

the Tripod

a publication of the Massachusetts Episcopal Cursillo

Summer 2016

Co-ed Cursillo Weekend

May 4 - 7, 2017

La Salette Retreat Center, Attleboro, MA

from the Lay Director

Hearing the Word of God—Acts 2

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability... ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?’”

requently in church when we observe Pentecost, people who can speak a second language stand up and read the passage in Acts (2:6-8). English, Italian, French, Spanish, German, and perhaps several other languages too. Usually it seems to me that the words are a cacophonous babble and I find it hard to hear the words I am reading in English. But in the gospel story, those present didn't hear all the languages people were receiving

around them. They heard only that which was to be spoken only to them.

And so I ask myself, how does God speak to us in the way that He wants us to be spoken to? Is it in the Word we read ourselves or those we hear spoken in Sunday services? Do I hear the same words as you? Is God's word spoken to me or you in a beautiful sunrise? Or is it spoken to us in conversation with someone else? In weeding my garden and feeding the roses? In caring for a newborn child?

I believe God speaks to us in different channels and in ways meant especially for us. The beauty and the power of Pentecost daily is receiving our personal message from the Lord. But before we can hear we must be willing to listen, to be open to the Father and to the Son and to their chosen message for us. To be filled, and empowered through the Holy Spirit to act as disciples and apostles. It begins when we will listen and, as a cursillista, knowing that Christ is counting on us.

*Ultreya!
Elgin Summerfelt*

Ultreya!

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

~ Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

what's up?

Secretariat

meets on the third Tuesday ~ 7:00 pm each month ~ Trinity Church ~ Stoughton.

Servant Community

meets the first Saturday Feb ~ June ~ Sept 9:45 am
Trinity Church, Canton

Cursillo Weekend

May 4 - 7, 2017

La Salette Retreat Center,
Attleboro, MA

ECM Conference

October 20 - 22, 2016

Long Island Marriott, Uniondale

Day of Renewal

TBD

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Fourth day corner

Palanca, You Say?

I was asked to be the Palanca Professor for our Cursillo weekend in April. I said yes. Should be easy - you don't have to do a Rollo, just a couple short talks.

I began to read the materials the Rector sent me, and looked at the Palanca Guidelines sheet on our MEC web site. Finally, I took a look at a few internet descriptions of Palanca (some from our Catholic friends).

Wait a minute! There's no clear definition of Palanca. Every document describes it differently. No way. That's not possible! Being a logical person, I'm in trouble. So I called to my wife Kathy. "We have to talk." I unloaded my questions on the differences and variations in Palanca descriptions. "What am I going to do" I asked, as if she'd have a good answer. She just listened!

So I unloaded some more. There's no clear description what the lever is. We use the Spanish word for lever, but how would you describe it? A teammate told me that Palanca isn't logical, it's emotional. Hmmm. More to think about.

Finally it began to fall into place. I tried drafting the two talks, but then threw them away. I've heard that happens to a lot of people as they work on their Rollos. More study and prayer. The picture became a bit clearer.

In the end four truths about Palanca stood out to me, and I tried to incorporate them. Here they are. I hope they resonate with you too. **First**, Palanca accomplishes things we can't do under our own power. That's the lever action. By the way, have you ridden the MBTA Red Line recently? At the end of each car there's a sign in English and Spanish. The last word in the Spanish sign is "palanca". You pull

the lever to stop the train! That's Palanca! A good description for me is: *God's love, expressed in the prayers, sacrifices, and actions of the people supporting the Cursillo weekend, becomes a lever to bring about that which we can't do ourselves.*

Second, Palanca is prayer. It's also often accompanied by acts of sacrifice, special devotions, works of kindness and mercy, and offerings of self (in both good and difficult situations). Without the prayer, though, there's no Palanca! All those other things throw the weight of our lives behind it. You're working with your whole being to bring about God's blessing to candidates.

Third, there are two parts to Palanca - the pleasure of Palanca and the power of Palanca. The pleasure comes from all the notes, cards, letters and posters expressing love, encouragement, warm wishes, and the hope that God will be with the candidate. That's encouraging! The power of Palanca is different. It's the action of God in the lives of the recipients. I think it's our Lord's joy to touch lives in special ways that meet our deepest needs, whether or not we know what they are. That power continues today, maybe to this very minute. Here are some of the ways God may be touching lives through the power of Palanca:

a new understanding, a new friend, a relieved anxiety, a new hope, a healed relationship, a wrong forgiven, a deeper faith in Jesus, a problem solved, an "ah ha" moment, a deeper peace, a plan of action . . .

Many of us have experienced one or more of these as a result of our own Cursillo weekends. And there are more to come! There's no time limit on God's action.

Fourth, and finally, Palanca can go beyond the weekend. We can be what the Cursillo materials call "Palanca

Massachusetts episcopal cursillo®

Secretariat 2016-2017

Any member who wishes to attend a meeting is invited to do so at any time. If you have a particular item you wish to have discussed, please contact the Lay Director so that it can be placed on the agenda.

The Secretariat is still looking for 2 Lay members and possibly 3 Clergy members. Contact the Lay Director.

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the tripod

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ADDRESS ALL APPLICATIONS TO:
The Registrar (info listed above)

ADDRESS ALL CHECKS & DONATIONS TO:
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People". That means applying the principles of Palanca to our daily lives – being in prayer for the needs of people and situations around us, willing to sacrifice, faithful in devotions, undertaking acts of kindness and mercy, and offering ourselves. We're challenged to share our Lord's love and care in all these ways. And our Lord will use our Palanca to both bless others and bring unexpected blessings into our own lives. Give it a try, and watch Him work! Thanks be to God.

Ultreya!
Jack Foster

Ultreya!

Do you have a fourth day story to share about your life of piety, study, and apostolic action, or a moment close to Jesus? Send a copy to the Tripod Editor to share with the community.

Servant Community

Highlights 2015 - 2016

We have had a relatively quiet year, but our Servant Community Leaders are always ready to jump in and "make things happen" as needed. We still meet for reunion/meeting three times a year, on the first Saturday morning of February, June and September. This past year we were snowed and iced out in February, so we met the first Saturday of March instead. Thank you to Jack Foster who stepped in at the last minute to lead this meeting. We are always grateful to Trinity Church in Canton that allows us to get together in their Library. This location is pretty much in the middle of the diocese, making it a "fair distance" for all.

The Cursillo Servant Community leaders usually have a specific focus to attend to, however everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend our meetings/reunion. We need and appreciate new people to commit their

time, talent and prayer which will enable Cursillo to flourish with vitality. Simply being in the company of like-minded Christian friends helps keep our love for Jesus foremost in our minds and hearts.

Our latest focus has been on the Cursillo Weekends that have been at La Salette in Attleboro. Since the closing of our beloved Marist Center our new "home" has been in Attleboro where the last 2 weekends were held, (#144) in September, 2014 led by Ellen Harland and her Team, and (#145) in April-May, 2016 led by Chuck Tolley and his Team.

Thanks to all our Servants for their continued love and commitment to MEC and prayers for the future leaders who will find it in their hearts to choose the fulfillment of Cursillo Servanthood as their primary apostolate.

TY, TY, J
Binki Wright,
Coordinator for Servant Community

Ultreya!

"Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours."

~ Isaiah 61:7 (NIV)

from the Registrar

The next Candidate Weekend is scheduled for Thursday, May 4th through Sunday May 7th, 2017. Again it will take place at La Salette Retreat and Conference Center in Attleboro, MA. For Updated applications and more information, please contact me via email at md1961@verizon.net or by phone at 508-586-2313.

DeColores!
Karla Semeter,
MECM Registrar

Ultreya!

cursillo centers contacts

This section will be updated soon.

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need volunteer

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from the Rector of MEC Weekend # 145

This spring's weekend was truly an amazing journey. When I received the call last summer to be the rector I was very excited. I made up a list of team members I thought would work well together and who I wanted to share this experience with. The first few people I called were very enthusiastic, then it got a little bumpy. It turns out the team I wanted was not the team the Lord was looking for. Over the next few months I made call after call, hearing lots of no's and I'm sorry's and was getting a little nervous, I still needed quite a few team members, an assistant spiritual advisor and time was running out. It took me quite a while to realize I needed to let God do His work. Once I did that, just a few weeks before our team meetings were to begin, the final pieces of the puzzle came together and we had a full team roster. I was pleasantly surprised when after just a couple of meetings our team was bonding like we had known each other for many years. We were all anticipating sharing the Cursillo experience with the candidates that would be called to the weekend. We discovered so much about ourselves and our connections with each other over the next couple of months, God had put together a very special group of people. As the weekend grew closer, we were all excited to hear that there would be four or five candidates. To our amazement, at our final meeting we found out that there would be thirteen Babe Chicks! Praise the Lord!

On Thursday evening, I was expecting to be a nervous wreck, but a quiet calm had surrounded me as we kicked off the introductions. Much like our team had very quickly formed a family, the candidates were all excited to be there, eager to participate, to share their love of our Lord and to join the Cursillo community. Over the

following days we learned a lot about each other, sang, laughed, cried, sang, hugged, listened to each other's stories, laughed some more and made some great friendships. Oh, we may have eaten a bit too. I am always amazed at the strength of the people I meet at a Cursillo weekend, so many people have had to endure great hardships and obstacles in their lives. It gives me comfort to know that by sharing the message that God loves us we truly can make people stronger and they in turn will go out into the world and spread His love further. All the Rollo's "spoke" to those that needed to hear why God had brought them to this weekend. The women that attended this weekend shared a common goal of desiring a closer relationship with the Lord and the strength of being surrounded by loving friends guiding them along the way. They all have wonderful gifts from God that they will share with those around them. I look forward to watching them blossom in the Cursillo community.

At our one-month reunion we had close to forty people attend. We shared a wonderful pot luck meal and experienced an Ultreya and had eucharist together. It was fantastic to see everyone again but I was also a little sad because it would be that last time "our" group would meet like this. I hope that a desire to keep the Cursillo movement growing has ignited throughout the community and we will get together more and more often and see each other regularly. I want to thank all the team members for their hard work and dedication and all the candidates for being open and enthusiastic, you made the weekend an experience I will never forget. We all need to know God loves and cares for us and what better way to spread the Good News than regular Cursillo gatherings.

DeColores! Chuck Tolley

Ultreya!

Ultreyas

Foster's home ~

E Bridgewater

monthly 2nd Friday

7:00 pm

Contact Jack Foster

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Good Shepherd ~

Acton

Fridays of Cursillo

Weekends 7:15pm

Contact Dick Wright

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**Wanted
Secretariat
members – please
speak with
Elgin Summerfelt
(info pg 2) about
this important
ministry.**

Servant Community

1st Saturday

Feb - June - Sept

9:45 -- 12:00

Trinity Church, Canton

**Co-ed Cursillo
Weekend**

May 1 – 4, 2017

**La Salette Retreat
Center, Attleboro**

Heartprints

This IS a poem I received at the ACTS men's retreat from another Brother in Christ who appreciated all the assistance he received during the weekend, as he was wheelchair bound and needed care throughout the four days to participate. During Lent I shared this "Heartprints" poem, which reflects Christ's love for all of us at Good Shepherd this Lenten season and is a joy to share with the Cursillo community in the **Tripod**.

Bill Webb

Heartprints *author unknown*

Whatever our hands touch
We leave fingerprints!
On walls, on furniture, on doorknobs,
dishes, books.
As we touch we leave our identity.
Oh please, wherever I go today
Help me leave heartprints!
Heartprints of compassion, of
understanding and love.
Heartprints of kindness and genuine
concern.
May my heart touch a lonely neighbor
Or a runaway daughter
Or an anxious mother
Or perhaps a dear friend!
I shall go out today to leave heart
prints.
And if someone should say,
"I felt your touch,"
May that one sense Your LOVE
Touching through me.

Ultreya!

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

~ John 15:9-11 (NIV)

The Lord is my pilot

I made my Cursillo weekend at the Marist House in 1998. The theme was "Love One Another" What a powerful and amazing time it was. I opened my heart to Jesus and he filled me with his grace and love. Attached is a poem that the Lord guided my hand to write when I returned home from my weekend. Thank you Lord for all the wonderful things you have given me in my life including the Cursillo Community.

*DeColores!
Dotty Wilhelm*

The Lord is my pilot

I always thought that I was flying my own life. I was the pilot in charge, and the controls were in my hands. I was not a very good pilot.

There were many times in my life that I had missed the airport, flew aimlessly around and did not listen for flight instructions. I recall barely making it through some rough storms, experiencing a few crash landings, never easily reaching my destination.

On my Cursillo weekend I found out how much God loves me!! I learned so much more about my faith and shared fellowship with so many loving and caring people.

I wish to report, that I have given up my pilots license to let God fly my life. With his love and guidance I am now able to enjoy the ride much more than I did before.

I have eased on over into the co-pilot seat and with the Holy Spirit at my side I am having a most powerful ride.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN ME?

ALL ARE WELCOME!

THE FARE: PRAYERS AND DEVOTION.

THE BAGGAGE:
LEFT BEHIND.

THE FLIGHT:
HEAVENLY.

THE LANDING WILL
LAST AN ETERNITY.
D.L. WILHELM

Ultreya!

*"Let your conversation be
always full of grace,
seasoned with salt, so that
you may know how to
answer everyone."*

~ Col. 4:6 (NIV)

Welcome!! New Cursillistas!

Janice Blades

Mary Chandler

Paige Flick

Sharon Gallo-Dunn

Julie Grogan

Catherine Karras

Joanne Kenney

Linda Meeker

Edith Parekh

Mary Steede

Dianne Webster

Theresa (Terri) Whitney

Dale Winters

"My sheep listen to

my voice;

I know them,

and they follow me."

~ John 10:27 (NIV)
