

Summer 2023

TRIPOD



Newsletter for Massachusetts Episcopal Cursillo Ministry (MECM)

In this issue:

- From the Rector...
By Rick Britton
- A Message from the Lay Director
By Ellen Harland
- What do you call your car?
By Jack Foster
- Secretariat Biographies

2023 Cursillo Weekend

MECM Co-ed Weekend #149
LaSalette Retreat Center
Attleboro
November 16-19, 2023

Monthly Ultreya (on Zoom)

Third Saturday at 7pm EST
(Join at 6:45pm for social time)



From the Rector of Weekend MEC #149 **"Speak Lord, for your servant is listening..." 1 Samuel 3;9**

Little did I know that when I accepted the call to be Rector of Weekend # 149 that God would lead me on a journey of so long a call. Our original weekend was to have been in March 2020 and then the pandemic. It has been a long journey thus far. And now it seems we will realize our weekend of renewal in November of 2023. God has taught me patience and helped me see during this time that much can be garnered by listening to where and how God is calling each of us.

It's not about the weekend, but how God is inviting us into continued relationship. We enter into a freeing dialogue of love and trust when time is not so important. Deep and true listening has become key. My prayer time is richer and the waiting has become an unexpected gift. So we learn that God's call is ever reaching and we must say YES and wait. It's the saying of yes that is most important and then God's love will take us where we need to be and it will become our call.

DeColores!

Rick Britton
Rector of Weekend MEC #149
November 16-19, 2023

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DeColores!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thanks be to God, we have a co-ed weekend scheduled! It is set for Nov. 16-19, 2023 at La Salette Retreat Center in Attleboro. I feel like it comes after a long time of “wandering in the desert” and in order to have a successful weekend, we need candidates. Perhaps you may feel that you are a bit unsure about sponsoring. So here are a few thoughts.

Think about your own Cursillo experience and how did it affect you? Was it life-changing? Did it help to heal some pain in your life? Did you find a new or deeper relationship with the Lord? Think about all of that. Now, think about people in your circles of friends at your church, co-workers, friends from sports, or clubs. Wouldn't you want them to experience the joy that you did? Wouldn't you want them to have a deeper relationship with Jesus?



That's why we sponsor people. If my sponsors had not shared Cursillo with me, I don't know what my life would be like now. No one else ever approached me about Cursillo, and yet for me, it was life changing and I will always be grateful that they sponsored me.

So where do you start? First of all, start with prayer. If you have someone in mind, bring them before the Lord in prayer. Now having said that, it is important that you know your friend pretty well. They should not be in the midst of a life crisis and in pretty good health. Through your conversations with them, you should know that they do have a faith in God and are open to growing in that faith and they must be baptized Christians.

Personal contact is the methodology that Cursillo has us use to serve the Lord in this role as a leader for Christ. Personal contact must always be built upon genuine love for our sisters and brothers and a sincere desire to help our friends grow in Christ. We are called to foster the growth. We are not psychologists, we are friends in Christ.

We should always be open to any questions about Cursillo and do not try to hide anything. Even if they know about Palanca, the volume that they receive on a weekend is always more than anyone expects. I emphasize that it is lay-led. It is co-ed, which means mixed gender, but it is not couple oriented, it is Christ oriented. I also talk about chapel time, and the incredible amount of food and music! Most importantly, be patient. People attend when the Lord wants them to be there. We didn't go the first time we were asked, but when we did go, it was absolutely the right time. If your friend says no, don't take it personally, it might not be the right time.

Once your friend decides to attend, you are committed to continue to pray for them, and begin Palanca. You will take them to La Salette and then be there for the Closing Service. Then the work of sponsoring takes on a new level of commitment after the weekend. Helping them into their 4th day is critical. You should meet with them shortly after the weekend to listen and help them process the whole experience. You should help them get into a reunion group and encourage them to come to Ultreyas to stay connected to the community.

Sponsoring is a big responsibility, but also a big blessing. May the Lord continue to direct all our ways for His honor and Glory.

Peace! DeColores!

Ellen Harland





What Do You Call Your Car?

A while back a friend told me they'd named their car, and wondered if I had a name for mine. Well, I didn't! My Toyota Prius isn't big, or fancy, or luxurious, or anything like that. And some people say it's kind of weird looking! A name didn't immediately come to mind.

So, I started to think about possible names, and finally came up with "The Boss!" Really? Where'd you get that? The Prius decides when to use its gas engine, and when to provide power by electricity, through a big battery in the trunk. So, the name fits well. It's The Boss, and makes the big decisions. And the result is around 50 miles per gallon!

Recently I was reading an article in the Our Daily Bread devotional, and it described another car, the Packard of the early 1900s. It was big, handsome, powerful, and well made – one of the true luxury cars of its age. Packard developed a clever sales slogan to market it: "Ask the man who owns one" became a powerful tag line. They knew that a friend's satisfaction with their product was a great endorsement.

Hmmm! Made me start to think of our Christian faith. What slogans do we have to describe our religion? What if we had a tagline like "Ask the person who is one!" And each one of us had an answer!

If you were asked, what would you say? I go to church because I love the liturgy, or because I have friends there, or I love to sing, or I can relax there, or I was raised in the church, or I go with my spouse or friend. Or perhaps a more theological answer: I believe truth of the Christian faith, or I've accepted Jesus as my Lord & Savior, or it helps me make sense of the crazy world around us.

For each of us the answer might be different. And . . . you may never be asked that question. But if you are, what will you say? I'm sure people often wonder why we attend church each week, especially because less and less other people do. As followers of Jesus, I think each of us needs to have an answer in our hearts, if not on our lips. Our Lord may some day call us to answer that question to a friend, a relative, or even a stranger.

One of the great verses on this subject is in Peter's first letter (Ch. 3, v. 15):

Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you, but do it with gentleness and respect.

So, there's the challenge! Are we ready? How do we describe the faith we live by and the hope we have in us?

Ultreya! Jack Foster



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Biography – Jonathan MacKenzie

Jonathan MacKenzie was born and raised in the Adirondack Mountains of New York State and attended Elizabethtown-Lewis Central School. He holds a BA degree in English Literature from Union College in Schenectady, New York, and a Masters in Sacred Theology from General Theological Seminary, New York City. He served in the US Army in the 60's, training at the (now) Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California and serving in Germany. He has served parishes in New York State, Pennsylvania, and, before retiring, at St. James, Laconia, New Hampshire. Since retirement, he has served in Lowell, West Newbury, Groveland, Westford, and N. Billerica, as well as doing Sunday supply in various Episcopal and Lutheran parishes. He has played an extremely supportive role with Mass Episcopal Cursillo Ministry, particularly participating in many Zoom Ultreya's with his wife Carol at his side.

He was married to Carol Eastman MacKenzie for 23 years, and between them they have five children – two sons and three daughters, and five grandchildren. He lives in Chelmsford, MA. The MacKenzie's enjoyed riding, skiing, and hiking. Jonathan also holds an Amateur Radio license as K2LEB and enjoys road and cross-country running. He attended Men's Cursillo #10 in the Diocese of Albany around 1982.

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Biography: Rosemary & Ken Kinser

Our Cursillo weekend was a couple's weekend in November 2001, just a couple of months following September 11th. It was truly a time of great anxiety in America and although different, in many ways it was similar to the feelings that we have experienced in 2020, due to the pandemic. "What has happened to our world and what will happen to us?" are questions expressed by many. Music is an especially important part of our spiritual life. The song "Be not Afraid" is a special part of our journey which has instilled a calming, peaceful presence of the Holy Spirit. Additionally, we feel the need for quiet time to listen to the "still small voice of God" speaking to us. We saw Cursillo as an opportunity to further develop our faith and promoting a stronger relationship with our savior, Jesus Christ. In later years, both Ken and I have had the good fortune to serve as members of the weekend teams and this experience was extremely rewarding to both of us.

We have been members of Saint Anne's Episcopal Church in North Billerica for more than 40 years. We have been married for 47 years as of May 2023. We have a beautiful and loving daughter, Lisa, who is also an active member of Saint Anne's and in 2010, she married her best friend, David, who became our "Son". Rosemary and Ken recently welcomed a grandson "Little" Kenny into their lives!

At St. Anne's, both of us have been members of the vestry and have had various roles as Lector or Eucharistic Minister. Ken has been treasurer for various committees within the Church. Lisa and I have served as members of a "Search Committee" for a new rector and have genuinely enjoyed our experience with Coffee Hour. All of us have helped at "fun raising" activities. Each of us has enjoyed faith and belief expanding experiences through participation in lay-led Bible Studies. Ken is a member of the newly formed "Reopening Committee", and on October 11, 2020, St. Anne's had a successful first onsite service, in addition to our live streaming weekly services.

Both of us are now retired and recently, a special member of the Secretariat remembered me saying that we would love to get more involved once we retire. "Here we are Lord".