

Men's Winter Retreat
FEBRUARY 3-5, 2012

Relax Re-connect Re-discover

Genesis Spiritual Life Center

53 Mill Street, Westfield, MA 01085-4253 www.genesiscenter.us

- _____ \$175 per person/double occupancy
- _____ \$195 per person/private room
- _____ \$110 commuter rate includes all meals and presentations

Genesis has approx. 44 over-night accommodations & enough seating space for 16 commuters, making 60 the target number. All registrations & accommodations are on a first come, first serve basis.

Deadline for registration is January 7, 2012

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

Share room with _____

Please make checks payable to: *Cursillo of Western Mass*
Mail registration form and check to:

Dave Bergeron,
22 North St, S. Hadley, MA 01075

Any dietary needs or allergies to anything please place note with registration
Questions: contact Dave at ddmber@comcast.net or 532-6475

~ NOTICE ~

We are *in need* of articles for upcoming newsletters. Articles, poems, brief thoughts on your weekend, 4th day, grouping, moment closest to Christ . . . All are welcome. Please send to Newsletter Editor: dorene@pipmail.com

Share the gift ~
SPONSOR



It's not too early to send in applications for the Men and Women's Weekends

Sponsor Today!

Get your application at www.cursillowmass.org



CLIP OUT & SAVE!

Jan	Feb	March	April	CALENDAR
20	17	16	20	DIOCESAN Ultreya - 7:30 p.m. (3rd Fri.) Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall, Holyoke, MA
12	9	8	12	Local Ultreya - 7 p.m. St. Stanislaus, Chicopee, MA (2nd Thurs.)
Feb. 3-5		Men's Retreat Weekend - Genesis Spiritual Life Center		
March 2-4		Women's Retreat Weekend - Clarion Hotel, NORTHAMPTON		
April 13-16		Men's Cursillo Weekend - Holy Name, Springfield		
May 25-28		Women's Cursillo Weekend - Holy Name, Springfield		
2nd Wed. of month		School of Leaders, St. Patricks S. Hadley, 7-9pm		
Visit our website for applications, latest updates, etc.				
www.cursillowmass.org				

Women's Winter Retreat
MARCH 2-4, 2012

Angels Among Us

NEW LOCATION:

Clarion Hotel, One Atwood Dr., Northampton 413-586-1211

for more info about the hotel go to:

http://www.hampshirehospitality.com/clarion/clarion_hotel.html

Registration Friday, March 2, 6:30 -7pm

_____ \$175.00 pp - Double occupancy rooms - choose a roommate or the hotel will assign someone to share your room.

_____ \$110 *Commuter rate* includes all meals and presentations

Deadline for registration in FULL is Feb. 7, 2012

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

Share room with _____

Please make checks payable to: *Cursillo of Western Mass* and mail to Berry Tardif-Ablicki, 9 McDowell Dr, S. Hadley, MA 01075

Questions? contact Donna Gaudrault: Texon17@comcast.net or 532-9331

Please let us know about any dietary needs or allergies.
Bring your used books for a Book Swap Table.
No gym onsite but there is a nice indoor pool.

Isaiah 7:14

"The virgin shall be with child, and bear a son."



THE CURSILLO COMMITTEE
P.O. Box 1207
HOLYOKE, MASS. 01041-1207

Time Dated Material

Winter Retreat Applications inside.
Great Christmas Gifts!
Merry Christmas

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Springfield, MA
Permit No. 1128

NOTE FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

Mike Riley

As we grow closer to Christmas, let us all keep in mind what we are truly celebrating. It's so easy to get caught up in the trappings of this season; the incessant TV and print ads; the hustle and bustle and time demands we place on ourselves. The pressure of trying to fulfill everyone's expectations and "wish list" puts an unnecessary strain on all of us. We also know that too many of us are really struggling financially or emotionally just to get by, so the added burdens of all these "holiday" trappings can be simply overwhelming. It almost seems like the true meaning of Christmas has been hijacked in some ways!

We, who have been given the gift of Cursillo have all seen the face and heard the message of Christ on our weekend. We have experienced firsthand His unconditional love. So, we need to remind ourselves that Christmas should be a time of reflection on WHY He was born, a reaffirmation of the simple message He brought to this world and a call to put into action that message of love and charity to all. We need to step back and remember it's not just "happy holidays" to those of us who are followers of Christ, it's the time we give thanks for ALL our blessings and truly live out the message of the one who gave us the greatest "present" of all. As the billboard states: "Let's put Christ back in Christmas." So let us all try to keep this in mind as we decorate our homes, struggle to find that perfect gift for our loved ones and tolerate the incessant barrage of commercials, ads and mall traffic. The greatest present we will ever get is not under the tree but deep in our hearts.....it is the "presence" of Christ in our life.

So beginning today let us all resolve to take time to listen to God speaking to us and think about what Christ's birthday really means to us. I share a favorite quote of mine.... "Make time for the quiet moments as God whispers and the world is loud."

Have a joyful, peace filled Christmas and may God Bless you and your family in the New Year.

De Colores

DEAR FRIENDS,

Monsignor David Joyce

As I write these few words, our Church is preparing to celebrate the third Sunday of Advent, the Sunday on which the Church urges us to rejoice. "I rejoice heartily in the Lord," the prophet Isaiah tells us. "Rejoice always," says St. Paul.

Joy is a gift. But it's also a virtue, which we can develop and nourish. When we see it in others, we know it's there, although we're hard pressed to define or describe it. The joyful person isn't always in the mood to smile: he doesn't deny his anger or his unhappiness with people or situations. But he doesn't let them drive him over the edge either. The joyful person has within himself a core conviction: God is present - his Son nourishes me - the Spirit guides me - what more do I need?

How do I get that joy? Can I buy it? Isn't that sometimes the temptation of Christmas - if we have

enough "stuff," everybody will be joyful. Experience has taught most of us that the opposite is often true.

Most importantly, we can pray for that gift, and then we can nourish it by thanksgiving - gratitude for life - my own and the lives of those whom I love and who love me - despite our shortcomings. We can be grateful for things; that is, that we have enough, even though life might be easier with a little bit more. We can even be grateful for suffering, which can teach us how completely dependent we are on God, and how He is totally "there" for us - always.

And so when I wish you a merry and joyful Christmas, I'm not wishing you something external to yourself. No, I'm hoping you'll open your heart to the Son of God, Jesus, who already makes his home within you, and who is your source of joy - in this season and always. *Merry Christmas!*

GIFTS

Dorene Pennell

I am surrounded by bows, wrapping paper and boxes as I wrap Christmas gifts. My mind wanders to an article I read in the Word Among Us titled, "A Call to Embrace Jesus." At the end of the article was an old saying, "Your life is a gift from God. What you do with it is your gift back to God."

Is it this time of Advent? Or perhaps his time in my life (divine discontent some call it) that has me keenly aware; my eyes, ears and heart open to see Jesus throughout my day? This has not always been in my life and I am excited when I hear Him speak to me as I go about my day. I hear a song on the radio, 99.7 The Q, "Noel, holding my savior..." I can't remember the words but Mary is singing to her newborn son. And I think...imagine holding and adoring baby Jesus, and knowing He is your Savior. Mary did. She cooed and comforted Him. She embraced Him. That's what Jesus wants from us - to embrace Him.

Embrace Him, isn't that the article I just read? Are you talking to me, Lord?

A gift - freely given. There is an anticipation to have someone receive it. Have you ever been disappointed by the recipient's casual acceptance or return or even found out they regifted it? Just ask my husband. I am impossible to buy for and we now don't exchange gifts because of it. What is it that I can't accept? A question I am working on. It got me thinking.... My *life* is a gift from God. How have I embraced, cherished, thanked Him for what He considered the perfect gift for me? Have I longed to exchange his gift for a thinner/prettier/more out-going model? Yes. Have I taken it for granted? Yes. Have I played it down, abused, filled it with worry? Yes. Oh my.

My life is a gift from God. What I do with it is my gift to God. He encourages me and I read another message from a young artist. "If I am blessed there is one reason and one reason only and that is to help others." I can only imagine His joy as we reach out to others. God has gifted me and my life with Cursillo. It has helped mold me into who I am today. Slowly (I began my journey 23 years ago) but steadily He has formed me with the help of the Cursillo method. Filling me with love and trust in Him. Strengthening

me so I can embrace Him a little more every day.

Back to my wrapping.... What gift am I wrapping for Jesus? How beautiful will I make the ribbons and bows? Have I taken time, really put some effort into His gift (my life) this year?

...Meditate and pray, share myself, smile, listen, give a hug, offer to help a friend, serve a meal, care for a toddler, visit an elderly friend, create, group, attend Ultreya...Every time I reach out I embrace Him.

Embrace Him. It is the only response for He has embraced me since before I was born. Thank you for loving me Lord and for your embrace.

"Your life is a gift from God. What you do with it is your gift back to God."
Merry Christmas

*Let's take time to remember
and pray for our
2011 deceased Cursillistas*

Marguerite Kranichuck

Bob Phaneuf

Jim Wehrlen

Fran Maloney, Jr.

Rev. Vic Carrier

Ernest J. Ross, Jr.

Millie Coughlin

Bill Killian

Donald L. Tremblay

Deacon Jack O'Brien

John Doyle

Marguerite "Peggy" Gaul

Deacon Tom Callahan

Mary Ellen Perry

Rev. Paul Archambault



Donations to Cursillo

*In Memory of
Deacon Jack O'Brien
from Marie & Joe Murray*

*For Cursillo
from Jeanne & Marc Gaudet*

*In honor of
Henry Boucher's 90th birthday
from Phyllis & Louise*

*In Memory of
Mike & Bruce Riley's mother
from Margaret & Bo Kelliher*

Donations can be made at any time,
send to: Cursillo Committee
PO Box 1207, Holyoke, MA 01041

VIGIL FOR CURSILLO

Did you know that there is a vigil held the 1st Friday of EVERY MONTH and has been for years?

Each person is asked to take one hour at St. John the Evangelist church, Main St., Agawam. We have a request from the faithful volunteers that have been keeping this going for some new volunteers. This would be a wonderful Action for your group and for yourself, or palanca for a loved one. Call Barb Weissbrod at 532-5474 to sign up. Thank you!



Spiritual Director

Monsignor David Joyce
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Lay Director

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~

Newsletter Editor

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