

Witness

A sign. That was what Father Yvon said as we literally almost ran into each other at Porter Hospital. "This must be a sign! I was going to give you a call and see if you would agree to give a witness talk at our Ultreya." My first thought was, "Say no and run as fast as you can!" But in an instant the words, "Christ is counting on you" came to mind, the words on our Cursillo cross. How could I say no? That was MY sign.

Later I began to panic when I reviewed the Witness Talk guidelines. How could I possibly do this? But then I prayed to the Holy Spirit for inspiration, remembering that God doesn't send the equipped, he equips those he sends. All of a sudden the word "Signs" came to me. Not Cursillo poster-type signs, but it was more directional and warnings signs that seemed to develop in my mind. I don't know how anyone else feels, but I know it would have been so much easier for me if the Holy Spirit had dropped down a Fourth-Day journey map containing detailed instructions and possible pitfalls. But that was not God's plan. Instead we are asked to pray for discernment and proceed on our journey using the markers He does provide for us.

Piety- Study- Action. These are the large signs by the road on our journey. I think they could also be read as Stop- Look- and Listen. Piety is our opportunity to stop and pray for guidance and direction. My morning begins with a Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, praying the rosary and reflecting on the Biblical passage and meditation for the day from "The Word Among Us" booklet. It would seem that I should now have the perfect set of directions to keep me on the right path as I head out on the road to sainthood, for as EWTN's

founder Mother Angelica reminds us, "We are all called to be great saints." But, unfortunately, it's not long before I miss the "Soft Shoulder" warning sign; and I slide off the charted path, despite my best intentions.

This is when I mentally hold up my "Help Wanted" sign and turn to the Study or Look portion of the journey. I spend time with Jesus in Scripture, look for further guidance in the "Catechism of the Catholic Church," turn on EWTN, listen to the inspirational and educational "Lighthouse Catholic Media" CD's, read publications on and by Doctors of the Church and other prominent figures who help define the Catholic faith. It never ceases to amaze me how many times I come across a passage or quote that is just the directional compass I need to set me back on the road again.

Piety and Study, or Stop and Look, are the guideposts for the most important part of my Fourth-Day journey. Action. But after having taken many dead-end roads when I first began the journey in 2009, I finally realized that Action should be preceded by praying to the Holy Spirit for discernment and, as stated in Psalm 85, "listening for the word of God." In the last three years there have been many times when I know that Divine Providence has placed me in a particular situation with a particular person, a situation where I recognize I have the opportunity to give witness to my faith. I say a quick prayer to the Holy Spirit to help me form the words He wants the other person to hear and then begin to talk about my journey in faith, a journey where I have many times missed the "Bumpy Road Ahead" and "Proceed with Caution" signs. After admitting my human failings, I am quick to interject that I am so thankful for our Heavenly Father's unconditional love and patience as He waited time and time again for me to open my eyes and heart to

see that I had wandered off in the wrong direction. I am so thankful that He never gave up on me. Instead He helped me pick myself up, dust myself off by asking for his forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and start back on the path again. I am now a firm believer in “letting go and letting God,” of placing one’s complete trust in Him and allowing His will to be done.

I feel truly blessed to be chosen by God to make this Fourth-Day journey. And so I continue to proceed on the road guided by the Piety, Study and Action signs, realizing that despite all my efforts I will still occasionally lose my way, but always trusting that God will point me back in the right direction. For Psalm 37 states that “Those whose steps are guided by the Lord, whose way God approves, may stumble but they will never fall, for the Lord holds their hand.”

De Colores,
Jane Vincent

From the Spiritual Director

Dear Cursillistas,

For my article for this Cornerstone I would like to touch upon two points that relate to the Lord’s invitation to us to be bearers of His Good News in our world. The first is the power of all of us sharing our “Witness” stories with those who journey with us. I truly believe that we do have Good News that needs to be shared and when this Good News is shared by our telling others how the Lord has made a profound difference in our life more and more of our brothers and sisters will come to

discover this important truth themselves. As I sit at the table at our Ultreya I continue to be amazed at how God uses the events of our lives to show us His Love. This Love is needed in our world. Please share your story and thus help share God’s Love.

The second point that I want to make is really to highlight the request for our local Ultreyas to consider making a \$1 donation per person to help The Cursillo movement cover the cost of The Cornerstone and other important sources of information. As you will see in the article on this topic the Cornerstone is an important tool and helping us to stay connected. Please consider joining in this cause.

Peace, Fr. Yvon

PreCursillo Corner

“It’s Time”

It’s Time to think about the next Cursillo Weekends.

The **Women’s 104th Cursillo** is scheduled for October 24–October 27, 2013 and the **Men’s 94th Cursillo** is scheduled for October 31–November 3, 2013. Both will be held at Mountain Meadow Lodge, Killington, VT.

It’s Time to “make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ”. Do you know someone in your family, among your acquaintances, in your workplace, community, school, business, etc. that you could befriend and bring closer to Jesus Christ?

It’s Time for Cursillo Weekend!

Cursillo is a “Short Course in Christianity”.

To quote from a National Cursillo publication:

“It proposes no new type of spirituality, but simply a method through which one’s spirituality may be developed, lived and shared in any area of human life where there are Christians willing to dedicate their lives to God in an ongoing manner. The method is introduced by a short course – **Cursillo**.”

“During those three days candidates will live and work together listening to talks given by priests and laity. They also share the Eucharist and pray together.”

“A Cursillo is an encounter with self, Christ, and others. That sounds too simple but it’s not. If that is understood then the power, beauty, and joy of the **Cursillo** Movement will be understood.”

“**What does Cursillo Offer?** It is a simple method to seek and develop a Christian Spirituality, Mentality, Activity, and Community.

The Time is Now! Make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ! Invite that friend to a Cursillo Weekend

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Weekend Corner

The purpose of the Movement, and also of the School: “the leavening of environments with the Gospel, to be carried out by means of core groups of Christians who live and

share what is fundamental for being Christian, on the basis of a total and ongoing conversion begun, renewed or strengthened by the Cursillo Weekend experience.” (FI #562)

The purpose of the Cursillo Movement also emphasizes a careful and thorough preparation for the School of Leaders’ apostolic mission so that each leader in the School can more deeply understand the kind of social outreach that characterizes the Movement.

“It was the School that gave birth to the Cursillo Movement, nurtured it and made it strong enough to survive and branch out into a full-fledged movement of the Church. The School has always been and is to this day an Element that is essential to the continuity of the Movement.”

We accomplish this purpose by applying, or living, the Cursillo method. We establish in our school of leaders a community based on friendship, sincerity and trust. We dedicate ourselves to ongoing formation in spirituality, doctrine and human values and in the Cursillo philosophy, method, strategy and operational structures.

We do this because it is not possible “to have an authentic and effective Cursillo Movement unless it is served by a group of leaders who exemplify everything the Movement is supposed to “be”. We strive to become living witnesses of the dignity conferred on us by Christ. As the living witnesses of a holy life, we can move other people to conversion.

Loneliness, isolation, lack of friendship and intimacy, broken relationships, boredom, feelings of emptiness and depression, and a deep sense of uselessness fill the hearts of millions of people in our success-oriented

world. ... It is here that the need for a new Christian leadership becomes clear.

If we believe that the Cursillo is the best method to Christianize the world, we have to know as much about it as possible. A "little" knowledge is a dangerous thing. What we need is ongoing formation.

The School must inspire and strengthen the groups generated by the Cursillo, then deepen the conversion of its leaders and prepare future leaders of the Movement by giving them a formation in holiness, doctrine, technique and the spirit of service. These transformed leaders, in turn, form the Christian backbone of their environments and influence the people around them.

Ideally the leaders of the School find unity and communion an ideal climate for dialogue in which everyone should have something to teach and to learn, questions to ask and ideas to share. The atmosphere should be one of sincerity and trust, of authenticity and freedom, of equality (of rights and duties) and plurality (of vocations and viewpoints), of unity in diversity, and of humility (both personal and communal). (FI #542, 544) Through sincere friendship, the leaders of the School get to know one another better as they freely and comfortably share their thoughts and feelings so that they soon become united in one same mentality and one same purpose of the Church, the Kingdom of God.

All Cursillistas' are called to be leaders in their own environments, but only a small percentage will be called to be leaders in the movement. Those who accept a roll in the School of Leaders must recognize it as an apostolate and be prepared to devote all of their spare time to the school.

As Cursillo leaders we each must ask ourselves "Am I performing my proper

function within the Body of Christ?" If the answer is yes then we will not have the conflict and division that exist in so many other groups. When we speak of being a leader for Christ, the issue is not one of control, but of service, responsibility and accountability. We are called to authenticity in our lives and in the movement.

We, as a School of Leaders should be seeking every day to become more centered, more committed and more united, so as to accelerate in ourselves, in the Movement, and in our environments the living out of what is fundamental for being Christian."

We should be honest enough to admit that there is a serious shortage of knowledgeable and committed leaders, who are eager to join the School of Leaders, to serve on the Diocesan Secretariats, and on the Regional Service Teams.

The selection does not come only from the side of those called; it proceeds in the first place from Jesus himself. It is He who wants them or does not want them, an expression which clearly indicates that in this selection Jesus enjoys supreme freedom. A person was simply selected because Jesus preferred him, without any further motives. At the moment of selection what matters is not what these people are. He simply prefers them because He loves them, each one individually. Nothing other than Jesus' love and preference explains this selection."

Accepting this call means making a commitment to God and His work. It involves directing our will to all that God wants. It means that we must be responsible stewards, sharing our time, talent and treasure with the world. If we accept the task of being a Cursillo leader, it also implies that this should be our primary apostolate.

All of us are called to embrace our Fourth Day fully, but some are called to do the special work of the Cursillo Movement. Not everyone will be called to the School of Leaders.

The Cursillo Movement is God's gift to us and to the Church. The Spirit gave us this Movement with its method. We have no right to tamper with it. The Cursillo did not invent what is fundamental to being Christian. We are simply carrying on the mission of Christ, which is now the mission of the Church.

Mr. Bonín's quotation from his book 'My Spiritual Testament':

"If we compare the Cursillo Movement to a tree, we are happy to see that it has grown, because the evangelical seed sown in many hearts and cultivated with prayer has given its fruit; but it also hurts us to see that in some places, no doubt with the best of intentions, they have taken the tree of the Cursillo for the Christmas tree and have been hanging lights and decorations (their favorite ideas) and have gradually been spoiling its clear and simple process....."

One of the reasons our Pre-Cursillo and Post-Cursillo is often weak is because all our energy is put on the Weekend. The Weekend is only one part of the job, and in the broader scheme of things, the Weekend is the least important part of the Cursillo – it is simply a means to get people from the Pre-Cursillo to the Post-Cursillo.

In closing I would ask that you consider attending the School of Leaders to see exactly what it is and isn't. If your Ultreya doesn't have someone attending the School, then you are missing out on lots of options

to gain knowledge and to discover what other Cursillistas are experiencing.

Submitted by Bonnie Day

From the Lay Director

You would think that writing the first article of a term as Lay Director would be easy; it would talk about direction, and hopes and several other things about service to the movement, and all of the Cursillistas in the Diocese.

It would have been, until a man called Francis I walked on the earth, a man who, in his previous life, was known for his humility. Then the man called Francis I started his walk on the earth and in two days has demonstrated a life of humility that causes me to examine my life.

As I live my life in Cursillo, I have a living example in Francis I of what I should be doing as I live my life. In small grouping, can I witness to my acts of piety as Francis I life has witnessed to his. During my small grouping, can I witness to my study to learn more about my faith, church, and my Lord, as Francis I life has been a witness to his study? During my small grouping, can I witness to the actions in my life to humbly bring Christ to others, as Francis I has already done.

I believe that there has been placed in my life another beacon, to help me live a life of holiness, humility, and love.

As I live a life using the Cursillo method, by small grouping, by attending Ultreya, by examining my life of piety, study, and action, am I, and are we, living a life that follows Francis I, that follows Mary and the Saints, that follows our Lord and Savior?

Let us try, (not in the sense of maybe we can or not, but in the sense of allow us the opportunity to show how it is done).

I remain your servant,

Dan

DeColores

From the Staff of the Cornerstone

The next deadline is June 15, 2013. 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 sending them to Penny Austin by emailing them to plaustin@comcast.net.

For a list of Ultreyas, please visit our website at www.vtcursillo.org.

Request for Prayers

For the repose of the soul of Anthony (Tony) Handy of St. Johnsbury and for his family.