

Diocesan Cursillo Picnic - Sunday, Aug 19, 2007

To be held at The Auriesville Shrine, Sponsored by the Ilion Ultreya.

We have 1/2 of a Pavilion reserved. Please bring a dish to share.

See Page 6 for more details!



Sr. Betsy Van Deusen
Spiritual Director

The late Joseph Cardinal Bernadin asked his priests when he became Cardinal of Chicago what he could do for them. They told him they wanted him to pray for them. So, every morning, Cardinal Bernadin arose and prayed for two hours. The busier his schedule, the more he knew he needed to pray. In his book, *The Gift of Peace*, he spoke about how it made it possible to have and live in peace. Perhaps we can take a page from Bernadin's book, the busier we are, the more we need to take time with the Lord.

Newspaper reporters answer the "W" questions – who, what, when, where, why and how when telling a story. Let's look for a minute at prayer this way. **Who prays?** Anyone who has a need, who loves another, who needs forgiveness, who knows they are not in control and who is open to help from God. **What do you pray?** Sometimes we pray a traditional prayer of the Church – the Rosary, the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary, the Act of Contrition, Pilgrim's Prayer, the Memorare, the Creed, Liturgy of the Hours, the Mass. Sometimes we pray for others in our own words. Sometimes we pray with the Word of God in scripture. Sometimes we pray with music or nature or silence. **When and where do you pray?** I generally start my day on my prayer cushion with a cup of coffee. Ultreya is a great when and where. Others have other special times or special places, some pray as they drive or

pray as they go about their daily tasks, and at Group Reunion. The when and where is not as important as *that* we pray.

Why do we pray anyway? It is one of the legs of the tripod (In the old days, and pretty soon again in the new days!) and it is, for me, a recognition that I am not God and that my life unfolds as it does because God is in charge. Oh, sometimes I am not very attentive, sometimes my morning prayer time doesn't feel good, sometimes I would rather stay in bed, but for the gift of life, faith and love, spending time in prayer with God is the very least I can do!

As the time continues to unfold faster and faster the older we get, let's not wait to commit a little time to God. There has never been a time when prayer for the Church and the Cursillo community was more important! We are in the midst of Pastoral Planning in our diocese, so the efforts made by each of us in the Cursillo community are especially important now. We are going to have a Men's Weekend in November so we need Palanca for the candidates and team.

I have often said that the only thing I could promise was that I would show up. So, please join me and let's keep showing up!

De Colores!
Sr. Betsy

Did you buy your Raffle Ticket Yet?

Kayak, Paddles and Life Vest Sug. Retail Value \$500.

Donation—\$5. per Ticket

1 in 1000 Chance to Win
Drawing to be held Sept. 16, 2007
Contact you local Ultreya for tickets.



You Do Not Need To Be Present At Drawing To Win!

Help Support His Movement!

We Asked For Your Help, and You Answered!

We asked if we could Email communications to you and the response has been fantastic. With rising costs to print and mail the Little Light has climbed over \$1 per copy. The cost to Email your copy is \$0.

It is our effort to become better stewards of the Cursillo Funds, and yet increase communications with all of you, we are working diligently to make this happen.

If you are still receiving the Little Light via US Mail and have an email address, we can make this happen, please email me, Kit Lawrence at mclaw@nycap.rr.com,

Joe Thouin
Lay Director

**Know Your New Lay
Director?**

Don't tell anyone but I have three women in my life.

My biological mother was the first woman in my life. She was devout and gave me my faith. She died the week before Mother's Day in 2002. I visit with her at daily Mass, during the Eucharistic Prayer, when the priest at the altar is surrounded by the angels and saints. Someday we'll all have an opportunity to see that miracle ourselves.

The second woman in my life is my bride Sharon. We started dating when I was sixteen. We married when I was 21. She has always helped to keep me on the right path (not easy). She has helped me to sustain my faith and has always supported me in my Church "activities". We have grown together in our faith journey.

The third woman in my life is Our Blessed Mother. She has been a strong influence in my life. When I was about 40 or so, I was trying to break this habitual, I'll call it **stubborn sin**. Do you have a sin that keeps recurring? It's frustrating. I started going to reconciliation once a month to finally break this chain of habitual sin. That wasn't working. So I started going to confession once a week. That was better but I wasn't yet "cured". I remember one week I went to confession two days in a row, because no sooner had I left the confessional but I committed that sin again. Satan did not want to let me go. I remember crying in frustration that second consecutive day, after confessing one sin. A thought

entered my mind that I was doing this all by myself, and not seeking any help.



I thought, I'll pray and ask our Blessed Mother to help me. She was **sinless**. If anyone can help me she can. So I did. I prayed to Our Blessed Mother and asked her to help me rid myself of this stubborn sin. I'm taking a risk by telling you this now, because I could fall flat on my face tomorrow, but I'm 55 years old now, and I haven't committed that previously stubborn sin since I went to my knees and asked her for help 15 years ago. Celebrate! Celebrate! Dance to the music! Her Son has given her power; power over Satan; power to lift us up. I am so happy to have this spiritual relationship with Our Blessed Mother. She has definitely brought me closer to her Son. She is definitely preparing me for the "big dance". Allow her to help you. Don't go it alone.

God Bless You
and Your Families,
Joe

Kurt Lawrence
Pre-Cursillo

I write to you this time from the Pyramid Spiritual Life Center in the Adirondacks. Kit and I are taking this time to unwind after several months of non-stop "stuff" in our lives. What better and more peaceful place than here, in Jesus' presence!

MENS WEEKEND...Sponsors get your applications in to me as soon as possible. November is quickly

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Joe Thouin
Evangelization

Evangelization is everyone's job. I know it's not easy. But it's still everyone's job. When people come to **you**, as in religious education, RCIA, Eucharistic Minister, Lector, it's a lot easier than when you have to go out and Evangelize **them**. But when they say yes it's so fun! "It's fun to feed", I was reminded by Father Jim Cribbs. He was right. It is fun to feed. Someone once told me that since they were part of a team, that they didn't have to Evangelize, "Let the outside Community get the candidates, I'm busy on team". Evangelization is everyone's job.

I know it's not easy but we don't have candidates for the Men's and Women's weekends unless we all Evangelize in our environments. St. Paul our patron saint, was called to Evangelize the world as he knew it.

In 2 Corinthians chapter 11 he tells us :

²⁴ "Five times at the hands of the Jews I received forty lashes minus one." ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I passed a night and a day on the deep; ²⁶ on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my own race, dangers from Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, dangers among false brothers; ²⁷ in toil and hardship, through many sleepless nights, through hunger and thirst, through frequent fastings, through cold and exposure.

²⁸ And apart from these things, there is the daily pressure upon

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Carl Rosenthal
Web Master



I pray this finds you enjoying the warmer weather and that you are continuing in your fourth day with joy and enthusiasm.

Since I last wrote, I am still busy babysitting my two grandsons and it always seems something is going on almost every night and on the weekends. God seems to dictate where he wants me to be, so I know I can't control, or even try to control, what direction God wants for me.

To give an example of where God is leading me: I hate to speak in public but I seem to get thrown into these type situations all the time. On Friday, June 15th, my good friends Joe and Sharon Thouin and my wife Marion and I were invited to speak to a group of prospective candidates for Cursillo at St. Mary's Church in Stuyvesant, NY. Going there we had plenty of handouts and an opening prayer, but we didn't know what to expect or what we were going to say. On the trip down, Joe offered a prayer for the evening to calm us and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us. When we arrived we were expecting a small group to speak with, but were greeted by 20 plus people. I opened the session with a prayer of the Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and for the next two hours we shared and talked of our experiences in Cursillo. Boy does the Holy Spirit inspire us! This reminded me of one of the daily readings that I read during the month from 2 Corinthians, Chapter 1 where it says in verse 22, "He has also put his seal upon us and given the Spirit in our hearts."

In the Meditation for that day and I quote from part of it: "when Paul wrote to the Corinthians, perhaps he remembered the beautiful

verse in the Song of Songs in which the lover requests of the Beloved: 'Set me as a seal on your heart' (8:6). Having God's signature rest on each of us signifies our belonging to God. The seal identifies us as bearers of God's unconditional love and fidelity. Let us never doubt that this great source of Eternal Goodness is etched in our hearts. Not only do we belong to God, we have been given *the Spirit in our hearts*. God's signature does not simply identify us; the resonance of the Spirit is alive in us, helping us to grow more fully into love." (Living Faith, Tuesday, June 12)

I know I can speak for the group about that evening by saying that the Holy Spirit truly inspired us and the seal of the Spirit was truly upon us as we witnessed from the heart in speaking of how Cursillo affected our lives and what Cursillo is all about. The reaction of the candidates was also inspirational for us to see as men and women were seeking to get to know Our Lord and Savior even better. I hope they found in our sharing what Our Lord wanted them to hear and that we inspired them to continue on their journey in Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. So now I know after that experience being called by God to speak in His name that He calls the "unqualified" and qualifies us to do His work.

I again encourage you to check out our web site often for new information and an updated Calendar of Events so you can keep up with what's going on in Cursillo. Also, put The Albany Diocesan Cursillo Web Page on your favorites list so you can access us faster. You can find us at: www.cursillo.org/albany. This is your Web Page so send me any comments or suggestions for our

site. You can e-mail me at albany-cursilloweb@yahoo.com.

De Colores!
Carl Rosenthal

Kurt Lawrence Pre-Cursillo Continued
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approaching. If you need applications you can download these directly from the website; www.cursillo.org/albany.

The Men's Weekend is scheduled for November 1 thru 4, 2007 to be held at the Good News Foundation in Utica, NY.

Applications for the Women's Weekend are starting to come in, please pray for Shirley Neet and the Women's Team. A weekend has not yet been scheduled for the women...but soon!

This past weekend has been a time of winding down and just letting the whispers of Jesus be present. Here in the beautiful Adirondacks, the company of FMP (Formation for Ministry Program) people, (many of whom are also Cursillistas) most of all just the slowness, the escape from everyday life. If you ever want to get away, relax in a spiritual setting, try the Pyramid Life Center in Paradox, NY. There are many directed programs as well as the ability to come on your own. Check out their website at www.pyramidlife.org. This is a treasure that our Diocese owns and operates, and it is less than 2 hours from Albany.

De Colores!
Kurt Lawrence

PS: Kayaking is very addicting! Kit and I braved Pyramid Lake for the first time...and loved it!

Goods and Services

Auction is coming! Some number of years ago we had our first Service Auction, (our new historian will be able to tell us how many years ago) but the original idea was to gather the Cursillo community for some food, community, sharing of our gifts, talents and treasure and fun! It seems, like so many things when we have some time elapse from the first one, we forget some of the stuff of it! What is it that you could share with the Cursillo community by way of time or talent or treasure that would help to raise funds toward our weekends? Place to be announced, date is Sept. 16, 2007.

of our faith community with as much care as we do the bonds of our family. This community keeps us strong and helps to nourish our faith, and through it, the love of Jesus Christ is magnified in our lives.

My family cherished the time we spent together this month. Through living in such close quarters, tensions rose and fell, but through it all, we rejoiced in the time we shared. I know that God's love heightened the love in my family, just as it does in all of our families and in the faith community as a whole.

Elaine Granato
School of Leaders

Elaine Granato
School Leaders



What a busy month this has been! One daughter's wedding and another daughter's graduation brought my family into town from all over the world. All six of my children were nearby for the month before the wedding; in my two bedroom apartment alone lived myself, my son, his wife, his two children, and my youngest daughter.

interactions through celebrating the Mass and practicing faith ministries together. And though sometimes we disagree, ideally, we use the greater love of our Lord to come to peace with one another.

It seems to me that we must strengthen and uphold the bonds

This month of living and loving with my family brought my faith to my mind often. Our families are models for the larger family we all belong to God. The Lord calls us all to be brothers and sisters to each other. Our love for each other reflecting and refracting His love for us all. My immediate family is like any other — we share important memories that bond us together, we create new memories, and we sometimes hurt each other, but we use our larger love to try to heal those hurts.

Our faith community, I believe, functions in much the same way. We share a rich and long history taught to us through the Bible and the Church. This history bonds us together. but what strengthens that bond further is our current

What a Ziti Dinner it was!

The Secretariat sponsored Ziti Dinner was held on April 29, 2007, at St. Helen's.

What a success, food, prayer, community and most of all, the presence our Jesus the Christ among us!



Cursillistas in the food line at the Ziti Dinner. The community enjoying good food and good company.

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me of my anxiety for all the churches."

We are fortunate to have the opportunity to Evangelize in a country that has freedom of religion and freedom of speech.

All it takes is a courageous invitation, no lashes, no beatings and no stonings. But please let Secretariat know if any of these things happen to you. <smile>

Evangelization could be as easy as conducting a pulpit talk, and having 5 or 6 people talk to you after Mass and ask "Where can we sign up?". Ask Marion Rosenthal Or it could take being a friend in need for 30 years or more and just being there, being the Jesus in someone's life when they really need a friend. Ask Linda Molloy.

It may take prayer and discernment, thinking inwardly about who the Lord wants me to ask this time. The bottom line is to be open to the Lord's will to Evangelize your environments: your home, your church, your work place, your leisure activity places. When you extend the invitation, and I know you will, tell them about an awesome weekend. Then tell them the best part: the support, love, friendship, company and grace of the 4th Day.

Let's just do it!

In Christ's Love,
Joe Thouin

Kit Lawrence
Post-Cursillo

Please review the back page for the upcoming calendar of events.

We are really excited about the scheduled Community Building events.... Please join us—we would like to see you!

Wil Trombley

Dear Cursillistas,

It has been a while since I have written to you, but that doesn't mean I have forgotten you. A good many of you know my Mother has had quite a time of it with health issues, and has overcome a lot over these past 8 or 9 weeks. When I was in her hospital room witnessing her having a heart attack, I saw her fight as the pain crossed her chest and she told God she was "Not going to let the devil get her heart at this time". I would not want to relive what I saw and heard during those first tense hours, with exception to the trust she has in God that she will only go when He calls her. What a witness, what a close moment! This served as a reminder to me that my parents are very responsible for my commitment to being a Roman Catholic, and I am proud to profess it wherever I am.

During her earlier days of struggle, I prayed with her and received Eucharist with her. Someone from another parish was there in OUR time of need. Another close moment I will share is when she told my niece Ashley (who's emotions were very distraught seeing my mom in the hospital bed with life support) that she was given 'good genes' and that she is reminded that grandma is a "tough old bird" as she quoted it. Mom put her own concerns out of the way to console this college age youngster. Yes---- mom is tough, but she has a close companion!! So many times at grouping I struggle to share a 'close moment', when they happen all the time and I just don't stop to see them. I pray daily, I do a lot of the Good Catholic things, and still I know I fall very short of making my environments better.

This is not due to lack of trying, but maybe sometimes because I try too hard.

After grouping this morning, I had a little extra time, so a 'round table' discussion ensued about the changes our Church is facing with the Priest shortage and other issues. I am in the middle of a Local Planning Group, trying to make a difference, trying to create an atmosphere of cooperation and trying to focus on a plan that may offer some resolution to the changes that we WILL face in the future. Jesus never promised it would be easy, nor did he reveal the extreme struggle that lies ahead. Mom is from the Old Church. She is tough, she is still a walking bible for me at times, and a constant reminder that I have much to learn. (I know she's getting better because she wants to argue with the staff and me quite a lot these days) I wish to thank you all for your prayers and support, and ask that you keep us on those prayer lists a little bit longer. While there is hope for her future health issues, there is a very bright beacon of light that I want to keep seeing for a while, if God will allow it. God Bless all of you as the Cursillo Movement also faces changes, but be assured, you have excellent leadership, they too...have a companion standing by....and.... will make a difference. Keep evangelizing and I hope to see you all soon at a weekend closing. Recruit for Jesus, talk to Him about your opportunity to sponsor someone. We are here to help you; you are not alone.

De Colores,
Wil Trombley

Monthly Ultreya Locations & Contacts

2nd Friday	Contact	Phone
Ravena, NY	Ellen Bradt	768-2757
Scotia-Glenville	Harrilyn Beehner	581-0742
Troy, NY	Chuck & Rosalie Adams	273-9017
3rd Friday		
Glens Falls, NY	Wil & Marie Trombley	793-3901
Ilion, New York	Lucille Kinney	315-894-8385

**Men's Weekend
is scheduled this fall.
November 1 thru 4,
2007. There are new
applications available.
Just ask, or download
from the website.**

Calendar of Events for 2007/2008

August

2nd Secretariat /School of Leader
Monthly Meetings

19th Diocesan Picnic
Auriesville Pavilion

September

6th Secretariat /School of Leader
Monthly Meetings

16th Goods & Service Auction
St. Ambrose 2pm to 4:30pm

October

4th Secretariat /School of Leader
Monthly Meetings

November

1st thru 4th Men's Weekend
Utica, NY

January-2008

20th St. Claire's
Cursillo Talent Fest

February-2008

8th Stations of the Cross
Time & Place TBA

Sunday, August 19th

Our Cursillo community will have a picnic celebration at Auriesville. We will attend the Mass at 12 Noon in the Shrine Church.

Afterwards we will enjoy community as we share a picnic together in the Pavilion. It will give us an opportunity to renew old friendships and acquaintances. We ask that all who come to bring a covered dish to share.

All you have to do is come and enjoy yourself!



Sr. Betsy prepares for a trip on the water at Pyramid Life Center. She likes Kayaks too! She reminds us you too can win one, you just need to buy a ticket.

*Do you,
have something to share
with the Community?*

We are looking for articles, reflections, short stories...words of encouragement. If you would like to share with your sisters and brothers please contact me, Kit Lawrence (518) 693-6867 or mclaw@nycap.rr.com.

**Historian
Found...**

Secretariat has found a volunteer who is willing to research and maintain the Albany Cursillo Movement Historical Records. Welcome aboard Christine Robinson.



Do You have any ideas for the Goods and Service Auction?

If you do we would like to hear from you. Drop me a note at mclaw@nycap.rr.com

Let us Pray:



Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created, And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, Who by the light of the Holy Spirit, instruct the hearts of Your faithful, grant that by that same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation, through Christ our Lord. ...Amen.



Babe Asks....

Hi my name is Sara Sponsor and I have with me a Babe Chick. Like many new Cursillistas she has many questions. I am sure that there are many others of you who have them as well. So I will be answering her and your questions in the Little Light.

Today's Question

Babe Chick:

Sara last night at Ultreya, I noticed that people commented after the witness talk. What was that all about?

Sara:

That was the echo. The purpose of the echo is to briefly

comment on the message given by the speaker. This comment is to reflect or "echo" the message of the speaker to say "this is how I live it." When Joe spoke of how he had to hand the worry about his college age daughter to the LORD, you noticed that I then later echoed that I too had to learn to hand over my grown children to him as well.

Babe Chick:

Oh but I don't have any children so what could I echo?

Sara:

*I am sure that there **have** been times in your life when you have had to*

hand over a worry to the LORD and had similar relief once you did.

Babe Chick:

Yes I understand now, the echo is to help us all see how we follow the same path as the person who gave the witness. **Thanks Sara!**

If you have any questions about Cursillo that you would like answered, just send them to:

**Babe Asks
c/o The Little Light
16 Terrel Way
Gansevoort, NY 12831
mclaw@nycap.rr.com**