

ronment to make their Cursillo weekend was, but I do know that Ernie Ross was one of the big movers.

The same thing was happening when we were having large numbers of candidates who had children who were developmentally disabled. Fr. Wagner made a Cursillo and things took off at Jericho in Holyoke.

Recently, when I saw a picture of Tom Gaudrault in the paper along with John Fogarty at Callaway where they both work, I was reminded of the leadership Tom has provided in sponsoring a number of his fellow employees. Remember, "bloom where you are planted!"

I could also add Mike Ashe in the Prison System and Pat Triggs in the Nursing Profession and a number in the teaching profession.

The point I am trying to make is, that this was and is the reason for Cursillo. It is not just another thing to do within the Church. It does have a purpose. For some reason or other, we within this Diocese, have done some things backwards and I accept my share of the responsibility for this. Instead of selecting the environments that we feel may need to be evangelized, we sponsor individuals for a multitude of reasons but not for the reason that the Movement intended.

Under Pre-Cursillo pg. 292 of the Leaders Manual it states: "It is essential to have a proper Pre-Cursillo program." The environment is first picked and then the potential candidates are selected.

Whenever I have had questions about the Cursillo Movement in our Diocese such as: "Why do we struggle to get Candidates to make the weekends? Why after 40 plus years of the Cursillo Movement in this Diocese it is still so hard to see its effect? Why does it seem that so few individuals who have made the weekend really got the message? What are we doing right and what are we doing wrong?"

For over 60 years, the special Charism that Cursillo's founder Edwardo Bonin received from the Holy Spirit has literally change the lives and environments of so many. We are not allowed to make Cursillo fit our own purpose; we always need to be true to its method and purpose, and if you don't believe me ...read the instructions! I hope this little talk has helped fill you're your minds with ideas and hopefully have "sounded out and stirred up authentic dissatisfaction with things as they are." *De Colores*

DEAR FRIENDS,

Fr. David Joyce

As I write these few lines, we're still hoping for enough candidates for the Men's Cursillo Weekend. We know it's in God's hands - we'll leave it there. In fact, as we proclaim so boisterously at our closings: "He's got the whole world in his hands." The suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus which we relive during holy week speaks of powerlessness, the opposite of having the whole world in one's hands. And yet in that rhythm of death and resurrection, we see that from weakness comes strength, and that despite all appearances to the contrary, God really does have the whole world in his hands.

This Easter season consider then that rhythm of death and resurrection in your own life: your moments of disappointment and difficulty, of sickness and of failure. These are privileged moments, because you help as Jesus carries his cross. And think of those moments of joy - new life, new love, new friendships, the satisfaction of a job well done. God gives you these moments so that even now, you can share (and even sense) the new life of Jesus coming through his resurrection.

For most of us, the Cursillo experience was just that - a resurrection moment. It's why we want to share it with others. May our Easter celebration give each of us a sense of the sadness that Jesus' sufferings brought to him and a



CLIP OUT & SAVE!

April	May	June	CALENDAR
20	18	15	DIOCESAN Ultreya - 7:30 p.m. (3rd Fri.) Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall, Holyoke, MA
12	10	14	Local Ultreya - 7 p.m. St. Stanislaus, Chicopee, MA (2nd Thurs.)
2nd Wed. of Month Fri., May 25-28		School of Leaders - 7 p.m. St Patrick's, South Hadley Women's Cursillo Weekend - ST. JOHN'S AGAWAM -	
Visit our website for applications, latest updates and to register your email address for notices and reminders www.cursillowmass.org			

sense of the joy and fulfillment that came through his resurrection. May you know in your heart that God's got the whole world (and you and me) safely in his hands. *De Colores*

"JOY" - Jesus, Others, You

Louise Boucher Croll

I am so like the disciples on the Mount of the Transfiguration. There they are enveloped in the cloud of God's presence, and what do they want to do? Put up tents. That is so *me*. I was a Girl Scout for a long time. I can just picture myself running around putting up a tent. God's voice has to thunder out of the cloud: "This is my beloved Son...Listen to him." God has to say it quite a few times before I either hear God or believe God. Even then, I think, "I must have been mistaken; that can't be what God is saying!" I push the message aside and listen to the voice that I am most familiar with... my own.

"I have so much to do," I think, "I don't have time to go on the Cursillo women's retreat." Still, I decide to take time to go to adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, and listen... just in case. By evening, I know that I need this retreat.

As the retreat begins, I am asking myself, "Why does God want me here?" One of the speakers talks about "JOY - Jesus, Others, You." I am asking myself, "What does this mean to me?" Later, I hear Fr. Savage's homily at the Mass. "You can't be afraid to be who you are." It is the priest's voice, but I know God is speaking to me. So often I don't accept myself. I am critical of myself and then I am critical of others. Later, another speaker says, "If you see love coming at you... that is God!" So often I push that love away. God is asking me to accept the love He demonstrates for me through the people in my life. Only then will I be able to love myself and others as myself.

After a weekend of listening and experiencing the love of the other women for me, I am "hearing" God. God is speaking to me in my quiet times with Him, and God is speaking to me in the people and events of my life. God is telling me about "JOY." Jesus tells us to love God with your whole heart, soul, mind and strength and to love others as yourself. "JOY, Jesus, Others, Yourself." Yes, I did need this retreat. *De Colores*

VIGIL FOR CURSILLO held the 1st Friday of EVERY month

Each person is asked to take one hour on the 1st Friday at St. John the Evangelist Church, Main St., Agawam. We have a request from the faithful volunteers that have been keeping this going for some new volunteers. This would be a wonderful Action for your group and for yourself, or palanca for a loved one. Call Barb Weissbrod at 532-5474

"They did not yet understand the Scripture
that he had to rise from the dead." John 20:9



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NOTE FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

Mike Riley

Greetings Fellow Cursillistas, I hope each of you has a very blessed and spirit filled Easter.

As I write this article on April 2nd, I regret to report that the Men's weekend scheduled for April 13—16th has been postponed until the fall or until we can get at least 20 confirmed candidates. As of the date I'm writing this article, we only have 13. The Secretariat long ago established a policy not to hold a weekends unless and until we had 20 candidates. The feeling at that time was that it wasn't in the best interest of the Cursillo community if the team outnumbered the candidates, or to ask the many volunteers who are serving meals to prepare for just a few.

While I'm sure there are currently a few applications in the mail or "in the works," we need to enforce an approximate two week deadline for submitting completed applications prior to the start of any weekend. This deadline was established to make sure the newsletter (which takes several days to prepare and in many cases takes three to five days to reach everyone), includes all the names of the candidates so that the entire Cursillo community can adequately prepare one of the most important aspects of the weekend...Palanca.

This lack of candidates is a big wake up call to all of us. Our past practice of scrambling around at the last minute to fill twenty chairs is counterproductive to the mission and purpose of Cursillo. To repeat what has been said many times before, *the purpose of Cursillo is to identify potential leaders, who by their actions can influence their environments (home, work, etc.) in a more Christ like manner. The reason we hold weekends is not to fill spaces, it's not about filling twenty seats just so we can hold a weekend, and it's not about sending someone on a weekend because it may be "good for them." The Cursillo weekend is about offering preselected leaders to experience a closer relationship to Christ, to raise their awareness of Christ's message of evangelization so that we can send them out to make their homes, work and all the environments they reside in more Christ centered. It's about exposing that candidate to the message of Christ, so that he/she, in turn, can in a very normal but conscious way, make the world around them a better place. It's more than just changing the individual; it's about changing the candidate's mindset so he or she can become more Christ centered in their everyday actions and in their everyday environments.*

I hope and pray that the upcoming Women's weekend to be held at **St. John's the Evangelist in Agawam from May 25—29** does not fall to the same fate as the Men's weekend. To those who are thinking about sponsoring, please get the completed application along with the Sponsor's sheet to us prior to May 11th so their names can get in the newsletter. The address again is Cursillo Community, P.O. Box 1207, Holyoke, MA 01040. Applications and sponsors sheets can be found by downloading them at our website at www.cursillowmass.org.

Finally, I think it's an appropriate time to print a talk that was given at The School of Leaders a few months ago from a person many believe knows more about the Cursillo than anyone in the Springfield Diocese...Ron Gilpatrick. I ask you to read this carefully (which has been annotated due to space requirements) and think about the way we approach sponsoring candidates. *De Colores*

We have openings for the
Women's Weekend May 25-28
NEW LOCATION - St. John's Agawam
Applications on our website
www.cursillowmass.org



OUR ENVIRONMENT

Ron Gilpatrick

Since our weekend what Environment or Environments have we chosen to work at Christianizing?

Christmas day while at my son's house a number of the grandsons were trying to play some kind of interactive game on the TV. There were a number of things they could not do to the degree that they thought they should be able to. So, all four of them tried various things, shut the TV off put the TV on, put the sensor on, shut the sensor off etc. So, as I sat there watching their frustrations mount I finally asked "has anyone read all of the instructions?" Of course they had not, a typical male trait I am told. So they then picked up the instructions, read them thoroughly and within a few minutes they were able to do everything that they were supposed to be able to do.

To those of us who have made a weekend and would like to involve or sponsor someone, I ask, have we read the instructions regarding this Cursillo Movement that has been so much a part of many of our lives?

I think that for many, the Cursillo Movement has evolved in the Diocese as well as within us. At least I know it has for me. I began my Cursillo journey in February of 1969. The impact that the weekend had on me was quite profound. Here I am, 43 years later, still involved and convinced of its merits. Over the years, by examining the movement through the readings and teaching provided by the original Cursillo founders and the National Secretariat, I began to understand that there was much more to the Cursillo Movement than just making a weekend, being on numerous teams, serving as Rector, attending Ultreya and grouping.

For years many of us have organized and participated in a number of attempts at holding a Formation and Leader's School. We learned what the Weekends were all about, we learned about team formation, we learned about the talks and what they should cover, but never did we delve into the real purpose of the Movement and I accept my share of the responsibility for this.

With that being said, I decided that before I would give this Technique Talk "Pre-Cursillo Selection of Environments" I should go back and read the instructions which over the years I have read and studied over and over again and not surprising I find something new or something that I missed each and every time.

The first stage of the Pre-Cursillo is the studying and selecting of environments. The other two stages of the Cursillo Movement are the Cursillo and the Post Cursillo.

Each of the three stages must attain its specific objective. A failure in the functioning of any one of the three will have consequences on the other two and therefore on the development of the Cursillo Movement as a whole. It is necessary that the Leaders of the movement be convinced that the entire strategy of the Pre-Cursillo be oriented toward the Cursillo and the Post-Cursillo stages.

As I look back over the last 45 years of the Cursillo Movement in this diocese I think there are over 4000 individuals that we know have made the weekend. Have we made a difference in our environments?

The purpose (or goal) of the movement and there is only one, is to make Christian community possible in neighborhoods, parishes, work situations and the other places where people live the greater part of their lives. I repeat "Where people spend the greater part of their lives." Upon reviewing the GROUP RE-UNION SHEET under Action it states, "In your family, in your neighborhood, and in your environment." There are other good things that may be achieved with just going on a weekend itself, but the purpose in simple terms is thru the weekend experience to prepare individuals to go out and Christianize their environments. [Chapter 2 pg. 13 Leaders Manual.]

The Cursillo does have something specific it is trying to do, and that something is not, and I repeat is not just putting people through a three-day retreat. Its purpose is summed up in the phrase "structuring Christian life." Structuring Christian life means working to have authentic Christianity lived in each social

environment of society. [Chapter 2 pg. 16 Leaders Manual.]

The purpose of the movement, as defined in the booklet "How to Program a School of Leaders," is to speed up the process of what is fundamental for being a Christian for each of its members as individuals, in the Cursillo Movement as a whole, and in the environments where the members are situated. One of my favorite sayings taken from this booklet is to arouse passion "by sounding out and stirring up authentic dissatisfaction with things as they are." And I repeat "by sounding out and stirring up authentic dissatisfaction with things as they are."

The highest priority should be given to those structures and environments which have the most direct and deepest repercussions on society, since the evangelical leavening of environments requires a penetration of their structures and cannot be reduced to a merely intra Church activity. I looked up the word "intra" and its definition is "within" so in essence our efforts at evangelizing should not be just within our Churches or parishes. I think many of us go there because it is easiest and this is where we think we should go. I would like to add family because this is where most of us spend our time.

I have been totally involved with the Cursillo Movement in this Diocese since 1969. Since that time to the best of my knowledge there has never been a Diocesan Pastoral Plan for the Cursillo Movement nor have we within the Movement ever put together our own plan of any kind regarding the selection of environments that we should be looking at to make an effort at Christianizing or Evangelizing.

In 1969, when I made my Cursillo Weekend, one of the Team Members was Paul Philbin. Paul was a court stenographer but also ran a school for Stenographers and was very much a part of the Court System in Springfield. Over a few years Paul was very influential in the sponsoring of candidates who worked in the system where he spent the greatest amount of time. To name a few individuals, Lennie Rodriguez, Paul Bianconi, Bob George, Rudy LeBel. These men would group on their lunch hour while in their environment.

A few years later when we were having four to six Cursillo weekends per year, we had weekends when the majority of the candidates were involved in AA. I can't specifically remember who the first from this envi-

~ CONTRIBUTIONS~

for Cursillo

from Jeanne Gaudet
from Joseph Wooller III
from Clarice Bielanski

**in Memory of
Rev. Paul Archambault**
from Clarice Bielanski

**in Memory of
Teresa Hartwell**
from Irene & John Bledsoe
from Pat & Bob Triggs

**for Christmas in Honor of
Irene & John Bledsoe**
from Faith St. Onge

**for Christmas in Honor of
Faith & Dick St. Onge and
Irene & John Bledsoe**
from Cathy & Fred Rook

**for Christmas in Honor of
Faith & Dick St. Onge**
from Irene & John Bledsoe

Donations can be made at any time,
send to: Cursillo Committee
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