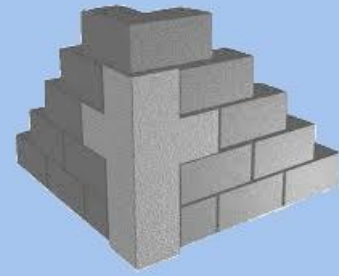


Cornerstone

Cursillo Movement of the
Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington

Summer Issue 2015



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Witness

Judith Dickerman-Nelson

SE Ultreya

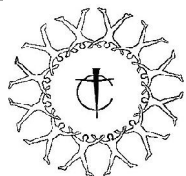
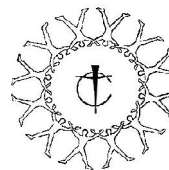
I've lost contact with friends over the years. Sometimes I know why: we had a fight, a falling out, a misunderstanding. Other times, I'm not sure what happened. Perhaps a phone call didn't get returned. Perhaps life got busy, as it does. And before I know it, months have gone by and then years. I think about the person, and I imagine making a phone call to reconnect. But it seems harder as time goes by. It feels sad, especially when it happens with someone I considered a good, dear friend.

Imagine how sad Jesus must feel when I forget to spend time with Him. It's hard to imagine that I could possibly lose touch with my Lord and Savior. But life gets busy, and if I'm not careful, I may find days have gone by since I've spoken with Him. And I feel embarrassed for ignoring Him, afraid to reconnect. Thankfully, I do know that He forgives me, and I merely need to tell Him that I am sorry. I can begin again.

But how can I avoid this feeling of separation? I need to nurture my relationship with Jesus on a daily basis. When I wake up in the morning, I can say good morning to Him and begin my day with a prayer. I find my days always go better when I start out with a conversation with Jesus. I open myself up to the growth of friendship He offers, to the love that is there, always.

Luckily for me, I also have the support of friends I've made who I meet with in small group. Here we have each other's encouragement. We share how our days have been. What have we studied? What was our moment closest to Christ? How have we been engaged with others, bringing light and love into others' lives, sharing God's good news?

I believe that it's through the connections we have with others that we are strengthened. And it is through daily interactions with Jesus that we maintain our friendship. Remember Jesus is waiting for us to talk with Him. He's right there next to us with open arms.



WITNESS

By Frank Partch

Barre Ultreya

In my daily (or almost daily to be honest) recitation of the prayer for the Cursillista I ask God to “help us use our time, our talents, our lives for the building of your Kingdom. Instill courage into our initiatives, good judgment in our choice of the proper means and that determination which assures success...”

Choosing the right means.

In the Rollos that talked about evangelization some of the overriding themes talked about what we might do mainly on a one on one basis. Make a friend, be a friend etc. Most of my personal interactions were either at work, with my cycling group or things I am already involved in at my parish (St Monica, Barre).

At work I make no secret of my Catholicism. Since a lot of my outside activities do center around the parish I don't need to proselytize, I can make my faith clear just by answering the questions that come up like, What did you do this weekend etc. Of course then I have to do my best to live up to being a Catholic.

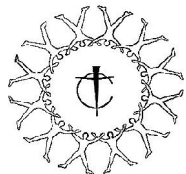
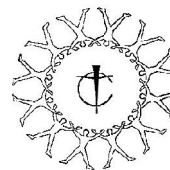
My bicycle group already engages in a lot of charity fundraising rides and many are active in their own churches, again they know they won't see me on Sunday morning rides and that I miss some evening rides because of my involvement in parish activities such as RCIA, Religious Education and the Knights of Columbus. Again set the example of being a good Catholic and hope you generate some interest. Although the idea of a “bicycle ministry” has a lot of appeal to me.

In my parish interactions I always thought I can only support the efforts of the other members of the parish, they are all volunteers and after all “who am I to try to tell them” A little over two years ago, another cursillista, Fred Letourneau, asked me if I was interested in being a part of a core team exploring the idea of whole parish catechesis. Since the most recent thing he had asked me to do was be a team member at the men's cursillo weekend and that was great, how could I refuse.

Out of months of planning and working with an amazing group of volunteers we developed the LIFT (Living in Faith Together) program. We rolled it out with the beginning of last years Religious Education program. Our monthly sessions were open to all, but mandatory to our grade 7-10 Religious Education students.

Fr. Peter O'Leary added a Mass at 4:15 on Sunday evenings so those who wanted to put it all together could. The format was a light meal with an ice breaker followed by a session for everyone with breakouts for 7-10 graders and a third breakout for younger children. At the end of the evening everyone would come back together for discussion and questions led by Fr. O'Leary. “Fifteen with Father” was one of the most popular parts of the evening. So popular that the “fifteen” part might have been a bit of a misnomer.

We found and used an online resource called Fashioning Faith. It had some good resources and handouts but we found we needed to create our own curriculum for each month. Since it was designed to repeat subjects on a 7 year cycle, we were faced with developing three classes each month for another 6 years. It was a lot of work on our volunteers but the lift program was successful. And we learned some valuable lessons.:



We found the parents of religious education students do want to be involved. This is great since we firmly believe in their role as the primary source of religious education for their children and want to strengthen the domestic church. But they want/need the tools to do this. The group setting asking questions helps the adults feel more confident in their knowledge of their faith and increases their willingness to discuss it (hopefully at home with their children).

The 4:15 Mass on weekends when there was a LIFT program was well attended and worked for a lot of families. Using icebreakers and non-traditional sources can help get discussions started and going among the various age groups. We used videos from “Busted Halo”, The Skit Guy’s, Matthew Kelly’s Decision Point Confirmation series, Fr. Barron’s Catholicism program and others.

Getting people to help provide the food for the meals was really time consuming. It was also an opportunity to bring the multiple parish groups such as Catholic Daughters, Knights of Columbus, and Men of Saint Joseph into focus within the parish and in sight of the young families that they hope to reach and recruit.

This year we have taken those lessons and expanded the LIFT program to encompass the whole Religious Education program. The LIFT program is now mandatory for all grades of Religious Education and has been designed to be the entire program for most grade levels, who will only meet once a month. Sacramental Preparation grades 2 and 9-10 meet three times a month and Circle of Grace for all grades will meet as needed outside of the LIFT schedule.

This is (in my opinion) an amazing leap (of faith) forward. The Grades 2-8 are working out of a curriculum (Alive in Christ) that covers the same materials monthly at appropriate grade levels. After the dinner and ice breaker the grades will go to their respective class rooms for their class. The adult discussion will be on the same material. It also requires the parents to get involved teaching another two chapters in the workbook each month. Homework is assigned and the students will let us know (on the honor system) if they have completed the homework and if they have will be entered into a drawing for a prize.

Grades 9-10 are not using “Alive in Christ” but will be focused on Confirmation preparation using a hybrid program taken from Ascension Press’s “Chosen” Matthew Kelly’s “Decision Point” and some favorite lesson plans from “Confirmed in a Faithful Community” This program follows the same three phase model as RCIA: 1) The Way (pre catechumenate), 2) The Truth (catechumenate), and 3) The Life (purification and enlightenment).

It still contains the requirements for both liturgical and community service. In fact as they complete their community service if someone asks them why they are helping, we are telling them they should say “Because I am a Catholic and it is part of my faith” It is an exciting time at St. Monica Parish in Barre.

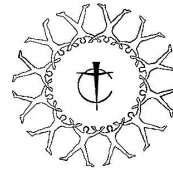
So getting back to “Who am I to tell them.”

I am a Catholic, a Cursillista, who after this all this time finally noticed that choosing the right methods also means: 1) using all the tools available to us to evangelize and catechize, 2) giving your parish families the tools they need to strengthen the domestic church, 3) involving the ministries and organizations that already exist in the same efforts, and 4) reminding the young people in our care that their desire to help is consistent with Catholic Social Teaching.

I am an individual who would like my fellow Catholics to notice these things as well.

De Colores

Frank Partsch



Spiritual Advisor's Corner

Dear Cursillistas,

Do you ever reminisce about past events? A good way to see how God is working in your life is looking back at past experiences. Sometimes when we look back we can see clearly how God was present to us in the midst of our lives. Do you ever think back to your

Cursillo weekend? If we could only keep that same excitement about our faith in Jesus and his Church! The good news is we are constantly being called into an ever deeper and personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The Cursillo movement helps us continue to open ourselves to God's grace in our daily lives. As we go through the daily grind of life we can start to lose focus on what is of most importance. A yearly retreat is a great remedy against becoming dry and stagnant. We are going to be having a renewal weekend this October 16th -18th. Please consider attending this retreat. We all know from experience the many graces that we receive when we take time out of our busy schedules and refocus on our relationship with Jesus and one another as fellow Cursillistas. Let us rekindle that fire of love for Cursillo here in Vermont!

De Colores,

Fr. Dwight Baker

Fr. Dwight Baker is the pastor of St. John the Evangelist parish Northfield VT, St. Edward parish Williamstown VT, assists as Chaplin at Norwich University and is the Spiritual Advisor for the Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Burlington.



Post-Cursillo Corner

Cursillo Renewal Weekend!!!

Have you made a Cursillo Weekend?

Want to rekindle the Fire of the Holy Spirit?

Want to rekindle Cursillo friendships from across the diocese?

Come to the Cursillo Renewal Weekend!

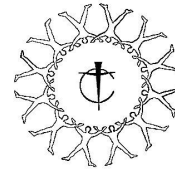
@ Mountain Meadows Lodge

October 16th—18th

The Cursillo Renewal Weekend this year will be held at Mountain Meadows Lodge in Killington, VT, October 16-18th. The theme for this weekend will be STUDY. The discussions will focus on Study of the Faith, and Study of the Environments. Two registration options will be offered. The first is for registration, attendance and lodging starting Friday evening to Sunday noon. The registration fee for this first option is \$165 per person. The second option will be for attendance only on Saturday (3 meals included). The fee for this second option is \$60 per person.

A registration form is included in this issue and will also be sent by way of E-mail in the near future.





Summer Issue 2015



POST-CURSILLO IN CRISIS

By Carol Bemis

Our movement is in trouble. The School of Leaders is very small (perhaps unsustainably so), Ultreyas have died off and/or have not formed, Weekend candidates are few and far between, and last summer's Cursillo de Cursillo Weekend was lightly attended. In fairness, geography works against us and we all seem to be juggling faith, family, work, and community commitments all the time. What is to be done?

Well, here are a few thoughts (I'll bet many of you have even better ideas, so please share them with the SOL if you do!):

Small Grouping: This remains a bright spot in the movement in at least some parts of our diocese. Jesus tell us, "Where two or more are gathered in my name, I am there among them," (Matthew 18:20). Do you small group weekly? If not, consider starting/restarting this central tenet of Cursillo. I committed to Cursillo because it is a lay movement built on **friendship**. Here in the southern corner of Vermont, our small group meets weekly and has for years. We have formed a tight bond, but not of the clique-ish sort. We welcome new Cursillistas and, indeed, pray for them. Some weeks, all of us make it. Other weeks, a few. Now and then, only one. So it goes . . . but it goes indeed.

THE CORNERSTONE: I recently shared at our small group that I have grown weary of reading the same few voices in our movement's publication. What, I wondered, do Cursillistas in Troy think? What's gong in in St Albans? Is there anyone in St. Johnsbury small grouping? If we cannot meet up, can we read about you and what you think?

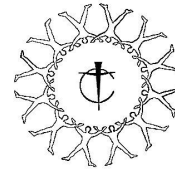
Judith Nelson stepped up and has contributed the wonderful witness published in this issue. Articles are short—400 words at the most—and can be written at your convenience. Please consider contributing an article—on your own or perhaps co-authored with your small group or Ultreya. How nice it would be to open THE CORNERSTONE and hear new voices and see your warm faces.

THE SCHOOL OF LEADERS: I know. Believe me. It is a big time commitment, a long drive (4 hours roundtrip in my case), and monthly meetings are too much for many. Understood. Consider carpooling with a buddy or two (that is what three of us do and it makes all the difference). Consider attending a meeting now and then. Consider rotating Ultreya members so that a few of you collectively represent your Ultreya. Enough said.

De Colores,

Carol Bemis





Post Cursillo Corner cont.



Study of the Charism

Post Cursillo—Small Grouping and Ultreya

Postcursillo is the key to making the Cursillo movement a continuous and progressive reality. The last talk of the weekend is Total Security. It tells us that by friendship, through Group reunion (personal) and Ultreya (social) we can continue to live in Grace a life that is worth living with people who are important to us.

We have two types of Group reunion.

The first is whom we want. This group will be composed of 3 - 6 close friends, will meet on a regular schedule in a fixed location and provide stability, confidentiality and sincerity. The agenda of group reunion is set up for us and should not be disrupted. The four steps include:

- 1) Prayer to the Holy Spirit
- 2) Sharing our moment closest to Christ, our apostolic successes and failures
- 3) Personal and collective apostolic plan
- 4) Our Father

The second is whom we "should" and encourages fellowship in Secretariat, School of Leaders, team leaders and Ultreya.

Ultreya is designed to encourage living the faith, so that each person feels loved and supported. In the Ultreya we have three phases. The first phase is Group reunion, again 3-6 people, this time a different grouping each time.

Please, if your group reunion has not been reviewing individual and group apostolic plan start now.

The second phase is a member of the community bearing witness to their participation or experience in living out the Fourth day. The third and ending phase is giving thanks to the Lord and asking for his protection.

The KEY to post Cursillo is the apostolic plan, both personal and group. As Benjamin Franklin once said: "Failing to plan is planning to fail."

De Colores
Bonnie Day

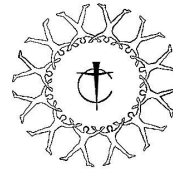


Lay Director's Corner

As Cursillistas we are called to bring others to Christ and we also know that God calls us to assist him in spreading His kingdom. He always gives us what we need even if we do not believe we have it.

I am an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, and have been since before I lived my Cursillo. This ministry was however only practiced at church, at mass, on Sunday, and that was enough for me.

Actually the next logical step in performing this ministry - taking Holy Communion to the sick and shut-ins terrified me. All sorts of questions arose in me. What would I say? What would I do? How could I perform this ministry without embarrassing those whom I was visiting, or myself?



Two years ago I retired and after a bit of time, I was becoming uncomfortable and I did not know why. One day I was small grouping with a friend of mine, who had lived the same Cursillo Weekend, I had. He later became a deacon. At this particular small group reunion he was talking about how long it took him each Friday to take Communion to the residents at a local assisted living care facility. I asked him if he wanted some company. For about two months I followed my friend the deacon around as he visited the residents in the assisted living facility. At the end of that time my friend the deacon “cut me loose” with a statement of, “Here, you take half and do those residents.”

Since then we have been splitting the “duty” or filling in for each other if on a given weekend one of us can not make it. It has been a blessing in several ways.

God in a gentle way gave me a chance to expand a ministry to which I felt called.

I have had the pleasure of making new friends at the assisted care facility– both the residents and staff.

I have gained new resources of wisdom from the wisdom of those whom I visit

God has given me another opportunity to serve him - when I’d rather stay in bed.

Every week my God has allowed me to experience the pleasure of bringing Holy communion to and talking to my friends at the assisted living facility.

God has truly blessed me, God has truly blessed us.

De Colores,
Dan

Cursillo Weekends

Cursillo weekends to be held next Summer (June – August time frame). We are anticipating holding both weekends at St. Anne’s Shrine on Isle LaMott.

Team members will be needed for both weekends. Please contact Dan Daigler (dad@svcable.net or phone 802-257-7395) If you would like to be on either the Women’s of the Men’s Weekend Teams

For either team the following will be needed.

1 Rector./ Rectora

1 Asst Rector/ Rectora (optional)

3-5 Rollistas

1 Music minister (optional)

Food is supplied by Shrine Staff.

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Firm Deadline for receipt of applications is 4/3/2016.

Please do Palanca for the success of these two Weekends.

Cursillo Calendar of Events

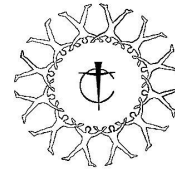
SCHOOL of LEADERS Meeting
Second Saturday of the month 10:00 AM at
St. John the Evangelist church in Northfield, VT

REGIONAL ENCOUNTER (FALL 2015)

VERMONT RENEWAL WEEKEND
OCTOBER 16TH — 18TH

For information on any of the above events

Dan Daigler
Phone 802-257-7395
email dad@svcable.net



Summer Issue 2015

From the Staff of the Cornerstone

The next deadline is November 1, 2015.
Please mark your calendar and send us your Ultreya
news, prayer requests, and articles by this date. We
invite you to share your Ultreya witness talks by
emailing them to
dad@svcable.net

Request for Prayers

Please send prayer requests to

email dad@svcable.net for inclusion in the Prayer
Request line

Mary Star of Evangelization.

Pray for us!



We offer you our palanca and
prayers for a Blessed and Holy
Lenten and Easter Season

Vermont Cursillo Renewal Weekend

REGISTRATION FORM

October 16-18th 2015

Mountain Meadows Lodge

285 Thundering Brook Rd

Killington, VT 05751

Please copy and submit a separate form for each attendee.

Name: _____

Address:

Street

_____ / _____ / _____

Town

State

Zip Code

Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

M F (Circle One Please)

(Circle Plan Selection Please)

Plan A - Full Weekend - 2 nights & 5 meals \$165.00 -

Plan B - Saturday only - 3 meals \$60.00

*****Registrations will not be accepted after October 1st**

Make Checks Payable to "Vermont Cursillo"

*****Please Return Registration Form October 1st, 2015.**

Return to:

Bonnie Day

564 VT Rte 101

North Troy, VT 05859

802-988-1075

spknit@gmail.com

Please have your communities offer ongoing **PRAYER AND PALANCA** for the Church and the Movement on the nation-
al, regional, diocesan and local levels.

Official Use Only

Paid _____ Balance Due: _____

2015 RENEWAL
STUDY

Friday

7-8PM Registration, room assignments, welcome

8-8:30 Socialize

8:45 Night prayers_____Deacon J. Driscol_____

9-

10pm- Socialize or sleep..

SATURDAY

7:30am Morning prayers Deaco J. Driscol_____

8-9am Breakfast

9-10 Welcome for Saturday, registration.

10Am Mass Fr Baker (servers, lectors, music)

11am Talk #1 Bonnie Day

11:20 Discussion of talk 1, small groups

12:15 Lunch

1:15 Talk #2__Fred L_____

1:35 Meditation on talk 2

1:45 Break

1:50 Talk #3 Father Baker

2:10 Meditation, discuss talk 3

2:30 Adoration of Blessed Sacrament (confession)

3:30 Free time

Sunday

7:45 Morning prayers____Deacon J. Driscoll_____

8AM Mass-Fr , servers, lectors, music

9am Breakfast

10am Talk #4 Dan Daigler

10:20 Discussion of talk 4

10:45 Summary discussion of talks_____(tbd)

11am Critique sheets, wrap up, final prayers

12 noon Lunch, jokes

1:30 Pack up and leave

Hosted by: Tom & Judy Kanya

DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON VERMONT

CURSILLO APPLICATION

Page 1 of 2

The Cursillo is a method of giving those, who have a potential for influencing others, a personal encounter with Christ to further enhance, support and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through evangelization of their environments.

The Catholic Cursillo is for baptized Catholics. You should be physically well, emotionally stable and able to receive the Sacraments of the Church. If you are comfortable with these stipulations, can you say:

I am interested in attending a Cursillo Weekend. Men's Weekend Women's Weekend Please circle one

Please print and complete all sections.

Today's Date _____

Name _____ Nickname/Preferred Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Date of Birth _____

Preferred Phone (Home|Work|Mobile) _____ E-Mail address _____

Home Parish _____ Location _____

Marital Status: Single Married Divorced Widowed Separated

If Married: Married in the Catholic Church? Yes No

Spouse's Name _____ Religion _____ Has Spouse attended Cursillo? _____

Do you belong to other Religious movements such as: Marriage Encounter _____ Charismatic Renewal

Bible Study _____ Religious Education _____ Other _____

Do you serve in any type of Ministry in your Parish? _____

Do you have any health problems or special needs (Dietary, allergies, etc.) that might affect your attendance at the Cursillo Weekend?

Yes _____ No _____ Please specify _____

Sponsor's name & address _____

Sponsor's Phone _____ Sponsor's Email _____

Do you have any questions about the weekend that your sponsor has not been able to answer?

Has your sponsor explained to you the Group Reunion and Ultreya? Yes No

A \$50 non refundable deposit for the weekend is due on receipt of the Letter of Confirmation to the Candidate.

I have read and understand everything contained in this application.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON VERMONT

CURSILLO APPLICATION

Page 2 of 2

The eligibility to receive the Sacraments of the Catholic Church is a very important part of the Cursillo Weekend; therefore, for your sake, we will need verification from your Parish. Your sponsor will be happy to go with you to the parish, if you are uncomfortable speaking to the priest.

Do you concur that this person is eligible to receive the Sacraments? Yes No

Priest's signature _____ Parish

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

ACCEPTED BY _____ DATE _____

Mail the completed form to :

Dan Daigler

PO Box 91

West Dummerston, VT 05357