

First Friday's Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

By Lou Marrone

Most of us agree that there have been missed opportunities in life. Well, here is one that is for the taking and also included are the "12 Promises" made by Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque on our behalf.

You are invited to come to Mass on the first Friday of each month to partake of the Lord's banquet and be the beneficiary of His word.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

By Judy Collins

After celebrating the Rite of Election at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Kingsport on March 1, we will be in the period of Purification and Enlightenment, which coincides with Lent. This period is intended to purify the minds and hearts of the elect and candidates as they search their own consciences and do penance to enlighten their minds and hearts with a deeper knowledge of Christ the Savior. Since both candidates are already baptized, the *Scrutinies* will not be celebrated this year.

During Easter Week, the group will attend the Chrism Mass at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Knoxville on Tuesday, April 7, at 7:30 p.m. The sacraments of initiation will be celebrated during the Easter Vigil. Then, during the Easter season, we will meet for the period of Mystagogy.

Our candidates (and sponsors) are Dwayne Craigo (Lou Marrone) and Betty Pinter (Sharon Massey). Please keep them in your prayers as they continue on their faith journeys.

Renew: Why Catholic?

By Lisa Loewenkamp & Andrea Robinson

Renew: *Why Catholic?* sign-up time is here again. This is a wonderful opportunity for all adults at Notre Dame to learn more about their faith, make new friends, and strengthen the bonds within our Parish all at the same time. I asked Andrea Robinson to share her experiences with the program and her article follows.

"I am very thankful that Lisa asked me to host a RENEW group in my home because my "yes" has brought me closer to the faith community from within our small group. Being relatively new to Notre Dame, I was eager to meet other members of the church and to get to know them better, other than just seeing them for brief periods of time after the celebration of the Mass.

Our group started out with just three of us: Lisa Loewenkamp, Amanda Norris, and me. We now have five with Wendy Hankins and Vicki Maddy joining us. We love our small group and have shared our faith with prayerful reflection that has bound us together, not only as prayer partners, but as friends. Amanda Norris has dubbed us the "Christy Court Sisterhood" and our motto is, "What happens on Christy Court, stays on Christy Court!" (needless to say we have fun too!)

The RENEW program has given me a deeper appreciation for the rich traditions of our Catholic faith through the readings of the Catechism as well as a keen sense of appreciation for sharing our spiritual journey with other members of our faith community. As each member of our group comes together to share our faith, week after week, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, we feel blessed to share with one another and to "renew" our purpose in our families, communities, and world."

Cursillo

By Greg & Peggy English

The Cursillo is a spiritually united family within the Catholic Church. It began in the 1940's in Spain as an effort to reinvigorate the faith of everyday Catholics, especially men. Since then it has spread around the world and is present in most of the Catholic dioceses in the US. It is not an elitist program for the few, but rather a path to enliven our Catholic faith and help us bring that faith into our world. In fact, it dovetails very nicely with Renew: *Why Catholic?*

When Peggy and I came to Notre Dame in July of 2006, we wanted to build up the Cursillo in our new parish and had some small success at that. We have been growing the Cursillo community little by little. We now have one small woman's group and one small men's group that meet fairly regularly. We would love to have more parishioners join us.

We are tentatively planning an Ultreya for 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 26, 2009 in the parish hall. We invite all in the parish who have ever made a Cursillo weekend to attend, and we invite anyone who thinks they might have an interest in making a Cursillo weekend to attend as well. The Ultreya will consist of light and hearty snacks to be brought by anyone who wishes to contribute. After that we will have a short period of time to share our spiritual journey and experiences with one another as we break down into small groups. We will have a witness speaker who will give a 10 minute presentation on their spiritual journey and how Cursillo has helped them with that. We will close with prayer and wrap up in 1 1/2 hours.

If you have any interest in making a Cursillo weekend retreat, we have a men's weekend tentatively scheduled for Sept. 10-13, 2009, and a women's weekend tentatively set for October 1-4, 2009. I promise you these are weekends well worth attending for those of you who would like to enhance your spiritual journey and grow in your relationship with Our Lord. These are not weekends to repair damaged marriages or fix problems that other professionals are better equipped to handle. These are 3-day weekends that give you a chance to get away, gain a new perspective, and form bonds of spirituality with others traveling the same road. For more info call Greg & Peggy English at 257-3595.