



## Walk This Way!

*Stand by the earliest roads, ask the pathways of old, "Which way is the way to good?" and walk it; thus you will find rest for yourselves... Jeremiah 6:16*



*Deacon Julio and Elaine Jimenez*

*(By Deacon Julio Jimenez)*

We are all pilgrims on the journey to our heavenly home. Guided by our Lord and filled with the Holy Spirit we travel day by day. This past May the journey of our lives took a special and deeper meaning as my wife Elaine and I walked the *Camino Santiago de Compostella* (The Way of St James). It is a 500-mile route beginning in St.-Jean-

Pied-de-Port, France, and ending in the magnificent cathedral of St. James in Santiago de Compostella, Spain. This magnificent cathedral dedicated in 1128 holds the crypt of St. James the Apostle who traveled to the ends of the earth. The Camino has been the pilgrimage route to millions beginning in the Middle Ages. Every day hundreds of pilgrims arrive on foot or by bicycle to Santiago. Last year 192,000 pilgrims made the journey.

(Continued on page 4)

### Inside this issue

Walk This Way.....1, 4-5  
 I Got A 'Creche' on You.....2  
 A Grande Time.....3  
 Upcoming Weekends .....5  
 A New Home .....6-7  
 It's On the Web.....8  
 My Back Pages.....9

### From the Lay Director

Welcome to our Spring 2014 Newsletter of the Joliet Cursillo! We hope you find this forming and informing.

We are excited to be bringing you two stories from our Fourth Day community in this issue. We plan to make the focus of this newsletter our Fourth Day community, hence the title. (Our logo is an update of one we used in the 1970s.)

We plan to issue two newsletters a year with our next issue scheduled for this fall. We could use YOUR help.

How are you living your Fourth Day? Is there something of interest that your small group reunion is doing that you can share? We would all love to hear about it and feature it in an upcoming edition.

Let us know.

Peace,

Tim Moore

Lay Director—Joliet Cursillo

## I Got A 'Creche' on You



*Jay Shawron, Bob Larkin, Mark Pestrak and Rick Higdon stand behind their work.*

(By John "YT" Whitehouse, St. Elizabeth Seton parish, Naperville. Men's 92nd.)

As we all know, apostolic action can take many forms. For a group of Cursillistas at St. Elizabeth Seton in Naperville, this has become "keeping Christ in Christmas" by building beautiful outdoor nativity scenes to be given away to neighbors and parishioners. What began as a project to create a raffle prize for a Ladies' Advent Tea gathering has grown to an annual tradition of providing Christmas joy to the community.

The group reunion team spends several weekends each fall building the scenes, all the while sharing their weekly efforts towards piety, study and action. As for the recipients of the nativity scenes, they include the parish priests, deacons, parish staff, and other active members of the parish, as a way of acknowledging their giving spirit and letting them know we appreciate them. Many nativities also go to those that are suffering from an illness or may have suffered a recent loss and need to be reminded that there are some people out there that are thinking and

As Geoff Waldschmidt puts it, "Much of the enjoyment comes not only from making the nativity scenes, but in plotting who will be surprised with one in their yard."

In addition to being a sign of appreciation and support, the scenes provide an outward display of the true meaning of the season; the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

When asked to share their thoughts on this ministry, the team reflected on the meaning to each of them.

Mark Pestrak always looked at it as a special way to spread joy during the Christmas season. Commented Mark, "the nativity scene is unique in that it is the Holy Family, a symbol of joy during the Christmas season, plus it is a hand-made gift. When I look at the one in my yard, it does bring me peace. I enjoy making them, maybe because it brings us closer together."

Rick Higdon observed, "Being together with our Cursillo group doing the project together. It's part of our Fourth Day, doing our best in apostolic action, especially at Christmas!"

Bob Larkin added, "Our ultimate intent is to simply spread Christmas joy!"

The team would love nothing better than to see these nativity scenes blanketing all the neighborhoods of Chicagoland and beyond. If you are interested in starting your own Nativity Scene Ministry, you can contact John "YT" Whitehouse at [whitehouse1728@gmail.com](mailto:whitehouse1728@gmail.com).

*De Colores!*

# A Grande Time Was Had by All!



*Over 200 Cursillistas shared faith and fellowship at the 2013 Ultreya Grande at St. Petronille's in Glen Ellyn.*

(By Robert Barron)

The Joliet Cursillo held its annual Ultreya Grande this past November 3rd at St. Petronille's parish in Glen Ellyn. Over 200 members of the Spanish and English Fourth Day community were in attendance.

Fr. Matt Pratscher, our Spiritual Director celebrated Mass and was assisted by Dcn. John Spiezio. Music for the Mass was provided by the *Buttonwood Tenors* (Greg Everhart, Mike Woyda and John Davis) of St. Walter parish.

After Mass, the community retired to the hall to hear witness talks by Guadalupe Castellanos and Joe DeLascio.



Many members of the Fourth Day community brought dishes to share including salads and deserts. Additionally, a raffle was conducted for the many baskets of cheer also brought by the community.

Entertainment was provided by Rich Shepherd (aka Richie Shep, at left). His vocal stylings ranged from contemporary pop to covers of the great standards by Frank Sinatra.

Many thanks to all (too numerous to mention) who brought prizes and dishes to share and also helped out with clean-up and set-up.

We are sorry if you missed all the fun. No worries, we will do it again! The 2014 Ultreya Grande will be Nov. 2nd at St. Petronille's. It starts with Mass and continues with a witness speaker, dinner and more. Meanwhile, we need your help! See the box at upper right of this page to learn how.

## Ultreya Grande 2014

**When?** November 2nd at 3pm with Mass followed by Ultreya

**Where?** St. Petronille's Parish, 420 Glenwood Avenue, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

**What?** Raffle prizes, dinner, witness speaker, entertainment and more!

**Call you help?** Contact Ed Burjek at 630-532-8778 / EFBurjek@aol.com



*Tom Filipowski (our MC) looks on as Marta Spiezio awards a raffle prize to Tammy Kinn.*



*Decisions, decisions!*



*Why not invite a friend to this year's Ultreya Grande?*

## Walk This Way! (Continued from page 1)

Inspired by the movie *The Way*, we prepared for our pilgrimage for one year. The entire route takes over a month to walk but walking at least

***I will instruct you and show you the way you should walk... Psalm 32:8***

the last 100 kilometers allows one to receive the *Compostella*, the certificate written in Latin certifying one of being a true pilgrim authenticated by the seal of the cathedral.

Our walk began in the town of Sarria, Spain, and we walked for five days on the ancient trail from 6 to 8 hours a day. We were blessed with perfect sunny spring weather. We

walked along enjoying the beauty of the hilly countryside of northern Spain, laced with perfect sunny spring weather. We walked along enjoying the beauty of the hilly countryside of northern Spain, laced with blooming flowers, small farms, forests and flowing streams. God, indeed, is very present here in his handiwork of Nature. We met other pilgrims each with their own

story about traveling the Camino. There was an Irish woman who had to stop because of severe blisters; a man who had such trouble walking until someone gave him a second walking stick; and Pedro, who came with his family to pray for his country of Venezuela. Then there was Tom, a choir director from Germany with whom I connected when we found ourselves singing a *Taize* song to liven spirits in a small village church at morning Mass. A children's choir also traveled

to sing at the cathedral and we heard their heavenly voices at Mass. The small children greeted us with the word "*Utreya*," an encouraging word which means "you are almost there." Everyone knows you are a pilgrim on the Camino and offers the greeting "*Buen Camino*" (Good journey), heard over and over all day as we walk.

Our travel began each day with early Mass. Then with our backpacks, walking sticks and snacks, we walked on. Our only compass were the concrete kilometer markers with a painted yellow shell or a yellow painted arrow on buildings or on the ground. The shell is a symbol of pilgrimage and the reason I use one to baptize children as they begin their pilgrimage journey of faith. We traveled safely and our only inconvenience was my foot blister.



*St. James in Santiago de Compostella*

We arrived at the cathedral the afternoon of May 15 and entered with other pilgrims, tired with our dusty clothes and soiled boots but thankful and in awe of this place that called to us to travel 4000 miles from the US. We found our little hotel room, rested and prepared for 7 pm Mass to see the *botafumeiro*, a huge three and a half foot incensor operated by five men that sways high across the transept of the church at

incredible speed spewing out the smoke of sweet smelling incense. It is used to conclude the Mass on special occasions or feast days.

Two days later we went early to the 12 noon Pilgrims' Mass to sit up close. As an organist I wanted to obtain the sheet music of the

(Continued on Page 5)

## Walk This Way! (Continued from page 4)

Hymn of St. James that is sung at masses. Entering the sacristy I found the organist who gave me the music to photocopy. I returned with the copy and told Elaine I would be right back. I went to return the music to the nun in the sacristy and told her I was a deacon. She asked me if I would be Deacon of the Mass and proceeded to vest me and introduce me to the celebrants. Mass began and I processed out, a total surprise to my wife. I felt in heaven as if it was my first Mass. Me! The Deacon of the Mass!! A secret wish come true. I found myself serving in this temple filled with the faithful from many lands. Reading the Gospel in Spanish to a thousand people, I realized my calling to be a herald of the Gospel. Then, as the Mass concluded, the *botafumeiro* was lowered and the celebrants and I added incense to the burning coals. The celebrant prayed that our Eucharistic Prayer be as smoke rising to God. As we stepped back, the giant incensor was lifted by five men and began its majestic sway at 60 mph through the air across the transept of the cathedral. The pipe organ played as the Hymn to St. James was sung.

Elaine and I will always hold this life changing pilgrimage forever in our hearts. It is a lesson that in this life we need little material goods for the journey - for they really mean nothing in the spiritual walk with our Lord. The Camino means something different for each person individually. For Elaine, it helped her deal with the reality of

***The smoke of the incense along with the prayers of the holy ones went up before God from the hand of the angel.  
Revelations 8:4***

the needs of our elderly family members. For me it brought a peace as I had struggled with balance between family, work, and ministry responsibilities. We also realized that, on this Camino, no matter what language one speaks, the language of faith, love, Christian fellowship and support is understood clearly by all.

### ***Buen Camino!***

Dcn. Julio (Men's 105th) and his wife Elaine (Women's 93rd) are members of St. Alexander's parish in Villa Park.



*The botafumeiro at St. James sways at speeds up to 60mph.*

### **Upcoming Weekends for 2014-15**

<b>October 2-5, 2014 (D)</b>	<b>Men's #128th</b>	<b>Rector: TBA</b>
<b>October 23-26, 2014 (D)</b>	<b>Women's #119th</b>	<b>Rectora: TBA</b>
Feb 26 - Mar 1, 2015 (P)	Men's 129th	Rector: TBA
March 19-22, 2015 (D)	Women's 120th	Rectora: TBA
August 6-9, 2015 (P)	Women's 121st	Rectora: TBA
Oct 1-4, 2015 (D)	Men's 130th	Rector: TBA

### **Fechas de los Cursillos del 2014/15:**

los hombres: 5-8 de marzo 2015 (C)  
las mujeres: 9-12 de abril 2015 (C)

### **KEY**

D—Dominican Retreat Center  
P— The Portiuncula Center for Prayer

C—Casa Mariana

# A New Home for Cursillo Weekends

(By Donna Burke)

Many of you are aware that we have found a new facility to house Cursillo Weekends. Almost two years ago, when we learned that St. Charles Borromeo had been sold, the Secretariat began to research possible Weekend sites. Of course, we still plan to use the Port in Frankfort - but it is in our best interest to have at least one other facility in order to get the dates that we need. In our search, we stumbled upon The Dominican Retreat Center (DRC) in Justice, IL. We found a “gem”!



*Rosary Hill Garden with the main conference/dormitory building in the background.*

The DRC is directly associated and in fact attached to Rosary Hill Nursing Home. The facility is about 10 years old and is run by the Dominican Sisters, Immaculate Conception Province, from Poland. They are absolutely a joy to work with.

Just above you as you enter the building is the most beautiful stained glass window. It shines through to a Blessed Sacrament Chapel on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor which is a breathtaking experience to enter. This chapel is small but it makes a very peaceful, prayerful Palanca Chapel. This is certainly one of the most valuable assets of this “gem”.

The main conference room is very conveniently located just outside the dining hall on the first floor and the second conference room in the same location has served our Weekends as a Meditation Chapel. These are all just off of the main entrance, which is a large and stately foyer. The first time that I drove out to explore the possibility of using this facility, I found two Huge Wooden Doors inviting me in (that is, after I realized that the Nursing Home entrance was probably not the correct one.) To my surprise the doors were open so I entered and found many pairs of shoes piled up near the door in the foyer. I realized right away that there must be a teen retreat going on, as I know that they often take “their shoes off at the door of their retreats” symbolically to make themselves at home. I found a young lady preparing to give her talk and inquired about the facility. She said, “they loved it”!



*Blessed Sacrament Chapel on the 3rd floor.*

That was good enough for me. After I peeked around a bit, I immediately made an appointment with Sister to meet with Tim Moore, our Lay Director, and myself the following week. Tim brought Kathy, his wife and I brought, Bill.

(Continued on page 7)

## A New Home ... (Continued from page 6)

At one point in our visit, we passed the Sister's cat who ran away when Bill tried to approach her. Bill said "She doesn't appear to be very friendly." To that Sister replied, "Oh yes she is, she just doesn't like men".

Bill, of course, thought Sister was referring to herself and not the cat, but as it turned out, Sister loved working with the men of the 126<sup>th</sup> Cur-sillo last October.

They were the first to experience a Weekend at this facility and they very nicely helped Sister to understand how our Weekends work and she explained how their facility could work for us. Since then, we have had two women's Week-ends there and we have others booked for the future.

The price is doable, the location is easy to get to, the grounds are wonderful (did I mention that directly across from the facility is a lovely garden called Rosary Hill with the decade altars sur-rounding to enhance prayer experiences), the Sisters are delightful, the food is homemade and the main chapel has the most amazing crucifix you have ever seen. On top of all that, the sleeping arrangements consist of suites which sleep 2 to 4 people who share a bathroom/ shower. Each suite has a little balcony attached. As I said the place is a "gem" and it is unbelieva-bly clean!

However, as you know – all gems have at least one flaw. We do have to make a sacrifice on the Weekends that we hold at the DRC. They do not have a Church big enough for our closings so we have to use the two conference rooms instead. It works! We have had three wonderful closings

there already. And, of course, no complaints from the Fourth Day.

One of the old adages of the Cursillo Movement is that "We cannot mess up a Weekend - God is in charge and they Always Work."

DeColores!

Donna Burke (Women's 38th) is a member of St. Walter's parish in Roselle and currently serves on Secretariat as Three-Day Chair.



*One of the conference rooms configured for the Weekend.*



*Rosary Hill with decade altars.*

# It's on the Web!

(By Robert Barron)

Have you been to our website lately? If you haven't, please stop by soon! We have made some changes to better align the website with the structure of our Movement. Read on!

## Home Page

This is your place for breaking news and events. *Signs of the Times* is at the top of the page and this is where to go for the latest news on the Movement. *At the Head of Your Calendar* is on the bottom half of the home page and is where to find out about events (Ultreyas, Weekends, School of Leaders) over the upcoming month or two.

## Pre-Cursillo

This page is filled with information for prospective candidates as well as tools for the sponsor. In addition to applications, there is literature descriptive of Cursillo which can be downloaded and presented to prospective candidates as well as an FAQ sheet and guidelines on sponsorship.

## Weekends

This is the 'when and where' for scheduled Weekends. There is also a word or two about qualifications for serving on a weekend team.

## The Fourth Day

Ultreyas and grouping is the focus here, including information on the upcoming Ultreya Grande. A sub-page, 'Ultreya Clusters' has resources for preparing an Ultreya witness talk and organizing an Ultreya. Future enhancements will include a parish level-list of contacts who can help Cursillistas find small group reunions.

## Piety-Study-Action

*We are asking for your help here!* Do you know of opportunities for piety, study or action such as prayer meetings, adoration chapels, Rosary groups, lectures and/or volunteer opportunities? Let us know and we will post it on this page. At the bottom of the page is a list of useful Catholic web resources.

## Palanca

What is Palanca? Get the answer here. There is also a downloadable sign-up sheet to support Week-

ends. Also, here is a description of the *Prayer Warrior* email service.

## School of Leaders

An introduction to the School of Leaders along with a meeting schedule, planned topics and speakers are posted here. You can also find the Leader's Prayer here.

## Secretariat

Who is serving and in what capacity as well as how to get in contact with the members listed. Also an honor roll of past Secretariat members is posted here. (We need your help here too with info on who served and when in the past.)

## Announcements

Past email announcements are posted here.

## Endorsements

Quotations from church leaders on the Cursillo movement are here.

## Newsletters

Past Joliet Cursillo newsletters will be posted here. There is also a link to the National Cursillo Newsletter page.

## Calendar

Upcoming events are listed here as far ahead as we know of them. (Please note that Ultreyas are best tracked on the home page.)

## History

A history of the Joliet Cursillo as well as group photos of past Weekends are posted here. There is also a list of all Men's and Women's Weekends including when and where they were held, who was the Rector/a and who was the Spiritual Director. Please help us if you can with any Weekend composite photos and old Newsletters you have. (I promise to return them!)

There is more than what is described here. Please let us know how we can continue to improve the information flow and resources available.

Robert (Men's 99th) is a member of St. Raphael's parish in Naperville and serves on Secretariat as Communications Secretary.



# My Back Pages

## **I Thank You, I Thank You Very Much...**

Thanks to Joan O'Halloran and Pat Simmons for their service to Cursillo on Secretariat. Their contributions will be missed, but we still look forward to seeing them at Ultreyas! Thanks also to our article contributors, Dcn. Julio and Elaine Jimenez, John "YT" Whitehouse and Donna Burke.

## **Summer Ultreyas**

Please be advised that not all Ultreyas operate through all of the summer months of June, July and August. If your usual Ultreya is not in session, why not attend another one that is? It is a great way to keep in touch with friends from Weekends.

## **New Joliet Cursillo Brochure Answers the Question...**

A new brochure describing Cursillo will be available shortly and is entitled "Why Cursillo?" It is expected to be available at the June Ultreyas and School of Leaders gatherings.

## **Have Fun in the Summertime!**

Three great ideas for you and your family to have some fun and share the faith this summer!

- 1) **Catholic Family Day at Six Flags Great America** - June 22nd. Mass at 9:30am, park opens at 10:30am.
- 2) **Cursillo Family Picnic** at Wipfler Park, Bolingbrook - July 12th, 3 to 9pm.
- 3) **Chicago Fire Soccer and Mass** (with Fr. Burke) - July 19th. Mass at 5:15pm, Soccer Match at 7:30pm

Muchas Gracias to our Spanish Movement for organizing events numbers 2 and 3! See [www.jolietcursillo.org](http://www.jolietcursillo.org) and click on 'calendar' for more information.

## **School of Leaders**

Our next School of Leaders is Tuesday June 24th at St. Petronille's. Please join us and bring your small group reunion!

## **The Joliet Cursillo**

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