Ultreya at St. Mark’s

 On Saturday, February 7, 2015, the St. Mark’s Cursillo Group hosted an Ultreya. An Ultreya is a regular gathering of Cursillistas (those who have attended a Cursillo 3 day weekend) and guests. The purpose of an Ultreya is to strengthen our walk with Christ through witness and other talks as well as the sharing of our Christian lives with small reunion groups. Christian music, fellowship, and food (light snack or meal) usually accompany an Ultreya.

 At St. Mark’s, our Ultreya began around 4 pm in St. Christopher’s Hall with an attendance of about 30 people, with at least 8 being guests (non-Cursillistas) from both St. Mark’s and other Episcopal churches in the area. We started our event by praising God through music (led by Sherre Henley and fellow musicians), and then the Ultreya officially started with prayer, followed by a “witness talk” given by Marcia Allison, who shared her Christian journey with us. An “echo”, a short talk which builds on an idea from the witness talk, was given by Virginia Chirchirillo. Fr. Roy then concluded the talks with a spiritual message that was based on the witness talk and the echo. The witness talk, the echo, and the spiritual message were enlightening and gave us much “food for thought.”

 After being spiritually enriched through the various talks, we gathered together in small groups to share how we live out our lives as Christians. This sharing of daily and weekly practices and experiences helps us to grow as Christians, both by giving us ideas of new ways to live out our Christian lives as well as by holding us accountable to one another as we strive to live out a life of piety, study, and action.

 Following the small group sharing and some brief announcements, we concluded with prayer and singing praises to God. A pot luck meal ensued. The gathering concluded around 6:30 pm.

*Presented by: Anna Ashworth, Cursillo Parish Representative*