

The TRIPOD

May

Newsletter of the Seattle Archdiocese Cursillo Movement

2004

God Provides

By Debbie Ishii

My Group Reunion meets Wednesday evenings, usually at my friend, Joanne's, house in Des Moines, WA. This Wednesday we gathered at 5:45 PM. We always share a meal and talk while we eat and usually long after we finish eating. For some reason I was feeling an urgency to go home. I kept looking at my watch and telling everyone I needed to get out of there by 7:30 PM. Marilyn finally said, "Quit looking at your watch and tell us your Christ's presence!" I participated through the challenges of the format, but always with this feeling of urgency.

Finally at 7:45 PM I got up and said, "I really have to get going". I said my good byes and God Bless and headed out the door.

I live on the east hill of Kent so I have to go all the way across the valley to get home. While I was on the road, still a little west of the center of the valley, I saw a little, elderly lady walking along the side of the road. It seemed odd for her to be walking down the street at 8:00 PM in the rain on a cold night. As I pulled up to the light it turned red and I lean over a little to look out my passenger side window to see her a little clearer. She looked up just at that moment and caught my eye. She walked over my car so I rolled down the window and asked her if she was OK. We're still in the street at this time.

She is an Asian woman who speaks almost no English and she hands me a small piece of paper with the name and address of a school. The school is in Sky Way, which is on the west hill of Renton, a long way from where we are.

Interestingly enough, I was in the outside lane and the light turned red just as I got to it. I never drive in the outside lane on that street.

The light turned green and people started honking so I pointed around the corner, turned the corner and pulled into a car dealership. I took the paper into the dealership and asked if they would please look up the phone number for the school to see if anyone was there waiting for her. The man at the dealership

said they were actually closed and were just there to finish up a deal, but when I explained the circumstance he not only looked up the number he dialed it. There was no answer. I had no idea why she wanted to get to this school.

I called Roby (my husband) on the cell phone, told him what was going on and gave him the address from the paper the lady had handed me and told him I was bringing her to our house to get the Thomas Guide. He asked if she was safe. I told him, "Oh Ya, and besides I can't leave her here. She very confused and I think scared."

I pointed for her to get in the car and headed for my house. I pulled in the driveway and motioned to her that I was going in the house to get a map, she nodded. I had no idea what she understood. When I got in the house Roby had already found the address in the Thomas Guide and was ready to go. We transferred her to Roby's truck and headed for Renton.

Roby looked at me and said, "So, what are we going to do if there is no one at the school?" I said, "Call the police, I guess." All the way there I kept asking the Lord to give us someone who could communicate with this little lady.

When we got to the school there were two cars parked in the front. We circled around to the back, no one was there. I got out of the car and rattled the locked doors. An Asian man stuck his head out of a room and I motioned for him to come to the door. I explained what we were doing there and showed him the piece of paper with the address on it. He said it had only been a half-day of school and everyone was gone. He was one of the janitors. I asked if he spoke an Asian language. He said, "Is she Vietnamese?" and I said, "I have no idea, but can you please try." He came out to the car and asked a question in Vietnamese and praise God she answered with a whole slurry of words! We had communication.

He told us she lived near the school and wanted to get out and walk. We told him to tell her we would take her home. She protested, but Roby said no way would he let her walk in the dark and I told the

janitor to tell her it was too cold and rainy. He told her to stay in the car and we would take her home, but she had to point out the direction. Off we went!

She pointed and Roby turned and we parked in front of a house. I helped her out of the truck and we walked on either side of her to steady her.

We helped her up the steps and she knocked on the door. A young girl answered and Roby asked, "Does she belong here?" The girl said, "Yes!" Roby explained we had found her wondering on the street in Kent. The girl exclaimed, "KENT! What was she doing in Kent?" The little lady turned and tried to give us money, which she had tried to do before. We both said, "No, no, keep your money we're just glad your home safe." Finally Roby said, "I'll tell you what. I'll take a hug." She smiled and hugged us both and we headed home.

I said to Roby, "God is so good. He provided us with someone who could talk to her so we could get her home." Roby thought for a moment and said, "First he provided her with you to pick her up. Someone else might have taken advantage of her."

We both sat silent after that. Just praising God and thanking Him for using us. He honored us with the privilege of helping one of His dear children in a time of need. God is good! God provides!

What we see in life depends mainly on what we are looking for.

Message from Lay Director

By Pete Jancola

"The next life." Now there's an expression that is pregnant with meaning and potential for strong feelings. It struck terror into my early life as a cradle Catholic because, as I was taught, the next life began with a meeting with the Judge who rewards good and punishes evil. And I could easily tell from admonitions of legitimate authority that there was no lack of evil in my life. However, over the years I came to realize that I was able to live with that terror, and in fact, it was not even strong enough to change my life very much.

Today, I believe what the Church teaches about the next life, even though the details are unknown. And

I can honestly say that this belief still has little impact on my life. What really does impact my life, however, is expressed in the words of Pope John Paul II in his book, Crossing the Threshold of Hope: "This God is, above all, Love. Not just Mercy, but Love. Not only the Father of the prodigal son, but the Father who 'gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life' (cf. Jn 3:16)." Further, our Holy Father goes on to say, "eschatology is not what will take place in the future, something happening only after earthly life is finished. Eschatology has already begun with the coming of Christ. The ultimate eschatological event was His redemptive Death and His Resurrection."

Now this gets my attention! It gives real meaning to Jesus' words to the Jews, "The one who feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him" (Jn 6:56), and His words to the Father, "To them I have revealed your name, and I will continue to reveal it so that your love for me may live in them, and I may live in them" (Jn 17:26). It is this life that matters right now, because I can encounter my God here! And He lives in me! When I am aware of that, there is no more terror of the next life, the nature of which, though I understand it to be far greater than this life, I cannot comprehend. So my focus, for now, is to delight in living this life with Christ!

Forgive me. It's easy to get carried away here. All I want to say is that as cursillistas there is nothing we are doing that does not include God. Without the double negative: in everything we do, God is with us! We can be confident, and joyful, and always encouraged! See you at Ultreya! God is with you!

Reminders

National Encounter:

Sign up to attend the National Encounter July 29–August 1. Secretariat members have registration forms, as well as information on how you can help with the hosting tasks.

Palanca:

General Palanca is needed for the people who will be attending the National Encounter. Send to Pete Jancola at "pjjancola@worldnet.att.net" or at

9817 NE Murden Cove Drive
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110-3380.

www.seattlecursillo.org:

Check out our website at www.seattlecursillo.org. If you wish, follow instructions to register for an electronic version of the TRIPOD instead of the printed version, so as to save us on mailing and printing expenses.

Attend Your Local Ultreya!

You will meet great people, learn about what's happening in Cursillo, and receive new insights capable of transforming your relationship with Christ!

Parish Coordinators

Here is a concept that had been in use several years ago, and then gradually faded away. It is being talked about once again, so maybe its demise is being felt. Basically, the concept calls for a cursillista in each parish who maintains a list of other cursillistas in that parish, for the purpose of facilitating communication between the Schools of Leaders, the Ultreyas, and the entire Cursillo community. If any of you feel called to serve in such a capacity, please contact Tom Connors (Post-Cursillo Chairperson on the Secretariat). We will give you a list of cursillistas in your parish who are on the TRIPOD mailing list.

Palanca Request

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Seattle School of Leaders member, Susan Holliday, saw Spokane Bishop Skylstad recently and she asked him where to send palanca for the August 27-28 workshop aimed at getting the English Cursillo Movement going again in the city of Spokane. He was surprised but delighted with the question because at first he thought she meant that she was asking about palanca for the National Encounter in July. Of course I hope that you are making sacrifices and offering prayers for that event, and plan to write

a note or make a poster (Send to Natalie Vieira, 1018 S. 119th St., Tacoma, WA 98444.) But, Region XII has been working on Spokane for three years and so far it has languished. Bishop Skylstad, one of the best supporters of Cursillo in the region, really desires Cursillo to come to Spokane. He asked that palanca for this workshop be sent to him (Most Reverend William Skylstad, PO Box 1453, Spokane, WA 99210-1453) and if you would put "Workshop Palanca" on the outside of the envelope, he will be able to easily separate these from the rest of his mail. I beg you to make a serious effort with some heartfelt palanca because I don't think that Cursillo will come to Spokane without it. I can't bear to disappoint Bishop Skylstad but even more, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Please take personal responsibility for the success of the workshop (and the Encounter) and let God know you are serious about wanting Cursillo to flourish in Spokane, in the United States, and in the world.

Blessings of Wisdom and Fire (enthusiasm!),
Barbara Levich Region XII Coordinator

PS Please feel free to pass this request on, with a big enough lever, we can move the world!

Coming Events

By Dick Hassell

National Encounter: July 29–August 1, 2004
Seattle University

Cursillo Weekends '04, '05: Currently we are focusing our energy and time on the 2004 National Encounter here in Seattle, but we should not lose sight of upcoming Cursillo weekends in the fall of 2004 and Spring of 2005. The new weekend cost for every one is \$100. As you know, *cir cum* stances will always dictate what is freely donated.

Future leaders of the Cursillo Movement, may the Holy Spirit be with you.

Secretariat Members

Pete Jancola, Lay Director, 206-780-5813,
pjjancola@worldnet.att.net

Dave Hallek, Seattle School of Leaders Facilitator,
425-865-0257, davehallek@aol.com

Jerry Hyde, Poulsbo School of Leaders Facilitator,
360-377-9335, jnhyde@earthlink.net

Cam-Tu Nguyen, Vietnamese School of Leaders
Facilitator, 425-861-0306,
nguyencamt@hotmai.com

Dick Hassell, Precursillo, 206-780-5525,
richardahassell@aol.com

Randy Srnsky, Cursillo, 253-852-5760,
srnsky@juno.com

Tom Connors, Postcursillo, 360-491-7401,
saber6@comcast.net

Michele Raymond, Secretary, 206-363-6394,
gmraymond2@comcast.net

Susan Holliday, Treasurer, 425-228-4555,
pineconeinc@yahoo.com

Feedback

Your 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

Ultreyas

Bothell: "Northend" St. Brendan, 2nd Saturday
8:00PM. Contact: Sam Affronte, 425-481-5296

Bremerton: Holy Trinity, 4th Thursday, 7:00PM.
Contact: Jerry Hyde, 360-377-9335

Des Moines: St. Philomena, 3rd Tuesday, 7:00PM.
Contact: Marilyn Soderquist, 206-248-2063

Lacey: Sacred Heart, 3rd Sunday, 1:30PM. Contact:
Tom Connors, 360-491-7401

Montesano St. John's Mission, 2nd Sunday,
2:00PM. Contact: Helen Pellegrino, 360-249-5535

Poulsbo St. Olaf. 3rd Monday, 7:00PM Contact:
Noreen Millbauer, 360-437-7649

Tacoma St. John of the Woods, 1st Wednesday
7:00PM. Contact: Earl Ducote, 253-845-0112

Cursillo = Short Course, Long Commitment