

Fiesta

Celebrating the St. Louis Cursillo Movement

St. Louis Cursillo Movement
P.O. Box 435043
St. Louis, MO 63143

PALANCA

Recently questions about Palanca have come up and some Cursillistas have been encouraging letters of support from children and family members. Some candidates have been disappointed when letters that they were told were coming and that they were expecting didn't arrive as anticipated. The following is what the Cursillo Leaders Manual says about Palanca.

PALANCA

Palanca has always been an essential part of Cursillos (Precursillo, Cursillo & Postcursillo), and should be practiced in its entirety. Palanca gives witness to the solidarity of the members of the Church. It is especially important during the Precursillo, the spiritual preparation for the Cursillo, therefore, both the Team and the outside community should include a Palanca campaign.

Palanca is the actual prayers, sacrifices and works of mercy. A note on a piece of paper or a greeting card does not constitute Palanca. A Palanca letter is one that is sent to the candidates and team, informing them of the prayers and sacrifices that one is offering to God on their behalf. A letter may be sent explaining what type of Palanca is being offered, but the letter is NOT the Palanca. The actual Palanca is the action-intercessory prayer, sacrifice or works of mercy-and it can be done without writing a letter.

Cursillo

It is important to read some of the Palanca during the "Actual Grace" rollo to give witness of the 4th day community. Palanca should certainly be introduced during the Cursillo, without treating it as something like a "trump card," without dramatization. It should be made clear that it is normal among Christians, for a person to make sacrifices for others, even if they do not know them personally.

With Cursillos, the emphasis should be on Palanca in general, offered by the 4th day community for the community being formed during the three days. What matters is not that someone prays or sacrifices for the "X" person, but that it is done and offered for everyone in the Cursillo. The offering of Personal Palanca (cards, notes, etc.) should be limited, since most of the time it can be more of a burden than an aid for the team.

In closing, because we know the power of prayer and sacrifice on a Cursillo weekend, I encourage all to do Palanca for the upcoming weekends no matter if we make it known through a letter or not!

ULTREYA!
Bob Schumer
Lay Director

Prayer Fasting Almsgiving

Reflections on Study



Don't tell my lovely bride, Sue, this, but I enjoy waking up with two other women. The good news is that they are both nuns who I have grown very fond of over the last 15 years or since I began my Cursillo journey.



I wake up with them as a part of my morning prayer and time set aside for Study. As we learned on our Cursillo weekend, Study is the back leg of the tripod which supports our efforts on the front two legs, Piety (loving God) and Action (loving others). As we heard in the Study rollo, our sources for Study are books (don't just read good books, read the best) and Acts (study groups, get-togethers, Cursillo group reunions).



These two nuns are Sr. Melanie Swoboda and Sr. Joyce Rupp. They are both contributors to one source of my Study which is the Living Faith, a daily devotional which corresponds with the mass readings of the day. Sr. Melanie is a Sister of Notre Dame who has written books and led retreats and Sr. Joyce is a Servite Sister who also is an author and retreat leader. It never fails that their reflection for the day will be pertinent to where I am on my faith journey or for what I am experiencing in my family/life journey.



I know that the fourth week of Lent I will read in a Sr. Melanie Lenten devotional her thoughts on Psalm 34:19 "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted". She mentions that in all her travels she always meets new people. Despite their joy, friendliness, warmth and faithfulness she later finds out they have dealt with some kind of heartache and pain.



She was reminded of something she read – "Every person we meet is mourning something". Perhaps it's a loss of a loved one, sickness or disease, divorce, addictions, etc. She reminds her readers that "God will mend your heart-if you give him all the pieces" Her ending prayer: "God, remind me that everyone I meet today is mourning something-even the person I meet in the mirror".

Likewise, Sr. Joyce tends to always be on target. I still have handy a reflection by her that was from April 2015 based on the Acts 13:3 sentence "They laid hands on them and sent them off" (when the people of Antioch blessed Paul and Barnabas before their mission). She comments "One need not be ordained to give another a blessing. We each have the grace of the Holy Spirit to share with another. Parents sending children to school with a Sign of the Cross, spouses blessing each other before leaving for work-these are a few of the ways that the kindness of a blessing extends the Holy One's protective hope-filled and caring love". So I say as Cursillistas, let's bless those we love.

I encourage you, my Cursillo bothers and sisters to be diligent in your Study. Find a routine that works for you. Find someone you too, will look forward to waking up to.

A true confession: I read the sports page before my morning prayer and Study time! Like I tell the fellas at Cracker Barrel at Grouping on Saturday mornings: You never know, God might ask me for a score!

Peace!
Barry Cahill

**An inspiring witness from Cursillista,
Gene Herman:**



I came home after a brutal day and was making a call to a Costco 800# to check on something with my account. I had no idea where the call was going or who was going to pick up.

A Gentlemen answered and very kindly answered the questions I had. He noticed I was calling from Missouri and mentioned he just heard something on the news about some issues out at MIZZOU. (I still am not aware of the whole story because I have not seen the news. And mostly will not)



His name was Tony, and was located in Seattle. He told me just enough of what was on the news to get us talking about our concerns about our country's Christian values and some of our political leaders.

We mentioned how we were both Praying that God will put the right person in office next year for President. A person with Christian values, and will stand and fight for them.



Somewhere in the conversation and out of nowhere, he said "You are probably not familiar with Cursillo", but kept on talking about this neat little song and how it related to what we were discussing. Before I could even interrupt him, he started to sing it. By this time I was beaming with Joy, as you can imagine. I let him go on for a bit.

So here is this complete stranger (at least I thought), half way across the country, at work with customer service with Costco, singing DeColores to me over the phone. When I started to join in, it sounded like he may have almost fell off his chair, but he stopped and said "Praise God".



The story goes on, but we spent almost an hour discussing our Journeys, and how Blessed we are to have experienced and be a part of Cursillo. (He started his Journey in 1981, Catholic also in case your wondering)



We truly are One Body.
This call was not just an accident!!!
We both needed it and truly know God had arranged this.

We Prayed together and exchanged emails.
More to the story, but can share later.



It wasn't until I seen this email and realized I just grouped with a Brother in Seattle. :)

DeColores,

Have a Blessed Day,
Gene Herman



"Fasting makes sense if it really affects our security, and also if a benefit to others comes from it, if it helps us to grow in the spirit of the Good Samaritan, who bends down to his brother in need and takes care of him. Fasting involves choosing a sober life, which does not waste, which does not "discard." Fasting helps us to train the heart to essentiality and sharing. It is a sign of awareness and responsibility in the face of injustices, abuses, especially towards the poor and the little ones, and is a sign of our trust in God and His providence."

Pope Francis

Cursillo Weekend Withdrawal???

Is anyone besides me having Cursillo withdrawal?



I had to pray by myself this morning! I didn't SEE anyone else there in my prayer corner, but does that mean I was alone??

And my breakfast was not hot, ready and waiting when I came into my kitchen! Where's the kitchen crew in my house? Don't they know I'm a precious, dear, darling child of the King? Oh wait. They are precious, dear, darling children of the King, too. Hmm...who serves whom???



When I look out my window, I don't see the fields dressed in the colors of springtime. I see them dressed in the colors of autumn against a backdrop of a grey sky. It's as if the earth is beginning its own Cursillo experience - a time of rest and rejuvenation, focusing on internal growth.



Where's the DeColores team? Who's going to make sure that my physical needs are all met before I even say a word? Hmm...maybe the clerks at the grocery store, the mail carrier, the phone company worker who is working on the lines outside my house on this rainy morning...?

Who is going to ring the bell to wake me up in the morning or remind me to get on with the next activity? If only that trash truck didn't come so early and wasn't so loud in the pre-dawn hours...and the neighbor's dog didn't always bark when it comes out to do its business first thing in the morning...or my own precious, dear, darling dog who reminds me to let him outside and spend a few moments of quiet time outside with him (and Him)...or the alarms on my calendar that clamor for my attention...or the phone call from someone who just needs to hear a friendly voice (whether they realize it or not)...or the church bells that ring for the Angelus, or toll for a funeral...or the radio news reports that remind me that it's time to pray for the world...



Where is my daily supply of Palanca letters? Why hasn't someone put them in my room? There's plenty of room on the bedside table...right next to my Bible, rosary, and prayer book...Where's the Palanca team? Maybe they're in the other room. Oh, that's just my husband. Maybe that's them in the kitchen, at the kitchen table where my family gathers to share food and lives...or next to the photos of my parents and grandparents...hmm...



And I guess I'll have to come up with my own playlist of music to accompany my day. Hmm...what's on the radio today? "All You Need Is Love" – God, did the Beatles speak your truth? "I Just Called to Say I Love You" – God, is that you calling me through nature or through the voice of a friend? "You'll Be In My Heart", – God, really. Disney movies?! You know, it seems that almost every song I hear contains a bit of Truth, some



more than others and some, not so much. If I listen for the language of love that is spoken in any love song, I can experience an aspect of God's love for me and my response to Him. God might even show me "A Whole New World". Maybe I just need to "Turn (my) Radio On" to WUBU and tune in to the Playlist there. I know that if I "Open My Eyes", even if "(I) Fall Down", God will "Raise Me Up" and I will "fly higher than an eagle (or owl, or peacock, or dove, or mockingbird)" with the help of the "Wind Beneath My Wings".

De Colores and ULTREYA!
Sharon Essner

Ultreya Schedule

St. Joseph's Church,

106 N. Meramec Avenue, Clayton, MO 63105

First Friday of the month: **Mass and Ultreya** at 7:30 PM

Third Friday of the month: **School of Leaders** at 6:30 PM followed by **Ultreya** at 7:30 PM

St. Mary's Church,

519 E. 4th Street, Alton, IL 62002

Fourth Saturday of the month at 9:00 AM

Ste. Genevieve Church rectory,

Market & 4th Street, Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670

Second Friday of the month at 7:15 PM.

Check the St. Louis Cursillo website for dates.

St. Gertrude's Church,

6535 Hwy YY, Washington, MO 63090

Fifth Friday of the month at 6:00 PM

St. Agnes Church,

Hwy 55 at Exit157, Bloomsdale, MO 63627

Grand Ultreya (all Ultreya locations meet together)

twice a year in the spring and fall. **Mass** begins at 7:15 PM followed by **pot luck supper**. **Check the St. Louis Cursillo website for dates.**

¡DECOLORÉS!