

The **ENCOURAGER**

—THE MAGAZINE of

The Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Newcastle NSW

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Thank you for reading The Encourager. I am trying to get all of you involved; if anyone feels they want to share an article with other Cursilistas, it would be great.

There is always room for improvement, and your contributions could be a good way of making us find our way to God. If you could snail mail or email them in Word, that would be great. De Colores, Martina leo.bowen.61@gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS/DONATIONS FOR 2016-17

Your \$20 subscription contributes to Cursillo expenses for the current year.

If you have yet to donate for 2016—
you could pay at the next Ultreya
Or for 2017,
at the Diocesan Ultreya in Singleton.
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The **ENCOURAGER**



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Winter 2016

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May 3rd June 7th Jul 5th

Aug 2nd Sep 6th Oct 4th

Nov 1st Dec 6th

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LETTER FROM THE DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

A CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In the ABM Pew Reflection for the Day of Pentecost, we are told:

"On Pentecost Sunday, we generally say we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. However, what we do not openly recognize is that the Holy



Spirit has always existed. When we read in John 15: 26, 'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf,' we are basically referred back to John 1:1 'In the beginning was the Word' – This says that the Lord Jesus has always been and refers to the eternal self-existence of Jesus before He became flesh as noted in John 1:14. It is equally true that the Holy Spirit has always existed and been active in the affairs of the world along with God the Father, and God the Son. These events all occurred before the manifestation of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. That is what we celebrate on the day of Pentecost – the manifestation or revealing of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles."

Luke's account of the day of Pentecost in the 2nd chapter of Acts is very familiar to us all – even if some of the place names are hard to get our tongues around! Before his ascension, Jesus told his disciples to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit. When they became filled with the Holy Spirit a couple of days later, their transformation was immediate and lasting. The most obvious and outward effect was that the disciples were able to speak in other languages – without any preparation or sermon notes. Inwardly, the Spirit helped, taught, convicted of sin and brought peace. This outpouring of the Spirit is for EVERYONE. Jesus' earthly ministry was complete. The Holy Spirit came – not to replace Jesus – but to work a parallel role as guide, comforter and counselor; so that ALL of us, down through the centuries, could have the benefit of God's presence in our lives.

The Holy Spirit helps us to be strong, is always with us (even if we don't or can't recognise his presence), shows us the way, teaches us everything we need to know to follow Jesus, and helps us remember what Jesus has said. Like the disciples on that first day of Pentecost, who were filled by the Holy Spirit to overflowing so that they could do nothing else but tell others about Jesus, we too will not be able to keep all the amazing good news inside of us. The Holy Spirit will help us to respond excitedly to the wonders of our Lord.

Fr Steve



Introducing

Laurel Mitchell Women's 42 Table of Ruth

When I think of the time I attended Cursillo in 2012, I have nothing but lovely memories of one of the most spiritual events of my life. Those three days were just wonderful, and I have Barb and Jim Warland to thank for sponsoring me and always being there as support.

I have lived in Newcastle nearly 19 years now. I have two children a daughter who lives in Sydney and my son who lives in England. My granddaughter in Sydney is 14 and my granddaughter in England is 10. When I married Tony I inherited two more daughters and we now have four grandchildren. I consider myself very blessed.

My Christian life really started about 6 years ago. Up until then I believed in God, and went to church whenever I could find the time. The change occurred when Tony and I were visiting my brother and his wife in Alstonville. We had just been to the morning service and were discussing the sermon over a cup of tea. Diana, my sister in law, listened to the debate for a while then turned to me and asked if I would like to renew my commitment to Jesus. I remember thinking at the time, I wouldn't mind knowing him better, so I agreed. The Holy Spirit was working hard that day.

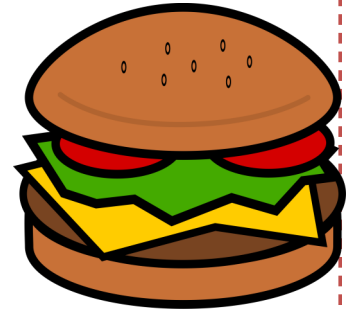
I am enjoying my Christian life, I play golf, walk, take trips in our caravan and read and do patchwork. I attend the Church of the Good Shepherd at South Kotara and bible study and love life's new challenges. I find that every day brings something new. I was led to Secretariat for a reason. I am on a steep learning curve and pray I can contribute to the team.

Laurel

HAMBURGERS AND MILKSHAKES. John Dickson tells a story we may have read in his book, *"Promoting the Gospel"* which is worth taking in again:

"Through my teenage years the biggest influence on my life was not my football coach, who could kick me off the team, or my Kung Fu master, who could kick my butt, but a middle-aged volunteer at the school who taught "Scripture" once a week. In Australia one relic of Christendom in government schools is a one-hour lesson about religion. It is serviced by volunteers, not teachers, (which made it infinitely more attractive than officially supervised "non-Scripture"). The Scripture-teaching women—they were usually elderly women—had no authority, and so it was often a free-for-all.

*At 15 I had no intention of attending church or of taking religion seriously. My upbringing was loving but completely god-less. My Scripture teacher had the courage one day to invite the class for discussions at her home on Friday afternoons. She promised hamburgers, milkshakes and scones. A group of us took her up on the offer, thinking that a few minutes of God-talk was a small price to pay for free and copious food. In that lounge room on those Friday afternoons were the class clown and bully, a petty thief, drug users and sellers, and various other kinds of happy pagans. She showed us quite extravagant patience and hospitality, put up with having her video cassette recorder stolen one week and even housed one of our totally inebriated mates in her beautiful suburban mansion following a drunken Year 10 party around the corner. . . . **The influence of Mrs Weldon on the direction of my life is lasting. It was an influence totally without authority, full of persuasion and example.**"*



Will YOU share a story which would illustrate some aspect of influencing someone's faith in God?

READING MATTERS

It is interesting to receive articles from members on what they have seen or studied. Please share your studies on how we may grow our faith through the Cursillo principles. Here are some thoughts on SRE as Apostolic Action, which we here present for your interest and further thoughts.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION. In Queensland critics have fought against the right of Scripture volunteers to 'teach' or 'educate', and it is officially called RI; Religious Instruction. In that state attempts are being made to take it out of the school hours, and only allow it in lunch times or after school as already happens in Victoria.



SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION. In NSW the hour supposedly allowed is mostly half an hour per class. It seems our Special Religious Education Scripture volunteers are making good use of that very short time, often in the lazy afternoons. Children hear the Good News they may never otherwise hear in today's post-modern generations.

THREE GOOD BOOKS for study and action in our Christian faith are recommended:

The first is **"Simply Jesus"**: *Who he was, what he did, why it matters*, by Tom Wright, which puts new and scriptural focus on the Person we talk about and teach to others.

The second is **"A Little Book about a Big Story"**, by a previous Assistant Bishop of Newcastle Diocese, Graeme Rutherford, which helpfully outlines the pathways of our faith over the years.

The third book is **"Humilitas"** *A Lost Key to Life, Love and Leadership*, by John Dickson. In this book he proposes that humility makes the great even greater in achieving their goals and abilities to inspire, influence and persuade people. In changing their environments, they bring harmony to the telling and to the hearing of their message.



new members of Secretariat

My name is Sue Cook and I attended W22, Table of Mary.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as a Secretariat member this year and have already begun the learning process.

I grew up in Taree and attended St John's there until I finished school and headed to Sydney. I trained as a Speech Pathologist and worked for a number of years in disability services and Community Health in Sydney, Port Macquarie and finally Newcastle. I gradually became more involved in management roles and finally determined that I really wanted to work in Family Support Services. I continue to work in this field part-time and find it very stimulating and fulfilling.

In 1982 I married Philip and we became members of the parish of St Thomas, Cardiff. We have three adult children who are all now living independently, but close enough to visit regularly. I enjoy a number of roles within my local parish and have particularly enjoyed being part of our "Mass & Meal" monthly service aimed at families and young people.

Being involved in the team for W44A last year was a great privilege and reminded me of the joy that is experienced when we spend time in relationship with God and in fellowship with others. The challenge is to keep the feeling alive and maintain the enthusiasm that is generated on such a weekend. I'm certainly keen to take up the challenge and work towards this goal!

My other passions in life are singing, playing tennis and travelling. I pray that my time on Secretariat will be both useful and fruitful.

Thank you for your prayerful support.

De Colores,

Sue



WHAT GOES ON at Lake Macquarie Servant Community (or Leaders School?)

Some Cursillistas like the term **Servant Community** because they regard themselves as servants of our Lord Jesus; others prefer the term **Leaders School** as it bolsters their role in the church, any roles in the Cursillo Movement, and becomes the corporate memory of the Cursillo Method. Perhaps **LEARNERS SCHOOL** is a better way to describe our activities.

Lake Macquarie Servant Community has been operating since very early in the Newcastle Diocese Cursillo history and still functions in an effective manner. Any interested Cursillista is welcome to attend and contribute.

We at Lake Macquarie usually meet once a month on the 2nd Saturday morning in various homes, for about 2 hours, commencing with a cuppa at 9.00. The meeting starts about 9.30 with a welcome, apologies, prayer and a short meditation to set the tone for the meeting.

Next we deal with the correspondence in and out, a report from our Deanery Contact. Then onto general business, such as arranging to help on the Cursillo weekend, planning for the Deanery Ultreyas, dealing with any business arising out of Secretariat Minutes etc.

Group Reunion forms an important part of the meeting, allowing attendees to share how God has worked in our own lives; what has been important in our personal spiritual growth; how we have served our Lord recently; and how we can best serve Him next.

The most important part is our study session where one of the members presents an outline of 6-10 pages of the ACMA Manual or the Diocesan Guidelines for all to discuss.

After designating the various roles for our next meeting we close with the Grace about 11.30. We are not perfect, sometimes get off the beaten track, but we feel privileged to serve, learn and share in this manner.

**Your Cursillo sisters and brothers
Lake Macquarie Servant Community/ Leaders School/ Learners School.
For more information phone Doug Roberts 4948 7043**



2016 SERVANT COMMUNITY DATES FOR DEANERY ULTREYAS

Thank you to all who help in arrangements
for Ultreyas in each Deanery

CENTRAL COAST

Contact: Noeline Darcy 4958 8075, Bruce Fraser 4360 2231
Servant Community meets quarterly on a Saturday

July 3rd	Wyong,	Saturday 1.30 for 2pm
November 26th	Terrigal	Saturday 1.30 for 2pm

LAKE MACQUARIE

Contact: Brian Taylor 4943 9317, Doug Roberts 4948 7043
Servant Community meets monthly on a Saturday

June 26	Windale	Sunday 1.30 pm
July 24	Cockle Bay	Sunday 1.30 pm
August 28	Cardiff	Sunday 1.30 pm
September 23	Belmont/Redhead	Friday 6.30 pm
October 28	Charlestown	Friday 6.30 pm



NEWCASTLE

Contact: Revd Chris Bullock 4920 9787 Noel Herbert 4969 3653
Servant Community meets monthly on a Thursday evening

June 17 th	Merewether	Friday 6.30pm
July 15 th	New Lambton,	Friday 6.30pm
August 19 th	Lambton	Friday 6.30pm
Sept 16 th	Kotara South	Friday 6.30pm
October 16 th	Synod	

The following two articles were sent by John Willis Men's 19

WILL YOU TAKE THE WITNESS STAND, PLEASE?

I never knew my palms could sweat so much. And the hard, wooden seat continued to grow even harder by the second. My heart was pointing so strongly against my chest that I just knew the others in the courtroom could hear it, too!

Why Lord? Why is this happening to me? You know it wasn't me. I'm innocent. Please, somebody, help me! Tell them I'm innocent. Surely a witness will come forward and save my life.

Some great books and movies through the years have been able to capture the value of WITNESSING to what we know.



Now is the time for us to stand up and be a witness— to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. The Gospel must be told, and even beyond our words, our whole lifestyle can be.....

a lifesaving witness !

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.
It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves:

Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?

Actually who are you not to be?

You are a child of God.

Your playing small does not serve the world.

There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.

It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone.

And, as we let our own light shine,
we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our fear,
our presence automatically liberates others.

Used by Nelson Mandela in his 1994 Inauguration Speech



PUTTING A *VALUE* ON
your Cursillo magazine.
"THE ENCOURAGER"

CONNECTING: How can we maintain the warmth of Spirited fellowship? In a Diocese stretching for 100s of kilometres, the opportunities are few and the occasions are rare for meeting, and The Encourager bridges some of the gaps.

REFERENCE: "I'm not sure when it's on?" Check The Encourager! It will most likely have the information we are looking for. It may even advertise your own Cursillo activities if you wish to send information to the editor by the closing date.

EFFORT: Together Everyone Achieves More? New team is always needed. Time and energy volunteered by The Encourager mailers *should not* be more than three years, so the offer to do a small task for a while gives the long term helpers a break

APPRECIATION: Open it the day it arrives? To see people carry their Encourager around and about, give it more than a cursory glance, read it again; use it with a daily devotion and prayer time, is the best appreciation each member can show.

MONETARY: How much does it cost? Three annual editions cost in the vicinity of \$4,000! \$1600 for printing, \$2000 for posting \$250 for envelopes and \$100 for labels. 800 are sent three times a year, worth \$15p/a, leaving very little of a \$20 annual subscription for other of Secretariat's running expenses, including unpaid subs. More subs and more web readers would help enormously.

PLEASE! Send kindly feedback. Consider reading your copy from the website. Pray for our Editor, Martina Bowen, and the Editorial Team.

MONTHLY PRAYER CYCLE

FOR OUR BISHOPS: daily

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Day: 1 National Lay Director

Rodger O'Hara

Day: 2 National Spiritual Director

Rev'd Sue Allen

Day: 3

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National Treasurer- Leanne Doyle

Day: 4 National Episcopal Adviser

Bishop Ian Palmer

Day: 5 National Webmaster

Tony Shellshear

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Helen Fraser and Brian Walsh

Day: 7 Diocesan Spiritual Director

Rev'd Stephen Niland

Day: 8 Secretariat Spiritual Adviser

Rev'd Barb Hayes

Day: 9 Secretariat Secretary

Laurel Mitchell

Day: 10 Secretariat Treasurer

Noeline Darcy.

Day: 11 Fourth Day Applications/

Promotion,

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David Marsh

Day: 13 Servant Community

Co-ordinators Gail Iles and TBA

Day: 14 Diocesan Proctor

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Day: 21 Maitland:

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Deanery Contact

Day: 22 Paterson:

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Deanery Contact: Rev Col Ford

Day: 23 Manning:

Clergy, Servant Community TBA

Deanery Contact: Billie Baillie

Day: 24 Upper Hunter:

Clergy, Servant Community TBA

Deanery Contact: Tony Farmer

Day: 25 Newcastle:

Clergy, Servant Community,

Deanery Contact: Rev Chris Bullock

Day: 26 Men's Camp (WCOF)

Day: 27 Lay Director Women's 45

Lynn Dunncliff

Day: 28 Lay Director Men's 45

Lewis Palmer

Day: 29 Prospective Sponsors &

Potential Candidates

Day: 30 Fourth Day Workshops.

Kairos, Torch, MW Kairos Outside.

Day: 31 World Cursillo and Emmaus

Community

*God is with me now,
closer than breathing,
and nearer than hands
and feet.*

*God has made me for
Godself.*

*I come from God,
I belong to God*

*I go to God,
God has a use for me,
Now and forever.*



THE POWER OF ONE

Socrates taught for 40 years, Plato for 50, Aristotle for 40, and Jesus for only three. Yet the influence of Christ's three year ministry infinitely transcends the impact left by the combined 130 years of teaching from these men who were among the greatest philosophers of all antiquity.

Jesus painted no pictures, yet some of the finest paintings of Raphael, Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci received their inspiration from him. Jesus wrote no poetry; but Dante, Milton and scores of the world's greatest poets were inspired by him. Jesus composed no music; still Haydn, Handel, Beethoven, Bach and Mendelssohn reached their highest perfection of melody in hymns, symphonies and oratorios they composed in his praise.

Every sphere of human greatness has been enriched by this humble carpenter of Nazareth.

Henry G Bosch



PENTECOST FIRE

Pentecost was first a Jewish festival day. In pre-biblical days, the ancient Israelites marked the beginning of the reaping season with a harvest festival—later, after the exile in Egypt, to be called Passover. The close of this season was held as a “a week of weeks” 50 days after Passover on ‘Pentecost’ (taken from the Greek for the fiftieth day ‘*Pentecoste*’)

Later, Pentecost became associated with the delivery of the Laws of Moses, the Ten Commandments, to the Israelites—in a sense the founding of the Jewish “church”.



It was on this founding day that the Jewish disciples of Jesus gathered after the resurrection. But, with the coming of the fire of the Holy Spirit, they became more than just followers: they



became missionaries preaching the good news.

Their Jewish festival, then, took on new meaning for them as they were inspired to speak, and those of many nations were inspired to understand.

For Christians, therefore, Pentecost is a time of commencement, not conclusion. Historically, Jesus’ physical life on earth had ended but the life of the Body of Christ, his Church, had just begun, for the warming breath of the Spirit of Truth animated the assembled disciples into Apostles of Christ.

From “The Open Door” This article was contributed by John Willis Mens 19



A question:

What do you do with the Cursillo Monthly Prayer Cycle page in The Encourager?

Is it tucked away in your bible, prayer diary, beside your bed or wherever you spend your quiet time with God? Do you use it daily? Regularly? Or when it falls out at your feet?

What is the point of the monthly prayer cycle?

On each day of the month, we pray for particular parts or people of the Cursillo movement. The aim of this monthly cycle of prayer is to provide a focus for daily prayer, with a different part featuring as the daily focus of prayer once each month. Its purpose is to draw Cursillistas into greater awareness of, and fellowship with, one another through daily intercession.

It also helps to make us aware that we belong to the wider family of Cursillo.

Prayer is such a powerful force. We can tend to underestimate its power. Prayer can move mountains if only we would let it. If only we would realise just how powerful prayer can be, we would never feel hopeless and together we could make a great difference.

We all need to expand our circle of prayers out from ourselves, our family and friends. You are being called upon to pray for other people – including people whom you have never met.

The power of prayer does not flow from us; it is not special words we say or the special way we say them or even how often we say them. The power of prayer is not based on a certain direction we face or a certain position of our bodies. The power of prayer does not come from the use of artifacts, icons, candles or beads although they may help you focus. The power of prayer comes from the omnipotent One who hears our prayers and answers them. Prayer places us in contact with Almighty God. Whatever the answer to our prayers, the God to whom we pray is the source of the power of prayer, and He can and will answer us, according to His perfect will and timing.

So, this month let’s all make a commitment to consciously use this prayer cycle and see what God has in store for us. As Father Steve says we need to pray about it more than we talk about it. De Colores & Ultreya

Rev Barb



Theme: 'Come into His Presence Singing'

Inspiration: Psalm 100

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PIETY	Judith Cleland
STUDY	Dulcie Smith
APOSTOLIC ACTION	Toni Wein
LEADERS	Lyn Carter
STUDY IN CHANGING THE ENVIRONMENT	Lyne Parsons
CHRISTIAN LIVING	Barb Warland
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ACTION	Helen Edwards

Support: MW45 Teams: Commissioned 28/5/16

Sponsor and Serve: MW45 CURSILLOS

Thursday 25th—Sunday 28th August @ Kurri Kurri TAFE



Theme: 'God is good, all the time'

Inspiration: Psalm 103

LAY DIRECTOR	Lewis Palmer
SAs	Revds Chris Bullock, Glen Pope
PROCTORS/J.O.G.	Grant Killen, Brian Taylor
GOPHERS	Neil McGregor, Phillip Collard
MUSO	Steven Parsons

TABLE COMMUNITY and TALKS

IDEAL	Bill Baillie
GRACE	Vernon Wildy
LAITY	Robert Southcombe
PIETY	Robert Marsh
STUDY	Doug Roberts
APOSTOLIC ACTION	Brian Bridge
LEADERS	Jim Cleland
STUDY IN CHANGING THE ENVIRONMENT	Nick Waymouth
CHRISTIAN LIVING	Phillip Collard
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ACTION	Grant or Brian

Sustain: MW45 Welcome Day:

Saturday 17th September @ Morpeth 9 for 9.30

DIOCESAN ULTREYA Saturday 5th November @ All Saints, Singleton 9 for 9.30