

DE COLORES cont.

evening, I was on a high, a good high that has lasted for months and has been buoyed by emails, reunions, conversations, ultreyas and reflection. I have also created a 2010 Cursillo binder, It is a collection of my notes as table secretary, member handouts, rosaries, medals, prayer books, cd's and palanca, over 120 cards and letters with various sacrifices, inspirations and prayers thanks to an idea from a fellow Cursillista.

During the opening talk at my Cursillo, we learned of ideals. A handout was offered asking several questions to which each of us had to reflect. It was an examination of our life. How much time do we spend at work/ with family? How much time do we spend on our spiritual life?

At the weekend's end, there was a repeat message, but this time it was a call for all the candidates to continue with Cursillo. Urging us only not to just be involved in our parishes, but also to expand our exploration of faith through Ultreyas and grouping, to study scripture, to develop a relationship with a spiritual advisor, and to continue with self reflection.

What have I been doing on my fourth day to live up to these ideals? Two days into my Fourth Day, a chain of emails was started. We wrote of our excitement and having to deal with being back in the real world. Other messages asked for prayers. In all there is the same humor and authenticity experienced in our Cursillo.

At our reunions and monthly ultreyas, listening to others in small groups has been informative and inspirational.

I jumped at the chance at being with my brothers and wanted to see the excitement of the women's team leaders when asked to help set up. Later that Monday night at the closing, it would be my turn to see how these candidates enjoyed their weekend.

At my church, I have renewed my rosary making. At Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish for the past several years, we have threaded decades of beads for missions in Africa, Asia and the military. To date over 50,000 rosaries have been donated for this cause. Making rosaries is both fun and relaxing. I do one or two a night watching television.

Planning for basketball season at the Our Lady of Guadalupe CYO is underway and again this winter for my 16th year, I'll be down at the gym helping organize the over 300 children of Holyoke who play.

In self reflection, my reading has been focused on Christian service. The term often used is Works Righteousness. My parents taught me to do good things for people. It is part of my Irish, Catholic and Democratic heritage. Isn't it everybody's? But why offer help? It has been written that worst traits of Christianity are the self-righteousness of Catholicism and the self-absorption of Protestantism. Catholics can justify their good works through Faith (self-righteousness) while Protestants can justify their faith through good works (self-absorption). As I volunteer, donate and give of myself, there has to be a strong foundation of faith. I want my faith to develop and mature, but I still want to maintain a childlike joy with sincerity and humility.

You've heard about what I am positively doing during my Fourth Day, but as important, are the things I've failed to do. Don't expect a confession, and while contrite about my failings, do I have the strength, no the resolve, to avoid them in the future.

Pretty heady stuff? Excuse me for getting serious, but that is my goal. Finding the reasons for being a Catholic, my faith? As I try to reach that goal I want to be more than a good man, I want to live life as a good Catholic man. When formulat-



CLIP OUT & SAVE!

Mar	April	May	June	CALENDAR
18	15	20	17	DIOCESAN Ultreya - 7:30 p.m. (3rd Fri.) Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall, Holyoke, MA
10	14	12	9	Local Ultreya - 7 p.m. St. Stanislaus, Chicopee, MA (2nd Thurs.)
March 4-6, 2011		Women's Retreat Weekend - Holiday Inn, Holyoke		
Fri. April 15-18, 2011		Men's Cursillo Weekend - Holy Name, Springfield		
Fri, May 27-30, 2011		Women's Cursillo Weekend - Holy Name, Springfield		
Visit our website for applications, latest updates, etc. www.cursillowmass.org				

ing my words, my desire was not to use the pronoun, I, too much, but then again, it is a witness, but it has to be more than me. It is about community, in particular the Catholic community, us.

Right now, let me ask you. When did your Fourth Day begin? How many people have you sponsored? Who were your sponsors and who sponsored them? Do you ever wonder what the Cursillo family tree would look like? It must be very large. And from what I've seen, the branches and boughs that have bloomed from Marge & Abe Collamore, Irene & Deacon John Bledsoe, Fran & Tom Wilhelmi, Pat & Bob Triggs, Pat & Paul Sears, and Dianne & Bob Farrell provide much comfortable shade.

Now, can I go back to the original question but instead of asking, "Do you look like me?" I am asking, "could you help me be like you?"

Let's sing, "De Colores and so must all love be of every great color to make the heart cry." (twice) *De Colores*
Talk given by Owen Donohue 8/20/10 Blessed Sacrament (abbreviated)

Lenten Study

"I know that people purchased the 'Joyful Meditations for Advent & the 12 Days of Christmas' and found it very helpful in their spiritual journey. I am hoping that they will feel the same way about Mindful Meditations for Lent and Easter (Liguori Publications). ~Fr. Warren

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*But Mary treasured all
these words and pondered them
in her heart.*
Luke 2:19



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AN INVITATION TO CONTINUE THE JOURNEY

Mike Riley

For a number of months now, a group of committed Cursillistas have been discussing and planning the restructuring of the Secretariat and Cursillo School of Leaders according to the guidelines established by the founders of the movement and advocated by the National Secretariat. The basic goal of this restructuring is to continually find good men and women to embrace the Cursillo Movement in this diocese as their apostolic action and shepherd it forward.

The School of Leaders or Leaders School that has been ongoing in our diocese for a number of years was visited by the National Secretariat last year and found to be lacking in a number of ways. It is our hope that the result of what we have been working on over the last few months will allow us to sustain, feed and grow the movement for years to come. To this end, the purpose of the revised School of Leaders is to "Continue the Journey" that is, to create, sustain and nurture a larger body of individuals who desire to make a commitment to serve Cursillo by becoming a part of a group dedicated to this apostolic action. This group will meet regularly to become better educated in the Cursillo charism and method so as to better support it and to become more committed to perpetuating it in our diocese. At the present time we are meeting at 6:30 on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at St. Patrick's in South Hadley.

Under this restructuring, the Secretariat will continue to serve the day-to-day needs of the Cursillo, while the School of Leaders will seek to become the "reservoir" from which individuals who have been exposed to the charism of the movement will be drawn from to do the actual work of the Cursillo. What would change is how individuals become part of the two bodies. We propose that anyone can join the School of Leaders by expressing a desire to become part of it. Please understand, the School of Leaders is not exclusive, the only thing that is required is a commitment to learn more about the Cursillo and to help sustain the movement in our diocese. Once firmly established, members from the School of Leaders will be selected to serve on the Secretariat for a designated period of time.

In the next few months, we will be asking some of you who have shown to have an active interest in Cursillo to join us. Our hope and prayer is that we generate enough support from the Community to begin meeting just after the women's weekend concludes in May.

Finally, please don't wait to be asked, pray on it and ask yourself if Cursillo is something you would like to see sustained and grow and if you want to make it a larger part of your apostolic action. If that answer is YES please let me or any of the current Secretariat or School of Leaders members know. Remember, Christ is counting on you!

De Colores and God Bless

More info to come on 'Continue the Journey' in the next newsletter.

Have you registered your email address at www.cursillowmass.org to receive email news and updates?



A WAY OF LIFE

Ron Gilpatrick

This past week I received a request from Mike Riley to write an article about the School of Leaders for the next Cursillo Newsletter. Of course I immediately said yes, and then for the next few days I struggled with the question, "What will I write about the School of Leaders?"

While sitting watching the news channels on television, the main topic was what was happening in Egypt. There were thousands of people in the streets and the Square protesting the form of government and leadership that they had been living under and were hoping to bring about change. Of course my mind began jumping to "The School of Leaders" and the article that Mike had asked me to write and how one related to the other.

For those of you who don't know me, I made my Cursillo Weekend in February of 1969 and Simone, my wife, made her weekend in May of 1969. I think that would be 42 years ago this week. Since that time both my wife and I have been totally involved in the Cursillo Movement. When I say totally involved I mean "totally." We both have been on numerous teams. Simone was on the very first Secretariat and many of the meetings were held around our kitchen table. At various times we both served on the Secretariat and I was the Lay Director back in the 80's, and needless to say, we were both totally committed to the Cursillo Movement. We did everything that we possibly could to learn about and study this movement that had affected our lives so dramatically. The "Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement" became a Bible of sort and was read, reread underlined and scored.

So how do all of the above thoughts tie in together? While reading and studying "The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement", I would keep going back to these words, that we should sponsor "the disenchanteds" to the Cursillo because these are the people who will bring about change. Those of us who are content and satisfied with our lives our situations and our environments probably will not work very hard or be committed to changing anything because everything is good. The people of Egypt who were protesting were not content with their situations, they were disenchanteds and as a result they were willing to risk to bring about change to their environment.

The School of Leaders is a place where we all continue to learn more about "The Essence and Purpose of Cursillo". It is a place for Cursillistas who choose to make the Cursillo Movement their primary apostolate a place to learn and grow. To me, the Cursillo is more than a Movement, "It is a way of life." The Movement in the Diocese should not be left on the shoulders of a few but it should be in the hands of those leaders who make The Cursillo Movement their primary apostolate.

De Colores

Dear Friends,

Monsignor David Joyce

"Spring is just around the corner." And for those of us privileged to take little winter trips, it's even closer! Let us pray for safe and refreshing journeys, and renewed hearts, ready to take on the challenges of each day.

Let us pray too, especially in this time, for our brother and sister cursillistas who are deeply involved in preparation, preparation for the Men's and Women's Cursillos, for the Men's and Women's Retreats, for the Ultreyas, the liturgies and the group reunions. It's certainly a time of intense activity, and therefore a time when God's grace is offered to us in abundance.

Don't refuse or ignore that grace. Think about your own Cursillo, and the moment during the weekend when you felt closest to Christ, the moment you knew the whole weekend was worth it.

And let the grace of that moment be renewed in you, a "new" moment

of grace - recapturing the fervor and the wonder of that experience.

And then open your heart to the possibility of a more active participation in the life of Cursillo today. Let the word "yes" be on your lips when someone asks your help, your time, your talents.

As we pray for one another, let us challenge one another to an even deeper growth within the community of the Cursillo.

De Colores

DE COLORES and so must all love be of every great color to make the heart cry...

My name is Owen Donohue and I am from Our Lady of Guadalupe parish, Sacred Heart Church in Holyoke. In April 2010, I sat at the table of St. John the Baptist. Why did I choose this lyric from De Colores to begin? First, I haven't been able to get it out of my mind. Catchy, isn't it? The words remind me of what I haven't been able to do and hope they give me the courage to. It's about commitment to be involved, (love), in all different manners and ways (colors), and to experience the highs and lows (cry).

But what is the foundation of this commitment? How is it created? As I gain the understanding and knowledge, will I be able to follow? If it clicks I'll be more than a person just doing good works. If I have faith, will this meaning turn good to great? That is what I hope and with what I am trying to understand right now.

Here's a little bit of my Fourth Day that I shared at last August's Ultreya: The Closing on that April night was quite emotional. In my few words and rambling sentences, I had wondered about Cursillo. Considering myself a decent practicing Catholic, I wanted to see and know what a Cursillista was. What did you look like? Were you attractive and if so, what makes you so appealing? Again, thinking myself a good Catholic, my question was, do you look like me?

That night, holding back tears, I often had to close my eyes and turn my gaze from the celebration. Listening to my fellow candidates speak of their first three days was very powerful. At the end of the

cont.

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VIGIL FOR CURSILLO

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

Each person is asked to take one hour 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 to sign up. Thank you!



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