

The Cornerstone

April - June 2002

A Message from Our Spiritual Advisor...

Easter greetings to you in these glorious fifty days! There's a popular hymn being sung these days, perhaps you've heard it. It's called "Roll Away the Stone". The hymn is about the resurrection of Our Lord. But a few weeks ago on the fifth Sunday of Lent, we heard about the raising of Lazarus from the dead by Our Lord, who said outside the Bethany tomb, "Take away the stone." I've been thinking about this lately: how the raising of Lazarus was Jesus' greatest miracle, a sign that would prepare God's people for the impending resurrection of The Christ -- and prepare each believer for his/her own!

Just as Jesus expects his disciples "to die to self" a little more each day, He probably also desires to raise us up a little each day. If Christ raised Lazarus from the dead by calling out to him in the tomb, "Come out!", couldn't He do the same for us as well? After all, St. John tells us that Lazarus was someone whom Jesus loved. Aren't we loved by Christ too?

In these glorious Easter days, we celebrate the empty tomb of Our Lord; the awesome fact that death has no claim over the Lord of Life! Perhaps we should re-visit the tomb of Lazarus, our brother, and put ourselves in his place... allow ourselves to be called forth into the light and the fresh air.

Imagine the Risen Jesus calling out to YOU in these beautiful Easter days: "Come out!... come out from the tomb of your preoccupation with self, open your eyes to the needs of those around you. Come out from your burial place of busyness; be untied from the unimportant, the ephemeral, the material; be free to experience the essential, the eternal, the spiritual. Come out from the tomb of uninvolvedness and dare to challenge the injustices in this world. **Come out from your thick-walled tomb of worry; be free of the shackles of anxiety and entrust** yourself once more to the providential care of your devoted Father! Come out from the dark loneliness of death; be forever untied from its bonds and share the freedom of everlasting life with the God who loves you beyond all human imagining!... "Come out!!!"

May the Peace of Our Risen Lord be with you throughout these glorious fifty days!

- Father Steve Nichols

From the Lay Director

We have just completed two of the most significant seasons within the Church, Christmas and Easter. What joy they bring to us as we think about Our Savior and all of the blessings that God bestows on us. BC (that's Before Cursillo) I don't think I actually thought about the significance of these past four months and how they took us from Jesus' birth right through to the Resurrection and Pentecost.

And now we are in for a long stretch of what is called the Ordinary Times. But they aren't really "ordinary," are they? After Pentecost, the Apostles were sent out to "go and make disciples of all nations," just as we are sent to environments to evangelize them. Just as the Apostles had a support system - each other, and Mary, our Blessed Virgin Mother, and Mary Magdalene, and the disciples, so

we, too, have our support system - the Ultreya and our Small Groups, and Jesus and Mary and all of the Church Triumphant. And so it is time for us to get to work doing the will of our Heavenly Father.

And what will we be doing as we are doing God's will? We will be going to picnics (no reason why work can't also be fun). And we will be going to Ultreyas and Small Group (no reason why work can't be socially enjoyable). And we will be making new friends, friends with whom we can share the GOOD NEWS of Jesus. And we will also be developing our own holiness (retreats, especially with fellow Cursillistas can be fun, as well as helping us be more Christ-centered). And we will be working on our own formation (Cursillo workshops, Bible study, Regional Reunions and Weekend teams). Daisy and Richard, and Jean and Judi and Jim and all the rest of the School of Leaders are planning a year of events to help you in your 4th Day. All of this is the work of Our Father in Heaven.

Did I mention the School of Leaders is looking for help? There is a lot to do this year, if you are willing to try to help other Cursillistas in their 4th Day.

May Jesus bless and protect you in your "Ordinary Times."

- Dan

Life Blood

We hear often on the radio or on T. V. or even read in the newspaper of life saving events or happenings in our community or in the world. They often involve people who gave no thought to themselves trying to rescue or save someone else. Then there are often lots of non-hero-like people who on a monthly basis give some of their blood to be used to help in the healing, or possible even in the saving, of someone's life. Blood, we know from reading our Bible, has always been considered a sign of life. God even used blood to show His covenant of caring for the Jewish people in Egypt. He called a plague on the Egyptians that would kill all the male children, but He told the Jews to paint their doorways with lamb's blood so the angel of death would "pass over" them and they would be safe.

I like to think that just as blood transfusions can sometimes extend our physical life, God provides us with "transfusions" for our spiritual lives, our souls. Sometimes we let our spiritual life get sick and even die... by walking away from God, neglecting our prayer and spiritual life, by not receiving Reconciliation or Eucharist or from just continuing to sin.

We are fortunate in belonging to Cursillo, in having so many fellow travelers on the road with us. With our Ultreyas and our small groups, we can get that spiritual "shot in the arm" weekly and monthly. The "method" works well to keep us on track with our goals of Holiness, Formation and Evangelization. We can also receive these "transfusions" by helping and healing others with our care and concern for them, adults, children, even strangers, by giving of ourselves, just as we might at the blood bank.

Are you in need of a "spiritual transfusion?" Been to Ultreya lately?

Sue Driscoll
Pre Cursillo Coordinator

Weekend Section Report

The weekend section has spent considerable time recently reviewing and updating the Vermont Team Coordinator's Manual. These changes are being made to reflect both our current practices and the need to adopt the weekend schedule, as closely as possible, to that of the three day manual from National Cursillo.

While in the past Vermont Cursillo has tried to adhere as closely as possible to the National materials, there were areas we needed to address so as to allow for some new activities. This is the thrust of our work.

One example of a new activity is a "Sabatina to **Mary**" on Saturday. It is about 10 minutes in length and honors the Blessed Virgin Mary on her day.

We expect to continue this work in the future as there is always more that needs to be done.

Jim Groseclose for Phillis Swinyer
Weekend Section Coordinator

From the Post Cursillo Section

CHRIST IS COUNTING ON US.

Do we remember this from when we received our crosses?

On our journey through life, the sharing in our friendship group and Ultreya keeps us mindful of our spiritual growth and how we are trying to do the will of our Lord.

We do know that in our Diocese, we have fewer Ultreyas than we did have. Possibly small groups also... We are hoping to put together a one day Ultreya workshop soon. A response of interest you may have in this would be helpful. Also if you need help in joining or forming an Ultreya, please let us know that too.

Last fall we held a CLW 1 workshop in our Diocese. We are now waiting for information from regional so that we can start planning a CLW2.

Please keep the School of Leaders in your prayers.
May God's love fill your heart this Easter time.

Your brother in Christ,
Richard Anderberg
Post Cursillo Section

Lord God, you love us and have a perfect plan for our lives.

In love you speak your plan to us; give us the grace to listen.

We know you have work for us;

give us the strength to be your obedient servants.



CURSILLO CALENDAR

Bellows Falls Area: 2nd Tuesday of each month

Apr 9 7:00 p.m. St. Charles Parish Hall

May 14 same time and place

Jun 11 same time and place

Enosburg Area: 3rd Monday of each month

Apr 15 7:30 p.m. call Anne Cote for place

May 20 call 326-4604

Jun 17 call 326-4604

Norwich Area: 1st Tuesday of each month

Apr 2 call Ultreya committee for time and

May 7 place

Jun 4

Rutland Area: 3rd Tuesday of each month

Apr 16 call Ultreya committee for time and

May 21 place

Jun 18

St. Albans Area: 1st Wednesday of each month

Apr 3 7:00 p.m. (note time change)

May 1 Annual Pot Luck Dinner

6:00 p.m., St. Mary's Parish

Center. All Cursillistas & Families

welcome. A good will offering will be

accepted as this is our major

fundraiser for the year.

Jun 5 7:00 p.m. St. Mary's Parish

Center

St. Johnsbury Area: 4th Tuesday of each month

Apr 23 7:00 p.m. St. John the Evangelist

May 28 same time and place

Jun 25 same time and place

Southeastern Area: 3rd Wednesday of each month

Apr 17 call Ultreya committee for time and

May 15 place

Jun 19

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

Apr 9 7:30 p.m. Sacred Heart Center

* Only one meeting in April

May 8 & 22 same time and place

Jun 12 & 26 same time and place

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.

Apr 27 School of Leaders
Our Lady of Perpetual Help,
Bradford 9:00 a.m.

June 1 School of Leaders
Our Lady of Perpetual Help,
Bradford 9:00 a.m.

June 29 School of Leaders
Our Lady of Perpetual Help,
Bradford 9:00 a.m.

The Men's Cursillo Weekend is being planned for October 3 through October 6, 2002. The Women's Cursillo Weekend is also being planned for October 17 through October 20, 2002. Please pray for candidates. The application deadline will be sometime in mid-July.

Ultreya News and Prayer Requests

St. Albans Area:

We welcome those Cursillistas from other areas and thank those from the Burlington area who came to the February Ultreya. Your effort and perseverance are certainly welcome examples to those in our community.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Giles and Carol Boissonneault on the death of their daughter, Amy.

We extend get well wishes to Sandy Hurlbut for a quick recovery from knee surgery.

We ask for prayers for Deacon Steve Ratte who has had eye surgery recently. Also prayers are requested for Phillis Swinyer for strength and encouragement through her illness and recovery, Prayers are requested for Doris Allard's continued healing.

Troy Area:

Prayers are requested for Joe Poirier, husband of Viola. Also, continued prayers are requested for the healing of Jean Paul Couture. Please keep Jean Beaulieu in your prayers as she continues her recovery from hip replacement surgery.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Alicia Couture and her family upon the death of Leon.

St. Johnsbury Area:

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Lorraine and Vince Matteis upon the death of Lorraine's mother, June Charron.

A Morning Prayer

"I come to You, Jesus, to take Your touch before I begin my day.

Let Your eyes rest upon my eyes for a while.

Let me take to my work the assurance of Your friendship.

Fill my mind to the last, through the desert of noise.

Let Your blessed sunshine fill my thoughts,
and give me strength for those who need me."

- Mother Teresa

Some Words of Wisdom

"Be patient with everyone, but above all with yourself.

Do not be disturbed because of your imperfections,
and always rise up bravely from a fall.

Daily make a new beginning;
there is no better means of progress in the spiritual life
than to be continually beginning afresh,
and never to think that we have done enough."

- St. Francis de Sales

Thank You

I would like to extend a big "Thank you" to the Cursillo Family, especially in the Troy Area for the support in helping me care for my husband, Leon; also for the outpouring of love and sympathy at the time of his death in January. It is so heartwarming to receive cards from far and wide and visits to the wake and funeral from old Cursillo friends. St. Albans was well represented - and the Masses sent from the St. Albans Ultreya were most appreciated.

Even though I have not been able to be active for the past 3 1/2 years, it's nice to know I was not forgotten.

De Colores,
Alicia Couture

Wanted: Cursillistas are invited to share their witness talks and words of encouragement and inspiration with our Cursillo Community through this newsletter. Please send your contributions, articles, and prayer requests to:

Suzanne Wingate

P.O. Box 103

North Troy, VT 05859

We **ask that all Ultreya Committees send any items they** wish to include in the newsletter, along with the dates, times and places of their July, August and September Ultreyas by the newsletter deadline of June 1st, 2002. Thank you for your help.