
CORNERSTONE CONNECTION

THE STONE THAT THE BUILDER REJECTED HAS BECOME THE CORNERSTONE. MATTHEW 21:42

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Some Thoughts About Cornerstone

By Fr. George Dudak

In a Cursillo held in Lima, Peru in 1968, I was amazed by the growth in practical Christianity in a country where regular Mass attendance by men was less than a half of what it is here in the United States. Those who completed the Cursillo and regularly attended scheduled follow-up and reunion meetings maintained their resolutions to grow closer to Jesus and became the leaders in the parishes from which they came. Among their occupations were men from governmental posts, teachers, military officers, policemen, farmers and engineers to mention just a few. The Cursillo was a jolly affair and from what I heard the “ultreyas” were by no means somber meetings. I was from Ica, two hundred miles away, so I couldn’t often attend those the gatherings regularly but I remember a few of their Spanish jokes which I could not tell in church. Cornerstone has its roots in the Cursillo Movement. Basically Cornerstone departs from its origin in that it abbreviates the procedures of Cursillo and compresses the time required making it readily able to reach out to men and women in a parish who work in the public sector or who have the family responsibility of raising children. Cornerstone helps



to increase faith in God and in the wisdom of His commandments. After the experience of Cornerstone, there is the necessity to work at acquiring the virtues of faith hope and charity. Cornerstone lights up the path to God and what He promises but that increase in faith and hope requires one more element and that element is charity, or practice of good works. As in Cursillo, those who attend bi-

weekly or monthly prayer and discussion sessions keep in mind their personal opportunities to serve God through our neighbor. When one practices Christian charity, the virtues of faith and hope are increased as well. Virtue can be defined as the habit of practicing good works. Just as typing or driving a car well practiced over a period of time produces a good typist or a careful driver, so with attention to detail and opportunities given us in this life by our gently God, our cooperation with His will makes us grow in the virtues or habits of faith, hope and charity.

There is no short cut to sanctity. We have to work at it, one day at a time with perseverance. †

Palanca

By Deacon Rich Reck

The men’s Cornerstone IV experience is just two weeks away, and it’s time to give serious thought to the Palanca. As you know, a Palanca can

be offered in a spiritual and physical manner. Spiritually we can send the candidates and Team,

letters informing them of your prayers and acts of sacrifice that you are offering to God on their behalf. Physically we can assist in setting up and breaking down the various rooms including dining and washing pots and pans in the kitchen.

The Palanca is such an important part of the experience. The actual Palanca is a call to action on your part, setting aside time at a point where it may be "inconvenient." To write a Palanca letter, first decide what your Palanca will be. State in your letter what you plan to do as Palanca.



Mike, Tom, Delia and Maryann all offering their Palanca in the hot kitchen

Offering up your time and talent to assist the candidates enrolled in the next experience is the Palanca. If you were not on Team then, your Palanca would be an appropriate way of giving back for the blessings you received. It can be an intercessory

prayer, sacrifice, or works of charity, mercy or all of the above.

The prayers, can be traditional such as "The Lord's Prayer," "Hail Mary," saying a Rosary, reading the Bible, or a nontraditional prayer, coming from your heart. Fasting from a meal or an activity which brings you joy is also a sacrifice.

Where you can really make a difference is by offering a few hours of your time and talent and for some, definitely your muscle at the upcoming Cornerstone in two weeks. We need brothers and sisters to help in setting up and breaking down the cots in the sleeping areas, unfolding tables, clearing tables, cleaning up the dining room, preparing food or doing something that will allow the Team to remain with the candidates throughout their experience. Please contact tomjroche@verizon.net Offering your small sacrifices to God is a form of prayer.

Reach out to a candidate who is on a leg of their personal journey with God; like any loving relationship, anxiety may an issue. In your Palanca letter, note that they are answering a call from God, and you are joyful for them.

Writing letters of encouragement, praying for the person, and offering some of your time is a blessed thing to do. A Palanca blesses both the writer, and the recipient! ✠

What Comes After Cornerstone?

By Henry M. Holden

Over the past few years I have been asked by several people, "What comes after Cornerstone?" I had the same question right after my Cornerstone experience. It's a good question. After my Cornerstone weekend I felt a new relationship with God. I was encouraged and blessed by the Holy Spirit to seek out a new level of that relationship. I did a self-assessment of with whom, and where, I could reach out and share some of my time and talents.

When someone comes to me now with the question "What comes after Cornerstone?" I have some answers, not all of them, but some. As Christians, we have a personal responsibility to fulfill the Call of God in our lives. Each of us will stand before God and give an account for what we did with the time and talent we were given. No one will be standing alongside us coaching us on that day,

not our pastor, our parents, not our spouse, or friends.

So my answer now is, share your time and talent in imaginative ways. Offer a helping hand, share an idea, a smile, or a hug in the community. Become involved in one or more of the three dozen parish ministries, programs, or projects. Look for something you think you'd like to do. You can volunteer as much or as little time as you feel you can give. There is never any pressure to give more time than you can afford. You may be surprised by the talents you have that have been resting, and how renewed and focused you become.

If you ask yourself, "what can I do," the Holy Spirit will inspire you, you just have to listen. As a freelance writer and photographer, I have always loved researching and putting words and pictures together and sharing them to others. So I looked for ways to work that God-given talent into the fabric of Resurrection Parish.

First came the website. I was inspired during the Evangelization effort we started several years ago. I had a little experience with website design, so I got in touch with Joe Cece who provided the proprietary template for our website design, and hours of his time guiding me in and out of the electronic maze I had created. Once we began communicating God's word beyond Sunday Mass, and the Bulletin, I began to wonder how we could communicate with all registered parishioners. That's when I began working on the parish and ministries email data bases with Theresa Harvey. On my weekly trips to the parish office to gather information for the website calendar I began to see that a paper calendar with inputs from many sources did not work well. Knowing that an electronic calendar with a controlled input was the answer, Theresa and I worked to build the electronic calendar we now have on the website. I believe that once you commit to the Holy Spirit that you are in the "I want to give back mode" you will have no problem finding a calling that you are comfortable with.

Parish Ministries

Volunteering in a parish ministry provides you with a chance to get to know other parishioners on a first name basis, and to experience a sense of belonging as you did during your Cornerstone experience. Here are some suggestions.

The **Samaritan Ministry** Joan Reck (jreck@resurrectionparishnj.org) volunteers to cook and serve on the first Tuesday and Friday evenings of the month at *Homeless Solutions*, located on West Hanover Avenue. Is there a parishioner unable to drive? The Samaritans know if the need exists, and perhaps you can drive that person to Mass on Sunday. The Turkey & Food Drive, the Giving Tree, the Baby Shower, and the Back to School drives are just a few of the annual drives that can always use folks to collect, separate, and pack the food and



other items.

But that's not all, "**A Few Good Men**" Tom Marciano (tjmarciano@msn.com) deliver the goods to those in need, and you can lend a hand helping there. If you're a guy who likes to work with your hands then **Service With A Team (SWAT)** Rick Van Glahn (rvanglahn@gmail.com) is looking for you.



Some of the men from SWAT helping La Pietà into the upper gathering space in 2011. (Photo Cindy Novak)

And let's not forget the **Social Committee** Mary Ann Simonenko (masimonenko@optonline.net). They are responsible for all the food and fun here at Resurrection Parish. They can always use volunteers with a little time to share.

Bible Study, Shannon Civetta (scivetta@optonline.net), **Women of Faith**, and **Men's Fellowship Group**, Jay Donohoe (jjdpostbox@hotmail.com) are smaller and more personal experiences.

Join a Cornerstone Committee

The **Cornerstone Documentation Committee** currently is a committee of ONE! We need more brothers or sisters to help Lori Quan (lquann@aol.com). She's updating all the Cornerstone Team books. Cornerstone events are being planned for the year and the **Events Committee** Bob Weingaetner (wb2vuf@verizon.net) looking for a few volunteers.

Often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

These are just a few suggestions. There is a complete list of ministries and contact people on the parish website under the drop-down menu "Parish Life." Please prayerfully consider one or more of these opportunities. Remember, as you give, you increase your capacity to receive.✠

Dear Cornerstone Sisters

While some of the Cornerstone V candidates have indicated their desire to join the Cornerstone VI team, we are also looking for additional Cornerstone Sisters who have experienced a Cornerstone weekend to join the team in order to insure the most successful weekend possible. Since we did not get enough people to step forward to be on Team, we have set tentative dates of Friday & Saturday, February 21 & 22, 2014, for the 26-hour experience. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to be on the giving side of a Cornerstone Experience and join us to learn more. Please RSVP to Claire Lambariello, Cornerstone V Lay Director, at cmlamb@optonline.net or 973-366-6227 or Betsy Roche, Cornerstone V Facilitator, at broche117@verizon.net or 973-476-3758. ††

Men's Fellowship of Resurrection Parish

By John Cristadoro

The mission of the Men's Fellowship is to provide an environment where men of the Parish can meet in an informal setting to increase their fraternity with Christ and each other. We accomplish this through prayer, listening, and reflection.

The group meets biweekly on Sunday mornings after the 10 AM mass. We begin each session with a prayer and then discuss the topic of the day. This year, we are spending several weeks studying the ministry and the person of St. Paul. The podcasts have led to several lively discussions, with the men sharing what they have learned and how they can incorporate that into their spiritual lives as men living in the present-day. Many men have found that nurturing their spirituality has made them better fathers and husbands. By addressing our common problems in a supportive atmosphere, the men form new bonds with other gentlemen of the Parish. ††

Ordinary Time

By Bob Weingaertner

We have left the Christmas Season behind and we are now in Ordinary Time, but there is nothing "ordinary" about this time period between Christmas and Lent. At one time it was called the Season of the Kings because, according to legend, the Magi proclaimed the good news of God Incarnate as they made the long journey back to their native country. In the Gospel reading on the day after Epiphany, Jesus begins his public ministry with the words, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (MT 4:17).

As Christians, we, too, are called to proclaim the Gospel, (yes, by virtue of your Baptism, you have already volunteered), so there is a lot to do as we prepare for Lent, including opportunities for prayer and spiritual enrichment. Accordingly, a committee has been formed to help facilitate events for Cornerstone and for the Cornerstone-sponsored parish events.

Committee Members

Spiritual Director

Richard Reck-
rreck77@gmail.com

Lay Directors Liaison

Mike Neary
michael.neary@ey.com
Annette Steele
annettesteele@aol.com

Documentation

Lori Quann lquann@aol.com

Facility Coordination

Tom Roach tomjroche@verizon.net

Events & Faith Sharing

Bob Weingaertner
wb2vuf@verizon.net

Communications

Henry Holden
hholden@henrymholden.com

Discernment

Jean Mindingall
jeanmindingall@optonline.net

Food Director

Mike Lambariello
mike1303@optonline.net

The Cornerstone Connection is published on a quarterly basis, or as needed. You are encouraged to send your comments and suggestions to the editor at:

hholden@henrymholden.com

Two events are on the horizon. The first event is Stations of the Cross for the entire parish, sponsored by the Cornerstone women and men, to be held on March 1 at 7:30 pm. Volunteer opportunities include, readers, music, Cross and candle bearers.

The next event will be the Second Annual Cornerstone Reunion, to be held on Saturday, March 23. There are many volunteer opportunities, including coordination, setup/cleanup, food, and the all-important witness talks, to name a few.

If you would like to volunteer for the Stations of the Cross team, Reunion team, or the overall steering committee, please contact Bob Weingaertner at wb2vuf@verizon.net or 973-538-1422. †

Keep the Light Burning

By Henry M. Holden

In October 2008, Resurrection Parish held its first Cornerstone Retreat. By 2013, there have been eleven Cornerstone retreats at Resurrection Parish.

On March 30, 2012, Resurrection Parish hosted its first Cornerstone Reunion. Approximately 80 brothers and sisters attended. The first reunion was so well received that a second Cornerstone Reunion is planned for 9am to 3pm on March 23, 2013.

Feedback from the reunion indicated that people liked the format of Mass, two witness talks, one on "Joy," and the other on "Carrying Your Cross" and the activity, which in this case, was a guided meditation. Also well-received were the discussion questions which were "spot on."

Responses revealed that many felt renewed and refreshed, and "more than worthwhile." It provided an opportunity for fellowship, and the table report after table sharing was moving. People also enjoyed the catered lunch from Burrini's.

Some Brothers and sisters who had not been on Team participated and people stayed afterward to help clean up. It was in many respects a family activity.

Doesn't this sound like something you'd like to do again? If this will be your first reunion you may enjoy it as much as your Cornerstone Experience. To sign up to help at this year's reunion on March 23. Contact Bob Weingaertner wb2vuf@verizon.net. †



(L-R) Fr. John Andrew, Bob Weingaertner, Jean Mindingall, Tom Loikith, Arlene Weaver, Deacon Ken Weaver, Annette Steele, Terri Mihalick, Lorraine Scandariato (absent)

Prayer Requests:

† Arlene Weaver, wife of Deacon Ken returned home to our Lord on Feb. 2. Please lift up in your prayers for the repose of the soul of Arlene and for the entire Weaver family.

† Kathy Latour

† Employment for a son

† Healing for a grandson

Joyous Events

Rich Reck reported, "I am proud to announce the birth of my fourth Grandson to my daughter Jennifer and her husband Kyle. Chase Anthony's younger brother Cole Dominick Johnson was born at 10:37 AM on Feb. 7, 2013 at Morristown Memorial Hospital. Cole weighted in at 6 lbs 11 oz and was 18" long. All are doing fine. Thanks be to God."

Coming Events – see parish website calendar for details

2013

Feb. 14, Cornerstone 2 faith sharing,

Feb 28, Cornerstone setup

March 1, Stations of the Cross 7:30pm

March 1 & 2 Men's Cornerstone

March 23 Cornerstone reunion 9am-3pm

2014

February 21, 22 Tentative date for

Women's Cornerstone VI

Men's Cornerstone IV

By Tom Roche

The next Men's Cornerstone Experience here at Resurrection is just around the corner – March 1st & 2nd. Team members (noted below) have been busy over the past several months with all the traditional preparations –checklists, theme selection, artwork, witness talks, & more checklists.

Team IV has in addition recognized the increasing challenges involved with securing Candidates year after year. While the ever present altar announcements & handing out brochures continue, this team has stepped up with some aggressive, innovative promotion. By identifying key groups within the parish and tailoring appeals to them, Team IV has specifically targeted the Dads of the upcoming First Communion class, recent teen Search& Seek participants, and religious ed classes at all age levels. Additionally, for Christmas & Valentine's Team IV has appealed to the women of Resurrection with enrolment reservation Gift Certificates for the men in their lives.

We all recognize that the most effective recruiting is one on one, face to face. To this purpose, Team IV looks to all Cornerstone alumni for recommendations & support. Recently, men of past Cornerstones met with the current team for an evening of fellowship, beer & pizza. While the atmosphere was relaxed & low key, nobody left without a handful of brochures to help expand our sphere of influence. To all reading this article, the same appeal applies, and contact any Team member below to pass along a referral or request promotional materials.

As we gather for Cornerstone IV on March 1st, simultaneously the Cornerstone alumni are sponsoring the Stations of the Cross at 7:30 PM. Our closing Mass with our newest group of Cornerstone Brothers always an emotional high point, will be on Saturday March 2nd at 7:30 PM. Your attendance at either or both is both welcome and appreciated. Be a part of that "rush" experienced as the candidates emerge from the confines of their experience into the welcoming embrace of their newfound Cornerstone Sisters & Brothers.

In the weeks to follow, email requests will go out detailing times & tasks for those willing to volunteer to help; similarly, please also be on the lookout for lists with Palanca requests -- always an impactful part of the weekend experience (the Cornerstone mailbox, as ever, will be prominently positioned in the lower level gathering space.)

For now, the Palanca with the most far reaching impact is your willingness to help us secure candidates and keep a great thing going. Thanks to all for their prayers & support. God Bless. ✠

Men's Cornerstone IV Team Roster

Lay Director Reuben Blanco

blanco.reuben@yahoo.com

Music Coordinator Bill Faresich bill@faresich.com

Liturgist Ron Krautle krautler@dnb.com

Publicist/Table Leader Paul Meyer

remyryan@hotmail.com

Materials/Table Leader Mike McConnell

mikemnjhokpo@optonline.net

Witness/Food Rob Lobefaro rlobefaro@gmail.com

Witness/Table Leader David Martinez

dmtmart@optonline.net

Witness/Environment Stanislaw Korasadowicz

skora57@gmail.com

Witness/Table Leader John DeBruycker

snows_glass@yahoo.com

Witness Rich Lavin rlavin@optonline.net

Witness Craig Brandegeer cbrandeg@ramapo.edu

Letters/Table Leader Peter Kenny [peter-](mailto:peter-kenny@heritagecbnj.org)

kenny@heritagecbnj.org

Table Leader Dan Tiernan dftoolman@aol.com

Facilitator Tom Roche tomjroche@verizon.net

