

AN AWAKENING

Deacon John

The following article was taken from "The Magnificat magazine" written by Jean Vanier in the September 2010 issue. He was the founder of l'Arche, a international network of communities for the mentally disabled. When I first heard it read to me by a friend, I was impressed – after reading it several times myself – I was overwhelmed and deeply touched, and I hope changed. I challenge everyone to read it several times and maybe you too will have "An Awakening". (I am wondering if this "Jean Vanier" is a cursillista?)

"Sometimes those of us who have more power, more money, more time, or more knowledge bend down to those who have less power, less knowledge, or less wealth, there is a movement from the "superior" to the "inferior." When people are generous they are in control. You can imagine someone in the street falling down and you going to help that person to get up. Then something happens. As you listen to that person you become friends. Perhaps you discover that he or she is living in squalor and has little money. You are not just being generous you are entering into a relationship which will change your life. You are no longer in control. You have become vulnerable; you have come to love that person. You have listened to their story. You have been touched by that incredible beautiful person, who has lived something so incredibly difficult. You are no longer in control, you are no longer just the generous one; you have become vulnerable. You have become a friend.

There is a very moving text in the Gospel of Luke. Jesus says when you give a meal don't invite the members of your family, your friends, or rich neighbors. When you give a really good meal, a banquet, invite the poor, the disabled, and the blind and you will be blessed (Lk 14). In biblical language to give a meal, or to be at a meal, is to become a friend. It is to enter into a covenant relationship. So Jesus is asking us to come up from behind the walls of our group and open our hearts to those who have been marginalized because of their poverty, because of their handicaps, and become their friend. In the heart of Christ there is a yearning to bring people together to meet as friends. To make that move from generosity to communion of hearts will imply a new way of living. It will imply a transformation, because we will have lost our power."

Written by Jean Vanier

De Colores

This Christmas, Let's Give A Little Jesus. . .

a thoughtful word or deed, an act of generosity for someone who's in need. Let's give a little Jesus to everyone we meet. . . the salesclerk or the server, the person in the street. Let's give a little Jesus, that's what really counts . . . not what's spent or bought, for whom in what amounts. Let's give a little Jesus. . .

Share the gift ~
SPONSOR



Send in your application as soon as it is filled out or at least One Month before the weekend.

Sponsor Today!

Get your application at www.cursillowmass.org



CLIP OUT & SAVE!

Dec	Jan	Feb	March	CALENDAR
17	21	18	18	DIOCESAN Ultreya - 7:30 p.m. (3rd Fri.) Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall, Holyoke, MA
9	13	10	10	Local Ultreya - 7 p.m. St. Stanislaus, Chicopee, MA (2nd Thurs.)
Feb. 18-20, 2011		Men's Winter Retreat - Genesis Spiritual Life Center		
March 4-6, 2011		Women's Winter Retreat - Holiday Inn, Holyoke		
April 15-18, 2011		Men's Cursillo Weekend - Holy Name, Springfield		
May 27-30, 2011		Women's Cursillo Weekend - Holy Name, Springfield		

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

GIFTS FOR JESUS - Through our Brothers and Sisters

"We should serve in newness of spirit" Romans: 7-6

Last year in December, the women's group from our parish planned to hold a Christmas dinner - we would all get together at one of the finest restaurants in town.

Since this was the season of giving, we agreed to bring warm socks, gloves or hats to donate to our local homeless shelter. I had been too busy to buy anything, so on the way to the restaurant I rushed into a store and purchased six inexpensive pairs of men's socks.

The socks were thin, but I was running late and didn't have time to sort through the racks.

Later that week, I watched a group of volunteers on TV who were attempting to address some of the needs of the areas homeless. There were doctors, nurses, social workers and others who cared.

I listened as a homeless man shared how when he walked down the street, no one looked at him. He said people would either look away or keep their eyes fixed on the ground as they passed him by.

I continued to watch the volunteers wash and inspect the feet of these homeless men and then give them a new pair of socks. I could see how much a clean pair of warm socks meant to them, and I couldn't help but wonder if Jesus was homeless today, would I have brought him a cheap pair of socks, instead of bringing him the best? Would I have dashed into a store at the end of the day to bring him a gift, taking less than three minutes to choose it?

Prayer: Slow me down Lord, so I may not neglect what's important in life; even if it's shopping for a simple pair of warm woolen socks for someone in need . . . help me do even the smallest thing Lord, always with love, and always for you.

De Colores

VIGIL FOR CURSILLO

Did you know that there is a vigil held for Cursillo the 1st Friday of EVERY MONTH and has been for years?

Each person is asked to take one hour of Adoration at St. John the Evangelist Church, Main St., Agawam on the first Friday of each month. Adoration is held 8am - 9pm. We have a request from the faithful volunteers that have been keeping this going for some new volunteers to commit to once a month or even on occasion. This would be a wonderful Action for your group and for yourself, or palanca for a loved one. Call Barb Weissbrod at 532-5474 to sign up. Thank you!

*From behind, a voice shall sound in your ears:
"This is the way, walk in it..."
Isaiah 30:21*



Winter 2010

Winter Retreat
Applications inside
Great Christmas Gift!
Merry Christmas

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 Winter Retreat FEBRUARY 18-20, 2011

*Refresh * Renew * Re-energize*
Genesis Spiritual Life Center

53 Mill Street, Westfield, MA 01085-4253 www.genesiscenter.us

\$175 per person/double occupancy \$195 per person/private room
\$110 commuter rate includes all meals and presentations

Don't wait, rooms are limited!

Deadline for registration is January 14

**Please register online if possible. Go to
www.newspiritinc.org/cursillo.pdf**
or

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Share room with _____

Please make checks payable to: *Joe Malmborg*

Mail registration form and check to:

Joe Malmborg, 85 Belvidere St, Springfield, MA 01108

Questions? Contact Pat Sears 746-2523 or patsears@aol.com

Any dietary needs or allergies to anything please place note with registration

Women's Winter Retreat MARCH 4-6, 2011

*Soul Sisters: (five qualities of a Christ centered woman)
Courage, Faith, Beauty, Love and Joy*

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

Time: 6:30 - 7:00 pm Registration Friday, March 4

Price: \$170.00 pp - Double occupancy rooms - choose a roommate
or the Holiday Inn will assign someone to share your room.

Payment in FULL is due by Feb. 15. Limited reservations.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Share room with _____

Please make checks payable to: *Cursillo Committee*

and mail to Winnie Moynihan, 131 Norwood Terr., Holyoke, MA 01040

Questions? Contact Winnie at 532-4988

or jamesmoynihan131@comcast.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.



NOTE FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

Mike Riley

As we get ready for the season of Christmas I hope and pray that we are all able to sift through the overwhelming hype and political correctness that seems to overtake this season. Remember to keep it simple. Give thanks for the coming of our savior Jesus Christ, the great gift of forgiveness and promise of peace.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter the introduction of a three to five minute reflection period after the gospel reading at our monthly Ultreya has been an overwhelming success. Many thanks go out to our deacons and Ultreya organizers for making this a wonderful addition to our program.

I know Pat Sears and Marcia Scagliarini have been working very hard at organizing the traditional men's and women's retreats to be held in February and March of 2011. I urge you to get your entry in early. Space is limited and both of these retreats promise to be very special.

Web Site - John Laviolette's redesign of our web site has been much appreciated, but I've been a little disappointed at the number of Cursillistas who have not yet registered and put their e-mail address into our system. By doing this it will assure that you continue to get newsletters and especially our e-blast reminders about upcoming events such as Ultreyas, School of Leaders and special events. It also saves on postage compared to good old "snail" Mail. So please log onto our web site, register, and give us your feedback through the use of the "Forum" to help make it better. It can be accessed at www.cursillowmass.org

Formation School - This year's Formation School was perhaps the best attended and had the most positive feedback of any of the previous schools. Thanks to the entire team and especially Karen Scahill and Faith St. Onge for taking charge and revising the format to a single weekend day instead of a series of evenings. To those of you who attended you've let us all know how well this program ran and to those who didn't attend, please know that we intend to continue this format next year.

Thank you all in advance for making Cursillo the instrument of conversion and renewal. Please enjoy the Christmas holidays, and when you greet someone this season, say Merry CHRISTMAS, because after all that it what we celebrate. See you at Ultreya!!
God Bless and DeColores

Dear Friends

Monsignor David Joyce

This is the first time I've written a brief article for our newsletter since I became the Spiritual Director of the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese. And let me tell you - it's a daunting task when I think of all those insightful articles that my predecessor, John Bledsoe, wrote; insights gleaned from a life of service - to family, friends, community, neighbors and even strangers. Thank you, John!

As you know, we're in the season of Advent - a time of preparation, of purification, and of expectation. But our good friend, Fr. Warren Savage, has really caught the spirit of this season in his little book, recently published by Liguori: "Joyful Meditations for Every Day of Advent and the 12 Days of Christmas."

What a wonderful gift is a joyful heart. It speaks of contentment with who we are and what we have, of acceptance of the joys and sorrows of each day, of encouraging others to have that same spirit of joy.

I think that joy is a special charism of the Cursillista. So many of you have that joy - both when it's easy and when it's difficult. How blessed we are to be part of a community that lives this virtue.

So many events and circumstances, so many people even, conspire to rob us of this joy. They can't - not if we remember that the virtue of joy comes, not from outside of ourselves, but from within. It's a virtue built up by our own prayer, our reflection, our sharing of insights with one another.

Some would have us think that the joy of this season comes from acquiring

and having more. When we're honest, we'll admit - it's a temptation we all face. But hopefully, not for long. Sanity returns, and the true joy of the season becomes apparent once again.

And so, may your celebration of Christmas be filled with joy, and may your time of preparation, the Advent season, be a season that brings you that same joy as well.
De Colores

AN EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Deacon John

Those who have experienced some event in their lives that was so profound that there isn't words to properly express the impact it had on their life will know what I received this past October 24th. I had received a message from Fr. Shea asking if I could help set up the tables at the Social Center for the beginning of our mission at St. Patrick. Irene and I arrived at the Social Center a few minutes after 1:00 PM and found over 100 cursillistas clapping as we entered the center - all there for ME. Needless to say I didn't have to help set up the tables. After 14 years serving as Spiritual Director of the Cursillo I knew it was time to step down and let Msg. David Joyce lead us to bigger and better places.

We were entertained for 2 hours by my dear friend, Paul Pierce, as he sang many of my favorite songs (too bad he didn't get a chance to come off the stage and receive all those hugs that I enjoyed!) There were many cursillistas that I hadn't seen for such a long time and many that I see often and I was in heaven for 2 hours. What a joy it was to receive all those hugs and kisses from dear friends. At one point I was leaning against the stage, looking out at the crowd and realized that this was NOT just for me! This was a gathering of people who loved each other. As I watched them hugging, kissing and talking to one another I realized that everyone was there for each other and the hall was filled to the rafters with love!

At least for me, there are no words that I have that can possibly express just how much this meant to me. I can only fall back on the usual words "Thank You All", not only the people who were able to be there but also all those who sent cards afterwards. My cup runneth over with everything I need. Again, Thank You, I will never forget that Sunday afternoon. May God bless you with joy, peace and good health.

De Colores

Donations to Cursillo

*In honor of
Deacon John Bledsoe
from Joan & Bob Quinn*

*For Cursillo
Jeanne Gaudet
Bishop Joseph Maguire
Anonymous*

~ IN MEMORIAL ~

*Mary Rodriguez (Feb. 2010)
made weekend Nov. 1981*

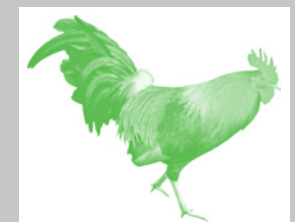
Donations can be made at any time,
send to: Cursillo Committee
PO Box 1207, Holyoke, MA 01041

NELSON'S HELPERS

Join the community in helping
Nelson as he recovers
and deals with dialysis.

Log onto
<https://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/629314/login/>
sign up and see how you, your
group, or others may help.

*Nelson thanks you
for your prayers and support.*



Spiritual Director

Monsignor David Joyce
djoyce1a@aol.com

~

Lay Director

Mike Riley
janemriley@comcast.net

~

Newsletter Editor

Send articles to:
Dorene Pennell
101 Burnett St
Granby, MA 01033
pipmail@aol.com