

Vermont Cursillo

The Cornerstone

April - June 2003

A Message from the Lay Director

As I write this, March is fast approaching, and so is Lent. This year I am actually looking forward to this Lent. It is a time where I can reexamine my life in Christ, in the Church, and in Cursillo. While I suppose I am able to do this any time, Lent is a special time of reflection, and I will try to use tools at hand to do so. Our parish is planning to have gatherings to say the rosary, to walk the Stations of the Cross, and there is daily Mass. I won't be able to use all of these because of my work, but I can make some of them. I look forward to these times of reflection.

In April, Cursillo will be holding a Renewal Weekend at the Convent (En-Gaddi) in Phillipsburg, Canada. I will also try to attend this. It will offer a time to reflect on my relationship with Christ, and how well I am carrying out his command to bring Christ to my environments. It will also let me reflect on how to do that, a chance to talk to God, before charging out into the world.

I invite you to come along with me on this journey of Lent, if not physically, then in spirit and prayer. Please keep me and the School of Leaders in your prayers; you will remain in ours.

God bless you all,
Dan

Pre--Cursillo Section

The Pre-Cursillo section has examined many areas of interest and has distributed a state-wide appeal to all Vermont priests to aid in obtaining possible candidates for Vermont Cursillo's upcoming weekends.

We believe that most candidates are the result of current Cursillo members' efforts and urge that you use God's help in a concerted way in using the "make a friend, be a friend, bring your friend to Christ" tried and true method. Once you have enrolled your friend, be a proper sponsor and help your candidate into and beyond his or her weekend. We are asking current Cursillo members to seek God's help in this wonderful task. God is with you, and your help to that special friend cannot

fail. Applications and further assistance are available from Dan Daigler, our Lay Director.

Bill Aloisi
for the Pre-Cursillo Section

from the Weekend Section

It must not be forgotten that the reason for the Weekend, its objective and its subject, is the participants.

A. The short, intense course in living what is fundamental for being a Christian in common with others, is not only to convert the candidates to Christ, but also to help them find their place in the Church, which is living as apostolic laity in the world (family, neighborhood, work, social). If all things are equal and done right, they will have been prepared because of their unique place in one certain environment.

B. The conversion that takes place on the Weekend must include the willingness of the person to accept the Cursillo method as the best answer to:

1. being a Christian in the world in an ongoing way;
2. living and sharing in Christian community with a group of friends;
3. the need for a sense of the Church in its evangelizing mission.

C. The communication of these principles and truths of Christianity will be accomplished collectively through the talks and individually through personal contact. Christian community will be experienced only to a small degree by the techniques we use on the Weekend. It will be experienced to a larger degree through the grace from Palanca and the spiritual exercises, especially the Eucharist and prayer.

Ensure that the Sunday Message is heard.

Most of us, if pressed, will admit that most Sundays on a Cursillo Weekend are rushed. Proper time and

attention is not given to the importance of this day.
What can we do about it?

Stay on schedule and end each night on schedule - eliminate things that keep the candidates and team up beyond the scheduled time.
How could they have missed it? In some cases, the point is being missed by some of the candidates because they are being drowned and flooded with activities, prolonged singing and serenades that fill up the time and wear them out. We are not leaving room for the proper spirit. Evangelization is essentially the work of the Spirit. Proclamation of the Gospel, together with the living experience, which personifies it, is sufficient to bring about change in candidates without resorting to artificial means or psychological pressure. Acceptance of this fact is a testimony of belief in the power of the Holy Spirit, the Gospel, Grace and the living experiences of those who have been given the responsibility to teach. (See 3 Day Manual on personal freedom, pages 2, 27, & 30).

- Ensure that the people giving the talks on Sunday can give witness to the Study and Evangelization of Environments and how the speaker giving the Christian Community talk can witness to forming a group of Christians in his/her environment for the purpose of leavening that environment.
- Ensure that proper treatment is given to the Group Reunion and Ultreya talk and that the candidates have ample time to experience the Group Reunion after the talk.

End result - At the end of the 3-Day Cursillo Weekend, the participants should be able to see that it is possible to live Christianity in the world by using the Cursillo Method.

- They should leave the Weekend with a feeling of I want a small group of friends to live and share my life with (a Cursillo friendship group),
- They should leave the Weekend with a vision of what is possible if I live out my Christian life individually and with others in an environment and that I need to share that with the larger community (Ultreya).
- The test of how successful a weekend was can be evaluated at the Closing. While the true measurement of success lies in the evangelistic efforts done well beyond the 3-Day Cursillo Weekend, we are able to possibly determine how well the candidates have been prepared by the witness they give at the Closing. ("I've been called by the Lord to be an evangelizer. I must work to bring others to Christ. I

want to share my Christian life with others in order to be a more effective evangelizer.")

- On the other hand, if the witness we hear is just a "me and Christ" type of witness - a vertical witness, then maybe we ought to examine how we are conducting our Weekends, our diocesan Cursillo leaders and those who were team members for the Weekend.

The above message comes from a talk given at the National Encounter in July 2002

Post- Cursillo Section

Lent is upon us again. My prayer for each of you is to embrace this season of challenge to change with joy.

Isn't God amazing to ponder? There is so much I don't know about Him. But there are some things I do know. I'm pretty sure He loves diversity. It's evident in the wonderful earth He created for us. There are such glorious colors, such different terrain and climates.

Something as simple as a tree goes through many changes; in the spring, tiny, tender green leaves sprout to become vibrant green. Then each leaf takes on its own distinguished shade and hue of color to fall off and leave a bare twig.

God celebrates individualism and diversity.

Sadly, humans do not. We are afraid to celebrate diversity; we do not love many colors of people; we do not become excited about what they honor or esteem in their cultures. We resist trying to learn or share with one another.

As I think about this, don't we deprive ourselves of the gifts God offers us? If we put aside our differences, wouldn't we become stronger, better rounded, more mature, more holy people?

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus challenges us to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect.

That's a tall order, don't you think?

During this lenten season, I'm looking to scripture for direction. As I meditated on this verse today, I've come to the honest revelation that I fear perfection because perfection is hard; there's really no way for me to become

perfect in this life. So why bother, right? Except that I want to be a Christian, and in order to do that I have to be obedient, and really, Jesus commands us to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect. A real Catch-22.

It's not going to be easy for me. It isn't easy to celebrate diversity. It is less difficult when I espouse the rights of my third world brothers and sisters and write a check to help their cause. That's relatively painless. It's a feel good kind of thing. It doesn't take much effort or time.

But I find it a whole different ballgame to celebrate diversity when my spouse, child or co-worker disagrees with me or challenges me or is simply in a bad mood.

I find myself defensive, self-righteous, and sometimes angry in response.

Yet, if I still my soul, I hear that quiet whisper, "Be perfect as my Heavenly Father is perfect..." There's the rub.

God knows I am unable to become perfect alone. He gives me the tools to work on perfection. He gives me His grace (no small gift!).

He give me His Eucharist and I am called to share in His perfect prayer, the Mass. We are still fortunate enough in most places to be able to attend Mass every day if we wish.

He has given me like-minded brothers and sisters to surround myself with, especially within the Cursillo movement.

In order for me to become a stronger, more mature, fully human Christian, I need to utilize these tools. I need to attend (weekly) my small group. I need to share in my group and Ultreya, my personal successes and failures, my failure to swallow angry words, pride, or righteous indignation. Then I can plan to change my environment to be more Christian, but I can't do it alone. I need to ask my fellow Cursillistas to pray for me and do palanca for me so I am able to change my attitude and be able to initiate change within myself, then in my environment. With their prayers and palanca backing me, I will receive grace and comfort. I will succeed.

I also plan to reread a book from National Ultreya Publications written by Fr. Frank Salmani called Whom Shall I Send? Discerning the Will of God. I strongly recommend this small book. Please ask any member of the School of Leaders how to get one. We'll be happy to order it for you, or mail your request to Suzanne, c/o The Cornerstone, P.O. Box 103, North Troy, VT 05859, and we'll get it to you.

God celebrates diversity and calls us to do the same. Our world is beautiful, but hurting; if we all effect positive change within our own environments, it can become a better world. We are all called to become perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect

De Colores!

Your sister in Christ,
Judi Hussey

Prayer Requests

Please pray for Lucille Bresett
(Bellows Falls Ultreya)

(Please pray for continued healing for Sue Driscoll .

Please pray for Doris Allard as she recovers from triple bypass surgery.

The Troy Ultreya asks for prayers for the healing of Jean Paul Bonneau, Gordon Amidon and Viola Laliberty.

•• We offer condolences and prayers to Jean Paul and Theresa Couture on the loss of Jean Paul's brother Roc Couture.

Our sympathy and prayers to Father Joe Romano on the death of his mother Veronica.

In Thanksgiving for the joyous occasions of birthdays and anniversaries celebrated by Cursillistas this quarter.

We offer congratulations and prayers on the wedding anniversaries of Matt and Kim Parisi (Feb. 10) and Jim and Jean Groseclose

Special thanks and prayers for Father Joseph Romano as he celebrates his 40th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood,

School of Leaders

The School of Leaders meets the last Saturday of the month. Contact the SOL member of your Ultreya for further information, or call Dan Daigler at (802) 257-7395.

The Renewal Weekend was canceled due to the poor weather conditions. A reschedule date is pending.

Upcoming Cursillo Weekends in Vermont are scheduled as follows:

Men's Weekend: October 2 - 5, 2003
Women's Weekend: October 16 - 19, 2003

Please pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance for candidates, the teams and the School of Leaders.

Not receiving The Cornerstone? Please send your name and address to:
The Cornerstone

c/o Suzanne Wingate P.O.
Box 103
North Troy, VT 05859

The newsletter is also available on-line at:

<http://www.vermontcatholic.org/cursillo.html>

The next deadline is June 12003. Please send us your Ultreya news, prayer requests articles by This date

Ultreya

Bellows Falls Area:
2nd Tuesday of each month 7:00 p.m. St. Charles Parish Hall

Enosburg Area:
2nd Monday of each month
7:30 p.m. Call Anne or Sonny Cote at 326-4604 for place

Rutland Area:
3rd Tuesday of each month
7:00 p.m. St. Alphonsus Parish Hall

St. Albans Area:
1st Wednesday of each month 7:00 p.m. St. Man's Parish Hall
May 7 7th : Check with Bob Brodeur or Jim Groseclose for time. This is our annual potluck and families are invited.

St. Johnsbury/Lyndonville Area:
Please check parish bulletin for upcoming Ultreya

Southeastern Area:
3rd Wednesday of each month
Call Ultreya Committee for time and place

Troy Area:
2nd and 4th Wednesday_ of each month 7:30 p.m. Sacred Heart Parish Hall