

FEBRUARY 2021

CURSILLO MOVEMENT OF THE YOUNGSTOWN DIOCESE

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CURSILLO NEWSLETTER FOR FEBRUARY, 2021

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Dear Brothers and Sisters -

We hope and pray that you are safe and well during the pandemic.

The big news in the Youngstown Diocese is that Pope Francis appointed The Most Reverend **David J. Bonnar** as our new **Bishop**. He was installed in January. We welcome Bishop Bonnar, and encourage all Cursillistas to pray for him as he settles into his ministry here in the Youngstown Diocese. You can read more about him on **page 2** of this newsletter.

Janet Godward has been serving as the Chair of Post-Cursillo on our Secretariat for the past three years, and her term concluded in January. Janet is very dedicated to Cursillo, and has worked so diligently in her role. Please read more about Janet and Post-Cursillo on **page three** of this newsletter.

In other news, **National Cursillo** has provided us with links to their February Newsletter. It is published in three languages: English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. You'll find these links **below on this page**. I encourage you to take a look at the National newsletter. It has lots of good information and provides an insight on the Cursillo Movement.

Also, we are part of the North American & Caribbean Cursillo Movement (also known as **NACG**). Every Wednesday evening, the NACG hosts an Ultreya virtually on Zoom. The link to the Ultreya can be found on **page 3** of this newsletter. If you would like to experience encourage you to take a look at the National newsletter. It has lots of good information and provides an insight on the Cursillo Movement.

Please continue to pray for our Catholic Church, for our hierarchy, for our new Bishop, for our priests, deacons and religious. Pray for the victims of the virus and their families. Most especially, please pray for peace in our land.

May God Bless you and keep you.

DeColores,

Bill Joyce



Links to the Latest National Cursillo Newsletter:

English: https://www.natl-cursillo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Feb-2021_02_LENTEN_EnF.pdf

Spanish: https://www.natl-cursillo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Feb-CNN_2021_02_LENTEN_EsF.pdf

Vietnamese: https://www.natl-cursillo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Feb-CNN_2021_02_LENTEN_VnF.pdf



Phillipians 4:13

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Welcome Bishop David J. Bonnar



Rev. David J. Bonnar was ordained as the sixth Bishop of Youngstown, Ohio, on January 12, surrounded by family, co-workers and parishioners from his home diocese.

Bonnar, a priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh for 32 years, was named Bishop of the Diocese of Youngstown by Pope Francis. He succeeds the late Bishop George Murry, S.J.

"I am very excited about the future, but also overwhelmed by the calling," said Bishop Bonnar. "I look forward to making Youngstown my home and serving the clergy and faithful of this great diocese. Already I have been so warmly received by so many people."

He was ordained a priest at his home parish on July 23, 1988. He served as parochial vicar at Saint Vitus Parish in New Castle, Saint Rosalia in Pittsburgh's Greenfield neighborhood, and Saint Thomas More in Bethel Park.

Later he became pastor at Saint Bartholomew in Penn Hills, served 11 years as pastor of Saint Bernard Church in Mt. Lebanon and administrator of Our Lady of Grace in Scott Township before being assigned pastor of Saint Aidan Parish last July.

Bishop Bonnar also served as rector of Saint Paul Seminary, diocesan director of pre-ordination formation, director of vocations, director of the permanent diaconate, secretary of parish and ministerial leadership, and vicar for clergy.

In addition, Bishop Bonnar was a part-time chaplain at Central Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, and served 12 years as chaplain of the Pittsburgh Steelers. He will continue in his role as editor of The Priest magazine, published by Our Sunday Visitor.

Spiritual Resources for Daily Reflection

Bible in a Year Podcast by Father Mike Schmitz:

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/category/ascension-podcasts/bibleinayear/>

Catholic Online News and Magazines:

EWTN: www.ewtn.com/

Relevant Radio: <https://relevantradio.com/>

Catholic World News: www.cwnews.com/

Zenit News: www.zenit.org/

National Catholic Register: www.ncregister.com

Our Sunday Visitor: www.osv.com/

Catholic News Service: www.catholicnews.com/

Ignatius Insight (Ignatius Press): www.ignatiusinsight.com/

Carmelite (OCD) News: www.discalcedcarmel.com/

Catholic Radio: www.catholic.com/



Thank you, Janet Godward!



As we mentioned on page one, **Janet Godward** has come to the end of her three-year term as **Post-Cursillo Chair** on the Secretariat. Over the course of her term, Janet organized Ultreyas (both in-person and the ones online), she oversaw the Days of Reflection, the Annual Picnics, the Prayer Services and many other things. Janet has been a tireless worker, done everything with a smile, and always with a heart for the Lord. Thank you, Janet! We appreciate all the work you have done for Cursillo and our Lord.

May God Bless you!

And now the Secretariat is accepting nominations for **Post-Cursillo Chair**. If you are interested or know someone that may be interested in accepting this position, please pray about it and then submit your nominations to any member of the Secretariat (You'll find the Secretariat members names and their contact information listed on the left column on

Page 1 of this newsletter.)

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.

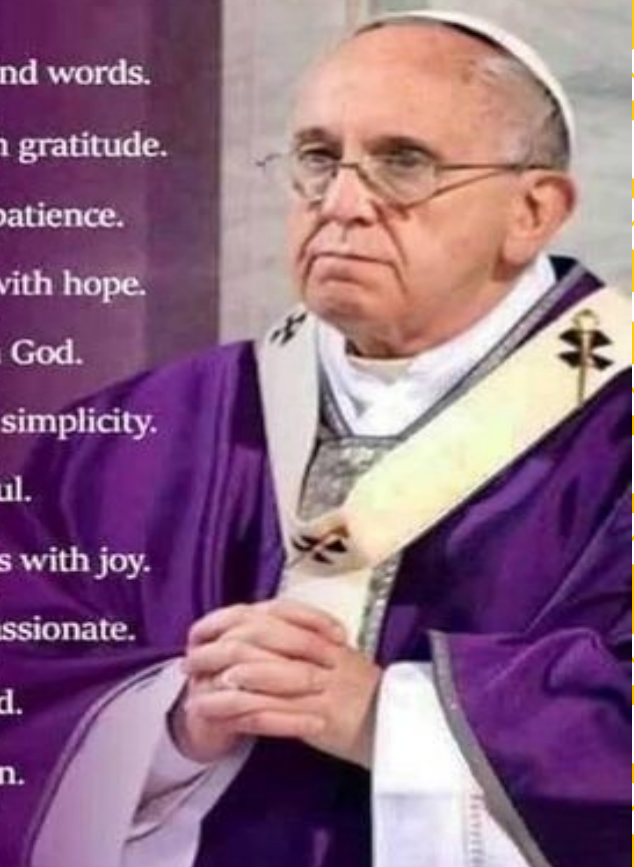
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words; be silent and listen.



NACG (North America & Caribbean Cursillo Movement) is inviting you to a virtual Ultreya.

People from all over North America, Caribbean even some from Italy, Spain, South America join in. It is bilingual English and Spanish. It includes a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. The Ultreya occurs each Wednesday night at 8pm Eastern Standard time.

Here are the details:

Time: This is a recurring meeting each week at 8pm EST

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82613850527>

Meeting ID: 826 1385 0527

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,82613850527# US (Eastern)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 826 1385 0527

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82613850527>

If joining by smart phone, you may need to download the Zoom app first

News from around Cursillo Region III

From Bobbi LaVoie, Coordinator

Consecration to St. Joseph NACG is hosting another group study of Fr. Don Calloway's Consecration to St. Joseph. I participated in the last group session; it was awesome. Please share with your community. All are welcome. The group is bi-lingual to open and close then they did split English and Spanish since we had 8 English participants.

5 weekly meetings: Feb 16, 23, 29, Mar 2, 9.

Consecration Mar 19

9pm EST each night (about 90 minutes in length)

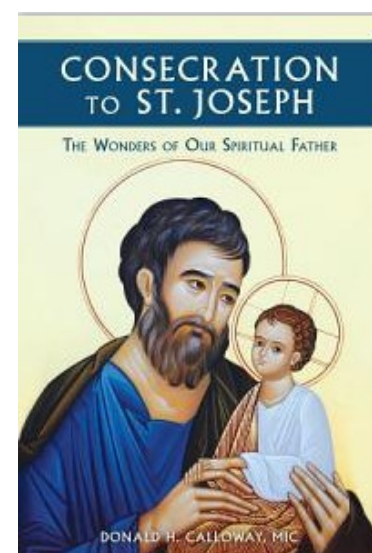
Register to participate at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdcy9HaDRWk8w6EEgx7goLxpKPlvRZObg4rijqgth1phAY87g/viewform>

Purchase your book on Amazon, EWTN, <http://www.shopmercy.org>

DeColores,

Bobbi





GRAND ULTREYA !



Hi, Folks

The Holy Spirit is leading us...

The Cursillo Region 3 service team just met to discuss having a Grand Ultreya. A Grand Ultreya is a meeting of different Cursillo centers. In this case, it will be with Cursillistas from five different Dioceses, all in Region 3! Hope you can attend.

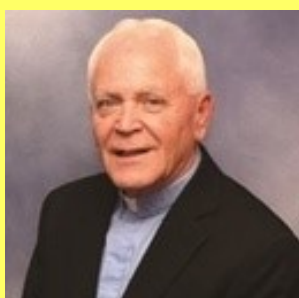
Here is the plan they formulated: They hope that Sunday, March 21st, from 7 to 8:30pm works for you all. Please get it on your calendar!

We wanted each of the 5 active diocese to have representation. Our invitation will be open to ALL Cursillistas and will be included on the National and NACG communication sites.

Dan Kubisiak from Pittsburgh will be the Ultreya Leader

Once we get the Zoom link information, I'll get out the invitation so you can attend the virtual Grand Ultreya. For those who are unfamiliar with Zoom and how to use it, there will be a Zoom 101 class for attendees before the Ultreya... we'll include specifics about the date/time on the invitation. Watch for this coming in your email.

Come Holy Spirit and lead us!



Reflection from

Father Tom Galvin of the Pittsburgh Diocese

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 21, 2021

(Genesis 9:8-15; 1Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15)

God's Faithfulness: Sanitizer for the Soul!

In my book of daily Lenten reflections, written for the residents of the nursing homes I serve and for homebound parishioners, I called God's faithfulness "Clorox for the soul." To drive home this point, I invited them to recall growing up and remembering lye soap that was found in every home. As kids we had to use it anytime we were in the woods and mom thought we might not have been careful enough around poison ivy. It removed everything down to the third layer of skin and killed anything that might resemble a germ. The residents would easily have a physical visualization of what I wanted to get into their heads concerning the strength of God's faithfulness.

When discussing Lent and our focus for St. Oscar Romero Parish we decided on God's Faithfulness: Sanitizer for the Soul! How good is that since everyone has (or should have) become used to sanitizing their hands and wearing off the skin in the same way as that lye soap. Why did we go in this direction to focus on the faithfulness of God? To start with, God's faithfulness will be seen in the Sunday readings for each week of Lent, and move us into the fullness of Easter. Secondly, each of us needs to remember that without God's faithfulness, we wouldn't be having this conversation. Jesus would be a mute subject and we'd be a barbarian people living the survival of the fittest (not that some people are not living with this mentality in our world today). We'd be pagans with inanimate objects as gods or trying to appease gods who might wipe us off the face of the earth because we didn't sacrifice sufficiently. How often do we see this even in people "of faith" who live with a sense of necessary appeasement? Is this faith?

(Continued on Page 6)

It is imperative that we lock it in our heads that we are in no way talking about our faithfulness to God. That's another whole mess. No, we're focusing on God's faithfulness to mankind, from the very beginning of time to this very moment. So we need to remove from ourselves any mentality that our God is a vengeful God who demands an exactness of law rather than a heart renewed. We need to set aside any sense of punishment dealt by God for sinning. God doesn't punish us. He may correct our ways, but He doesn't punish. He knows we punish ourselves in our sinfulness, in the guilt that we carry, and in our separating ourselves from Him. God is faithful in His love for us, His call for us in oneness, and in providing us with the grace necessary to "Repent, and believe in the gospel." God's Faithfulness: Sanitizer for the Soul!

Now, if we are not careful during this Lenten journey, we will find ourselves thinking about our faithfulness which is usually limited to our prayer lives, sacramental celebrations and pietistic behaviors which are often rote activities in a repetitious fashion. These have nothing to do with God's faithfulness. So stop it! Anything done as an expectation and not as a response to a gift given does not reveal a desirous heart — that of God's or ours. Most of us think about God's faithfulness as His presence with us — which is usually thought about as much as a person thinks about his or her breathing. It is not thought of unless we are struggling for a breath or suffer with a respiratory illness. It will take all of Lent, and probably more, for us to grasp all that needs to be seen concerning God's Faithfulness as the Sanitizer for the Soul! An inner change will be required.

After a summer rain we often look for a rainbow. Some will remember this story from the Book of Genesis and thank God for the beautiful gift. But this "sign" given by God to Noah is an eternal promise, a new covenant. The bow, a sign of war, is now hung in the sky. There will be no God at war with mankind. God will not break His covenant even if the people choose to do so. This is the first hint of an eternal faithfulness. If we study the Old Testament we will see that God never leaves or abandons His people, even when He allowed them to be taken into exile for their sins. His love is "corrective" so His faithfulness can be celebrated. His faithfulness is rooted in what is heard in the story of the flood. His eternal promise was made for eternity. It continues to the day.

St. Peter's first Letter refers to the new beginning for mankind through the waters of the flood, a prefiguring of the waters of baptism won for us through Christ, the faithful One sent by the Father to fulfill His covenant. It is ours. God's faithfulness has brought us into salvation. It is not what we do. It is God's doing. St. Peter's reference to those who died and being released from Sheol, that is, the place for those awaiting redemption through the Messiah, is something we profess in our creed. God's faithfulness releases "the spirits in prison," at the death of Jesus. God is faithful to His promise.

As was mentioned a month ago (3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time), Jesus is the sole focus of Mark's Gospel. There are no infancy stories, no lengthy background of St. John the Baptist being provided. This is because Jesus is the faithfulness of God alive for us. And God is so faithful that He is ready to do whatever it takes to keep us one with Himself. Jesus' 40 days in the desert are synonymous with the 40 years the chosen people spent in the desert after being freed of their captivity in Egypt. The corrective nature of God's faithfulness is seen in the desert as the hearts and minds of the people needed changed. It was not necessary with Jesus who grasped the Father's faithfulness. Where Adam had failed when tempted in the garden, Jesus prevailed in the desert so we can return to the garden where faithfulness was first made known to mankind.

The flood is now symbolic of the washing away of our sins and the restoration of our life in and with God through the baptismal waters — all showing the faithfulness of God, sanitizing the soul. Jesus' proclamation "The time of fulfillment" — the time of restoring life as it was created — is now. For us, it is happening as we breathe. It is happening as we allow the grace of God to work its wonders, much the same as we trusted in that lye soap or Clorox.

When we find ourselves caught up in the world, when our attitudes are less than life-giving for all people, we need to stop and reflect on God's faithfulness to us (and them) as He loves us even through our sinfulness and separations. It is His presence that changes heart and mind when allowed. We see signs of His faithfulness in unexpected ways, words spoken, actions taken by others, or even in our doing something which may be contrary to how we usually would respond. Stop and reflect upon these. Carry them with you to bed at night. For those who may use the God Calling daily meditation booklet — stop at the cover. Meditate on God calling and nothing else. It is His faithfulness to all mankind.

Take up exercises of becoming more and more aware of God's faithfulness happening in your lives and in your choices. And each night thank God for His faithfulness.

View more reflections at PittsburghCursillo.org/reflections