

HELLO FAMILY IN CHRIST

Lois Rivest

Today is March 6 and I wanted to relay to you the experience I had over this past weekend.

I made my Cursillo in October of 2002 and since then I have enjoyed and looked forward to the yearly retreats at Mont Marie. But this year, I really didn't want to go. I'm not comfortable with change (as a lot of us aren't) but my sponsor, Donna Gaudreault, was on the team and giving a talk and I wanted to be there to support her, so I went.

I had some reservations about the Holiday Inn. My first concern was having a roommate. I enjoyed the solitude of the 'cell' at the Mont. However, having a roommate made my experience so much more enjoyable. We spent about an hour each night talking about the team, the talks, who we saw, and our own journey as 'the women God created us to be.' Thanks, Marie.

Another concern for me was no chapel or Tabernacle. That quickly changed though. We had a lovely little 'meditation' room that was simple and tastefully decorated and, you know what? Jesus was there!

I showed up a little early to check the place out and to get settled in my room. As the women began to arrive, the Holiday Inn began to change. Old friends, new friends, the embrazio free-for-all. Oh, my loving God, you are not just at Mont Marie. You are here, in every one of us, the Body of Christ at the Holiday Inn!

The weekend was AWESOME!!! Karen Scahill did a tremendous job and her team was - WOW! From the opening moments of laughter with Maryfrances Peters and Kathy Schelb as *Mary & Martha* (you cracked us all up, and you broke the ice, too funny!)—to Bonnie who brought us all to tears with her witness of love and renewal—to Erica's story of strength and triumph. Then my Donna spoke, and as she did, we all held her inner child and rocked her in our arms (I love you)! Our final speaker was Irene Bledsoe, needless to say there was a shortage of kleenex after that one! Ladies, you are all so special, thank you.

One of the greatest blessings of the weekend was given to us by Maryfrances Peters (did you know she's a computer geek?) Maryfrances did an amazing powerpoint presentation with the names of all the ladies who were there and projected them onto a large screen at the beginning and end of our weekend. It made every one of us feel special to see our names on the large screen (especially for us *drama queens* in the crowd!). The best part of her hard work was all the pictures she & the team took of everyone having a 'God' time with each other, and projecting them on to the big screen as a slide show whenever there was some 'down' time. Thank you again Maryfrances.

De Colores

PRAYER AND PALANCA

Eileen Mariani

"You are in my thoughts and prayers." How often have I written that sentence during my thirty-three years in Cursillo. But it wasn't until I was diagnosed with colon cancer last spring that I truly experienced the power of those words. Cards and letters and phone calls and conversations - all carried the same message. Each healing word I poured over many times. I knew then I was connected to a vibrant Cursillo community through the life-line of prayer and it made me feel protected and enveloped in God's love.

It was not always so. I remember as a candidate receiving my first Palanca, and wondering why these people I didn't even know, were praying for me. I was uncomfortable with all the prayer petitions at Mass because I'd been taught to be reserved in what I asked for. Did people really want everyone to know "their business?"

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April	May	June	Ultreya Calendar
21	19	16	DIOCESAN Ultreya - 7:30 p.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall, Holyoke, MA
13	11	8	Local Ultreya - 7 p.m. (2nd Thursday) St. Stanislaus, Chicopee, MA
April 20-23			Men's Cursillo Weekend , Holy Name Parish, Springfield Thurs. 7:15 p.m. Registration, Palanca by Friday, Closing 7 p.m. <i>Sunday</i>
May 27-30			Women's Cursillo Weekend , Holy Name Parish, Springfield Friday 7:15 p.m. Registration, Palanca by Saturday, Closing 7 p.m. <i>Monday</i>
C l i p a n d S a v e D a t e s			

FOR CHARLENE

anonymous

Daughter and sister, mother and wife,
Christ's friend, God's image bearing, and no one's foe:
Your life was a sign of Heaven's reign;
Your departure is our loss, yes, but love's gain.
May you go in peace.

Now you've set out for another shore,
Fore the meadows of our utmost yearning, far afield.
And we who are left behind to strive
Shall daily and most earnestly pray
For your safe haven.

With help have hope, have hope and nothing fear;
And give no place to anxiousness, never despair.
Love bears you up, and mercy lights your way.
May justice defend you! May clean winds attend you,
and send you home.

De Colores

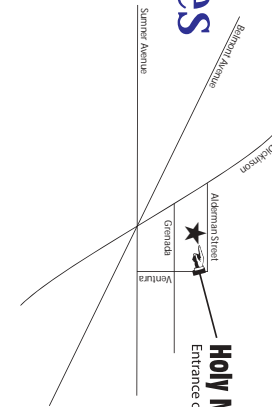
Thank God and time and experience with changing this attitude. After twenty-six years of being a member of a permanent group, I have practiced paying attention to holiness, formation, and evangelization. Last year when I was on the retreat team, one of our members stated her life goal simply as: "I just want to love Jesus more each day." She wanted to grow in holiness and see the face of Jesus in everyone she met. That sentence has given shape to my own desire to follow in the same path.

Formation has always been the leg of the stool I most identify with as I love to read and reflect. Now I write in a prayer journal my thoughts about what I have read or heard in order to trace the course of my development as a more mature Christian. I meet one on one with someone who is also on a spiritual quest. These conversations too, continue to help form my faith.

Which brings me to evangelization: the imperative to act in this world and to spread God's word. Which in turn brings me back to prayer. We pray for one another and that connects us in the most profound way. When we feel powerless about our circumstances, or when illness intervenes, we know we are being held in the palm of God's hand because someone is praying for us. Even if at that moment, we cannot even pray for ourselves. I had surgery for my cancer, and now almost a year later, am healthy. When all those prayers came my way, I didn't know "how things would turn out." We never do. But the prayers are never in vain. The prayers support and sustain us to deal with whatever happens in God's plan. So now I offer my petitions at Mass. I write or call those I don't see and say to them, "You are in my thoughts and prayers." Because that is how we love each other and act in God's name. I learned this because of you.

De Colores

Candidate's Names
 Enclosed
 Palanca Please!
 Holy Name Center
 Entrance on Alderman St.



THE CURSILLO COMMITTEE
 P.O. Box 1207
 HOLYOKE, MASS. 01041-1207
 Time Dated Material

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 U.S. Postage
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 Springfield, MA
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MEN'S TEAM THURS. April 20-Sun. April 23

Holy Name Parish, Springfield

Rector	Dan Rodriguez	Ideal	Matt Lavelle
Assistant Rector	Fred Scagliarini	Laity	Tom Moriarty
Spiritual Dir.	Fr. Warren Savage	Holiness	Buzz Derusha
Spiritual Dir.	Deacon Paul Mazzariello	Formation	Tom Rodriguez
Head Cha	Tom Domenichelli	Evangelization	Phil Spigarelli
Cha	Steve Jablonski	Leaders	Pat Sears
Cha	Chris Ryan	Environment	Gerry Adams
Ninth Member	Bob Triggs	Christian Comm.	Roy Tracy

MEN'S WEEKEND CANDIDATES *Palanca by Fri., April 21, please*

CANDIDATE	CITY	SPONSOR
Timothy Bates	E. Longmeadow	Kathy Bates
Michael Beecher	Ludlow	Pat Desmarais
Dean Birtwell	Wilbraham	Ann Snyder
Bill Brawner	Belchertown	Paul Mazzariello
Peter Brunault	Palmer	Paul Mazzariello
Stephen Cary	Springfield	Pat/Bob Triggs
Edward Chagnon	S. Hadley	Joe Cirillo
John Connor	E. Longmeadow	Ruth Connor
Greg Dobek	E. Longmeadow	Faith St. Onge
David Gaughan	Holyoke	Barbara Gaughan
Jason George	Holyoke	Jim Murphy
Daniel Gladu	S. Hadley	Dave/Lise Letellier
John Hale	Chicopee	Basil Tsagaris
Thomas Harrison	Longmeadow	Diane/Bob Farrell
Clark Hayward III	Monson	Howard Guilmette
Russell Held	E. Longmeadow	Kathy Held
Kevan Kivlan	Chelmsford	Pat Sears
Gerry Lacasse	S. Hadley	Don Gagne
John Laviolette	E. Longmeadow	Theresa Laviolette
Albert Massey	Springfield	Roy Tracy
Kevin McCarthy	Springfield	Deacon Bill Toller
John Miller	Springfield	Lenny Rodriguez
Joseph Nadeau	S. Hadley	Dave Letellier
Phil Nadeau	Chicopee	Dianne/James Murphy
Peter Tivnan	Springfield	Paul Sears

MEET YOUR RECTOR - Dan Rodriguez

Hi, I am Dan Rodriguez. I live in Springfield with my wife Josephine and we have 4 beautiful children, Chrissy, MaryJo, Annie and Tony. As Rector of the 2006 Men's Cursillo I am happy to say that the team is chomping at the bit to get this weekend underway. As always, we will need all the prayers and support we can get throughout the weekend, so please pray for us. I am certain we will all be blessed with God's special graces this coming weekend. This year's men's team is a very special one (and I'm not one bit biased). We have a blend of experience and youth on the team, and our team formation has been outstanding.

Many of you may know that I am what is commonly referred to as a "Second Generation Cursillista". Both my mother (Maria) and father (Lenny) made their Cursillos in 1971 and remain

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active to this day. Because of this, I feel that I am uniquely qualified to attest to the community aspect of Cursillo. The concept of "Make a friend", "Be a friend" and "Bring your friend to Christ" is a method I have seen my parents use on countless occasions. I know they are very proud to see their son as a "rector", but I can tell you, their son is even more proud to see all the loving and caring faces that have been impacted by their involvement in Cursillo. Through the years, I have been blessed to count among my friends many Cursillistas and children of Cursillistas. For all the significant events in my life, I have always been able to lean on or celebrate with a Cursillista. What a sense of community! This is the "Secret of Cursillo"- an environment where we can bring about positive changes in peoples' lives by showing them the face of Christ. As Rector, this theme of community has been my focus.

In the Faith talk, we learn that faith is "a person's ability to accept God's plan" and the ability to let God's plan play out in his/her life. A true journey of faith turns our perspective outwards towards others. Therefore, it is essential that a person be in community to grow in their faith. So, please join this year's men's team as we welcome a new group of men into our Cursillo community. But more importantly, if you've been away for a while... please come back and celebrate Christ's love with us.

KATRINA

Deacon John Bledsoe

After finishing 4 years of classes at the Elms College, being ordained as a deacon and being told that my ministry was to serve others, I thought to myself, "I can do that." Now 15 years later, for the most part, that has been what I'm about. Working with engaged couples, baptizing babies, preaching and being involved as spiritual director for Cursillo has taken up most of my time as a deacon. I admit that this type of "serving" is the "better" service of a deacon. Those who serve the poor, the disabled, prison ministry and the dying are the ones who, in my eyes, are the true servers. I have been comfortable in my role as deacon and then along came *Katrina* which destroyed so much of my favorite area, New Orleans and the Gulf coast.

For the past 3 or 4 months I have felt a call to do something for the people in that area. First Irene and I decided to help out the best way we were able to from so far away - we donated money to the fund set up to help the people in New Orleans. Then we sent money to our friend Deacon Ray Velazquez who had lost everything they had in their apartment, as well as his job and ended up in Wisconsin at his daughter's home. The more I thought about my "service" as deacon I came to realize that I have really had it pretty good as far as service is concerned. I started back in January trying to find a place to stay in New Orleans but didn't have any luck, even with Deacon Ray trying to find a place for me. A couple of weeks ago I made contact with the "Catholic Social Services Office of Long Term Recovery" in Biloxi, MS and I have a "reservation" to stay at the Dedeaux Retreat House in Pass Christian, MS. I will be leaving on Easter morning and returning on May 3rd or 4th. This group has gutted or cleaned out over 400 houses, repaired over 18 roofs and 18 total house-rewiring jobs. I've got my work cut out for me as I tackle this new idea of diaconate service and I ask for your prayers.

My palanca for the men's team and candidates for the April 20th - 23rd Cursillo weekend will be my work in MS and me not being here for that weekend. A possible candidate for the women's weekend asked me why a Cursillo was so different from other types of "encounters." I told her that the only thing I could say was, "the Holy Spirit will be in the room during the Cursillo and she will feel His presence from the top of her head to bottom of her feet." I really believe that because I have been there and experienced it like all of you. I will miss not being a part of the weekend but I am confident that it will go well as usual!

De Colores and God Bless

NOTE FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

Pat Triggs

I have always loved the change of seasons in New England and each season brings activities which I look forward to. With Spring upon us, it always requires some mundane chores like cleaning out the hat and glove drawer, putting away the winter coats and sweaters, and getting out the yard tools. It also signifies the gift of new life and new opportunities for us to take advantage of. Some of these are more eagerly anticipated than others, of course. I have had the good fortune to be speaking with many people lately who are facing changes in their lives, some serious and momentous, and others more ordinary. I have been struck by the variety of responses to these changes and the attitudes which accompany these altered circumstances. Some folks are thrilled with the thought of new and different scenarios, some are depressed and tearful, some reluctant, some fearful, some energized, some cautious, and some stoic. I myself, although I love the change of seasons, am not always so great at adapting to changes in my life, especially those which I have not carefully chosen!

As I am going about my life trying to live out my Christian ideal, I am encouraged by those who see each change as an opportunity to seize rather than a burden to tolerate. I watch those folks carefully to see how they handle the adversity which comes to every life. The beauty of the Cursillo method is that it keeps us in constant contact with others who are fellow travelers on "the road of change" and gives us the privilege to share in their lives.

I have asked myself if I am helping or hindering my fellow travelers with my response to changes in my life? How about you? Are the changes opportunities or obstacles? Share your insights with our fellow travelers at our next Ultreya! *De Colores*

- IN MEMORIAL -

HENRY PIERCE

made Weekend Aug. 1966
on Team April 1967, Oct. 1974, May 1974,
May 1977, Feb. 1979, May 1981, Oct. 1982,
Oct. 1983, May 1990, Oct. 1992, Rector Feb. 1980

CHARLENE HILL

made Weekend Nov. 1980 and on Team Nov. 1993

Donations to Cursillo

In Memory of Dick St. Onge,
Deacon Armond Tourangeau,
Fr. John Johnson,
& Fr. Bob Wagner
from Irene & John Bledsoe

In Memory of Tony Maloney
from Barbara & Patrick Bresnahan

In Memory of Tony Maloney
from Maureen Maloney

In Memory of Henry Pierce
& Fr. Bob Wagner
from Eileen & Paul Mariani

In Memory of Henry Pierce
from Barbara Weissbrod

Donation to Cursillo for expenses
from Joseph W. Wooler
from Vincenzina Bumbaca

Christmas Gifts in honor of
Irene & John Bledsoe
from Faith St. Onge
in honor of Irene & John Bledsoe
and Faith & Dick St. Onge
from Cathy & Fred Rook

- NOTICE -

We are in need of articles
for upcoming newsletters.
Articles, poems, moment closest
to Christ . . . Please send to
Newsletter Editor:
pipmail@aol.com



Spiritual Director

Deacon John Bledsoe
532-6671

Lay Director

Pat Triggs 788-6535

Newsletter Editor

Dorene Pennell
101 Burnett St
Granby, MA 01033
pipmail@aol.com

www.cursillomass.org