

NEWS FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

As we continue to enjoy our summer, let us reflect on how our faith and the English Cursillo work hand in hand. Our faith teaches us to go out and spread the Good News to others, and Cursillo teaches us to also go out and spread the Good News to others. So as we grow in our faith we also grow in our Cursillo. Cursillo gives us the tools to strengthen our faith and to prepare others to receive the Good News.

How do we do it? Well, we use the tools that we received from our Cursillo weekend: piety, study and action. These three areas give us a road map to not only enrich our faith but to go out and make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ. It is through our faith that friendships are made and develop into a journey of conversion to Christ. Now we know that Cursillo isn't for everyone but we all know someone who could benefit from making a weekend. So for us, our goal is to make a friend with them and be a friend by inviting them to ultreyas and reunion groups so that they can see the positive of what Cursillo does to enrich their faith. Last but not least, when the time is right, invite them to a weekend and let them convert their faith into action. In order for our Cursillo to grow we need to develop the relationship and friendship in order for us to be good Christian sponsors and friends to our candidate. If we have that friendship than we will more likely take an interest in how they are doing after the weekend.

So please go out and make those friendships and spread the Good News and help Cursillo grow. Don't forget we have a women's English Cursillo coming up October 20, 2016 and we need to send some of those friendships on the weekend. It is being held at St. Joseph's Parish in Belding.

On another note, I attended our national encounter with Fr. Mark and we had a very good time. We were encouraged to see that our Cursillo is on track with National and Regional goals and guide lines. Cursillo is focused on spreading the Good News everywhere. They are pushing to reach out to the far away to bring them back into the fold of our Catholic faith. Cursillo is the perfect tool to accomplish this, especially in our individual diocese and parishes.

We have the new pilgrims guide and now they are coordinating the 3 day manual to coincide with it. You will see changes that will only help us to grow deeper in our faith. It will help others to experience how Cursillo can help them in their faith walk. So as the changes take place I ask you to embrace them and accept the fact that in order for Cursillo to grow we must change and set the example for others to follow.

I know there are some of our community out there that doesn't like the way Cursillo is changing/or has already changed. We must have some sort of order and guidelines. We have a great infrastructure in The English Cursillo of Grand Rapids now, and the secretariat has the responsibility to be make sure that its integrity is not jeopardized. We will not be reverting back to the way things used. Those days are gone and they are not going to return. We have our secretariat, our bishop, regional, and national to answer to.

In order for the Grand Rapids English Cursillo to grow we have to have structure and leadership, and a secretariat that can see the future. A secretariat that wants to spread the Good News throughout the diocese, not just a small few. For the future of the English Cursillo to continue, it will take all of us working together and doing the right things in every aspect of the Cursillo movement. I have faith that we can do more and do better than we have in the past. We just need to spread our wings into more counties and new parishes. We need to embrace our new cursillistas and the ones that have fallen through the cracks. We need to make sure they know they are always WELCOME in the Cursillo Community. We need to start anew with our goal of enriching ALL Christian lives...not just a select few.

I am looking forward to having a new man step forward to lead a November Men's English Cursillo. We have men waiting and we need a new rector to respond to the call to serve. My prayers are with all you qualified men that are just thinking that you are not ready. Well maybe you need to listen a little more to that voice calling you to step up and help our movement move forward. To add to that, I would like for us, in the future, to try and hold a Cursillo farther out in our diocese to some outlying churches. This will help our outreach and grow our movement. The secretariat and myself are here to support and guide you. You are not alone. Feel free to contact me at awkktion@aol.com.

DECOLORES!!!!
Your brother in Christ.
Hugh White
English Lay Director.