

# The Cornerstone

October - December 2002

## A Message from the Lay Director

I hope you all have had an enjoyable summer. It has been very busy at the School of Leaders, and there is much information to pass on to you. The National Cursillo Encounter was held in Louisville this past July, and many new and exciting topics were discussed, including suggestions for environments that need to be penetrated. And the responsibility of Cursillistas to get involved in Social Action efforts. People in your Ultreya, who attend the School of Leaders, will be able to fill you in on the events at the National Encounter.

We are preparing for **both** a Women's and a Men's Cursillo weekend in October. At this time there are 15 women and 7 men. This will be the first time in about two years that we have been able to hold a men's weekend. I know that everyone on the teams and in the School of Leaders is looking forward to these weekends. Many of the candidates that I have talked to are very enthusiastic and will add much to our movement.

For the next two years we will be losing 2 of our long time members of the School, Richard and Daisy Anderberg. They will be attending the Lay Ministry Program. Our prayers go with them as we wish them success (and a speedy return to the School). Over the last two years, Daisy and Richard have been guiding forces in the Post Cursillo section.

With Richard and Daisy temporarily leaving, there will be two more vacancies in the School. Since we need about 45 people in the School, that means we will have about 30 vacancies. Please listen to the "Whisper in the wind" that Elijah talked about. God is calling you to join the School, and so are we.

With much going on and much to do, I am reminded of a favorite story of mine, which goes something like this:

A little old man died and went to heaven, where he met the Lord, and complained, "All of my life I prayed to win the lottery but never did. You said that if we asked anything in Your Name, You would grant it, but You didn't." The Lord answered, "It would have helped if you had purchased a ticket."

To me, the point the story makes is that if we pray and ask for something, we still must get out and do something to allow God to work through us. If we want world peace, we must pray and we must work for international justice. If we want to bring Christ into our environments, then we must gather up our courage and help take Him there. If Cursillo is to evangelize the world, we must do so by evangelizing our environments. If Cursillo is to fulfill its mission, then we must pray and we must form environmental groups. If the environmental groups are to succeed, the Cursillistas involved need the support of friendship groups to accomplish their work in the environments. And the friendship groups unite in the Ultreyas to obtain the support they need and to give support to other friendship groups.

If we are to carry out the mission of Cursillo, we must form and attend the groups - Environmental, Friendship, and Ultreyas - not to get strength from them, though sometimes we will, but to offer our strength to other Cursillistas. We are all depending on each other and on you.

If we are to carry out the mission of Cursillo, we must pray, and we must "buy the ticket". Hope to see you at the groups, at the Ultreya, and best yet, at the School of Leaders. Please call me (802-257-7395) to find out the place, date, and time of the next meeting.

By the time of the next newsletter (January 2003). the holidays will be over. So, while October may seem as though it is a long way from Christmas, it is the last time I will get to talk to you before Advent and Christmas. My wish for you all is a Blessed and Peaceful Holiday season.

May God bless you all.

Dan

### **From the Weekend Section**

Since we are having Cursillo Weekends soon, I thought it appropriate to visit the chapter on Palanca in the National Leaders' Manual. The following is from that source.

#### **Palanca**

When anyone takes up the work of the conversion and Christian renewal of persons and the evangelization of human groups, it is absolutely indispensable that the entire work be built upon the grace of God

This is the foundational stone upon which all other human efforts must be based and developed. This grace can be obtained only through the powerful means of trusting, constant and humble prayer.

Today, perhaps more than ever, it is necessary to remind ourselves that without God we are nothing bereft of value, and incapable of doing anything. We must reaffirm that before anything else, the most characteristic mark of the Cursillo methodology ties in the whole concept of Palanca prayers, sacrifices and works of mercy. Palanca must be genuine and offered by communities and individuals living in union with Christ and each other if the effectiveness of all other human *efforts* in the Movement is to be assured. This is to take seriously the promise of Christ: "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you." (Matt. 7:7 NAB)

In his pastoral letter on the Cursillo, Bishop Hervas quotes this first orientation from the original Leaders' Manual: "We should have the intimate and absolute conviction that everything in Cursillo is the work of God's grace. It is necessary, therefore, to pray and sacrifice oneself for the spiritual and apostolic success of the same. The miracles of God's grace are granted to confident prayer, accompanied by sacrifice, not to knowledge or experience."

A good yardstick of any local Movement is its attitude toward Palanca, its overall focus on it, and how the spirit of it is incorporated in the lives of the Spiritual Advisors and lay leaders. In this regard, a

concern for developing a spirit of prayer and self-denial should be the overriding factor. Within the Movement, we must be vigilant that the term Palanca not be misunderstood and abused so that incidental trimmings overshadow its interior call and meaning.

Colorful posters and banners are not Palanca; neither are flowers, edibles, friendship letters or good wishes. This is false palanca under the guise of "nice things". Prayer and self-denial are not "nice things," but they are more effective in securing God's grace.

It must be understood that letters are not Palanca. Letters are merely a vehicle in which we convey the actual Palanca being done. Keeping this in mind, we must realize that Palanca can be done for a particular purpose without having to write a letter about it. For instance, Palanca can be done for the effort of cursillistas in trying to utilize the Cursillo method. All of us need Palanca of this type, but it would be impractical to write letters to thousands of cursillistas. Self-denial is part and parcel of the Christian life. Any de-emphasis of it in the Movement would indicate a shift away from Christ-centeredness. In the life of the Church, we are offered seasons such as Lent and Advent to bring us back to the proper spirit. A better way would be to live in a spirit of Palanca each day.

Palanca offerings should not be limited to the three days. The selection of candidates, the study of environments, the growth of Group Reunions, Ultreyas and especially the work of Secretariats and the School of Leaders depend mostly on authentic and generous Palanca offered by all, particularly the leaders. Each one should offer something; each one should offer themselves. St. Paul reminds us in Romans 12:1, "Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice dedicated to His service and pleasing to Him."

This is the true worship we should each offer.

In the "Obstacles to Grace" talk, we are reminded that the means of mortification are varied. To obey the Gospel; to fulfill the duties of one's state in life; to accept adversities as though coming from the hand of God; to develop self-control.

These are some of the means of self-sacrifice. To love where there is no love returned; to be patient where there is impatience and misunderstanding; to go through the order of reunion faithfully even when there is no group: these are "little ways" of Palanca.

Jim Groseclose for the Weekend Section



**"So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the capstone. Through him the whole structure is held together and grows into a temple sacred in the Lord; In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit." -Eph. 2:19-22**

## **A Message from the Post Cursillo Section**

In the order of group reunion, we are asked what has helped in our spiritual growth? A sense of community has helped my spiritual growth. As I looked around on this past 9/11, the anniversary of the fabric of who we are as people, I noticed people trying to come together - to unite - to become closer - to be fully community. Fully community means fully human.

And isn't it so that on our Cursillo weekend, we are given the steps to become fully human?

We were told giving of oneself totally is the highest personal and creative act a person can accomplish. We are told this is a process, a process of change, and in order to achieve this change, we have to focus on a goal. That goal for a cursillista is to live our fully human lives in holiness.

Jesus invites us to a new relationship with God. This invitation flows from Jesus' great love for us.

We are Jesus' people. Because of this, we are to witness always to Christ. I see Christ very specially among my Cursillo family. Cursillistas live their lives just a bit differently. They are ordinary people who take time out of their busy personal schedules to reach out in holiness to God and to each other. They model holy acts like attending daily Mass, singing for a funeral or serving dinner to their mourning neighbors. They teach CCD class, serve as Eucharistic ministers, they visit the sick and homebound. They are ordinary people who take the time to observe their neighbors with the eyes of Jesus. I find this way of life very attractive. These are people who are living fully as God's children.

But it isn't easy to live this Christian life as the secular world views us as odd, or worse - bizarre, ridiculing and resenting us for refusing to bow down to the gods of their making.

Therefore, a most important aspect of our Cursillo community I have found is surrounding myself with fellow Christians and fellow cursillistas. What utter way to do this than to gather in small group to share our Holiness, Formation and Evangelization? It strengthens us and prepares us for the trials of this life. It keeps us accountable, on task, so to speak. I have found this to be the case, especially when I partake in my small group once a week. It is so important to use the tools given to us on our weekend - to share together, praying the prayer to the Holy Spirit, then following exactly the format in the Pilgrim's Guide; not just saying what was the most help to our spiritual growth, but also saying why it was the most help. Sharing our formation, we say what we have studied over the week, and if we haven't studied anything, this is the time to make a plan to study something - and decide what it will be. This plan should be shared with your group, The group will keep you accountable. Then evangelization, not such an easy task, but again, it's so important (for me, at least) to tell if the plan failed or succeeded, and if it failed, resolve to try again (I ask my group to do palanca for me so my *efforts* will be successful). Focus on a plan, then proceed.

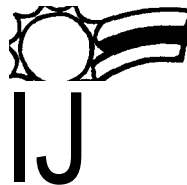
If you introduce a friend to Cursillo, don't let that friend down. Be supportive through the pre-Cursillo portion of their experience. Support them, please, with palanca during their weekend. This is so important. Then support them after. It's so important to keep extending the invitation to share a small group with them and to get them to go to Ultreya.

After I made Cursillo, I would have been content to say, "Well, it was a wonderful weekend" and sit back and get comfortable. But Helene Loux had other plans for me. She met me toe to toe and said, "Why aren't you going to Ultreya?" I hemmed and hawed, and she said, "That's no excuse. Just get there." And I did! And I believe (to my great joy) that she was instrumental in my first invitation to be on a weekend team. I was thrilled to be a part of it and I've been active in Cursillo and School of Leaders ever since, but truly, without Helene's encouragement, I wouldn't have extended myself. I would have gotten comfortable and probably would have been non-productive without her insistence that I attend Ultreya.

What a wonderful community we have! And it is still growing! For the first time in two years we will be having a Men's Cursillo Weekend At this time there are 7 candidates. The Women's Weekend has 15 candidates. Both teams are working earnestly to pull together something beautiful for God. But we need your help. Please offer palanca for the teams and the candidates. Then I ask each of you to remember the wonder of the experience of your weekend and recall the joy of the Closing. Each weekend Closing has fewer cursillistas to welcome the new cursillistas into our community, our family. I wonder, when we die and go to heaven, what if there are only a handful of angels to show up to welcome us. I guess that would be okay. After all, we wouldn't know any better, and we wouldn't be expecting anyone to show up, just like the new cursillistas. But what if an army of angels show up rejoicing? Wouldn't that be a warm welcome! So I ask you to please be active, be accountable (not comfortable) and join us at the Men's Closing, October 6 and the Women's Closing, October 20 at 4:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual He p in Bradford.

Thank you. God bless you.  
DeColores!

Judi Hussey



## Did you know?

The Cornerstone is available on-line. For those cursillistas who prefer to access the quarterly newsletter via the Web, check it out. Go to <http://www.vermontcatholic.org/cursillo.html>

If you know any cursillista who is not receiving the newsletter through regular U. S. mail and would like to, please contact Suzanne Wingate at (802) 988-4604 or P.O. Box 103, North Troy, VT 05859 with the person's name and address. The current issue will be mailed to the cursillista and the person's name will be added to the mailing list.

The Cornerstone is one way of staying connected with the Cursillo Movement throughout the state. We invite you to share with our Cursillo family and encourage YOU to send us articles on how Christ is working in your life, as well as Ultreya news items and prayer requests. Please send them to my address above. The next newsletter deadline for the January - March 2003 issue is December 1, 2002. Hope to hear from you!

## Time Out

Hot, hazy, lazy days of summer. Although it's been hot and hazy, I believe the lazy days of summer was something of the 50's and 60's. I'm a stay at home Mom and I'd like to know who made up that verse (must have been a man!) because any Mom that has three kids in soccer knows that you just don't stay home. Well, fall is just around the corner and kids are back to schooling; camping trips and family vacations are coming to a halt so there will be more time. Time ..... time for what? Time to pray, of course! Things will be more routine and settled down. Ha Ha. On a Cursillo weekend a few years back I was on the kitchen crew and had a minute (just =of course) to go listen to Father Steve's talk. The Holy Spirit revealed this to me:

What would you do if Jesus came to your door with a cup of coffee (for me it would be hot cocoa). Would you invite Him in to visit with you for 1/2 hour or so? What if He came everyday knocking at your door with His cup of coffee to share, chat about yesterday, today and tomorrow, to talk about our joys, sorrows, achievements and disappointments? Would you welcome Him, would you invite Him in, would you take the time everyday to take a coffee break to spend time with Jesus?

Well, people of Christ, you can. I have a prayer station that I've gone to for years. Here's what you do: find a corner, kind of like the one you use to stand in when you were a naughty kid a long time ago! Get a small table to put your Bible and spiritual reading material, maybe one Daily Bread book or Living Faith (start small), get a candle (blessed), holy water, crucifix, small picture of the Holy Family - no, not your spouse and children! A picture of Jesus, the Blessed Mother, Joseph, the Pope - whoever inspires you in a spiritual way. Get a comfy chair, preferably not so comfy that you'll fall asleep when you do the rosary - and don't forget your coffee. You've now made that special place. Have it blessed!

Now, set aside, at first, 5 to 10 minutes to spend with the Lord and find out what He has in store for you that day. Offer your day to the Lord. Father Steve also gave the advice when you wake up and throughout the day make the Sign of the Cross on your forehead, lips and heart that Christ's word may be in your mind, on your lips, and in your hearts. Once you make that commitment to spend time with the Lord, you will be blessed triplefold, Will your day go without trials and tribulations? No, I think not. But, you will have the Lord's peace sustaining you throughout the day and the readings for the next day might, in some way, answer the questions you had the day before.

Pick a day that you make the commitment to Christ and stick to it. Remember - Christ is Counting on You. Let us pray: Lord, give us the grace to desire to spend one on one time with you, make it a priority in our lives from this moment forward. Let us feel your love and compassion and pour on the grace. Thank you, Jesus.

Gotta go now to PRAY! God bless and love to all of you.

Your sister in Christ,  
Kim Parisi



# Ultreyas

<b>Bellows Falls Area:</b>	2nd Tuesday of each month 7:00 p.m. St. Charles Parish Hall
<b>Enosbnrg Area:</b>	2nd Monday of each month 7:30 p.m. Call Anne or Sonny Cote at 326-4604 for place
<b>Rutland Area:</b>	3rd Tuesday of each month 7:00 p.m. St. Alphonsus Parish Hall
<b>St. Albans Area:</b>	1st Wednesday of each month 7:00 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Hall
<b>St. Johnsbury/</b>	Please check parish bulletin for upcoming Ultreya
<b>Lyndonville Area:</b>	
<b>Southeastern Area:</b>	3rd Wednesday of each month Call Ultreya Committee for time and place
<b>Troy Area:</b>	2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month 7:30 p.m. Sacred Heart Parish Hall

## N Let Us Pray N

Our sympathy is extended to Tim Wills and his family on the recent death of his mother and father.

- We ask for prayers for healing for Sandy Hurlbut as she continues her recovery from knee surgery, for Phillis Swinyer in her continuing recovery from her long battle, Lucille Bresette for recovery from her illness.

Let us pray for all who suffer afflictions and who suffer with addiction of any kind.

- We offer our sympathy to Jim and Jean Groseclose on the death of Jim's cousin Larry.
- Please pray for Pauline and Ronald Sanville and their daughter and family upon the untimely death of their son-in-law Steve.

Let us pray for Joe Poirier, husband of Viola Poirier, for the success of his surgery and a speedy recuperation.

Please pray for Sue Driscoll for a speedy recovery from her upcoming surgery.

- For those who have entered the Lay Ministry Program and the Diaconate. May they be blessed with strength and perseverance as they continue in their study and formation.

Prayers are requested for the team coordinators of the Men's and Women's Cursillo Weekends, Jim Groseclose and Judi Hussey, and for all members of the teams. Let us pray and offer palanca for them and for the candidates attending these special weekends.

- In thanksgiving for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us, our families, our community and our country. Let us never take these gifts for granted.

# **News from the school of Leaders**

**Next Step Program for our new cursillistas** - December 1, 2002.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Bradford, VT. Please contact your sponsor or Ultreya for time.

**Vermont Cursillo Renewal Weekend** - Mark your calendars!

April 4, 5 and 6, 2003. The weekend will be held at En Gaddi in Phillipsburg, Quebec, Canada. More information will be coming in the next newsletter.

## **Thank You**

"...He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them." - Hebrews 6:10

Dear Members of the Vermont Leaders' School,

What a great surprise to receive the plaque of acknowledgment for my work in Cursillo!!

For me though, it was a work of love. It has been a privilege to be the instrument which helped brothers and sisters to deepen their relationship with Brother Christ.

Being convinced of the importance of Cursillo, I am willing to do whatever I can to help the movement. I know that it does require a lot of sacrifice and hard work on your part. Be assured of my prayers. Peace! joy! Love!

Father Lively

## **Evangelization Prayer**

Almighty and ever-loving Father,

we praise and thank you for the knowledge of the love revealed in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us always be mindful of your precious love for all the world, so undeserved, yet so freely given.

Help us to live our lives in such a way that others will see the love of Jesus in us and be drawn to want the same.

We ask for your special blessing upon the Cursillo Movement; that through the Holy Spirit, this way of Christian community becomes an example of your loving care for all.

Let us grow together in your love; strengthen us and help us to bring others to you.

Thank you for your love and sharing your graces with us.

Amen

**83rd Vermont Men's  
Cursillo Weekend  
October 3 - 6, 2002  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
Retreat Center  
Bradford, VT**

**"In Him We Live"**

**Spiritual Team**

Father Dan Sabatos, Bellows Falls, VT  
Deacon Jack Rixon, St. Albans, VT

**Team Coordinator**

Jim Groseclose, Fairfax, VT

**Auxiliary**

Jerry Driscoll, Bondville, VT

**Music**

Bob Bessette, Fairfax, VT

**Rollo Team**

Bill Aloisi, Putney, Vt  
Richard Anderberg, Newfane, Vr  
Dan Daigler, Dummerston, VT

**Kitchen Team**

Gary Hall, South Burlington, VT  
Phil Frechette, Concord, VT  
Peter Fitzgerald, Fairfax, VT  
Normand Raymond, Putney, VT

**\*Candidates**

Jean Charles, Lyndonville, VT  
Sylvester Gallehos, Saxons River, VT  
Dan Keenan, Townshend, VT  
Alfred Letourneau, Barre, VT  
Jon Sargent, North Walpole, NH  
Michael Theoret, Fairfax, VT  
Brandon Williams, Enosburg Falls, VT

\*List may be incomplete at the  
time of printing this newsletter.

**91 st Vermont Women's  
Cursillo Weekend  
October 17 - 20, 2002  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
Retreat Center  
Bradford, VT**

**"Christ Lives Within Me"**

**Spiritual Team**

Father Jerry Leclerc, Enosburg Falls, Vt  
Deacon Al Toborg, Lyndonville, VT

**Team Coordinator**

Judi Hussey, Orleans, VT

**Auxiliary**

Marilyn LaBarr, Wardsboro, VT

**Music**

Rachel Roy, Enosburg Falls, VT

**Rollo Team**

Daisy Anderberg, Newfane, VT  
Linda Cagney, Brookline, VT  
Sabra Graden, Island Pond, VT  
Doris Poirier, Barton, VT  
Jackie Young, St. Albans, VT  
Kim Parisi, Fairfax, VT

**\*Kitchen Team**

Blanche Coulombe, Essex Junction, VT  
Jean Groseclose, Fairfax, VT  
Diane Geoffroy, Lowell, VT  
Linda Frechette, Concord, VT

**\*Candidates**

Diane Bailey, Lyndonville, VT  
Denise Ferrari, Barre, VT  
Clayre Hall, Norton, VT  
Hedvig (Hedy) Jeffrey, Brattleboro, VT  
Trish Keenan, Townshend, VT  
Lilla Kirally North Walpole, NH  
Alice Krol, Essex Junction, VT  
Marguerite Larose, Swanton, VT  
Wendy Lillie, Bellows Falls, VT  
Ann Racicot, Troy, VT  
Mary Beth Redding, Fairfax, VT  
Ann Marie Scott, Jamaica, VT  
Claudia Sofeld, Newfane, VT  
Marlene Stoddard, Brattleboro, VT  
Anna Wieser, Stratton Mountain, VT

r

c/o Suzanne Wingate  
p.O.Box 103  
North Troy, VT 05959

Return service Requested

### **Mission Statement**

The Cursillo in Christianity is a Movement of the Roman Catholic Church that is committed to spreading the Gospel message utilizing a specific method and strategy.