

# The Tripod

Winter 2010

a publication of the Massachusetts Episcopal Cursillo®

## beauty is on my mind

A message from Rev Patti Hale

There is great beauty in the 4th Day movement. The beauty is not only in the three full days of the weekend. The beauty is not only in the laughter, sharing and godly fellowship that develops in the table groups. The beauty of the 4th Day movement is, in fact, the 4th Day. It is the beauty of lives that are transformed by nothing less than Jesus Christ himself. As Cursillistas, we are witnesses of God's glory that can touch a life on a weekend and change that life in the 4th Day. As the MEC continues to sponsor Cursillo weekends, it is for one purpose. The purpose is to create space for men and women to grow deeper in faith and trust in Jesus Christ. In so doing, these same men and women go into their parishes and

into their environments to bring the glad and saving message of Christ to those around them. It is a beautiful thing.

As every weekend approaches, there is a call for Cursillistas to pray about someone to consider sponsoring for the weekend. Jack Foster's article in this issue does a great job of reflecting on what actions we might consider taking. However, I feel compelled to remind us all that calling for candidates is NOT about getting warm bodies to fill tables. It's NOT about giving a weekend to the rector or to team members to call their own. Our calling is not about the weekend at all. The call of Cursillo is to the 4th Day. Apostolic action is intentionally inviting people we know into a deeper, more vital, more com-

mitted discipleship. In this sense alone, Cursillo is the best evangelism tool around! So let us pray that we may be partakers in the beauty of God's handiwork of which each one of us has a share. Let us pray for God to open our hearts to those around us who are ready for this amazing experience and to give us the courage to sponsor them.

*Ultreya!  
Patti+*

DeColores!

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***"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation . . ."***

Isaiah 52:7

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## SAVE THESE DATES!

May 1, 2010

*Diocesan Ultreya and Annual Meeting*

October 2, 2010

*Day of Deeper Understanding*

### *The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement*

"The Cursillo is a movement of the Church which, with its own method, makes it possible to live what is fundamental for being a Christian, in order to create nuclei of Christians who all engage in leavening their environments with the Gospel, helping to discover and achieve their personal vocation with respect in the same."

# be imitators of God . . .

*A message from the Lay Director, Erik Forsberg*

**I**n just a few weeks, weeks that I am sure will pass unexpectedly quick for everyone involved, the Massachusetts Episcopal Cursillo will hold our 2010 Men's Weekend. As I write these words, I feel a great sense of anticipation that this weekend will mark the start of a wonderful journey in Christian growth for all of the candidates.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will read the words of the Rector of the upcoming Men's Weekend, Tony Geanisis, as well as those of the Palanca Professor for the weekend, Jack Foster. I feel exceptionally blessed to know these two men and to have the honor of calling them my brothers in Christ. Tony was my sponsor when I lived my Cursillo in March of 2003 and Jack was the Assistant Rector on my weekend. Since then, I have learned much from these two devoted Christians, from Tony as a brother in my reunion group and from Jack during the three "Days of Deeper Understanding" in which we've participated together, and I have no doubt that the candidates on this upcoming weekend will come to know these two gentlemen as I do: as devoted and gifted, yet humble, Christian apostles.

While I know Tony and several members of his team from my years of worshiping at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Acton, it was my recent departure from that parish that introduced me to one of Tony's spiritual advisors, Rev Tom Barrington of All Saints' Church in Chelmsford. When Deb and I recently needed to find a new spiritual home, Tom and the parishioners at All Saints' welcomed us with open arms. God's grace had pointed the way to our new spiritual home, and Deb and I were held up every step of our journey by the prayerful support of our Cursillo community.

I'm sure every one of us can think of times when our Cursillo community has sustained us along our path. In gratitude for this gift, I urge all of you to remember that when we invite candidates to this Cursillo weekend, we are inviting them to become part of this family of believers, to have their faith nurtured and their lives supported in prayer and Christian fellowship. So, as you think of potential candidates and consider how you might invite them, resist the urge to overthink it, open your heart through prayer, invite the Holy Spirit to guide you, and **bring a friend to Christ**, knowing that the candi-

dates who say yes to the weekend will be lovingly and faithfully cared for throughout the weekend and especially on their Fourth Day, as they begin their own journeys in Christian discipleship.

**a**nd when the weekend arrives, let us rejoice and be glad in it! Let us write Palanca notes and posters to the candidates. Let us joyfully hold the candidates up in prayer before, during, and especially after the weekend. And let us demonstrate and celebrate the love and support of this community by coming to the Marist House on Sunday morning for Mananita and on Sunday afternoon for the Closing. By God's grace, may every one of the candidates on this weekend experience the same serenity, the same grace, and the same joy that each of us did on our own Cursillo weekends.

*Ultreya!  
Erik*

DeColores!

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***"Be imitators of God . . . as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us . . ."***

Ephesians 5:1-2

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4th annual ~ day of deeper understanding

Saturday, October 2, 2010 8am ~ 4:30pm

Location TBA

Morning coffee, tea and refreshments and lunch will be provided

Look for more information and an application in the next **Tripod**.

# great job!

A message from the Treasurer, Malcolm Gurney

Dear Cursillo Community, "God's blessings are truly countless. Where would we be if we did not have Cursillo to remind us and keep us grounded on the path of life?"

You may remember the above message from a previous **Tripod** article that I wrote. In 2009, the Massachusetts Episcopal Cursillo Community once again followed that path of life by supporting MEC with their generous donations, pledges and gifts. The Secretariat is so grateful for your continued support. We were able to meet all expenses and provide a free weekend to 22 candidates during 2009. Our treasury beginning balance for 2010 is \$3,462.06.

Pledges since the beginning of the program in 2005 are as follows:

- 2005 -- \$9,340.00
- 2006 -- \$8,396.00
- 2007 -- \$7,145.00
- 2008 -- \$6,665.00
- 2009 -- \$6,093.00

At the closing of the Coed Weekend last November, it was reported that we possibly would conclude 2009 with a deficit of approximately \$800.00 to \$1,000.00. However, due to some very generous donations we received during that weekend, we were able to start 2010 with a treasury balance of \$3,462.06. **GREAT JOB!**

I would like to mention that last year our Men's Weekend was cancelled due to a lack of candidates. Please find a candidate or two from your church and be a sponsor so that we don't have to

be disappointed again this year. Along with a request for your financial support, the secretariat is also asking for a greater effort to continue your Fourth Day Action by sponsoring candidates.

The Men's Weekend is April 8-11, 2010 and the Women's Weekend is May 13-16, 2010. Applications for both weekends have to be in by two weeks before each weekend.

May the grace of our Lord and the love of Christ be with you today and always.

*Ultreya!  
Mal*

DeColores!

***"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself . . ."***

Matthew 6:34

## Massachusetts Episcopal Cursillo® Friends of Cursillo Donation Card

Yes, I want to support the work of the Massachusetts Episcopal Cursillo®.

I (we) hereby pledge: \$500.00 \$200.00 \$100.00 \$50.00 \$25.00 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To be paid: ( ) annually ( ) quarterly ( ) monthly Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

To help fund the work of the Massachusetts Episcopal Cursillo®

( ) This donation is for the calendar year January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Church and Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and return to: Malcolm E Gurney, Treasurer, 66 Westminster Rd Weymouth, MA 02189  
Checks should be made payable to **MEC** with **"Friends of Cursillo"** in the memo and on the envelope.

The **Tripod**

# cursillo challenge

I've been thinking about the Men's Weekend last spring. We waited and waited, only to find out there weren't enough candidates. Most of us on the team are returning for the Men's Weekend on April 8–11. It's a dynamite group of guys who are active in their Christian lives and can be a remarkable influence on candidates.

There are ways we can encourage and increase the number of applications for this weekend, and for the upcoming Women's and Coed Weekends. Here are some ideas.

- Follow up with the **candidates for the Men's Weekend that was cancelled.**
- Encourage our **Cursillo Center contacts** as they seek to identify

candidates from their parishes and surrounding ones.

- Contact the **new Cursillistas for the last three years** and encourage them to sponsor candidates.
- Make personal contacts with **leaders of the inactive Cursillo communities** in surrounding dioceses and encourage them to send candidates (think of ourselves as the New England Cursillo center!).
- Make contact with **friends in the Evangelical Lutheran community** and make it clear members of their parishes are welcome on weekends.
- Talk with **Cursillo friends outside our diocese** (RI, Western MA, etc) about possible candidates they may know.
- Seek out **Hispanic candidates** who can become team members on a future Hispanic weekend.

You may have other ideas too. The key is to act on them and let God do the rest. It means sharing our ideas with friends. It means

everyone praying and talking to the people they know, and making new contacts and friends. It means saying something when we might otherwise not. It means challenging ourselves and others we know.

Please join me as we seek out candidates to experience a weekend and strengthen our community in their fourth days. Let's plant seeds and trust Jesus to make them grow.

*Ultreya!*  
Jack Foster

DeColores!

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**"He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.' "**

Mark 16:15

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# servant community

The MEC Servant Community is made up of all Cursillistas that are praying, sharing and working toward bringing our Movement into the light and fullness of what this gift of Cursillo is meant to be. Each of us that is now living our Fourth Day as renewed Christians, have the desire to share and grow with our brothers and sisters in Christ. These desires may be very small with no great expectations other than to help each other to bring about the Kingdom of God through the vehicle of Cursillo.

We need help to accomplish the success of fulfilling our Fourth Day. We need to honor our Piety,

Study and Action through the help of Group Reunion, Ultreyas and 3-day Weekend activities. There are many various ways that we can provide support while finding a tremendous source of joy in being part of this loving Community. I will list a few possibilities that are open to all.

- Servant Community Meetings/ Reunions on a Saturday morning in February and September
- Participating in the Sponsor's Liturgies on Thursday night of each Cursillo Weekend
- Playing a musical instrument at Closings, Ultreyas, Mananitas, and Sponsor's Liturgies
- Greeting in the Palanca Room during Weekends
- Assisting with the making of name buttons and palanca, moving chairs and clean up after Closings.

- Volunteering to assist in writing **TRIPOD** articles and supporting the Cursillo Center in your parish
- PALANCA! through prayer

These are just a few of the ways that each of you can make a difference. There is plenty of work to go around and if you can think of an area that you would like to help, please let me know. I can be reached by phone 978-263-0234 or email [rewright599@comcast.net](mailto:rewright599@comcast.net).

*Thank you, thank you, Jesus!*  
Binki

Ultreya!

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**"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."**

Matthew 25:40

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# diocesan ultreya and annual meeting

Saturday, May 1, 2010

12:00-4:30 p.m.

All Saints' Parish 10 Billerica St Chelmsford MA 01824 978-256-5673

12:00–12:45 pm	Coffee, tea & refreshments in the Parish Hall
12:45–1:30 pm	Workshop (TBA) in the Parish Hall
1:30–2:00 pm	Annual Meeting in the Parish Hall
2:00–3:00 pm	Diocesan Ultreya in the Sanctuary
3:00–4:30 pm	Pot luck Supper and fellowship in the Parish Hall

PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE FOOD ITEM TO SHARE!

If you need directions, please contact Erik Forsberg 978-486-3858 or [eforsberg@ymail.com](mailto:eforsberg@ymail.com)

## electronic news study committee

The Secretariat is trying to make a transition to provide news and information from the Massachusetts Episcopal Cursillo in possibly a quicker and more frequent manner. In the past two editions of our **TRIPOD**, we have requested ALL members presently receiving **The TRIPOD** to answer a survey and inform us of your preference in regard to possibly changing the way we notify our members of the happenings in the MEC. If we could possibly provide all of the necessary information to our members by Electronic News, it would allow us to send out a much shorter **TRIPOD**, send it more often, and provide us with a savings of more than \$2,800.00. This alone would give us the opportunity to send at least seventeen more candidates to their own weekend.

As you are all aware, the MEC survives only on donations from you, its members. Our Treasurer reported at the last meeting of the Secretariat that our Pledge pro-

gram was down in 2009. In 2009, 73 members gave \$6,093.00 and in 2008, 79 members gave \$6,665.00. We also receive donations at Sponsors' Liturgies, Closings and Ultreyas around the Diocese. We are fortunate to be able to barely meet our expenses. A more explanatory letter is being sent out by our Treasurer on this very important subject.

Our intention has been and still is to provide a new Website, and easier links to all the information needed by our membership. A meeting has been scheduled for Erik Forsberg and I to meet with a member of our community who is in the business of creating and using Websites and Electronic News formats. We were in hopes of having this all available in order to send out Electronic News beginning with this particular **TRIPOD**. However, due to the lack of responses, we are going to pursue another way of asking all of you to help. A lot of you have already been receiving emails from Dick and Binki Wright for items such as notifications and reminders as well as prayer re-

quests. We have those email addresses and the Secretariat Secretary, Barbara Wight, has graciously volunteered to compile a list so we can determine who may or may not have an email address.

Once again, this is an informational report and I want to thank the Secretariat as well as all who responded to our survey in the past. We still have quite a bit of work to do but I can assure you that we will get this done very soon. We look forward to keeping you all informed of our progress.

*Ultreya!*  
Dave Wight

DeColores!

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***"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."***

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Philippians 1: 3-6

# "By the Grace of God I Am What I Am" 1 Corinthians 15:10

A message from Tony Geanisis, Rector of MEC weekend #142

April 8-11, 2010

I want to thank the Secretariat for calling me to be the Rector of this Men's Weekend. For those of you who don't know, I was the Rector of last year's Men's Weekend which was cancelled due to lack of candidates. Serving as Rector is such a gift to me and I believe to the team, which is blessed with most of the same members. I hope our planning last year, and what we plan for this year will bring us closer to what God has planned for this weekend. Following God's plan, knowing that He is present with us, and seeing the fruits of that plan will be such a wonderful experience for the team and candidates.

The theme of this Men's Cursillo Weekend has a great deal of meaning to me because I have dyslexia, which makes writing and public speaking challenging for me. I never thought that I would accept a Rector's position when asked because I never thought I could carry out the huge responsibility of serving as a Rector and doing a good enough job. God didn't see it the same way and sent me a strong message that I was going to lead this weekend, just the way he made me, deficiencies and all. The theme of the weekend "By the Grace of God I Am What I Am" really hit home for me. God has made all of us different for a reason; each one of

us has a job here on earth. I am what I am with His grace. The Lord accepts us as we are and uses our gifts, and I know He will send us candidates that will be fed by the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the team.

DeColores  
Tony Geanisis

Ultraya!

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***"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."***

1 Corinthians 15:10 (NKJ)

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## Here's the Team:

**Rector:** Tony Geanisis, Littleton

**Asst Rector:** Elgin Summerfelt, Acton

**Spiritual Advisor:** Rev. Patti Hale, Hanson,  
All Saints', Whitman

**Asst Spiritual Adv:** Rev. Tom Barrington, N Chelmsford,  
All Saints', Chelmsford

**Music Minister:** Jon Panek, Harvard

## Service Team:

Deb Forsberg, Captain, Littleton

Erik Forsberg, Littleton

Ellen Harland, Littleton

Andy Harland, Ayer

**Mentor:** Pete Jeffrey, Tewksbury

## Rollo Team:

Scott Bempkins, Groton

Peter Carlson, Norwell

Ernie Frohring, Littleton

Jack Foster, E Bridgewater (*palanca professor*)

Guido Gagliano, Acton

Bill Harland, Littleton

Pete Jeffrey, Tewksbury

Chris O'Leary, Acton

Jim Sullivan, Essex

Dick Wright, Acton

**THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 25TH.**

**Please visit the MEC Website for candidates' names**

**[www.satucket.com/mec](http://www.satucket.com/mec)**

(To download candidates' list for Palanca  
user name mec / password rooster)

**Make a Friend  
Be a Friend  
Bring a Friend to Christ**

# Massachusetts Episcopal Cursillo®

Secretariat 2009-2010

Marsha Corliss (Registrar)  
PO Box 1082 Hanson MA 02341  
781-447-5521 Singspiration@verizon.net

Erik Forsberg (Lay Director)  
9 Woodridge Rd Littleton MA 01460  
978-486-3858 eforsberg@ymail.com

Sue Frazier (Member)  
115 Harvard St Whitman MA 02382  
781-447-1258 frazierjeansue@aol.com

Mal Gurney (Treasurer)  
66 Westminster Rd E Weymouth MA 02189  
781-335-5838 Reginamg56@comcast.net

Steve Johnson (Member)  
86 Prospect St Rockland MA 01720  
781-878-1496 Steve@JohnsonConstruction.net

Norma Newton (Member)  
113 Whitney Ave Stoughton MA 02072  
781-344-7180 normanewton@verizon.net

Donna Tolley (Asst. Registrar)  
109 Alewife Rd Plymouth MA 02360  
508-888-9337 Spydah714@comcast.net

Barbara Wight (Secretary)  
68 Courier St S Weymouth MA 02190  
781-331-0946 Ringthing3@aol.com

Dave B. Wight (Asst. Lay Director)  
68 Courier St S Weymouth MA 02190  
781-331-0946 davebwight@aol.com

## editor's corner

This past January, I was laid off from my job of 12 years. The composition part of my job went overseas. My mind is filled with nonstop prayer for discernment, health and peace therefore making it hard to come up with a meditation that keeps me on one subject.

I would like to say thank you to everyone who has sent me cards, emails and posted on facebook that you are surrounding me in prayer. Like when mom and dad went home to be with our Lord, I can feel your prayers embracing me. I feel the Lord's protection and His love, mercy and grace surrounding me and I am so blessed to be a part of this generous and loving community.

I am turning my corner over to the following inspirational article.

*love, peace, joy  
Marsha*

*See you at the Men's closing!!*

plan, He carefully guides us into the fullness of our Apostolic desire for the world by giving us the wonderful method to achieve this. Cursillo is a Movement within the Church—a Movement with a specific function in the pastoral mission of the Church.

Just as God has a life-giving plan for that flowing river and its environment, He has given us a plan so that we may grow in love and faith as we work to Christianize our environment. As we flow from pre-Cursillo into the fullness of our weekend and Fourth Day, we grow in the strength of His loving **Grace**.

*Thank you, thank you, Jesus  
Binki Wright*

Utreya!

***"As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered."***

Ezekiel 34:12

Utreya! Utreya! Utreya! Utreya!

Utreya!

## The Tripod

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ADDRESS ALL EDITORIAL COMMENTS TO:  
Marsha Corliss, Editor

PO Box 1082 Hanson MA 02341  
781-447-5521 singspiration@verizon.net

ADDRESS ALL OTHER CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Erik Forsberg, Lay Director  
9 Woodridge Rd Littleton MA 01460  
978-486-3858 eforsberg@ymail.com

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IS YOUR ADDRESS COMPLETELY CORRECT?

ARE YOU MOVING?

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE **The Tripod**?

DO YOU KNOW A CURSILLISTA THAT IS NOT RECEIVING  
**The Tripod**?

IF YOU SAID YES TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS, CONTACT  
DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR DICK WRIGHT  
rewright599@comcast.net

MAILING COORDINATOR JACK FOSTER jfooster103@verizon.net  
WEBMASTER CHAD WOHLERS chadwohl@satucket.com  
MEC WEBSITE www.satucket.com/mec

*"Love is flowing like a  
river, flowing out of  
you and me..."*

When we visualize that flowing river, we see beauty, strength and movement. Cursillo is like that river—a Movement of the Church. A river has a beginning which can be compared to pre-Cursillo. The river is nurtured by God's plan of nature as it flows into the larger body of water. We move and grow as The Holy Spirit breathes upon us and nurtures us to move in His plan for His people. Just as God nurtures and feeds the river for His ultimate

## Utreya!!!

St. David's in Yarmouth  
monthly 1st Friday at 7:00 pm  
Contact Jackie Frasier  
Frasier62@msn.com  
508-362-0301

All Saints' in Whitman  
monthly 3rd Friday at 7:30 pm  
(except Dec/June/July/August)  
Contact Jack & Kathye Foster  
fosterjk2@verizon.net  
508-378-4818

Good Shepherd in Acton  
Fridays of Cursillo Weekends  
at 7:15 pm  
Karen Conley Conley54@aol.com  
781-275-1280



Massachusetts Episcopal Cursillo®

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Acton MA 01720-6077

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# ULTREYA!

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL

## Massachusetts Episcopal Cursillo®

### Upcoming Events

ULTREYA St. David's Yarmouth	March 5 7:00 pm
ULTREYA All Saints', Whitman	March 19 7:30 pm
<b>Men's Cursillo Application DEADLINE</b>	<b>March 25, 2010</b>
ULTREYA St. David's Yarmouth	April 2 7:00 pm
<b>Men's Cursillo Weekend @ The Marist House</b>	<b>April 8-11, 2010</b>
<b>Sponsor's Liturgy in Chapel, The Marist House (all are welcome)</b>	April 8 7:30 pm
ULTREYA Good Shepherd Acton	April 9 7:15 pm
<b>Ultreya/Cursillo Closing @ The Marist House</b>	April 11 3:00 pm
ULTREYA All Saints', Whitman	April 16 7:30 pm
<b>Women's Cursillo Application DEADLINE</b>	<b>April 29, 2010</b>
<b>Diocesan Ultreya and Annual Meeting @ All Saints' Chlemsford</b>	<b>May 1, 2010</b>
ULTREYA St. David's Yarmouth	May 7 7:00 pm
<b>Women's Cursillo Weekend @ The Marist House</b>	<b>May 13-16, 2010</b>
ULTREYA All Saints', Whitman	May 21 7:30 pm
<b>Coed Cursillo Weekend @ The Marist House</b>	<b>Nov. 11-14, 2010</b>