

## **A Synopsis of October 27th Discussion of Maine Cursillo with Bishop Deeley**

Dear Father Picard and Glenn,

This synopsis is objective, incomplete, and undoubtedly full of inaccuracies. One redeeming point is that it is a sincere attempt at honest summary. It is all paraphrase; none of the statements are quotes unless punctuated as such.

Bishop Deeley: I experienced Cursillo, but a very long time ago. Why do you want to talk to me about Maine Cursillo? What is the urgency and what is exceptional about Cursillo?

Mary, Roger, Bob: The exceptional thing about Cursillo is the Cursillo Method, that is regular weekly or bimonthly Cursillo grouping, using small, confidential personal groups to examine each person's efforts in Piety, Study, and Action.

Bishop Deeley: What is the present health, the condition, of the Maine Cursillo movement?

Mary, Roger, Bob: There are vital Ultreyas in York County, exceptionally strong in Brunswick, and in Lewiston/Auburn.

Bob: The Augusta Ultreya is alive and well, though it doesn't seem to me that all the Ultreya attendees group regularly.

Bishop Deeley: 'That's a death knell.' (implied: for local Cursillo) What are you asking me to do for Cursillo?

Mary, Roger, Bob: We have identified the need for Cursillo lay leaders to work on a few issues including the School of Leaders. One difficulty in the School of Leaders is that we have had no clergy at those meetings, and when laity is trying to teach laity, the authority of the teachers is questioned. In effect, that seems off based to me; who is he/she to tell me what is right or wrong?

A Cursillo leader (former Lay Director Joe Presti) has asked Deacon Jeff Lewis to assist Father Picard in providing us doctrinal guidance at the School of Leaders and perhaps other spiritual guidance as Father Picard and Deacon Lewis see fit. Deacon Lewis is willing to fill the need if we cannot find someone with more time to do this work; he suggested that we approach Deacon Tim Dougherty (sp?) of Bangor. We are also asking for more positive endorsements from the ambo.

Bishop Deeley: If you haven't resolved your leadership issues, or recruitment issues, how can you make a convincing recruitment pitch, whether from 'Harvest' or from the parish priests. The clergy in Maine are currently occupied full-time. With other lay organizations growing and thriving, how does it serve the diocese to put more

effort into Cursillo?

Mary, Roger, Bob: Other movements have no follow through. They provide a 'mountain top' experience, but nothing to bring it into daily life. The Cursillo Movement has the critical Cursillo Method. Cursillistas who use it, who find new 'groups' when old ones fail, who continue to monitor and form their lives in Piety, Study, and Action, stay exceptionally active as disciples of Christ and devote time to Christ's Church. Cursillo is again thriving in New Hampshire.

Bishop Deeley: I would love to see Cursillo thrive, but it doesn't look likely in this moment. The diocese doesn't have the clergy resources to simply rescue Maine Cursillo. It is up to Cursillo lay leaders to turn things around, as a start to address the problems within Maine Cursillo that you have mentioned (lack of grouping, problems in School of Leaders). I have no problem with your request of help from one or another deacon, but this should be co-ordinated with Deacon Peter Bernier who is in charge of the deacons and their work assignments. You should get in touch with Lois (Czerniak) in order to place a positive, convincing, recruitment article in 'the Harvest' magazine.

Mary, Roger, Bob: Thank you very much Bishop Deeley. We understand the need for our lay leadership to re-focus the Maine Cursillo Movement, as does the rest of the leadership. We will provide Maine Cursillo leadership this action plan and encouragement. We hope that in the near future, a few months, refreshed and refocused, Maine Cursillo de Christinidad leader(s) can compose an honest and compelling recruitment article for the "Harvest" magazine.

The above, though lacking direct more than a couple short quotes, is my best understanding of the discussion between Bishop Deeley, Mary Hale, Roger Dumont, and myself, Bob Bulger. Thank you for your patience in reading this, and reverent thanks to Bishop Deeley for his guidance and patience.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert S. Bulger,  
Music Minister and  
Member of Mrs. Kathy Boucher's School of Leaders Committee

*"To know that what is impenetrable to us really exists, manifesting itself as the highest wisdom and the most radiant beauty, which our dull facilities can comprehend only in the most primitive forms--this knowledge, this feeling, is at the centre of true religiousness. In this sense, and in this sense only, I belong to the ranks of the devoutly religious men."*

— *Albert Einstein*