

April 2022

Dear Cursillistas,

March has been a very interesting and busy month. First, I hope you are all having a fruitful Lent. Lent is a special time for us; it is a time to reflect on our spiritual life. We need to practice self-discipline. We can do this by prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Prayer helps us to grow in our relationship with our Father in Heaven. We live in such a busy world and prayer allows us to reflect on what we are doing, how we are doing it, and it builds our relationship to become closer to our Lord. Fasting allows us to draw closer to God by counting on Him to help us fast. Almsgiving is a way to share the gifts that God has provided to us. Let us continue our Lent and keep these things in mind and continue to grow closer to our Lord.

I intended this Lent to be a more prayerful time. I had every intention to pray more, fast on Friday's, and give more to the those that are in need. My mother was going to celebrate her 90th birthday, here in Arizona, but God had another plan. On March 11, my mother passed away 3 days before her 90th birthday. My mother lived in Massachusetts, so I had an unplanned trip to go there, and although it was very sad, she had a beautiful wake service and funeral Mass. I will miss her but in my heart I know she is looking at our Lord face to Face. Although I was not able to fulfill my Lenten plans for those ten days, God wanted me to show my family in a different way how He works in my life. God has always showed me how much I depend on His strength.

Second, I would like to congratulate all those that have lived their Cursillo in March! What a blessing! Now here you are on your 4th Day - what happens next? Postcursillo is the next step. I encourage not only the new Cursillistas but all of

you who may have stepped away to come back and let's help these new Cursillistas live their 4th day. Let's continue to use all the gifts we received during the weekend. The purpose of the Cursillo Movement is to lead the world to conversion through evangelization.

Third, let's help those Cursillistas find a small group. Group Reunion is an instrument to initiate Christian community in our everyday life. This is how we develop and form relationships. If we help those who do not have a small group form one, we build up the church. By sharing our Piety, Study, and Action we form a common bond and encourage each other to try different things. As Christians we are called to be lay apostles; we are called to evangelize our environments, families, and our neighborhoods.



Fourth, let's invite them to attend an Ultreya. Ultreyas help with our Christian unity to gather and share our 4th day walk. We need to meet with our brothers and sisters in Christ to continue our growth and apostolic work. Look at our website often for all the activities that are going on. We work very hard at keeping our website up to date, and we need your help to give information to those that may not know where to get it.

Finally, Pope Francis consecrated Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on March 25th. With this consecration let's always remember to pray for peace on the whole world.

May God bless you and be with you, always.

De Colores!

Carmela Gonzales, Lay Director