

## AT THE VIGIL . . .

Faith St. Onge

Alone in the church.....I am aware of the silence.  
It is pervasive, absolute, ~ deafening.  
I am alone with you, my Lord.  
You ~ present in the monstrance on the alter ~ in the silence.  
How blessed am I to be here alone with only You.

I am praying for the candidates, and the team, and for the entire  
Cursillo community who support them.  
Please Lord will you bless them and send them forth to do your work?

My rosary moves slowly through my fingers ~ Glorious Mysteries.  
My heart recalls the glorious things you have done for me ~ given me.  
And I am deeply grateful.  
I am here with you aware of your love for me.  
Help me to love you more each day ~ to love you above all things ~  
To love you in all people ~ your people.

You once asked, "Watch one hour with Me....."  
Oh, yes, Lord, I can watch one hour with you.  
Here in the silence my heart cries out: thank you, Lord, for asking.

De Colores

## SOME THOUGHTS ON PALANCA.....

Pat Triggs

A recent question about palanca reminded me that it might be a good time to share some general guidelines about this all-important part of our Cursillo weekend. For many candidates, it is frequently identified as one of the most significant parts of the weekend. The overwhelming outpouring of love as demonstrated by prayers, sacrifices, and good works is a very powerful manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit. Remember how you felt when the "mail" started to arrive at the table? I remember when I made my Cursillo, I knew that no one knew I was on the weekend, so I would not be getting any of those letters or cards. Well, maybe one from my husband might come. I sat back to watch others as they received notes, when I began to notice that I was also the recipient of some! In the early days of Cursillo here in our diocese, a common practice was to send a single general palanca to "All the Candidates." These letters and posters were placed on the Palanca table, and all were encouraged to come and read them. At the close of the weekend, all the posters, notes, etc. were collected and burned in the incinerator, as the belief was that the actions were the important part, not the notes! As time went on, the concept of individual notes/letters for all candidates became more common, a practice which persists to this time. However, writing a single general letter to all the team and all the candidates is still acceptable. In fact, it may even encourage some people who might not feel that it is possible to write an individual letter to everyone, to send the more general

palanca. The central idea of course is the palanca itself, the prayers, sacrifices, and good works, not the note!

Just what is palanca anyway? We under-



*God so loved the world...*

John 3:16

De Colores

## CLIP OUT & SAVE!

April	May	June	Ultraya Calendar
18	16	20	DIOCESAN Ultraya - 7:30 p.m. (3rd Fri.) Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall, Holyoke, MA
10	8	12	Local Ultraya - 7 p.m. St. Stanislaus, Chicopee, MA (2nd Thurs.)
<b>April 27, Sun. Men's Closing, 7p.m.</b> Holy Name Parish, Springfield			
<b>June 1 Bershire Ultraya 2-4p.m.</b> St. Mary's, 75 Plunkett St., Pittsfield			
<b>May 7 Mass</b> at Genesis House, Westfield - 7p.m. bring the family social hour to follow			
<b>May 23-26 Women's Cursillo Weekend</b> , Holy Name Parish, Springfield Registration Friday 7p.m. - Palanca by Saturday - Closing 7p.m. Monday			
<b>June 11 Mass</b> at Mount Carmel, 7p.m. 123 Williams St., Springfield bring the family			

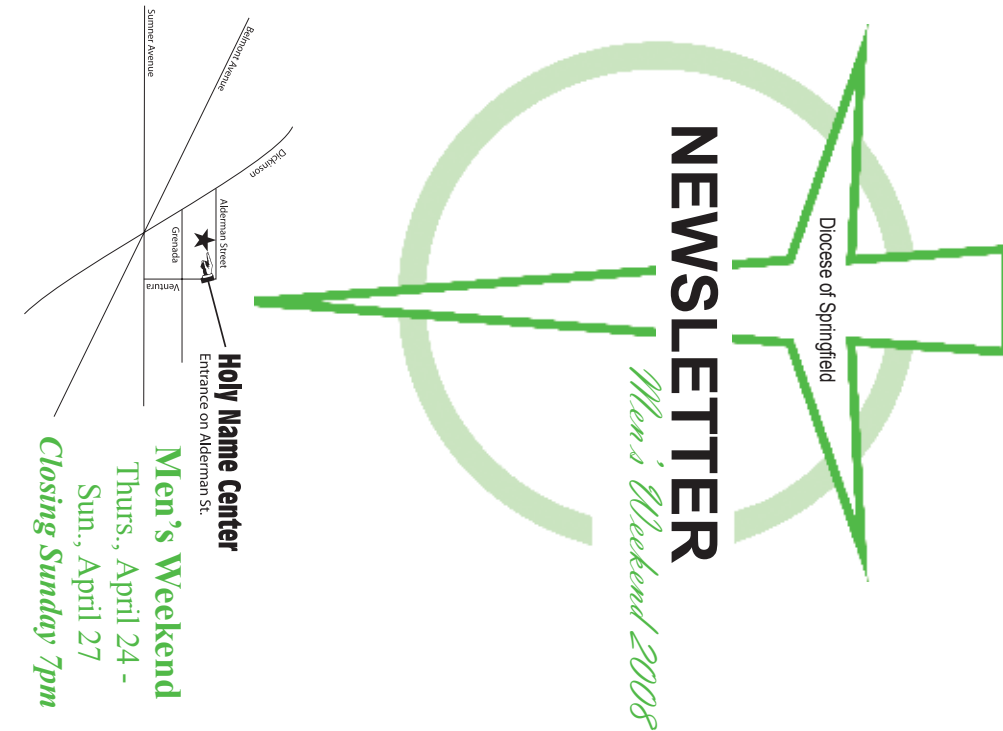
Visit our website for applications, latest updates, etc.  
and now has the daily readings and is useful for Ultraya Coordinators.  
Just click on the link and select the date for the readings you want.

[www.cursillomass.org](http://www.cursillomass.org)

stand the general concept, but sometimes get a little lost when we confuse palanca with a poster adorned with personal pictures, or a special note paper which reminds candidates that "this is a great weekend," or other types of tangible items. These are "nice things" but not palanca, according to the Leaders' Manual, p.136. Founder Bishop Hervas reminds us that "...everything in the Cursillo is the work of God's grace. It is necessary, therefore, to pray and sacrifice for the spiritual and apostolic success..." (p. 136). "Prayers and sacrifices on behalf of the Cursillo (palanca) are crucial to its spiritual success." (p.138)

With the upcoming men and women weekends, it is a great opportunity for us to renew our fervor for the Cursillo by actively praying and sacrificing. Notes and posters, the physical signs of our palanca, serve as the means of communicating this vital service to our community. Remember, Palanca comes out on the FIRST day of the weekend, around noon time. That means, it needs to be delivered to the weekend site before that time. For this women's weekend, that means Palanca should be delivered to Holy Name on Friday evening, if possible, for distribution on Saturday. Of course, palanca is needed and is welcomed throughout the weekend, so if it is not possible to deliver it to Holy Name on Friday evening, do not abandon your plan to get it to the candidates and team members! Clearly label what you are delivering so that the Chas can insure it goes to the right person and you may want to put 'sponsor' somewhere on the envelope if you are sponsoring that person. Palanca can be dropped off in the back of the parish center by the kitchen, there will be Cursillo signs posted.

For many in our Cursillista community, ongoing palanca is practiced. The sense of prayerfulness and self-sacrifice is incorporated into daily living, with a focus on raising awareness of the need to pray always! Thank you to our community members who are so faithful and so dedicated to this unique practice!



THE CURSILLO COMMITTEE  
P.O. Box 1207  
HOLYOKE, MASS. 01041-1207  
Time Dated Material

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Springfield, MA  
Permit No. 1128

## MEN'S TEAM

Thursday April 24 - Sun. April 27

Holy Name Parish, Springfield

Rector	Mike Trznadel	Evangelization	Rick Ablicki
Assistant Rector	Mark Rivest	Leaders	Tom Domenichelli
Spiritual Advisor	Fr. Warren Savage	Environments	Oscar Nepomuceno
" "	Deacon George Morrell	Christian Community	John Hurley
Lay Spiritual Advisor	Jim Murphy	Ninth Member	Bill Zajac
Ideal	Bob Drapeau	Head Cha	Greg Jay
Laity	Shawn Pierce	Cha	Jason George
Holiness	Nelson Letendre	Cha	Tom Sullivan
Formation	Al Rosati		

## CANDIDATES

Palanca by Fri. April 25, please

CANDIDATE	CITY	SPONSOR
Edwin Anderson	Feeding Hills	Nelson Letendre
Leo Arel	Chicopee	Betty Arel
John Batista	Longmeadow	Phil & Doris Callan
David Bergeron	Granby	Paul Mazzariello
Wilfredo Cubi	Holyoke	William Kelly
Frederic Dubour	Suffield, CT	Faith St. Onge
Daniel Fitzgerald	Holyoke	Jason George
Bill Florence	W. Springfield	John & Irene Bledsoe Cathy & Fred Rook
Claude Lambert	Granby	Paul Mazzariello
Tom LaMondia	E. Longmeadow	Susan LaMondia
Tom Landon	Wellfleet	Albert & Joyce Rosati
Michael O'Connor	Westfield	Marion Rodriguez
Robert O'Connor	Amherst	Joanne Bourquard
Edward Okseniak	Belchertown	Tom & Fran Wilhelmi
Barrent Pease	Russell	Jim Alderson
Brian Podmore	Holyoke	Jim Brunault
Michael Robare	E. Longmeadow	Cathy Robare
George Shephard	Holyoke	Mary Ouimette
Michael Robert	Holyoke	Bonnie Robert
Michael Rosemond	Springfield	Pat Sears
Bernard Shevlin	E. Longmeadow	Kathleen Shevlin
Christopher Shuman	Westfield	David Armstrong

We still have opening for the  
Women's Weekend May 23-26  
Applications on our website  
[www.cursillomass.org](http://www.cursillomass.org)



## MEET YOUR RECTOR

Hi, my name is Mike Trznadel and I'll be the Rector for the upcoming men's weekend. I made my Cursillio at St. Bridget's Parish in Amherst in 1997 (Is that right Bob?). I sat at the table of St. Tex. I am forty-nine years old and have been married to the former Eileen Collamore for going on 27 years now. Our family includes our son Andrew, his wife Kristin, his daughter Emily, who was born on this past April Fools Day, our son Steven, his three year old daughter Guinevere, and our daughter Christine. We belong to St. Rose de Lima Parish in Chicopee. I was born and raised in Chicopee and still reside there.

When I made my Cursillio back in '97, I did it purely because my wife wanted it for me. Back then I thought that religion was something personal that you kept to yourself. I would never have thought that I would ever be evangelizing to a group of men that I didn't even know. But, God has a sense of humor. He would not only place me in front of these men, but he would help me find a great joy and sense of purpose in doing so. I have always been a very private person and don't very readily get up in front of people and open up to them, but, through the support of the men that I have been grouping with and with the aid of the Holy Spirit, I have found an inner strength, a strength that allows me to be able to use my talents to serve God.

On this upcoming weekend, I have the honor of spending time with a tremendous group of men who were selected by the Holy Spirit to help spread the Word of Christ to the candidates. These gentlemen are true men of God who will bring the candidates closer to God not only with their powerful talks but also with their evangelizing presence.

The team and I are quite excited about serving God and the candidates on the weekend and we know that with your help and prayers the weekend will be a tremendous success.

*De Colores*

## REACH OUT AND TOUCH SOMEONE

*Deacon John Bledsoe*

The following story appeared on GMA this month: "Every day for three years, Annamarie went to her local Seattle Starbucks for her usual morning coffee. She developed a casual relationship with the woman that served her, Sandie age 51. Sandie noticed last fall that the woman had a sadness in her voice and pushed her to talk about what was wrong. The woman, Annamarie told her that she was in dire need of a kidney transplant. Sandie offered to be tested to see if she was a candidate to donate her own kidney. This past week the two women were recovering in the hospital in Tocomo, Wash. and both doing well and Annamarie can now look forward to watching her granddaughter grow up and retiring with her husband.

This wasn't the first time that Sandie had reached out to others, she had done missionary work in Mexico and volunteered to dig mud out of houses after Hurricane Katrina.

My first thought was, "I wonder if Sandie is a Cursillista." This is what we do as Cursillistas, we reach out to others in need, whoever, wherever and whatever that need is. We do this because we can and because it is who we are and how we live our lives, we do it because our example is Jesus and how He lived His life.

Our Cursillo community, especially here in Western Mass exemplifies who we are as Christians.

*De Colores*

## NOTE FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

*Pat Triggs*

The topic this month is.....GROUPING! As I was reflecting on the activities of the past few months, I thought first of the recent men's and women's retreats held at Holiday Inn in Holyoke in February and March. If you were one of the 35 men or 88 women who attended the retreats this year, I don't need to tell you how fortunate we are to have the inspiration and companionship of spiritually mature, loving, and holy guides during these weekends. I wouldn't be honest if I didn't share with you that there were moments (plenty of them I might add!) when I did not know if we would have enough retreatants to fulfill our financial obligation to the hotel. We contracted to guarantee 34 men and for 74 women this year. It was truly at the 11th hour that we realized our numbers. It gives me a pause to insure that we will be able to continue this, one of our most important apostolic actions of our Cursillo Community. The Secretariat will

be looking closely at this for the next year, and I welcome your suggestions and comments related to this.

My knowledge of the men's weekend is from the many retreatants who told me how beneficial and spiritually thoughtful the time was, and the response to the women's weekend was overwhelmingly positive. As I observed the interactions of more experienced Cursillistas with the newer Cursillistas, or in many instances, potential Cursillistas, I was again reminded of the pure genius of the Cursillo method as it provides opportunity and inspiration for each one of us to grow in our spiritual life.

In the case of the women, the thirst to connect with others who share the journey, the chance to be inspired to become everything that we can, and the affirmation that we are indeed not alone in this quest, was met over and over again. Whether at meal time, in the Hospitality Room, during a visit to the chapel, or just during a conversation in the lobby, connections were made, revisited, renewed or established. It was overwhelming to me to see this being played out over and over. The number of groups which have formed from connections at the retreats is substantial. Cursillo exists for the purpose of assisting dedicated lay people to evangelize the world, one person at a time, and this is exactly what happens, year after year, at our retreats.

If you are not currently grouping, or perhaps, your group has fallen apart and no longer meets to fulfill the purpose, or perhaps it is time for you to consider grouping at a different time, now is the time to renew yourself and step forward to connect in a special way with at least one other person. Perhaps you could find a group at work, folks in your parish, someone who shares your vision of the environment, a family member, or maybe, someone whose life is very different from yours, to spend a bit of time with on a regular basis. Staying focused on the spiritual life, staying Christ-centered, and remaining faithful to the purpose will help insure success and longevity. Groups may be very long lived, but not every group is destined for this, nor is it necessary to think this. I myself have been in about 8 different groups over my life of 41 years in Cursillo! Each one met its purpose according to my life at the time, and I do not consider the ending of the group to have been a failure. Rather, it is an acknowledgement that life changes, people move away, needs differ, etc. and, miracle of miracles, we grow in our spiritual life.

So, as we think about our next step, our next phase of life, think about giving yourself the "pearl beyond price" and flourish in a group which encourages you to grow!

*De Colores*

~ CONTRIBUTIONS ~

In memory of  
**Alma Allen and Chris Tremble**  
Irene and John Bledsoe

In memory of **Peg Phaneuf**  
Bob Phaneuf

Christmas gift for  
**Irene and John Bledsoe**  
Faith St. Onge

Donations toward **mailing costs**  
of **Cursillo Newsletter**

Jeanne Joyal  
Joseph Wooler  
Vinnie Bumbaca  
Jeanne & Marc Gaudet

Donations toward the  
**Men's & Women's Retreats**

Sr. Judy O'Connell  
Charlie Lyons  
Carolyn & Bill Lawry

~ IN MEMORIAL ~

**Theresa Slowinski** (12/17/07)  
Weekend

**Alma Allen-Vincent** (1/3/08)  
Weekend Feb. 1972  
Team May 1973

**Chris Tremble** (1/19/08)  
Weekend April 2006



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