



CHEC MARKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO EPISCOPAL CURSILLO®

ISSUE #2

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FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

I have been guilty of believing the desert fathers were simply escaping “real” life. I was both wrong and right. Rowan Williams says, “The surface pattern of ‘running’ or ‘fleeing’ is much more nuanced than it seems. What is to be learned in the desert is clearly not some individual technique for communing with the divine, but the business of becoming a means of reconciliation and healing for the neighbor. You ‘flee’ to the desert not to escape neighbors, but to grasp more fully what the neighbor is – the way to life *for* you, to the degree that you put yourself at their disposal in connecting them with God.” In his book, Where God Happens, Archbishop Williams delves deep into the lives of the desert fathers. He explains one purpose of this type of asceticism is to challenge ourselves to remove any obstacles in our lives that make us an obstacle between God and our neighbors. Isn’t this exactly what happens on a Cursillo weekend? Encourage your “neighbors” to ‘flee’ to CHEC 73, where they can “Be Still and Know,” and deepen their knowledge of themselves, their neighbors and God.

De Colores,
Brenda

BE STILL AND KNOW . . .

What an unusual concept! “*Be still and know...*” We are rarely “still,” and when we are, we most often associate that state with a lack of motion rather than advancement in knowledge. So is this phrase simply outside our realm of experience, or is there something important for us to learn from it?

“Stillness” is a scarce commodity in our society, for we are constantly on the move and some

sort of noise is everywhere. On the other hand, knowledge is as close as the nearest Internet connection—you can Google just about anything these days and find something out about it. So perhaps the message in this phrase is to be found in the encouragement to focus—to tune out all of the movement and noise around us and tune into some particular bit of knowledge. And if we look at the entire phrase from Psalm 46, from which the upcoming weekend’s theme is drawn, we see that this notion makes sense, for we are told to “*Be still, then, and know that I am God.*” Thus we are commanded to take a spiritual “time-out,” and rest in the knowledge that God is God...and we’re not.

This might seem, then, to be an unusual choice for a theme for a Cursillo weekend, given the nature of our noisy, chaotic days. But in actuality Cursillo is just that—a spiritual “time-out” when the focus is entirely on God and our relationship with Jesus. That’s why the weekends are both exhausting and refreshing—because even though we are constantly on the move and challenged on every level, we are also given the time and space to really KNOW that God is God, God is present, and God loves us. It is a gift that lifts our spirits and mends our souls. It is a gift that we need to share!

So whom might you invite on a Cursillo weekend? Who do you know that would benefit from a spiritual “time-out?” Our churches are full of faithful, loving people who aren’t quite sure how to fully live out their lives of faith! Cursillo’s plan of piety, study and action might be just what some of them need—so pray for guidance and invite someone to join us. It may just be the best gift that person will ever receive!

De Colores,

Mimi Lacy+, CHEC Spiritual Advisor

OUR LIFE IS A GIFT FROM GOD;
WHAT WE DO WITH THAT LIFE
IS OUR GIFT TO GOD!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last fall when the secretariat called and asked me to be the Rectora for CHEC 73, I was humbled and honored. In the chaos of my life, business travel, commitments at church, family responsibilities, I had to make myself sit and pray about what it truly meant to be Rectora of CHEC 73. *Be Still and Know that I am God* from Psalm 46, verse 11 was the overwhelming message that I kept hearing. In the craziness of life, it is in the stillness that I hear and have peace in the direction of my daily life. God's Grace and Mercy are abundant and, when I stop and pray in the stillness, I always continue my daily responsibilities with a sense of peace. God truly loves you and me! With a lot of prayer and listening, I chose the theme for this weekend, *Be Still and Know!*

The Cursillo movement has had a profound impact on my life over the past 25 years. God's unconditional love and Grace no matter what the circumstance in life, is abundant. Each time I attend the Candlelight, I am moved by the presence of the Holy Spirit. No matter how busy we are you can't help but smile as the candidates walk into the chapel and see the candlelight. Our palanca for each of the candidates touches me as much as it touches each of them, probably more, as I am reminded again and again of God's love for each of us. Stop, pray and Be Still and Know...

It would be a blessing if each of you would mark your calendar with the dates for the weekend, October 26-29, at the Casa Italia and plan to attend Candlelight. Please take a few minutes each day to pray for CHEC 73, the team, for candidates and then ask your fellow parishioners to attend the weekend. In the stillness God will let you know who to ask to attend the weekend. My prayer is to fill the conference room with candidates!

Take the time to *Be Still and Know*, and keep CHEC 73 in your prayers, and most of all ... Remember to Make a Friend, Be a Friend and Bring a Friend to CHEC 73!

De Colores,
Deb Stecher, CHEC 73 Rectora

CHA-CHAS!

A "Cha-cha" is a person who comes in for a specific time on a Cursillo weekend to help out with the Palanca Chapel, Kitchen Crew, or Coordination. You become a "Cha-cha" simply by contacting the 4th Day Coordinator, and then turning up at the appointed time. It's simple! It's easy! It's very, very helpful! And it's another chance to serve, and thus provide candidates with a

wonderful, spirit-filled weekend. So check your calendars, check out where you can help, and sign up soon!

CHEC 73 is fast approaching on Oct. 26th - 29th

KITCHEN: As we all know, the kitchen crew works hard to provide us with all that great food. So help them out! Listed below are available times; check it out and sign up.

Thursday Afternoon or Evening: A few hours to clean and open up the kitchen, retrieve equipment from the storage locker, and start prep for Friday breakfast.

Friday Afternoon (1:00-4:00): Clean up from lunch and preparation for the evening meal.

Saturday Morning (9:00-12:00): Clean up from breakfast and help with Agape preparation: table set-up, cooking, and napkin folding, etc.

Saturday Afternoon (12:00-3:00): Agape meal, so help with dishes, general clean up, and evening meal preparation are critical. *Extra help here is a must!*

Saturday Evening (5:30-7:00): A few people to help with clean-up and prep for Sunday would ensure that the team will be finished in time to enjoy Candlelight.

Sunday Morning/Afternoon: Help with clean up, closing up the kitchen, and move things back into the storage locker.

Saturday Morning (9:00-12:00): Coordination helps

set up the Agape Meal, so they need help with that as well as their regular duties.

Sunday Afternoon (1:00-5:00): Any help with closing up and putting all the stuff away would be wonderful!

PALANCA: The team that never sleeps! Palanca could use some "pray-ers" anytime of the day or night, but night shifts are particularly helpful so that the team can get some sleep. Also, Palanca Chapel set-up on Thursday afternoon could always use some help!!!

***If you have any questions or would like to work, please contact the 4th Day Coordinator for CHEC 73, Ted Main, @ 630-416-3952.

Did you order a ChEC name badge & didn't receive it?? If so, please email Carol Harper @ [carolharper929@yahoo.com!](mailto:carolharper929@yahoo.com)

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interested laity and clergy to this class—help us spread the good news of Cursillo!

HOW DO I ASK SOMEONE TO CURSILLO?

What a great question! We all have our different ways, but a few important things to remember are:

- Cursillo is for someone with a strong faith in Jesus Christ, not for a “seeker.”
- People do not want to feel like they aren't a “good enough” Christian for not knowing about or going to a Cursillo weekend.
- People want to be assured that it's not a secret society, cult, or any of the other weird things they may have heard about it!

When you ask someone about Cursillo, one way to introduce the subject is to say something along the lines of “I've been praying about it, and I believe that you might really benefit from a Cursillo weekend. Could I tell you more about it?” This is pretty non-threatening, and doesn't require any decision or judgments about the weekend—plus it gives you time to tell them more about Cursillo. Offer to explain the weekend—the talks, discussions, worship, food, fun, singing and laughter—and answer any questions they might have. Then give them time to think about it, with the thought that you will check in on them later. In a recent discussion at Secretariat, we discovered that few people accept the first time they are invited! So pray about whom you might ask, and then gently introduce the subject to them. Cursillo is such a great group—who would you like to see benefit from it?

Mimi Lacy+

COME TO CONVENTION!!

The 169th Diocesan Convention will be held at the Westin Chicago North Shore in Wheeling on November 10-11, 2006. This is a wonderful opportunity to not only see the Diocese at work, but also to participate in the life of the Diocese in a unique and fun way. During those two days we will need workers and visitors for our Cursillo exhibit, so plan to help out! There will also be lots of other exhibits, as well as multiple Learning Opportunities in which to participate. Go to the Diocese of Chicago website to sign up, or call Brenda Marcy at 630-469-5542 to work at the table.

Of particular interest to Cursillistas is the Learning Opportunity on Saturday morning: Cursillo: Developing Christ Centered Leaders. Running from 8:30-10:15 am, this will be a session to share information on the history of Cursillo, how it works, and the goals of the movement. Plan to bring

CHEC 72
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE!

May 4-7, 2006

The Lord blessed our Cursillo Community on Chec 72 by sending us 17 candidates representing 9 different churches from all over the diocese. In addition, the team consisted of close to 45 wonderful servants representing 16 different churches. The Holy Spirit was certainly present as love, charity, laughter, prayer, song and personal growth filled the conference room. Each of the rollos were powerful and spurred much discussion and of course the skits were first class!

As rector, I was humbly moved by the power of the Holy Spirit throughout the entire training session, the weekend itself and in these following months. Countless examples of Christ's presence were evident to all. I am absolutely certain that the Cursillo method works!

I wish all of our new Cursillistas a continued sense of God's love as they walk day by day with our Lord. I pray

that Chec 73 will also be a blessing for all of those who attend, participate and pray for the upcoming weekend in October. I encourage all of you to participate in group reunion, pray and sacrifice on behalf of those on Chec 73 and come to the Candlelight and Clausura services to show your support.

Remember; Christ Is Counting on You, And We On Him!

DeColores,

Jay Baum,
Rector, Chec 72

CHEC WEEKEND # 73
OCTOBER 26 – 29, 2006
“Be Still and Know”
Psalm 46:11

The following information is intended to be shared with Cursillo People in your parish so they can participate before, during, and after the upcoming weekend. The Fourth Day participation is extremely important in the success of the weekend and can significantly affect the team and candidates for a successful event. If you have time to give during the weekend please contact us, we need assistance in several areas throughout each day and, PLEASE participate in the several 4th Day activities. Food and monetary donations are welcome.

Ted & Cathy Main, Fourth Day Coordinators, 630-416-3952

CHICAGO EPISCOPAL CURSILLO©
65 E. Huron
Chicago, IL 60611

DATED MATERIAL
FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

CONTACT US AT: <http://home.earthlink.net/~chiec/>

PRELIMINARY ACTIVITIES

CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR,
116 East Church Street, Elmhurst, IL

ROLLO REVIEW DAY
Sunday, October 1, 2:30 PM

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES
Italian Cultural Center, 3800 Division Street,
Stone Park, IL
(39th Avenue & Division Street)

Thursday, October 26
Candidates arrive @ 7:00 PM
Sponsor's Prayer Service @ 8:00 PM

Saturday, October 28
4th Day Pot-luck Dinner @ 6:00 PM
(Bring salad or dessert to pass, sub-sandwich and refreshments provided)

Candlelight Eucharist 7:30 PM
Reception Following in the Dining Room (Bring a snack to share, refreshments provided)

Sunday, October 29
Cross Ceremony Eucharist & Clausura, 3:00 PM
(Need help with clean up)

ULTREYA FOR CHEC 73
Sunday, November 19
CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR, 2:30 PM
116 East Church Street, Elmhurst, IL

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Chicago, IL #9922
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<p><u>CHEC 73</u> OCTOBER 26 - 29, 2006 CASA ITALIA, STONE PARK IL 60165</p> <p>FOR DIRECTIONS, USE MAPQUEST & KEY IN <u>3800 DIVISION & 60165</u></p>
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