

## **Message From Patrick O'Brien Lay Director**

### **Fourth Day Laggard**

My parish Priest gave me a strong correction on the phone this morning. Essentially, I was not involved enough in the parish and had not followed through on things. I suppose he could have told me that I was a laggard in my Fourth Day in Christ.

I was reflexively defensive. But, I knew he was right. It hurt because I had been trying to carve out time for parish action but I had only sat in my contemplation. My Fourth Day was hurting on the parish level, and I knew it.

It hurts when I get corrected. Most of all it hurts when I have let hard working people down. Hard working people of God, and in this case, a hard working Priest from the Land of Saints.

Like many corrections, it was primarily a matter of communication. But to me, and to me as a Cursillista, it hit hard. My Fourth Day was lagging. Never mind my excuses of being sandwiched between kids and parents. I realized I was just being lazy. I was not pushing Jesus forward in my Fourth Day of Cursillo life. I had to be more present to others.

Being present to Jesus after the metanoia of the Three Day Weekend” is the goal of Cursillo. Fourth Day is the purpose of our Movement for Christ. It is about staying connected with other Cursillo, making and being friends, and working the Cursillo method of: holiness, formation, and evangelization. This includes service outside the family circle.

After a decade of Cursillo, I realized that for me, being me was not enough. Yes, I lived Cursillo with the family. Yes, I was close to Cursillo men in my loose, have to climb a mountain to talk, way. But all the while, I knew that I had to get out there beyond the family, beyond the mountain, and beyond my history of domestic church over established church. I had to move myself and live as an academic Catholic described a sacramental life: (Rubio 2003)

One can practice Christian virtue, keep many of the commandments of the Old and New Testament, and obey God's will at home and in one's

family...However, one cannot...fully realize the demands for discipleship to Jesus of Nazareth unless one also has a public vocation. (p.99)

Now, this morning, a Priest as solid as the solid isle, called me down, gave me words of correction, and told me very kindly that I was lacking in my Fourth Day actions. Unfortunately, I already knew it. Fortunately, I was pegged and hung up to dry.

Please, do not let this happen to you.

The mission of Cursillo is very simple to follow. First, on the three-day weekend, we are coached to know ourselves in order to know Christ. Then, over time, divine grace mixes with our concentrated effort to practice the tri-pod method. Action requires that we move out into the world to help build the Kingdom. God works incrementally from where we are in the present moment. Self, spouse, family, friend, parish and priest, work, school, sports, grocery store. Each activity in every environment calls for our Cursillo action.

Today, I was reminded that I needed to expand my action in the areas I had taken for granted. To practice Christian virtue, to practice holiness and formation but to be complacent in action was not good enough.

I will strive to do better. I will start with the October 24 Welcome Ultreya. I will take the spiritual power of the Mass, and the men's and women's weekends, out beyond my usual circles. Please come up to me and ask how I am doing. In fact, give me a push.

And ask yourself: Where is my Fourth Day?

Patrick O'Brien

Reference:

Rubio, J.H. (2003). *A Christian Theology of Marriage and Family*. New York: Paulist Press.