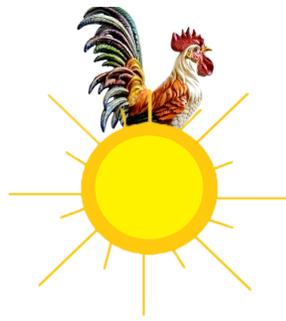


The



Poster

December 2019

Prepare the Way

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Come, Lord Jesus!

Our Advent journey has begun and we look not just to the celebration of Our Lord's Nativity but to the day he returns in glory!

We are the front lines when it comes to sharing the Good News with the 'nones' and "once was". Take the opportunity of this season of Joy to share God's love with all to whom you encounter. Let us prepare our hearts and reach out in friendship to the fallen away so that they too may look forward to that wonderful day!

We had the great joy this past October to welcome seventeen new Cursillistas to our local movement. A little reminder to their sponsors and team members to help them get into a Group reunion and bring them to Ultreya and the upcoming School of Leaders. The 4th day is the 'secret sauce' that supports all of us in our growth as Christians and Our action to spread the BEST News of God's unfailing love.

I wish you a joyous Christmas and may God bless you in the New Year.

De Colores!!!!

Ultreya!

Woody



Notes from the Assistant Spiritual Director



WHAT DOES JESUS SEE IN US?

We all know about the flaws and the failings of the apostles—how their shortcomings and their oft-times disloyal and selfish behavior no doubt disappointed our Lord and quite often hurt him very badly. Jesus seemed to surround himself with a motley crew—a betrayer, a denier, a doubter, a terrorist, a crooked tax collector, and two who were very ambitious, wanting to sit on his right and his left when they entered the Kingdom of Heaven. And, in the end, all but one of them ran away and abandoned Jesus when he needed them the most. On the surface at least, the choices our Lord made seem pretty poor.

But maybe Jesus saw something else in them, something under the surface. Maybe he saw the loyalty and love that would keep John at the foot of the cross when the rest had run away. And perhaps he saw in Peter the strength and the great leadership qualities needed to build his new-found Church. And maybe he saw the faith and tenacity that the remaining 11 apostles would have to proclaim the Jesus story to the whole known civilized world.

Now, all of this kind of begs the question—and that is what does Jesus see in us? He undoubtedly notices the faults we are so painfully aware of. But, like his first apostles, as Cursillistas we too have been called. So Jesus must also see possibilities in us that we have never dreamed of, for he has entrusted us to continue his mission—to continue to tell the Jesus story to the world that we touch—and to do that simply by living it.

And so, at this time of year as we await and prepare once again to celebrate our Lord's coming—that time when our Lord entered our history and took on our flesh and became one of us to show us the way to the Father—there is no better time to re-commit ourselves and our efforts to make him known to all those people that we meet in our lives everyday of our lives. And in spite of our hostile culture and all of the problems and self-inflicted wounds that we have in our Church, it is precisely because of that that we all the more have to remain faithful and show and tell the world that Jesus Christ is Lord and that his absolute Truth is still found in the Roman Catholic Church which he founded. And when we go about that task—simply put in Cursillo parlance as “making friends, and being friends, and introducing those friends to Christ”—we may falter from time to time, but that shouldn't bother us. For just as Jesus made sure that his first disciples' efforts were fruitful in spite of their shortcomings, he'll do the same for all of us. All we have to do is the best that we can, and then Jesus will take care of the rest.

Come Lord Jesus!

Deacon Bill Hassler



Rector/Rectora Reflections

The 90th Allentown Cursillo was held in October and we welcome 7 new Cursilistas to our movement. The Holy Spirit was truly with us as the team channeled our paths to knowing Jesus to these wonderful men.

The talks inspired, the atmosphere was electric, Father Anthony Mongiello and Deacon Rich Sewald were wonderful in communicating their true love of the Lord.

The Team, starting with Assistant Rector Jim Villani, supported the candidates every minute of the weekend.

Thanks to the Secretariat for the faith in God they show throughout the year.

Good luck to Team 91!

Jim Connell
Rector
90th Allentown Cursillo



We Are Called...

I was called by Woody to be the Rectora for this Cursillo weekend. I then called the people who became my team. The sponsors called their candidates and invited them to come on the weekend. We were all called, called by the Holy Spirit to be the women of the 90th Allentown Cursillo Weekend.

Over the days of the weekend, the candidates were asked to live in the light of Christ and to open their hearts and overcome their fears.

It is amazing to watch this happen. On Thursday evening everyone, including the team, was testing the water. The silence following the Stations helped to calm the seas of fear.

Friday, opening with something familiar, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, eased us into the day. Groups were formed, talks, and discussions gave way to Posters. We ended with Agape, sharing bread and wine just as we did at the start of the day. We were feeling more comfortable with God and with each other and with our faith.

As Saturday, the day of Hope, progressed, the discussions were more animated, posters more creative and there was a lot of laughter. Following chapel visits, the candidates were shining with the joy and the love of the Lord. We ended with our party where we served one another snacks and drinks, but instead of walking humbly with our God, we danced and rejoiced in His love.

Sunday arrived...a day with dreary skies and rain, but it was a great day because we were one. We learned how to keep Cursillo alive in our hearts through Group Reunion and Ultreya. God will reign and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in Love!!!

DeColores!

Kate Hildenberger
Assumption BVM Parish, Colesville
St. Clare's Table
Rectora, 90th Women's Cursillo

New Cursillistas—90th Weekend

Al Fogel	St. Anne, Bethlehem
Rev. Jaya Kummar Francis	St. Ann, Emmaus
Anette Gallego	Our Lady of Mercy, Easton
Debbie Geiger	Holy Rosary, Reading
Ann Hickey	St. Rocco, Martins Creek
Susan Long	St. Anne, Bethlehem
Kevin Martin	St. Columbkil, Boyertown
Karen Anne Melendez	Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Bethlehem
Chuck Messer	St. Joseph, Orefield
Jack Norman	St. Anne, Bethlehem
Josette Peckman	St. John Baptist, Pottsville
Heather Smalley	St. Ambrose, Schuylkill Haven
Marie Sposato	St. Anne, Bethlehem
Mary Beth Vogel	St. Thomas More, Allentown
Paul Waterman	St. Benedict, Mohnton
Charlene Wysocki	St. Columbkil, Boyertown
Tony Wysocki	St. Columbkil, Boyertown





Pope Francis Writes Apostolic Letter 'Admirabile Signum' on Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene

1. The enchanting image of the Christmas crèche, so dear to the Christian people, never ceases to arouse amazement and wonder. The depiction of Jesus' birth is itself a simple and joyful proclamation of the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God. The nativity scene is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture. As we contemplate the Christmas story, we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman. We come to realize that so great is his love for us that he became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with him.

With this Letter, I wish to encourage the beautiful family tradition of preparing the nativity scene in the days before Christmas, but also the custom of setting it up in the workplace, in schools, hospitals, prisons and town squares. Great imagination and creativity is always shown in employing the most diverse materials to create small masterpieces of beauty. As children, we learn from our parents and grandparents to carry on this joyful tradition, which encapsulates a wealth of popular piety. It is my hope that this custom will never be lost and that, wherever it has fallen into disuse, it can be rediscovered and revived.

10. Standing before the Christmas crèche, we are reminded of the time when we were children, eagerly waiting to set it up. These memories make us all the more conscious of the precious gift received from those who passed on the faith to us. At the same time, they remind us of our duty to share this same experience with our children and our grandchildren. It does not matter how the nativity scene is arranged: it can always be the same or it can change from year to year. What matters is that it speaks to our lives. Wherever it is, and whatever form it takes, the Christmas crèche speaks to us of the love of God, the God who became a child in order to make us know how close he is to every man, woman and child, regardless of their condition.

Dear brothers and sisters, the Christmas crèche is part of the precious yet demanding process of passing on the faith. Beginning in childhood, and at every stage of our lives, it teaches us to contemplate Jesus, to experience God's love for us, to feel and believe that God is with us and that we are with him, his children, brothers and sisters all, thanks to that Child who is the Son of God and the Son of the Virgin Mary. And to realize that in that knowledge we find true happiness. Like Saint Francis, may we open our hearts to this simple grace, so that from our wonderment a humble prayer may arise: a prayer of thanksgiving to God, who wished to share with us his all, and thus never to leave us alone.

Given in Greccio, at the Shrine of the Nativity, on 1 December in the year 2019, the seventh of my Pontificate.

FRANCIS

For entire text: <http://www.vatican.va/...admirabile-signum.html>

"You are the Church"

Thomas Augustine Judge was born in Boston to Irish immigrants. After entering the Vincentian Congregation of the Mission, he was ordained in 1899. His early assignments involved preaching retreats and conducting missions in various parts of the country. While working in Brooklyn he organized lay men and women into what he called the Missionary Cenacle. Thereafter, promotion of the lay apostolate became one of his driving passions.

In 1915 he was sent to run a mission house in Alabama. There were few Catholics in the area, and they faced fierce prejudice. Judge encouraged some of his lay volunteers from Brooklyn to join him. He believed that every Catholic had a missionary vocation—serving as witnesses to Christ “in the providence of everyday life.” Eventually he also founded religious communities for priests and brothers and for sisters, both known as the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity. Yet they remained in partnership with his lay apostles, all part of the Missionary Cenacle Apostolate. The two mottos of the movement were “Every Catholic an Apostle” and “Be Good! Do Good! Be a Power for Good.”

Fr. Judge engaged in tireless work until sickness eventually stilled him. He died on November 23, 1933.

"In the ordinary providence of your everyday lives, you are the Church and you have the grace. You have the capacity and you are conditioned to make yourself responsible for the Catholic Church—at home, in the street car coming and going to work, in your place of employment. Where you are, there is the Church."

- Fr. Thomas Augustine Judge

Excerpted from *Give Us This Day*, November 2019. Written by Robert Ellsberg, author of numerous books, including the best-selling *Blessed Among Us* (Liturgical Press).

Donations to Cursillo Rev. Robert J. Reed Fund

Send to:
Theresa Racek, Treasurer
605 N. 13th Street
Allentown, PA 18102

Checks should be made payable to:
Allentown Cursillo Movement

Winter 2020 Calendar of Events

January	2020		
Sat., Jan. 4	Ultreya	St. Benedict, Plowville	9:00 AM
Mon., Jan. 13	Ultreya	Cathedral of St. Catharine, Allentown	7:00 PM
Mon., Jan. 20	Ultreya	St. Catharine of Siena, Reading, Social Hall	7:00 PM
Sat., Jan. 25	School of Leaders	St. Mary, Kutztown	8:30 AM
Mon., Jan. 27	Ultreya	Cathedral of St. Catharine, Allentown	7:00 P<
February	2020		
Sat., Feb. 1	Ultreya	St. Benedict, Plowville	9:00 AM
Mon., Feb. 10	Ultreya	Cathedral of St. Catharine, Allentown	7:00 PM
Mon., Feb. 17	Ultreya	St. Catharine of Siena, Reading, Social Hall	7:00 PM
Mon., Feb. 24	Ultreya	Cathedral of St. Catharine, Allentown	7:00 PM
March	2020		
Sat., Mar. 7	Ultreya	St. Benedict, Plowville	9:00 AM
Mon., Mar. 9	Ultreya	Cathedral of St. Catharine, Allentown	7:00 PM
Mon., Mar. 16	Ultreya	St. Catharine, Reading	7:00 PM
Mon., Mar. 23	Ultreya	Cathedral of St. Catharine, Allentown	7:00 PM



The Poster
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