



THE ABRAZO

September 2003 ♥ Vol. 16

<http://www.cursillo.ang-md.org>

From the Lay Director—

***“What if I give all I have -
what would that gift do?
A gift like that, my friend,
could change the world,
could feed a multitude.”***

These words from a song I hear on the radio, not often enough, reflect what the month of July was for me—filled with JOG!

On the 4th of July, Eddie and I had dinner with the Fredericks', good friends with whom we group. Their son, Randy, a first year med student was leaving the next day for Honduras as part of a two-team effort from the Virginia Commonwealth University/Medical College to provide medical relief to an orphanage and a remote area somewhere in Honduras. Randy is the only Spanish speaker in the group of 30-some students, doctors, nurses and dentists and was the driving force in forming these teams. His interest stemmed from his 2 years as a Peace Corps volunteer working in El Salvador. Once he finishes his work in Honduras, he's returning to visit his "families" in Salvador. With his modest assessment of what he was doing, he spoke volumes about his joy of giving.

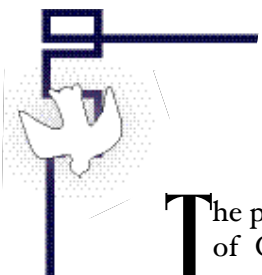
About a week later, at St. Peter's Ultreya in Ellicott City the witness was given by three young men who talked about their experiences while on a Habitat for Humanity mission to Franklin, West Virginia. Andrew Winthrop, Jeff Fraser and Andrew Fisher were part of a group of about 50 young people and adults from St. Mark's, Highland, St. Peter's, and the Church of the Ascension, Westminster, who journeyed to West Virginia where they helped in the construction of several houses. One especially touching story was of the effort to complete the work on one house that was up for inspection: working overtime, these children of God—teens and adults—took turns passing a sledge hammer to pound rebar into landscaping timbers, completing the work in short order and as one body! These volunteers gave fully of their time and talent; they also gave of their treasure since each member of the group needed to provide several hundred dollars to subsidize the trip, including a fee of \$150 for Habitat.

During their witness, they expressed how surprised they were at the deep appreciation from the people of the town, because they did not see themselves as doing anything extraordinary. One related how while he was eating breakfast in a restaurant, a woman came up to him and thanked him for all he and his friends were doing. When he went to pay his bill, he was told that the lady had already paid it! The cashier added that if it hadn't been paid by her, it would have been covered by the restaurant. They were also surprised, they said, at how much they got out of the trip; they all agreed that they had benefited far more than the people they went to help.

Finally, on the 20th of July, the gospel told us of the gift of 2 fish and 5 loaves and the blessing of that gift: how Jesus takes our gifts, no matter how small, and when given in joy, magnifies and multiplies them.

Starting close to home, the Cursillo community needs our gifts; it's time once again for people to step forward to serve as leaders within the community—will you offer to serve as Asst. Lay Director, Treasurer or Secretary for Secretariat? Will you offer to serve on team here in Maryland or in Ghana? Will you offer to help with Fourth Day Workshops or Ultreyas? With the export to Ghana added to our budget, our financial needs are greater than ever.

Continued on page



Serving In Ghana: It's Time to Form the Team!

By Becky Fisher

The plans for the export of Cursillo to Ghana are well under way and, Lord willing, Ghana #1 will be held in the Diocese of Accra in August of 2004! Many prayers, much faithful stewardship on the part of the Community have paved the way thus far. But, there is a lot more to do, requiring even more prayer, stewardship and the effort of the entire Community.

We are now at the stage to begin rector selection and team formation. Because of the unique nature of this endeavor, a selection process has been developed that will hopefully address the challenge of forming a team made up of folks from both sides of the Atlantic. At present, it appears that we will need between 10 and 12 Maryland Cursillistas to travel to Ghana to be part of the team. This number will include a Rector to serve as co-Rector with Mercia Layrea from Accra, (and willing to serve more as an Assistant Rector once in Ghana) 2 Spiritual Advisors (one a Deacon), a Head Cha, and a musician to support the Music director from Ghana. The remaining 5 to 7 people would serve as table leaders, Chas and potential rollistas.

In addition to these vital slots, we are also giving consideration to selecting 2 people who would be willing to be alternates in the event that someone would, at the last minute, have to drop off the team. We are also considering the possibility of a "support team" made up of persons who would be willing to travel to Ghana at their own expense and provide support roles which are not necessary in Maryland but will be necessary in Ghana (such as food preparation, Agape, etc...).

Because this opportunity is one not only of providing the 3 Day Weekend experience, but one of teaching the Cursillo method, it has been discerned that the Maryland Rector of Ghana #1 will need to be someone who has had previous experience as a rector and that team members would have also had prior team experience before making the trip to Ghana.

Hopefully, many of you have already given prayerful consideration to the possibility that you may be called to serve on this team. However, you will need more specific information to help discern this call. To that end, the Secretariat has scheduled **3 information sessions** in the month of October.

1. Saturday, October 11th: 12:30 pm-2 pm. St. Philip's Church, Annapolis (come early to the Diocesan Ultreya!) 730 Bestgate Road, Annapolis, MD. (410-841-6717) For directions: www.stphilip.ang-md.org/directions
2. Sunday, October 26th, 2:15 pm-3:45 pm. The Bishop Claggett Center - Meeting Room North Cottage (come early to MD #86 Closura!)
3. Date to be Announced-late October/early November - St. Thomas, Towson

Team Applications will be explained and distributed at these sessions.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

- Attendance at one of these sessions is strongly recommended for consideration for this team.
- It is vital that everyone who is considering offering their services for this ministry understand the commitment involved and what is being asked of them.
- Submission of an application is required for consideration. This is true for SA's as well.

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Secretariat 2003

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Bishop of Maryland

The Rt. Rev. Robert Ilhoff



Just a reminder that all Secretariat meetings are open to the community. They are currently being held at St. John's, Frederick Road, Ellicott City at 7:30 pm on the 1st Friday of the month.

From the Assistant Lay Director

Patrick K. Arey

This summer I received an e-mail from our Church Secretary asking if I could serve as an acolyte at the Sunday service at the end of the week because the regularly scheduled acolyte would be on vacation. I, of course, agreed, and as an afterthought added a “cute” line about 50-somethings being called upon to do the job of a 14-year old. Fortunately, I had second thoughts and deleted that line before sending the e-mail.

I reflected upon that thought later, and it came to me that I was being ungrateful about an opportunity to serve God where someone was needed immediately. I may have preferred a more “lofty” opportunity but being an acolyte was what was needed then and there. I also came to realize that serving our Lord, in whatever capacity, lofty or low, was an honor to be undertaken with gratitude, humility and grace.

We may wish we were called to do great, good or worthwhile things, but if we wait for those opportunities, we will miss those that are before us. I think we all know God put us here, in Maryland, in the fall of 2003, for a reason. The tough part is to figure out what we are called to do and to offer ourselves to the work God calls us to do. These are the same questions answered by Moses, Joshua, Deborah, Esther, Mary, Peter, Paul (to name a very few) and all the company of saints across the Ages.

The Maryland Cursillo Fellowship will elect a new Assistant Lay Director this fall. We also need volunteers to act as Treasurer and Secretary for the Secretariat. Karen Burdell and Paul Hagner are stepping down after so ably performing for several years.

Without leaders, the Maryland Cursillo Fellowship would fail. Our

leaders are not in the business of “bossing” anyone around, making lots of rules, or playing politics in our Diocese. Our leaders are those who say “yes” when the Spirit calls them, who offer themselves, their time and their gifts to see that what God needs to be done is done. Even those who perform the most menial or boring task are leaders by saying “I will see that this is done.” As Harry Truman’s Vice President Alben Barkely said at the end of his life (paraphrasing the Psalms) “I would rather be a servant in the house of the Lord than to sit in the seats of the mighty.”

If you feel called to any of these positions, please say “yes” to the Lord and offer yourself, your time and your gifts. Without you, who will feed the Lord’s sheep?

Ultreya! ♥



From the Lay Director, continued from page

The diocese is asking for our gifts. The Capital Campaign is underway and, with sufficient support, can assist inner city parishes and upgrade Claggett, a place that has meant a great deal to each of us. Your contribution can be designated for the project you’d like to support.

Beyond the diocesan needs, there are sick and elderly people in hospitals and nursing homes who hunger for just 5

minutes of conversation; there are men and women in prison for whom our Kairos prayers and notes and cookies can mean so much. And if we look just a bit farther, we are overwhelmed by the numbers of people affected by war and AIDS and famine. Without a doubt, the needs are great.

What would my gift do? I’m reminded of the story of the boy picking up beached starfish along the shore and

tossing them, one by one, back into the sea. When told there were too many, that he couldn’t save the world of starfish, he simply picked up one more and tossed it into the waves. “It made a difference to that one”, he replied.

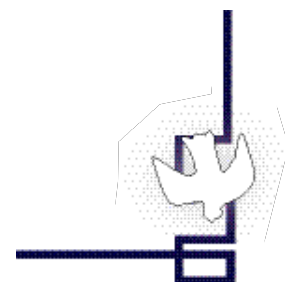
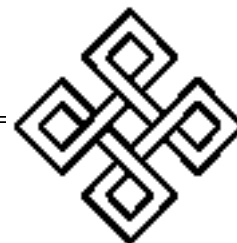
*In the Joy of Jesus,
Jeanne ♥*

Serving in Ghana, continued from page

Please understand that the team calling and formation process is a work in progress as the Secretariat endeavors to discern what is the best way to carry the Cursillo movement to Ghana. We do not have all the answers as to how this mission will be carried out, but we

continue to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and our sisters and brothers in Ghana.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this awesome mission set before us. ♥



Ghanian Candidates Respond To Cursillo In Maryland



Pictured above are l r Mercia Laryea; Nana Serwa Ayibotele, Church of the Transfiguration, Ghana; Seth Twum, Ghana; Queenesther Brown, Christ the King Woodlawn; Ven. Father Seth Sackey, St. Mary's Anglican, Ghana; and Ivy Amponsah, St. Mark's Highland.

In March, the Cursillo community sponsored 3 Ghanaian candidates who joined 28 candidates from Maryland and West Virginia for Maryland Cursillo #85. This is part of the effort to “export” Cursillo to the diocese of Accra at the request of Bishop Ihloff. The Lay Director of Cursillo in Ghana, Mercia Laryea, also came to Maryland to participate as one of the 22 team members on the same weekend.

Nana Serwa Ayibotele, hosted by Sylvia and Bob Schurr of St. Margaret's Annapolis, is a pharmacist and a very active member of her diocese. She said: “All that happened there in Cursillo '85 reminds me of Peter's vision (Acts 10:10-19). God lets down the sheet with all sorts of creatures on it. Peter learned from that vision God's new plan for all nations. Peter learned the truth that God has no favorites, but accepts men and women from every nation who fear Him and do what is right (Acts 10:34-35). I experienced that truth in Cursillo '85. Though we have come from different backgrounds; different cultures; different countries, we all received the same treatment—LOVE! The feast of the Lamb which took place on the eve of the third day portrayed the same truth. The rich and poor who accepted and

honored the Lamb's invitation to His feast enjoyed the same foods and drinks in the atmosphere of LOVE. My eyes were opened to the amazing joy, peace, patience and love that we shall experience in the New Jerusalem.”

Seth Twum, hosted by Nora and John Maclaughlin of St. Mark's Highland, is the managing director and CEO of a large insurance company in Accra and is the leader of the Evangelism Committee of the Tema District of the diocese in Accra. His thoughts: “Nobody told me much, but I figured whatever it was, I could handle it. After all, I had attended and even sometimes organized numerous crusades and retreats over the past 12 years. But the Cursillo weekend turned out to be another thing altogether. Words cannot adequately describe the atmosphere, the outpouring of unbounded love and attention, and the general feeling of spiritual attainment. I believe a Cursillo weekend at Claggett Center should be enjoyed by every Episcopalian who has not as yet done so.”

Ven. Fr. Seth Sackey, hosted by Ed Travers and Jeanne Cushing of St. Andrew's Glenwood, is one of the 5

most senior priests or archdeacons who join Rt. Rev. Dr. Justice Akrofi, Bishop of Accra, in the Diocesan Executive. He describes himself as a senior executive of a fishing company in Ghana called the Accra Jesus Fishing Company, whose work is to “launch out into the deep” to fish for souls for Christ. Fr. Seth had this to say about his weekend: “In my 25 years as a priest, I had taken part in many Christian conferences, retreats and weekends but nothing compares with what I experienced at my Cursillo Weekend at Claggett. For want of words, I can only describe it as amazing, wonderful, awesome, beautiful, you name it, or to summarize it—love at its best. I went in not knowing exactly what to expect, but came out a completely new person, a new creation with the zeal for Ideal, Action and Environment. If you want to meet God, if you want to meet Jesus Christ, if you want to meet the Holy Spirit in other people, if you want to recharge your spiritual battery, then the Cursillo weekend is what every Episcopalian in the USA, irrespective of race or colour, should make. The Cursillo weekend at Claggett is a treasure I had found and together with my three other Ghanaian colleagues who made the weekend, we are surely importing it to Ghana. De Colores. I urge all Episcopalians to go for it.”

Mercia Laryea, hosted by Michael and Izzy Winn of St. Margaret's Annapolis, Fr. Ron and Becky Fisher of Church of the Ascension Westminster, and Pat and Pam Arey of St. Martin's in the Field, Severna Park, ministers to the children in villages around Accra in Ghana. She is also embarking on establishing a nursery school and has spent time in Maryland visiting several pre-schools and kindergartens. Mercia is the designated Lay Director of Cursillo in Ghana and will be working with the other 5 Cursillistas to establish the Fourth Day Community there. She always sums her remarks

Continued on page

COME TO THE RIVER!

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we all spend time, energy, and prayer in helping and supporting those around us. As workers, parents, and neighbors in the world, we also spend time, energy, and prayer in daily jobs, school and sports activities, and the general busy-ness of daily living. But, Jeanne Cushing, one of our busiest, came up with the idea of a Cursillo retreat—a time for Cursillistas to gather together for a time of renewal, in the company of our brothers and sisters, to pray, relax, study, of course, sing, and experience the peace and joy in which our Lord would have us live.

As a result, we are planning the **First Annual Come to the River Retreat**, for a weekend in November of 2004, at the Bishop Claggett Center. The weekend will begin with dinner, followed by social time on Friday evening, and continue through the morning on Sunday. Saturday activities will include Eucharist, talks (only 3, not 15!), discussion, song sessions, as well as free time to walk, talk, read or snooze. This time of year was selected, in part, to provide an appropriate time to slow down and prepare for the season of Advent.

For this first weekend, at least, participation will be limited to

fifty Cursillistas. We will need a small team of fifteen, including musicians and a priest. The exact cost for the weekend, as well as the dates will be published in the next Abrazo, along with a registration form. In the meantime, please contact me (phone 410-424-2099 or email AMWheelfree@aol.com) or Ron Burr (phone 410-437-1059 or email rmburr@att.net) if you have questions or would like to help us out with this exciting new project.

Celebrating the joy of His love,

Ann Wheeler, MD



Ghanaian Candidates, *continued from page*

with “Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ”.

In October, our community will be sponsoring 3 more Ghanaian candidates (if visas are granted by the embassy!!). If you are interested in hosting one of these candidates for a few days before and after the weekend, please contact Becky Fisher of Church of the Ascension. Becky’s contact numbers are elsewhere in the Abrazo.

Maryland Cursillo is in the process of raising approximately \$35-40,000 to cover the costs of “exporting” Cursillo to Ghana. These costs include the airfares for Mercia and the 3 candidates who came in March and 3

candidates coming in October and perhaps 2 more for MD 87, next April. Additional funds will be needed to help cover the costs for conducting the first 2 weekends in Accra, including airfares for Maryland Cursillistas who will join Ghanaian colleagues on the teams for those weekends.

A pledge form is available on the Cursillo website (www.cursillo.ang-md.org). Cursillistas who have already pledged financial support are asked to meet this pledge by the end of September. If you have not yet provided support for this effort, please send your pledge or donation to the Jay Sigrist, the Comptroller for Cursillo.

Fund raising events are also being held throughout the diocese. Cursillistas in western Maryland are selling teeshirts commemorating the export. In June, the St. James (Lothian) Ultreya hosted Basket Bingo and the Ascension Ultreya hosted recent Cursillista Roberto Vela and his trio in a concert. The St. Thomas Ultreya is selling tickets to Nonsense II at the Timonium Dinner Theater on November 9th and St. Peter’s Ultreya is preparing a Cursillo cookbook to sell throughout the diocese. Other Ultreyas will be holding silent auctions and junque sales. Please see the website for details of upcoming events.



A Letter from the Rector of MD #86

October ,

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Again, we are blessed in God's grace and unchanging love in our Cursillo process. We have been called to act with a servant's heart to others. The Cadre servants on MD 86 are: Steve French (also known as "Frenchy") is rector. Steve Shores is Asst. Rector. Linda Trader is Head Cha. The Spiritual Directors are the Rev. Rick Laribee+, Rev. Joanna White+, and Rev. Nancy White. The team list will be posted on the Cursillo web page as well as listed in the Abrazo.

The Cadre for MD 86 has been meeting for the last 2 months and has prayerfully been working on the weekend's logistics. Team meetings began with a team picnic in July and first team meeting in August.

I have often found with each blessing, God also gives us a new challenge. On this weekend, there will be a diversity of gifts given freely. Meryl Schecter, who is completely blind, will be a table leader on the weekend. I would ask that all of her written palanca be IN BRAILLE. See page for information about Braille Enterprises. The American Federation for the Blind is also in Baltimore; they may be able to direct you to resources in your area that can do Braille work. Also, in being a deaf rector, we have some communication challenges to overcome. We ask your patience and understanding in this process. And I have already been told the joke about the deaf leading the blind, thank you. (Smile)

Pat Arey, Rector of MD 85, reminded us that "Palanca" means lever and is about ACTION, not about STUFF. Although it may appear as an oxymoron, I would ask the Cursillo community to demonstrate some restraint in the amount of

palanca sent to any one candidate. It is a human tendency to evaluate the amount of palanca one gets and feel some sense of equity. If you have a large palanca gift, please wait to give it to the new Cursillista after they are back home. Not only can this rekindle their fire from the weekend, but also be a true gift—of love.

Here is some other ACTION palanca: I would ask you to consider is to bring up and drive home THE TEAM of the weekend. Lord knows, by the end of the weekend, the team is often VERY physically tired. What a blessing it would be to have someone else be able to drive home as the team member rested! In *The Servant Song* we sing about letting others "be our servants too." Well, here is your chance!

Bishop Rabb suggested that we—the Cursillo community—reach out to

include the candidate's family and home faith community at Closuras. For this reason, the Closura for MD #86 will be in the PAVILLION, no matter what the weather will do. Remember the weekend theme: "Be Not Afraid." We hope that the families, friends, and Christian communities will unite to celebrate God's work in the new Cursillistas' lives.

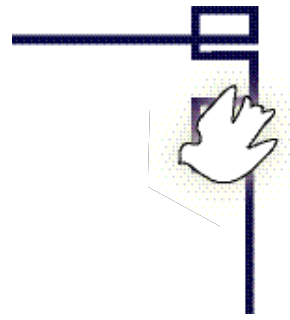
In addition to your on-going prayer support, I would ask that you consider donating some of your time, treasure, and talent. There are needs for each of these things for implementing the weekend. Please contact Linda Trader if you would like to give some of your resources for the candidates.

We look forward to seeing all of you Sunday morning and at Closura.

Godspeed and Hugs,
Steve French ♥

M D 8 6 C a n d i d a t e s	Candidate	Sponsor
	Emmanuel K.	Seth Twum
	Deborah B.	Chris Kinard
	Leslie C.	Linda Gray, Betty Charro
	Graham C.	Linda Gray, Betty Charro
	Beth E.	Marjie Mack & David Mallery
	Roger E.	Cathy & Jeff Shields
	Sherry G.	Jennifer H. Beeker
	Elizabeth G.	Nancy & William Nicholls
	Eleanor J.	Greg Fraser
	Kenneth J.	Greg Fraser
	Christopher J.	Wendy & Allen Davis
	Sandy J	Wendy & Allen Davis
	Sarah M.	
	Toni M.	Bob & Esther Gay
	Eileen M.	Russ Horton
	Sally M.	David G. Robinson +
	Dian N.	M. Lee Auchinloss
	Pamela Ann Q.	Faith Prince Spear
	Richard T. R.	Bob & Esther Gay
	Diane R.	Bob & Esther Gay
	Shannon S.	Tim Welden
	Florence N. K. T.	
	Donna S.	Isabela & William Smith
	William A. S.	Isabela & William Smith
	Michele W.	Eleanor Gebler
	Stephanie W.	Diane Couchman

Team



Name	Assignment	Rollo
Steve French	Rector	Ultreya
Steve Shores	Asst. Rector	Group Reunion
Nick Pace	Music Director	Leaders
Olive Johnson	Asst. Music Director	
Linda Trader	Head CHA	Action
Rick Laribee+	Spiritual Advisor	Grace, Sacraments II
Joanna White+	Spiritual Advisor	Life in Grace, Sacraments I
Nancy White+	Spiritual Advisor	Faith, Obstacles to Grace
Lynn French	Table Leader	Piety
Megan Neuman	Table Leader	Christian Community in Action
Jeanne Laribee	Table Leader	
Bernie Winthrop	Table Leader	Study
Meryl Schecter	Table Leader	
Connie McNey	Cha/Table Assistant	Ideals
Patty Forsythe	Cha	Environment
Grissell Hausman	Cha	
Carol Shores	Cha	
Brian McNey	Cha	
Bruce Newman	Cha	
Bill Miller	Cha	Laity
Jay Sigrist	Cha	
Paul Trader	Cha	
Connie Merrick	Interpreter/Cha	
Cam Overs	Interpreter/Cha	

Don't Forget
 Mañanitas at 6:45 a.m.
 and Closures at 2:45 on
 Sunday, October 26

Palanca Braille Done Here!

We have arranged for braille of palanca through **Braille Enterprises**. Our contact, Bob Watson, can be reached at 410-612-1252 or Bob@BrailleEnterprises.com. You can also visit their website at www.brailleenterprises.com where Bob has created a special link for us from the website named "Palanca."

To have your Palanca message brailled, please do the following:

- email your message to palanca@brailleenterprises.com. In the subject line, type Palanca for Meryl. Then type your message as usual.
- The cost is \$2.50 for the braille and \$.50 for postage **PER PAGE**.

Make your check or money order for \$3.00 per page to **Braille Enterprises** and mail to:

Braille Enterprises
 3713 Swift Run Court, Suite 100
 Abingdon, MD 21009

Checks or money orders only. Sorry, no credit cards accepted.



UPCOMING EVENTS

♥ Don't forget to attend the upcoming **Diocesan Ultreya** being held at **St. Philip's Episcopal Church**, 730 Bestgate Road, Annapolis, MD 21401, **on October 11, 2003**. The festivities start at 2:00 p.m. and last until "we are done!" We are asking community in the metro areas to bring drinks and all other areas bring refreshments of their choice. The **MD #86 Team Commissioning** will be done and tickets for the Ghanian fundraiser, Nunsense II, will be on sale.

Directions: From Route 50: Take Exit 24 - Bestgate Road. Go approximately one mile and church is on right at the corner of Bestgate and Severn Grove Roads. Visit their website at www.stphilip.ang-md.org for a map. Hope to see you there!

♥ The Reunion Ultreya for MD #86 will be held on November 15. The location is to be announced.

♥ The next 4th Day workshop will be on January 10, 2004 at Ascension, Westminster. The rector is Jenny Moulton.

Holy Cross Ultreya ... Touched By An Angel!

By Rick LaRocca (MD#85)

When Tim Welden (MD#85 CHA) approached my wife and I at our 4th Day workshop to ask if we would be interested in leading the music for a new Ultreya beginning soon at Holy Cross in Baltimore City, we were at first apprehensive and nervous. After all, we were new Cursillistas and our recent participation at the Reunion Ultreya had been our only experience in such important matters!

Without hesitation, Tim proceeded - most compassionately - to describe Holy Cross, its neighborhood, its place and

purpose in not only his life, but also that of the community. As his eyes swelled with tears, an angel touched me and I had flashbacks of my early childhood growing up in the city of Baltimore, in a neighborhood not unlike what Tim was describing. I would be going home. I'd be going home to do some good for God's sake.

After a few days of prayer and reflection, we accepted Tim's special invitation. Then, we just kept reminding each other: "God qualifies the called, right?" Yes, with the help of Debi and Carl Frock!

The Holy Cross Ultreya has had a

blessed beginning and we invite you to be with us... and feel the touch of an angel! Every first Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Holy Cross Church, 433 Millington Ave, Baltimore 21223. For information or directions please contact the church at 410-362-2728, or contact Jim Stultz at bpi1977@hotmail.com.

Ultreya! ♥

Rick and Margaret LaRocca made their Cursillo weekend together at MD# in March, and joyfully confess that their lives will never be the same. They extend their special thanks and appreciation to Debi and Carl Frock for their generosity and love and for music and transparencies! .

We Need Your Vote... email or Postal?

The big discussion today is: Do you prefer email or “snail” mail (as we lovingly refer to the U.S.P.S.!)?

What does this have to do with Cursillo? Good Question! Every couple of months we send out this newsletter to over 450 addresses. That takes time (copying, folding, stapling, stamping and addressing) and costs money (paper, labels, copying and postage), both of which are generously donated. We would like to save a little of both.

As a community we can save money by sending the newsletter, in pdf format, over the internet to your email address. What this means is that you would receive an email from Emerson Champion, Cursillo Communications Coordinator, with an attachment that you can save and open in Adobe Acrobat Reader (a *FREE* program available on the internet at www.adobe.com). You can then read the newsletter on the computer or print it all out or maybe only print out part of it.

Many people already receive up-to-date information on Ultreyas and other

happenings in the community via the emails from Emerson. They have included such things as prayer requests, Ultreya information, reminders of Mañanitas and Closura times and more. This is a very special ministry that Emerson does very well.

You can be included in this mass emailing, without your email address being broadcast all over the place or sent to others without your prior consent.

Another alternative is having your email on a list *ONLY* for the Abrazo and nothing else. This means you would only be receiving emails three or maybe four times a year with the newsletter attached.

We will still mail the newsletter. There are many people who don't have an email address, or prefer to receive the Abrazo in the mail.

Just so you have an idea of how much we could save consider this: The cost of this newsletter alone will be over \$450. Multiply that by 3 and you have the low figure for a year of producing and mailing the newsletter. It is 17 to

20 cents to copy a 11 x 17 double-sided page, 37¢ to mail each newsletter (for now!), and there are envelopes and labels to buy. It's not that we don't want to spend the money but think of this—that is enough to send 5 or 6 candidates on a weekend.

How would you rather we spend your donations?

We need to hear from everyone:

- Those on the list who would like to receive the newsletter by email and not by the Postal Service;
- Anyone who is not on the list but would like to receive emails and newsletters electronically;
- Anyone who wants only newsletters via email; and
- Anyone who wants to receive their Abrazo via the Postal Service.

Please respond to Emerson at champion@qis.net or 410-360-7425.

Thank you for your help! Ultreya!



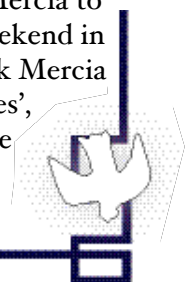
Mercia Laryea's Visit To St. James' Wonderland

Think back to our weather on February 28, when Mercia Laryea, who had never before seen snow, arrived at BWI from Ghana. It isn't even cold in Ghana, so Mercia had no boots, hat, jacket, sweater, heavy socks, or other warm clothes. A couple hours later, she was at the Ultreya at St. James', Lothian, where thoughtful people brought her lots of warm clothing to wear for the month she was in Maryland to learn more about Cursillo. Before the night was over, she

delighted us in learning to throw snowballs and make snow angels. No surprise to most of us, but our rector, Bill Ticknor, was a prime instigator in the snowball fight!

During her stay in Maryland, Mercia stayed with Izzy and Michael Winn from St. Margaret's, Annapolis, and Izzy reports, “Mercia wore every item that you gave her, sometimes many of them on top of each other to stay warm!” Mercia made her Cursillo weekend in Maryland in November

2000, and she returned this year to join the MD 85 team as an observer so she can help build the Fellowship in Ghana. She was also gathering supplies for a nursery school she started and visited her sister in Rhode Island. The Diocese of Maryland hopes to send some people next year to work with Mercia to hold the first Cursillo weekend in Ghana, but we don't think Mercia will ever forget St. James', Lothian, Ultreya in the snow! ♥



Cursillo At The Bar

The setting seemed a bit unusual at first, but Rose Hinebaugh (MD #70), David Mallery (MD #70), and Marjie Mack (MD #63) recently took Cursillo to the bar at the Ft. George G. Meade Officers Club! Chaplain (CPT) Beth Echols of St. George's Episcopal Community at Ft. Meade's historic Main Post Chapel requested that a group talk about Cursillo during the adult education period after the service on Sunday, March 23. Both Bishop of Maryland Robert Ihloff and Bishop for the

Armed Services George Packard enthusiastically endorsed the idea.

The session for St. George's was attended by about 45 parishioners, most of whom live on post or in Anne Arundel County. It was held at the bar because of flood damage to meeting rooms at the Chapel. Shirley (MD #10) and Norman Forde+ (MD #6) were in the congregation and helped us answer questions, but we also discovered four ringers in the crowd—two people who had been to the Lutheran version of Cursillo, Via de Cristo; one who had

been on the Methodist version, Walk to Emmaus; and one who had attended MD #22. We provided the attendees with the new Cursillo brochure as well as a list of Ultreyas in the area. Beth Echols had heard about Cursillo from a friend and colleague—none other than Walter Reed Army Hospital Chaplain (COL) Mal Roberts+, who served with Marjie on the Team for MD #80. Beth, who also celebrates at a noontime Eucharist every Wednesday at the National Security Agency, is hoping to be a candidate on MD #86 in October. ♥

Fundraiser for Ghanian Cursillo

St. Thomas Ultreya is sponsoring Nunsense II at Timonium Dinner Theatre on November 8, 2003 at 8 p.m. for their Ghanian Fundraiser. The cost per ticket is \$40.

“We need to let the community know that we need to sell 300 tickets to this event to raise \$6000,” wrote Don Meyers, one of the chairpersons involved in the ticket sales. “Timonium Dinner Theatre is a premium theatre. The food is top notch.”

The original comedy, Nunsense, was about a community of Nuns. A group of the sisters go to play Bingo and the sisters still at the Convent were poisoned by their cook and they all died. When the Bingo playing sisters return to find the others dead, they stuff the dead sisters into the freezer. There wasn't money for a mass burial, so they decided to have a fundraiser to bury the sisters. Nunsense was born. Nunsense II is thanking everyone for supporting Nunsense I.

The tickets will be on sale at all Ultreyas, including the Diocesan Ultreya on October 11, until October 28. Tickets may also be purchased by calling Don Meyers at 410-243 5286, email at dfmeyers@aol.com or Kathy Dzbinski, email at adzbinski@aol.com. Tickets are best sold in quantities of 4 but 5 is possible and will be crowded. Handicap seating is available, but could go fast. Tickets will be available at all Ultreyas. ♥

Our Palanca Coordinator sends written palanca to other day weekend communities around the world. Our palanca for those communities is our promise of prayer. The spiritual advisor of the Core Servant Community, Rick Larabee, has written the following collect that each of us can pray in our daily prayer time, when we meet in group reunion, when we meet at Ultreyas and when we meet for weekend activities. Please remember our promise of prayer!

Collect for 4th Day Community Gatherings by Fr. Rick Larabee

O Gracious God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, look with favor on all those gathering around the world in Cursillo, Happening, Chrysalis, Walk to Emmaus, Via de Cristo, Kairos, and other such movements. Grant both the leaders and candidates such wisdom, power, humility and grace that day by day they would more nearly follow Your Way, more clearly see Your Truth, and more dearly love the Life You give through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Servant Community 2003

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* denotes transition/ mentoring position

Ultreya!

THERE'S BOUND TO BE ONE NEAR YOU!

Monthly

1st Sunday 6:30 p.m.	Annapolis	St. Luke's Church 1101 Bay Ridge Avenue	Mary Beth Dent 410-267-9394	
1st Saturday 7:30 p.m.	Baltimore	Holy Cross 433 Millington Avenue	Jim Stultz bpi1977@hotmail.com	
2nd Sunday 7:00 p.m.	Ellicott City	St. Peter's 3695 Rogers Avenue	Dick Mitchell 410-381-5402	
2nd Sunday 5:30 p.m.	Port Republic	Christ Church Broome's Island Road	Murray Cheston 410-326-3596, Dmcheston4@aol.com	
2nd Friday 7:30 p.m.	Towson	St. Thomas 1108 Providence Road	Kathie Dzbinski 410-252-7791	
3rd Friday 7:30 p.m.	Pasadena	St. Andrew's 7859 Tick Neck Road	Mark Cox 410-255-0975	
3rd Sunday 7:00 p.m.	Hagerstown	St. John's 101 S. Prospect Street	John & Joyce Chabot 301-791-1388	
4th Friday 7:30 p.m.	Westminster	Ascension 23 N. Court Street	Caren & David Bezanson 410-833-3364	Child Care Available No Ultreya Jul, Aug, Nov, Dec
4th Friday 7:30 p.m.	Lothian	St. James 5757 Solomon's Island	Paul & Linda Trader 410-867-1816	No Ultreya in Dec

Rotating

October	Glyndon	St. John's 3728 Butler Road	Sharon Andrews 410-472-4473	Call about next meeting
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Quarterly

1st Monday 7:30 p.m.	Havre de Grace	St. John's Union & Congress Avenues	Mary Lou Townsend 410-939-5518	Meetings in Mar/Jun/Oct/Dec
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Dated Material — Do Not Delay

FYI: WHAT'S HAPPENING

- The **Secretariat** is meeting the first Friday of every month at St. John's, Ellicott City in Rose Hall at 7:30 PM.
- **MD #86 Team Commissioning:** To be held at St. Phillip's Episcopal Church, 730 Bestgate Road, Annapolis, Saturday, October 11 at 2:00 PM. See page 8 for details.
- **MD #86 Weekend and Mahanitas:** October 23-26, 2003. Mahanitas on October 26, 6:45 AM. Come and bring flowers!
- **Diocesan Ultraya:** October 11, 2003 at Christ the King, Annapolis. 2:00 to 4:00 PM.
- **Come to the River:** Find out on page 5!
- **4th Day Workshop:** Ascension, Westminster, January 10, 2004 starting at 9:00 AM. The rector is Jenny Moulton. Please keep her and the team in your prayers. More to follow later.
- **Ghanian Fundraiser Tickets:** Tickets on sale for Nunsense II only until October 28!! See page 10 for more info. ♡



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