



Cursillo

Diocese Of Birmingham Alabama

Satellite School of Leaders

March 14, 2015

at Holy Spirit Church in Huntsville, AL
at Our Lady of Sorrows in Homewood, AL



SOL Agenda



- † Bible Enthronement
- † Leader's Prayer
- † Leader's Group Reunion
- † Lenten Doctrinal Talk: Agony in the Garden
 - in Huntsville – Christina Semmens
 - in Homewood – Deacon Tim Vaughn
- † Technique Talk: - Evangelization through Friendship
 - in Huntsville – Mark Bonucchi
 - in Homewood – Sally Smith
- † Work of the Sections: Breakout Session
- † Announcements
- † Closing Prayer and Bible Dethronement
- † Chapel Visit (optional, but encouraged)



Leader's Prayer



- † Lord grant that we may understand the necessity for depth in our Movement, rather than surface glory. Convince us of the truth that colorful programs do not constitute success.
- † My God, give us a spirit of self sacrifice so that we may offer everything for Your cause: our time, our abilities, our health and even our lives if necessary. Instill in us courage in our initiatives, good judgment in our choice of the right means, and that determination, which in spite of failures, assures victory.
- † Move away from us the tiny rivalries, sensitivities, discourtesies, pride, everything which distracts from You, everything which divides or discourages.



Leader's Prayer con't



- † Help us to maintain at a high level, a meaningful supernatural and mutual charity among ourselves, so that each one will seek by preference, the most humble task and will rejoice at the good performed by others, so that all our spirits, united in a common purpose, will have one single spirit, Yours Jesus, and that this spirit may let us see Your attractive goodness marked in all our faces, Your warm accents in all our words, and in our lives something superior to the world, something that proclaims Your Living Presence among us. Amen
- † Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patron of the Americas, Pray for Us.
- † St. Paul, Patron of the Cursillo, Pray for Us.



Leaders' Group Reunion



Count off for Grouping and discuss...

- **During this Lent, how are you doing with your Piety, Study and Action?**
- **Share a "Closest Moment"**



Lenten Doctrinal Talk

“AGONY IN THE GARDEN”

by Tim Vaughn

Presenter:

in Huntsville –

**Christina Semmens
Secretariat Post Cursillo Chair
(using Deacon Tim’s slide
presentation)**

in Homewood –

**Deacon Tim Vaughn
Cursillo Spiritual Advisor**



Techniques Talk



Topic: **Evangelization through
Friendship**

Presenter:

in Huntsville – **Mark Bonucchi**,
Secretariat Lay Director

in Homewood – **Sally Smith**,
Secretariat School of Leaders Chair



Evangelization through Friendship



- † St. John Paul II, at the Fourth World Youth Day, said, *“To be Christian means to be missionaries, to be apostles. It is not enough to discover Christ - you must bring Him to others!”*
- † We will discuss the importance of “friendship” in Cursillo and in helping us meet our call to not only follow Christ, but to bring others to Christ.
- † We’ll explore our apostolic call to ‘evangelize through friendship’ in our quest to re-discover, accept and live out the Charism of our Cursillo Movement, the charism of friendship.



Evangelization through Friendship



A person once went to a wise storyteller in his town to discover the best way to tell others Jesus' story.

- † *"I want to know how to tell others about Jesus who don't know Him,"* said the young man.
- † The wise storyteller's response surprised the young man, *"You must first spend time with Jesus and get to know Him, as friend, for one must become the Good News before sharing the Good News with others. Have you done that?"*
- † *"No,"* said the flustered young man, *"I've been too busy reaching out to convince others about Jesus' story."*



Evangelization through Friendship



- † *“Then go, spend time with Jesus,”* said the wise storyteller, *“Come back, and then we will talk about telling others Jesus’ story.”*
- † Several days later, the young man returned. *“Now can you tell me the first step in telling others about Jesus?”*
- † *“You’ve done it,”* said the storyteller. *“Knowing God is the first step to telling others Jesus’ story. The more of Him you know, the more of His light you will reflect - and naturally attract others.”*



Evangelization through Friendship



- † The storyteller continued, *“The second step in telling Jesus’ story is through personal contact — listening to others’ stories to know and place your friend in the context of Christ.” When you’ve listened to others long enough, as a friend, they’ll ask you about your story.”*
- † *People don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care.*
- † *“And as you spend time listening to their story,” he reminded the young man, “don’t forget to continue reflecting upon Jesus’ story to deepen your friendship with Christ and in Christ with others.”*



Evangelization through Friendship



- † *“And the final step?”* the young man asked.
- † *“The storyteller answered, “When you are able to connect their story and needs **with** His story and provisions through your authentic witness and prayer. “*
- † *“This process takes companions on a journey, one heart at a time”* said the wise storyteller.
- † *“While some call this discipleship,”* he continued, *“I call it **friendship**”*



Evangelization through Friendship



- † The Cursillo Movement is based on Christian friendship.
- † It is a witness of Christ offering His friendship to us and we offering the friendship of Christ to others.
- † We must reach out and plant the seeds of Christian friendship so that they may bear fruit.
- † *In John 15:16, it reads “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last.”*



Evangelization through Friendship



Eduardo Bonnin, in *Structure of Ideas*, provides us a system to both plant and grow our seeds of friendship - *to make a friend, be a friend and bring that friend to Christ* — in a technique known as the four movements of apostolic action:

- † 1. *To Know,*
- † 2. *To Place,*
- † 3. *To Enlighten, and*
- † 4. *To Accompany our friends.*



Evangelization through Friendship



† *The first is **To Know**.*

How can I help you if I don't know you?

† *The second movement is **To Place**.*

By placing, we mean helping the person to know how to journey to Christ. It is only when we know the person, can we place the person.

There are three elements to consider in placing our friend:



Evangelization through Friendship



1. Guide our friend to look towards Christ in every circumstance of their life to feel His presence in their life;
 2. Help our friend to live life enthusiastically and to strive towards a life of grace to attract others to Christ; and,
 3. Remind our friend to put all of their gifts in the service of Christ.
- † It takes time to know and place the person because a “friendship of trust” must be built upon fertile ground for “seeds of friendship” to grow.



Evangelization through Friendship



† *The third movement is **To Enlighten**.*

- By enlightening we must be cautious not to tell the person what they need to do without knowing the circumstances; of how they think, what they want, or how they act.
- We are the messengers and the Holy Spirit will give our friend understanding in God's time, and not ours.



Evangelization through Friendship



- † *The fourth movement of apostolic action, is **To Accompany**.*
- To accompany others, whom we now call our friends, is not only important, it is essential. Just as the Holy Spirit is our divinely appointed companion who accompanies us through life, so too must we be ‘companions on the journey’ as we accompany our friends on their journey.
- And if these friends go to Cursillo, we must accompany them in their on-going conversion experience beyond the Weekend.



Evangelization through Friendship



- † Evangelization of our environments in Cursillo is not about “leavening” the structures - for Cursillo is rooted in the desire to transform HISTORY — but by leavening the *interpersonal friendships* within any given circumstance and environment.
- † In Cursillo, we are called to create a “*world of friends*” within our ordinary lives and environments to transform the world.
- † Make friendships with self, Christ and others which then allows us to “*make friends, be friends and bring our friends to Christ.*”

- † *Source: Presentation by Jackie DeMesme-Gray at the National Cursillo Encounter held at Chapman University in Orange, CA - August 1, 2014.*



Evangelization through Friendship



Comments?

Questions?

Take a Stretch Break



First SoL Discussion Item



Is it time for a third satellite SoL to be established in Tuscaloosa or to start alternating satellite locations between B'ham and Tuscaloosa?

- † **Satellite Option 1:** Huntsville + Birmingham + Tuscaloosa
- † **Satellite Option 2:** Huntsville + Birmingham (one month)
Huntsville + Tuscaloosa (next month)
Remember Combined SoL in Cullman (third month)
- † **Satellite Option 3:** Huntsville + Birmingham (current way) with
No Tuscaloosa Satellite SOL

(We have eliminated the Remote (dial in) School of Leaders.)



Second SoL Discussion Item



We want your opinion about having Satellite SOL on different Saturdays, not just on 2nd Saturday to accommodate those Cursillistas for whom the 2nd Saturdays aren't good.

- † **Option A:** Keep both Satellite locations on 2nd Saturday
- † **Option B:** Have one SOL location on 2nd Saturday;
Have other SOL location on 3rd Saturday

NOTE: Combined SOL in Cullman will stay 2nd Saturday



Work of the Sections – 15 minutes



- † “Work of the Sections” is the part of the SoL meeting when we break into groups to discuss, identify, design, and help implement solutions to any issues within the three Cursillo sections--PreCursillo, Cursillo and PostCursillo
- † The breakout groups are facilitated under the leadership and guidance of the current Secretariat member for the Section (Rosalie Geoffroy –Pre-Cursillo, TBD – Cursillo, Christina Semmens –Post Cursillo)
- † YOU decide to which group you want to brainstorm
- † Palanca committee members work with Precursillo section, Communications committee members work with PostCursillo,
- † **DO YOU WANT TO JOIN A COMMITTEE?**



SoL 2015 Schedule

Locations Tentative



Date	SoL Meeting Location	Comment
Jan. 10	Combined in Cullman at Sacred Heart	Quarter 1
Feb.14 and March 14	Feb. Satellite – Madison and Montevallo March Satellite – Holy Spirit in Huntsville and Our Lady of Sorrows in Homewood	
Apr. 11	Combined SOL at Sacred Heart in Cullman	Quarter 2
May 9 and June 13	Satellite – Location TBD for Huntsville and Prince of Peace Church in Hoover	
July 11	Combined SOL at Sacred Heart in Cullman	Quarter 3
Aug. 8 and Sept. 12	Satellite – Location TBD for Huntsville and Location TBD for Birmingham or Tuscaloosa (?)	
Oct. 10	Combined SOL at Sacred Heart in Cullman	Quarter 4
Nov. 14 Dec. - None	Satellite – Locations TBD Or Day of Reflection (TBD)	



Announcements



- † 1. **Women's Cursillo Weekend # 132 moved to August 20-23, 2015**
(due to bad weather on February 26 – March 1)
 - Sponsor a candidate
 - Do palanca (prayers and sacrifices)
- † 2. **Men's Cursillo Weekend** date is not set – need 16 candidates minimum
 - Sponsor a candidate and pray for potential candidates
- † 3. **Spring Regional Encounter** will be held in Venice, Florida, April 24-25th. All Cursillistas are invited to attend. See Region VII website for more information and registration forms.

Go to www.BhmCursillo.org for details



Announcements



- † 4. **Cursillo de Cursillo (CDC) Workshop** in Mobile,AL
 - The Archdiocese of MOBILE Cursillo is hosting - May 14-17 weekend
- † 5. A pilgrimage to the **World Meeting of Families** and **Pope Francis' visit** in Philadelphia from September 20-27th is being organized now. Anyone interested is welcome to participate, but must **reserve a spot**.
 - Cost per adult for the week is \$1400 per person and includes round trip transportation, hotel accommodations, and conference fee. \$100 refundable deposit due now, other monies not due until May and July.
 - A more detailed information flyer and registration form is available on the Cursillo website under Postcursillo, on the "Your 4th Day Connection".
 - - Contact Christina Semmens phone 256-603-0225, semcsem@aol.com

Go to www.BhmCursillo.org for details



Closing Prayer



- † Dear Lord, we must have fraternal charity, or we can accomplish nothing for you.
- † In loving you, help us to have a genuine concern for one another, a generosity in sharing one another's burdens, a gallantry in defending the reputation of our group, a sincere sympathy in sharing one another's suffering and sorrows, and a joy in sharing their spiritual growth.
- † By this shall all men know that we are your Apostles. Amen.
- † **Perform Bible Dethronement.**