

OUR GOODNESS

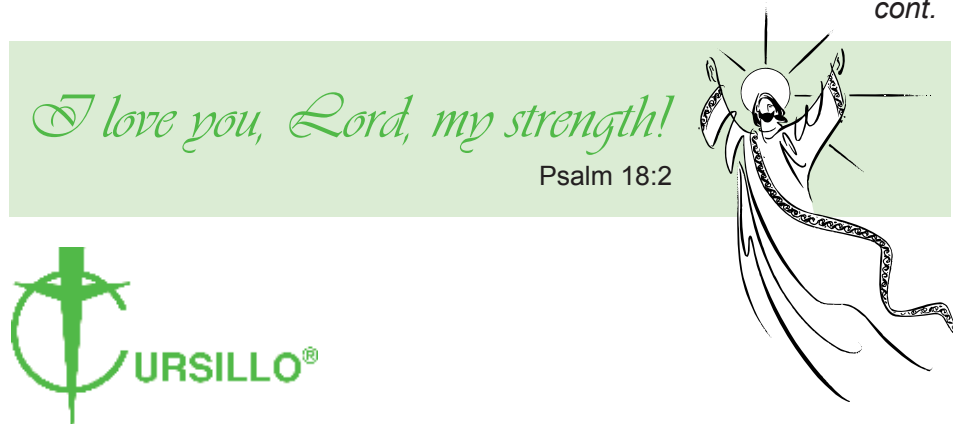
Deacon John Bledsoe

There isn't anything terribly complicated about "Lent!" It's that time of the year when we think about all of the things that are not exactly "right" in our lives – a time to examine all the "garbage" we've taken in this past year – the faults, the weaknesses, the shortcomings AND that big one - "**SIN.**" We are called to use this time to make sure we know just how sinful we are, just how imperfect, flawed and disobedient. If we ever thought too highly of ourselves, **Lent will definitely put us in our place.**

And so we take time examining our consciences, bringing to the surface those things that we don't like about ourselves - those things that we have neglected for too long – all the ugly things! We try to fix things by denying ourselves things, "**we offer them up.**" Although many of us aren't quite sure what that means or even how it "works!" We try to be more generous with the less fortunate. And it's even about doing extra things to help improve our relationship with God.

It is all these things - but it's much more than that! While Lent is a time to reflect on our sin, it's also a special and holy time to reflect on "**Our Goodness.**" God created us out of love and in His divine image! This means that we are **good** people. Down deep in our soul when God formed us He placed that "goodness" there so that our capacity to act in good, beautiful and holy ways was **unlimited.** God created us precisely in a way that allows us to reflect his love. But we do fall short, some of us more than others. At times it seems it would be easier to just focus on the **sin** in our lives and just work on that, just follow the rules and we would be OK! But Lent is about getting back to the basics – what it means to be a son or daughter of God and a disciple of the Lord. We need to focus on that inner core where God placed that "goodness" – not to what we are called to be but what is actually possible. As an example, if we are hired by a company to do a specific job and are given the dos & don'ts that are expected of us, (like what Christ has asked of us). And we follow those rules exactly then we are in compliance with what our "boss" has asked of us. **But we have so much more in us!** When we expand outside of the "rules" by doing more than is asked of us, then we use that "goodness" inside ourselves to do greater things, we are expanding that goodness beyond what we "**are called to do.**" If we only work on the "sin" and try to fix that and do nothing else we miss the boat! But if we don't believe that we have the capacity to do some incredibly loving and unselfish acts **then we can't!** The thing that can save us and help us be more Christ-like is to turn to the one that walks with us because He is there always to help us reach our potential.

This is one of the meanings of the Covenant, which was expressed so *cont.*



CLIP OUT & SAVE!

April	May	June	Ultreya Calendar
17	15	19	DIOCESAN Ultreya - 7:30 p.m. (3rd Fri.) Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall, Holyoke, MA
9	14	11	Local Ultreya - 7 p.m. St. Stanislaus, Chicopee, MA (2nd Thurs.)
April 20, Mon. Men's Closing, 7p.m. Holy Name Parish, Springfield			
May 22-25 Women's Cursillo Weekend , Holy Name Parish, Springfield Palanca by Saturday - Closing 7p.m. Monday			

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

EXCITING NEWS!

The Diaconate Class of 2009 will be ordained Saturday, May 9, 2009 at St. Michael's Cathedral and *eight of them are Cursillistas!*

Bill Brawner	Angel Perez (Spanish Cursillo)
Thomas Gaudrault	Michael Perkins
Michael Hodges	Joe Peters
Wendell Pennell	John Vennard

We are proud of all of you and your dedication over the past four years of preparation. Congratulations!

Please keep them in your prayers as they finish up their last month of classes. *Praise the Lord!*

OUR GOODNESS *cont.*

beautifully in God's promises to Noah in the reading from Genesis 9:8-15. *God will remain faithful to us even when we don't remain faithful! God truly helps us to be the people he created us to be – if we only take the time to listen to Him.*

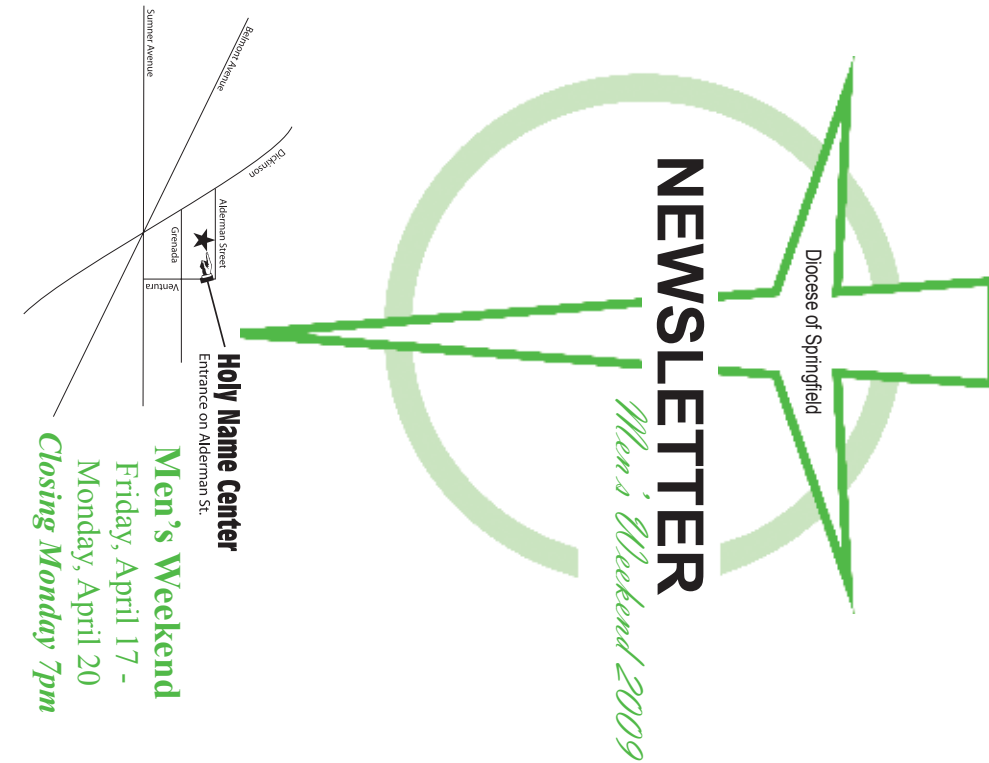
So this Lent while we are examining and considering the ways we can improve upon our relationship with God – our sins and failings – let's be sure we start at the right place:

**"In the beginning ... male and female he created them ...
...God saw all that he had made,
and it was very good."**

That "everything" he made includes each one of us so let's make sure we understand that, believe that and embrace that **before we do anything else.**

Irene and I wish all of you, our friends, a wonderful Holy Week and a happy Easter as we ease into summer. God Bless you and all you do to support our Cursillo community.

De Colores



THE CURSILLO COMMITTEE
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MEN'S TEAM

Friday, April 17 - Monday, April 20

Holy Name Parish, Springfield

Rector	Marc Rivest	Evangelization	Pat Sears
Assistant Rector	Tom Wilhelmi	Leaders	John Hale
Spiritual Advisor	Msr. David Joyce	Environments	Jason George
	Deacon Paul Mazzariello	Christian Community	Tom Gaudrault
Ideal	Bob Farrell	Ninth Member	Dan Rodriguez
Laity	Leo Arel	Head Cha	Tom Rodriguez
Holiness	Jae Helenek	Cha	Brian Podmore
Formation	Matt Lavallee	Cha	Tom Lamondia

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE	CITY	SPONSOR
Les Brown	Feeding Hills	Diane Farrell
Joe Carey	South Hadley	Wendell Pennell
Bill Champagne	Springfield	John Hale & Ray Dumas
John Davitt	East Longmeadow	John Rucci
Chris DeVoie	East Longmeadow	Greg Dobek
Sean Driscoll	Greenfield	Sean Pierce
Matt Durham	Toronto	Diane & Jim Murphy
Jim Geoffroy	Chicopee	John Hale
Mike Harrington	East Longmeadow	Tom LaMondia
Rich Hebert	South Hadley	Patti Monroe
Jon LaRose	Sutton	Tom Rodriguez
Joe Malmborg	Springfield	Pat Sears
Father Jim Murphy	Toronto	Diane & Jim Murphy
Michael O'Connor	Westfield	Maria Rodriguez
Ernie Oliver	East Longmeadow	John Rucci
Fran Rogers	Holyoke	Tom & Fran Wilhelmi
Tom Rondeau	Chicopee	Paul Mazzariello
Jeff Scott	Springfield	Pat Sears
Bruce Wallace	Belchertown	Paul Pierce

We still have openings for the
Women's Weekend May 23-26
Applications on our website
www.cursillomass.org



MEET YOUR RECTOR

Hi, my name is **Marc Rivest** and I've been given the privilege to be the rector for the upcoming men's weekend. I made my cursillo in April of 2003 and sat at the table of St. Elizabeth. My wife, Lois & I have been married for 36 years and live in Chicopee. We are members of Assumption Parish and have 2 children. Our daughter, Harmony is married to Dave and gave us a beautiful grandson, Seth, last May. We also have a son, Wade. We are truly blessed to have them as family and great friends.

Over the past 50 some-odd years of my life Our Lord and Savior has spent more time tryin' to get my attention...I'd hear Him all right, but, always the same answer, "Thanks, Jesus, but not this time! I'm too busy breakin' all these commandments!"

Then, one fine day, He decided to get serious. The Lord sure got my attention the day I woke up in the hospital diagnosed with leukemia! Blessings come in many forms! I realized God was telling me, "Son, you've got to change your ways,!" It only took 30 years, and I'm glad to say I now hear Our Lord loud and clear! Since then, I made a firm promise to change and my greatest surprise is how much I enjoy my new life in Christ. Sorry it took so long, Lord.

I know I have experienced God's Mercy first hand and He has led me to this team of wonderful men. It has truly been a blessing and pleasure to be with these guys each week over the past few months, sharing our love of Christ and how He affects our lives Their spirituality and diverseness is so inspiring and I know the candidates will love them as much as I do.

All I need is your help because I realize our greatest asset is YOU... the cursillo community. Your hard work is what makes it all happen. It takes all of us to bring the Holy Spirit to the weekend and I want to thank you for all that you do.

As always you are in my thoughts and prayers. *De Colores*

NOTE FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

Pat Triggs

Time for an update on the activities in the Cursillo Community. The Men's and Women's retreats were both extremely successful. The loving, solid, and prayerful preparation that these retreat groups do in order to provide our community with this wonderful means of holiness, formation and evangelization is a source of great inspiration to me. For the 30+ men and 80+ women who were able to avail themselves of these opportunities, you don't need me to tell you how fortunate we are to have in our midst men and women of faith who are willing to share their journey with us in a unique setting. For me, the retreat connected me with the most extraordinary women, all of whom gave me so much to reflect on. In this Easter season, our desire for hope increases. We all know what turbulent times we are in; economic, political, and religious upheaval surrounds us. I know that I am seeking a spiritual "safe harbor," and a sense of stability in my life. When I learned on the retreat from Barbara Weissbrod that she had lost her permanent group, with members moving away, dying, or suffering from mental infirmities, I sensed her grieving and sense of loss. As I put myself in her shoes, I thought that I would have felt as she did, that I would not want to start over with a new group, or invest the needed energy. Imagine our absolute wonder and awe in the power of hope and perseverance when we learned that Barb, moved by the Holy Spirit, reconsidered the situation and is once again entering into the very special

relationship of a permanent group. I can tell you, I was moved to tears by her testament to hope and her willingness to continue on the journey in the company of her new group. At the same time, I must admit, I was a little chagrined to be reminded that I don't get a "free pass" just because I am getting older! I kind of hoped I would get a reprieve of sorts, but deep down I knew there was no such thing. My gratitude to all of you.

On another topic.....The School of Leaders has reconvened after a short break. This is the group of experienced Cursillistas who are willing to focus on the work of Cursillo as their action. Currently, we are meeting on the third Sunday of each month and tackling such things as planning for the long range future of the Cursillo movement in our diocese, looking for ways to spread the message of Cursillo to as many people as possible, examining our mission statement and exploring different ways to enable our community to use the tools of Cursillo even more effectively. This group came up with the ideas to celebrate Mass in different parishes around the diocese, to help lay people prepare to assume greater participation in the Weekend itself, and to form the permanent Formation School which runs each year. I like to describe it as kind of a "think tank" for Cursillo! Linda Menard has graciously consented to act as the chairperson for this group. It is a separate entity from the Secretariat, although several people serve on both bodies. The Secretariat is the decision making body, the group that tends to the "nuts and bolts" of the operation, the group that insures the running of Ultreya, the weekends themselves and the retreats. We are so fortunate to have so many willing workers! We welcome your participation and your input to any of these endeavors. *De Colores*

TIME FOR GOLF

On Tuesday, June 23, 2009, the Bureau for Exceptional Children and Adults at Jericho, will once again be the beneficiary of the **30th Jericho Annual Tony Strycharz Golf Classic** to be held at the Oak Ridge Country Club in Feeding Hills. Contact Jericho 538-7450 for info if interested in participating.

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Christmas Donations
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for Cursillo from
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In Memory of
Mary Rooney
(Tom Rooney's mother)
and Donna Goodreau
(Fr. David Raymond's sister)
from Irene and John Bledsoe

~ IN MEMORIAL ~

Bud Gilmartin (8/20/08)
Weekend

Mario (Lee) Fricchione (2/26/09)
Weekend June 1968

Pauline Georgantas Clune
(2/26/09)
Weekend Nov. 1983
Team, May 1985



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