

THE JOURNEY

Eileen Mariani

The journey has been remarkable. Happily, it is not over, but continues differently after thirty-seven years of participation in the Cursillo Movement. When I made my Cursillo weekend in 1972, we were challenged to live our Fourth Day focusing on piety, study, and action. Today, the newer Cursillistas hear the words *holiness*, *formation*, and *evangelization*. At the core of moving forward on this Cursillo journey, we are strongly encouraged to group with like-minded pilgrims on a regular basis.

After many, many years of grouping in different forums such as permanent grouping, Ultreya grouping, retreat grouping, Cursillo meeting grouping, etc., I have decided on a new action which fits the retirement circumstances of my life. I would like to share with you some of the important aids to formation that I have heard about in grouping with others or have shared in grouping myself. While it would be wonderful to focus on all three aspects, it has been my experience that most of us are familiar with the means available to us for growing in holiness, such as prayer, liturgy, Mass, sacraments, etc. and that we also are aware of the evangelization efforts of others through witness talks and grouping.

It is my hope to offer some suggestions, now and in the months ahead, about books, articles, magazines, pamphlets, newspapers – that can serve as aids in our focus on formation. It is also my hope that this could be an interactive exchange. You could email me (Eileen_mary@comcast.net) with your suggestions and they could be shared with the larger Cursillo community through our newsletter.

Suggestion number one is the monthly pamphlet called *God's Word Today* which can be ordered or viewed at www.23rdpublications.com. Each month focuses on a different book or aspect of the Old or New Testament. The June 2009 issue explored biblical images of God across both testaments. May's readings were from the Psalms. The pamphlet tells you what to read each day from the Bible, then offers an interpretation of what you have read, increasing your knowledge of the passage, and then a short reflection and prayer. It takes about fifteen minutes to do each day but, over time, grounds you in scripture in a deeper way.

If you attend daily Mass, or just wish to know what the readings for each day are, you could use one of several pamphlets. *Living with Christ* (www.LivingwithChrist.us) offers short articles and suggestions for group prayers. *The Word among Us* (subscribe.wau.org) also has the daily readings plus more in depth commentaries on a particular spiritual theme. Many people also find *Magnificat*, with its daily readings and articles, a source of inspiration (www.magnificat.com).

This year the book that was used for the Cursillo Women's Retreat was *The Ten Commandments* by Joan Chittister, a well-known religious writer. The book was subtitled "Laws of the Heart", because she examines each commandment, not just as a rule, or a "thou shall not", but as a way of life, or a "thou shall." She asks us to discern what it means to be born in the image and likeness of God. Using the commandments as her framework, Joan Chittister challenges us to rethink what it means to be a moral agent in this society. It was published by Orbis Books, the publishing arm of the *Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers*. As part of their Catholic Spirituality for Adults series, Orbis books have also published *Prayer* by Joyce Rupp, another inspirational writer. If you are seeking a clear, gentle guide through the meaning of prayer, to provide you with a more enduring relationship with God, this is the book.

With the wonderful fall months ahead, devote some time to develop a deeper understanding of formation, and see what riches are in store for you.

De Colores



CLIP OUT & SAVE!

Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	CALENDAR
16	20	18	15	DIOCESAN Ultreya - 7:30 p.m. (3rd Fri.) Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall, Holyoke, MA
8	12	10	14	Local Ultreya - 7 p.m. St. Stanislaus, Chicopee, MA (2nd Thurs.)

Visit our website for applications, latest updates, masses, etc.
www.cursillowmass.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

FORMATION SCHOOL

is scheduled to begin on October 7, 2009 - All are Welcome!

Karen Scahill is heading up this very important apostolate of the Cursillo movement. All team members of the upcoming men's and women's teams will be attending, as well as any other interested Cursillistas. **All are welcome!** It is appropriate for both new and seasoned Cursillistas, and is a wonderful way to rekindle enthusiasm for our work. It explores the workings of the Cursillo in detail, and offers an opportunity for an in depth look at some doctrinal issues. There will be 5 sessions, from the opening session on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 then again on October 14, October 28 and November 4 and 11. All sessions run from 7 to 9 pm and are held at St. Patrick's parish in the chapel, Main St., South Hadley MA. To register, please call Karen Scahill at 568-4281 or email her at: kscahill@wgeld.org

MEN'S RETREAT 2010 February 5 - 7th

Loving Your Way to Holiness

Location: Genesis Spiritual Life Center, 53 Mill Street, Westfield, MA

Time: 6:30 - 7:00 pm Registration Friday, Feb. 5th.

Price: \$160.00 per person - double occupancy rooms - choose a room-mate or one will be assigned to share your room. \$180.00 private room. \$99.00 for commuter rate.

Deadline for payment in FULL is January 17, 2010 to reserve your spot!!!!

NOTE: Only 35 overnight spaces available - RESERVE EARLY!!!

Make checks payable to and send to: Wendell Pennell c/o PIP Printing, 49 Lamb St., South Hadley, MA 01075.

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2010 March 5 - March 7th

"Close Encounters of the Divine Kind":

A Practical Awareness of God's Presence in our Lives.

Location: Holyoke Holiday Inn (off Rt. 91 next to Holyoke Mall)

Time: 6:30 - 7:00 pm Registration Friday, March 5

Price: \$160.00 per person - Double occupancy rooms - choose a roommate or the Holiday Inn will assign someone to share your room.

Deadline for payment in FULL is February 23, 2010 to reserve your spot!!!!

Make check payable to and send to: Diane Fradette, 23 Peachtree Road, E. Longmeadow, MA 01028. Phone 413-224-1234 - fradette@charter.net

Please let us know about any dietary needs or allergies and put note in with your check. Bring your used books for a Book Swap Table.

Applications for both will be in the December newsletter and online.

is the root of all evils. 1 Timothy 6:10
The love of money



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OUR CROSSES

Deacon John

We read in James 2:1-5 about people that say they have "Faith" but do not have works. This reminded me of a story from Dr. Covey's book "The 7 Habits of Highly Successful People" where he talks about loving others and a story I've told many times to engaged couples and it goes like this: He tells about a couple that told him they didn't have the same feelings for each other that they used to have. They told him, "The feeling isn't there anymore." Dr. Covey went on to say that the word "love" is a verb. He told them to just love each other. To serve each other – *Sacrifice* – *Listen* to each other – *Empathize* – *Appreciate* and *Affirm* one another. If they were willing to do that - their actions would show the *other* – that the love was there.

Love is something you do: the sacrifices you make, the giving of self, not just in words but in your actions that speak louder than words. Just look at a mother bringing a newborn into the world. If you want to study love, study those who sacrifice for others, even for people who offend or do not love in return. If you are a parent, look at the love you have for the children you sacrificed for. Love is a value that is actualized through loving actions. If we can do this, the "feeling" of love will always be with us and with those we love. I found this interesting because the reading from James talks about "faith" without works – that it really isn't "faith" at all just as Dr. Covey talks about "love" without actions really isn't love!

Recently at a funeral, Fr. Riendeau said, "Everyone wants to go to Heaven - - - - - but no one wants to die to get there!"

So how do we get to heaven? In the gospel from Mark 7:31-37 Jesus said, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." And earlier in the gospel Jesus said that He had to suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders and be killed – no wonder Peter was so upset and rebuked Jesus, he just couldn't stand the thought that his friend, the Christ, had to suffer. None of us like to suffer – if we did, someone would lock us up! I believe when we suffer and work through that suffering we become much stronger! Who of us likes to go to the dentist, and yet we suffer through the drilling and Novocaine to achieve a healthy tooth, free from pain. And those who have cancer and have to suffer through chemo in order to get better – it's a cross that they are happy to carry.

We seem to be unaware that we confront the "death and resurrection of Jesus Christ" in our daily lives. We are exposed to a *dying to self* and a *resurrection* to God so often in our lives. We will rise with Christ only *if we die with him*. When we are unwilling to take up our cross and follow him through suffering, then we don't experience the resurrection. Those times when we only use *words* and skip the *action* or *works*, those are the times when we refuse to take up our cross and follow Christ.

I believe that the Cursillo weekend prepares us to at least start working toward accepting the crosses that are given to us in my lives. I admit that I am not always happy with all of the crosses that are handed to me but I know that we have to accept the sunshine with the cloudy and stormy days. As Cursillistas we are guided toward helping others that come across our paths, some of these crosses are light and some heavy but they are all crosses that God sends to us and we have an obligation to carry them. I personally need to learn to accept them with joy and be happy that I have been chosen.

God will always be there for each one of us to give us the strength to carry whatever cross we have – if only we remember to turn to Him and ask for His help.

May God bless each one of us as we do His work.
De Colores



From the Lay Director.....

Pat Triggs

Now that September is here, there are all the traditional "Fall" type activities to remind us why we enjoy living here in New England. In addition to the usual "back to school" timetable of activities, (which is so much in most of our lives, through children, grandkids, family members and neighbors even if we are not attending school ourselves!), there are so many additional opportunities for us to enrich our lives, through autumn fairs, concerts, lectures, outdoor pursuits, parish activities, and traditional holiday events. It is a busy, busy time for many of us.

So what does this have to do with our Cursillo life? Well, actually, it has EVERYTHING to do with our Cursillo life! Our call to Evangelization knows no season, has no limit, and is always applicable. Our mandate to seek Holiness is never negated, regardless of how many other things we have to do. Our Formation activity can resemble a chameleon, changing to meet the particular needs of the time and place that we find ourselves. Determining what we need to focus on, as well as what we want to focus on requires us to spend some time in prayerful reflection in order to best discern this.

I know that I have to really concentrate on pursuing Holiness, as it is the most challenging aspect for me. It does not come easily to me, and I rely heavily on my group members to challenge me and suggest ways for me to continue moving forward. Action is my natural bent, and it is a danger for me to let it overcome the other "legs of the stool" so to speak. I was very fortunate to recently have time for a simple vacation, a time which was filled with enjoyment of physical activities like swimming and riding my bicycle, taking advantage of actually watching a sunset, spending precious time with my husband and with special friends. This time helped me to reassess my goals and my plan to work toward these goals.

What about you? What area do you want to focus on? Is this a chance for you to reassess your goals? There is no lack of need here in our corner of the world. Here in our Diocese, several of our parishes are in turmoil, our country is in tremendous upheaval over health care reform, the economic crisis has hit home very personally for most of us, from job losses to uncertainty about the future. There is no shortage of crises. But perhaps because of all these upsets, it is a time for all of us to reflect on our next steps. I am reminded of one of my favorite parts of the Cursillo closing, which in part says, "Lord, what words hit home the hardest? Speak Lord, your servant listens!" In this Fall season, I pray for the grace to listen!

De Colores

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~ NOTICE ~

We are in need of articles for upcoming newsletters.

Articles, poems, brief thoughts on your weekend, 4th day, grouping, moment closest to Christ . . .
Please help to make this newsletter yours!
All are welcome. Send to dorene@pipmail.com

A Prayer for Autumn Days

God of the seasons, there is a time for everything; there is a time for dying and a time for rising. We need courage to enter into the transformation process.

God of autumn, the trees are saying goodbye to their green, letting go of what has been. We too, have our moments of surrender, with all their insecurity and risk. Help us to let go when we need to do so.

God of fallen leaves lying in colored patterns on the ground, our lives have their own patterns. As we see the patterns of our own growth, may we learn from them.

God of misty days and harvest moon nights, there is always the dimension of mystery and wonder in our lives. We always need to recognize your power-filled presence. May we gain strength from this.

God of harvest wagons and fields of ripening grain, many gifts of growth lie within the season of our surrender. We must wait for harvest in faith and hope. Grant us patience when we do not see the blessings.

God of geese going south for another season, your wisdom enables us to know what needs to be left behind and what needs to be carried into the future. We yearn for insight and vision.

God of flowers, touched with frost and windows wearing white designs, may your love keep our hearts from growing cold in the empty seasons.

God of life, you believe in us, you enrich us, you entrust us with the freedom to choose life. For all this, we are grateful.

May I Have This Dance
Joyce Rupp

Ave Maria Press Notre Dame, Indiana

Donations to Cursillo

In Honor of the
8 Cursillistas ordained deacons
Eileen & Paul Mariani

In Memory of
John Rucci's mother
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In Memory of
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In Memory of
Barbara Ripa's dad
Margie C., Margie R.,
Judy P., Judy Mc.

In Memory of
Julia Gawle's brother Edward
Karen & Tom Scahill

Donation toward
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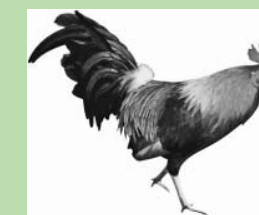
~IN MEMORIAL~
Edward Blaney (April 8, 2009)
Weekend Oct. 1973

Theresa Fitzell (May 12, 2009)
Weekend June 1976

Norma J. O'Brien (July 9, 2009)
Weekend Nov. 1974

Frank Antonovitch (July 16, 2009)
Weekend Feb 1970

Virginia Antaya (Aug. 19, 2009)
Weekend Nov. 1974
Team Nov. 1977



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