CONFERENCE 2010
NOVA SCOTIA, YOU DID US PROUD
WITH MANY THANKS FROM ALL THOSE WHO ATTENDED
OFFICERS’ CORNER

Antigonish, Nova Scotia

June 24 to 27, 2010

The Ten Topics of Cala Figuera,
as Rooted in the Gospel and Lived Out in the Mentality of the Movement

Being a part of the Officers Group of the CCCC provides a unique perspective for those whose job it is to study the movement and disseminate the results of that study to our affiliates and to interested parties beyond these borders. As a result of this reflection we begin to see that all parts of the Cursillos in Christianity are not understood in the same way in all the Cursillo movements in this nation. We dare say that this would be a truism with regard to all movements outside of Mallorca where it had its birth and where its founder Eduardo Bonnin and those who assisted him were able to nurture its growth and development.

This divergence of opinions is often rooted in an incomplete understanding of the Charism that underlies the movement and method. A succinct statement as to what the Charism of the Cursillo is has always eluded everyone, even its founder. The reason for this may be rooted in the fact that the Cursillo in Christianity is meant for the person and the person is far too complex to be rendered in a simple statement.

Perhaps this is a reason why the founder of the Cursillos in Christianity and those who assisted him in this work decided to convene the First Conversations of Cala Figuera in Mallorca in 1994. They invited leaders in the Cursillo and Cursillo leaders from around the world to come to Mallorca. They did not invite everyone in leadership; they invited those in leadership who were struggling in their own movements to discover what they have not grasped that would make the Cursillo the life-giving and life-changing method and movement that they felt, deep in their being, that it could be.

Those in the Canadian Movement who were part of the First Conversations came back to Canada enthused and excited. They had the beginnings of a new understanding and a new perspective. During the First Conversations they were introduced to the ten concepts or topics that form the essence of the Charism of the Cursillo: friendship, person, joy, normality, criterion, liberty, life, love, sincerity, and conviction. They didn’t fully comprehend what these were and why they were relevant to the Cursillo but they came back feeling that, “We got it right; we just didn’t get it all.”

And the journey commenced! The CCCC began in earnest to study the Cursillo as it was understood and authentically lived in the land of its birth. It also reflected upon the best way to communicate the “why” of the Cursillo to the...
cursillistas in Canada? The leadership of the day decided to use the national conferences as forums to discuss and disseminate what had been learned at the First Conversations and through subsequent consultations. The CCCC, with the agreement of its affiliates, determined that we would use the Cursillo in Mallorca as our model for the Cursillo in Canada. To this day we have not deviated from that course, and, as a result, have become a valuable resource for those in the Canadian Movement and in other movements who have chosen to orient their national movements in the same way.

In June of 2010 we continued this tradition by providing delegates the opportunity to explore these essential elements of the Cursillo’s Charism once again. The theme chosen for the Antigonish conference was The Ten Topics of Cala Figuera, as Rooted in the Gospel and Lived Out in the Mentality of the Movement. Our reason for revisiting these topics that we had previously explored in other conferences was a response to many observations that we had received through Fully Alive, through evaluations from national conferences, through School of Leaders workshops put on by the CCCC, and through the regional reports that members of the Officers Group shared with us during our frequent communications. There was a genuine desire on the part of many in the Canadian Movement to understand these essential elements of the Charism of the Cursillo.

We used the School of Leaders model for the conference which consists of a presentation that began with the prayer to the Holy Spirit and which was followed by two witnesses who spoke briefly on how they live the topic of the presentation in their own lives. After these witnesses, delegates were given a five-minute period of silent reflection and note taking and then they were invited to discuss the presentation in small table groups. Following this, the large group reconvened to share observations, to seek clarification of some point or points, and to ask questions. A rector guided the School event, keeping things moving and on track. This is a model we have used in the past and which we promote in our School of Leaders workshop on School of Leaders exploration and study sessions. Delegate response indicates that it is a model that works for them as well.

Sheelagh Winston led off the Thursday evening gathering with a brief history of the First Conversations and an overview of their importance to the movement and in the history of the Canadian movement. Each day of the conference began with a meditation on the encounters that the three-day weekend and the fourth day promote: the encounter with self, with God, and with others. Fr. Patrick O’Meara, Bernie Reilander, and Fr. Syd Mifflen each presented mediation and these helped ‘to shine a light’ on the day.

On Friday, Marg Weber spoke on the person and friendship and shared her life experience in clearly illustrating and explaining the importance of these elements in understanding the Cursillo’s Charism. Debborah O’Shea spoke Friday afternoon on love and freedom, combining her life and the rollo’s outline to help the delegates to gain a deeper awareness of the importance of these elements in understanding the Cursillo’s Charism. Sheelagh Winston spoke Saturday morning on life, criterion, and joy and with her personal sharing made these elements and their place in the Charism much clearer. George Henry spoke Saturday afternoon using his life experience to explore normality, sincerity, and conviction’s role in the Charism of the Cursillo.

We also experienced a prayer oasis on Friday led by Yvonne Lynch and one on Saturday led by Nancy Henry. Both were well done and provided a change of pace and a respite from the conference routine, which helped to relax and to re-invigorate the delegates: exactly what an oasis should do.
The music organized and led by Berkley Decoste was excellent. The facility was marvellous and the food—breaks and meals—was wonderful. The hosting movements should be justly proud of this conference; it was one of the best! We thank Pat Norman and those who assisted her for all of their fine work.

Every Cursillo event has its ‘corridor work’ where we hear what delegates are thinking and how they are reacting. We also learn things that help us to ‘take the pulse’ of the Cursillo in particular areas. It is during these small encounters that we begin to get some idea as to how the delegates feel about the conference as it is progressing.

From early on in the conference we were hearing positive remarks. People were entering into it and were feeling enriched and empowered by what they were hearing, not only from the speakers but also from the witness and sharing of others. It did not matter whether you were new to Cursillo or whether you were a seasoned veteran, there was something there for you. More than one person remarked that they were finally beginning to understand why these ten elements are so important to a full understanding of the Charism and to our being able to live authentically the Cursillo method in our own fourth days.

These observations were borne out by the evaluations that delegates kindly filled out and handed in at the conclusion of the conference. People left Antigonish with “their heads filled with ideas and with their heart on fire “and that is the true measure of success of any Cursillo function.

The Officers Group of the CCCC is pleased with the results and is encouraged to continue along this path. We know that those who experienced this conference in Antigonish will share what they have learned with those in their movements. They and the knowledge they bring will be the yeast in their movements that will help those movements grow and nurture the authentic Cursillo in their areas. The CCCC remains committed to providing support for all movements through its resource publication, Fully Alive, through its resource centre and the material resources that are available, through its website, which is being upgraded and improved, and through its teams who are ready to come to any area to help establish and/or support the School of Leaders, which is an essential component of all successful and authentic movements. We’re an email away if you need us. Ultreya!
At the business meeting at CCCC’s 2009 Conference at the University of Waterloo, the CCCC finalized changes to its regional structure. Previous to this, the country was divided into four geographic regions: the West, Ontario, Quebec, and the Atlantic. This has been changed to a three-region structure consisting of the West, minus Winnipeg; the Central Region, including Winnipeg, Manitoba; and the Atlantic, including Labrador.

In the previous structure we had four officers, each representing the CCCC to a single geographic region. In the reorganized structure we still have four officers; however, two come from the Central Region while the West and the Atlantic remain with one apiece. We also have two spiritual advisors who are part of the Officers Group. In addition, we have a secretary resource person, Sheelagh Winston, who also functions as editor of our resource publication, Fully Alive, and as conference coordinator. As well, we have a treasurer, Sidney Blisky. The current line-up of personnel on the Officers Group looks like this [the date after each officer’s name represents the end of their term should all things go as planned]: CCCC’s Officer to the Atlantic Region and current chair is George Henry (2011); CCCC’s Officer to the Western Region is John Schlosser (2012)(this is a two-year term which began in 2010 and is intended to restore the sequence of officer replacement which ideally will be one each year. Because this is a two-year term, the incumbent will be eligible to be invited to serve an additional four-year term; CCCC’s Officer to the Central Region is Marg Weber (2013); CCCC’s Officers to the Central Region is Bernie Reilander (2014). Fr. Syd Mifflen is the Spiritual Advisor and Fr. Patrick O’Meara is the Assistant Spiritual Advisor to the CCCC’s Officers Group. Their input to the OG’s discussion is invaluable and it helps to keep this lay movement in sync with the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church.

The Officers Group (OG) selects its own members, lay and clerical, from among leaders in the Cursillo and Cursillo leaders that it identifies through its work within the various regions. The OG has three in-person meeting each year, one of which is held prior to and during its annual conference. It also conducts monthly conference calls using the Skype network. At the autumn OG meeting each year the four lay officers select a chair who becomes the ‘official voice’ of the CCCC, disseminating to affiliates and others, the consensus arrived at through prayer and deliberation by the whole group. It is the intention that the person selected as Chair will serve in that position for at least two years (reviewed each year at the autumn in-person Officers Group meeting).

The position of Chair tends to add to the workload of the person selected and because of this the person’s own regional responsibilities may be affected. To address this potential disparity, the OG can appoint a second Officer.
from the affected region who will be fully an Officer to that particular region and who will serve either to the end of the term of the officer he/she is replacing or to the end of that person’s time as Chair, whichever maintains the established rotation for replacement. This will have the short-term effect of expanding the number of Officers.

The primary function of the Officers Group of the CCCC is to study and to share the fruits of that study with its affiliated movements and to other interested persons or parties. It fulfills this primary function (1) by maintaining an up-to-date and user friendly website, (2) by publication of a print and electronic version of its tri-yearly resource publication, *Fully Alive*; (3) by the publication of resource materials that support the development and growth of the authentic Cursillo that is rooted in the Charism that was given to Eduardo Bonnin and which is true to the history and development of the method and movement that was guided by him; by planning and organizing annual conferences that explore aspects of the method and movement that will nurture the growth and development of this authentic Cursillo; (5) by providing materials and expertise that will help to establish and/or support the growth of the genuine School of Leaders; (6) by establishing and maintaining cordial relations with all international groups who seek to grow and support the development of the authentic Cursillo that developed under the guidance of Eduardo Bonnin and as lived in the place of its birth, Mallorca; by responding, by any appropriate means, to all Cursillistas who are seeking to know and to live the Cursillo in Christianity.

The role of the CCCC is not to tell affiliated members how to run the Cursillo in Christianity in their own respective movements. That is more the function of the School of Leaders in that movement working in conjunction with the Bishop in whose See the movement is located. Being the essential resource to the Canadian movement is job enough for the CCCC. To help with its function the CCCC certainly welcomes the creation of regional groups involved in the same kinds of educational pursuits in regards to the Cursillo. The ideal is to nurture and support structures that will provide resources to individuals who want to continue the conversion that the three encounters of the weekend began. The Cursillo is for the person and the CCCC is to support the person in authentically living the Cursillo so that its fruits will become known and visible to the whole world.
NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

ATLANTIC

♦ 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


♦ WESTERN, Victoria, Vancouver, Nelson, Prince George, Calgary, Edmonton, Grouard-McLennan, Native Cursillo, Winnipeg

CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Lay Director’s Information

My name is Arlene van Diepen and I made my Cursillo in 1998 at Belcourt Lodge, in South Rustico, PEI at the table of St. Theresa. I have completed my third and final year as Lay Director for the Diocese of Charlottetown Cursillo Movement of Prince Edward. On PEI, the Lay Director serves three years and serves one year as a Past Lay Director.

Secretariat Information

2009-2010 has been another busy year for our secretariat. Last year at the annual meeting, we set three goals. I am pleased to say that with the prayerful support of our community and with the committed efforts of all members of Secretariat we have been successful in many way. Goals for last year included:

- Strengthen our Post Cursillo by
  A. Increasing the number of Group Reunions
  B. Increasing the number of local Ultreyas
  C. Scheduling 3 School of Leaders sessions in Summerside and 3 in Charlottetown
- Celebrate our 30th Anniversary
- Plan to host the 2010 Atlantic Conference

The Secretariat prays, studies, plans and acts together to fulfill its mandate to develop and guide the Cursillo Movement on PEI as per the original Charism as given to our founder, Eduardo Bonin, by the Holy Spirit. Secretariat meets 10 times per year on a monthly basis except for July and August. Special meetings are held as required.

2009-2010 was another successful year for the Secretariat and the movement. We have revised the format of secretariat to be more in line with the support required within a Cursillo movement. Positions on Secretariat include: Lay Director, Spiritual Advisor, Secretary, Treasurer, Atlantic Rep, Pre-Cursillo Coordinator, Cursillo Weekend Coordinator, Post-Cursillo Coordinator and Palanca Coordinator. We hope to be able to have one member of Secretariat accept the role of School of Leaders Coordinator. All coordinators will have sub-committees comprised of members from the community who will help to carry out the functions of that position. It is our desire to have more people involved in the administration of Cursillo on PEI and we believe that this format will serve this purpose.
building bridges from coast to coast

Cursillo Community

Our movement is comprised of members ranging from those who have been involved in Cursillo since they made the first Cursillo in 1979 to other active members who have made Cursillo in the past few years. This balance of experienced members with the less experienced serves to keep our movement vibrant. Our Clausuras are very well attended as are our Island Wide Ultreyas. Faithful members attend our masses held as Palanca prior to our weekends and masses dedicated to deceased members. Members are always willing to serve our Lord by working on our weekends.

School of Leaders

We introduced the School of Leaders to PEI in 2008. Prior to the beginning of team formation, we bring both teams together for a full day for a School of Leaders where they hear presentations on the History of Cursillo, Elements of Cursillo, 1st day of the weekend, 2nd Day of the Weekend, 3rd Day of the Weekend and How To Write a Rollo. Our initial plan this year was to schedule three Schools of Leaders in Charlottetown, Summerside and in the East. Timing did not enable us to do this. However, in April, 2010 we had a full day School of Leaders where Cursillistas presented some of the Presentations from the 2008 National Conference: What is the Pre-Cursillo, Sponsorship and The Ideal Candidate. A Cursillista also presented The Environment as it is heard on the Cursillo Weekend.

Secretariat was disappointed at the number in attendance but those who were there thoroughly enjoyed the day and are supportive of additional School of Leaders being held. We concluded, though, that those who were there...were meant to be there and we would look to see what God had in store for us as we continue on the road to full implementation of the School of Leaders element of Cursillo. The Secretariat will continue to discern what format works best for the Cursillistas: one two hour event held on an evening during the week, a full day event or a weekend retreat type of format. It is anticipated that an event will be held in the Fall of 2010 during a weekend which will include aspects of both a School of Leaders and a retreat - participants will hear presentations on the Cursillo charism and method and will be able to participate in spiritually uplifting sessions which will include a prayer oasis, meditations, rosary and masses.

Group Reunion

The Post Cursillo Coordinator on our Secretariat carries the responsibility for Ultreyas and Group Reunions. The Coordinator has worked closely with Cursillistas over the past two years and as a result the numbers of Group Reunions and the numbers of Ultreyas have increased. For this we pass along our thanks to the Coordinator and to our Cursillo community.

Our weekends continue to place great emphasis on the Total Security Rollo. Teams and sponsors continue to support the new Cursillistas after the weekends to assist them to get into a group. We have 19 very active Group Reunions with 147 members. Most meet all year long on a weekly basis while a couple meet bi-weekly. We have one women’s group, one couple’s group and the other groups are comprised of men and women.

Ultreyas

Agendas for our Ultreya include: Gathering Music, Prayer to the Holy Spirit, Group Reunion, 4th Day Witness speaker, Echo speaker, announcements, prayers for special intentions, closing music. The Ultreya is followed with a
sharing table for those who wish to remain to socialize.

This past year, we held one Island Wide Ultreya and 6 local Ultreyas. These were very well attended. Numbers at local Ultreyas range from 25 – 35. The need for and the interest in coming together as a community is evident within our movement. We need to have more local Ultreyas. If we are able to do this, we will strengthen our Post-Cursillo. If we strengthen our Post Cursillo we will bring more people to Christ and to Cursillo. Ultreyas help to create an extremely supportive environment for us to grow in our faith and gives us the support we need for our apostolic action in bringing those within our environments to Christ.

Cursillo Weekends

This past year, we held one men’s weekend and one women’s weekend. We had 12 men on the Men’s Fall weekend and 22 women on the Women’s Fall Weekend. We have 25 members on our teams. All Rollos are presented using the Rainbow manual outline. The Spring weekend was cancelled due to the lack of applications on hand. As a result of the lack of applications, the Secretariat has concluded that we need to focus our efforts on the Pre-Cursillo and the Post-Cursillo. It is our prayer that by focusing on these important elements of Cursillo, in time, we will have a waiting list for our weekends.

Other Events and Accomplishments

We continue to have a Mass which serves as Palanca before we begin each weekend. These are very well intended. A practice that has grown in popularity over the past years, is that Group Reunions across the province get together to pray for the team and candidates participating in weekends.

In September, 2009, we held a Christian Ceilidh to celebrate 30 years of Cursillo on PEI. This event was very well attended. On display were many items of interest to Cursillistas including our history on PEI and pictures of weekend candidates and teams. We were very fortunate to have Ray and Eileen Brown – two of the candidates on the first weekend in 1979 provide us with a very motivating 4th day presentation. Many thanks to those who worked as a committee to schedule the event.

I am also pleased to note that the Secretariat has approved a ‘roles’ document for our Movement. This document outlines the various roles of Secretariat members. This document will enable community members to become familiar with the various activities that Secretariat is involved and will also serve as an excellent guidance document for new members.

PEI will be hosting the 2010 Atlantic Conference. This year, rather than having a regular conference, a Cursillo of Cursillos will be held from September 16 – 19, 2010 at Cavendish Gateway Resort in beautiful Mayfield, PEI. Sheelagh Winston, from the CCCC, will serve as rector for the Cursillo of Cursillos. Many thanks to the Atlantic and CCCC for scheduling such a wonderful opportunity in the Atlantic.

The Year Ahead

As my time as Lay Director comes to a close, I wish to thank all those who worked so closely with me over the last three years. Your support and prayers have been uplifting. To the CCCC, thank you for your support and for being there to respond to my many questions as we proceeded on our journey towards ‘going back to the basics’. To the Atlantic, many thanks as well for your advice and support especially for the implementation of our School of Leaders on PEI. I especially wish to thank the members of the Secretariat for the Diocese of Charlottetown Cursillo Movement. Their commitment to the original charism and method of Cursillo has enabled us to accomplish many things. I will pray that they will be able to continue to be good stewards of Cursillo. Finally, many thanks to our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Greg Conway and his predecessor, Fr. Blair Bernard. Their advice, guidance and wisdom enabled me to accept and fulfill the role that God intended for me – Lay Director for the Diocese of Charlottetown Cursillo Movement. It has truly been a time of spiritual renewal with its times of trial as well as times of mountain top experiences. I look forward to carrying out my role as Past-Lay
Director for the next year and then I look forward to discerning what the Lord has in store for me next!

I am also pleased to advise that Mr. Leo Shea has accepted the Lord’s calling and will begin the role of Lay Director after our Annual meeting being held in June. I wish Leo all the best as he begins his term and I will continue to pray for him as he carries out his duties for the Diocese of Charlottetown Cursillo Movement.

Arlene van Diepen
Lay Director

YARMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA

This past year has been an interesting and exciting one for us in the Yarmouth area. The Yarmouth Diocese Cursillo Movement was divided into two separate areas and we became the Yarmouth Area Cursillo Movement with our own Lay Director.

We are blessed with a very dedicated Secretariat that meets the last Thursday of every month except July and December. We had one member's term end and we quickly found a replacement. We strive to guide the Cursillo Movement as per the guidelines of our founder Eduardo Bonin with the help of the Holy Spirit.

We have monthly Ultreyas on the first Thursday of every month. We are very proud to report that we regularly have at least 50 to 60 Cursillistas in attendance. Our Ultreyas are hosted by a different area each month.

Our Leaders School is held in April and is very successful. Neil Bourque is our Leader.

We had a Men’s Cursillo Weekend on October 15 – 18 with 5 men attending. The Rector was Midge Rodgerson. The Women’s Weekend was held on October 22- 25 with 14 women attending. The Rectora was Polly Rodgerson. These weekends are held at St. Ambrose’s Parish Center.

We have an annual Lobster Supper with skits at the end of May each year and it is always popular.

Our Prayer line is active and we have a dedicated Cursillista Richard Robicheau in charge of it.

Our Newsletter – The Rooster’s Tale has been part of our area for many years but at this time we are discussing and praying on its future.

The number of Group Reunions in the area grows each year.

Cursillo has been active in the Yarmouth area since 1978.

Joyce Comeau,
Lay Director

Yarmouth Area Cursillo Movement

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

Secretariat: The positions that make up the Secretariat are the following:
Lay Director,
Post-Cursillo Director,
Treasurer
Lay Spiritual Director.
Other traditional Secretariat responsibilities are looked after by the Core Group.

The Secretariat is part of the Core Group of the School of Leaders and it is the Secretariat that carries out the decisions and directives that are made by the Core Group of the School of Leaders. The Secretariat and the Core Group meet on the same night.

School of Leaders: Following the Conference in Barrie in June of 2007, we further developed our School of Leaders to include not only a discussion group but also an administrative group. The Administrative/Core group is the group of leaders who discuss the Vision of Cursillo and the direction that our movement in Halifax is heading toward. It is also the decision making body for our Cursillo movement here in Halifax. The main purpose of the Core group is to review Ultreyas in order to ensure that
everything is going as it should and to make suggestions as to how to improve what is taking place.

The School of Leaders discussion group meets once a month for an hour before the monthly Ultreya. This group meets to share opinions and ideas about things that are of interest and of importance to Cursillistas. Some time the topics are suggested by the group itself. Recently the Lay Director has made presentations based on the topics from the 2008 annual conference in Kelowna BC.

As part of our desire to strengthen our Pre and Post Cursillo, we have not had Weekends for the last two years. Instead we have concentrated on activities that would gather Cursillistas together at times other than Ultreyas and Group Reunion, including opportunities to socialize and have fun together.

As part of our desire to strengthen our Post-Cursillo experience, we have suggested to our Movement, that if circumstances allow it and we decide to hold Weekends, then the relationship of Sponsor/friend is so very important.

With that in mind we plan to hold a Sponsorship workshop in October, in an attempt to show people what it means to walk with someone as a friend, and after prayer and discernment, the Sponsor will be in a better position to decide if that friend could be invited to make a weekend.

Our movement here in Halifax is small. For the School of Leaders before Ultreya most of the Core group are present. The average attendance at Ultreya is in the high teens. There are times when we question whether Cursillo will survive here in Halifax but our sense is that as long as we feel that the Lord wants Cursillo to be active here in Halifax and that He wants us to be part of it, we will keep it alive and working.

Activities: The highlight of this past year was our hosting of the annual Atlantic (ACCC) Conference. We held it in a beautiful location at the Tim Hortons’ Camp at Tatamagouche NS. A lot of time, effort and planning went into hosting this Conference and judging from the response from the participants, it was very successful.

Since we were noticing that fewer were coming to School of Leaders and Ultreya, we decided to try other things. We had a music and Praise in Advent which brought people together and raised money for our movement. The music was provided by a group called Hearts Of Worship, the members of which are Cursillistas. A couple of our members, who are amateur painters, donated paintings, so we raised money by selling tickets on the paintings and a gift basket as well.

We also had a number of 50-50 draws as well. A very successful recent activity was that the Cursillo Community hosted a Spaghetti Supper. Some of the food was donated and some was purchased. Before the dinner we had a silent auction on gifts donated for that purpose. Cursillistas prepared and served the meal. We were very pleasantly surprised with the turnout of 90 plus people.

We achieved two purpose with this supper. We brought a number of Cursillistas to this evening whom we had not seen for a long time and we raised a significant amount of money for our movement.

Respectfully submitted by Gary McVeigh on behalf of the Halifax Cursillo Community.

MIRAMICHI
NEW BRUNSWICK

For the past 25 years, since 1985, Miramichi community has been an active, vibrant movement with well over 1,200 Cursillistas having made a Cursillo weekend. Our attendance at our monthly ultreyas is anywhere from 85-140.

We begin with music, ultreya prayer, announcements, scripture, 4th day song, fourth day and then two people who respond. After that, the ultreya director leads us in prayers of petition, song and then social time for those who want to stay. Because of size, noise level and often struggling to be heard in the circle, some felt there was a loss of spirituality. With some
negative feedback about the circle and closing prayer petitions at the end of the night we relied on our spiritual director to help us move in the right direction. The decision was made to try a different way for awhile. We’ve had an overwhelming response from people who love the new way which to many is peaceful and serene.

Still, some are not as open and many miss the circle. So, although the large numbers are great, it can present challenges.

As for our secretariat, for the first 22 years our liaison or other elected person travelled monthly to be a part of the secretariat which is based in our Diocesan centre of Saint John. Three years ago we formed our own secretariat and now entering our fourth year we will become totally independent, while still being a part of the Saint John diocese. We have reaped the benefits but also faced hurdles along the way. Our present secretariat has 11 people serving in various positions including our spiritual director Fr. Dan Melanson. We fully recognize this as a lay movement but greatly appreciate the support and spiritual direction of Fr. Dan.

Our other positions are: lay director, secretary, school of leaders co-ordinator, treasurer, palanca/outreach, recorder, supplies, applications, and newsletter, which is published three times a year. We meet 10 times yearly, usually before the monthly ultreya. Christmas is an informal get together and no meetings are held in July and August.

Since attending conferences I can see the common sense in changing a few of the roles and position titles as other areas have to allow for a better flow and working secretariat. Being a relatively new secretariat, we still face many challenges. It’s been a great learning period with many good committed members, past and present, and lots of areas of the movement are showing improvement.

One of the greatest successes over the past four years has been to hold day workshops on various topics twice a year. These have been extremely successful and beneficial with 50-60 in attendance.

We attempted to understand and develop our School of Leaders over the last 2 years but when faced with other obstacles we resigned ourselves to the fact that we could only address and change one thing at a time. Change, however necessary has not been an easy road to travel in our area. For several years we have been using the rainbow books and for the past few years have finally implemented the meditations. Many of us agree and understand that using the meditations has made a huge difference on the weekend, offering a much calmer, spiritual weekend, but it takes time to convince some of the wisdom in it.

Our thanks go out to Fr. Dan in guiding and supporting us with the changes. There is still some resistance but mostly because of lack of understanding the method of Cursillo. Many still think we have to fill the days and the weekend schedule for the entire weekend and so often I wonder how much is learned and how much is just experienced. It remains a challenge to try to bring back and put into words what is learned at the conferences and a greater challenge to have the community accept and understand it.

We have succeeded this past year in becoming a fully independent movement, slowly making necessary changes to team formation, downsizing the teams a little, developing group reunions, talking more about the charism and less about the weekends and also encouraging people to attend the conferences. Realizing our focus over the past 20 plus years has become primarily on team formation and having weekends, we have taken every opportunity to address the things we can improve on and I think it has in some ways made a difference.

Our present goals are to continue what we began, develop more group reunions, encourage those with large groups to break into smaller ones as is suggested, educate ourselves and the community about the School of Leaders and come to a better understanding of the charism of Cursillo and movement as a whole. Working on developing and growing our School of Leaders should help in all these areas.
Along with that, we are always looking at our secretariat, various roles and positions to allow room for improvement, keeping in mind the necessity of maintaining a balance of old and new. It seems overwhelming at times but with prayer we’ll move forward, one step at a time.

I made my weekend in 1986 so I’m definitely not new, but am still learning, especially at the conferences. Our secretariat positions are for two year terms with the option to stay for the second term. My first term was as School of Leaders and after a short break I came back as lay director. Now having completed the first year, I feel as though we’ve weathered the storm. Let’s hope we learned something to help us on our journey.

With support and prayer from the secretariat my prayers are that this second year will be a productive one with people working together in friendship for the same purpose. I pray our community will focus on being, rather than doing, on the future rather than the past and together will build a stronger more authentic movement.

Our greatest challenge will be to prayerfully discern whether we are in the right time and place to continue weekends or take a break so we can focus on our movement and vision.

As a secretariat we hope to have more Cursillistas understand that the secretariat is not and shouldn’t be the whole School of Leaders, but a part of it, and then with that recognition we may begin to work together and build on the foundation of friendship.

Our weekends have steadily declined in numbers in recent years but maybe that’s a good thing. God works in mysterious ways. With a desire to learn together, focus on being rather than doing I have faith that we’ll continue to move forward.

We host the grand ultreya on a three year rotation with Sussex/Saint John, Fredericton and this year being our turn to host, we combined it with our 25 year celebration. It was a wonderful weekend and God truly blessed us in every way. For two days we shared conversation, food, laughter and song. We prayed, celebrated and experienced friendship and community in the way it is intended. I’m sure God recognized our hard work and our love for the movement. We could not have asked for a better celebration.

After this past couple of weeks, with our celebration and then the conference I’ve had the opportunity to share, reflect and pray and give thanks. I’d like to close with a simple thought.

We can have all the knowledge, desire, experience, written notes, organizational skills and guidelines necessary to have a Cursillo but if we don’t know or have forgotten how to be a friend, to live the Gospel in faith and Christ’s love then what have we to offer?

I commend those areas that have recognized the need to step back, study and know from the heart what Cursillo is and do what is necessary to grow. My prayers are with you. It’s not always easy.

I have had the privilege of reading all of your reports before I submitted one from the Miramichi [an oversight I apologize for] and so I thank all of you for your sharing. It has enabled me to reflect on what to share. I hope some of this is of value to you.

Our movement in Miramichi is strong, with two other Cursillo communities of other faiths who also regularly hold ultreyas and one community in the early stages of growth. The challenge is always there to understand, to learn and grow together in love and friendship. We have grown, but as most movements we have lots to learn and many obstacles to overcome if we are to continue to grow an authentic Cursillo. Please pray for us as we pray for all of you.

By the grace of God we’ll continue to persevere in the direction that God intends for us.

DeColores
ULTREYA!
Respectfully submitted
Anita King
Lay director
CENTRAL

MONTREAL ENGLISH CURSILLO

The group consists of the following:

Father Jim MacDonald  
Spiritual Director
Deanna C. Wilson Taylor-Cline  
Lay Director
Tony Kinlough  
Financial Officer
Roch Lemay  
Pre Cursillo
Denis Beauchamp  
Post Cursillo
Cynthia Beauchamp  
Secretary
Deanna C. Wilson Taylor-Cline  
Women’s Weekend Co-ordinator
Tony Kinlough  
Men’s Weekend Co-ordinator
Deanna C. Wilson Taylor-Cline  
Palanca

From the above list of Secretariat members, it is evident that more members are needed to allow for a greater representation of each portfolio.

As in many organizations, the movement here in Montreal has faced many challenges and uncertainties - at times with its commitment to the founders and to its members. In the last five (5) years, the movement has been struggling with a decline in the numbers of members participating in the Ultreyas, and yet many more at present at the Clausuras to support the Team and Candidates.

As a group, we have collectively looked at many possibilities for the movement and one was the rejuvenation of the School of Leaders. For several months (10 to 12 months) a group of members decided to meet weekly to brainstorm for ideas and strategies where people will be encouraged and return to the movement.

This was followed with the implementation of the School of Leaders in September 2008. The alumni studied and discussed the 4 chapters of the book (Real Change: Fourth Day A Perennial Cursillo, 2008 Conference), for two hours per week, with the hope that the process would encourage friendship and a sense of a recall and most of all, the mission of the movement. At the end of this effort, there was an appreciation of the basics of the movement along with a desire to know more.

One of the members took the challenge to restart the School of Leaders with the hope that a rekindled light would renew the members’ zeal to continue on this journey. This gesture was endorsed by the Secretariat who looked forward to the approach as it quenched the thirst and hunger for new relationships, friendships and knowledge within all the members of the movement.

Looking back, there were four weekends in 2008/2009 during which time the new members understood the message of its founder, “Christ is counting on you!”, as they experienced God’s grace through the three encounters of the weekend.

Central Ultreyas are held regularly at the same venue, on the 3rd Monday of the month, while two other local Ultreyas are also held on a monthly basis. There have been many inspiring witnesses at these gatherings. For the community one highlight was the sharing of one member’s experience as she travelled with the group going to Spain and met the founder, Edouardo Bonin, and sat at his feet and learned more of his encounter and how he lived it daily.

The Secretariat, in an aim to help us with the decision-making process of the movement, attended a workshop on “Communal Discernment” as we sincerely seek ways and strategies to guide the movement. For some of us who will attend this year’s Conference hosted by the National Cursillo Movement held in Nova Scotia, we look forward with new purpose to continue the journey.

It is my opinion, on behalf of the Secretariat, that we continue to seek the One who will lead us to the truth, the way and the life through our encounters with our Piety as we are called to be loving to all, with our Study, knowing who has
sent us on this mission, and with our **Action** serving Christ in all whom we meet daily.

In the new year, our hope is to increase our outreach to all Cursillo movements in Montreal, that is the Hungarian, the United Church, and the Spanish Cursillo movements, as well as to focus on more evangelization to the present members of Cursillo and on their needs:

- To create an atmosphere of wisdom and of understanding of the love of God, in an attitude of friendship and respect.
- To study and look at our faith and all growth within the movement and its mission, through the rekindling of the Group Reunions.

It is my hope that this report reflects the entire Montreal Cursillo Movement.
Respectfully submitted by

Deanna C. Wilson Taylor-Cline
Lay Director – Montreal English Cursillo

**THUNDER BAY
ONTARIO**

This past year has been one of ongoing development and growth in the Diocese of Thunder Bay Cursillo.

We had a very successful Grand Ultreya in Sept ’09 in Thunder Bay at Kitchitwa Kateri Church. The Cursillistas who attended were greatly blessed.

The Men’s and Women’s Leader Teams spent the winter and spring preparing for the Cursillo Weekends in May & June 2010. Once again, due to the lack of candidates, we had to cancel both weekends. We are concerned about the lack of candidates for our weekends and more importantly about the Cursillo Movement in our Diocese.

Influenced by the talks from the CCCC 2008 Annual Conference in Kelowna, “Pre-Cursillo - Witness to the Good News”, we will be having a Cursillo for Cursillistas (C4C) Weekend in Thunder Bay at St. Andrew’s Church on Sept 25-26, 2010 for the Cursillistas in our Diocese. The talks from the 2008 Annual Conference will be presented. It is our honour and privilege to have George Henry, Chairperson of the CCCC as our guest speaker. George will give the two talks he gave at the CCCC 2008 Annual Conference. It is our hope that many will join us at the C4C and that all attending will be empowered to more effectively walk and live the true Charism of Cursillo.

Our Secretariat this past year was:

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<th>Spiritual Director</th>
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<td>Ass’t Spiritual Director</td>
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<td>Lay Director</td>
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<td>Oliver Piccinin</td>
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DeColores!
Randy Makarenko
Lay Director

**LONDON AREA CURSILLO**

The London Area Catholic Cursillo Movement is very pleased to report the successful completion of both ladies’ and mens’ weekends during the spring of 2010. In excess of 20 new Cursillistas lived their weekends and most are already participating in small groups, Ultreyas and Leaders’ School.

Our Ultreyas are conducted almost every weekend in some part of our area of the London Diocese. At present, Goderich, St. Thomas, Ingersoll-Tillsonburg and London have active groups attending their respective Ultreyas. We hope to encourage even more Cursillistas to return to the Ultreya closest to them. Cursillistas in the city of Stratford have expressed an interest in sponsoring another Ultreya group but to date, the duties of family and pressures of gainful employment have prevented this group for meeting on a regular
basis. We will keep trying!

Our School of Leaders continues to develop new programs under the guidance of the CCCC and attendance has increased dramatically. We meet on Saturday mornings for approximately 2 hours (sometimes longer when socializing skills are being honed) to develop our understanding of the charism of the movement as well as skills necessary to convey to others the meaning and value of Cursillo.

The secretariat of the London area has been blessed with capable and dedicated people but, unfortunately, Mary Ressler and husband Bill who form the pre Cursillo team are leaving the secretariat. They will remain active in the movement but will not be as involved in the day to day decisions. Bill was serving a one year term as co-Lay Director and Mary was our Past Lay Director. We wish you both well. The good news is that their position has been taken over by a young, energetic couple who will be guided by Mary and Bill as they learn the Pre Cursillo ropes. We are also welcoming a new treasurer in the upcoming year as well as debating the duties of a weekend co-ordinator, a possible new position on our secretariat. This is my last year as Lay Director and I am very happy to be passing the gavel on to a former school principal, Mary Lou Keyes in September.

For the fifth consecutive year, London Area Catholic Cursillo Movement will be hosting a golf tournament, dinner and an evening of progressive euchre on July 3, 2010. These events are to give Cursillistas an opportunity to renew acquaintances, make new friends and even introduce potential candidates to the movement.

In the London area, Cursillo is alive, well and growing!!

Wayne Cole  
Lay Director

**ESSEX/WINDSOR**

The following is an updated summary of the status of Cursillo in Essex County.

**Goals:**
- Continue to inform and educate our young Movement & Secretariat.
- To collaborate with the London Movement to make available monthly, a School of Leaders.
- To support financially Cursillistas willing to attend next year’s National Encounter.

This past year has been one of ongoing development, challenges and growth.

Our Movement is at this time going through some very challenging growing pains, the fabric of Cursillo is being stretched to allow all the colours to shine through.

Our novice Secretariat is committed to continuing to strive and strengthen our movement.

Our very fledgling and active community is hungry to understand the Foundational Charism of this wonderful movement. Our Ultreyas are held monthly on a rotating basis, we visit different parishes throughout our community, allowing us to journey with those that otherwise wouldn’t be able to attend an Ultreya.

In September of 2009 we held a workshop with the generous assistance of Sheelagh Winston, from our National with the aid of Denis Coates and his wife Diane on "How to run a School of Leaders"… it was an awesome worthwhile event. Our attendance was lacking, but we had leaders from the other Secretariats in our Diocese that participated and learned new avenues that are being very fruitful.

In the latter part of October and November, our community had successful men & women's weekends, where by the Grace of our Lord we
welcome fifteen new men and twenty-three new ladies.

Our School of Leaders is scheduled to begin on the first Saturday of October 2010.

I am hopeful for the coming year as the Spirit continues to guide us and bless us.

Peace in Christ!

De Colores
José Salvador

WESTERN

EDMONTON

The Edmonton Cursillo Community as in the past continues to grow in faith. We may be a small community, but a faith filled one. We continue our efforts to share the Good News of God’s love with others, and to deepen the charism of Cursillo in its members. Over the past year, we have had several successes as a community. We have several active group reunions that take place on a regular basis. We have an Ultreya that meets monthly except for July and August of the year. We have a good Christmas, New year’s potluck gathering that ends with a “Huge” bonfire that you can see for miles. Before we break for Summer, we end with a Community Pot Luck Picnic BBQ. It is well attended and the food is Soooo good. A good time is had by all.

Our Community moments close to Christ, of course are the Men’s and Ladies weekends. Both Men’s and Ladies weekends were a great success. We are truly blessed to have a facility where we can have our own kitchen team. Candidates appreciate the home style cooking and are deeply touched when it is learned that the kitchen team along with the community and other Cursillo communities were in constant prayer for them. The Holy Spirit is truly moving on these weekends. The sharing and tear’s ( and that’s just from the Men) was evidence enough to know Christ had truly entered the hearts of both the men and women.

Some of our ongoing goals are to strengthen our community. To improve our “Being” a friend, to be more visible and inviting in our own Parish’s and to bring Christ to those who feel far away.

In February of 2010, the community was invited to a day of discernment. Sr. Gertrude Mulholland our Spiritual Director lead us through this process of prayer and reflection. From this discernment, the new secretariat was chosen to carry on the work of the movement for the next three years. The members are:

Dave Komder, Lay Director
Muriel Brideau, Secretary, Treasurer
Rebecca Kroetch, assistant Treasurer
Howard and Mary Jane McPherson, Social Committee
Rod Kroetch, Leaders School
Diane Bennett, Post Cursillo – Ultreya

The Edmonton Cursillo Community is alive and well, and we pray for the grace and friendship of the Holy Spirit, who leads us on.

For the Edmonton Cursillo Community of the Archdiocese of Edmonton,

Dennis Gelasco
Outgoing Lay Director

VANCOUVER

Our Secretariat met monthly during the year although the Lay Director was absent from some important meetings for health and family reasons. In her absence either Sid Bilsky or Deborrah O’Shea chaired the meetings.

It was a busy and emotional year. The highlights of the year were:

1. The Women’s Weekend in May 2009 in the premises at Our Lady of Fatima at which we welcomed 24 new women Cursillistas. Bette Stirling was the Rectora. In the absence of Fr. Patrick Chisholm who was ill, we invited Sister Monica Guest to fill in as Spiritual Director; we loved having her with us. We also asked Bob De Anna to do the Sacraments Rollo to help out Sister Monica.
2. In June a group of 8 Cursillistas (4 from Secretariat, 4 members at large) flew to Kitchener/Waterloo to represent Vancouver at the National Cursillo of Cursillos which took place at Sir Wilfred Laurier University. Miguel Suerada represented the Mallorcan Secretariat, as well as Cursillistas from all over Canada, others from the US, and some from Latin America. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn and to share information, as well as to connect with our extended Cursillo family. The group returned transformed, more attuned to Eduardo’s vision and what needs to be done to return Cursillo to its roots.

3. In August we held our annual picnic in the grounds of St. Bernadette’s parish. It was very well attended by Cursillistas of all age groups but especially by several young families with their little ones. It was beautiful to see octogenarians playing with infants and young children in such harmony. The food was good and abundant and the weather cooperated, so it was a very good and fun day.

4. Our Christmas party again at St. Bernadette’s was a wonderful experience with the Roy and Albert children putting on a Nativity Play for us – we even had a live baby Jesus in the form of Maddie Roy. Much fun was had by all - good food, music and much joy.

5. School of Leaders continues to be held at Deborah and Sid’s house, although there are plans to reformat day, time and place in an effort to allow more Cursillistas to attend. We are trying to make our brothers and sisters understand how vitally important School of Leaders is for the growth and strengthening of the Cursillo Movement. So far only a small group attends School of Leaders but we want to make it available to as many Cursillistas as possible. We will be moving our School of Leaders to Saturday mornings beginning in June.

6. Ultreyas continue on the 1st and 3rd Fridays at St. Bernadette’s, on the 2nd Fridays at St. Clare’s, and on the 5th Friday at St. Paul’s Mission. They are well attended, with St. Paul’s taking the prize for attendance. We have implemented Ultreyas in the same moulds as they do it in Mallorca and it has been successful.

7. We did not hold a Men’s Weekend this year as a result of what we learned at the Cursillo of Cursillos in June. That created some confusion and hurt feelings among some brothers and sisters who could not (can not) understand the need to go back to the roots of Cursillo and remain faithful to Eduardo’s vision. After many meetings trying to find a solution, Secretariat decided that in May 2010 we would have a Cursillo for Cursillistas at which time many things will be explained.

We invited Sheelagh Winston to be our Rector for the Cursillo for Cursillistas and approximately 46 Cursillistas attended. We began on Friday evening and welcomed Sheelagh. Sheelagh then explained the outline for the weekend. Father Patrick explained the meditations on the weekend and during the course of the weekend a compilation of the Rollos were given by Cursillistas who attended the Cursillo for Cursillos last year and we ended on Sunday afternoon with an Ultreya. Both the witness talk and response were wonderful. It was great to have Sheelagh as the rector as she was able to answer questions, allay fears and clear up misconceptions. This was such a success we will probably do it again in the future.

God Bless

Odete Redondo

The annual reports of those Cursillo movements not included in this issue will be published in the next issue of Fully Alive.

Please note, IMPORTANT NEWS

The new mailing address for the CCCC Resource Centre is:
PO Box 46888
2405 Pine Street
Vancouver, BC
V6J 5M4
The following is the meditation given by Fr. Patrick O’Meara at the recent conference. The meditations at the conference were on the three encounters, Self, Christ, Others.

**The Encounter with Self**

We will always be in need.

The story of Adam and Eve and the story of the Tower of Babel is also my story.

Adam and Eve, the people of Babel, may have had everything but did they know what they really needed? Did they know that they had to listen to the voice of God? Whether coming directly from God or coming through other people. Did they know, did they see that they had a need?

Do I see that need that I have to listen to God’s voice?

However that voice comes, whether it is from God or whether it is through other people. And then, may I consider people who have listened to God’s voice, such as Abraham.

Abraham listened to the voice of God. He allowed himself to be disturbed. He allowed himself to come out of his comfort zone, to go on a journey.

When he got to the land with his relatives, with his nephew, Lot, he was willing to choose land that was poorer than the land Lot wanted.

He didn’t need the poor land but what he needed was peace with his family.

He and Sara knew that they needed a child of their own.

When they received Isaac, God asked Abraham to give up Isaac.

He knew he didn’t need that stress but he gave him up and in so doing he and Sara became the parents of many generations because he needed God.

He needed to listen to the voice of God. He needed to trust.

Moses again was roused out of his comfort zone. He didn’t have to be in solidarity with his people but he chose to be in solidarity with them.

He led the people through the desert even though there were many that he might not have needed.
He didn’t need the stress of their complaints and in the end he does not enter the Promised Land. Not because he was un-deserving, but because he needs God. He is content to view the Promised Land from a distance, not because he doesn’t want to enter but because he needs God to be God, he needs God to be in charge.

Job again, did he need the tragedies that happened to him? And while he didn’t need those tragedies, he did know that he had to trust in God and that no matter what tragedies or what fears he faced that he was not to curse God because it is not God who brings about curses. He knew he needed to trust in God.

If it is not God who brings about curses, why did he experience them? He didn’t know but he was willing to search for the goodness that God makes possible because he knew that God is a source of great Love.

One of my favourite stories is the story of Esther. Esther who was one of God’s people becomes Queen of Persia and when God’s people were threatened with extinction, Esther was asked to intercede to the king and she replied, “If I do I might die”. Her cousin who had brought her up, Mordecai said, “Salvation may come for your people but not for you”.

She knew and then she realized that she needed to be in solidarity, like Moses, she risked her life because she knew she needed God.

Jesus is God but Jesus insisted on subjecting himself to the authority of Joseph and Mary, not because as God, he needed to do so but he insisted and when he goes to be baptized by John the Baptist, he insists that John baptize him, not that he would baptize John. And when he is in the garden he insists that he accepts as lovingly as he can to accept and to drink the cup of suffering and he does so because he is trying to teach me and trying to teach all people in the most powerful way he can, the need to give themselves in love to others, trying to teach others the power of humility and the power of love and self-giving.

So when I encounter myself, when I don’t like what I see, may I remember that I will always be a person in need, and trust that my needs can be satisfied, because of the great hope that God is for us who are Christians through the resurrection of Jesus.

Q. What is the purpose of the rooster in Cursillo?

When attending the CCCC conference in Antigonish, NS, I was amazed by the number of roosters on diocesan banners. Very few had the symbol of the Holy Spirit – one would get the impression we are honouring the rooster.

On one occasion I was attending a clausura, a person got out of their vehicle, putting on a hat with a rooster on top. The folks driving by, were pointing and laughing at us. I was embarrassed. I know what the rooster represents but I believe we should not be idealizing the rooster. I think it should be the Holy Spirit.

Thank you,
Leo Le Blanc
Mirimachi, NB.

A. As you say Leo, you know what the rooster represents and we can only confirm what you already know, it has its origins in the De Colores. The rooster has nothing whatsoever to do with Cursillo but is simply one of those

Continued on page 24
Witnes
daily we touch him

The following is the ultreya rollo given at the recent conference in Antigonish by Arlene van Diepen, Charlottetown Cursillo movement.

I made my Cursillo in Prince Edward Island in 1998 and I sat at the table of St. Theresa. I live in Morell, Prince Edward Island, on our farm with my husband Johnny and children Corinne and Garret. Johnny and I have been married for 32.5 years.

So this evening what do I share with you in regards to my fourth day? Since my Cursillo, I have been dedicated to the Cursillo movement. I attend group reunion and Ultreya, national and Atlantic conferences when I can. I have been fortunate enough to work on team, I have been rector and I have just finished a three year term as Lay Director for the Diocese of Charlottetown Cursillo Movement. For the next year I will serve as Past Lay Director. But…that is not want I want to focus on tonight..... I attended Cursillo in 1998 because I wanted a closer relationship with Christ. Thankfully, my husband came along with me on this journey. I mentioned that I live on a farm and I grew up on a small farm. I am going to use my farming background to describe my experience with my faith growth since Cursillo. As I recall that weekend....I felt like a seed under the ground....wanting to sprout....needing to sprout....but for a number of reasons.....not sprouting. I didn't even know what type of seed I was. I did know that I wanted to BE that seed....whatever it was....I wanted to grow. I discovered on the weekend that I felt like my heart was made of stone. How can you grow anything on rocky ground? Because of past hurts, I wasn't letting anyone or anything get too close to me or penetrate my heart ... my feelings. If I did, it was just to a shallow depth....sad to say....even my husband was not allowed to see the whole me. My heart needed to be ploughed, harrowed and fertilized in order for anything to grow in it. In order for me to be the person that God meant for me to be. Well believe me, my heart was ploughed and it was harrowed....harrowed several times in fact! I left the weekend feeling enthusiastic - but very nervous because I knew it was now up to me....with the help of a new found personal relationship with a dear friend and brother...Jesus Christ.

How did Cursillo prepare me for this journey.? The conversion was started on the weekend....and the method of Cursillo – Group Renunion and Ultreya helps me to continue that conversion. It has been a long journey but thankfully, God is very patient with me. He has helped me to know the acts of Piety that are the 'best fit' for Arlene van Diepen. Not anyone else at my Group Reunion....for me....Arlene.....He has helped me to enjoy the pursuit of study of my faith to the point where my heart burns when I learn ...and as I learn....my understanding grows but ...also...I realize....how much more I have to learn. He presents me with opportunities such as this conference where I learn so much by having conversations with my fellow Cursillistas as we seek to go deeper. So the seed ....I believe ....has developed into a very hardy plant....not ready for harvest yet....but hopefully, I will continue to grow in my Piety and Study so that one day I will be prepared for the harvest.

The Piety Rollo tells us that Piety and Study aim our Apostolic Action. I have to confess to you that in the area of Apostolic Action, I am still a very immature seedling. I still face things that hold me back - mostly these are things about me. I am very self-conscious about apostolic action. I don’t mean apostolic action at Cursillo events (ie rector or Lay Director)or in Church (ie Music Ministry),...but really demonstrating my faith in my everyday environment. Showing others that I love Christ and helping them to see
that Christ loves them…..taking personal relationships to the stage of supernatural relationships….Christ centred. For me …I have to be comfortable with this as I need my practice to be authentic …. To be real…..from the heart. I have stepped out in faith. It takes a lot of courage and I shake….but I am learning to respond when I feel called to do something. I am always in awe of the Lord…when it does work out and the power of the Lord that I feel is amazing. He is all powerful. But folks….I am just a babe here…..especially in my own home with my little family and in my extended family. To demonstrate this, I will give you an example…..it will help you to see where I have been……and how far I HAVE come….but also….makes me realize how much further I have to go.

I firmly believe that a as parents, a husband and wife have no greater responsibility than to raise their children in a faith filled environment where faith is actively and authentically practiced. I am convinced of this. This conviction has come to me because of my realization that I could have done a much, much better job in my family. On November 13, 2003, Johnny and I, Corinne and Garret were going out to Morell to the funeral home to see our son and their brother, Josh, who had been killed the previous day in a car accident at the age of 21. On the way out, I said, ‘let’s say a prayer’. We said one Hail Mary….I couldn’t say anymore. It felt so foreign…it felt so empty because….we had never prayed together before as a family. Of course, we had gone to church together…but we had never prayed together. What a sad, sad state of affairs. So….what do you do about that? A priest told me you cannot change the past but you have the choice to do things differently for the future. Wow….so true….how would I do that? I am a big believer in one step at a time and believe me …for me…these steps are baby steps. So where am I now? Well a specific example will demonstrate this. For Lent 2009, I decided that I would say Grace at family meals….I am a little embarrassed to say that but this is where my open demonstration of my faith outside of the church is at….I am a seedling. Now when I said, I was going to say Grace….I was going to say Grace to ‘myself.’ Apostolic success! Baby steps. So….Corinne was living in Mexico at the time and with Garret’s social calendar, it was hit and miss for when he was home for meals. So just the man of the house and me! So we’re at the table. I bless myself…and say Grace to myself. No comment from the big guy at the end of the table. We eat…..Next meal…..same thing……Next meal….I start to bless myself….Johnny blesses himself. I say Grace out loud….we eat…..apostolic success! Few days later…Garret is eating with us. Johnny and I bless ourselves and say Grace. Garret says ‘what’s this?’ . Johnny says ‘WE say Grace now before meals. It won’t hurt you to do it either!’ . Next time…Garret blesses himself and says Grace with us. Apostolic success! In July my daughter arrived home. First meal together….I very hesitantly say ‘we say Grace now at meals’. She says ‘sure no problem’. We say Grace together as a family….feels very natural. My heart is bursting.

Not long ago, Corinne’s boyfriend comes out for supper to meet us for the first time. Was I in a bit of a stew! Should I say grace or should I not. This brings the apostolic action outside of the family unit now. SCARY!!! What will Corinne say? Will she be embarrassed? I was having just a dandy conversation with myself! So then I said ‘Self…get over it….this is your house. You might as well let this lad know right from the get go how it is with us!” . So…. we sit down…..I start to bless myself Corinne says…..’oooooh I didn’t think’……then she is quiet, blesses herself…. Corinne’s boyfriend bows his head…we all say grace together. Apostolic success.

My kids know that I pray for them. If they have a ‘crisis’ in their lives, if they have an exam or a job interview. I always tell them that my rosary on the way to work will be for them. I know this gives them comfort. They say “thanks Mom”. When they get through the crisis unscathed, pass the test or get the job….I remind them about the prayers so that they will know the power of prayer. I suggest to them that they should say a prayer themselves. I think they do.

So looking back…we have come a long way in 6 years. I know we have a long way to go. One step at a time….bit by bit….this seed that was
afraid to sprout has sprouted and is growing to its full potential. I hope my story has resonated with some of you. Probably some of you have come a lot further in your faith than I have since your Cursillo. I hope to be there someday. Perhaps some of you are journeying along the same path that I am travelling. I don’t think in my lifetime, I will be asked to go to a foreign country to minister to the sick or to those who don’t know God. Indeed, why would I need to go or why should I go....I have many, many opportunities for apostolic action in my own environment...in my little family, in my extended family, in my work environment and in my community. I will not be asked to be a martyr for my faith...but I will be asked to witness to my faith....even at my own kitchen table.

Thank you for listening.

De Colores.

Cont from page 21

‘decorations’ that has been added to the tree of Cursillo and over time has become something of an icon.

The diocesan banners are meant to be symbolic of the area which they represent, such as the Vancouver skyline, the Toronto CN tower or the schooner on the Yarmouth banner; a logo, if the diocesan movement has one or perhaps the CCCC logo. A symbol of the Holy Spirit or other such Christian symbol is equally acceptable. The name of the movement should also be included. If a movement is really attached to its existing ‘rooster’ banner, then that’s ok too.

In Cursillo things can be divided into three categories; the essential, the important and the incidental. Diocesan banners fall under the heading of incidental and while they are nice to have they are not an essential part of the movement.

CONFERENCE 2011

HOSTED BY THE CURSILLISTAS OF THE VANCOUVER CURSILLO MOVEMENT

to be held in CHILLIWACK BC

JUNE 23RD – 26TH, 2011

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR MORE NEWS
Recently we received a diocesan newsletter which contained an article on the origins of the song *De Colores*, and how it had been composed by the Cursillista pilgrims on their way to Compostela. The story goes that their bus broke down and while waiting for it to be repaired someone composed the song that we all sing at our Cursillo weekends. This story is really an urban legend.

As this story is repeated in several Cursillo communities the officers felt that it was important to include in Fully Alive the real story of *De Colores* and how it came to be the ‘Cursillo song’. As we try to recapture the original essence and purpose of Cursillo we try to address all those things that distort the focus.

This story of the bus and the pilgrims is a kind of urban legend.

Here is the real story.

From the very beginning of Cursillo in 1944 an effort was made in Mallorca to keep the weekends as secular and as natural as possible.

Although music is not a big part of the Cursillo weekends over there, they do sing some songs. However, they do not use hymns but merely folk songs or secular songs that meet the need. Music is used to lighten the atmosphere or to provide some relief if things get a bit heavy.

*De Colores* is and was a Spanish folk song which was popular at the time (1944)

A Cursillista by the name of Guillermo Estarellas, introduced this song in the Cursillo numbered as number one in January 1949. He did this at Eduardo’s request, “sing something!” while the candidates were waiting on the first day of the week end to start with the first “rollo”. (This is what Guillermo explains whenever he is asked about it. Guillermo had been in Valencia during his University years and learned the song there as it was usually sung by the small bands of students called “tuna”).

Some years after it was introduced, another Cursillista saw the parallel between the colours of the rainbow and the spring time flowers and the colours of being in grace.

As Cursillo spread around the world, first into mainland Spain and then into the Spanish speaking countries of South America, the song *De Colores* went with it, simply because it is a well known Spanish folk song.

Still later, someone, not in Mallorca, changed the simple *De Colores* into some kind of anthem and wrote verses talking about missionaries, cowards, jubilation, the derision of the devil etc. This eventually became the norm for Cursillo movements through much of the Spanish speaking world and in many places in the United States. It was eventually translated into English.

In Mallorca today and in western Canadian movements, the song is only sung in Spanish, there is no mention of anything except birds, flowers, rainbows and roosters, hens and chicks. It basically says how wonderful the fields are when they are dressed in the bright colours of spring. It then talks about the wonderful colours of the rainbow and goes on to mention the singing of the rooster, the hen and the chirping of the chicks. It then says something about the many colours of love. The original mentions pretty girls but this was changed in weekends for women, as it was not appropriate that women would sing “las chicas bonitas me gustan a mi” “I like pretty girls”. This was changed to “los grandes amores me gustan a mi” “I like great Loves”.

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**FROM OUR READERS**

*Please forward comments to Fully Alive
C/o CCCC Resource Centre.*
De Colores is a folk song, it has a specific place as a folk song and is used on the weekend because it is just a lighthearted song.

As the candidates to a weekend are from among the far away, those who do not know that God loves them, and who are often away from the Church, every effort is made to help them to see that it is possible to live as a Christian in the world in a very natural and ordinary way. As religious hymns are not normally sung in the workplace they are also not sung on Cursillo weekends.

In the early days in Mallorca it became common to use ‘De Colores’ as a greeting between Cursillistas as it took on the meaning of ‘are you in Grace’?

I don’t think anyone could actually say where the story of the broken bus and the pilgrims came about but it is, as I said, one of those things that gets passed on and exaggerated until it becomes a fact. When I checked these facts with Mallorca they said they had never heard the story of the bus and the pilgrims.

When we go to Mallorca it is wonderful to be able to join in the singing of De Colores, as it has always been sung over there; it makes one feel really a part of them.

As we try to recapture the original essence and purpose of Cursillo we try to address all those things that distort the focus.

For those who might be interested, here are the words to the Spanish folk song.

**Don’t forget to renew your subscription to Fully Alive**

**Renewal forms available from the Resource Centre**

cccc@cursillo-canada.org
FROM MALLORCA

In 2006, Eduardo Bonnin, as Founder of the Cursillo Movement, was invited to give a presentation to the XXII Plenary Assembly of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, September 21-24. The theme was, "The Parish Rediscovered, Paths of Renewal". Eduardo was invited to a private audience with Pope Benedict XVI. Here is the text of his presentation. The bold text is as he submitted it to the PCL so we have left it as he presented it.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE CURSILLOS OF CHRISTIANITY TO THE RENEWAL OF THE PARISH

I have no other merit other than having been witness to what I myself have lived from the first hour until the present, that is to say, all of sixty years of travelling along the path of the Cursillos in Christianity Movement.

Cursillos in Christianity has, by the grace of God, the prayers of many and the firm will of a few, been making possible that men and women become aware of being persons and thus have the ability to be receptive in order to understand the good news that God in Christ loves us.

When the human being encounters the spirit of God, he believes in Him and tries to reciprocate the invitation, changes his lens, his focus, his horizon and perspective and finds meaning to life.

At the end of a Cursillo, Christ can count on Christians that can lucidly savour with joy, the grace of being baptized and of being Christians. They are new Christians, better yet renewed, because they have understood the graces of being so in spirit and in truth.

It is no surprise that we Cursillistas feel especially aided by the Council Decree regarding the apostolate of the laity, when we read, “The Laity exercise their multiple apostolates as much in the Church as in the world...Laity with true apostolic spirit complement what their brothers lack and bring back to the Church those who were perhaps marginalized.”

At the same time we understood why with all reason the Pontifical Council for the Laity warned, in accordance with the mentioned council Decree, on October 3, 1978: “The structure of the parish has proven to be too narrow and too vast in order to satisfy the needs of the pastoral (?) and the formation of the entire faithful.” We accord with the Synod of Bishops of 1987 when they urged the parishes to be truly missionary, since not even the pastor is able to follow all his faithful, nor do the faithful live out their lives solely within the confines of the parish.

We are comforted and inspired by the words the Sovereign Pontiff John Paul II pronounced at the IV Italian National Ultreya of Cursillos, “Your Movement asks of you to be the yeast in the ‘dough’ of the world.” Likewise, we are encouraged by the theme His Holiness chose for the III World Cursillo Ultreya in Rome, “Evangelizing the ‘environments’: a challenge for the Cursillos in Christianity.” And that is because that “dough” and those “environments” were the goal and finality of Cursillo since its dawning.

This is because that “dough” and “environments”, that world, especially those who are marginalized, is the place where Cursillo focuses and carries out its apostolic action.

This having been said, the contribution of Cursillos to the renewal of the parish I understand first by underlining that our Movement, since its beginning, has a clear vision of the role the laity has in the missionary action of the Church, the apostolic purpose of every baptized person, and that the person, the Gospel and the world in which we’ve been given to live must converge.
It is a concept that focuses above all else on the perspective of drawing close the marginalized, who generally are the ones who best understand the identity between their longing to be happy and the life of Christ, as soon as they begin to see it realized in other Cursillistas in whom they soon thereafter find some true friends.

This is because when the marginalized understand the Good News, the absence of previous historical-religious corsets causes a flowering of an awe-inspiring evangelical creativity in them.

With this they generate an atmosphere in which this evangelical creativity is not restrained, but rather fostered.

It is this and nothing else which is the key so that the encounter of the marginalized will not fail. It is about a key atmosphere, which is founded on friendship, in its dual dimension of intimacy within the group and universality at the Ultreya.

In Cursillos what we have always wanted and in what we joyfully began from, in faithfulness to our foundational ideas and charism, is the joining and alignment with the most genuine ecclesial pastoral quality, proclaiming to be a Movement that has no other spirituality than that of the Church itself. All this in coherence with Cursillo not being the fruit from an empirical search, but rather from an intuition that is believed to be inspired by the Holy Spirit, that has progressively transformed into a marvellous instrument whose deepest foundations emanate from the Gospel, are certified by the Council and encouraged by recent Pontiffs.

I think that Cursillo finds itself beyond the individual apostolate that Vatican II would ratify as essential in the life of a lay person with faith, but does not go so far as to be a co-associated apostolate that seems to be the vocational alternative most recommended by many. I believe that Cursillos are not and should not be an organization or a community with a specific end, although it may have some of one and the other.

In my estimation Cursillos are massively and naturally a lay Movement, but without being exclusive to laity, as becomes evident to those who have lived them in a creative perspective of dialectic complementarity between laity and priests.

With respect to the recruitment of Cursillistas, especially those who have recently lived their Cursillo, by certain pastors, in order to incorporate them into various tasks or areas of specific parochial apostolates, such as catechism, social work, care for the sick and other ministries, I consider that requirements such as these in and of themselves will not constitute progress for the Cursillista in question, in being Christian, above all when such an involvement in new ecclesial service will take time from their basic Christian action within their daily lives that gives testimony to Christ in the place that God has planted them. What is more, Cursillistas, just as all people, have the urgent need to be understood, that is, to be and to feel loved.

It is a shame when there is a lack of awareness that the automatic employment of converts, in the pastoral understood in this way, has come to deprive the genuine pastoral of the most human, most spontaneous and most in tune with our society and therefore what has most foundation in order to achieve what is integrally Christian.

The greatest novelty of Cursillo is that it directs the lay person to the apostolate that is their specific departure point and with their ordinary peculiar style, their own, the one God has given them, thrust into the joyful adventure of simplifying and facilitating the path in order to find themselves and so that from themselves they discover that the encounter with Christ and with their brothers and sisters
can expand and become a friendship, in the measure that the group reunion and the Ultreya become a reality.

It is necessary to recognize that many men, women, youth and children have been able to grow, develop and mature under the umbrella of the parish and many associations, for the glory of the holy Church. And from them there are people who are living evidence of the efficient fertility of the parish. I want to re-emphasize that the type of community that the world needs today, and in so much the Church, needs to be centered on and gathered by the gift, of the most disinterested interest; to take each and every person seriously for what they are, by the fact that they are persons, not for what they have, nor for what they know or what they are able to do, not even for what they can contribute to the Church, since all that prevents the ability to make transparent with the maximum clarity the tenderness of God, because the sense of reality coincides with the sense of the Gospel, which is love.

The pretension of those who would remove the role from the laity that the Cursillo Movement has given them is incomprehensible. It is like wanting to cut off one of the branches most full of life, the Gospel, as lived by priests and laity, has obtained in the Church, persevering and growing in Christ by means of friendship lived in a personal way in the Group Reunion and as community in the Ultreya, with which the Cursillos in Christianity Movement counts on specifically in order to be able to mature and grow.

The Group Reunion, which is friendship taken to the level of the supernatural, creates a circumstance that makes the authentic, continuous and progressive testimony of what is fundamentally Christian possible in life. The Ultreya, where the best of each person is made available to come into contact with the greatest number of people possible.

My vote of confidence:

I conclude by making mine the words of Cardinal Ratzinger, in the Report on Faith: “What in the length and breadth of the universal Church rings out with notes of hope is the flowering of new Movements that no one planned nor convoked and which surge from the intrinsic vitality of faith...I think for example...in Cursillos...tensions surge at the moment of inserting them into the present form of institutions, but they are not tensions with the Church hierarchy itself. I find it marvellous that the Spirit be, once more, more powerful than our own projects. The renewal is silent, but it advances with effectiveness.”

The above is paraphrased from the Report on Faith, an interview with Pope Benedict XVI when he was Cardinal Ratzinger, conducted by Vittorio Messori. The whole text to which Eduardo refers is printed here for the sake of clarity.

“What is hopeful at the level of the universal Church – and that is happening right in the heart of the crisis of the Church in the Western world – is the rise of new movements which nobody had planned and which nobody has called into being, but which have sprung spontaneously from the inner vitality of the faith itself. What is manifested in them, albeit subdued – is something like a Pentecostal season in the Church. I am thinking, say, of the charismatic movement, of the Cursillos, of the movement of the Focalare, of the neo-catechumenal communities, of Communion and Liberation, etc. Certainly all these movements also give rise to some problems. They also entail greater or lesser dangers. But that happens with all living beings. I am now, to an increasing degree, meeting groups of young people in whom there is a wholehearted adhesion to the whole faith of the Church, young people who want to live this faith
fully and who bear in themselves a great missionary élan. The intense life of prayer present in these movements does not imply a flight into interiority or withdrawal into the private sphere, but simply a full and undivided catholicity. The joy of the faith that one senses here has something contagious about it. Here new vocations to the priesthood and to the religious orders are now growing spontaneously.

“What is striking is that all this fervor was not elaborated by any office of pastoral planning, but somehow it sprang forth by itself. As a consequence of this fact, the planning offices – just when they want to be very progressive – don’t know just what to do with them. They don’t fit into their plans. Thus while tensions rise in connection with their incorporation into the present form of institutions, there is absolutely no tensions with the hierarchical Church as such.

“What is emerging here is a new generation of the Church which I am watching with great hope. I find it marvellous that the Spirit is once more stronger than our programs and brings himself into play in an altogether different way than we had imagined. In this sense the renewal, in a subdued but effective way, is afoot. Old forms that had run aground in self-contradiction and in the taste for negation are leaving the stage, and the new is making headway.”

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>CHAIRPERSON</strong></th>
<th><strong>SPIRITUAL ADVISOR</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>George Henry</td>
<td>Fr. Syd Mifflen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76 Elizabeth Drive</td>
<td>(902) 678-7947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:george.henry@ns.sympatico.ca">george.henry@ns.sympatico.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RR2 Kentville, NS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>B4N 3V8</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Antigonish, NS</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B2G 2W5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marg Weber</td>
<td>ASSISTANT SP.ADV.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>482 Anndale Road</td>
<td>Fr Pat O’Meara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterloo, ON</td>
<td>(902) 875 2448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N2K 2S3</td>
<td>Box 99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shelburne NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernie Reilander</td>
<td>B0T 1W0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501-1081 Ambleside Drive</td>
<td>(613) 820 2228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ottawa, ON</td>
<td><a href="mailto:breilander@rogers.com">breilander@rogers.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K2B 8C8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Schlosser</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>242 Springfield Road</td>
<td>(250) 747 7007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelowna, BC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cwdg@canwestdesign.ca">cwdg@canwestdesign.ca</a></td>
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For address changes, subscriptions to Fully Alive, or to submit questions or articles, please forward to:

S. Winston, Editor. CCCC, Resource Centre
PO Box 46888, 2405 Pine Street
Vancouver BC V6J 5M4
Ph.(514) 713 0349. (514) 227-5221 e-mail cccc@cursillo-canada.org
www.cursillo-canada.org

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