

## WHAT IS GROUPING?

Deacon John Bledsoe

The following is from "PRAYERS" by Michel Quoist and this prayer struck me as what we are attempting to do for each other when we group and it starts this way:

"Man is alone since he is unique, but he is made for communion. Sin divides and isolates us. We must grow closer, share the burden of each other's sins-and atone for them-to overcome the obstacle to our oneness. Solitude causes suffering; it is not part of the Father's plan. Redemptive love alone can conquer it and cement our unity." (he continues with his prayer)

"I know his secret, his weighty secret. How, Lord, can it be carried by this big boy with the childish face grown old too soon? I wanted him to tell it to me, to give it to me to bear with him.

For long months now I have been stretching my hand towards this young, crushed brother. Eagerly he seizes that hand, caresses it, kisses it...but over the gulf that separates us. When I want gently to draw him closer, he backs away, for in his other hand he carries his secret, too heavy for him to hand to me, Lord, he hurts me. I look at him from a distance, and cannot get near him; he looks at me and cannot come closer.

We both suffer. He suffers the more, and I can hardly bear it, for my love is too limited, Lord; each time that I try to span his solitude, my bridge is too short and does not touch his shore. And I see him, on the edge of his suffering, hesitating, getting set, but drawing back again in desperation, for the distance is too great and the burden is too heavy. Yesterday, Lord, he leaned towards me, said a word-then took it back; his whole body quivered with the weight of the secret which approached his lips but rolled back again to the depths of his solitude. He did not cry, but I wiped drops of perspiration beading his forehead. I cannot take his burden from him; he must give it to me. I see it, and I cannot grasp it. You do not want me to take it, Lord, since he does not want that. I have no right to violate his suffering.

I am thinking tonight, Lord, of all the isolated ones, of all those who are alone, terribly alone, because they have never let go and been carried by anyone, because they have never given themselves to you, Lord. Those who know something that others will never know; those who suffer from a sore that no one can ever tend, those who bleed from a wound that no one will ever heal; those who are scarred by a terrible blow that no one will ever suspect; those who have, locked in the terrifying silence of their hearts, a harvest of humiliations, despairs, hatreds, those who have hidden a mortal sin-cold sepulchers behind cheerful facades.

The solitude of man frightens me, Lord; every man is alone, since he is unique, and that solitude is sacred; he alone can break through it, confide and share confidences. He alone can pass from solitude to communion. And you want this communion, Lord. You want us to be united with one another, in spite of the deep gulf that we have dug between us by sin, you want us to be united as your Father and you are united.

Lord, that boy hurts me, as do all isolated ones; grant that I may love them enough to break through their isolation. Grant that I may pass through the world with all doors open, my house entirely empty, available, welcoming.

Help me to withdraw so as to embarrass no one, that others may come in without asking, that they may deposit their burdens without being seen. And I'll come, silently, to get them by



CLIP OUT & SAVE!

| April  | May | June | Ultreya Calendar  |
|--|-----|------|---|
| 16   | 21  | 18   | DIOCESAN Ultreya - 7:30 p.m. (3rd Fri.)<br>Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall, Holyoke, MA |
| 8  | 13  | 10   | Local Ultreya - 7 p.m.<br>St. Stanislaus, Chicopee, MA (2nd Thurs.)                   |
| <b>April 19, Mon. Men's Closing, 7 p.m.</b> Holy Name Parish, Springfield  |     |      |   |
| <b>May 28-31 Women's Cursillo Weekend</b> , Holy Name Parish, Springfield<br>Palanca by Saturday - Closing 7 p.m. Monday |     |      |   |

| Upcoming Cursillo Masses |               |   |
|--------------------------|---------------|---|
| <b>May 6</b>             | <b>7 p.m.</b> | Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Westfield      |
| <b>June 9</b>            | <b>7 p.m.</b> | St. Patrick, South Hadley                         |
| <b>Sept. 26</b>          | <b>7 p.m.</b> | Mary, Mother of Hope, 840 Page Blvd., Springfield |

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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.

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

### JUST A REMINDER ON PALANCA.....

Palanca for the Men's weekend comes out on Saturday, April 17, 2010. It can be delivered to the back door of the Holy Name Social Center, before noon, if you want your candidate to get your palanca early. IF that is not possible, of course you can deliver it any time during the weekend.

Just a reminder..." PALANCA is prayers and sacrifices on behalf of the Cursillo." The ChaChas will only be able to deliver those notes and posters which describe prayers and sacrifices. Remember, if you have a picture, flowers, or a gift for your candidate, save it for the trip home, not during the weekend time. This helps to avoid misunderstandings and hurt feelings among the candidates. Thanks for your cooperation on this matter!

*Easter is a feast of joy - the joy of the Lord. Let nothing so disturb us, so fill us with sorrow or discouragement, as to make us forfeit the joy of the resurrection.*

~ Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

night and you, Lord, will help me to bear them."

When new groups are formed it often takes time for everyone to get comfortable and feel safe in revealing their fears to others. We can help each other if we take to heart what is in the paragraph above: "**grant that I may love them enough to break through their isolation.**" When we are patient with others we often are rewarded with great growth in them, as well as ourselves.

De Colores

*Their eyes were opened and they recognized him. Luke 24:31*



THE CURSILLO COMMITTEE  
P.O. Box 1207  
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Time Dated Material

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# MEN'S TEAM

Friday, April 16 - Monday, April 19

Holy Name Parish, Springfield

|                    |                      |                     |                 |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Rector             | Tom Wilhelmi         | Evangelization      | Chuck Crean     |
| Assistant Rector   | Dan Vankruiningen    | Leaders             | Ed Okseniak     |
| Spiritual Advisors | Fr. Richard Riendeau | Environments        | Phil Spigarelli |
|                    | Jim Murphy           | Christian Community | John Davitt     |
| Ideal              | Mike Perkins         | Ninth Member        | Wendell Pennell |
| Laity              | Mike Martin          | Head Cha            | Dave Bergeron   |
| Holiness           | John Gaughan         | Cha                 | Rick Ablicki    |
| Formation          | Claude Pouliot       | Cha                 | Rich Herbert    |

# CANDIDATES

| CANDIDATE          | CITY            | SPONSOR                        |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Danny Armstrong    | Springfield     | Dave Armstrong                 |
| Jacob Bennett      | Springfield     | Louise (Boucher) Croll         |
| Chad Cain          | South Hadley    | John & Irene Bledsoe           |
| Gerry Campion      | Chicopee        | John Laviolette                |
| Danny Daniel       | Springfield     | Diane & Bob Farrell            |
| Lou Della Croce    | Wilbraham       | Martin Markey                  |
| Owen Donohue       | Holyoke         | Jason George                   |
| Bobby Knight       | Holyoke         | Ray Larrow and Wendell Pennell |
| Ray LaValley       | South Hadley    | Dave Bergeron                  |
| George Nolan       | Montague        | Diane & Bob Farrell            |
| Fr. Sean O'Mannlon | Northampton     | Fr. John Connors               |
| Brendan O'Neill    | East Longmeadow | Chris Devoie                   |
| Steve Rahilly      | Agawam          | Kristen Rahilly                |
| Brandon Reed       | Easthampton     | Joe & Kristin Carey            |
| Greg Sheehan       | South Hadley    | Michael Martin                 |
| Fred Smith         | Greenfield      | Robert Lapinski                |
| Randy Torres       | Palmer          | Martin Markey                  |
| Tom Wright         | Longmeadow      | Phil & Doris Callan            |
| Randy Wyman        | Adams           | Mona & Donald LaValley         |

We still have openings for the Women's Weekend May 28-31  
Applications on our website  
[www.cursillowmass.org](http://www.cursillowmass.org)



# MEET YOUR RECTOR - Tom Wilhelmi

As I reflect upon my making Cursillo, I was told that next Friday you be ready with your suitcase packed for a Cursillo Weekend. That was what I was told by my sponsor, Jack O'Brien, and little did I know what Cursillo was or what it meant to be a sponsor.

I worked part-time for Jack at the O'Brien Driving School as a driving instructor and Cursillo was a "big secret." I made my Cursillo in October of 1976 at St. Brigid in Amherst. This was my beginning.

My wife Frances also made her weekend in November of the same year. We have been "happily" married for the past 50 years and have two daughters, Mary Frances Okseniak who is married to Edward and they have two beautiful children, Sarah (20) is a junior at the Elms College studying to be a nurse, and Andrew (19) a freshman at Bridgewater State College with a major in history and minor in secondary education. Our other daughter Ginger is married to Louie Levi and resides in Pennsylvania for the past 9 years.

Since making Cursillo we have been involved on and off in many activities within the Cursillo movement. We are parishioners in Blessed Sacrament in Holyoke for 45 plus years and are very involved in our parish in the R.C.I.A. program, Eucharistic Minister, Lector, and member of the Finance Board.

This year I have been given the privilege of being rector for the men's team and what a terrific group of guys doing God's work as it shows in their sharing their love of Christ and how He affects our everyday lives. We have prepared and are looking forward to presenting God's weekend to the candidates. We ask for your prayers and palanca for the weekend as the Holy Spirit showers us with God's love and blessings.

*De Colores*

# NOTE FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

*Pat Triggs*

While preparing an article for this newsletter, I found that my mind kept on returning to a topic that I did not want to write about! However, the persistence of the thought convinced me that I should follow the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Our region has experienced a tragic series of events involving our greatest treasure, our young people. Right in my own parish of Holy Name in Springfield, we lost two young parishioners within one week, both suffering violent death by murder. The unthinkable became reality. The death of a young woman from South Hadley has brought division and sorrow, not only to her family and friends, but to the entire community as well. Again, the unthinkable became reality.

What meaning do these events have for our Cursillo Community? Whether or not we personally knew the persons afflicted or not, we are all affected by these dreadful losses. The anguish felt by suffering families throughout the world is mirrored here in our own Diocese. From global disasters such as the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, to the loss of life and limb from terrorism and war, and religious persecution in many areas of the world, it is clear that the world is filled with sorrow and tension. It could lead to a feeling of hopelessness and despair. We are clearly at risk for falling into such a state. What can help us not to despair? Scripture reminds us that this is not a new condition for human beings. (Think of Job!) However, in order for us to avoid the unhealthy slide into discouragement or depression, we need to actively determine a course of action. What do we need to do?

Our Cursillo method reminds us of the need for balance in our lives in or-

der to grow in our relationship with God! FORMATION includes discerning what direction we need to follow in order to better live the Christian life. This may include evaluating our physical and mental health status as well as our spiritual health! Especially as the weather improves, we may seek outdoor exercise and recognize how it contributes to our overall wellbeing. We need to take adequate time for ourselves in order to insure that we can be available to serve others when needed. It is not self-ish to insure that we are as well as we can be. Caring for ourselves physically is a holy endeavor!

EVANGELIZATION may take place in a new environment which we seek out, or it may remain close to home as we seek to reflect God's love to those closest to us. A renewed sense of thankfulness, expressed lovingly, may be the result of recognizing how fragile and fleeting life may be! This could be the time for a note, a visit to a homebound person, an invitation to share a cup of coffee, a phone call to someone you do not usually call, or a response to an expressed need to a person or family in need.

HOLINESS, our yearning to be even more connected to our Creator, requires a bit more work on our part. In times of loss and stress, our communication with God may become rote, and our usual religious activities may seem unimportant in the face of serious problems. Praying for our communities, praying with others who share our concerns, and praying for those who, for whatever reason, may not be able to pray for themselves, is a worthy goal. This may be the time for patience and kindness to ourselves. I know that I do not always allow myself the same permission to be more patient with myself that I would allow for another. By recognizing the grieving that is taking place, it helps me to know that "this too shall pass" and there will be a time for a return to a more hopeful place.

I recognize that these small steps will not change our environment or its sad realities, but I also know that we are required to do what we can. St. Francis admonishes us "to preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary use words." Thank you for letting me be part of our community of faith!

*De Colores*

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*Dick St. Onge*  
from Irene & John Bledsoe

in honor of  
*Faith & Dick and Irene & John*  
from Cathy and Fred Rook

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for the Women's Retreat  
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In honor of *Our Blessed Mother*  
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In honor of the Ordination of  
*Tom Gaudrault*  
from Marie & Joe Murray

# ~ IN MEMORIAL ~

**Barry Conway** (12/09)  
Weekend 4/91

**Yvette Blaney** (12/11/09)  
Weekend 10/73, Team 6/75, 11/77

**Walter Hickson** (12/26/09)  
Weekend 10/74, Team 2/76



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