

there from prison or from drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers, many of them having been abused. My call to action came from hearing Nancy's stories of how women's lives are being changed by the guidance and love of the staff and volunteers there. I could hear God calling me, tugging at my heart too. That feeling to help others in my community wouldn't go away. I chose to get involved in the community in action program through the St. Johns Congaree vestry. I didn't know where to start or what to do but I made phone calls and visited one of the clothing banks in Columbia which is housed at The Cooperative Ministry. I visited The Oliver Gospel Mission, one of the soup kitchens for men. I found that there are many ways to help those in need in our community. I knew that I could not do this alone and I

Continued on page 2



quickly found that our church is blessed with willing volunteers wanting to help others. I gathered others and 6 of us went to serve meals at The Oliver Gospel Mission. My son Tom came along and played the piano during supper. That's a good ministry and we enjoyed talking and spending time with the guys and learning about their program. We visited the clothing bank at the Cooperative Ministry and unpacked boxes of clothes and sorted them for distribution. Their director, Art Collier asked for help following the hurricane because everybody was bringing in clothes that evacuees were needing. And boy their inventory was turning fast!

I want to tell you about how I got this Home Works T shirt. Our first home repair project involved eight adult and three teenage volunteers who made repairs to a home for a needy retired couple in Eastover. We made roof repairs, installed new kitchen cabinets, and made plumbing improvements and repaired a storm door. The next summer we joined a Home Works project in Columbia. Home Works is a United Way Partner Agency that uses teenage volunteers led by experienced adults to repair homes. Last year Home Works repaired over 100 homes in Columbia alone. Four St. John's Congaree teenagers and I joined a crew of 10 teenagers and a site leader to paint a house on Farrow Road. There was lots of fun and excitement and interaction with the homeowner and we quickly became friends. Teenager excitement is contagious and you quickly become part of it. I remember there were two girls painting the ceiling of the front porch. A huge glob of paint fell from her paint roller onto the top of her head. They just looked at each other and giggled uncontrollably as she found a cloth to rub some of it off. Skill levels make no difference—people come in and they have absolutely no experience but it doesn't matter! They get the help they need and by the end of the day they are showing others how it is

done and everyone is having fun. We all have different gifts and the sharing of these gifts is as much a blessing to you as it is to others.

Our most recent Home Works project was this past June.

(Stan showed pictures of the event) Here is a picture of the family. You may have read about Lakisha in newspaper. She volunteered for one week with Home Works to help other teenagers repair homes in Columbia. The teenagers slept in the gym at St. Martins in the Fields. Their mother is unable to walk as a result of a car accident. Their grandfather also lives with them.

Here is the work crew on one of our Saturdays. We had four teenagers from St. John's Congaree, our senior warden is the man in the light blue shirt, and the young man with the red and blue cap is in the process of becoming a non-stipendiary priest. We are also blessed to have Pat Williams, one of our team members here with us today. Pat is a jack of all trades and just a good egg. It is a real pleasure to work with people like Pat. Pat and the boys are installing the flashing on the roof in this picture.



The teenagers were a big help in applying 20 gallons of Cool Seal to the leaky roof. Greg Crouch and I are preparing to cut sub-flooring. The entire bathroom floor was rotten and the vanity room had to be replaced. We also replaced the front door and

screen door. Our photographer caught Nicolas by surprise as they were installing sub-flooring in the bathroom. One of the volunteers also installed new stairs at the back of the trailer. We involve as many volunteers as we can. We ask for donations of food, someone to take pictures, someone to read scripture... and it all comes together.

You and I are called to tell the story of faith. That our job! That's Matthew 28, the great commission. At noon during our work days we take the opportunity to read a prepared scripture lesson, and to pray for God's blessing on the home and the family. Members of the family participate by reading a portion of the service. This is a very meaningful service. We all enjoy this special part of the day.

We are called to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves". You know, that just comes naturally on these projects. By the end of each of these Home Works projects we all know each other, our volunteers have become very close to the family members and them to us. They always thank us, over and over again, many with tears of joy in their

eyes. It is truly an awesome experience. All of the volunteers on this project received a Home Works T shirt of their very own.

Home Works is coming to a city near you. There is an opportunity to help no matter where you live. There is a cal-

endar on the website with instructions about how you can volunteer.

So, are you feeling that tug-ging at your heart like I am? Do you want to how to get involved? Do you want to lead an outreach team? It is so easy to get started!

Here is all it takes:

1. Love: work as a part of a team; love those with whom you work. (1 Corinthians 13)

2. Generosity: give Jesus your best and he will take care of the rest.

3. Faith: Trust the Holy Spirit to help; don't be afraid. The most difficult step is the first one.

4. Responsibility and initiative: act as the Body of Christ in a strong, determined and persevering way.

5. Gifts of the Holy Spirit: these will equip us to live and work for Christ.

So, you have love, generosity, and faith in your heart, you have the initiative and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, what's next? It's time to develop the action plan: 1) Know the problems: understand your situation. 2) Know who can solve the problems; know who can help make a change. 3) Make a plan for apostolic action. Everyone can do something and everyone is needed. Some will serve at the front of the ministry, some will serve at the back—all are needed for apostolic success. 4) Plan your work and work your plan. And you know what? It's OK if it does not work out. We all have to adjust our plans from time to time. Some projects will be well attended and some won't. You learn as you go what works for you and your church. 5) Remember to acknowledge the importance of everyone's part. Community means everyone's contribution is valuable to overall "success" in the ministry. A solitary Christian is a paralyzed Christian. An example of this community is the use of briquettes in a charcoal fire. A briquette removed from the group quickly loses its fiery glow. Work in teams and keep that glow alive.

Continued on page 4

CALL TO CLAUSURA
CURSILLO 104
FEBRUARY 16-19

Symbols are an integral part of our lives—we see them everywhere. Think about the colors red, white and blue and our flag and patriotism comes to mind. See a picture of a dove with an olive branch and a sense of peace and calm floods the mind. See a swastika and a sense of terror or anger swells inside. Symbols are generally tangible or visible representations of our values. Seldom are they the actual embodiment of the emotion or physical action that we have come to associate them with. There is one noted exception that Christians have constantly before us and that is the Cross of Christ.

It is in the cross that we see not only the sacrifice that our Lord made for each of us, but also one of the worst physical instruments of torture that humankind has been able to develop. We may read the story of the Passion or look upon visual representations of the crucifixion or listen to sermons about the crucifixion during Holy Week, but until we go beyond the symbol and acknowledge the unimaginable pain and suffering that our Lord accepted on our behalf we cannot truly understand or appreciate the symbol it has become. Knowing that this was a real man whose hands and feet were punctured with nails and believing that this same man is the Son of the Living God giving himself up for us and taking our sins unto him...this is our statement of faith.

With Cursillo #104 taking place just weeks before the Church enters into the season of Lent where the cross becomes a more conscious focus for our faith, our dedication for the weekend is to the Cross of Christ. Pray that each of us may come to better understand the dual meaning of this symbol and truly strive to live to warrant the sacrifice that was made for each of us and for all mankind.

Tom Williams
Lay Rector

CANDIDATES FOR CURSILLO 104

Patricia Barnett
St. Thaddeus Aiken
Sponsor: Tommy Caldwell

Deb Bucci
Christ Church Greenville
Sponsor: Lou O'Brien

Carole Chauvin
St. Mary's Columbia
Sponsor: Arthur De Gennaro

Emery Clark
Trinity Columbia
Sponsor: Bob Jendron

Greg Crouch
St. John's Congaree
Sponsor: Hop Weston

Marc Cunningham
Christ Church Greenville
Sponsor: Buzz O'Brien

Abigail Jansen-Bowes
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Sponsor: Joanne Stewart

Jim Jordan
St. Thaddeus Aiken
Sponsors: Tommy and Chris Caldwell

Barbara Jordan
St. Thaddeus Aiken
Sponsors: Tommy and Chris Caldwell

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Christ Church Greenville
Sponsor: Bonnie Pearce

Bob Spencer
St. Mary's Columbia
Sponsor: Peggy Davis

Cee Spencer
St. Mary's Columbia
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Jill Swinden
Holy Cross Simpsonville
Sponsor: Ande Zander

Bill Thomason
Christ Church Greenville
Sponsor: Tom France

Woo Thomason
Christ Church Greenville
Sponsor: Karen France

STAFF FOR CURSILLO 104

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS

Mother Marty Conner, St. Thaddeus, Aiken (Head)

Rev. Gordon Hamilton, Church of the Incarnation, Gaffney

Rev. Timothy Dombek, Saint James' Church, Greenville

LAY RECTOR

Tom Williams, St. Thaddeus, Aiken

MUSIC

Tom Caldwell, St. Thaddeus, Aiken (head)

Marilyn Becker, St. Mary's, Columbia

Rogers Stinson, St. Phillips, Greenville

Marvin Webb, St. Bartholomew's, North Augusta

CHA-CHAS

Johnetta George, St. Thaddeus, Aiken (Head)

Eddie George, St. Thaddeus, Aiken

Lou O'Brien, Christ Church, Greenville

Peggy Williams, St. Thaddeus, Aiken

TABLE LEADERS

Chris Caldwell, St. Thaddeus, Aiken

Michael Conner, St. Thaddeus, Aiken

Tim Conroy, St. David's Columbia

Janet Jendron, St. David's Columbia

Buzz O'Brien, Christ Church, Greenville

KITCHEN

Joyce Pipkin, St. Mary's, Columbia (head)

Jody Davidson, St. Mary's, Columbia

Sheryl Kelly, St. Mary's, Columbia

Sue Netzloff, St. Mary's, Columbia

Mary Anne Park, St. Bartholomew's, North Augusta

Debra Webb, St. Bartholomew's, North Augusta

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Lou O'Brien

Lalty
Buzz O'Brien

Piety
Janet Jendron

Study
Rogers Stinson

Action
Chris Caldwell

Leaders
Tim Conroy

Evangelization of the Environments
Johnetta George

Christian Community in Action
Michael Conner

Group Reunion
Tom Caldwell

Ultreya
Eddie George

My table was discussing having to make choices with our finances, time and talents yesterday and Father Charles reminded us that each time we say no, we are saying yes to something else. Have you reviewed your choices? What are you saying yes to?

There was a church in Italy just outside of Pisa that was bombed during World War II. The church was actually untouched but there was this huge statue of Jesus out front of the church that was shattered into tiny pieces. The congregation decided to put

it back together piece by piece. But they couldn't find Jesus' hands. So the priest said, don't worry, we can be Jesus' hands. And we can, we can be Jesus' hands. If Christ is to minister to the poor, it must be through our hands. If he is to take care of the sick, it must be through our hands, if he is to reach out to those who are lonely, it must be through our hands. Getting involved in these ministries is how we become the hands of Jesus. We can change the world for the better. We can show others the love of Jesus through our actions.

As Ashley said in her starfish story, we can make a difference, one person at a time, one home at a time, in little ways like St. Therese of Lisieux. We can make a difference by keeping the rain from leaking into a home, putting in a floor where before there was just spongy patches of fiberboard. If this church can repair five homes, and your church can repair five homes, we can quickly make a difference.

Christian community in action is an extension of Christ's hands in the world. Each time we reach out in love in the name of Christ we open the door of hope to those who might not encounter Christ in any other way. Our action as a community will change people's lives and transform the world for Christ. Just look at how much change Christ has made among us this weekend! Decolores!

Stan Rogan, a member of St. John's Congaree, Hopkins, made Cursillo #98 in June, 2003. He recently served as a Table Leader during Cursillo #103 in October, 2005.

Home Works is a nondemoninational Christian organization open to all teens and adults interested in expressing God's love through service to others. The program was established to offer service projects that are prayerful and spiritual in nature.

The first Home Works summer work camp was in 1996 in Johns Island, South Carolina. Home Works also operates in conjunction with the youth and young adults of the Diocese of Charleston and the Episcopal Diocese of Upper SC and their Appalachian out reach program.

Home Works is based in Irmo, South Carolina. As listed on the website, the chairperson of the board of directors is Hank Chardos, a parishioner at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Columbia. You may contact Hank at homewrksc@aol.com or at 803-781-4536.

For additional information visit Homes Works website at www.homeworks-sc.org

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FUTURE LAY RECTORS

Cursillo 105
June 15-18, 2006
Karen France

Cursillo 106
October 19-22, 2006
Trisha Thackston-Ganner

Cursillo 107
February 2007
TBD

Cursillo 108
June 2008
TBD

Cursillo 109
October 2008
TBD

COUNCIL NOTES - UPDATED INFORMATION

Rotating off Council at the end of 2005 were The Rev. Wayne Kinyon, Denise Wellman, Jay Williams and Pat Wood. During the December 2005 meeting, Cursillo Council welcomed new members Ralph Coleman and The Rev. Sally Frankin. Two additional members will be appointed. It was determined during the Council meeting held January 28, 2006, that the open positions would be filled from the Piedmont Convocation if possible. Officers for the 2006 term are: Jim Woerber, president; Rita McCaskill, vice president; and Ashley Reynolds, secretary.

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. — Ephesians 2:19-22



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