

School of Leaders

MEETING MINUTES

6/14/14

Present:

Father Baker, Deacon Jerry, Dan, Fred, Jeanne, Linda, Anthony, Heather, Bonnie, Carol

Next Meeting: July 12, 2014

*Opening Prayer

*No enough people present for section meetings. Instead, we have one big meeting focused on marketing.

Youth: Our kids are older so making the connection is tougher, Linda points out. She asks Father, who has the Norwich U connection. He suggests that the 2 student chaplains there may make good Weekend candidates. The calendar problem—Weekends start Thursday evening—would need to be gotten around. Father will look into for Norwich—Cathy Diego works at Norwich and can be helpful.

Great for evangelization but, as Father points out, most of these students are not Vermonters. We need to draw in Vermonters in a big way.

Ultreyas: Fred suggests that these are the heart and future of the movement. Rutland was strong, now it is dormant. Most Cursillistas at Fred's Ultreya are in their 70s and 80s. Problem in VT Cursillo: Weakening, dying Ultreyas. Dan suggests that the pastors MUST be on board with the movement, same as for, e.g., the Knights of Columbus. Father says that most VT priests—including Bishop Matano—believe that the movement's time has come and gone. It served its purpose—that is the state of things, sadly. A new bishop, Father points out, could really turn things around. Boston's movement is vibrant, though only for Spanish-language Cursillo. "What do you focus on? Father asks. That is the challenge—the church in VT faces so many challenges and one must choose.

Dan suggests: If we want the clergy to be on fire for the movement, then we must be: candidate lists, Ultreya formations, etc. Father has no time to do this work; we must. The geographical challenge of our diocese is discussed at some length. Northfield has a group of Cursillistas—can they form an Ultreya? People are very busy and do not want to attend meetings in this day and age.

Tying an Ultreya to a parish or a geographical area: Our success seems to be with geographical movements (with the exception of Rutland): SE, North, Barre, St. Albans.

Anthony says that without being Treasurer he would not have attended Ultreya, would not have been on SOL, but still would be "on fire." He would donate. Many out there are the same. Do we consider that a failure?

Sponsors need to be active in getting Cursillistas to attend Ultreya, formation of small groups, etc. Father points out that, as a priest, he has the spiritual component and the community among his fellow priests.

Discuss CDC Team. Officially, Father Baker is not our Spiritual Director—only bishop can approve (technicality). Discuss definition of what is an Ultreya, SOL, etc. for Father Baker. As Father points out, the time commitment is large—small group, Ultreya, SOL, Team, and other commitments including Parish Council, work, etc.

Fred addresses the challenges in our VT movement: about a dozen people active. The reality.

Bonnie says that the tenants of the movement are geared to young people, just starting out their lives. Our lives are set—do we have time for more friends, etc.? Linda agrees, the youth component is important. Dan compares the original movement to a “test tube” and us to a “production line.”

Father says the vibrancy in a parish depends on the pastor. He has to be alive, energetic for the success of any faith-based efforts. Our target should be: the young families in their 20s and 30s. This is the “gap” in our church. If we can get these couples to commit—even working backwards, as Linda points out, start with small group.

TAKEAWAY BULLET POINT: Reinvigorate the clergy about the movement. Father suggests that Dan speak to the next priest group. Linda suggests that we all write a witness that we can share with a priest to help him reconnect to the movement. **Homework assignment for SOL members: Write your witness talk—maximum of 5-minutes long—and bring it to the next SOL meeting on July 12th.**

*DOCTRINE: Father’s topic: Our Lord did not always succeed in the eyes of the world. Rejected in his own community, he performed no miracles there because of their lack of faith. His faith never wavered. God’s will be done. As Mother Theresa says, “God requires faithfulness, not success.” We should not be discouraged in our movement, but keep faithful. We should not be discouraged—God is in charge, this is his church. Faith to the vocations that God has assigned to us is our path. The great paradox: when we surrender, we become free.

*Section Reports:

Pre-Cursillo: Tom’s report was emailed to everyone earlier.

Weekend: \$112.50 netted from the flower sale.

Post-Cursillo: 5 actual CDC registrations. People need to commit and send in their registration forms. We have opened it up to St. Basil’s. We have a commitment for 50 people—we must mobilize! We are on the hook for 50 people because of the meals. If we are in the 10-15 people range by the cancellation deadline of 7/28, the CDC will be canceled. 2 more registrations submitted at today’s meeting.

*STUDY, THE CHARISM OF CURSILLO: Linda presents Chapter 3: "New Movements"—the Church is movement and spirit, institution and charism. This tension is good for the Church. The Church is not a "top down" organization—the grace/charism can be given to a lay person. The charism and the institution are like a cross—they are coessential and cannot exist without one another. A charism is for the good of all—it is not about you. The Church is full of charismatic awakenings—e.g., the Franciscans.

Next month: Fred presents Chapter 4: "A Gratuitous Gift from God."

*Visit to the Blessed Sacrament.