

Fully Alive



THE NATIONAL BULLETIN OF THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC CURSILLOS



CURSILLISTAS OF YARMOUTH DIOCESE, HOSTS OF THE 2006 CONFERENCE

CONTENTS					
Officers' Corner		Matters Spiritual	10	To Live Our Baptism	21
Conference 2006	3	Around the Country	12	Jesters' Corner	25
ESSAY	7	Witness	19	From Our Readers	26

OFFICERS' CORNER

CONFERENCE 2006 June 22-25

The Best News by the Best Means: The Heart of the Charism was this year's theme for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Cursillos (CCCC) conference held June 22 to 25, 2006, at the Annapolis Basin Conference Centre, at Cornwallis Park, near Digby, Nova Scotia. The four-day event was housed in a marvellous venue overlooking the historic Annapolis Basin.

This national conference was one more step in a process that commenced over fourteen years ago. This journey began with Eduardo Bonnín's visit to Canada in 1992, for the National Encounter. It gained momentum with the *First Conversations of Cala Figuera*. One

may well wonder why the event's facilitators chose to use the noun *conversations*. The reason reflects not only the Mallorcan's innate courtesy, but it also underlies their respect for the freedom of the person to choose. The organizers of the Conversations did not want to call people to Mallorca to tell them how things should be done but rather to bring them together to converse, to discuss together how best to proceed to recapture the Charism, which they felt was being lost as the Movement spread around the world. Mallorca is big on collaboration, not on preaching.

A wise person once remarked, "Something can never be properly understood until a light is shone on its beginnings." This collaboration with the founder, Eduardo Bonnín, and the leadership of the Mallorcan cursillo movement has proven to be of inestimable value. With their help, guidance, and encouragement, the CCCC has striven to bring to the

leadership of the Canadian movement what is the authentic or genuine cursillo.

Since those seminal encounters 1992 and in 1994, the Canadian movement, has been on a journey of discovery. It has been, in many respects, a *renaissance*. The topics covered at the *First Conversations*—friendship, person, joy, normality (naturalness), criterion (principles, ideas, standards), liberty (freedom), life, love, sincerity, and conviction—have provided the basis for subsequent national conferences. Cursillistas in Canada are indeed blessed

to have Eduardo to turn to for advice and direction about the Cursillo. He is, after all, the man who is recognized as having received the originating or foundational charism. All of the CCCC's national conferences have been dedicated to sharing what the Officers Group of the CCCC have learned from translated material, study, and personal

encounters with Eduardo and the Mallorcan cursillo community.

This year's conference advanced this process by focusing the participants' attention on the charism that underlies the movement and method.¹ Participants heard from a number of presenters, George Henry, Sandy Graves, and Nancy Bath, who explored the topic from a variety of vantage points. It



¹ At the opening of the Second World Congress of Ecclesial Movements and New Communities Pope Benedict XVI in a letter to the congress wrote, "By means of the founders and initiators of your Movements and Communities, you have been immersed in the singular radiance of Christ and have been sent on the way to announce what Christ continues to proclaim, 'Come and follow me.'" Several times during the course of the Second Congress the participants were told that, "in order to understand the particular charism of each movement and community, it is necessary to know the life of the founder."

was a mix of styles and approaches that produced abundant discussion among the participants. Although there were several speakers, there was but one message: the cursillo is the Gospel lived out authentically in our daily lives. Its principal focus is the person and its primary purpose is to provide for each person the opportunity to make the three essential encounters: with self, with God, and with others.

Another feature of this year's conference was the presentation of the five meditations that are part of the Cursillo weekend: *Know Yourself, The Prodigal Son, The Three Glances of Christ, The Figure of Christ, and Message of Christ to the Cursillista*. It was hoped that their inclusion as part of the conference program would provide a reminder of their power and importance to the Cursillo weekend experience. Fr. Gaston Rioux, O.M.I., and Fr. Sydney Miffen, from Antigonish, NS, presented these five meditations which helped participants to go deeper in their exploration of the weekend's theme.

In addition to these presentations an Ultreya, Mallorcan style, was held which allowed conference participants the opportunity to experience this essential element of the Cursillo as it was originally intended to be. There was also a preview of a new DVD on the history of the origins of Cursillo and the role that Eduardo played. It is the hope of the Officers' Group that this DVD will become a tool to

provide for its viewers accurate information that will enrich and inspire.

A business meeting preceding the conference was attended by "voting delegates" who reviewed the year's activities of the CCCC, received an update on its finances, and, on the basis of this information, acted to secure the CCCC's financial future by increasing yearly affiliation fees from \$300.00 to \$325.00 (last increase 1988). The group also voted to discontinue the 20% discount to affiliated Secretariats on materials ordered from the Resource Centre and to institute an interest charge on overdue accounts. Delegates at this meeting were asked to promote the CCCC's resource newsletter, *Fully Alive*. The yearly subscription rate for this quarterly publication is \$15.00. It provides a rich source of information and inspiration, especially useful in planning Schools of Leaders and in preparing informational material for distribution to local cursillistas.

The conference accomplished its established goals. Seeds were sown and contacts were made and in the fullness of time God's Spirit will cause these seeds to grow to produce what is needed to keep this method and movement true to its foundational charism and to the vision of the man to whom it was given.

George Henry, CCCC Officer for the Atlantic

WHAT THEY SAID!

What aspects of this conference did you like best?



- Content - what was said was needed. I feel that the info given needs to be said again and again. Socializing - wonderful opportunity to make new friendships and renew old.
- Getting to meet and know happenings of other movements. More insight in CCCC

after hearing from officers. More insight of self and movement from listening to meditations and rollos especially Study of Environment.

- This year's facility was outstanding. The whole conference was very well organized and it was obviously run by a very co-operative group. Definitely big shoes to fill Toronto!!! Music ministry is a very huge asset to an event such as this and it was superb! Everyone seemed to gel from the first night. The Holy Spirit was definitely working overtime.
- Loved the concept and messages of living our Cursillo as our baptismal call...George's talk made the point that although the medium may change (the how), the message is always the same (the why. Really enjoyed the meditations this year - Fr Syd's 3 glances were awesome!
- Talks that explained the Charism and reminded me of some facts that had fallen to

the side somewhat. Refreshed my memory again. The Ultreya talk was “new news” I haven’t digested it all yet. We are still discussing it.

- The subjects – understanding the charism was new and informative and a good starting point which has sparked interest in continuing understanding. The Ultreya teaching and example was very informative. It was wise to allow for the experience of the ultreya teaching was genius- well done.
- The talks/rollos and the sharing. Discussions – the learning and being inspired by others around me. The music was amazing.
- I felt the way the rollos came together, one flowing into the other was well planned. It kept my interest on the conference theme. I believe that the Officers Group is taking us into the vision of Eduardo.
- Resource table (more are needed).
- The daily mass, the meditations and the presentations. The presentations were true witnesses to the power of the Holy Spirit and how He leads and guides us and puts the right words in our mouth that others need to hear.
- The sharing of the speakers stories, music. The different explanation of the environment, ideals and leaders and also friend I met. The Cursillo Movement is very new in our area so I learned from all the prepared talks presented. Everyone was so helpful when I “picked their brain” a little bit. Thank you.
- The fellowship. I thought the talks were well interwoven with the rollos and table discussions were enlightening as usual.
- A



n

Archbishop Prendergast celebrates mass.

The whole experience was life-giving and gives me hope that this spirit will be taken back to each diocese to give new life to the Movement where it is needed.

- As a new cursillista I feel this conference has helped me see the endless possibilities of helping others live out the Gospel in and through the Cursillo Movement – and in the process nourishing my own spiritual



Gail Terrano, vice president of the OMCC

journey.

- The talks led me to reflection and to good group sharing.
- Entertainment was tops at Fiesta. Good – no great because you get to know personalities and warm up to them better. Music ministry was very welcoming toward outsiders. I felt like I belonged. It was a wonderful conference absolute. The only difficulty I had was set up of discussion tables – hard to hear people in my group and difficult to know if we should share or discuss. Sometimes chatting evolved and two different conversations. I would have liked to know how we were to handle discussions.
- This was a good conference. The organizing committee did a very good job. Cheers! The spirit of the whole exercise was peaceful, loving and uplifting I think Jesus Christ Himself would have felt at home with this Conference. Keep it this way for future conferences.
- Great being able to get material, books, DVD, etc. for School of Leaders. Charism now understood more after discussion at table and talking with others. Great conference and a credit to CCCC officers. Many thanks for their service to Christ and us cursillistas. Keep up the good work and know we pray for you with our prayer petitions at Ultreyas.

- It was so great to see the support of the bishops and priests.

What aspects of the conference did you like least?



- Too much focus on the mechanics of Cursillo rather than focusing on how Cursillo can be applied authentically. i.e. Ultreyas, sponsorship, school of leaders, church teaching, etc.
- Price!!! I feel that the price is far above what was received - the accommodations were, distance wise, much too far away from the main venue which required the constant use of vehicles.
- I would have liked to have the table #'s moved throughout the 3 days to give people an opportunity to sit at the front instead of the back all weekend as at times it was very difficult to see and hear what was going on.
- Although I loved the message of the video (and will watch it again). I did not find this the best use of Saturday afternoon. Would have preferred another talk.
- I found the talks too long - maybe two short talks and discussions in between would be preferable - many people were actually sleeping/dozing around me. After 20 minutes its hard to concentrate, I find.
- The location of the prayer room was too far removed. The prayer room was dirty (not respectful to the nature of the space). The "advertisement" for the pilgrimage was too long.
- The absence of women in the Procession for Mass - only at one Mass was there a woman. I felt with so many priests, the cross and candle bearers could have been women.
- Some talks were too long, also some meditations were also too long.
- As for the conference itself nothing. I was disappointed in the lack of attendance by the

most local cursillistas, i.e. Digby. I also expected to see more of the local cursillistas to attend the fiesta.

- I fear the focus on the far away will create problems for Cursillo. It is far too obvious at the National events that cursillista's faith knowledge is very poor, which may lead to a drift away from the church rather than building it up as it is intended.
- When grouping it appeared those in group were not clear on what a group reunion was even though they were in groups. They read scripture in their groups and tried to relate it to their piety, study and action. Some shared the service sheet was no even mentioned on the latest weekends. I feel that the information on the service sheet (its function) and the order of group reunion should be explained to future teams so they can be relate this to future candidates.

General Comments

- I think that the timetable has been fine tuned very well. The time line flows very well. The time for socializing and making new friends is appreciated and valued. It was a plus to have a bishop with us during the majority of the conference. As with Grande Prairie the bishop's presence helped to make the conference more powerful and there was a sense of, yes, "Cursillo" is on he right track and the church is saying Cursillo is doing the right thing. It is a work of God.
- The team that organized this conference did an excellent job. You are my "role models"!! De Colores
- Very grateful for the dedication and perseverance of the Canadian Nat'l Secretariat in pursuing the Foundational Charism. Excellent job. Very impressed by h



s
the openness and welcoming of the Canadian Cursillistas. Made wonderful friendships. Thank you for your generosity, hospitality and friendship. I'll be back.

- As a fledging movement in Labrador City, it is very important that we start off on the right foot that is - to be faithful to the original Charism. The theme of the conference is especially significant at this stage in our development. Great friendship and hospitality. Thank you.
- I feel that the return to the basics is a wonderful strategy. In my mind in our humanness things were changed and it actually took away from the true charism of Cursillo. Humans unchecked have a tendency to wreck everything.
- I would have liked a general discussion on the table reflections at some point so that the officers and other leaders could hear each other's concerns or conclusions of discussions. I know this would eat up some time but it may give the officers some more vision as to what's understood or not. What's really going on. This would actually be a "School of Leaders" part where people would be commenting related to "lived experiences" of their 4th day as related to the various topics of the rollos. For example: If you read the annual reports - some people

are calling things they are doing "School of Leaders" when it is actually "Leaders School". Also, as I talked to people I found they were very confused by this... i.e. these two titles/events.



BE AN EARLY BIRD FOR NEXT YEAR'S CONFERENCE

ESSAY

"ESSAY" is a column, that provides a vehicle in which the talks and reflections from Cursillo leaders around the country (and abroad) can be shared with the larger audience. Hopefully these 'essays' will provide the basis for further discussion. If anyone cares to respond, please feel free to send your commentary to Fully Alive. The following is the presentation given by Julie Gray at the 2005 Encounter.

**ONE BY ONE
Barbara Levich**

As I was working out one day, I was listening to some of Blessed Mother Teresa's teachings. She was telling how she started by just picking up one man on the streets to care for. It was a long time after that before she picked up a second one and more time yet before the third. It was a long, long time before her ministry to the street people of Calcutta grew to the point where it is now. I got to thinking that we in Cursillo need to go back to the one-by-one that she began with. It seems to me that we seem to look at people around us as part of a group and we don't relate to them one to one. That makes it very hard to become real friends with them because we know them very superficially because we don't want to spend much time. As a sponsor, it seems that once the paperwork is turned in, the responsibility for the candidate is turned over to the team. That seems to be the end.

And the team also views the candidates as a group rather than one by one so deep friendships rarely form. At the end of the weekend, the Spirit has done His work but we bid the new Cursillistas farewell saying, "find a group and attend Ultreya" and consider our work done. Well, read James 2:14-17:

What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Can we say that our faith is alive if we do not give these new Cursillistas what they need? We need to

actually do the work: group with them, talk to them on the phone, go out to dinner, answer questions, encourage, invite to Ultreya, actually take them to Ultreya. We need to spend time enough to really settle our new Cursillistas in a new direction, where they can carry on by themselves and we may eventually find a new person to sponsor or work with after a weekend. I Corinthians 15:58 *Therefore, my beloved brothers, be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord, your labor is not in vain.*

We need to be like our Heavenly Father. He worked and we are created for work too. The first work we hear of Him doing is the work of creation. We are blessed to be creators, too, after His model. John 5:17 *But Jesus answered them, "My Father is at work until now, so I am at work."* When new Cursillistas come off a weekend, they are new creations having been transformed by the Spirit. We have had a hand in His work. But, we shouldn't shirk the work that comes after, if we are truly going to be our Father's children. They are like seeds planted in the freshly turned soil. If we do not water them with encouragement, pull the weeds of doubt, prune away poor direction or fertilize them with gatherings with us, then we are poor excuses for God's co-creators! What does our faith profit us?

What is our problem?! French Father M.-D. Molinié, O.P. gives me an idea: "Instead of responding to God as he requires, with a total, almost insane love, we fall into the habit of substituting veneration. We prostrate ourselves before him while at the same time holding him at arm's length. Instead of total gift-of-self, we prefer submission. This is sad; it is the easy way out – to offer a bent back instead of a bared breast. In this posture we try to be just, to offer what is due to God and neighbor. Yet as long as such "justice" contains none of the secret leaven of love, it is no better than that of the scribes and Pharisees. Submitting oneself in place of giving oneself is a desperate effort.... No matter what a man does to 'put God in his life,' he will always seem to be giving at once too little and too much – simply because each partner requires all, and because the endless negotiations to set things right while holding something back, no matter how small, are hopeless."

We are free to give God whatever we wish. If we chose to sponsor a candidate for Cursillo, we have give God the time He requires to fully form that person into the person He desires them to be. But so often we have taken back that time to use selfishly. We fail to become friends, with Christ in the middle of the relationship. I am mindful of the scripture in Acts.5: 1-4, *"But a man named Anani'as with his wife Sapphi'ra sold a piece of property, and with his wife's*

knowledge he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles' feet. Peter said, "Anani'as, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." It did not go well with Anani'as and Sapphi'ra, God struck them dead! He has been more merciful to us who have similarly failed to deliver what we promised. Let us amend our ways and be faithful to our promises.

Thomas Merton, the Trappist monk and spiritual writer said that the greatest problem facing Western civilization was "efficiency." Efficiency drives us in a sense of needing to do what we need to do. But, hard-driven efficiency (according to Merton) also places us in danger of losing our souls, because there is no space or time for hospitality, and hospitality is the mark of a truly gracious soul. As we approach weekends, we want to be efficient by having a certain number of candidates, so we efficiently busy ourselves asking whom ever we can think of to attend the upcoming Cursillo. So what kind of hospitality is that? It certainly is not the friendly welcome or generous treatment that one might expect. It is rather soullessly doing the least we can get away with, making no real commitment to the candidate or to the community to which that person will go after the weekend. Shame on us.

I think we need to slow down. If there are not enough friends to hold a Cursillo, then we should be patient and wait until there are. If we talk regularly, see each other frequently, then this prospective candidate will be able to wait until there is a sufficient number of other candidates to hold a weekend. And in the mean time we will be proving ourselves to them and their eagerness to make the weekend will grow, not diminish. And after the weekend, they will be a real part of the community instead of feeling like an outsider who is perhaps tolerated but not encouraged. We should be saying, "Come in and honor us with your presence."

Pope Benedict XVI said, "From the perspective of biblical tradition and within the realm of Judaism in which Jesus' work took place— despite its newness— it remains clear that the entire mission of the Son-made-flesh has community as a goal: He came specifically to unite mankind which was scattered, and he came specifically to gather together and unite the people of God." God does not relate to us generically or as a group. Christ saves each of us personally that each may become part of His family. We, too, must deal with people one by one not as a group. A blanket invitation goes nowhere. We must

be in personal contact with each one, one by one. There is more work to be done in forming community after a weekend. Even if we have not sponsored a candidate, we are obliged to greet the new Cursillistas as brothers and sisters in Christ. And to work on getting to know them and become friends with them. There was a time that Cursillistas felt that they could

ask almost anything from the members of the Cursillo community and they would receive help. I'm willing to bet that few of the Cursillistas in the last five years feel that way.

Continued on page 11



**CANADIAN CONFERENCE
OF CATHOLIC CURSILLOS**

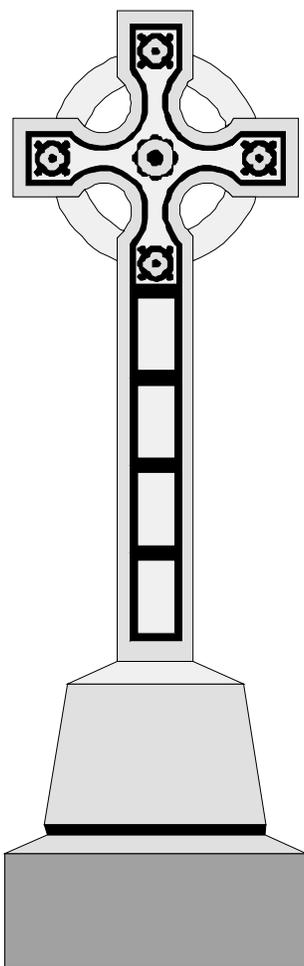
Conference 2007

*Come on,
Cursillistas
Spend the
first
weekend of
summer
2007
In
Ontario*

Thursday, June 21
To
Sunday, June 24,
2007

Jointly hosted by the
Diocese of Toronto and
the Diocese of
Peterborough,
Ontario

The actual site of this year's conference
is soon to be decided.
NOW
Is the time to start planning to be there
as our journey to fuller understanding
of this awesome gift continues.



MATTERS

SPIRITUAL

THE FIGURE OF CHRIST

Sunday meditation

1. Last night we celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In that Sacrament, we met Jesus Christ, and He forgave our sins. We believe this. But since we didn't see Jesus in the flesh, His presence may have been just that -- an article of belief. But who is the Jesus whom we encountered there? What is He like? Where else will I find Him? How will I recognize Him?

2. In this meditation I want to help you recall what the Gospels tell us about Jesus, but most of all I want you to know in your heart that the Jesus who is described there exists today, and offers you His friendship. This is the same Jesus Who was both hated and loved during His life on earth. Even today, He is still hated by some, but loved by many. To love Him more deeply, we must know Him more fully.

3. Clearly it is important for us to realize and believe that Jesus is divine -- He is the Son of God made human. As such, He was and continues to be in the most intimate relationship with the Father and the Holy Spirit. He told the apostles at the Last Supper, "The Father and I are One." Sometimes in the Gospels it seems as if this intimacy shines through and overwhelms His humanity - as, for example, in the Transfiguration.

4. In a way it is easier for us to know Jesus as divine than to know Him as perfectly human. And yet, it is His humanity that will attract us to Him as a friend, since He shares that human nature with us. Let's see what the Gospels say about Jesus as human.

- He lived a normal life growing up in Nazareth
- he celebrated with His friends (wedding at Cana, dinner at Bethany)
- He grew tired and thirsty (episode with the Samaritan woman)
- He was frequently misunderstood (Peter)
- He was sometimes disappointed in his friends (after descending from Tabor)
- He was angry with those who disrespected God (cleansing of the temple)
- He was tender and loving (visit to Mary, Martha and Lazarus)
- He was compassionate and forgiving (adulterous woman, Jn. 8:2-11)
- He was understanding (Phoenician woman)
- He was kind and generous (widow of Naim, daughter of Jairus, crowds on the mountain)
- He suffered greatly

One thing the Gospels don't say about Him is that He laughed a lot. But can you imagine Jesus gathered with His friends at the end of a day, and the conversations they would have not only about the serious events of the day, but also about the humorous ones?

5. It's a good idea to choose from among the many ways in which Jesus is described in the Gospels one or two that appeal most to you. I have three: the passage about Jesus and the Samaritan woman; the description of Jesus'

Agony in the Garden; and the passage where Mary Magdalene recognizes Jesus after the Resurrection.

6. As you reflect upon these images of Jesus, divine and human, remember that it is this same Jesus who is present to you today -- whether in your own private prayer, in the Sacraments, or in the persons you meet daily. Though His presence is not as visible or tangible, it is the same Jesus, now the Risen Jesus, continuing to be present to and act among us, and sending His Spirit to encourage, strengthen and inspire us. He told us He would be with us always, and He is. (Matt. 28:20)

7. Thursday night and most of yesterday you were engaged in the first phase of the Cursillo weekend which we refer to as the Encounter with Self. Last evening and most of today you will be engaged in the second phase: the Encounter with Christ. You are asked to keep in mind these images of Christ and reflect upon His desire to be your friend. Then, ask yourself, "How do I respond to this invitation to friendship with Jesus?"

Father Syd Miffen, gave this meditation at the recent Conference in Cornwallis. CCCC feels that there is a need for good examples of the Cursillo weekend meditations to be shared. Surprisingly, it appears that there are many Movements who have chosen to use meditations other than those that are part of the method of the weekend or, even more surprisingly, do not use them at all. The specific meditations that are part of the whole message of the weekend are used with the intention of illuminating the path down which the day will travel. They set the stage so to speak and are a vital part of the whole.



One of the interesting and decorative displays depicting symbols of life in Nova Scotia

Continued from page 9

We proclaim God's message of salvation and love by being lead-ers. The dictionary defines leader firstly as one who directs by going along with, by physical contact, as in leading by the hand. We have looked at leaders as the influential, head-of-the-organization sort of people but we want ones who lead (by the hand) to Christ. If we have personal contact with others, we should be close enough to offer a hand. A true friend is aware of the reality that surrounds a person. Everyone has things to deal with which are difficult. A true friend helps his friend to bear his burdens.

Our end in sponsoring candidates is not to just fill the weekends, it is just a means to bring them into friendship with Christ and with the communities of friendship group reunion and ultreya which will help them walk with Christ as we also strive to do. The Cursillo weekend is just a portion of the journey of friends; friends who are made one by one, face to face, hand in hand.

The world says, "Look forward to retirement, to ceasing to work." But we who are of God's family do not retire. We do not come to the end of doing His work. At life's end we want to hear: "Well done good and faithful servant!" If you have stopped working, begin again that you may hear praise from your Heavenly Father, "Come, enter into my joy."

Barbara is a Cursillista of the Archdiocese of Seattle, former regional chairperson and former member of the US National Secretariat. She has been in regular communication with the Centre and a customer who purchases everything that CCCC produces, sharing it with the Cursillistas of her community.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

- ◆ ATLANTIC, Antigonish (Tri-Counties, Cape Breton East, Cape Breton West) Halifax, St. John's, Charlottetown, Yarmouth, Yarmouth Valley. St. John

- ◆ QUEBEC, Montreal English, Spanish, Hungarian, Korean

- ◆ ONTARIO, Sarnia, London, Kent County/Chatham, Peterborough, Toronto, Hamilton, Timmins, Ottawa, Thunder Bay, Korean, Latin American

- ◆ WESTERN, Victoria, Vancouver, Nelson, Prince George, Calgary, Edmonton, Grouard-McLennan, Kamloops, Native Cursillo, Winnipeg.

ATLANTIC

ST. JOHN'S, NL.

I am delighted and privileged to bring greetings and best wishes from the cursillo family in Newfoundland. and Labrador.

As we continue our journey to the Father, the focus of our secretariat over the past year continued to be our fourth day and placing emphasis on group reunions. We felt evangelizing our community and renewing our commitment to cursillo was needed as we not only looked at the past activities but what those mean for us today.

Weekly ultreyas, school of leaders, reflection days for Advent and Lent, 5th day remembrance service, newsletters, and supporting our friends in the Burin area (some 4 hours drive) allowed us to continue our focus on friendship and the foundational charism . Since our cursillistas have taken ownership of their movement, opportunities for group reunions to lead ultreyas are a common occurrence. This encourages those who are not grouping, reason to want to be involved with group reunions. Our ultreyas start and end with followship - friendship, sharing and a snack.

Having been blessed to have two women's weekends, we had to defer our men's due to a lack of sufficient candidates. The walk with those candidates by their sponsor and other cursillistas will continue until the fall weekend and beyond.

We also focused on the importance of communication and with this in mind, a web site is in the making, production of a cursillo brochure to promote cursillo in our area , as well as, all secretariat members will be given a subscription to the national newsletter Fully Alive.

We are delighted to have two priests sharing the spiritual directors duties on weekends and we continue to thank God for them. Prayers for our friends worldwide especially in Canada who promote Cursillo is part of our palanca.

On behalf of our secretariat members, we wish you God's blessings and want all to know we appreciate the support of CCCC officers and the gifts of Sheelagh and Sylvia who continue to be helpful resources. We look forward to our 25th anniversary of cursillo in Newfoundland and welcome you all as we host the Atlantic Conference in 2007.

DeColores
Tom Hickey
Lay Director

WESTERN CAPE BRETON

The Western Cape Breton Cursillo movement had a very busy year. Our executive meets every month except for July and August.

building bridges from coast to coast



We are very fortunate to have St. Joseph's Renewal Centre to hold our Cursillo weekends and our executive meetings. The sisters at St. Joseph's Convent in Mabou and especially Sr. Catherine MacEachern are invaluable to the success of Cursillo movement. Now, and for the past thirteen years, our Spiritual Director, Fr. Angus Morris, continues to advise and guide us at our executive meetings and he also works on many Cursillo weekends.

We had our rally in September, 2005, and another was scheduled for September 24th, 2006. Everyone enjoyed a prayerful evening with Fr. Bernie MacDonald as our guest speaker, who gave a very meaningful talk on the Eucharist. We enjoyed a delicious roast beef supper and that was followed with entertainment by fellow Cursillistas.

In November we celebrated a 5th Day Mass for all deceased Cursillistas. This is a very special evening for everyone and especially the families of the deceased. Lunch is served after Mass and there is much sharing at this time.

In February, 2006, we had two very successful Cursillo weekends. Fifty new Cursillistas were welcomed to our Cursillo community. Two more Cursillo weekends are scheduled for February 2007. Team meeting for both men and women are well attended and we are looking forward to February.

Our monthly Ultreya meetings are being very well attended compared to the 2005, and we are very encouraged by this. Fr. Angus Morris celebrates mass with us at the beginning of our meeting. We do not have ultreya meetings in January and February or July and August.

It is thanks to the love and dedication for the Cursillo movement by all Cursillistas that we are so successful. Only something very special would get such a commitment from so many wonderful and prayerful people.

Respectively submitted by:

Catherine MacDonald
Lay Director

HALIFAX

The past year has been a busy one for the Halifax Cursillo Movement. We continue in our effort to provide spiritual, teaching and social opportunities for all cursillistas.

Our monthly Ultreyas are held the last Wednesday of each month and attendance has been good. Recently the School of Leader's meeting took place prior to the Ultreya. There was a great turnout and feed back was very positive. It is hoped that this time frame will enable more members to attend and take an active part in the School of Leaders.

After approximately a year without a Spiritual Advisor, Father Pat Cosgrove has agreed to serve in this capacity for a trial of one year. We are hopeful things will work out well and he will be able to continue beyond this period. We are grateful for his commitment.

Last summer saw three of our members attend the National Conference in Windsor, Ont. Another corn boil was held in August followed by a Secretariat retreat in September and a good number of cursillistas attended the Atlantic Conference held in Cape Breton.

Another successful BBQ and Coffee House was held in October with many of our cursillistas and/or family members sharing their musical and comedy talents with us. The food was great and a good time was had by all.

Our annual memorial Mass, remembering those who have journeyed into their fifth day, was held in November prior to the Ultreya.

In December, we held a Christmas Dance. Although the turnout was not terrific, a fun time was had by those in attendance.

A workshop on "The Three Encounters" was presented in February. All team members were strongly encouraged to attend as well as any interested cursillistas.

Our Lay Director, Assistant Lay Director and Assistant Spiritual Advisor had an opportunity to met

with Bishop Pendergast and shared an update and concerns with him.

In March, we welcomed 30 new cursillistas to our community. This was the first time the wonderful new facilities at St. Vincent de Paul were used and everyone was very impressed.

As has been our practice over the past few years, a Group Reunion Workshop was held in April. We continue to try to assist those searching for folks to group with.

Our newsletter continues and is available for reading on our blog at: halifaxcursillo.blogspot.com/ Sign on and take a look.

DeColores,
Barb Blackburn, Lay Director

ONTARIO

HAMILTON

Strategic Focus for The Movement in Hamilton:

To strengthen the 4th day segment of Cursillo by establishing Ultreyas where numbers justify their creation and to encourage the creation of group reunions in all areas.

To provide alternate opportunities for cursillistas to grow spiritually and learn more about the movement. (How do we generate enthusiasm?)

Secretariat Activities:

The secretariat consists of 5 experienced Cursillistas and a Spiritual Advisor but it has been difficult to attract additional individuals willing to commit to the work of the secretariat. We hope to add three new cursillistas in the coming months as we work to renew this area of our movement.

We met with our new Bishop (Gerard) who is also a Cursillista. This was our first meeting in many years and we were encouraged by his support and willingness to continue the dialog over the coming months. We look forward to a second meeting before year-end.

The Secretariat (as well as many other Cursillistas) attended the National Multicultural Encounter in Windsor and used it as a part of their continuing exposure to renewal in the movement.

Members of our Secretariat met with the Anglican Cursillo Secretariat to share our renewal efforts and

the journey taken by the CCCC over these past years. It is likely that they will suspend weekends for a year and begin a study of the original charisms of the movement using literature available through the CCCC. We will continue to support these efforts.

Leaders School:

We again offered our 1-day Discernment Workshop, this time in the "northern" area of our diocese (Hanover). Twenty-eight individuals were given input to deepen their listening skills. We are reviewing a follow-up to these successful workshops for 2006/2007

Cursillo's Fourth Day:

Efforts to restart the Oakville Ultreya were not successful so we continued to operate with 12-13 active Ultreyas. We plan to continue efforts to initiate Ultreyas where the number of individuals can sustain them and continue to look at the Milton area of the diocese.

We shared one General Ultreya with the Croatian community and plan to make this an annual event. The Burlington Ultreya hosted a one-day Advent Retreat that was open to all cursillistas, potential candidates and those interested in the movement. This was well attended and will be repeated for Advent 2006.

Cursillo Weekends:

We again held 2 weekends during the past year (Women's 67th and Men's 69th) and welcomed another 50-60 cursillistas to their 4th day.

The New Talk outlines were used for the first time on both of these weekends and we will continue their use for all upcoming weekends. "The Why of the Weekend" booklet was used extensively for the women's team formation and this was very helpful particularly for new cursillistas.

This year we took advantage of the free time after the walk-in while the candidates were making their final chapel visit. An experienced Cursillista made a short presentation to those present on "sponsor responsibilities" as a reminder that there is still much support and encouragement required by the emerging cursillistas.

Our weekend manual has also been updated and revised to reflect the many changes that have been made over the past months.

Currently two teams are in formation for the fall of 2006 using some of the past team members who have experience with the new outlines. The revised talks are a little shorter and this provides additional free time on the weekend.

Communications:

We still provide a bulletin notice twice per year through the chancery office for all parish bulletins in the diocese. We are also implementing plans to insert a special Cursillo brochure into the regular church bulletins of selected parishes. Our Bishop suggested that we consider this approach to make Cursillo better known in the diocese.

The communications team produces a quarterly newsletter and a monthly e-mail Communiqué to announce all upcoming events, supply information for upcoming weekends, workshops, conferences and so on. Our website www.4thday.ca is also being reviewed and updated.

Background Information:

The Hamilton Diocese covers a large geographical territory that includes dense urban areas e.g. Kitchener/Waterloo, Hamilton and Burlington, concentrated mainly in the southern area of the diocese and extensive rural tracts dotted with many small towns & villages like Kincardine, Walkerton and Fergus. These areas are mainly located in the northern parts of the diocese.

Over 150 parishes and mission churches service the diocese and these are staffed by a declining number of diocesan and order priests. Cursillo has been active here for 37 years.

Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Hamilton
Submitted for the Secretariat

Remo Del Col
Lay Director

KENT/CHATHAM

Our Secretariat meets monthly on the last Monday of the month. We average about 12 -15 people at these meetings which is always led by an opening prayer and meditation with a small group sharing. We have eliminated election of officers and now use a process of discernment as we do to choose the Co-Rector and team members. This brings a level of consistency to our movement.

Our Ultreya is monthly on the 3rd Friday and it rotates throughout the Kent region. The farthest anyone

would need to travel is about 40 minutes and so in the winter months they are located in Chatham as a central location.

We had men's and a women's weekend again this year with the men's being late Jan and the women's 2 week later. Our team is usually consisting of Rector, Co-Rector, Cha-Cha, 2 Spiritual Advisors (until now always religious) 9 rollistas and 4 auxiliaries with one of them being a Past-Rector.

The new candidates range from 15 - 25. We are coming up on 30 years now and have celebrated our weekends in the basement of Blessed Sacrament church in Chatham.

Our London Diocese consists of 4 Secretariats that operate very separately from each other. London, Sarnia, Essex-Windsor and Kent. This was done over 20 years ago. The main reason being to promote better small group opportunities as you would always be making a weekend with local people.

Our weekends are still run using the old Leaders Manuals but the Secretariat is now undertaking to go through each rollo and discern how and if we will transition to the Rainbow Manuals.

It has been for me a great 3 years as Lay Director and I am happy at this time to introduce you to Phil Gavin who will be taking on my role. We are also fortunate at this time have someone as Lay-Director Elect and so we continue to be strong in Kent.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Nova Scotia.

Chris Foster
Past Lay Leader

THUNDER BAY

Last September we had our annual Grand Ultreya at the Katari Church with an attendance in the thirties. We started with a lunch, which was prepared by some of our Cursillistas, and have ice cream for desert. We then break up into small groups of three or four and do a sharing. We then have a witness and response to the witness. . After socializing we celebrated the Eucharist, and at the end the Secretariat was introduced and commissioned for the coming year.

In the fall the Cursillistas were invited to an all day retreat. . It was give by Father Gerry McDougall S.J. in the Diocesan meeting room and the Eucharist was celebrated at the end.

The secretariat meets once a month except for July and we try to meet end of August at someone's camp with guests. The spring Cursillo weekend dates were set and the teams started being organized.

In the fall we start monthly leader schools and two or three leader's talks were presented and work shopped. In the spring we held a leaders school at the end of April in Atikokan with many attended from Thunder Bay. Atikokan has a very much alive group who meet each Friday at lunch time in the church for grouping.

This year in January for fund raising we had a book sale in the basement of one of our churches after the weekend masses. Some of these books came from our library and a lot were donated to us by other Cursillistas.

Our weekends were held on May 25th to 28th for the men and June 1st-4th for the women. They were held at the Avila centre which is part of the University. There were nine men and ten women candidates. Both these weekends were very moving and you could see the results of the Holy Spirit working through the weekends. We again used the Diocesan meeting room and staff lunch room for our meals which is about a five minute walk from the Avila. Because of stricter health regulations and finding it hard to have food brought in already prepared we had the suppers catered. The suppers were much enjoyed and Wanda (the Caterer) did a wonderful job. She was also generous with us.

The Tuesday night (in the north ward) and Wednesday night (south ward) Ultreyas continued through this past year.

On the second Tuesday of the month we started what we call the Special Tuesday night Ultreya. We started by having a small group responsible for having the witness and coffee and cookies after. We did this to try and have some of them from the small groups coming out so that we can keep more in touch. This was working nicely during the winter months. The Tuesday after the woman's weekend we had thirty Cursillistas attending the Ultreya. A few were the new Cursillistas from the two weekends. This was the best attended in some time.

Thank you Stewart for redoing and keeping up our web site www.cursillo-thunderbay.org

Our secretariat this past year was.
 Spiritual Director Rev.Mr. Howard McEachern
 Ass't Spiritual Director Rev.Mr. Dennis
 McDermott

Lay Director	Steve Scalzo
Secretary	Faye Kwisses
Treasurer	Steve Scalzo
Pre-Cursillo Chairperson	Pat Veitch
Three Day Chairperson	Gail Gibbons
Fourth Day Chairperson	Mary McLean
Palanca Chairperson	Walter Marchese
Newsletter Editor	Don Tribe

In the fall Faye and Pat joined the Secretariat, Walter returned after being away for a year and Gail and Mary changed positions. The members were very active and attended the meeting regularly taking their responsibilities serious.

I thank the members of the secretariat for their dedication and work and all those who had anything to do (leaders, Palanca, kitchen etc) with helping put on the men's and woman's weekends.

DeColores
 Steve Scalzo
 Lay Director

WESTERN

CALGARY

Calgary Cursillos in Christianity meets on the first Thursday of every month at St. Mary's Cathedral. The events include secretariat meetings, school of leaders, and ultreya. 'Meeting' times are about 2 hours.

The School of Leaders continues to study articles, DVD's and other literature relating to the foundational Charism. The group also shares information about various national and international events, such as the CCCC and OMCC Newsletters.

The group offers palanca for cursillo events - world wide.

In addition, one of the leaders has attended a 'cursillo of cursillos' in Mallorca in December 2005 as well as the CCCC Conference in Windsor, the US National Conference in Kansas City, and the World Encounter in Brazil.

The Calgary group shares information and insights gained through participation in many aspects of cursillo. In September we shared a friendship evening with Msgr. Michael Stewart, past NACG Advisor, who is now studying in Rome.

In June 2006 we will be presenting a talk on 'Mallorca, Birthplace of Cursillo and the Foundational Charism'

at a Grande Ultreya in Calgary involving the Anglican, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic Cursillistas.

We have not had cursillo weekends since 2003. The possibility of a weekend is being discussed.

De Colores!
Diane Fisher

NELSON (KELOWNA)

Our Secretariat began holding Cursillos in the early 1970s and Cursillos have been held each year for now over 30 years. Our Secretariat is an active one, holding a Secretariat Meeting once per month. In the last year, we have hosted four Cursillo weekends, two in the fall and two in the spring – one each for men and women.

Our Ultreyas continue on a monthly basis both in Kelowna and in Summerland (25 miles apart). We meet on the first Thursday of every month at Immaculate Conception Church in Kelowna and the second Thursday of every month at Holy Child Parish in Summerland. Our Ultreya format includes singing, group reunion, prayer and either a spiritual direction or witness talk.

We held our annual leaders school in April. We created a new format with new talks and meditations. Each talk was followed with table discussions and the day ended with the creation of colourful posters.

We do our best to keep in touch with the Cursillistas. For approximately four years now, we have been sending monthly announcements via email. The emails include a reminder about Ultreya and information on upcoming weekends. We also send the palanca lists via email. We sent our annual mail-out in January. Our website has been active. We encourage Cursillistas to download the candidate application, team application and brochure from the site.

Our Secretariat is seeking new members as several secretariat members have served for many years. It is time for new involvement and ideas.

We send to you our thoughts and prayers that the movement may be doing well on a national level.

Your brother in Christ,

Tom Smithwick
Chairman

GROUARD McLENNAN

The 2005-2006 Cursillo year has been more of a steady-as-she-goes year, compared to the work required in the previous year. The board has dealt with some interesting and important issues (like wives attending before husbands, modifying the Ultreya format), and has also worked on administrative effectiveness (mailing lists, bylaws, role descriptions for board members). Finances are in excellent shape thanks to strong donar support. Four weekends were held in the past cursillo year, averaging about 20 candidates per weekend. The major issue facing the movement at this time is the commitment of Cursillistas to do the set-up and take-down of facilities used for the Cursillo weekends – without this commitment, weekends cannot happen.

Specific reports for each area of responsibility on the board are available separately, but here is the overview from the Board Chair's perspective:

1. Group Reunion Formation – we are still working on the process to form groups on the weekend. So far it has been marginally successful. Team information on group reunions has been gathered and will be used in the next year to facilitate group formation.
2. Smaller Weekends – a sub-committee of the board, led by Mel Hoffart, is working on the logistics and mechanics of holding a “small community” weekend, likely in Dawson Creek or Ft St John. Another committee, led by Ben Dart, is reviewing the Small Weekend guide for ideas which can be used to improve the existing weekends being held in our area.
3. Finances – See Janne's report for details. Excellent support from the Cursillo community.
4. Ultreya Modification – Two modified Ultreyas were held in GP with moderate success. Ultreya survey results will be used to direct further improvements. Still no Ultreya coordinator in GP.
5. Communication to Cursillistas – Web Page continues to be maintained effectively (address: <http://www.grouard.cursillo-wccc.org>). For the first time this year, a candidate application was completed using the web forms. Improvement work on the web page is ongoing. Many thanks to our web-master, Charles Breunig. The never ending task of updating addresses and e-mail continues!

6. Board Succession Planning - generated candidates for Board of Directors in advance of the AGM again this year.
7. Board Member Role Descriptions - seven of nine were completed prior to the AGM so that people considering work on the board now have a better feel for the responsibilities and time commitment required.
8. Set-up and Take-Down - see Ben's report for more details; responsibility for this task was returned to the weekend teams. Many challenges and frustrations for both the mens and womens weekends. This issue is the main subject of our annual general meeting, May 31, 2006

Respectfully Submitted By

Kevin Walker
Cursillo Board Chair 05/06

NATIVE CURSILLO MOVEMENT Northern Region

June 3, 2006 - Secretariat Meeting
June 22 - 25, 2006 - Dillon, Sask. Men's Cursillo
June 29, 30, July 1-2, 2006 - Dillon, Sask. Ladie's Cursillo
July 22-26, 2006 - Lac Ste. Anne Cursillo Tent 7 P.M. to 11:00 P.M.
Gospel Singing, Sharing, Infomation Sharing
August 10-13, 2006 - Muskeg Lake, Sask. Ladie's Cursillo
August 17 - 20, 2006 - Muskeg lake, Sask. Men's Cursillo
September 30, 2006 - Secretariat Meeting
October 27, 28 & 29, 2006 - Cursillo Workshop

The Secretariat is working on building a better and more organized Movement.

Plans are in the works to evaluate what we do at our Cursillos and looking at the 4th day.

Next year will see delegates from the NCCC at the National Conference.

The North represents the Edmonton Arch Diocese, St. Paul Diocese, Grouard-McClennan Diocese, Saskatoon Diocese, La Pas Keewatin Arch-Diocese. The Southern Region is the Calgary Diocese.

Bishop Luc Bouchard of the St. Paul Diocese is the Spiritual Director for the North.

We will be asking for help from the O.M.I. priests for a priest to work with our Movement.

Florence Large
President
Native Cursillo Movement
Northern Region

VANCOUVER

This past year we have had two Lay Directors, Peggy Maas who served for approximately five months but felt that it was necessary to step down due to her work load with her new store. Sidney Bilsky was appointed as interim Lay Director until our Annual General Meeting took place and at that time I was appointed the new Lay Director for the Archdioceses of Vancouver Cursillo Movement.

Each month the Vancouver Secretariat has met on the first Saturday of the month. During our meetings we come together as a group reunion and share a close moment(s) that we have had since our last Secretariat Meeting.

We held three Cursillo Weekends, two women's and one men's weekend. These weekends were very successful and brought approximately 75 new cursillistas into our ever-increasing family.

Our annual picnic was held at Blue Mountain Park in Coquitlam in August and a good time was had by all those who attended. It is great to get together with members of our Cursillo family as well as some of the men from Luke 15 to share laugher and good times.

We had a well-attended and vibrant Fourthday Workshop after the Fall Women's weekend. It was heartening to have over 35 cursillistas attend. We listened to several presentations, had discussion groups and got to understand our Movement more deeply.

There is a Leaders School that takes place in Richmond on the third Thursday of the month. The group that comes together study a document or a rollo that is of interest to the Cursillo Movement. This can be a very enlightening time.

Ultreyas have been taking place on all Fridays of each month except the fourth Friday. The first and third at St. Bernadette Parish in Surrey and the second at Our Lady of Fatima in Coquitlam.

Continued on page 28

witness

daily we touch him

Fully Alive invites witness talks from across Canada, submitted either by the speaker or by one who has heard the talk and, with the speaker's permission, submits it. It may happen that a speaker will express views in their witness that differ from those of the publishers of the newsletter, but these are not edited. Please send all submissions, care of CCCC, Fully Alive, to the Montreal Centre Address.

Good Evening. My name is Doug Graves. I made Cursillo in 2002, in Halifax, Nova Scotia and I sat at the table of St. Augustine's Monks. As with many of the stories I hear, as people witness, my weekend for me was life altering. The experience filled me with a thirst for the Lord, and his Holy Spirit, opened my heart up to my best friend, his son, Jesus.

It has been 3 months since my last (Confess...) I mean, my last witness as I shared a part of my journey the last Men's Team during Formation. During the building of community for a weekend, I find I am always filled with the Lord because I get to drink from the fountain once a week during our meetings, also our group reunion gathers bi-weekly, and then again at our community Ultreyas and our School of Leaders. The latter a little less frequently, however, it's nice to know I have the option. Why I mention this involvement, is, I find it so interesting that I can easily center my life, my actions and turn all things to God (in other words, be very pious) when I am with like-minded people. It's easy to love, to be patient and to be kind to these people because I know somewhere deep inside, that my Cursillo community depends on the Lord for strength and not me. I know I can be a Leader, as we all are Leaders in one way or another, and allow the Lord to work through me and keep my humanness out of the Lord's business. However, I find that I fall short in my other environments where God is not the prevalent source of strength and primary source for guidance. It's not always easy to stay centered on who should be guiding my actions.

I am a Music Educator in Halifax and have the wonderful opportunity to model God's Love, Kindness and Patience 30 children at a time, every 30 minutes, 5 days a week, 10 months of the year. It is in this environment that I have to pray extra diligently about, because that human part of me wants to exert itself and often I find I fall short of Grace. I can get tired, grumpy, impatient and, yes, I confess, I have raised my voice in frustration and anger. Later, as I reflect, I can fully understand the relevance of the

situation and realize just how important the situation really is at day's end. And sure enough, my Catholic training kicks in and I feel guilty for having over-reacted when a quiet, calm and strong demeanor could have achieved the same result. As they say, "you get more bees with honey"... Most days, I find the right balance but, I have noted that those are the days I have given over to the Lord and not snatched them back.

I recall very recently, being involved in a choir festival. As I work at two schools, 60/40 split, I had entered both choirs in the festival. Now as for the schedule, one choir would perform at the local mall on Tuesday and the other school the following day on Wednesday. With the buses ordered, the songs selected and, the choirs rehearsed, I was still very nervous, anxious and a lot apprehensive about what to expect and how things would turn out so, before the Tuesday's trip, I stopped fretting and quietly sat and spoke to God, and asked Jesus to stay with me and the choir during our performance. The whole experience was peaceful and turned out awesome. The 1st choir had performed so well, that they were invited back for the finals and were participants in making a CD of the finalist. WOW! Thank you Jesus.

So, now, choir number 2 on Wednesday. Enter the humanness. I say to myself, this will be a breeze. I was there yesterday, I know what to expect. As it turns out, the apprehension, the nerves settled in. The students were less than co-operative. In my judgement, they were the more skilled of the 2 choirs, however, performed with much less enthusiasm. In my view, I was disappointed at the less than perfect performance. Then it dawned on me. I forgot to pray and ask for God's help and to invite Jesus to walk with us. As it turned out, both choirs made the finals and both choirs are on the recorded CD. It was the following Ultreya, I heard a Witness say that Jesus wants to help. He wants us to ask for his help even in the small non-life threatening issues. It makes me think about my role as a father and how I can be a little bruised and disappointed when my maturing

boys make decisions that exclude me, especially in the little things. OK, they'll let me make their beds or buy them things, but I must remember they are on their own journey and have free will so they must fall down every now and then in order to grow and mature. Sound familiar! Enough of my attempt to be pious.

Have you ever listened to a song which has given you goose-bumps? In my study of God's Word and message, I begin every day with a cup of coffee, yogurt, banana and "The Daily Bread", "The Word Among Us" reflection and song. Most days, this allows me to begin each day fully aware of God's presence in my life and to invite the Holy Spirit into my day. I have recently found a song that has become an Anthem for daily living that answers, in our Fifth day, the essence of your life. It's titled, "When It's All Said and Done", by Robin Marks. I know my boys are young and longevity is still perceived eternal as youth often sees invincibility as an option. And, also being young, arguing about right and wrong and fairness regularly invades their relationship. This particular day, they were arguing over who would ride shotgun on the way home, and as children do, they cried foul to me, their father. Instead of playing judge and jury, I decided to share this song with them and then return to the injustice in their world. When the last refrain faded, my youngest son opted for the back seat fully understanding that the act of kindness far outweighed fighting over the front seat for a 10-minute ride. Not another word was said. I often am amazed at the Daily Readings and scripture passages and how they coincide with what I need to hear or how a Witness or homily can speak directly to me.

I share with you this past Wednesday morning's trip to drop the kids at school, which is normally fraught with frustration and much prompting to get them moving. I began my day with prayer, music and readings. On the drive "When It's All is Said and Done" permeated our environment. Both boys began singing one asked if I could turn it up... lets just say it was a God-filled, peaceful, loving morning. I could have basked in it eternally, however, I thank god for that precious moment and move forward. My study of God's ways has influenced my everyday marketplace, always giving me a point of reference even when I shamefully digress and curse at the awful drivers that constantly cut me off. Point of reference... I am the common denominator. Sound familiar. I've heard it said, "if you learn to laugh at yourself, you'll always be amused".

I return to my opening comments about how easy it is to be kind, patient and loving in my safe zones such as in Cursillo events and gatherings. I think about my

call to action as I step out in faith and try to leave behind my humanness, my judgements, my resentments and try to be fully present to the environment I am penetrating.

I've been finding as I mature spiritually that the Lord is calling me into more and varied services. I've recently accepted an invitation to work with our Youth Ministry in our parish. I have been invited to chaperone at the Youth Conference in Attleboro, U.S.A., AKA Steubenville...Our Parish Priest has invited me to take part in a Stewardship conference in October. I continue to try and be the best father, husband and friend to my family and I've even made gains in befriending people in my sport environments. The discussions of faith and healing have become topics of discussion in my work environments as I discover quiet Christians all around me. Most recently, though I have been called into friendship with my Uncle Rodney, my dad's brother. It's been many years since I've heard from Roddie as he was cared for in a Manor Home because of childhood ignorances of the 40's and 50's deeming him intellectually challenged. Although, as I get to know him, I am seeing that was way off base. See, Roddie had a speech impediment and became a product of his era. Considered to be dim-witted, he was institutionalized and spent his life with very limited opportunities. He has since had an operation to fix his speech, however, years of being institutionalized has left him uneducated. Well, our friendship begins because of the basic need for freedom, and that of loneliness. He was recently hospitalized for pneumonia and because of his personal needs, could not return to the Manor which he has spent the last thirty years living in. He is wheelchair bound because he broke his hip and foot 10 years ago and they never fully healed. And now, he is living on the 4th floor of the Dartmouth General Hospital on the Transitional Care Unit while they try to find him a new home. He has been there since February 2006; however, he is not allowed to leave the floor unsupervised. He has not been deemed mentally incompetent, but his basic right to freedom has been denied. So, he calls me because the one thing he loves to do he can't do inside. SMOKE. Everyday, he calls and wants me (or Sandy) to take him out to smoke. Some Saturdays, weather permitting, I pick him up (literally), carry him onto our deck and let him enjoy the outdoors and smokes. Some days, I find it difficult and I feel bad for him because he is stuck on that hospital floor. Some days, I get frustrated that he calls 18 times because he longs to get out for fresh air and smoke, but many days, I actually enjoy spending time joking with him and sitting quietly for awhile in contrast to my busyness. Sometimes, in his desperation, he will say, "just come

over for a minute". I don't think he realizes that for me his minute takes an hour and a half with travel, parking, pushing him out, taking him back after he has 10 cigarettes back to back. Then, I stop thinking about the inconvenience it is for me after a long day at work and try to consider what it is like for him sitting there all day, it probably does feel like I've only been there a minute from his perspective. He has no-one else and I feel very strongly in faith that in God's wisdom, it is Rodney serving me instead of me serving Rodney. I have come to respect Rodney. I truly see there is nothing wrong with his mind, only his physical being. Maybe God is asking me to slow down and get to know who people really are. Because you cannot truly minister to people until you truly understand who they are and where they are coming from. It's easy to know your family, but how hard am I trying to get to know others outside my comfort zones where God's message is needed so desperately. "When it's all said and done, will I have lived for loves reward, will I have I lived my life for You. Lord, I give my life to you."

Des Colores
Go With God

To Live Cursillo, To live our Baptism

The following is a presentation given at the 2006 Conference in Cornwallis.

Good morning and welcome! My name is George Henry and it is my good fortune to be here with you to share the Graces that will flow to all who enter into God's plan for this conference. We have journeyed both near and far to this place, the site of the former CFB Cornwallis, a training centre for new armed forces recruits. Situated on the beautiful shores of the historic Annapolis Basin, it will, I trust, provide us with an ideal venue to explore the topic: *The Best News by the Best Means – the Heart of the Charism*. This area has been a place of beginnings: a nation began here at St. Croix and Port Royal and a multitude of military careers have their roots here. It is, therefore, a good place to continue our exploration of the charism or gift that is the essential and life-giving heart of the Cursillo.

Over four hundred years ago colonists arrived on these shores and began the task of carving a place for a new life. They risked everything they had for a chance to begin anew! They encountered many challenges and learned from each challenge the

lessons needed to survive and to grow. The journey shaped and moulded them and what emerged was a person unique to this place who had learned much about self and about life. They learned to survive and to thrive and have left us with a legacy that has enriched the fabric of who we are today. It wasn't easy. It was a constant and unending struggle to survive by adapting and changing. It was basic survival. One had to rely on God, self, and others.

For those who have lived the Cursillo, those three words: God, self, and others, have a familiar ring. Our introduction to them begins with a friend who possesses something at the very core of his/her being that makes him/her joyful and resilient, even in hard times. Over time this friendship develops and one learns more about this individual's story, about why he/she is the way he/she is. Maybe the desire to know will lead to our own weekend encounters. As we live the Cursillo in our fourth day we discover that living the Cursillo is actually living out our baptism. Consequently, I want to share with you in this brief discourse my thoughts on the topic: *TO LIVE CURSILLO, TO LIVE OUR BAPTISM*.

Every human being, regardless of the condition into which they were born and bred, is on a journey. For everyone, the potential and possibility exists for encounters with self, with God, and with others. These encounters are made within the context of everyday life. Everyone who desires fullness of life makes them. They are a natural part of the human condition. You can't get to be fully human and fully alive without them! A life without these encounters—whether the individual realizes it or not—is shallow, incomplete, and sterile.

These encounters must be part of the process, part of the journey to wholeness. To achieve the greatest impact these encounters must be made within and with the aid and assistance of community, a community that cares deeply about its members. The Church is such a community. "The word 'Church' means 'convocation.' It designates the assembly of those whom God's Word 'convokes,' i.e., gathers together to form the People of God, and who themselves, nourished with the Body of Christ, become the Body of Christ.

"The Church is both the means and the goal of God's plan: prefigured in creation, prepared for in the Old Covenant, founded by the words and actions of Jesus Christ, fulfilled by his redeeming cross and his Resurrection, the Church has been manifested as the mystery of salvation by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. She will be perfected in the glory of heaven as

the assembly of all the redeemed of the earth (cf. *Rev* 14:4)."²

Church is the community in which we are nourished, empowered, and sent out "into the deep" to live in friendship with a God whose love is infinite and whose forgiveness is unconditional. It is this relationship that we are to model in our daily lives. It is this relationship that will be the leaven in our environments and which will draw others to seek the source of our joy, the Father as revealed to us by His Son, Jesus Christ. It is the "others" in our environment that we are called and sent to serve. They are the reason why "we have put out into the deep" and it is the acceptance as absolute truth that God's promise that He will be with us always, to the end of time that allows us to "be not afraid." We are children of the light; we are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people. It is our joy to declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called [us] out of darkness into His marvelous light."³

"Make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ," is how we say it in the Cursillo. The Cursillo is not a Church—it is in the Church. The Cursillo's focus is the person. It allows people to experience that they are loved just as they are and it does so by means of friendship, a friendship that is meant to mirror the relationship that God wants with each and everyone of us. It takes people to a quiet place and by means of a loving, accepting, forgiving, and nurturing community shows them the face of God. It gives them a chance to begin the encounters with self, with God, and with others and does so by walking with the person in the good times and in the not so good times. This acceptance, this constancy, makes real and tangible what Jesus promised to all who follow him. Cursillo is the Gospel lived out in the reality of everyday life. It teaches people what they need to learn in order to be Church, to be "living stones" in a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood. It helps people to realize that they are the Church.

Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are sacraments of initiation into the Church. The fact that Jesus was baptized by water and the Holy Spirit indicates the importance He placed on these sacraments. They impart an indelible mark and provide the graces, the gifts that are essential in our being Church. By these sacraments we become part of the mystical body of Christ and heirs to a kingdom prepared for us by a loving and forgiving God. They are the reason for our work as Cursillistas. The *Cursillo de Cristiandad*, the short course in Christianity, teaches that being a

Christian is not simply belonging to a Christian Church. It reminds us that Baptism and Confirmation do not make a person a Christian—they provide the invitation, the graces, and the gifts needed to become a Christian. It is only in cooperating with the Holy Spirit and striving to be holy that we are lead to the encounters that are so essential in our growth as Christians. Anyone can acquire the label *Christian* and *cursillista* just by joining an existing structure or organization. When you meet a person who is a genuine Christ in his or her environment and whose joy is undiminished even by hardship and deprivation, then you begin to understand what Baptism and Confirmation call us to do and to be.

Responding in love to the influence of the Holy Spirit makes all of us children of God. Living out our Baptismal vows in the fabric of our daily lives is what makes us Christian. As cursillistas we recognize the impact that a Cursillo experience can have upon the lives of individuals. We are especially aware of the importance of role models, especially Christian role models. Leaders who know the way, show the way and go the way are essential to our mission as baptized Christian Catholics. These are the people whose very lives influence others in their environments. These are often, though not exclusively, the people who benefit most profoundly from the Cursillo. They are the natural and authentic leaders in their society. They make the encounters and as a consequence learn what it means to be living saints, what it means to be in the world and not of the world, to be one in word and in deed. They become persons who are natural, joyful, principled, free, lively, loving, sincere, and rock solid in their faith. They are or can become the leaders in the new evangelism to which we are called by our Baptismal vows. They, by their lives, help define for us what it means to be a Christian and what that title demands of us. In every age there is this need for renewal and rededication. We are on the road to Emmaus...to Damascus...to wherever. God is calling us and we need leaders in our communities that will be visible signs of His presence and who will help us to hear the call and to respond to it with enthusiasm and joy.

Many times during his long and fruitful pontificate, John Paul II called the church to a "New Evangelization." But what does this mean? And to whom is it directed? It means, I think, that we are called to be missionaries, not only to the geographically removed but also to those in our own midst. It is a mission that is at the heart of the Cursillo and which the Cursillo is admirably suited to carry out. In *Redemptoris missio*, John Paul. II wrote: "The kingdom of God is meant for all mankind, and all people are called to become members of it. To

² 777 & 778 Catechism of the Catholic Church, Second Edition

³ 1268 Catechism of the Catholic Church, Second Edition

emphasize this fact, Jesus drew especially near to those on the margins of society, and showed them special favor in announcing the Good News. At the beginning of his ministry he proclaimed that he was "anointed...to preach good news to the poor" (Lk 4:18). To all who are victims of rejection and contempt Jesus declares: "Blessed are you poor" (Lk 6:20). What is more, he enables such individuals to experience liberation even now, by being close to them, going to eat in their homes (cf. Lk 5:30; 15:2), treating them as equals and friends (cf. Lk 7:34), and making them feel loved by God, thus revealing his tender care for the needy and for sinners (cf. Lk 15:1-32)." Isn't this what our piety, study, and action demand of us as well? Do we not through the Cursillo encounters make this known to those who seek a closer relationship with Him? In the same encyclical John Paul writes, "The kingdom aims at transforming human relationships; it grows gradually as people slowly learn to love, forgive and serve one another. Jesus sums up the whole Law, focusing it on the commandment of love (cf. Mt 22:34-40; Lk 10:25-28). Before leaving his disciples, he gives them a "new commandment": "Love one another; even as I have loved you" (Jn 13:34; cf. 15:12). Jesus' love for the world finds its highest expression in the gift of his life for mankind (cf. Jn 15:13), which manifests the love which the Father has for the world (cf. Jn 3:16). The kingdom's nature, therefore, is one of communion among all human beings-with one another and with God.

John Paul II says that, "The kingdom is the concern of everyone: individuals, society, and the world. Working for the kingdom means acknowledging and promoting God's activity, which is present in human history and transforms it. Building the kingdom means working for liberation from evil in all its forms. In a word, the kingdom of God is the manifestation and the realization of God's plan of salvation in all its fullness.

"The missionary," the pope writes, "is a person of the Beatitudes. Before sending out the Twelve to evangelize, Jesus, in his 'missionary discourse' (cf. Mt 10), teaches them the paths of mission: poverty, meekness, acceptance of suffering and persecution, the desire for justice and peace, charity - in other words, the Beatitudes, lived out in the apostolic life (cf. Mt 5:1-12). By living the Beatitudes, the missionary experiences and shows concretely that the kingdom of God has already come, and that he has accepted it. The characteristic of every authentic missionary life is the inner joy that comes from faith. In a world tormented and oppressed by so many problems, a world tempted to pessimism, the one who proclaims the "Good News" must be a person

who has found true hope in Christ."⁴ He or she must not just talk the talk, he or she must walk the walk! This, to me, is what we are called to as leaders in the Cursillo. Hence, I do not see that the "New Evangelization" differs markedly from the method and purpose of the Cursillo. Cursillo is the Gospel translated to the normality of everyday life and this, I think, is what the "New Evangelization" is all about. To be sure there will always be the need to adapt the medium to the message, to speak in the language of the people about the great love that God has for them and to give witness to that love by our lives.

If we truly understand what it means to live the message of the Cursillo, then we already are a part of this New Evangelization that Pope John Paul II called us to; in fact, the essence of the Foundational Charism actually was a precursor to the call to New Evangelization. The old evangelization which tends more to catechizing⁵ and the new which is kerygmatic⁶ complement and complete one another. The New Evangelization does not replace the old any more than Jesus' coming into the world abolished the old law. Jesus said to his Disciples that, "I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished."⁷ The old and new evangelization are essential parts of the journey to wholeness, to the unity for which Christ prayed,

*"that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.."*⁸

Christ came into the world to teach by word and example how life is to be lived. God did not give us a spirit of slavery; he gave us the freedom to choose. Christ's life show us that when we acknowledge with all our hearts and our minds and our very being that the Father is God and there is no other and that the Father, through the Son and the Holy Spirit is to be worshiped and glorified, then we are on the right path to this unity for which He prayed. His life, death, and resurrection have given us the method to use (kerygma) and the answers to the questions that

⁴ *Redemptoris missio*, John Paul. II 1990 12 07

⁵ To teach the principles of Christian dogma, discipline, and ethics by means of questions and answers:

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/catechizing>

⁶ preaching of Christianity: the proclamation of Jesus Christ's teachings, especially as taught in the Gospels:

http://encarta.msn.com/dictionary/_/kerygmatic.html:

⁷ Matthew 5: 17-18: New Revised Standard Version

⁸ John 17:22: New Revised Standard Version

must be asked and answers as true sons and daughters of the Father, brothers and sisters of His Son Jesus Christ and bearers of the Holy Spirit. (the catechism).

The New Evangelization calls us to evangelize by the witness of our lives, by being the Gospel, not just preaching it. St. Francis of Assisi is reputed to have said that we are called to preach the gospel to the whole world and, if necessary, use words. Christ referred to his message as “new wine” and new wine needs new wine skins. Like wine it is full bodied and robust; it hasn’t had a change to mellow to take on a distinct character. But it’s not supposed to. It’s supposed to intoxicate not inebriate. It opens the mind and the heart and makes them receptive to the influence of God’s Spirit. It helps us to overcome our fear of reaching out to others and engaging them, one to one, person to person. The new wine makes us receptive to others. It makes us see them and the environment is a different light. It is only in drinking deeply of this new wine that we arrive at the awesome truth which is that this is the way it’s supposed to be. We were made for each other. It is only when we work together as brothers and sisters to accomplish some purpose that is greater than our individual and collective selves that we begin to radiate the eternal light that is in each and every person whom God has created. The message always remains the same: God Loves you but the way that message is communicated adapts to the changing times and takes advantage of the newest means of getting the attention of each new generation.

Our success cannot be measured by the number of churches or members we have and in the same way the success of the Cursillo cannot be measured by the number of weekends that are held or the number of cursillistas that exist. Our success both as a Church and as a movement will be best measured by the number and quality of the individuals who live out the Gospel message each and every day of their lives because that’s the way it’s supposed to be. It will be measured by how the environments are being changed because individuals with the Grace of God and the fellowship of their neighbours are effectively using the charism that God has provided for the journey. That’s the way God intended it from the very beginning. The Cursillo has far more potential than what it is actually accomplishing. As Bonñin said, in the most loving and respectful manner, to the Canadian Cursillistas in 1992, and often since—though it has spread around the world, the Cursillo has yet to really be tried as he envisioned it in the beginning.

Cursillo is not a quick fix for the problems of humanity. If God wanted to “fix” what’s wrong with the world and its systems, He could do it without our help. He could hit delete and start over. But our salvation history tells us that that’s not God’s way. Our salvation history speaks eloquently to God’s love for His Creation and of His faithfulness. He loved the world so much that He sent His Son to teach us how to live in friendship and harmony with Him. He wants us to “love tenderly, to act justly, and to walk humbly”⁹ with Him. Throughout the history of the world God has been faithful, always sending His message of love, often through individuals such as Eduardo Boñin. The message doesn’t change, only the medium. The Cursillo is the medium; it is a method and a movement at the heart of which is the charism that God gave to Eduardo Boñin for the world. A person who has truly understood the method of the Cursillo and who lives out that reality in his or her daily life, has grasped the meaning of Jesus’ final moments on the cross. Jesus asks His Father to forgive those who persecuted him and He does so because He knows that they do not know what they were about. In their ignorance and blindness, they were choosing death for themselves and did not even realize it. They were rejecting what they could not comprehend. Jesus saw clearly what they could not see: the horror, the pain, the endless agony that their choice would bring them. He never gave up on them and those who truly understand the method of the Cursillo know that this must be true in their lives as well.

You don’t get to this point in your personal salvation history easily. You must come face to face with yourself, not by yourself, but in the company of Jesus. To see yourself as Jesus sees you takes a special kind of vision that can only come from a close, personal encounter with the Risen Lord. This encounter is lived out in the everyday activities of life. The Cursillo weekend begins the process. It holds the mirror up and allows us to see what could be, *but the weekend is just the beginning*. It is living the method in your fourth day, which will ensure the growth and development of a genuine and authentic Christianity. It is in this daily conversion that the heart and mind of Christ becomes at first familiar, then comfortable, then us. It is in letting go of the things that separate us from God so that we can be reborn into the joy of the Risen Lord.

Jesus said that “my yoke”¹⁰ is not a heavy burden to carry, *but it is still a yoke*. It takes time to accustom oneself to it and to learn how to live the new life to

Continued on page 27

⁹ Micah 6:8

¹⁰ Matthew 11:29-30



JESTERS' CORNER

.....NO SAD SAINTS HERE!!

Jesters' Corner is a regular feature open to all Cursillistas and intended to serve as resource material for Cursillo weekends. Please forward submissions to the editor.

Dumb Caller:

"Can you give me the telephone number for Jack?"

Operator:

"I'm sorry, I don't understand who you are talking about".

Blonde Caller:

"On page 1 section 5, of the user guide it clearly states that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone jack before cleaning.

Now, can you give me the number for Jack?

A priest was being honoured at his retirement dinner after 25 years in his parish.

A leading local politician and member of the congregation was chosen to make the presentation and give a little speech at the dinner. He was delayed, so the priest decided to say his own few words while they waited.

"I got my first impression of the parish from the first confession I heard here. After hearing it, I thought I had been assigned to a terrible place. The very first person who entered my confessional told me he had stolen a television set, and, when questioned by the police, was able to lie his way out of it. He had stolen money from his parents, embezzled from his employer, had an affair with his boss's wife, and had taken illegal drugs.

I was appalled. But as the days went on I soon discovered that my people were not all like that and I had, indeed, come to a fine parish full of good and loving people."..... Just then, the politician arrived full of apologies at being late. He immediately launched into his presentation by saying, "I'll never forget the first day our parish priest arrived. In fact, I had the honour of being the first one to go to him in confession."

Moral: DON'T EVER BE LATE.

7 reasons not to mess with a child

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah".

The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied, "Then you ask him".

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head.

She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?"

Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white."The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, "Momma, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?"

The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture. "Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say, 'There's Jennifer, she's a lawyer,' or 'That's Michael, He's a doctor.' A small voice at the back of the room rang out, "And there's the teacher, She's dead. "



“ Mi Casa Es Su Casa”

I am sending you a copy of the letter I sent the Mallorcans upon my return from the Cursillo of Cursillos in December - to share with you how meaningful it was for me. I will see you soon.

Upon my return from the Cursillo of Cursillos in Mallorca in December 2005 I received an email from a new friend. The invitation said “ Mi Casa Es Su Casa”. It reminded me of the overwhelming feeling of homecoming that I experienced during those marvellous days.

First to introduce myself - I am Diane Fisher from Calgary, Alberta, Canada. I lived my Cursillo Weekend in the Archdiocese of Toronto in December of 1973. I have had many various experiences of cursillo community throughout Canada and the world.

I met our dearest Eduardo Bonnin in 1992 at a Canadian National Encounter. His words about the ‘Charism of the Movement’ and ‘Evangelization through Conversion’ - and especially the role of friendship, touched my heart deeply and created a hunger and a restlessness in me that has led me on an incredible search - for the truth, for the friends, and for the treasure of the foundational charism of the cursillo movement.

My pilgrimage brought me to me to Mallorca for a ‘Cursillo of Cursillos’ in December of 2005. Since I do not know the Spanish language I had to rely on new and old friends to help me understand - through words and presence. Truly I believe I understood even more than what was said.

For me this beautiful time was a homecoming to the ‘cradle’ of cursillo and to the hearts that have nourished it for so many years. It was a meeting with

friends who have been faithful to the authentic cursillo movement and to each other. The grace of their relationships in Christ is obvious and convincing. It was a time of deepening conviction and an increase of hope for the possibilities of the future.

I carry many new and incredible friends in my heart. I am reminded of Jesus invitation to the first disciples in John 1: 35 to 39. They asked ‘where do you live?’ and He replied ‘ come and see.’and they came to spend the day with him. My time in Mallorca was such a homecoming - a grounding in all that cursillo means to me. It will always be ‘my other home’.

Thank you ,Arsenio, and all the friends in Mallorca for your warm hospitality and warmer hugs and so many excellent arrangements on my behalf. Thank you for the opportunity to be with you and to share in your faith in Jesus Christ.

You have a beautiful family. We have a beautiful home.

My Love to All,
De Colores!

Diane Fisher

To the Officers’ Group

As you know, and for the benefit of others receiving copies of this letter, Toronto has been working since the National Encounter last June in Windsor at implementing the Mallorcan Cursillo Weekend.

Sheelagh, I was so appreciative of how both you and Fr. Gaston welcomed me last June. As you know, I had been apprehensive at whether I should go or not given my explosive rejection of the CCCC’s efforts back in 2002. Many of those feelings were carried with me to Windsor and were laid to rest by Fr. Gaston’s historical commentary at the beginning of the Weekend.

The consequence of Windsor was that the Lord showed me clearly what it is that Eduardo has been trying to accomplish worldwide, and that this was His wish for the Movement. Since then I have tried to study all the literature you so kindly sent me, and in the Fall and Winter semesters of our School, we introduced many of the key mentality points.

And now, over these past two Weekends, we completed the implementation of our first ever “Mallorcan” Weekends, using the CCCC Outlines for the Lay Rollos and Bishop Hervas’ Leaders’ Manual

(1967) for the Spiritual Direction Rollos, as you had suggested. The teams of priests and lay people (22 in total for the two Weekends) prepared well for the changes in all the Rollos (even using the name Rollo) and did a wonderful job writing their Rollos.

Sixteen men and seventeen women made Weekends #246 and #247 in this Archdiocese, the historical first of the "Foundational Charism" Weekends, and they were a resounding success by any measure. The clarity of the message, and the difference between it and what we had been using (the old US Three-Day manual), inspired all of us, and we all feel that a new spring has come to Toronto in terms of Cursillo.

All of us who have carried the Movement over the years in the hope of seeing such a day have been given new life, new energy, new understanding. There was a spontaneous desire, even urgency, among the candidates to form Groups. I don't remember this level of desire before, and for those of us who so deeply believe in the Group, this is welcome indeed.

I thank you for all the help you have given us, and for you and Carlos coming and meeting with the members of the teams. Although I can't attend the Conference this year, I wanted you to know the results of all the effort. And I wanted Fr. Gaston, Carlos and Eduardo to know, by copy of this letter, that there is one more Movement in the world that is totally inspired by the Foundational Charism as found in the two Weekends we have just lived.

Eduardo, thank you for this wonderful gift to the Church, to lay people, and especially to Diane, my wife, and me, and so many others who have been "infected" by the life in Grace we have been seeking to live these past thirty years.

God bless you all at the National Encounter.

Dennis (Coates)
Toronto

cont: from page 24

which we are called. It's a lifetime's work and it's work that involves effort and hardship and pain. But it's the kind of work that makes you feel good at the end of the day and feeling good about yourself is important. You close out each day by looking back over the day to see where you met Christ and where you would have met Him if you had been more patient or aware or sensitive or whatever. You ask forgiveness and you give thanks and then you sleep,

knowing that tomorrow has its own joys and sorrows and challenges and that God will walk with you. And your piety develops and your study deepens and your actions become more natural and you begin to see the world more and more through the eyes of faith. You risk more and reach out more often. You become over time the continuing presence of Christ in your world and your joy deepens and sorrows become more bearable. You learn the secret of prayer: be still and know that I am God. You recognize in those "desert times" that God has not forsaken you but that He is calling you onward. You learn to live the two great commandments that call us to love. You learn to look critically at yourself to identify what things are holding you back from a fuller relationship with God and more importantly, you start to let go of these impediment and allow God to fill the space with things that last and which are portable, you can take them with you to your new home in Heaven.

All of this can and does happen when the method is understood and lived. It is what Jesus did and we know that Jesus was both man and God. His Life, Death, and Resurrection are testimony to the truth that the method brings abundant life. Love is at the heart of the Charism: the love of God for His people — you and me. I am a child of God and I am loved by Him. He knows my name. He knew me in my mother's womb. He knows everything that I have ever said, thought, and done. I am precious in His sight. I am His heir. It all sounds so fantastic and yet its truth is attested to by the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus. If God the Father, the author and source of all life, thinks that much of me, what should I think of myself? What should I think of others?

This for me is the heart of the charism. God's love for His creation is absolute and unconditional. My life when I live in His friendship has value and meaning and purpose. I am His love letter to the world. I am His messenger of hope. I am His agent of forgiveness. I am His smile and His helping hand to everyone. I am a brother to every other human being. I am his disciple exemplifying with my very life his message of hope and forgiveness. I become the Good News, a living witness to the transforming power of God's love and forgiveness.

When I chose to believe in the message that Christ came to convey, when I strive to live the truth of that message, when I persevere even in the face of repeated failures or set backs, when I chose to believe my beliefs and to doubt my doubts, then I become for the Church and for the movement a witness to the power of the Gospel and to the constancy and faithfulness of God. This is what Cursillo does so

well. It facilitates the essential and life changing encounters so necessary in achieving the unity for which Christ prayed. At the heart of its method is the simple truth that people want to love and to be loved. As a child of God each person has the fundamental right to respect and dignity as a person. This should not be something that he or she has to earn. It is his or hers as a natural consequence of being born. When consistently treated with respect and with dignity and when given the freedom to do so, people will, because of their nature, chose to love and to live in friendship with others who have demonstrated their authentic and genuine desire to do likewise. They will not only choose life but they will also choose to value all life. Life will have meaning and purpose that transcends its everyday reality, becoming for the world and its people a beacon of hope and of unity. Their lives will illumine the way for others to the home of their Father.

The good news is that God love me and the best means to get that message to the world is the example and witness of my life lived out in friendship and service for the love and honour and glory of my God. Cursillo provides a method to facilitate the encounters that can and will lead to a deeper and richer spirituality. *To live the Cursillo is truly to live our baptism!* De Colores!

Continued from page 18

Our Fifth Friday Pot Luck & Ultreya at St. Paul's Indian Church in North Van is very well attended and it is wonderful to see the work that is being done by the First Nations Cursillistas in their area. One of the Cursillistas has started a Soup Kitchen three Tuesdays out of the month and the numbers keep growing.

We made our semi-annual journey to Seabird Island this past fall for a Potluck and Ultreya. It is a wonderful time of fellowship with our sisters and brothers on Seabird Island. Hopefully they will eventually have their own Ultreyas on a regular basis. The National Cursillo Conference was held in Windsor Ontario last year and several of us attended. It was a very good Conference. This year's Conference is being held in Cornwallis Nova Scotia and I am sure it will be great.

Our Movement has a secretariat that is strong and believes in the Cursillo Movement. They desire to see the Movement thrive. They know that the Cursillo Method is a tried and proven method that helps to enhance each of our lives and brings us closer to each

other and to God. They believe in Cursillo. I am sure that the new secretariat will be as strong as the last one was.

Wayne Turner
Lay Director

Fully Alive

Are you enjoying reading this issue? It may be your last if you have forgotten to renew.

It is time to renew your subscription for the coming year.

If you wish to continue receiving Fully Alive, please email the Centre at cccc@qc.aira.com or visit the CCC website www.cursillo-canada.org

OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT 2006/2007

CHAIRPERSON		SPIRITUAL ADVISOR	
Carlos Munoz 1965 de Brabant Laval, QC H7M 3K6	(450) 669-9943 cccc@qc.aira.com	Fr. Gaston Rioux, o.m.i. 51-13 St Rouyn Noranda, QC G9X 5H6	(819)764-9525 garioux@cablevision.qc.ca
Deborah O'Shea .9391 Piermond Rd Richmond, BC V7E 1N1	(604) 274-7610 deborah@sprint.ca	Fr. Syd Miffen 59 Thompson St Antigonish, NS B2G 1E3	(902) 735-2075 sydmiffen@eastlink.ca
George Henry 76 Elizabeth Drive RR2 Kentville, NS B4N 3V8	(902) 678-7947 george.henry@ns.sympatico.ca		
Nancy Bath 160 Park Lane, Box 331 Hastings, ON K0L 1Y0	(705) 696 3126 NancyBath@persona.ca		

For address changes, subscriptions to Fully Alive, or to submit questions or articles, please forward to:

S. Winston, Editor. c/o CCCC, Resource Centre
740 0 Blvd. St. Laurent, Suite 614,
Montreal, QC. H2R 2Y1 Ph.(514) 278 9873 Fax. (514) 227-5221 e-mail cccc@qc.aira.com
www.cursillo-canada.org

Fully Alive is published by the National Secretariat of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Cursillos who is solely responsible for its contents. No article or any part of it may be reproduced without the written permission of the Publications Officer. © CCCC 2006 all rights reserved