# **SCHOOL OF LEADERS – JANUARY 2024**

Carl started the meeting with prayer. We remembered two Cursillista’s who entered their Fifth Day – Ann Storch and Bill Farnsworth

The Theme for the School of Leaders this year will be:

 **“I can do all things with Christ as my strength!”**

Fr. Ron presented the Doctrinal Talk. He emphasized the gift of the Pilgrim’s Guide that each of us received when we did our Cursillo Weekend. It is a great way to begin and end our day. He said that in Kairos, they teach those on the weekend to *Listen - Listen* and then *Love - Love*!

He asked all of us to reflect on the question, “Why do we have Weekends?” Hopefully, it is to bring about more disciples who then can make more disciples!

Fr Ron told the story of when Peter, James, and John accompanied Jesus up on the mountain. Peter, at first, says, “Master, it is well that we are here…” But as he said this, a cloud overshadowed them, and they were afraid. A voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise and have no fear.” It is in our fear when we come face to face with God.

This principle applies to us when we invite people to attend a Cursillo Weekend. Jesus is calling us to take courage, to get up, and to have no fear. Fr. Ron passed a sheet on the 12-step program and said that there is a lot we can gain from this system.

He then highlighted some of these points. First, we need to realize that we are powerless over sin and that our lives become unmanageable. We need to make a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves. Confession, or admitting to God the nature of our wrongs. To forgive others whenever possible. To continue taking personal inventory and to seek through prayer to improve our conscious contact with God. Seeking God’s will and plan for each one of us and having a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps.

Fr. Ron introduced another handout titled “Stages of Change. He contrasts this with Luke Chapter 5, when Jesus calls his first disciples. For instance, he tells Peter to go out into deeper water to find fish. In Cursillo, we need to reach out to others, i.e., it’s God’s fish – not ours. We are reluctant to change. Peter falls at the feet of Jesus and says that he is a sinner and unworthy of Jesus’ love. But Jesus calls us to be with him wherever we are in life. We need to come together, like the first disciples – we need to fall in love with Jesus and trust in His love for us.

Fr. Ron shared the story of Emmaus and how sad they were because of Jesus’ crucifixion. It wasn’t until the breaking of bread that they recognized Jesus. They were filled with joy. The same thing happened when he appeared to his disciples in the Upper Room. They were huddled together in fear and he appeared to them and they were filled with joy. That’s what we need to remember as we reach out to those who haven’t experienced a Cursillo Weekend. Like in the Upper room, Jesus is saying to us, “Receive the Holy Spirit!”

Remember our oath at the end of the weekend. “Christ is counting on you.” “And I on his grace!”

**BREAK**

Carl introduced members of the Secretariat.

**Pre-Cursillo – Mary Kay**

Her responsibility is to make sure all the applications are filled out correctly. She emphasized that we need a priest’s signature on these forms. This list goes to the Rector/Rectora so that they can determine which people to ask to be part of the team that is working the weekend. She makes sure that we have booklets on hand on “What a Cursillo Weekend”, the “Role of the Sponsor” , and the Pilgrims Guide. The applications can be found on our website, *StAugustineCursillo.org.* She pointed out that often we need money to purchase these and that we don’t have to wait until the weekend to donate money – we can set up a monthly donation to help spread these purchases over time.

**Cursillo (Three-Day) – Mona Coppedge**

Mona said that her primary task is to ensure that we have ample supplies on hand for the weekend. Examples are Bibles, posters, markers, and donated books. Just about anything that is needed for the tables and the weekend. There is a “Closet” behind the kitchen where most of these items are stored, and she will check to make sure there are enough supplies for the weekend.

**Post-Cursillo – John Viggiani**

John plans the Day of Reflection twice a year and monthly Ulteyas. He also does the Welcome Ultreya after every weekend. Because of the Christmas holidays last weekend, the Welcome Ultreya will be on May 4th, which will include the two December weekends and the two weekends in April.

**Communication – Patty Holly & Steven Turner**

Steven Turner is turning this program over to Patty and is helping her during the transition. Patty said that prayer is the first thing on her list. She is responsible for getting communication out to the community via websites, emails, and diocesan mail. She is looking at other means of communication, such as pulpit talks. That means that we need to develop parish contacts in all our churches. Instagram is another level she will look at to extend our reach into the community.

**Treasurer – Carri Morones**

Carri is looking for someone else to take on this task. So, if you would like to become involved as the treasurer, please let our Lay Director, Sandra David, know of your interest.

The responsibility of this position is to be responsible to the people who make donations for the weekend. There are costs not only for the weekend but also for Ulteyas and the School of Leaders. We will never turn anyone away from a weekend experience if they can’t afford to make a donation. This is why we usually ask for more than one person needs to pay. She is also responsible for setting a budget for the year to ensure we have enough funds on hand. She said that we don’t have to wait for a weekend to donate money. She helps people set up a monthly bill-pay system where you can donate monthly.

**Lay Director – Sandra David & Steven Turner**

Sandra David introduced Steven Turner as the next Lay Director. She will work with Steven next year to make it a smooth transition.

The job is challenging, she said, somewhat akin to herding cats. She enjoys journeying with other Cursillista’s as they make their way to the Fifth Day. She wanted to emphasize that while it is a ministry, there are costs involved, and it is around $30,000 per year. This includes “Scholarships” for people who attend the weekend but can't afford to support it financially. In terms of recruiting for the weekend, she asks that we don’t wait until the week or two before to bring people to the weekend. There is paperwork and supplies that need to be considered, so she asks to get applicants early in the process.

Sandra recapped the Pre-Cursillo, Cursillo, and Post-Cursillo as the Circle of Love. We need to expand this Circle to keep Cursillo alive. She ended her presentation with all of us singing the song “Pass it on!”

Meeting Concluded.