



## The Cornerstone

*January - March 2002*

From the Lay Director

The end of the year that was just around the corner when our last newsletter was published is now staring us in the face. Many of the "going to happens" have now occurred. We should praise and thank God for the success of those events. The Women's Cursillo Weekend, the Cursillo Leaders' Workshop, and the Next Step program were well attended. If you were unable to attend them, we missed you. We thank the Holy Spirit and the Teams for their efforts.

AND COMING UP is the Cursillo Movement's Holiday Party to be held on January 13th in Pittsford, VT at St. Alphonse's Church Hall. For information, please contact Phillis Swinyer. Also, Cursillo Weekends are planned for April - the deadline for having at least 10 candidates for each weekend is January 15<sup>th</sup>.

One of the topics that was discussed during the Leaders Workshop was Palanca. What type of palanca is appropriate for candidates making their weekend? To help answer that question, we need to look back at the Weekend and its purpose. A Cursillo Weekend is a conversion experience where the candidates encounter the Holy Spirit and undergo, or start to undergo, a conversion process which will last their lifetime.

The Purpose of the Weekend is, however, to teach cursillistas how to evangelize their environments. It is also to teach the new cursillista how to form Christian communities, communities that will change their environments and form larger communities. Everything that is done on a Weekend should be done in such a way that it "drives home" this point. Conversely, anything that confuses this issue or sends a mixed message should be eliminated. If we think about some of the hardest or least successful lessons in teaching our children, these were the ones where we told them one thing, while they observed us doing something else. So why does the National Cursillo Movement have a policy that says that we should not have individual palanca (a letter addressed to George that says, "I, Dan, am praying for you., George, on your Weekend.") being sent to candidates on the weekend? Because it sends a mixed message to them. Instead of their Weekend teaching them what is important - that "the Christian Community of Angel Heights is praying for your Weekend Christian Community," we are, through our example, teaching them that what is really important is that I am, as an individual, praying for you as an individual. So for future Weekends, let us resolve to only send palanca from the Movement, Ultreya, or Small Group to the Weekend Community.

May Jesus bless and be with all of you,

Dan,

Lay Director

([dad@sover.net](mailto:dad@sover.net))

## **A Note from the Pre Cursillo Coordinator**

What piece of the puzzle do you hold for Cursillo and the Church?

If you think of our Church as a puzzle board and everyone's contribution a piece of the puzzle, where would, or does, your piece fit in? Jesus is counting on your piece to complete the puzzle. Puzzle pieces can be as simple as giving someone a ride to church, to comforting someone who's experiencing trouble or loss, to being a greeter at church. Don't discount those "little things" that lead us to making a friend, and being a friend. That's what Cursillo is all about and Jesus is counting on us, not just when we get around to it, but everyday of our lives. Let's not let the opportunities pass us by; they might just be that perfect piece God needs for the puzzle.

De Colores

Sue Driscoll, Pre Cursillo Coordinator

## **From the Weekend Coordinator**

Now that the holidays are behind us, let us come together to celebrate our lives as a Christian community. Please come to the Cursillo Holiday Party on Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 p.m. on. Everyone is invited to this event to be held at St. Alphonse's Parish Hall in Pittsford, VT. Bring a potluck dish to share. Come, relax and have a good time! For more information, please call Phillis Swinyer at (802) 773-4979.

Also, please be thinking about and praying for new candidates for our upcoming Cursillo Weekends scheduled for early spring.

Phillis Swinyer, Weekend Coordinator

## **A Meditation**

**God has created me to do some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission - I may never know it in this Life but I shall be told it in the next.**

**I am a Link I a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place while not intending it - if I do but keep His commandments.**

**Therefore I will trust Him. Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him; in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him; if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends, He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, him my future from me - still He knows what He is about.**

**John Henry Cardinal Newman**

## Post Cursillo News

On November 9-11th, the Regional Team presented a Cursillo Leaders Workshop I. This was a "next step" for those of us making our Cursillo Weekend several years ago. We all need a booster shot at times and this gave us the further knowledge and love of Christ to help us persevere in our fourth day.

The "Next Step" program was held on November 15<sup>th</sup> for all the women who made their Weekend in October. This program is designed to help them get into a routine of Ultreya and Small Group Reunion. We ask that you all be open to inviting them to join you at the Ultreya and to help them get into small group reunion, either joining a group already existing or to help them get one started.

"Our own fourth day continuing."

e.van.geldsm; a preaching of, or zealous effort to spread the gospel.

e.van.gel.ist; a bringer of good news; any of the four writers of the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke or John,

e.van.gel.ize; to preach the gospel; to convert to Christianity.

We have an obligation through our Baptism to evangelize. We have that same obligation as part of the Vermont Cursillo.

Evangelism happens when you instruct someone with a knowledge of Christ that they did not know. Evangelism is the main objective of Cursillo.

To reach an objective, we must set goals. Evangelize our family, neighborhood, school, workplace, etc. Unless we are confining ourselves to a group of people who have the same thoughts, ideas and beliefs as we do, we have an opportunity to evangelize every day.

We have all heard that seventy percent of the population of Vermont is unchurched. They have no church affiliation, so how can we not have evangelization as our priority.

By starting out small and working our way through our list of goals, we can make a difference.

A small group reunion does not have to be made up of all Catholics or only people who are part of the Vermont Cursillo. It only needs to be with people who want to change their environment for the better. I give the following example: I recently met a woman who works in a small office. There are two others, one who is active in her faith and the other is a non-practicing Catholic. Each was unhappy with their workplace and when approached to change their environment, they said yes. Now they meet each morning to pray together before work, having the support of each other in good times and in bad.

The many small group reunions that we have going on, come together to form the larger community known as the Ultreya. The Ultreya is the perseverance we all need to evangelize.

Daisy Anderberg, Post Cursillo Coordinator

## ULTREYA      CALENDAR

Bellows Falls Area: 2nd Tuesday of each month

Jan 8 7:00 p.m. St. Charles Parish Hall

Feb 12 same time and place

Mar 12 same time and place

Enosburg Area: 3rd Monday of each month

Jan 21 7:30 p.m. call Anne Cote for place

Feb 18 call 326-4604

Mar 18 call 326-4604

Rutland Area: 3rd Tuesday of each month

Jan 15 call Ultreya committee for time and

Feb 19 place

Mar 19

St. Albans Area: 1 st Wednesday of each month\*

Jan 6\* Sunday Epiphany Party at Rectory  
hosted by Fr. Laroche. Bring a dish

or goodies to share. 6:00 p.m.

Feb 6 7:30 p.m. St. Marys Parish Hall

Mar 6 same time and place

St. Johnsbury Area: 4th Tuesday of each  
month

Jan 22 7:00 p.m. St. John the Evangelist

Feb 26 same time and place

Mar 26 same time and place

Southeastern Area: 3rd Wednesday of each  
month

Jan 16 call Ultreya committee for time and

Feb 20 place

Mar 20

Troy Area: 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each  
month

Jan 9 & 23 7:30 p.m. Sacred Heart Center

Feb 13 & 27 same time and place

Mar 13 & 27 same time and place

### Ultreya News

Southeastern Area:

Congratulations to Jerry and Sue Driscoll  
who celebrated their 45th wedding  
anniversary on December 1st.

## CURSILLO CALENDAR

Jan 13 School of Leaders

**St. Alphonse '   
Pittsford 12 noon**

Feb 23 School of Leaders

Our Lady of Perpetual Help,

Bradford 9:30 a.m.

Mar ? School of Leaders

date to be announced

Please remember that we need to have  
ten candidates by January 15th for the  
spring Men's and Women's Cursillo  
Weekends.

### Prayer Requests

It is requested that each cursillista pray a  
decade of the Rosary daily for the Cursillo  
Movement and the School of Leaders.

Also, please remember that Palanca day is  
from noon Thursday to noon Friday.

**Troy:** Prayers are requested for Joe Poirier,  
husband of Viola. Also, continued prayers  
are requested for the healing of Cora  
DeLabriere, Jean Paul Couture, and Leon  
Couture and their families. Please keep Jean  
Beaulieu in your prayers as she continues  
her recovery from hip replacement surgery.

Southeastern: Our prayers of sympathy  
go out to Lois Dioro upon the loss of her  
son. Also, please pray for Sue Driscoll, that  
she recover from her illness.

Burlington: Please pray for the speedy  
recovery of Doris Allard as she recuperates  
from knee surgery.

St. Albans: Please pray for Amy  
Boissonneault, daughter of Giles and Carol.

## "Preach Always. Use Words If You Must."

Evangelization means to "proclaim the good news." On our weekend we used the word "action." How we stumbled over our action. We never felt we did enough action and we were never quite sure how to perform our action. In thinking back about this, I think we need to give ourselves more credit for our action sharing.

We were also told that we might be the only Bible some people would read. We know actions speak louder than words. Children learn what they see - not what they are told. We know that we preach by the way we live. A twisted, deceased tree cannot produce good fruit. You cannot teach what you do not believe.

So, does the goodness we present come to us without effort? Not really. We have to feed ourselves with prayer, study the scriptures and the writings of the Church fathers to grow in the love of Jesus. It is not possible to give what you do not have. I think this is what makes the Cursillo program

so successful in building a fruitful, happy life. The combination of prayer and study which leads into action - or a love for humankind - is a sharing of the love of Jesus with the world.

Jesus has a parable that says you do not light a lamp and hide it under a basket. We are the light of the world if Jesus' love is burning in our hearts. The devil loves darkness - only the light of Jesus will dispel this darkness. It's hard to confront the evil we see and even harder to change it. There is much pain in the world manifesting itself in anger, destruction, addictions, abuse, and on, and on. There is a need to bring Love back to the world. This is the duty of the Christian - to live as light to the world - not just to bring light, but also to be light. This is the meaning of evangelization.

It is what Mother Teresa did when she worked with the dying. She became totally immersed in her work for the love of Jesus. If she had done this work for the love of man it would have been great social work - and that is very good. But by her words we know that every act was done because she loved Jesus so much and His love shone through her into the world. And this light put color, joy, and happiness into her environment. This is, I believe, true evangelizing.

So I suggest that we start where we are. Bloom where we are planted - and strive to bring that light from our hearts into the places where we live. In this way, we proclaim the Good News!

*(Excerpt from Ultreya talk by Joan Berthiaume)*

The Cornerstone is now available on-line at [www.vermontcatholic.org/cursillo.html](http://www.vermontcatholic.org/cursillo.html)

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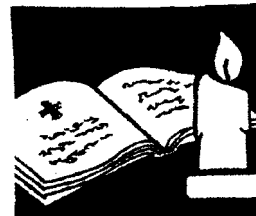
**NAME**

**STREET.**

**TOWN**

**STATE**

**ZIP**



Please send your prayer requests and articles to be printed in the next newsletter to:  
Suzanne Wingate  
P.O. Box 103

North Troy, VT 05859

We ask that all Ultreya Committees send us any items they wish to include in the newsletter, along with the dates, times and places of their April, May and June Ultreyas no later than March 1st. Thank you for your help.