

National Lutheran Secretariat

Vol. I No. 1

Spring, 1982

PALANCA (PRAYER LEVER)

My close friends in Christ,

1982 rushes on..and Cursillo weekends all over the nation are rushing up on us!

We must not let them pass by as some have, without at the very least, a general palanca letter from each of our local movements. The local Secretariat palanca person must be sure to make palanca flow forth to every weekend. The rewards are beautiful. You all know the lasting impression on each of the candidates as they listen to general palanca from all of us around the country.

The challenges confronting our National Lutheran Secretariat must in no way lacken our love for each other and all the candidates.

Palanca plans for 1982 include a letter to each Cursillo movement palanca person every six weeks. Enclosed will be the Cursillos scheduled 90 days in advance. This will give ample time for newsletter inserts as well as a general letter from your secretariat.

In the planning stage is a prayer chain that will stretch from Miami to Minneapolis and through all the movements in-between

For openers, we are submitting a first run at the known schedules through July. We are also compiling a complete list of secretariats and persons important to the palanca effort. Please send me this information as well an an update on your weekends for the remainder of the year.

May God be with us as we all pray for unity and growth of our Lutheran movements.

- June 10-13 Gulfcoast Womens - Ft. Myers
Nebraska Mens
- June 17-20 Nebraska Womens
- June 24-27 Michigan Mens - Howell
- July 8-11 Iowa Mens
- July 8-10 National Meeting - Columbus, OH
- July 15-18 Iowa Womens
- July 29-Aug 1 Sonshine Mens - Miami

le Colores,

Walter Gray, National Palanca
3609 Hobbs Road
Greensboro, NC 27410

PRE-CURSILLO

Between now and next scheduled National meeting in July we would like to gather Pre-Cursillo materials used in various regions and share our findings with all. Together with supplying us with sample copies of the materials you use we would appreciate some accompanying explanation as to why you use these materials.

1. Sponsor form
2. Guidelines for candidate selection
3. Acceptance letter
4. Responsibilities of sponsors
5. Candidate application form
6. Candidate brochure
7. Letter to the Pastor
8. Letter to the candidate's wife
9. Guidelines for send-off
10. Job Description for Pre-Cursillo

It is our prayer that the initial enthusiasm to work together through a National organization will blossom and bloom.

Send your information to Tom Kinsel
(614)837-1887, 6953 Elder Rd. Canal,
Winchester, Ohio 43110

THE SERVANT'S CORNER

This will be our first National newsletter. It comes at a time when we have much to be concerned about. Establishing our own Lutheran based "Cursillo like" movement. It's not something we planned to do. But it's exciting! The opportunity to build on all we have learned. The joy of sharing with each other toward a common goal--Christianizing our world and turning it around for our brother Jesus.

We just passed through the Lenten Season and, we are still in our own time of Lenten like, self examination as we ponder the development of something very dear to us - those three days. But, just as our brother Jesus, walked that glory road, we know that if the Father wants us to do this thing - it will happen. And we'll have another Easter morning experience to praise Him with.

Love, in Jesus

Greg Steele

...ON MAKING A PILGRIMAGE
AND CHANGING A NAME

The National Secretariat has asked me to be the contact for suggested names for our program. So, anyone who has any suggestions please send them to me and I'll catalogue them for review by the Executive Board. The name should embrace the total program not just the three days. The name should not be some manipulation or contortion of the word Cursillo. Please include a paragraph or two explaining your reasons for your suggestion and its significance including how it fits into the overall program. For example, I feel the name "pilgrimage" would be a good selection. Here is how I describe it:

To go on a pilgrimage can be defined as "taking a journey to a holy place". Our three day experience would also be defined in a similar way. In fact, it was during a pilgrimage in Spain that the seeds of the short course in Christianity were sown.

I'm suggesting perhaps the name for our program could be A CHRISTIAN PILGRIMAGE. It fits well into the experience we have already had. Just think about it... We are all on a pilgrimage in our Christian walk. Each one of us in a different place in that growth process. And so...we are all pilgrims before, during or after the three day weekend. The teams are made up of pilgrims the candidates are pilgrims and the support community consists of pilgrims. All on a Christian pilgrimage. The three day weekend would not be the pilgrimage but only part of our journey. It might be called the PILGRIMAGE WEEKEND. The fourth day is still the fourth day, or maybe the CONTINUING PILGRIMAGE. De Colores (all in colors) stays the same - it is the array of colors on a pilgrimage. The song is public domain it stays as is. Probably rollos can be talks, palanca - prayer lever, grouping - etc. Remember, we are not changing the method we use on our weekends, just the name. There will still be 15 talks, singing, worship, prayers, table experiences, evening table meetings, walks, joy, love and peace.

Send your suggestions by June 15, 1982
to Greg Steele, 130 New York St.,
Melbourne, Florida 32901

The North Carolina East Group has voted to follow their conscience and remain with the Roman Catholic Group. We wish our brothers in Christ the best.

MINI-MINUTES FROM
NATIONAL SECRETARIAT MEETING

We finished our third National Secretariat meeting in Columbus, Ohio - February 4, 5 and 6th. It is a real joy to share with sons and daughters from all over the nation, about this close encounter we've had with Jesus that we know as Cursillo. Area Directors attending included Tom Amenell, Doug Fruem and Pastor Carroll Lang - Area I (Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota); Tom Kraska, Tom Kinsel and Pastor Paul Bramstedt - Area 2 (Illinois, Michigan and Ohio); Paul Fullin, Wilson Mansteller, and Pastor Ed Simonsen - Area 3 (Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington D.C. and West Virginia); Greg Steele and Pastor Ron Qualley - Area 4 (Florida); Ron Kear, Walt Grey and Pastor Larry Llewellyn - Area 5 (Georgia, North and South Carolina). Some 25 others also attended representing their local Secretariats.

The meeting was held at Christ Lutheran Church, downtown Columbus, and was coordinated by the Christian Cursillo community in Columbus. The attendees were hosted at the homes of local Cursillistas.

On Thursday evening, Gerry Hughes, Exec. Director of the Roman Catholic National Cursillo Center in Dallas, Texas, presented us with an overview of their position on non-denominational versus denominational Cursillos and what is required to be authorized by them to use the name Cursillo. Much dialog followed.

Friday, following a meditation by Pastor Paul Bronsted, we reconvened and after much discussion determined that the following position statement would be adopted by the National Lutheran Secretariat. This is presented as a recommendation to the affiliated secretariats for direction and guidance toward meeting our overall goals and objectives. Further definition of these five objectives will be drawn up by a special task force and sent to all affiliated secretariats for ratification in May.

In as much as those convened together as the National Lutheran Cursillo Secretariat have determined the following to be our collective objectives:

- 1) Renewal should be consistent with Lutheran Theology and be "Lutheran Based".
- 2) The Authentic Cursillo Method, as developed by Bishop Juan Hervas, should be maintained.
- 3) We wish to remain open to non-Lutheran participation.
- 4) We wish to provide a National organization to provide support and basic guidance.
- 5) We wish to develop and sustain a relationship to each of the Lutheran bodies.

In that the General Secretariat of the Roman Catholics has determined that Authentic Cursillo requires that all team members and all candidates be of the same denomination and in that one of the objectives of the Lutheran Community is to allow non-Lutheran participation:

MINI-MINUTES CON'T

is therefore recommended by the National Lutheran Cursillo Secretariat that a change in name shall be adopted to allow our objectives to be accomplished.

Also on Friday we received presentation on the progress of the Methodist Emmaus movement from Pastor Ron Qualley: the Atlanta TEC-youth weekend program progress from Amy Ohr and a description of the content of a Cursillo Leadership workshop (Cursillo de Cursillo) from Tom Kraska. After dinner (which included a serenade from the Lutheran Cursillo community of Columbus) the attendees broke up into the standing committee groups for discussion on committee directions for the next six months and beyond. Some of those directions are highlighted in this newsletter under the standing committee reports. Friday evening we adjourned with an altar visit.

Saturday morning we worshiped the Lord and celebrated communion together with a meditation by Pastor Al Sager from Trinity Seminary. We reconvened for final discussion on directions and purpose followed by dismissal and lunch.

Submitted by Greg Steele for
Connie Coyne

THE PATHWAY TO JOY

Think of Jesus, says Hebrews 12, ".....who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross....." We call his journey to Golgotha the "via dolorosa" the way of sorrows. If a journey is to be described in terms of its end, then the path to Jerusalem was a pilgrimage of joy for Jesus. It was the Father's good pleasure to give us the kingdom and it was the Son's good pleasure to purchase it for us with His blood.

It was not easy to die even for Jesus. In Gethsemane, he prayed that he might be spared. But neither His joy nor ours is necessarily the easy or pleasant way. The easy way may often be the unworthy and, therefore, the sad way. Invariably the course of duty, obedience and honor leads at last to joy.

We would misuse our time were we to see nothing but the sorrows of our Lord. Our sins give Him pain and cost Him His life, but only because it had pleased Him to create us and in prospect He found joy in His plan to redeem us.

The Christian life, in its totality, is a life of joy. We receive in faith a kingdom, the forgiveness of our sins, and the promise of everlasting life. We are ushered into a life of service to our neighbors.

Not every piece of that life is joyous. To forgive others repeatedly, seventy times seven, may become very difficult. To give our gifts to the church's work in generous and substantial amounts may demand a painful self-discipline. But the end result a life with our forgiving and giving God will be a joy which no other path will yield.

A Blessed Walk with your Lord. May your cup of joy be full.

Pastor Ed

THE NATIONAL LUTHERAN SECRETARIAT

The executive committee of the National Secretariat is organized as follows:

- President Greg Steele (Florida)
- Spiritual Director Ed Simonsen (Washington DC)
- Vice President Tom Amenell (Nebraska)
- Secretary Connie Coyne (Florida)
- Treasurer Ron Kear (Georgia)

The standing committees are as follows:

- Pre-Cursillo - Tom Kinsel, Pastor Paul Bramsted, Jackie Dietz
- Cursillo - Pastor Ron Qualley, Tom Amenell, Wilson Mausteller, Luther Piel, Dave Rolschau
- Post-Cursillo - Pastor Ed Simonsin, Paul Fullen, Pastor Ken Thompson
- Leaders - Tom Kraska, Doug Fruem, Amy Ohr, Pastor Carroll Land, Judy Kraska
- Palanca - Wat Grey, Pastor Dick Browder, Dick Wright

MAIL LIST COMPUTER PROGRAMS

There are at least two Secretariats who have developed program mail lists. Now when they have a mailing to their membership they simply run a list of pressure sensitive labels on the printer and they are ready for the mailing piece. For more information contact: Joe Loewy (Sonshine-Miami) 305-434-8211 or Lee Zimmerman (Gold Coast - Boca Raton) 305-391-2128.

LEADERS

The leaders committee is busy setting up the groundwork to prepare 15 skeleton style outlines for the talks on the weekend. They plan to use the existing outlines available from Emmaus and some of our Lutheran communities as resource material. The committee has developed a timetable which will put the outlines in the hands of every affiliated Secretariat by May for field testing. Following field testing the committee will rework the outlines incorporating inputs from each Secretariat.

As the leaders committee works on the outlines they are also requesting some suggestions on named for the talks. Listed below are the names being used in the Kairos (Prison Cursillo) and Emmaus (Methodist Cursillo) movements.

ROMAN	KAIROS	EMMAUS
Ideal	Goals	Priority
Habitual Grace	-	Prevenient Grace
Laymen	The Church	Priesthood of all Believers
Actual Grace	-	Justifying Grace

ROMAN	KAIROS	EMMAUS
Piety	Spirituality	Life in Piety
Study	Study	Grow Thru Study
Sacraments	-	Means of Grace
Action	Reaching Out	Christian Action
Obstacles	-	Obstacles to Grace
Leaders	A Christain	Discipleship
Environment	The Compound	Changing Our World
CCA	Christian Community	Body of Christ
Life in Grace	-	Sanctifying Grace
Total Security	Blessed Assurance	Perseverance
Fourth Day	Your Walk	Fourth Day

For information on the work of the leaders committee contact Tom Kraska (517) 631-1402 1402 Sylvan Lane, Midland, Michigan 48640

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