

**Women's Weekend - Please join the Cursillo Community
for the "Closing" on Sunday March 30th at 5pm at the
Dominican Center in Niskayuna.**



Joe Thouin
Lay Director

You Are Invited!

Please plan on coming to the closing and show your support to the New Babe Chicks and Team #51.

So you don't have to choose between Las Manianitas and the The Closing, to show your Community Support, Team #51 will include a creative version of Las Manianitas as part of The Closing. So **PLEASE MAKE IT A POINT TO COME TO THE CLOSING.** Show your support please come!

Why the change?

In 1998 our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II requested that all religious orders and ecclesiastical groups go back and search their foundational charism (a charism is a gift of the Holy Spirit). For example, the New Cursillo Manual (3 Day Manual), takes us back to the original titles and outlines of the rollos that came from Mallorca during the first Cursillo in Waco, Texas in 1957. We are returning to the "cradle" of Cursillos in Christianity.

We will continue to strive to be an authentic Diocesan Cursillo Movement.

To help you understand what it means to be authentic, I have copied selected paragraphs from National Cursillo documents. The complete documents will be posted on our web site.

Looking forward to seeing you at THE CLOSING!

Enjoy the reading.— God Bless,
Joe

Faithful Stewards of the Cursillo Movement

If Cursillos, as we firmly believe, is a gift from God, it is a manifestation of the Spirit for the common good of the Church.

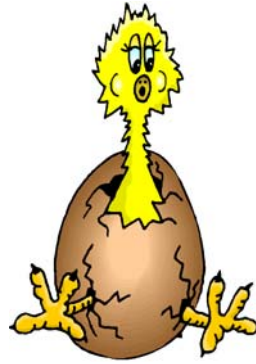
As such, Cursillos fulfills a unique and specific role in God's plan. As recipients

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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 1st Question is:

Babe Chick:

Sara I just made my weekend and I am still a little confused about some of the terms. I was taught that the tri-pod consisted of Evangelization, Formation, and Holiness. Now at my Ultreya I am hearing terms like Action, Study and Piety. Are they making these names up just to confuse me?

Sara:

Hey Babe, don't worry no one is making names up. Joe Thouin stated in his article that Pope Paul II instructed us as a Catholic Movement to return to our roots and revitalize. In the beginning Evangelization was known as Action, Formation was known as Study, and Holiness was known as Piety. In any case Babe though the names of the Tri-Pod are different, the results of each remain the same.

Babe: Thanks Sara for clearing that up for me.

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Sr. Betsy Van Deusen, CSJ
Spiritual Director

Our Women's team has been meeting, our candidates are getting ready, the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center is preparing to welcome us. The remaining parts of what makes an "ideal" Cursillo weekend are Palanca and the Fourth Day community at the Closing. We all know that our world is crying for and seeking relationship with others, with God, with self. The gift of Cursillo is that it offers so brilliantly all three!

The weekend begins with silence, giving individuals a chance to reflect on who they are and what they bring to this experience and to acknowledge their need for God's love and forgiveness. The weekend continues with the "unfolding" of community with the sharing and nurturing and journeying that occurs with the candidates and the team. Woven throughout the weekend, (as in every moment of our lives), is the presence of God whose Holy Spirit tangibly and really leads and guides the experience.

The weekend does in fact end but it is not complete without the full, prayerful, and physical presence of the "outside" or Fourth Day community. Remember back to your weekend, what did it feel like to see all those people there to support and love you? Remember the excitement of your "babe chick" on the way home speaking about all the people who had come, who had prayed, about the way the Lord had touched his/her life and how they wanted to keep it going?

And you probably took that opportunity to once again speak about the Fourth Day and Group Reunion and Ultreya.

There has probably never been a time when the community is more needed or more vital. There probably has never been a time when we have needed the presence and action of God in the world tangibly more than

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Joe Thouin Continued

of that grace, therefore, we are called to be trustworthy in our fidelity to its essence and the specific role which God assigned to it within the Body of Christ.

If the unique charism that is the Cursillos Movement is to fulfill its mission, we cannot treat it as if it were our own possession, as if it was ours to use or tinker with to our hearts' content, much less use it for a purpose for which it was not intended.

Cursillos is the work of the Spirit; and we are accountable to God for the gift received.

Important Criteria or Principles on the Essence, Mentality, and Purpose of the Cursillo Movement

Whenever something uncommon or shocking is observed in the Cursillos in Christianity – whether in the Precursillo, in the Cursillos proper or in the Postcursillo – we can be confident that some adaptation has been introduced.

The desire to be original is the least original to which we can yield, since vanity easily seeks originality. If we were to deepen our humility, we should have fewer desires to be original, especially when such originality contributes to the prejudice of the current of Grace which the Holy Spirit pours forth, or to the prejudice of the fruitful unity of a movement which already bears within it the guarantee of a proven efficacy and of admirable fruits.

The Cursillos in Christianity are a magnificent instrument of Christian renewal, with surprising results. And it is not strange that the evil spirit does his best to avail himself even of persons of good will to spoil and corrupt their substance so that this promising rebirth may remain a mere flash which will later be extinguished little by little.

National Policy for Cursillo Movements in the United States of America

I. DEFINITION

A Diocesan Cursillo Movement shall be considered authentic if, in its conduct and implementation of the purpose, method and strategy of the Cursillo Movement, it

Joe Thouin Continued

adheres to all policies of the National Movement as promulgated by the National Secretariat and contained within the literature of the Cursillo Movement.

II. CRITERIA FOR AUTHENTICITY

In order to be considered an authentic Cursillo Movement a diocese must meet the following criteria:

- C. Three Day Weekend
- 6. Eliminate from the Three Day Weekend all non-essential elements, such as mañanitas, serenades, agapes, parandas, parties, and/or any activities that have the potential to distract the candidates from the true purpose of the Three Days;
- 7. Eliminate all unnecessary contact between those inside the conference room (team and candidates) and the outside Cursillo community until The Closing.

Leaders' Manual, 9th Edition, June 2006, pages 118-119

THE 4th DAY COMMUNITY

The participants of the Cursillo require isolation in order to build a united Christian community in only three days. Since the atmosphere must be reflective, prayerful and sincere, everything that is a distraction must be avoided, particularly any contact between the 4th day (outside) community and the Cursillo Weekend community until The Closing.

The greatest contribution the 4th day community can make to the Cursillo is to offer "Real Palanca" and attend the Closing, the initial point of contact between the outside community and the new community. Any contact by individuals who are not part of the team should be avoided, except during the Closing. Secretariat should not allow opportunities for Cursillistas to drop in and out of the Cursillo, no matter what the excuse. People should not be visible to the weekend participants who may come by to offer Palanca. The same holds true for other practices and adaptations such as "serenades" or "mañanitas", etc. The mañanitas can be offered at The Closing, which is the contact point between the 4th day community and new Cursillistas.

**Carl Rosenthal
Web-Master**



Well it's just before the Women's weekend and I found this meditation that I thought was appropriate based on Deuteronomy 30:15-20 and I quote:

"In every age and every generation, God calls his people to choose, to decide to follow him and receive his life. Each day we are called to make a decision to stay close to our God. We are called every day to reaffirm our baptismal vows, the life we personally chose when we were confirmed.

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Sr. Betsy Continued

There probably is a need for each of us to take another look at - "How am I with my relationship with the Lord? and "How am I living my "tripod" of piety, study and action?" and "How am I being touched by Christ?"

Recently I was sitting in a hospital with a young man who attempted suicide and he was recounting that he had told three other patients that the most important thing was to love yourself and God will love you just the way you are. He had it, he understood it and he was struggling through the pain in his life to live it out. We too, have it - intellectually. We even sometimes feel it - physically. Our task as this weekend approaches and as we continue to live the Fourth Day is to share our head, our hands and our hearts with others so that they know that loving yourself and recognizing the love of God for us is really the whole package.

Perhaps now is a good time to dust off your Cursillo cross and come join us for the Women's Closing.

Christ is still counting on you to walk the walk, share the faith and pray all along the way so that through us others may know the head, the hands and the feet of Christ!

De Colores!

"May the peace of God which surpasses all understanding guide your mind and heart." Philippians 4:7

Carl Rosenthal Continued

What does it mean to choose life? What are the blessings we receive if we make this choice every day? Moses described it as including three things: loving the Lord, walking in his ways, and observing his commands (Deuteronomy 30:16,20).

We are called first to love God. Everything else flows from this, for it is the greatest of God's commandments (Matthew 22:37-38). Love consists not primarily in our love for God but in the fact that he first loved us (1 John 4:10). As we receive revelation of his love in our prayer, we are moved to love him and to follow him more fully.

We are also called to walk in his ways. This implies something broader than obeying every individual commandment. We learn God's ways as we seek to understand his character and his nature. As we read his word prayerfully every day, asking him to speak to us, we allow the Spirit to teach us more clearly who



God is, what motivates him, and what it means that he is a God of love, justice, and mercy. We allow the Spirit to transform our minds so that we too can begin to think, choose, and love as he does.

Finally, we are called to obey his commandments. As we learn of his love in prayer and experience a continual transformation of our minds through his word, we learn that his commandments are not burdensome (1 John 5:3). Just as the Father pours out the grace for us to know and love him, so too does he enable us by the grace of his Spirit to follow and obey him.

God calls us to choose life, but we are not alone in this choice. He has sent his Spirit to indwell us, and he has given us the fellowship of his church, both of which help and support us in that choice. Confident in the riches of his provisions, let us all chose life, so that we may live."

So as we get ready for Women's Weekend #51, let us all choose to help one another in praying for the team, candidates and the

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**Marion Rosenthal
School of Leaders**

Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

Greetings! For awhile now, there has been a certain word that continuously "pops up" in my head that I wanted to share with you. That word is "**Invitations.**" Please let me elaborate. Our daughter and son-in-law sent us **Invitations** recently to attend our grandsons' birthday parties. Receiving these **Invitations** got me to thinking about how many **Invitations** we receive over a lifetime. Have you every stopped to consider this? Think about it. We receive **Invitations** to attend birthday parties, anniversary parties, graduation parties, retirement parties, engagement parties, bridal and baby showers. **Invitations** are received for events such as Baptisms, First Holy Communions, Confirmations, Weddings, Ordinations, Professions to the Religious Life, Bar Mitzvahs and Bat Mitzvahs. **Invitations** to attend wakes and funerals are received indirectly through death notices in newspapers or directly via word of mouth. We also receive **Invitations** for Theme Get Together, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, Super Bowl Sunday, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Memorial Day, 4th of July and Halloween. What about **Invitations** to extraordinary events such as "A Day At The Lake," "Bon Voyage," "Going Away," "Welcome Home?" We even received an **Invitation** to a "Burn Our Mortgage" party. Women especially love to receive an **Invitation** to attend Jewelry, Pocketbook, Tupperware, Scrapbooking and Pampered Chef parties, while Men love receiving an **Invitation** to join their friends at Baseball, Basketball, Soccer and Ice Hockey games. Then, let's not forget **Invitations** to attend family reunions, dinner parties, concerts, movies, theatre, etc. Get the picture? [I am sure I am forgetting something.]

All of the above invitations are unique in and of themselves. However, the greatest **INVITATION** we will ever be offered is when Jesus "**invites**" each one of us to receive Him into our Mind, Heart, Body and Soul through the gift of the Eucharist. Every time I celebrate Liturgy, I become more aware of this and what my presence,

my being and my **INVITATION** to join Jesus Christ during Liturgy actually means to me in my life. It is Metanoia for me, a conversion of my Life when *Jesus knocks and I open the door and **Invite** Him in.* Additionally, Jesus extends a never-ending **Invitations** to each one of us every day to develop a deeper relationship with Him through prayer, Christian action and evangelization.

Cursillo is an **Invitations**, too. Someone cared enough to extend an **Invitation** to you and to me to attend a Cursillo Weekend. Throughout our weekend, we experienced many **Invitations**: To participate in morning/evening prayers, to receive many graces and mercies through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to celebrate Liturgy, to sing songs and experience laughter, to enjoy fellowship during mealtimes, the list goes on. As we live our Fourth Day, we experience an on-going **Invitation** to join a Group Reunion/ Small Group and an Ultreya. Cursillistas go out and search their environments extending an **Invitation** to a prospective candidate to consider making a Cursillo Weekend. Many Cursillistas have answered yes to the **Invitation** to participate as a Team Member for a forthcoming Men's or Women's Cursillo Weekend.

Our lives are filled with continuing and on-going **Invitations** and my message in this article is to extend **Invitations** to you!

This is an **Invitations** for you to consider becoming a member of the Albany Diocesan Cursillo Secretariat or School of Leaders. We meet together the 1st Thursday of every month at St. Gabriel's Church, 3040 Hamburg Street, Rotterdam, NY at 7:00 P.M. **No RSVP is necessary. WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS.** Come and join us....Sit in on a Meeting... See for yourself....Experience being part of another area of the Cursillo Community. Who knows? You may discover it is one of the best **Invitations** you ever received!

DeColores!
Marion Rosenthal
Member, School of Leaders

Carl Rosenthal Continued

whole Cursillo community that we all will be one in faith and love for this weekend and the rest of our fourth day.

Let us all pray *“Jesus, you chose me before time began. Now I want to choose you—today and every day.”*

I again encourage you to check out our web site often for new information and 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 comments or suggestions for our site. You can e-mail me at albanycursilloweb@yahoo.com

DeColores
Carl Rosenthal



Let us Pray....

*Gracious God,
Bless these
candidates as
they prepare for journey
led by your Son, Jesus
Christ.*

*Open their hearts to Your
Will, show them your
Love and Compassion.*

*Gracious God, Bless
them throughout their 4th
Day, Bless the with Your
Gifts.*

*We ask this in the name of
Your Son Jesus the
Christ—Amen.*

**Cursillo Women’s
Weekend 51 Candidates**

- Rosario Astacio
- Ann Avery-Jones
- Dorothy Bakker
- Jennifer Bausch
- Dawn Collins-Ouellette
- Mary Kathy Crowe
- Lauren Foro
- Sheila Fridholm
- Angelique Hebert
- Charleen Hoffert
- Judith Houck
- Margaret Hyland
- Cathy Kittle
- Irene Leeds
- Natalie McDermott
- Mary McGinty
- Toni O'Bryan
- Mary O'Hanlon
- Jill Rothwein
- Karyn Schassler
- Diane M.L. Simpson
- Ann Van Wie
- Patricia Visconti

Please keep the candidates in your prayers as they come closer to their 4th day!

**Cursillo Women’s
Weekend 51 Team**

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Rev. Frank O’Connor | Spiritual Director |
| Sr. Betsy Van Deusen | Spiritual Director |
| Dcn. Frank Berning | Spiritual Director |
| Shirley Neet | Rectora |

- Ellen Bradt
- Antoinette Callahan
- Mary Ellen Crucetti
- Nancy Cullings
- Jessica Farley
- Kim Gray
- Sandra Haas
- Pat Higgins
- Barbara Honors
- Patricia Johnson
- Kit Lawrence
- Marcia Lupe
- Sandra Miller
- Jane Noblett
- Mary Grace Renda
- Marion Rosenthal
- Sharon Thouin

Please keep the team in your prayers as they prepare for the upcoming weekend!

Babe Asks....Continued

My Second Question is:

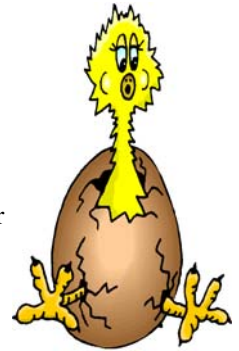
Babe Chick:

Sara I just made my weekend and I am still a little confused on what Palanca is all about, can you help?

Sara:

What is Palanca? What is a Palanca letter? A Palanca letter is one that is sent to the candidates and team,

informing them of the prayers and sacrifices that you are offering to God on their behalf. A letter may be sent explaining what type of



Palanca is being offered, but the letter is NOT the Palanca. The actual Palanca is the action - **intercessory prayer, sacrifice, or works of mercy**, and it can be done without writing a letter.

Babe Chick:

So, I understand, Palanca is not the written message, it is an action that goes with it!

Sara:

That’s right, the action of Palanca broadens your faith journey, and allows the recipient to understand the sacrifice of the community at large and on the weekend to participate in the faith of the world-wide Cursillo Community.

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
kurtlaw@nycap.rr.com**

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

FOR THOSE WHO RECEIVE THE LITTLE LIGHT VIA EMAIL!

ALL THOSE WHO ARE PART OF THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT ARE ASKED TO DO PALANCA IN THE FORM OF PRAYER FOR THE UPCOMING WEEKEND. THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTION IS HOW YOU KNOW YOUR TIME TO PRAYER FOR THE CANDIDATES AND THE TEAM.

How this works is simple, your times are determined by the 1st initial of your last name. Please help keep our new Babe Chick's and their team in constant prayer. You know the power of prayer!

Thursday Evening	Friday Morning Saturday Morning Sunday Morning	Friday Evening Saturday Evening	Sunday Afternoon
<u>PM</u>	<u>AM</u>	<u>PM</u>	<u>PM</u>
6:00 A	12:00 N	12:00 N	12:00 N
6:30 B	12:30 P	12:30 P	12:30 P
7:00 C	1:00 Q	1:00 Q	1:00 Q
7:30 D	1:30 R	1:30 R	1:30 R
8:00 E	2:00 S	2:00 S	2:00 S
8:30 F	2:30 T	2:30 T	2:30 T
9:00 G	3:00 V	3:00 V	3:00 V
9:30 H	3:30 W	3:30 W	3:30 W
10:00 I	4:00 Y	4:00 Y	4:00 Y
10:30 J	4:30 Z	4:30 Z	4:30 Z
11:00 K	5:00 A	5:00 A	5:00 A
11:30 L	5:30 B	5:30 B	
12:00 M	6:00 C	6:00 C	
	6:30 D	6:30 D	
	7:00 E	7:00 E	
	7:30 F	7:30 F	
	8:00 G	8:00 G	
	8:30 H	8:30 H	
	9:00 I	9:00 I	
	9:30 J	9:30 J	
	10:00 K	10:00 K	
	10:30 L	10:30 L	
	11:00 M	11:00 M	
	11:30 N	11:30 N	