

The TRIPOD

Newsletter of the Seattle Archdiocese Cursillo Movement

July 2006

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From The Lay Director, Natalie Viera

I begin this article by giving homage to Pete Jancola who was the Lay Director for the Cursillo Movement in Seattle for the past few years. It was my pleasure getting to know Pete over the past 30 years. Being friends with Pete was easy and enjoyable. We worked in the Cursillo Movement and attended many meetings, locally, regionally and nationally which took us all over the U. S. His pleasant smile, calmness and his zest to meet new people really touched my heart.

Pete called me last fall and asked if I would consider being one of the nominees for the lay director's position. After thinking and praying a few weeks I called Pete and said "YES". I could almost see the smile on his face when he repeated "YES" back to me. The Lord calls us in so many ways and He did call Pete in January, but Pete will always be with us in a special way. Thanks Pete and thanks to your family for all that you gave to the Cursillo Movement.

I was elected as the lay director in late January and I know Pete was smiling up there and saying "God is with you all".

So we begin with our secretariat, which went on retreat in February and did a lot of sharing. One of the things we discussed was FRIENDSHIP and how we need this in all phases of the movement. When you think about the Cursillo weekend, one of the major points is-- *Make a friend, be a friend and bring your friend to Christ.* So we began by becoming better friends within the Secretariat and School of Leaders (SOL) and carrying it through the movement in Seattle.

Since you made your Cursillo weekend have you continued to make new friends, only for awhile,

how about recently? We need to continually make new friends (not just to bring them to Cursillo weekends) but to bring Christ's love to everyone we meet and in that process if someone says "I want what you have, that love for Christ. How can I get that?" Then you must ask, *Is Cursillo right for the?*

God calls us to continue on and carry out that plan the rest of our lives. When we meet new people do we take the extra step and really get to know them or do they become acquaintances in our lives? Maybe this is the time to look and see where your friendships are and are any of them who would benefit from the Cursillo weekend and group reunion?

We are planning English weekends for OCTOBER 12 – 15th and OCTOBER 19 – 23rd in at Camp Don Bosco in Carnation, WA.

Pete worked hard over the last few years and dreamed of having Spanish Cursillo weekends in the Seattle area. Well his dream will come true as we plan for 2 weekends in Spanish on SEPTEMBER 14 – 17TH and SEPTEMBER 28TH - OCTOBER 1ST. Now is the time to send applications for any of the 4 weekends and then come to the CLOSINGS ON SUNDAY afternoon at 4:30 p.m. at Camp Don Bosco. We need your enthusiasm and joy to greet the new Cursillistas. You will also see old friends and make new friends at the closings.

Cursillo offers so many ways to help us grow and learn about the Movement and God. One way is to join a School of Leaders (SOL). We have several schools to meet your needs. They meet on Monday evening from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the following locations:

St Madeleine Sophie Parish, Bellevue, WA (English), call Dave Hallek – 425-644-6002;
St Madeleine Sophie Parish, Bellevue, WA (Spanish), call Jose Blakeley – 425-868-3342; St Olafs Parish, Poulso, WA (English), call Jerry Hyde – 360-377-9335

During our meetings we share scripture and study the movement. We are really excited because in the next 2 months the National Cursillo Office will be publishing a new "3 day manual" and we will all be studying the same book in all schools. This would be a *terrific* time to join one of the schools and make new friends. Knowing the literature of the movement helps us formulate teams for the future. Come and see, we'd love to meet you. If you have any questions please call me at 253-537-4877.

God's Peace, Love and Joy be with you.
Natalie

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Sign of the Times

A little while back I was coming home from grouping and was listening to the Dennis Praigar show on 1300 AM. He talked about a teenager being charged with cruelty to animals in killing a garter snake. Apparently the teen was walking with his dad along a street when they came upon the snake

wriggling in agony from probably being run over by a car. When he asked his dad what should be done, he was instructed to put the snake out of his misery by pounding it against the fence and placing it on top of the fence for the birds to eat. This would keep the ground clean from germs and prevent the nearby school kids from touching or playing with it. The boy complied, thereby, setting off the case in point.

Mr. Praigar then laughed. He said it was this “arrest out of a molehill” was a “sign of the times.” He compared this to how we respect the life of a common snake to the disregard for human life. Not only do we encourage killing human unborn life for any reason, but offer no penalties for the taking of such human life. We even allow federal funds to be used for such purposes. He concluded that as for him, he followed “morality over legality.”

It was one of the few times I heard a Catholic view on public radio. It made my day!

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One by One Build Community

By Barbara Levich

As I was working out one day, I was listening to some of Blessed Mother Teresa’s teachings. She was telling how she started by just picking up one man on the streets to care for. It was a long time after that before she picked up a second one and more time yet before the third. It was a long, long time before her ministry to the street people of Calcutta grew to the point where it is now. I got to thinking that we in Cursillo need to go back to the one-by-one that she began with. It seems to me that we seem to look at people around us as part of a group and we don’t relate to them one to one. That makes it very hard to become real friends with them because we know them very superficially because we don’t want to spend much time. As a sponsor, it seems that once the paperwork is turned in, the responsibility for the candidate is turned over to the team. That seems to be the end. And the team also views the candidates as a group rather than one by one so deep friendships rarely form. At the end of the weekend, the Spirit has done His work but we bid the new Cursillistas farewell saying, “find a group and attend Ultreya” and consider our work done.

Well, read James 2:14-17: *What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.*

Can we say that our faith is alive if we do not give these new Cursillistas what they need? We need to actually do the work: group with them, talk to them on the phone, go out to dinner, answer questions, encourage, invite to Ultreya, actually take them to Ultreya. We need to spend time enough to really settle our new Cursillistas in a new direction, where they can carry on by themselves and we may eventually find a new person to sponsor or work with after a weekend. I Corinthians 15:58 *Therefore, my beloved brothers, be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord, your labor is not in vain.*

We need to be like our Heavenly Father. He worked and we are created for work too. The first work we hear of Him doing is the work of creation. We are blessed to be creators, too, after His model. John 5:17 *But Jesus answered them, "My Father is at work until now, so I am at work."* When new Cursillistas come off a weekend, they are new creations having been transformed by the Spirit. We have had a hand in His work. But, we shouldn't shirk the work that comes after, if we are truly going to be our Father's children. They are like seeds planted in the freshly turned soil. If we do not water them with encouragement, pull the weeds of doubt, prune away poor direction or fertilize them with gatherings with us, then we are poor excuses for God's co-creators! What does our faith profit us?

What is our problem?! French Father M.-D. Molinié, O.P. gives me an idea: "Instead of responding to God as he requires, with a total, almost insane love, we fall into the habit of substituting veneration. We prostrate ourselves before him while at the same time holding him at arm's length. Instead of total gift-of-self, we prefer submission. This is sad; it is the easy way out — to offer a bent back instead of a bared breast. In this posture we try to be just, to offer what is due to God and neighbor. Yet as long as such "justice" contains none of the secret leaven of love, it is no better than that of the scribes and Pharisees. Submitting oneself in place of giving oneself is a desperate effort.... No matter what a man does to 'put God in his life,' he will always seem to be giving at once too little and too much — simply because each partner requires all, and because the endless negotiations to set things right while holding something back, no matter how small, are hopeless."

We are free to give God whatever we wish. If we chose to sponsor a candidate for Cursillo, we have given God the time He requires to fully form that person into the person He desires them to be. But so often we have taken back that time to use selfishly. We fail to become friends, with Christ in the middle of the relationship. I am mindful of the scripture in Acts.5: 1-4, "*But a man named Anani'as with his wife Sapphi'ra sold a piece of property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles' feet. Peter said, "Anani'as, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."* It did not go well with Anani'as and Sapphi'ra, God struck them dead! He has been more merciful to us who have similarly failed to deliver what we promised. Let us amend our ways and be faithful to our promises.

Thomas Merton, the Trappist monk and spiritual writer said that the greatest problem facing Western civilization was "efficiency." Efficiency drives us in a sense of needing to do what we need to do. But, hard-driven efficiency (according to Merton) also places us in danger of losing our souls, because there is no space or time for hospitality and hospitality is the mark of a truly gracious soul. As we approach weekends, we want to be efficient by having a certain number of candidates, so we efficiently busy ourselves asking whom ever we can think of to attend the upcoming Cursillo. So what kind of hospitality is that? It certainly is not the friendly welcome or generous treatment that one might expect. It is rather soullessly doing the least we can get away with, making no real commitment to the candidate or to the community to which that person will go after the weekend. Shame on us.

I think we need to slow down. If there are not enough friends to hold a Cursillo, then we should be patient and wait until there are. If we talk regularly, see each other frequently, then this prospective candidate will be able to wait until there is a sufficient number of other candidates to hold a

weekend. And in the mean time we will be proving ourselves to them and their eagerness to make the weekend will grow, not diminish. And after the weekend, they will be a real part of the community instead of feeling like an outsider who is perhaps tolerated but not encouraged. We should be saying, “Come in and honor us with your presence.”

Pope Benedict XVI said, “From the perspective of biblical tradition and within the realm of Judaism in which Jesus’ work took place— despite its newness— it remains clear that the entire mission of the Son-made-flesh has community as a goal: He came specifically to unite mankind which was scattered, and he came specifically to gather together and unite the people of God.” God does not relate to us generically or as a group. Christ saves each of us personally that each may become part of His family. We, too, must deal with people one by one not as a group. A blanket invitation goes nowhere. We must be in personal contact with each one, one by one.

There is more work to be done in forming community after a weekend. Even if we have not sponsored a candidate, we are obliged to greet the new Cursillistas as brothers and sisters in Christ. And to work on getting to know them and become friends with them. There was a time that Cursillistas felt that they could ask almost anything from the members of the Cursillo community and they would receive help. I’m willing to bet that few of the Cursillistas in the last five years feel that way.

We proclaim God’s message of salvation and love by being lead-ers. The dictionary defines leader firstly as one who directs by going along with, by physical contact, as in leading by the hand. We have looked at leaders as the influential, head-of-the-organization sort of people but we want ones who lead (by the hand) to Christ. If we have personal contact with others, we should be close enough to offer a hand. A true friend is aware of the reality that surrounds a person. Everyone has things to deal with which are difficult. A true friend helps his friend to bear his burdens.

Our end in sponsoring candidates is not to just fill the weekends, it is just a means to bring them into friendship with Christ and with the communities of friendship group reunion and ultreya which will help them walk with Christ as we also strive to do. The Cursillo weekend is just a portion of the journey of friends; friends who are made one by one, face to face, hand in hand.

The world says, “Look forward to retirement, to ceasing to work.” But we who are of God’s family do not retire. We do not come to the end of doing His work. At life’s end we want to hear: “Well done good and faithful servant!” If you have stopped working, begin again that you may hear praise from your Heavenly Father, “Come, enter into my joy.”

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The Body and Blood of Christ

By Deacon Gene Vanderzanden, St. Madeleine Sophie Church

It is always helpful when we do familiar things to look for a new insight or a new way of seeing. Two years ago Pope John Paul II did that for us regarding the Eucharist. He said that we should reverse our way of thinking about it.

Usually, if we want to understand or contemplate something, we kind of hold it out in front of us. We look at it, observe it and study it—that's the way we learn about things in this world. Our late pope said rather than submitting the Eucharist to our scrutiny and examination we should let the Eucharist scrutinize and examine us.

Isn't that an intriguing thought? Instead of holding the Eucharist before us to probe its meaning we place ourselves before the Eucharist and let the Eucharist probe us. Pope John Paul made this point when he announced the Year of the Eucharist for 2005

What would it be like if we followed his suggestion? First, we would open ourselves to being probed and changed. Whenever we go to mass or visit the Blessed Sacrament or even think about the Lord, we wouldn't start by asking Jesus for favors, but would begin by asking what he wants of us: What do you want of me, Jesus? How are you calling me to change?

We would open ourselves to the experience of a meal. It is clear that the Eucharist is a meal. It began at the Last Supper—the Passover meal. Can you imagine what it would be like dining with Jesus and with his friends? We become “one bread and one body,” close and intimate and united. Where is Christ calling me to closer unity with him? How is he calling me to open myself to the mystery of community and fellowship?

While the Eucharist is a meal, it also is a sacrifice. Pope John Paul said, “In the Eucharist, Christ makes present to us anew the sacrifice he offered on Golgotha—his suffering, death, and resurrection—and also wherever Christians sacrifice for the gospel.” How do I join in Christ's sacrifice? Where in my life do I carry his cross? What am I offering from my life as I come to mass?

Offering ourselves in this way is how we offer our thanks to God for the blessings in our lives. The word Eucharist means thanksgiving, as we know. The pope talked about having a “Eucharistic attitude,” which commits us constantly to giving thanks for all that we have and are. How am I giving thanks to God? Do I approach life with gratitude, or am I complaining or finding fault or looking at what is missing rather than seeing the gifts I have been given?

Our grateful self-offering at mass leads to service and acts of love at other times. We pray for those we love and also for “the peace and salvation of the world”. Pope John Paul gave examples: poverty, hunger, disease and said, “The Christian who takes part in the Eucharist learns to become a promoter of communion, peace and solidarity in every situation. More than ever, our troubled world, which began the new Millennium with the specter of terrorism and the tragedy of war, demands that Christians learn to experience the Eucharist as a great school of peace.”

This was good advice, wasn't it?

Let's open ourselves up to the mystery and let the Eucharist examine us. Let it probe you and question you so that Christ can mold you.

We'll open ourselves to being changed;
become one bread, one body;
join our sacrifice with Christ's as part of the cup of salvation;

have an attitude of thanksgiving;
and enroll in one great school of peace.

Wonderful thoughts on the Eucharist, and a wonderful plan for our lives.

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Dates & Places Change for Next 3-day Weekends

September 14--17, 2006
Spanish-speaking Weekend for Men
Camp Don Bosco

September 28--October 1, 2006
Spanish-speaking Weekend for Women
Camp Don Bosco

October 12--15, 2006
Weekend for Men
Camp Don Bosco

October 19--22, 2006
Weekend for Women
Camp Don Bosco

CHECK BACK: For up-to-date information on this effort please check the Cursillo Web site,
www.seattlecursillo.org

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Secretariat Members

Lay Director	Natalie Vieira	253-537-4877	nauticalnat@msn.com
Spiritual Advisor	Fr. James Dalton	360-435-8565	
Spiritual Advisor	Deacon Gene Vanderzanden	425-747-6770	gene@stmadsophie.org
Vietnamese School of Leaders Facilitator	Cam-Tu Nguyen	425-861-0306	wynct@yahoo.com
Precursillo	Noreen Millbauer	360-437-7649	dmmr@cablespeed.com
Cursillo	Amarildo Souza	425-347-5460	racfam@comcast.net

Secretary	Michele Raymond	206-363-6394	gmraymond2@comcast.net
Treasurer	Andrea Collard	425-275-2101	missandrea77@yahoo.com
Seattle School of Leaders Facilitator	Dave Hallek	425-865-0257	dave1hallek@comcast.net
Poulsbo School of Leaders Facilitator	Jerry Hyde	360-377-9335	jnhyde@msn.com

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Ultreyas

Day of Month	Time	Place	City	Coordinator	Telephone/Email
1 st Thursday	7:00 PM	St. John of the Woods	Tacoma	Earl Ducote	253-845-0112
2 nd Tuesday	7:30 PM	St. Michael	Olympia	Bill Hine	360-923-0244 bandlhine@comcast.net
2 nd Saturday	8:00 PM	St. Brendan	Bothell "Northend"	Sam Affronte	425-481-5296
2 nd Sunday	2:00 PM	St. John's Mission	Montesano	Helen Pellegrino	360-249-5535
3 rd Monday	7:00 PM	St. Olaf	Poulsbo	Noreen Millbauer	360-437-7649
3 rd Tuesday	7:00 PM	St. Philomena	Des Moines	Pat Noecker	206-824-6502
4 th Thursday	7:00 PM	Holy Trinity	Bremerton	Erik Garvey	360-307-7190

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Feedback Please

What kind of information and articles would you like to read? We want your ideas on how we can make the TRIPOD more interesting and useful. Also, would you consider writing an article for the TRIPOD? Have you read a book lately that you would like to recommend? Do you have a witness story you'd like to share? Have you had a close moment that was especially inspiring? Do you know of some coming events that other Cursillistas might be interested in? Please take the time to send us your comments and recommendations.

Send feedback to:

Seattle Cursillo Movement
P. O. Box 68803
Seattle, WA. 98168-0803

For Information: Call: 206-780-5813

Send your comments to Ron Fernandes, 13832 119 Ave NE, Kirkland, WA 98034, or call 425-821-3599 email: Ferpl@AOL.com

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