

Fourth Day New

Secretariat Corner

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“Joy is the Infallible Sign of the Presence of God” - attributed to St. Teresa of Avila and echoed by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin.

Joyous is the best word to describe the ordination Mass of Bishops Gary Studniewski and Robert Boxie. “Mary’s House” was filled with people from all over the archdiocese and country, as friends of the bishops traveled to the Basilica to celebrate with them. Dozens of Cursillistas, from both the Spanish- and English-speaking Cursillo Movements, were there to praise God for this happy day.

A thrill of joy shot through me when I saw the Cursillo rooster on Bishop Gary’s Coat of Arms, which graced the cover of the program at his ordination Mass. This is the explanation of what the rooster symbolizes: **“The cock or rooster is a symbol both of religious fidelity and soldierly courage....”**

It is also a symbol of the Church’s responsibility to proclaim the new era of grace and forgiveness to a darkened world. It has been associated with the repentance of Saint Peter and his resolution to always be ready to give an account of his faith.

The rooster is also a symbol in the Cursillo movement, so pivotal in the faith life of the Bishop through a personal encounter with Christ and the Church, which emphasizes personal spiritual development and presents to disciples of Christ how to become effective Christian leaders in the world.

We are blessed to have Bishop Gary who is so boldly preaching the life of grace and making known the Cursillo Movement through his personal Coat of Arms.

After communion, each bishop spoke briefly. Bishop Gary extolled Cursillo as the reason he fell in love with the people of the Archdiocese. Bishop Boxie encouraged us all to consider if God is calling us to a new vocation. I thank God for his goodness in giving both of these brothers in Christ to us, and I look forward to the fruit of their ministry!

To show our love and support for Bishop Gary, we are accepting donations so he can purchase a mitre. When he wears his mitre, he will be thinking of and praying for all of us in Cursillo. You can make a contribution by check or through Zelle, or bring a donation to the

Ginger Caldwell has retired as our long-time Secretary, and even longer serving member, on the Secretariat. Ginger served in various roles on the Secretariat for more than 14 years. I want to thank her for her servant's heart and for the magnificent example she set as she faithfully lived her Fourth Day. Ginger will continue to be active in Cursillo, so please thank her when you see her.

I am happy to announce that Stephanie Frye has joined the Secretariat as the new Secretary. Welcome Stephanie! Thank you for stepping forward and serving the Movement.

Join me in thanking God for his goodness and for the many graces he has shown to our Movement. ***Indeed, the joy of the Lord is our strength (Nehemiah 8:10)!***

**Kathy Schmitt, Co Lay Director
66th Women's Weekend, Diocese of Richmond
Laurel Ultreya**



Hey Cursillo! The Cursillo Rooster is on a Bishop's shield!

Bishop Gary R. Studniewski



A Shepherd for the Sheep

On July 7th, the Archdiocese of Washington ordained two new bishops at the episcopal ordination Mass for Bishop Gary R. Studniewski and Bishop Robert P. Boxie III at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Five Cardinals and roughly 53 bishops laid hands on the heads of these shepherds to be, calling down the Holy Spirit upon them.

I was there, invited by now Bishop Gary, to hold the book of the Gospels over his head along with another deacon, while Cardinal Archbishop McElroy prayed the ancient prayer of ordination. It was a great honor to be invited by now Bishop Gary to perform this ancient role during his ordination as bishop. But it also was a very close encounter with the Holy Spirit. For as we got into position near Father Gary to hold the Book of the Gospels over his head, I could palpably feel the Holy Spirit emanating outwardly from him.

When the Book of the Gospels is held over the bishop-elect's head, the principal consecrator recites the ancient Prayer of Ordination (also called the Prayer of Consecration).

This prayer begins: "God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Father of mercies and God of all consolation, You dwell in heaven....," and then it continues invoking the Holy Spirit upon the elect: "So now pour out upon this chosen one that power which is from You, the governing Spirit, whom You gave to your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, and whom He bestowed upon the holy Apostles..." This ancient prayer bestowed on Bishop Boxie and Bishop Gary the very spiritual graces given by Jesus to the apostles. It was a joyous occasion filled with the very Presence of God. And that joy radiated from all the folks gathered in the pews, as it seemed like a Cursillo Mass on steroids.

As I looked out into the church, I saw a community that in its diversity expressed their joy at the ordination of two much loved priests whom all gathered embraced as their own and who welcomed their being made beloved bishops. The Christ-like joy that glowed out of now Bishop Boxie and Bishop Studniewski was catching, and the people in the pews caught the ordinand's joy.

I think the most heart-warming thing about being graced to be present at this ordination was the heart piercing joy that bubbled forth out of the people in the pews, and how it energized Bishops Gary and Robert. It was clear that they love the sheep and the sheep love them. God Bless Cardinal McElroy for listening to the Holy Spirit's whisperings and supporting the elevation of these two much loved priests.

**Deacon Jim Caldwell
Men's 160th Cursillo Weekend
Calvert County Ultreya**



Matthew 5:16

Men's 226th Cursillo Weekend

**"Go Let Your Light Shine"
September 17-20, 2026**

**Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center
7007 Bradley Blvd, Bethesda, MD 20817**

As Rector for the Men's 226th Weekend, I first want to shout out the amazing team of brothers who said **"Yes"** to living the theme of the Weekend and letting their light shine. We are:

- **Charles Wiley**, Rector (St. Teresa of Avila)
- **Michael Lillis**, Assistant Rector (St. Nicholas)
- **Fr. Jack Kennealy**, Head Spiritual Director (St. Andrew the Apostle)
- **Deacon Tim Tilghman**, Spiritual Director (St. Teresa of Avila)
- **Br. Richard McCann**, Spiritual Director (Fr. Judge Missionary Cenacle)
- **Deacon Thomas Molineaux**, Spiritual Director (St. Pius X, Bowie)
- **Willie McNeil**, Head Shepherd (St. Teresa of Avila)

- **John Conroy**, Assistant Shepherd
(St. James, Falls Church)
- **Charles Smallwood**, Head Musician
(Jesus the Divine Word)
- **Michael Krainak**, Assistant Musician
(St. Francis, Fulton)
- **James Brightful**, Table Leader
(St. Martin of Tours, DC)
- **Brian Johnson**, Table Leader
(St. Teresa of Avila)
- **Steve Jacobs**, Table Leader (St. Hugh)

We began our time together with the understanding that letting your light shine is an individual commitment to our joint goal to, “make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ.” Each team member said “Yes” to bringing their individual gifts and allowing the Holy Spirit to use those gifts to shine the Light of Christ, the beacon that will draw the new brothers and friends that will join us as candidates for the Weekend.

If you know me, you know I like to shake things up a little! With such an experienced team, I’ve had the opportunity to bring new ideas and energy to our usual way of doing things, without being too disruptive.

We have incorporated technology into our interactions, invited the new brothers from the Men’s 224th to be in community with us at our meetings, and found ways to build and strengthen our brotherhood, while doing the work of preparing for the Weekend.

Through it all, their trust, and mine, is that Christ is our Leader and the Holy Spirit is our guide. We are being formed and molded into the dedicated leaders that will inspire and engage the new brothers as they join our Cursillo Family.

As our team moves closer to the Weekend, we pray that our actions as a team will show the new brothers that a shared love of Christ can grow friendships into a lifelong encounter with companions on the journey.



And, supported by those relationships, each one can find their own pathway as a disciple to go forth and bloom where they are planted!

We are grateful for your prayers and support and we encourage our Cursillo Family to be brother and sister beacons that will draw our new brothers to the 226th Weekend. How? By joining us in living the charge of our theme: Go, Let Your Light Shine! De Colores!

Charles Wiley, Rector
Men’s 194th Cursillo Weekend



Reflections on Cursillo **Mananitas/Serenades**

In the Cursillo movement, we delight in the Mañanitas (or Las Mañanitas), as our traditional early morning “serenade” which happens on the final day of the Weekend.

Cursillistas from outside of the weekend gather at dawn to surprise and welcome the new candidates as they prepare for their last day before the transition to their **"Fourth Day"**.

There is a similar custom of "serenading" those in the community who are ill, homebound, or recovering, and it may be less well known to some. We gather with heartfelt prayer and singing to bring comfort, peace, healing, joy, and a sense of community.

Usually, the group gathers outside a participant's home or care facility to sing hymns, share blessings, and show support. (These serenades/musical prayer gatherings are referred to as Mañanitas in some regions).

We sing songs like **Peace Is Flowing Like a River, Lay Your Hands**, and depending on the situation (going from the sublime to the ridiculous) even **Rise and Shine** (with motions). We ask God's grace for the sick person and their family/ care-givers, and want to remind the person that they are deeply loved, never alone, and continuously supported by those in the Cursillo movement.

The first time I had an opportunity to participate in such a serenade was when we were living in Hawaii, a few months after Marty and I made our Cursillo. Almost immediately we were in Group Reunion and in a Cursillo study group, and one of our members called us to go with them and pray and sing for a man in his 40's who was dying (*they called the serenade a Mañanita*).

It was pre-arranged and about 8 of us went. The family was so appreciative of the support— and all of us there were struck knowing that we were on holy ground. That was about 54 years ago, and every serenade I've participated in since then has had the same feeling—like we should take off our shoes because we are on holy ground!

The most recent serenades that I've been blessed to attend were for Joe Bowser and for Bob Jacobs. For Joe Bowser, it was a rainy day, and we were quite a crowd, who intended to sing from outside in their yard, but Joan had lovingly arranged for us to enter the home, and even to have some time with Joe, who certainly knew how loved he was!

Bob Jacobs was quite aware of his impending death, and also of each person who wanted to be there to pray with him. He joined in the singing and rejoicing.

This was all new to his brother and sister-in-law (Steve and Jeanne) who were caring for him in their home, and who nevertheless were most welcoming. The rest of that story is that Steve and Jeanne are now two of our most active Cursillistas!! God is so good!

If you've never had the opportunity to participate in such a serenade, I hope you will. When you know someone for whom this would be appropriate, with the family's permission, just find a few or several others and set it in motion. You will find yourself on Holy Ground!

**Ginny Novak (1972, Peter's Mother-in-law
St. Nicholas Parish, Laurel Ultreya**



Many Years, Many Blessings,

"Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, so that you and your children and your children's children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long." (Deuteronomy 6:1-2)

I have lived ninety-four years, what a blessing! The Lord has been good to me. I have given birth to one child and adopted two additional children.

Of these children I have nine grandchildren and countless great grandchildren including one great granddaughter. If I had nothing else in life, I would feel blessed with that. But the Lord truly rewarded me beyond measure. I have grown from infancy in the Catholic Church.

At this time in my life, I am blessed to have not one but two Church Families, and when I am not in one as a prayer leader, lector, sacristan, or some other duty, I am in the other. In those churches I have many sons and daughters, nieces and nephews and any other relative you can name. They may not be blood relatives, but they are my family as the Bible tells me so.

My body may not be what it used to be, and I may not be able to do what I used to do but the Lord has allowed me to wake up many new days. My mind may not be as sharp as it used to be, but I am able to think and do it for myself. There may be an occasional ache or pain, but I just ask the Lord to let me get those and He hears me because this body still does what I am able to do and more.

Yes, the Lord takes care of this body He gave me, and He lets me know when I have been doing something I should not do and I am wise enough to listen to Him because I know if I don't, He can claim anything He placed on this earth.

In my younger days I lived a life that allowed me to enjoy many of those blessings the Lord gave. When I worked, I made a fair dollar, and I enjoyed spending a fair dollar or two. Yes, I did not have to depend on others to give me what I wanted in life for the Lord had me get up and carry out the work He had for me to do and after so many years of that He allowed me to retire from the life of working to get what I needed.

Today the Lord has allowed me to live a life of retirement, but retirement for me is not sitting around in a rocking chair knitting and playing bingo. While that may be good for some that's not the life the Lord is letting me live. The Lord is allowing me to enjoy spending time with my family.

There are not a lot of families that can gather as many as five generations to celebrate a holiday or birthday. But the Lord allows me that blessing.

The Lord has blessed me with the opportunity to see so much of what He has placed here on this earth. While many people of my age are looking at photographs from years past the Lord is letting me go and take new photos. I don't have to live and see the world through the eyes of my younger children and grandchildren.

No, I can come home and have them see the world through my eyes. This only begins to speak of the many blessings the Lord has allowed me in my ninety-four years. If it is the will of the Lord, I plan to live to continue to receive His blessings for me and I do not take a day or a blessing for granted for at any moment I may see my last day on earth. If that day were to come, I would thank the Lord and go willingly and with a smile on my face.



For in **these ninety-four years there is nothing that the Lord has not given me** that I feel He owes me.

There are so many who have not lived half of the years that the Lord has blessed me to live. There are so many that have not had half the blessings that I have received from the Lord.

There are so many people my age who go to bed each night feeling alone and grieving those that they have lost.

But each night when I close my eyes to go to sleep, I can do that knowing that my family is still a major part of every day that I spend on this earth. Each morning that the Lord allows me to open my eyes I awaken in a warm and loving home to a family that fills my heart and the Lord who fills my spirit. Yes, I am Blessed, I am truly Blessed.

Yes, the Lord has guided me and I have tried to live the life that He intended me to live and in doing so I must have lived according to His commandments and I pray that my children and their children have done likewise so that they too will be blessed with many years as I have lived.

De Colores!
Barbara (Mama Pio) Givens
Women's 215th Cursillo Weekend

Fifth Day Corner



We celebrate all of our brothers and sisters who have crossed over into their 5th Day since the first of the year. They have completed their pilgrimage on this journey of eternal life. Now they rest in the arms of our Savior. We will miss them dearly, but we know that they go before us, and we will see them again.

Companions on the Journey

Father William Paul Hill

Men's 12th Cursillo Weekend

Jessie Bridgewater

Men's 45th Cursillo Weekend

Tom Young

Men's 48th Cursillo Weekend

Janie M. Lee

Women's 131st Cursillo Weekend

Jamie (James Ronald) Lee

Men's 132nd Cursillo Weekend

Vernon Joseph

Men's 192nd Cursillo Weekend

Brenda Goodwin

Women's 221st Cursillo Weekend

Please let us know if any members of your Ultreya have gone on to their 5th Day this year. We would love to celebrate them.

Adam, Where Art Thou?

God asked this of Adam, but He also asks this of Us!

On Saturday, March 28th ten of our Cursillo brothers gathered to answer this question and so many others that would help us to live a more productive 4th day as fathers, husbands, mentors, and Spiritual Leaders in our home, in our church, and in our Cursillo Movement.

The presenters for our retreat day were the organizer of the event Deacon Bobby White, long time Cursillista and Evangelist Warren Newton, and longtime Cursillista Deacon Timothy Tilghman.

Those of us who attended were long-time Cursillista and Lead Musician, Charles Smallwood; John Conroy, Secretariat Member and Communications Committee Chair, Evangelist Michael Howard who is a longtime Cursillista and a true inspiration to many who know him Willie McNeill, former St. Teresa of Avila Ultreya Leader, and two of our newest Cursillistas John Novak and Steve Jacobs both from the 224th Men's Cursillo Weekend. I completed the list of attendees as sitting Co-Chair of our Cursillo Movement and NE/SE Ultreya Leader, James Brightful.

Before the day's program began, the brothers came together for introductions and group reunion. Several shared heartfelt reflections on their Cursillo Weekend and the journey that brought them there.

Before the day's program began there was a reunion or introduction of brothers who were willing and eager to speak on their journey to and recollection of their Cursillo Weekend.

After an opening prayer and music speaking to our trust in the Lord. Deacon Bobby White spoke to where we are as Spiritual Leaders in our homes as husbands, fathers, and even grandfathers. He spoke on our call to those ministries and although we don't see them as such, that is what they are. If God is not present in the head(s) of the family, God is not present in the family. The children of men who place their trust in the Lord, become adults who like their parents, can place their trust in the Lord. That faith and trust in God becomes a legacy that is passed to each new generation.

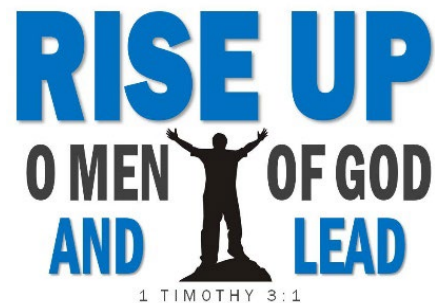
Warren Newton was next to speak and Warren spoke of the role of the presence of men in the church. God calls us to His church so that we might become His Church! We as men are called to bring our trust in God to others. More importantly than what we say is what we do to bring others to God's Church. We must be a living witness, and when we live as God has called us to live then we can bring God to others. Warren spoke of the many witnesses from the Bible whose actions rather than their words brought others to God.

The final presenter Deacon Tim Tilghman asked the question where we are present in the world. Deacon Tim spoke of the many people in his world who became his friend, his mentor, his companion on the journey and how they helped bring him closer to God.

He reminded us that we are not alone as Cursillista, that we have friends and family. We a family who is there to support us and keep us in a place where we remain closer to God.

After each presentation we were presented with questions that had us to question where we were with our spiritual and faith lives in our families, our homes, our church, and in our world.

Even during our breaks between talks and lunch break carried on the serious nature of our discussions. We discovered that each of us may have had a different journey to our faith and trust in God, our church and our involvement in the Cursillo Movement but that each of our travels brought us to the same destination that is our faith and trust in God, our love of family, our church and our Cursillo movement.



At one point during the day a remark was made about the lack of men present for this very special day and how disappointing it was.

To which I responded we can't dwell on those who did not come, we must make sure that those that did come left with something more than when we came. In my closing remarks, I thanked all that were there and said that we did not fail because so few attended but that we succeeded because we all were going home with so much more as men of faith, and trust in God. It was now our duty as leaders to take what we had been given today home to our family, to our Cursillo movement, and in our world.

God may have had to call out to Adam asking where he was, but he does not have to call out to the ten men who were present today for He knows where they are and what they do in His name. De Colores!

**James Brightful, Men's 194th Cursillo Weekend
Co-Ultreya Leader NE/SE
Co-Chair Cursillo Movement AWD**

An encounter with God, An encounter with Yourself, An encounter with Others

“No One Carries the Work Alone: An Invitation from the 3-Day Committee”

Think back to your Cursillo Weekend. The chapel was ready when you walked in. The talks were prepared. The meals appeared and the snacks were limitless. The manuals, the supplies, the schedule, and the team who welcomed you, none of it happened by accident. Long before you arrived, someone prayed over that weekend and did the quiet work that made your encounter with Christ possible.

That quiet work is the ministry of the 3-Day Committee.

Our charge is simple to state and sacred to carry out: we prepare and support each Cursillo Weekend, creating the environment where candidates can encounter Christ and experience the fullness of the movement.

We help identify and form weekend coordinators and teams, schedule and ready the retreat facility, walk alongside coordinators from team formation through the weekend itself, and keep the supplies and manuals ready for the next weekend.

We all know the heart of Cursillo: ***make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ.*** The 3-Day Committee lives in that third movement. When you bring a friend to a weekend, our committee's work is what welcomes them on the other side of that invitation.

Every bin we pack, every coordinator we support, every date we secure on the calendar is preparation for a friend someone loved enough to bring.

And here is our honest word to the community: ***this work needs more hands.***

The movement that changed your life continues only if each generation of Cursillistas steps forward to prepare the way for the next.

The weekends of tomorrow depend on the YES we give today. Our goal on the committee is simple: no one carries the work alone.

The good news? Serving is simpler than you might think. Each volunteer focuses on just one area, and many roles can be shared with a friend (make a friend, be a friend — it applies here, too!):

- ✚ **Team Development** — help identify and encourage future team members and coordinators
- ✚ **Coordinator & Core Team Workshops** — help form and prepare weekend leadership
- ✚ **Weekend Liaison** — be a supportive point of contact for coordinators before and during weekends
- ✚ **Facilities & Calendar** — help schedule weekends and coordinate with the retreat site
- ✚ **Supplies & Manuals** — keep the weekend bins stocked, transported, and ready
- ✚ You don't need special expertise. You need a heart for the movement and a willingness to serve — the same spirit that carried you through your own Fourth Day.

So, we ask you to do one thing this week: ***take a moment in prayer and ask where the Holy Spirit may be calling you to serve.*** If a role above stirred something in you — or if you simply want to learn more — reach out to the 3-Day Committee co-chairs. We would love to serve beside you.

The next weekend is already coming. Help us prepare the way. De Colores!

**Kelli Baxter, Women's 175th Cursillo Weekend
Co-Chair, The 3-Day Committee**



Blame it on the Holy Spirit!



Call me Gobsmacked! “Gobsmacked” is a British word used to express being so overwhelmed by surprise that you are momentarily left speechless. As Jimmy will tell you, I am rarely left speechless. Who volunteers to do something they know nothing about because of a sign they see on the side of the road? I probably drove by that sign dozens of times and never noted it. “Gun Bash, \$50, 2-4pm, at American Legion” But this time, the Holy Spirit nudged me, and like all such nudges from the Holy Spirit, He wouldn’t let me ignore it, try as I would! Before I knew what was happening, I was talking to my fellow Cursillistas at the Calvert Ultreya and the Secretariat about a fundraiser.

That Gun Bash sign grabbed me, and no I didn’t suggest that Cursillo hold a Gun Bash. The next thing I knew I was organizing a fundraiser. What was I thinking???? I had never organized such a thing. I knew nothing about fundraising, and had no real idea how to get things started or what to do... But like all things from the Holy Spirit, as I mentioned the idea of holding a Spring Social Fundraiser, people stepped up to help.

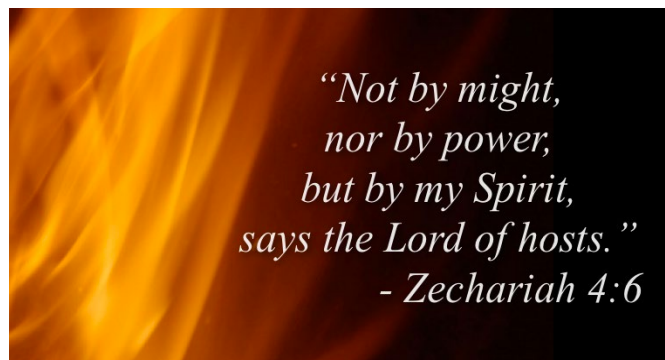
I have been blown away by the enormous generosity of our fellow Cursillistas! Rose Thurston & Taylor Jordan arranged for the use of the Panorama Room at Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Suggestions were made and we settled on the idea of a silent auction. The Holy Spirit got to work again. He smoothed over the glitches we confronted, and out of the woodwork came many generous donations of paintings, goods, and services that included tickets to a Nat’s ball game that Jeanne & Steve Jacobs enjoyed, Jimmy & I were among the 8 who enjoyed a 6 course Italian dinner cooked by Chefs John & Julie Conroy. Also offered was a Portuguese infused gourmet brunch for 6, many beautiful pieces of art work donated by our Beloved Cursillo artist, Brother Richard, a beautifully illustrated family Bible, and a number of Ultreya Gift Baskets. All went up to be raffled off and there was no end to the generosity of our fellow Cursillistas who came to have fun!

We had great fun catching up with people we haven’t seen since covid, meeting some of our new sisters, enjoying delicious food, and listened to some wonderful singing by our Luisa and her karaoke group, Blinkiesings as well as those brave enough to attempt a karaoke tune or two. And while we had a lot of fun, the generosity of the souls that came to the social helped us raise a little over \$4,000 for our Movement.

Thank you to all who came out! Thank you to all who donated items and activities to be auctioned off! And thank you my fellow Cursillistas who gave of your time and energy to help pull this social off! And finally thank you all my fellow Cursillistas who participated in the auction and in so doing donated money to help us hold weekends!

Ginger Caldwell
Women’s 161st Cursillo Weekend
Calvert County Ultreya





NE/SE ULTREYA HOLDS ITS ANNUAL FR. CHARLES GREEN MASS AND COOKOUT

The annual NE/SE Fr. Charles Green Mass and Cookout was held July 11, 2026, and this year it was a celebration of the recent Ordination of our Spiritual Advisor and friend Bishop Gary Studneiwski.

Fr. Gary, now Bishop, has been celebrating the annual Mass held in memory of our late Chaplain Fr. Charles Green over the past few years. This year was different for it was held just 4 days after Bishop Gary was ordained Auxiliary Bishop, as was Bishop Robert Boxie. So many Cursillistas who were present at the Shrine earlier in the week to witness Father Gary take upon the office of Auxiliary Bishop in a very moving and grand event, were drawn to our event to witness our Bishop Gary say what may have been his first Mass as Bishop.

We first hosted our Mass and Cookout there years ago at the urging of Fr. Green. Following his death in 2020, we decided to rename the event in his memory as Fr. Green was such a major part of the event during the later years of his life. When Fr. Green was no longer able to say the Mass, he would come from dialysis and wheel himself from table to table and greet and meet every guest present.



The events of the day started earlier as both the Secretariat Meeting and the Men's 226th Cursillo Weekend Team met at the Little Sisters of the Poor Facility which has been home to our annual gathering for years. This year's event was scheduled earlier in the year prior to the announcement of Fr. Gary's elevation to Auxiliary Bishop. So, the thought of our Mass being celebrated by the Bishop made us want to really make it as special and as memorable as possible. In the past, our Mass was very low key and there were times when attendance was not that great.

This year Charles Smallwood organized a full music liturgy and put together a choir to sing at the Mass which was held in the beautiful and intimate chapel there at the Little Sister's Facility. With the larger number of attendees, the spirit of the Mass was truly raised by participation of Bishop Gary, with the Mass being celebrated with Father Kennealy and Deacon Tim Tighman on the altar.



Downstairs in the auditorium we held the cookout, which is no longer held outside due to the extreme heat and possible summer rain. Having been fed of the Spirit everyone was now ready to feed on the sumptuous potluck buffet that was spread before them. Our Ultreya supplies hot dogs, hamburgers and a couple side dishes. There were so many other dishes and desserts that had been brought in, there was something for everyone. There was enough food that guests were able to take home a favorite dish that they may have enjoyed. A special thank you to Charles Wiley who volunteered to work the barbeque outside while we were inside eating.

Our simple little Mass was now a grand celebration and show of appreciation of our Bishop Gary. The Holy Spirit was truly present in the Chapel. A rousing rendition of De Colores closed out our Mass and had everyone walking out of the Chapel truly feeling blessed and graced.



Charles Smallwood raffled off a beautiful Afghan that he had hand crocheted to raise funds for the Weekend coffers. The lucky winner of the Afghan was Phyllis Winston.

Near the end of the afternoon of fun and celebration we were able to present the Mother Superior of the home with a generous donation from the guests.

Due to the generosity of those who contributed we were able to give the home \$850.00. Mother Superior was so overwhelmed by the gift that she wanted to give some of the money back.

The money was a token of our appreciation of the warm hospitality and cooperation the facility has shown us over the years. This year we were able to give them more than double what we were able to give them last year.

A beautiful time was had by all who were there and our Hospitality Committee of myself Bernadette (Pio



Pio), White and Melody Atkinson are blessed to be able to carry on this yearly event and welcome our Cursillo Family and Friends.

We thank all who were present and helped make this year's event the success and celebration that it was.

**James Brightful –with Bernadette White
Co-Leaders of NE/SE Ultreya**





Celebration of God





Communications Committee is Modernizing: Please Send Feedback and Join Us!

"When you come, bring the cloak I left with Carpus in Troas, the papyrus rolls, and especially the parchments." 2 Timothy 4:13-15 New American Bible (Revised Edition)

When I think of the work that the Communications Committee does, I often think of St. Paul's second letter to Timothy, where he asks for a cloak forgotten, papyrus rolls, and especially the parchments! Papyrus was commonly used for writing. Perhaps he had a draft or notes for another letter. The parchments, which were used for longer-term "storage" of information, could have been scripture or, as others suggest, even legal documents needed for his defense. For Cursillo to spread the Gospel, we use Flocknote, Facebook, and Instagram as our papyrus and a database, Fourth Day News, YouTube, and our Webpage for parchment. There are opportunities to serve in each of these, and in this issue of Fourth Day News, I like to call attention to three areas where we are providing some parchment to our St Paul successors, us in our spreading the Good News.

The first of these efforts is the replacement of our eCatholic website. A number of the members have suggested changes, and the communications committee researched a path forward and opted for a port of the current site, adding in new features and also with a goal of reducing the annual cost.

Six months ago, the second option did not seem feasible because we did not have the expertise; however, with the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence, it seems possible we could do this with our own efforts, in conjunction with generative AI tools.

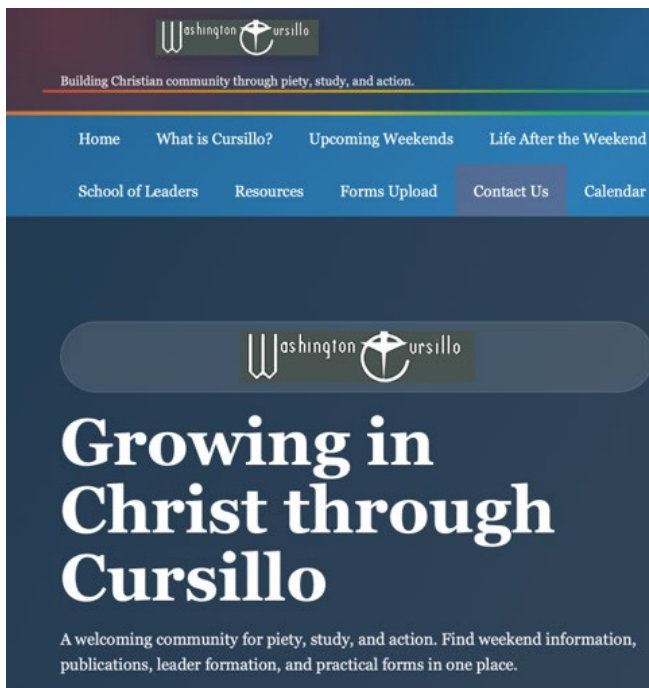
After about three attempts over a six-week period, we were able to develop a prototype of our site. In the end, we were successful in not only creating a site that provided the content we currently make available but also in adding:

- ✚ **A calendar which we can control via a simple Google Calendar.**
- ✚ **The ability to have fillable PDFs for our major forms and to have them uploaded and sent to the appropriate committees.**
- ✚ **An automatic feed of the most upcoming events displayed.**
- ✚ **The last 20 years of Fourth Day News will be available online.**
- ✚ **The website is fully searchable with its own search bar.**

The staging site was shared with all Secretariat committees, and final edits were completed and as of the date of this article, our new site is live!.

Here are a couple of screenshots of the new site. The short-term cost to Cursillo was about \$572, which covers hosting our site for 5 years. Staying with eCatholic, the cost over the same period would result in an estimated \$6,000 expense to the movement.





The second area is our newly created YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@WashDC-Cursillo>), which archives our Cursillo videos, primarily School of Leaders talks.

Calendar						
Calendar of Washington DC Cursillo Events						
Previous	Today	Next	View:	1 Month	2 Months	4 Months
Agenda						
July 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
						Wash DC Cursillo Secretariat: InPerson NE/SE Fr. Green Cook Out Montgomery Ultreya
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
					Laurel Ultreya	Wash DC Cursillo Secretariat Zoom Meeting
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
August 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Grand Ultreya to Celebrate Bishop Gary					NE/SE Ultreya	Montgomery Ultreya
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
					Laurel Ultreya	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
					Secretariat	
30	31					

A shout-out to Jeanne Jacobs, who pulled this off. Jeanne Jacobs has also been leading a subcommittee that met with several former Lay Directors of the Washington Cursillo to update a history of our movement in the Archdiocese of Washington.

We have a document that covers our history until 2004. The goal is to have each former lay director answer a series of questions posed when the then-existing document was written and update the document to our current time.

There is more work to be done, and it is indeed a fun way to serve, to bring the parchments and papyrus, so if you are interested in serving on the Communications Committee, please reach out to us! St. Paul, Patron Saint of Cursillo, pray for us.

John M. Conroy, Chair Communications Committee
Men's 211th Cursillo Weekend
Table: Sojourners of Christ
St. James, Falls Church, Virginia
STA Ultreya



De Colores! We are the new co-chairs of the Cursillo School of Leaders (CSOL), Jeanne Jacobs and Leslie Collica. We invite **ALL** Cursillistas to join us each month for great conversations on various aspects of the Cursillo Movement. If your weekend was anything like ours, it went by way too fast.

The CSOL is a way to revisit what you learned on the weekend. It is a way to learn about the committees and how they keep the movement going forward. It can also be a history lesson in how the movement grew and where it is going now.

Cursillo School of Leaders Meets Monthly on Zoom



**Join the CSOL Zoom Meeting
Time: 7:00 – 8:50 PM
Upcoming talks include:**

We are covering topics such as Exploring the New Talks, and the Various Committees of the Secretariat.

- **September 16th - Fourth Day Committee**
- **October. 21st - Communications**
- **November 18th:** Exploring the New - Talks, Cursillista Beyond Cursillo and Total Security Rollo
- **December 6th:** Advent Day of Reflection at St. Hugh's in Greenbelt, MD (in-person)

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81552163918>

Dial by your location:

**+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C.)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)**

Link: [us02web.zoom.us/j/8155](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81552163918)

Meeting ID: 815 5216 3918

Passcode: 750344

One tap mobile

**+16465588656,,81552163918#,,,,,0#,,750344# US
(New York)**

**+13017158592,,81552163918#,,,,,0#,,750344# US
(Washington D.C)**

Remember that these CSOL meetings are open to all Cursillistas who are interested. Reminders will be sent out by Flocknote before each meeting.

Take a look at our [YouTube channel](#) for recordings of the CSOL talks. We hope you will join us soon!

**Jeanne Jacobs and Leslie Collica
Co-Chairs of the Cursillo of Leaders
223rd Women's Cursillo Weekend, April 2024**





FDN 2026-2027 PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

3RD QUARTER ISSUE

July - September

Submission Deadline – September 30th

Publish Date – October 17th

4TH QUARTER ISSUE

“Special End of the Year Issue”

Submission Deadline – December 11th

Publish Date – December 30th

2027 1ST QUARTER ISSUE

January - March

Submission Deadline – March 31st

Publish Date – April 16th

FOURTH DAY NEWS Calling All Writers

We need to hear from you. Please dig deep and write a sharing for the community. ***How is your 4th Day Going? Tribute to someone who has gone on to their 5th Day. What's up with Ultreya?*** Share your experience, strength, and hope as we all walk on this journey of love.

FDN Editor

Larsk196@msn.com

FDN Editor's Corner

Do you have thoughts, poems, prayers, or reflections to share? The Washington Cursillo® Community wants to hear from you!!

If you know someone who has gone on to their 5th Day, we need your sharing and memories. Please send them before the submission deadlines!!!!

Articles should be submitted no later than the “submission deadline” listed on the Production Schedule, using Arial 12 Font Size, and be no longer than 600 words,

Remember to sign your articles with your name, weekend, and Ultreya.

Submit articles by email to Cursillo 4th Day Newsletter Coordinator:

Lethia A. Kelly, CMP

communications@washdc-cursillo.org
or larsk196@msn.com

**The Washington Cursillo® Movement
Website**

<http://www.washdc-cursillo.org>

**For information on Social Media, please
contact:**

Stefanie Miles, Coordinator

Charles Wiley, Coordinator

Communications Committee

communications@washdc-cursillo.org



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Men's Cursillo Weekend

September 17-20, 2026

Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center
7007 Bradley Blvd, Bethesda, MD 20817
Charles Wiley, Rector

Cursillo School of Leaders Upcoming Talks

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 ~ 7-8:50PM

Fourth Day Committee Talk

Wednesday, October 21, 2026 ~ 7-8:50PM

Communications Committee Talk

Wednesday, November 18, 2026 ~ 7-8:50PM

Exploring the New - Talks, Cursillista Beyond Cursillo and Total Security Rollos

Cursillo Fifth Day Mass of Remembrance

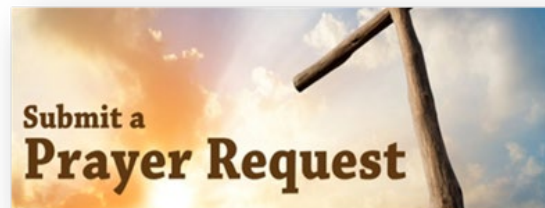
**Saturday, November 14, 2026 - 10:00AM
1:00PM**

Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament
3630 Quesada Street NW
Washington, DC 20015.

Cursillo Advent Day of Reflection

Sunday, December 6, 2026 ~ 2:00 - 4:00 PM

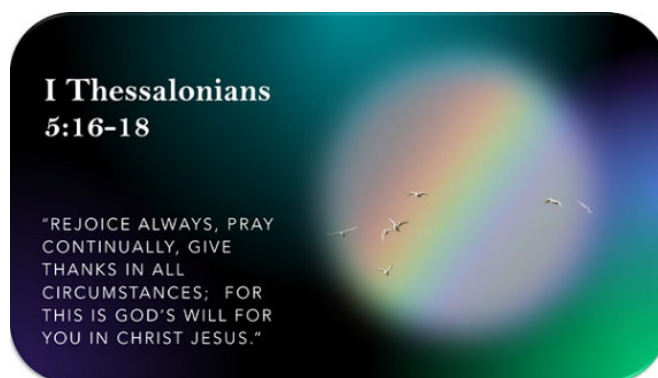
St. Hugh Catholic Church
135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
(In Person)



If you need prayer or know someone who does, please send your request to James Brightful at Pray911amen@gmail.com.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God, see, I am laying in Zion a foundation stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation: "One who trusts will not panic."

Isaiah 28:16





NE/SE

First Friday of the month, 07:30PM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87152982008?pwd=MlpEeVIGUnlwZUw2aVowa3lzOHVvQT09>

Meeting ID: 871 5298 2008

Passcode: 561134

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,9031781530#,,, *176822# US
(New York)

+13017158592,,9031781530#,,, *176822# US
(Washington DC)

Dial by your locations:

- +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 903 178 1530

Passcode: 176822

CALVERT COUNTY

Last Friday of the month, 7:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4224047769?pwd=cVp1b1JHMUxneGxHQkFBOWI4bnRGUT09>

Meeting ID: 422 404 7769

Passcode: 437403

LAUREL – Hybrid Meeting

Third Friday of the month, 7:30–9:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3457817893?pwd=9MtTho2zuZ8lcfBrYWYOHQRq0HQCS7.1&omn=87543866168>

Meeting ID: 345 781 7893

Passcode: 247696

One tap mobile:

11635713017158592,,88116319819#,,,,,0#,,11
6357# US (Washington D.C)

+19292056099,,88116319819#,,,,,0#,,116357#
US (New York)

ULTREYA

ULTREYAS MEET BY THEIR SCHEDULES, EITHER BY ZOOM OR IN PERSON. PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR ULTREYA LEADER FOR CURRENT INFORMATION

Bowie-Lanham

7:00pm, 2nd Friday
St. Edward's, Bowie

Calvert County

7:00pm, Last Friday of the Month
St. John Vianney Church Basement
Ginger Caldwell
goingsouth@olg.com
Cathy Martinoli
auncathy20736@yahoo.com

East of the River

7:30pm, 4th Friday
OLPH
1st Portable Bldg.
Pearl Baylor
301-894-8405
pearlbaylor@yahoo.com

Laurel

7:30pm, 3rd Friday
St. Nicholas Church
8603 Contee Road
Laurel, MD 20708
Mary and Rick Boivin
mary.boivin@gmail.com
rick.boivin@gmail.com

Montgomery County

7:30pm, 2nd Saturday
Missionaries of the Most Holy Trinity Home
1733 Metzert Road
Adelphi MD 70783
Sue Numrich
SNumrich@ida.org
Faye McAneny
301-806-0960
fayemcaneny@hotmail.com

NE/SE

7:30pm, 1st Friday
Meet Virtually
Bernadette White
bcw3056@yahoo.com
James Brightful
Jamesb.vacation@gmail.com

St. Teresa of Avila

7:30pm, 2nd Monday
St. Teresa's Church
STA is meeting at the Church of the Incarnation until the parish center renovation is completed.
John M. Conroy
staultreya@washdc.org

So. Maryland

7pm, 4th Wednesday
St. Mary's Church
Newport
Marc Abresch
tipmanrules@hotmail.com

Donation Form

Washington Cursillo Movement

"Make a friend, be a friend, bring that friend to Christ!"



Donor information (please print of type)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, ST. Zip Code: _____

Phone (Home): _____ Phone (Cell): _____

Email Address: _____

Donation Information

I (we) enclose a total of \$ _____ ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Money Order

☐ Zelle

If paying cash by Zelle electronic direct payment, please use treasurer@washdc-cursillo.org.

*If you are paying by check or money order. Please make it payable to:
"Washington Cursillo Movement" and send to:*

LaMont Baxter, Treasurer
Washington Cursillo Movement
2419 Monroe Street, NE
Washington, DC 20018
(301) 806-7151