

Men's Winter Retreat JAN. 31 - FEB. 2, 2014

The Gift of Our Brothers in Need

Genesis Spiritual Life Center
53 Mill Street, Westfield, MA 01085-4253

- _____ \$185 per person/double occupancy
- _____ \$205 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 15, 2013

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

Share room with _____

Please make checks payable to: *Cursillo of Western Mass*
Mail registration form and check to:
Tom Domenichelli, 264 Prospect St., Ludlow, MA 01056

Any dietary needs or allergies to anything
please place note with registration

Questions: contact Tom at tomdom60@charter.net or 413-237-8049

'TIS THE SEASON

Mike Riley

As we enter the Christmas season, we become more aware of the many blessings God has bestowed on us this past year. We give thanks to our families, our friends and to those people and events that have touched our lives and are aware that God is present to them and to us always.

In that spirit, I'd like to thank the entire Cursillo community for supporting each other by your participation in permanent groups, your attendance at our monthly Ultreyas, Closings and winter retreats, and for just being present to each other in good times and bad. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful community dedicated to the extension of

God's kingdom thru the message and example of Christ.

I'd like to thank all of the team, candidates and meal servers that participated in the three Cursillo weekends this year. Christ called each



CLIP OUT & SAVE!

Jan	Feb	Mar	CALENDAR
17	21	21	DIOCESAN Ultreya - 7:30 p.m. (3rd Fri.) Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall, Holyoke, MA
-	7	7	Monthly Vigil for Cursillo St. John's, Agawam, MA

~~~~SAVE THE DATES~~~~

Men's Retreat – **Jan. 31 - Feb. 2, 2014** – Genesis, Westfield
Retreat coordinator - Tom Domenichelli

Women's Retreat – **Feb. 28 - March 2, 2014** – Clairon, Northampton
Retreat coordinators - Sue Lamondia and Barbara Ripa and Rose Stella

Women's Weekend – **Memorial Day weekend 2014** Rector, Joanne Vankruiningen

Men's Weekend – **TBA** Rector, Tom Rodriguez



share the gift . . . Sponsor Today!

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

Visit our website for applications

www.cursillowmass.org

one of you and you all responded unselfishly in the spirit of Christ's message of unconditional love.

I'd like to thank those members of the Cursillo community who volunteered their third Friday of the month to host Ultreya so that those in attendance could be spiritually renewed and refreshed by the gift of sharing and community.

I'd like to thank Barbara Weissbrod and her team for their continued dedication to the Cursillo Vigil.

I'd like to thank Dorene and Wendell and their team at PIP for the dedication that is shown in editing and publishing our newsletter; a key ingredient in holding our community together.

I'd like to thank Blessed Sacrament Church in Holyoke and St. John's the Evangelist in Agawam for the use of their facilities for our Ultreyas and weekends.

I'd like to thank Lou, Jason, Dan and all of their team that set ups and breaks down the St. John's Social Center for our weekends. Without their tireless efforts our weekends simply wouldn't happen.

I'd like to thank all the members of the Secretariat; Eileen, Linda, Donna, Carol, Lou, Jason, Judy, Diane and our web master John for their unselfish time and effort in keeping me in line and making sure Cursillo remains healthy and vibrant and relevant.

I'd like to thank Monsignor David Joyce, our Spiritual Director, who ensures that Cursillo flourishes as a key ministry in the Springfield Diocese. His spiritual presence, thoughtful advice and humor have made all of us better Disciples of Christ.

Finally, I am sure I left out many of you personally and for that I apologize, but to all of you I'd like to say thank you for helping sustain what I feel is greatest renewal movement of our Church.... Cursillo. I sincerely wish you and your families a very holy and blessed Christmas and let us enter the New Year dedicated to offering Cursillo as a gift to others.

De Colores

*... Emmanuel, which means
"God is with us."*

Matthew 1:23



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

Women's Winter Retreat
FEB. 28 - MARCH 2, 2014
"Discovering An Altar in the World"

"Whoever you are,
you are human.
Wherever you are,
you live in the world,
which is just waiting for you
to notice the holiness in it."

Based on the book by Barbara Brown Taylor
"An Altar in the World" A Geography of Faith

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, Feb. 28, 6:30 -7pm

_____ \$175.00 pp - Double occupancy rooms - choose a roommate
or one will be assigned

_____ \$110 Commuter rate includes all meals and presentations

Deadline for registration IN FULL is Feb. 1, 2014

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

Share room with _____

Please make checks payable to: *Cursillo of Western Mass* and mail to
Donna Gaudrault, 69 East Street, S. Hadley, MA 01075

Questions/Scholarship Information email Donna: texon17@comcast.net
Please let us know about any dietary needs or allergies.

Bring your used books for a Book Swap Table.

There is an indoor pool on site

NOTICE ~ We are *in need* of articles for upcoming newsletters.

Articles, poems, brief thoughts on your weekend,
4th day, grouping, your action, moment closest to Christ...

Please send to Newsletter Editor
dorene@pipmail.com



DEAR FRIENDS,

What a blessing and a gift Cursillo has been for all of us - not just the weekend itself, but especially living out the challenges of the Fourth Day - making new friends, sharing new insights, and for many, even changing our way of life. Christmas is the season of giving. We celebrate God's gift of his Son - not a one time gift, but a gift given over and over again. The perfect response to a gift is another gift. And so we give ourselves to the best of our ability - to the person who needs a kind word, to the one who seeks a little financial help, to the person who needs our talents to overcome some adversity in life. What a wonderful gift to someone the gift of the Cursillo Retreat could be - think about it. Meanwhile, I pray that God's gift of his Son will inspire in us all sentiments of gratitude and a desire to share that gift. May I repeat what I wrote last year: *I have the privilege to wish a Merry Christmas to the finest people I know - the Cursillo Community of the Diocese of Springfield.*

Monsignor David Joyce

PREPARED?

Our home was flooded recently. It happened on a Friday, in early September. I was serving a meal at a soup kitchen in Chicopee with Sr. Betty and a few others from Mount Carmel, when my phone rang just after five in the afternoon.

I looked at my phone to see who was calling—it was my wife, Diane. I assumed she was calling to ask me where I was, because I usually go home directly after school. But that afternoon, I had a three o'clock appointment with my doctor for my annual physical. When I left the doctor's office, I went directly to the soup kitchen, where I arrived just in time to help serve the meal.

Diane was frantic. She asked me to come home immediately. She had arrived home from work—minutes before calling me—to find that the toilet tank in the bathroom on the second floor had failed. There was a crack that ran all the way down the side of the tank, and the appliance kept calling for fresh water, for hours. Our kitchen looked like Niagara Falls, and the water traveled all the way to the basement.

There was no warning; we were unprepared.

The readings for this First Sunday of Advent set the stage for reflection for the entire season of Advent. Advent is the period when the Church invites us to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus as the incarnate God; that we may receive His grace worthily; and to make ready for his final coming—at death—and at the end of the world.

Today's readings turn our attention to our journey to God. You and I are a pilgrim people. From the day we are born we are on a journey back to God. The day we return to God is when we find fulfillment with God.

In today's Gospel, Jesus contrasts the events leading up to the day of judgment and the day it arrives to prepare His disciples for His second coming. He turned to the Old Testament story of Noah to begin his lesson.

In Genesis, God saw the wickedness that existed in the world. He grieved seeing evil in the hearts of the people. God decided to destroy every living thing, except Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man living in a corrupt world. Jesus observed Noah's obedience to God He worked diligently to build the ark that God commanded him to build. He was well prepared when the floods came.

Others were not.

Deacon Bob Farrell

People were engaged, living out their lives as they had always done, doing ordinary things until the day Noah entered the ark. They were caught unaware, and they were swept away by the flooding waters.

Jesus predicts that one day, something similar will happen at His second coming. No one knows the hour or the day.

Jesus is teaching his disciples an important lesson: stay alert, and be prepared. He taught the Disciples that the end of the world would be like the great flood in Noah's Day. It will take people by surprise, and it will happen unexpectedly, just as Diane and I were caught unaware by the flooding water that damaged three rooms in our home. Had we known the toilet was going to break, we could have replaced the fixture before it failed—that would have been an easy fix.

Thank God, we were not totally unprepared, we have insurance, and the claim will cover the damages, and our losses. The work will be completed soon, and we will have a new kitchen.

The victims of the typhoon in the Phillipines were not as fortunate. The devastation was widespread and thousands lost their lives. It will take them years to rebuild.

We are the disciples of this day, and Jesus is asking you and me to live in a state of high alert, so that we will not be caught unprepared by being carried away by the distractions of this world. We have nothing to fear if we live as though we are on a watch, living each day as if it is our last.

Jesus is encouraging us to live as good disciples; to live as He would like us to live; for He does not want us to live out life unprepared, to keep us from losing the most precious gift that we have been given, our salvation.

Think about it.

De Colores



SIGN UP....

We now send out Cursillo Emails for Notices and Updates.

If you or someone you know hasn't signed up, please send your email address to dorene@pipmail.com

Spread the word, thank you!

*Let's take time to
remember and pray
for our 2013 deceased
Cursillistas*

MARIE F. KELLY (5/6/2013)
Weekend April 1970

CONSTANCE (Connie)
CANNON (8/11/2013)
Weekend Sept. 1967

Sr. MARGARE E.
WALSH, SSJ (8/27/2013)
Weekend April 26, 1970

PAUL E. EVANS (8/27/2013)
Weekend 1966

*If you know of anyone that
we should be remembering
in our Cursillo Memorials,
please contact Deacon John at
john@pipmail.com or
call 532-6671*

Donations to Cursillo

*In honor of
Rectora, Carol Tourangeau
and in Memory of
Armand Tourangeau
from Kathleen Wood*



Spiritual Director

Monsignor David Joyce
djoyce1a@aol.com

~

Lay Director

Mike Riley
janemriley@comcast.net

~

Newsletter Editor

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