

# Cursillo – May 2015

## 1. **Leadership** - Who were the leaders....

Over the past year, the leaders for the Parish's Cursillo Ultreya have included, Giesla Victoria, Rita Le Clerc, Linda Pixton, Tony Abresh, and Leanne Stivers. The first four have led the Calvert Ultreya for 6 years, with Leanne only joining in the leadership in the last several months.

The issue that has to be resolved regarding the leadership is that a more concerted effort has to be mounted to find people who are willing to step forward to take over the leadership of the Ultreya and let Giesla, Rita, Linda and Tony step down. Usually an Ultreya leader serves in their capacity as the leader for roughly 3 years. Leanne is being trained for a time and another leader needs to be found. Once this last thing happens, Giesla, Rita, Linda, and Tony will step down.

## 2. **Composition of the Calvert Ultreya** - The Calvert Ultreya is comprised and supports the Cursillistas from several parishes including. Jesus the Divine Word, Jesus the Good Shepherd, St. John Vianney, St. Anthonys in North Beach, Star of the Sea in Solomons, and St. Francis De Sales parish in Benedict. The Calvert Ultreya's main membership is drawn from Cursillistas in the first three parishes. The latter three parishes do not have many cursillistas or at least many cursillistas who come to Ultreya.

## 3. **What is Ultreya** – Ultreya is a Spanish word meaning “Onward” and it is used to describe the monthly meeting that takes place currently at St. John Vianney on the second Monday evening of every month starting at 7 p.m. It is a gathering of people who have made a Three Day Cursillo weekend and others who may be interested in making such a weekend, with the goal of meeting in small diverse groups to discuss how they have encountered Jesus in their lives, what they are doing or have done to study their faith, and how they are living their faith. A new person each month gives a witness about how God is working in their life and there is time for community sharing and prayer.

## 4. **How are Things Going With the Ultreya** – Short answer is very well.

On average the Ultreya draws around 30 to 35 people mostly from St. John Vianney, but there are a good number of people who come from the other parishes.

The gathering of cursillistas builds inter-parish cooperation and introduces those who come to the broader Catholic community in Calvert County. The use of small groups has fostered and built the Christian community at St. John Vianney through the workings of the Holy Spirit. The Cursillos' use of small groups and small group dynamics that are the hallmark of the Cursillo and which have served as a model for groups such as the Renew effort mounted several years ago by the Archdiocese, marriage encounter, and even our own RCIA program, have served to more intimately expose parishioners to God, empowered them to become active members of the parish, and has fueled the growth of a

“family” spirit in our parish life. The Cursillo has acted to energize the community spirit and holiness of our parish and has also served to bring more people to live the Christian ideal. By its impact on a significant number of our parishioner’s lives, it has served to raise the number of active members of our parish who are willing to get involved and be committed to the success of our church community. Every community has a tipping point, or that point where a significant enough number of people are members of it to make it a success and achieve its goals and aspirations – making it a vibrant and spirit-filled community. Cursillo at St. John Vianney has acted to raise the number of Holy Spirit driven people in our parish to a significant enough number of souls that every aspect of parish life is impacted in a positive way and given us a more vibrant faith-life. We have almost 300 parishioners who have made the Cursillo. As such, Cursillo has tipped the scales of our parish life and worship positively impacting every aspect of it and bring more souls closer to God, both on the parish level and on an individual level. Cursillo has positively energized most every aspect of our parishes activities, worship, and evangelization.

**5. What Can Be Done to Improve How Cursillo is Viewed in the Parish and its Exposure to Those who have not yet made a Cursillo -**

- A. More Visible Support From the Pastor** – on a more consistent and regular basis, the pastor needs to mention Cursillo as one of the important means we have available to us to come into a more intimate relationship with God. This means working into the homilies on a regular basis some mention of the need for small grouping and the value of cultivating a more consistent and daily awareness of where God is working in one’s life, which is piety. What one is doing to enflame one’s faith, which is study. And what one is doing to live their faith, which is action. Even if the homily does not include such mentions, the Cursillo should be a regular announcement by the pastor at made at the end of mass and the more this is done the better.
- B. Schedule a Cursillo Awareness Day** – The Ultreya Leaders will be approaching the pastor to schedule a Sunday where we hold a Cursillo Awareness Day to broaden awareness of Cursillo and its purpose.