The Cursillo Movement, using a method of its own and by the grace of God, makes the essential realities of Christian life become incarnated in the uniqueness, originality and creativity of each person. The person is the most important thing in our Movement. If we neglect this aspect, Cursillos’ purposes will be distorted and its structures will be maimed.

Eduardo Bonnin, Reflections II.
The following is the Job Ahead rollo delivered by Arlene van Diepen, Chairperson of the Officers’ Group, at the close of the 2016 conference in Moncton. Although the rollo is addressed to the conference attendees, it is also directed to all Canadian Cursillistas as we all share the same ‘Job Ahead’ as we work in our movements to bring God’s love to a hurting world.

Why did we come here this weekend? Why did we take 3 days out of our lives away from our homes and families? Our Lord’s fifth statement on the cross was simply ‘I thirst’. People who practice Comtemplative Prayer can ponder those two words for a long time and would be rewarded with a much deeper understanding of what the Lord was saying to us in his last hour. Perhaps it is in those two words where the answer lies as to why we came to this conference. We thirst. We thirst for God and we know that we can develop a deeper relationship with Him. This weekend we have developed a deeper understanding of the Charism of Cursillo – a Gift from the Holy Spirit. This understanding can help us to believe with every fibre of our being that God loves us unconditionally. Just as we can ponder every word that the Lord spoke so as to grasp and understand its full meaning, so too can we ponder every aspect of the vision, mentality and method of Cursillo. That is why we, as Leaders in the Cursillo, are here this weekend.

I have to be honest with you and let you know that over the past month, the Officers and the Resource Centre have had their challenges in preparing for the conference. Thankfully to God we had a solid team on the ground with Miramichi. I am ever so grateful to you and your team Leo. Sometimes, when you are doing the Lord’s work, the guy on the other team can try to play havoc. I shared with the CCCC team on one of our Skype calls that I was going to hand this conference over to God. Every time we turned around, we hit snags. You know how it can go. Since we arrived in Moncton the “other team” went into overdrive but God did as well. I shared with the CCCC team on Wednesday that I was facing the conference with great expectation. Great expectation that I knew that God would amaze us with the power of HIS conference. I even decided for Palanca that I wouldn’t eat one chip….or one candy from Wednesday until Sunday night. Bernie and George….you know how tough that could be for me. I am a chip a holic and I LOVE Ganong Jelly beans!!! We all persevered and God’s team won.

To prepare myself mentally and intellectually for this conference, Rediscovering the Vision – Our Lifelong Journey Continues. I have reread Eduardo’s My Spiritual Testament and Francisco Forteza Pujol’s Cursillo History and Memory. In my opening Rollo, I said that we have been asked by our Church leaders to know our Charism and that they have advised us that to know our Charism we must know our founder and what he envisioned after receiving the Charism of Cursillo in Christianity. The CCCC has taken you on this journey since the early 90’s. In his book Apprentice Christian, Eduardo states, ‘The Cursillo Movement needs people who know how to believe, for it already has too many who believe they know’. Our presentations to you this weekend reemphasize the need for people who know how to believe. When Allan gave his presentation ‘What is the Vision’, he shared with you his journey towards understanding in his own way and in his heart the vision, mentality and method of Cursillo. I believe Allan is an example of the kind of people we need in Cursillo – he knows how to believe. I am sure that many of you who share Allan’s journey towards achieving understanding were feeling in sync. with him as he spoke. Allan shared how the Holy Spirit inspired Eduardo and from that inspiration Eduardo devised a method to reach what he envisioned. When we live this method, the mentality of Cursillo becomes our mentality. We believe that there is no other way to live.

Sheelagh shared with you the new Total Security Rollo. Your dialogue was rich as you pondered what the Lord NEEDS from you in your 4th day and what He has provided to you in the Cursillo
method to support you as you fulfill your life’s calling. As with any School of Leaders, your questions helped all of us to deepen our understanding. Questions are so important. They may challenge us – that’s OK – as it helps us to provide clarity so that we all leave the session with a deeper understanding. You had the opportunity to experience the Ultreya as it was envisioned by Eduardo and as it is still practiced in Mallorca and in parts of Canada today. We will pray for all movements that they may be able, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to adapt to their situation …not discarding. Trust in the method. Trust in the Holy Spirit. This is a manual based on tried and true method of weekends held in Mallorca. Toronto adopted it for their weekends. Hamilton adopted it for their weekends. Thunder Bay adopted it for their weekends. It can be done.

Sheelagh also spoke to you about how the Mallorcans conduct their team formation focusing a great deal of their efforts on discerning candidates and getting to know them before the weekend. What a departure that is for us! Will you venture to where the Spirit led Eduardo as he devised the method of Cursillo?

Marg Weber who was Rector for the Ladies’ Weekend advised us by email “There seemed to be an immediate bonding from the work done in the Precursillo by the team who had already befriended the candidates before the weekend began.”

Why are we here? Because we thirst. The presentations and the dialogue have helped us to quench that thirst. We leave satisfied. Just like on a Cursillo weekend, today we leave this wonderful environment that has nurtured us over the past few days and we go back to our own environments. What lies ahead for us as Leaders in the Cursillo? What IS the Job Ahead? What are we being called to do?
We love to share good news with those we love. The food that we received for our journey this weekend, will give us that added boost to keep going; to look for opportunities to spread God’s message of love to those around us. Hopefully, this weekend, we will once again re-commit to the method of Cursillo. Perhaps it will add vigour to our Group Reunions. Perhaps it will move us to join a Group Reunion or to start one on our own – it just takes two to begin. Perhaps it will encourage us to attend Ultreyas in our area. Perhaps it will help us to schedule weekly Ultreyas if they are not already available in our area. Perhaps your weekend will continue to bear much fruit as you implement the Step by Step Manual and the pre Cursillo team formation that we shared with you.

Father Bud witnessed to a situation in his parish that caused him to be late for the conference because he needed to be in “his” world. We all know someone who is lost – who has lost hope – who is searching. The Lord needs us to be Christ to that person. We need to lead them to the light … to the living water. Most of us grew up in homes where faith was practiced daily. As we became adults, our practice was not as strong so therefore we raised children who were not used to such a solid faith foundation. Now they are adults and raising children. What type of faith life are they living in their home? It seems with each generation, the practice wanes. Will our grandchildren even know God? Will they know how to call on Him to ask Him to be part of their lives? We as Cursillistas need to DO SOMETHING about the 30 and 40 somethings who are raising children now. The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few. As Cursillo Leaders, this is part of our Job Ahead.

What is the job ahead as leaders in the Cursillo. Cursillo needs you as leaders in the Cursillo. Structures that can facilitate events such as this conference, your weekends, your Ultreyas are necessary. What is God asking of you? Are you called to make Cursillo your prime apostolate? So…if you dare…ask God to help you to discern what he needs you to do. He may lead you to a further role as a leader in the Cursillo. God needs you, your local movement needs you and the CCCC needs you.

With regards to the beatification process for Eduardo, please obtain and use the prayer card that is available and encourage others to obtain one for themselves. We encourage you to ask for his intercession both in your personal prayer and at Cursillo events and to document any miracles big or small.

If you are blessed with a miracle, please contact the Resource Centre so that we can assist you to provide documentation to Mallorca. It is through this documentation that we will be able to provide the evidentiary witnessing that is part of the beatification process.

Whatever action you choose to take as an individual Cursillista or as a leader in your local, regional or national secretariat, the CCCC is here to support you. The resources that we have available in our Resource Centre are excellent tools to help you in your School of Leaders meetings or for your personal study. I encourage you to make use of the resources that give us something to think about. I encourage you to read the books written by Eduardo and about Eduardo. Get to know him. You will quickly see why he is being put forward for sainthood. Fully Alive, our national resource document is another excellent example of how you can deepen your knowledge of Cursillo. Make study of the Charism part of your Job Ahead.

Sometimes, I feel overwhelmed – like perhaps right now – with the volume of work to be done. Work from being a wife, a mother, work associated with our farm, my volunteer work with Cursillo but God will sort it out – sometimes He urges me to Spring Clean – to get rid of the clutter – to get rid of the ‘stuff’ that prevents me from doing what God is calling me to do. Sometimes, just stopping doing something small, can lead me back to sanity and to clarity. Perhaps
doing some Spring Cleaning is part of your Job Ahead. I will leave that to you to Ponder in your Heart and I will do the same.

Thank you everyone for joining with us this weekend as we continue our Life Long journey to Rediscover the Vision. I will leave you with a bible passage that I strive to meet. It is taken from the book of Joshua...As for me and my household.....we will serve the Lord.

De Colores

THE 2016 CONFERENCE BOOKLET CONTAINING ALL THE ROLLOS AND MEDITATIONS IS NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE RESOURCE CENTRE. AN EXCELLENT RESOURCE DOCUMENT FOR YOUR SCHOOL OF LEADERS.
ccc@curcillocanada.org

PASO A PASO, STEP BY STEP
Sheelagh Winston

Last year, the Officers’ Group introduced a Rector’s weekend manual named Step by Step. This manual was compiled in response to the many requests that CCCC has received from various Cursillo Movements across the country for a CCCC weekend manual.

Sheelagh Winston gave a further explanation of the reasons for introducing the manual at the 2016 annual conference and this is what she said in introduction:

Most movements have their own manuals and some of them are huge with just about everything in them. Therefore, the request for a Canadian manual is a good request and we wanted to answer it but then, whose manual do you use on which to base an official Canadian manual? We (the Officers) all come from different dioceses also.

So as we always do, we went to the source, Mallorca. It just so happened that after years of just using a collection of various documents with which they ran their Cursillo weekends, (because they learn what they need to know by attending the School of Leaders) they had been in the process of putting all their resource material into a Rector’s Guide for the weekend. Also, much of what is contained in the manual was to be included in Eduardo’s Spiritual Will, the book that we introduced last year. It is really his last will and testament for as he says, his knowledge of the Cursillo was the best thing that he had to leave behind him. Unfortunately, Eduardo died before the material pertaining to the weekend could be compiled, and so the Mallorcan leaders published his Spiritual Testament without these important texts but, with the promise, that the second printing of the book will include them.

In Mallorca, the guide is called, Paso a Paso, Step by Step. We were delighted, thinking that it would just be a matter of translating it, much of which had been already done in previous years. Nothing could have been further from the truth!

We realized that this would be a challenge because it goes far away from what we are used to; but it goes away in a very good way. We have heard the quote from Eduardo many times, “so many decorations have been put on the tree of Cursillo that it has become like a Christmas tree, it is no longer possible to recognize it as a tree or to see its fruit.”
That is what has happened to so many Cursillo movements in Canada and in fact, everywhere in the world. We haven’t understood accurately what we are doing and so, being that we are who we are, we have been very innovative and introduced things that we think would be ‘really good’ but which in actual fact have nothing to do with Cursillo.

The parallel that we can draw is with the various Christian churches that have come into existence. Down through the ages things have been added and discarded according to the whims of well meaning people who have a need to update, reform or what they consider to simplify. Our Catholic Church has something called, the Rubrics, which means written in red and these are the things that cannot be changed. I have been to mass in Italy, Brazil, Australia and I just returned from England where I went to mass, in Suffolk; we go to mass here at this conference. It is always the same, catholic, which means universal. There are little non-essential things that are different, according to local culture, but the basic essentials are the same and recognizable everywhere. Even if you don’t speak the language you can follow and participate in what is the essential heart of our faith, the Eucharist.

And that is what we would like to see in the Canadian Cursillo movement, universality.

Cursillo in Vancouver or St Johns or PEI or Texas look very different. Everywhere we’ve added things that take away from the message or discarded things that we didn’t understand. This manual, Step by Step, used in conjunction with the Mallorcan based rollo manual that you have already been using for years, contains all that is essential. If it’s not in the Step by Step then rest assured, it is not essential.

What we are asking you to do is to reflect on it, study it, be open, because it is a work of the Spirit. It doesn’t come from us, it comes from the founder, Eduardo Bonnin, the way it’s always been in Mallorca; after 70 years it is the same as it was in the beginning. Try to forget the status quo saying, “well that’s not what we do”. We know that’s not what you do, put that out of your minds, and I have to say that CCCC has had to rethink what it thought it knew. We are no different to an individual, we need to understand what we are doing and why, we need to understand the Essence and Purpose of everything to do with Cursillo; that is Precursillo, Three Days and Postcursillo.

Once you have studied and become familiar with it, we ask you to prayerfully and carefully and sensibly adapt your reality to it. A city movement like Toronto or Vancouver is necessarily different to a more rural movement like Charlottetown or Yarmouth. There are different realities.

The Officers of CCCC have spent much time studying and reflecting on the Step by Step and have provided workshops in several places across the country. We firmly believe that this is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, it is part of the Charism of Cursillo, we are called to be good stewards of God’s gifts and Cursillo is one of those gifts. We have developed a process to assist movements to begin to implement the Step by Step and those movements that are open and willing to improving their movement, who have a desire to have an authentic, evangelizing movement and not just a weekend mentality, are invited to contact the Resource Centre to begin the process. Whatever you do, don’t read it through, find it mystifying and toss it aside. It is very simple, clear and respectful of all those involved on a weekend. What CCCC can do is to help you to ‘peel the onion’ so to speak, to get to the heart of the richness that is there.

As was stated, we have done several workshops. What follows is a report from Marg Weber who was recently Rector of the Women’s 78th Cursillo in the diocese of Hamilton. The Hamilton leaders attended a Step by Step workshop last Fall and made the decision to use it, almost in its entirety for their Spring weekends, the one that Marg was involved in and the Men’s 79th Cursillo. This then, is a report on their experience. Some of what you read will be unfamiliar to you until you have the opportunity to study the Step by Step for yourself or to be in contact with the Resource Centre for more information.

The team was comprised of a Rector plus 4 (Men) & 6 (women) Team Leaders at the tables, respectively and 2 spiritual directors. The Team formation process consisted of 5 team meetings and one spiritual retreat with both teams together.
on the same night. The plan for meetings 1-5 was to do a detailed review of each day of the schedule, plan logistics for the weekend, pray for the candidates and do a preliminary assessment of where they appeared to be in their spiritual walk (team members made contact with most candidates prior to the weekend to get acquainted), and to practice any rollos that needed work. Each team member prepared 1 or 2 rollos and all rollos were mentored by 2 veteran team members. Those team members who wished to present their rollo to the team could do so for practice. The final details were worked out through email or phone calls.

The team made a strong effort to meet with all of the candidates prior to the weekend to start the friendship relationship and it was quite evident right from the start of the weekend that friendships had already begun.

The Bankruptcy talk was read slowly and with feeling by three different team members. The change of tone and pace with each speaker was effective. After night prayers, the priests saw candidates for confession or spiritual direction – this is rare for a Thursday night. Since the Bankruptcy talk was a change, we presume it had some effect. One observation was that there seemed to be more candidates going to reconciliation and spiritual direction.

Each day’s activities flowed very well and by not having table summaries after each Rollo we probably saved an hour or so of time and the candidates had lots of flexible time for discussion, summaries, posters, games or quiet time between rollos. The men's group seemed to enjoy the physical games while the women's group enjoyed walking, cards and puzzles. The games available were bocce ball, sandbag toss, frisbee and croquet. The friendships developed very quickly and seemed solid by the end of the weekend.

There were about 20 veterans at each of the Mananitas - some had to drive 2.5 hours to get there. The candidates were quite moved by the singing and mingling afterwards.

The schedule is much more relaxed than what was experienced in the past. A few veterans were invited to join at the Total Security rollo and were then invited to do an actual Group Reunion after the 1st part of the Total Security rollo, namely the Group Reunion section. These veterans, mostly sponsors were from the candidates’ geographical area, in hopes that the familiarity will help to form Groups after the weekend.

After the Total Security rollo, the Clausura was explained to the candidates, and they were told that people were gathering to meet them in the church. They were invited ahead of time to reflect on what they would like to share of their weekend experience, but told they didn’t have to if they didn’t want to. Amazingly, most witnessed to their experience of the weekend and their intent going forward followed by witnessing from the Spiritual Advisors, and Rector.

Despite some controversy on the changes, both weekends were an overwhelming success. We now need to study whether this new method proves to be more beneficial in the post Cursillo which is the area that most movements fall down.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- There seemed to be an immediate bonding from the work done in the Precursillo by the team who had already befriended the candidates before the weekend began. The Thursday night gathering and assignment of rooms and assignment of tables on Friday morning all helped to lighten the atmosphere rather than all being regimented and prearranged.
- More free time allowed bonding and sharing within the groups. At one point on Sunday, the women were asked if they wanted to play games, have a rest or go for a walk and it was an immediate shout to go for a walk and within seconds we saw about 15 heading off down the road, in groups of 2, 3 and 4 some with arms linked and singing or skipping along for their half hour walk… it was quite the scene.

---

1 In the schedule from Step by Step, the candidates do write summaries after each rollo. However, at the gathering in the evening, each table does not present a summary on every rollo. The Rector chooses a different table to present their summary on one of the topics.
• The signing of the Pilgrim’s guides got everyone moving and getting to know each other.
• There was a definite increase in the use of the Spiritual Advisors for Spiritual direction and reconciliation. They were making appointments and talking to the Spiritual Advisors on 2 or 3 different occasions.
• The jokes all added to the lively atmosphere of the weekend.
• The witnessing at the Clausura was heartfelt, sincere and more of a “where am I going from here” attitude than one of being overcome with emotions.
• The Spiritual Advisors were very much in favour of the new procedure.
• The veterans who witnessed the Mananita and Clausura were also overwhelmed with joy in what they saw.

In summary – For me, this was the 4th time being Rector, and it was probably the most difficult for me as in the times before, I had mentors of what should be done at certain times, but this time I was on my own and relied totally on God.

I can tell you that having come into this preparation time after spending a 2½ month vacation in Florida and coming home to a busy family life of babysitting grand-children, having a concussion which landed me in the emerg. with high blood pressure, I was stressed beyond belief and trying to get through all the dialogue and study of the new guidelines was certainly a challenge. But, I’d like to share that on Divine Mercy Sunday, I looked at the picture of the Divine Mercy and said to Him…. “Jesus, I trust in YOU!” and that is what I did.

On the Saturday afternoon, things were going extremely well and I had time to lie down for a rest. Imagine?

I was pleasantly awakened with a vision of the smiling Face of Jesus who was looking at me and speaking ever so clearly and vividly saying “You trusted in me”. I knew what He meant….. I had placed my trust in Him on Divine Mercy Sunday……

The second confirmation was Monday morning I was awakened to a fireworks of coloured hearts….. coloured hearts of Love….. Another sign from God that it was a beautiful weekend filled with love and many blessings.

For all those about to embark on the Step by Step approach, it may seem daunting at first but once you experience it in your movement, it all flows so beautifully and you understand why all the events and stories are such an important part of the process. I would advise, that one person to take charge and work out the logistics of your space and geography for everything to take place and delegate the tasks and once that is established, it will be quite easy once you get rid of all the baggage of “what it used to be like” The “how” will fall into place naturally once you understand the “Why”

All the team and candidates had positive feedback on the Step-by-Step approach, one team member calling it the “genius of Mallorca”!

God Bless Everyone attending the conference, I am with you in Spirit and miss you all!

Marg Weber, Rector Hamilton 78th Women’s Cursillo.

A witness from Steve Tallo who was a team member of the Toronto Cursillo weekend which implemented as much of the newly revealed Step by Step preparation time allowed.

My main observation is that it was so much more relaxed, more free time.

Some of the key items I want to mention
• Team meetings – we got together 10 times and had started 3 months before
• It was not a chore – friendship developed and we were relaxed- we really got to know each other. It really helped.
• We developed friendships with the candidates prior to the weekend, my sister and mon and I (all Cursillistas) went out for breakfast and got to know their story.
The other candidates had the same experience – the response was that the candidates were feeling very welcome.

We used to have stations of the cross on Thursday night. What a way to start the retreat phase, knowing Christ died for them on the cross. There is no better act of friendship then dying for a friend.

We blessed the rollista as a team whereas before it was only done by the Rector – you can feel the Holy Spirit there and in charge of the weekend and bringing us together.

Everything flowed much easier – the candidates were encouraged to just listen to the rollos.

Used to do posters at the end of the day, and now the sheet is divided into sections and the team had the discussion and syn-thesised the message in a picture; going along with the saying, “a picture is worth a thousand words”. So at the end of the day we had 2 hours to play games - I couldn’t believe this. Grown men playing Chinese checkers and cards and we were really laughing, playing like children, opening friendships.

The silly songs went over very well – Twinkle, twinkle little star, Old McDonald, and also Mary Had a Little Lamb to break down the barriers, making us childlike and open to the word of God.

On the Saturday night for the fiesta; we were in a circle, with the candidates’ talents emerging – playing guitar and singing - that fiesta became a pre-cursor to the Ultreya.

The changes were small but very powerful in allowing us to do the Lord’s work.

Witness from Father Terry McKenna who made his weekend in 1979 sitting at St Mark’s table

Well we have come a long way in Toronto. I have been working on Cursillos since 1981

In those days we didn’t know better than to try and take advantage of every minute there was. We felt guilty if we had relaxation time. Fridays and Saturdays were going way too long. We had lots of laughs but it was draining – staying up late at night.

The candidates were so exhausted by Sunday that Sunday was a wipe out day. They didn’t have anything to take home from the message of Sunday. We’ve come a long way in that we realize we need more corridor time, and that’s the work of the 3 days, to let the candidates talk to us in whatever way they see fit to talk.

Moving on to the changes, or additions CCCC is introducing.

I was very conscious during the Bankruptcy Story since we had a very wealthy man attending – becoming a multimillionaire by his forties. I wondered “how is this going to go over”?

He talked to me the next day – saying that one reason he resisted coming to Cursillo is that he thought he would be criticized, indirectly. It would have stayed that way throughout the 3 days- he was vulnerable because he had become wealthy. I was able to tell the story of Jesus and the 3 talents and that the master gave praise to the one who multiplied his talents. It is another thing to multiply your talents but then what you do with it once you have it is what matters. That was straightened out for him and it would not have happened except for that Bankruptcy Story.

The Cursillistas of Miramichi, who hosted the conference with their own Bishop Harris.
So I feel that it is divinely placed.

- I also welcomed the evening of games on the first night and second night – amazing how those games brought people out of their shell. I was afraid they would leave us on Friday night that they would say, “I am in the wrong place here. This is not where I am at.” They enjoyed the competition, they enjoyed the fun, the members of the Team they found were down to earth, playful, competitive people like themselves. I thought, “this is Friday night and it is probably way better on Saturday”, and it was. The Team could better prepare to have some props for the Saturday. They will remember these 2 nights, the jokes that were played and the characters that they met.

- So I am ready for everything that Mallorca has, that we need to introduce slowly so that we can have the time to prepare, and introduce it in an effective way. I have learned to trust Mallorca and I am ready for what is to come.

******************************************************************************

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. While these essays are subject to editing for space, clarity and subject, they do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the CCC.

WHAT IS THE VISION

A rollo from the recent 2016 Annual Conference, the theme of which was, Rediscovering the Vision- the Everlasting Journey Continues

Good morning. My name is Allan Forsberg, I lived my Cursillo in Grande Prairie, Alberta, in the fall of 1998, at the table of St. Matthew. That experience propelled me into a universe I had previously not known existed. I cannot now envision what my life would be like, had I not lived my Cursillo, but most assuredly I would not be standing here before you. It is becoming clear to me that God has a huge sense of humour!

“Visioning” or envisioning is what this presentation is all about. My presentation is about the “Vision” of the Cursillo Movement. To begin with, the process involves answering three key questions:

1. Why does the Cursillo Movement exist?
2. What is the central purpose of the Cursillo Movement?
3. What do we hope to achieve through the Cursillo Movement?

These questions are highly related, and yet distinct, requiring different answers. Our task in the visioning process is to answer these questions for ourselves, and then to live out that vision is such a way that others will know the vision without asking. Have we set a daunting task? Yes, we have done. Is it impossible? Nothing is impossible with God.

1. What is the Vision?

Let’s be clear from the outset: This presentation is about the Vision of the Cursillo movement. It is not about the weekend, itself. The vision is the purpose of the Cursillo Movement, of which the weekend is only a part. We need to be very clear, with respect to language, when we talk about Cursillo. Do we mean its mentality, the method or do we mean THE WEEKEND? The mentality is all about the foundational charisma. The method is how we live that mentality out in our daily lives. In the words of Eduardo: “The best news of the best reality, that God in Christ loves us. This news is communicated by the best means, which is Friendship. It is directed towards the best of each one, their very person; their capacity for conviction, decision, and constancy.”
So I ask: Are we stuck in a Weekend mentality?

I have been involved in the Cursillo movement for 18 years, and have worked approximately 30 weekends (which is a story in itself), but for the majority of that time I was stuck in the Weekend mentality. I have worked as a Rollista, as Kitchen head, as Rector, as Vice Rector, and as Lay Spiritual Director and I thought it was about the weekend. My attitude was: Get them in here; present the rollos; trust in the Holy Spirit; hold the final mass and we are good to go; end of story until next time. I did that for years. I sponsored many men, good friends all of them, and did nothing after it was over. When all my friends lived a weekend, I approached complete strangers I saw at Church. I wanted them to have that wonderful experience. I saw lives changed and I sincerely wanted every person I met (however briefly) to encounter Christ as I had when I lived my weekend. I thought that was Cursillo.

Are you familiar with “Winnie the Pooh”, by A.A. Milne? This is how one chapter begins:

“Here is Edward Bear, coming downstairs now, bump, bump, bump, on the back of his head, behind Christopher Robin. It is, as far as he knows, the only way of coming downstairs, but sometimes he feels that there really is another way, if only he could stop bumping for a moment and think of it. And then he feels that perhaps there isn’t.”

That was me for many years, bumping down the stairs. I worked two weekends a year, and was so busy working on weekends that I had no time to stop and ask myself deeper questions about why we were doing it all to begin with. We were too busy to think about the Precursillo period, which we all knew to be a concern, but didn’t really know how to deal with it. We were too busy to think about the issues around the Postcursillo period. We worried about reunion groups and Ultreya, but didn’t know what to do about those issues either. We knew we were missing something, but we didn’t know what it was.

Then several years ago, Sheelagh Winston came up and spent a few days with some of us. Now you all know our dear, Sheelagh – she is pure passion and love for the Cursillo movement. Trust me when I say we have never been quite the same since that visit. I will never forget it; and I will always be grateful.

She said several things that made me sit up and pay attention. She said, “Cursillo is about friendship. If there is no real, authentic, dyed-in-the-wool friendship, there is no Cursillo. If you fill a seat on the weekend and then abandon that person after it is over – that is not friendship. And it is not Cursillo”. I felt stunned, because I had done just that. Over and over, I had brought men to discover the love of God and encounter Christ, and then left them to their own devices. I often wondered why, though they had loved the weekend so much, many still did not know Christ in any deep, transformative way. That is when I realized I needed to find out what Cursillo is really all about.

So why does Cursillo exist? Cursillo exists because the Holy Spirit spoke to the heart of Eduardo Bonna. Eduardo’s vision was that every person would come to know that they are loved by God. Two years ago, someone at the conference in Edmonton said it so beautifully: “Eduardo wanted to introduce people to the “God who is within their reach”. That desire speaks right to my heart; I want the same thing for myself and for others. That is what I have come to know is the purpose of Cursillo. We in the Cursillo movement want others to know God personally, and eternally. That is our vision.

Eduardo’s charism, inspired and communicated by the Holy Spirit, moved him to devise a method to carry it out. The method of Cursillo is how we live the charism, the mentality. It is the manner in which we bring to each person the news that our God is a loving God, whom is eager to embrace them as the “beloved”. We do that through the method of friendship. It is lived out in the three phases of the Movement: the Precursillo, the weekend and the Postcursillo. In a nutshell, we make a friend, we are a friend and we help our friend become a friend of Christ. And we work the method for the rest of our lives in our own environments. It is not over after the weekend. That is the life of a Christian. In order to live that life we must know the vision, the true purpose.
We must absorb the mentality, making it a part of our thinking and breathing.

The Study of the Environment Rollo was the culmination of Eduardo’s inspiration. When he encountered the young military men in the barracks he noticed that they came from backgrounds that were not only secular, but also quietly hostile to the Christian religion. Yet, he also noticed that they, as he put it, “conserved, intact, a series of values and behaviours clearly evangelical; more Christian apparently than those prevalent in the pious environments I had known so well. I knew then that I could no longer think of them as “other, as my historically potential enemies”. We are always on a slippery slope when we begin toe categorize and separate people into “us and them” and other polarities. Such thinking does not lead to loving; that is not friendship.

At the same time the Lenten message of Pope Pius XI to all pastors urged them to “Find those who do not come to the church” and saying: “These too are members of your flock”.

Reflecting upon these two big ideas led Eduardo to a new way of thinking, and to the desire to do more than pray, to act. And here we are today still moved by his vision.

Richard Rohr tells us that the purpose of all true religion is to “wake us up to the reality of God, and then to dwell in the implications of that reality. Recently I read that the word “religion” comes from two Latin words – “re” and “ligio” - which mean “to bind back together”. That was Eduardo’s vision: to bring all people who had moved away from the Christian life back into communion with the God who loved them. But he was convinced there was something more he could do besides pray - and so he and others devised the method, over time, in which to achieve that vision.

The method gives us a blueprint for bringing the vision to life; it is a blueprint for the Precursillo, the three days, and the Postcursillo. It shows us how to live in the Postcursillo, which then becomes someone else’s Precursillo. It helps us to persevere, to BE the Gospel in every corner of our lives.

The vision, however, is not the method to which it gave birth. It is not to have a Cursillo movement, to put on weekends, to have meetings, or to argue about non essentials. The vision is not about spending our time running a movement. All these things are necessary, but they are part of the method.

The vision, on the other hand, is our deepest desire: that all people need to know that they are loved by God. They need to know that they are Loved, Loveable and capable of Loving in return. They need to know, as Fr. Greg Boyle says, that “God is “so busy looking at each one in love, that God has no time to lift an eyebrow in disapproval.” Fr. Boyle goes on to say that, “recognizing that we are wholly acceptable is God’s own truth for us, waiting to be discovered”. The vision of Cursillo is to, first, discover that truth for ourselves, and then to help others discover it. Finally, it is to live the Christian ideal our whole lives long. That is what it means to be “fully alive”.

I say ‘we must first discover this truth about God’s love for ourselves’, and we must discover it again and again. We are keepers of the Flame, the flame of inspiration given by the Holy Spirit, the Charism. The Greek term charism means a “divinely conferred gift”, which is grace. It also means a calling, vocation. As used here, it originates from the Holy Spirit, which is grace, God’s self-gift to us. Charisms are, therefore, the effects of God’s Spirit on a believer in relation to a particular calling. However, as the dictionary says, “Since its forms are unforeseeable, the Charism has to be discovered and accepted again and again, in ways which are always new and this calls for a delicate discernment and attentiveness to the Spirit within the Community of the Church”.

In order to be keepers of the flame, and stewards of the gift, we need to know what the gift is! This gift of God is not meant to be kept for ourselves, but must be poured out like wine, to become a river of living water for those who are far away from God. But, first we must continue to discern, delicately, and with attentiveness the nature of the Charism and the gift of God. Cursillo is like the Gospel, revealing itself ever more deeply. You cannot give what you do not have yourselves. This is why understanding the vision
is of such vital importance, and why to focus narrowly on the Weekend will lead only to unhappiness and discouragement.

This topic has been discussed before but it isn’t old hat. It is obvious that, even though it has been presented many times, we are still in our infancy with respect to fully comprehending the message in deep, life-changing ways. The CCCC is constantly asked how to improve, re-energize or resurrect flagging movements. Time and again the problem appears to be a lack of time spent discerning the vision of the movement.

I know this firsthand, because about 6 years ago our movement in Grouard-McLennan faced real difficulty. After holding 4 weekends a year for more than 25 years, and 2500 Cursillistas, it all started to falter. We had to cancel several weekends because of a lack of candidates. One weekend had to be cancelled because we could not get a committed team together. People began to wonder if the movement would survive in our Archdiocese. A meeting of the secretariat was called and we worked and prayed together and ended up wondering if we had failed. We felt discouraged. We felt we were doing what was asked and, suddenly it seemed to be going wrong.

For many years the weekends had been so successful. We were like a well-oiled machine – we knew how to put on a weekend. And, I have to say, there were those older, wise ones in the movement who hinted that we needed to look inward, needed to think about why we were doing it all in the first place. But their voices were drowned by us new ones who were too busy organizing the next weekend to listen.

The charism must be discovered and accepted again and again. Karen Armstrong, talking about the purpose of true religion, says that humans have a unique ability to mess up beautiful things. Unless we rediscover the foundational roots of Cursillo, again and again, and drink from the source, we mess it up and begin to think that the organizational non-essentials are what it is all about.

Rediscovering the vision means a recommitment to living the three phases of Cursillo in all their richness; the Precursillo, the Three Days, the Postcursillo. We must resist the temptation think that we “know”, in any comprehensive way, or that what we have always done is the answer, or indeed that new and innovative ideas will make things better. What will make things better is living Cursillo the way Eduardo taught it, simply because he got it from the Holy Spirit. It came from prayer, study, reflection, more prayer and more study. When we complicate things, make it all about the organizational aspects, or the team, or the resources, and move away from the simplicity of the Vision, that is when we start to lose our way.

What is required is:

1. First, **Humility.** Humility comes from knowing who you are and whose you are. Our core identity is that of a beloved child of God. Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God. The word of God says so, and it must be true. When we understand and accept that basic truth it does not matter what we look like, what we do for a living, what others say about us. We know who we are. And, we know whose we are. We are baptized into the Body of Christ. That is us, beloved by God, and belonging to God. As such, we have a responsibility to work as the “body of Christ” – literally doing the work of Christ here on Earth. And we trust that, along with this responsibility, we will be given a “response ability” through the Holy Spirit.

Humility calls us to recognize who we are and whose we are. Then, it calls us to recognize that if we are chosen, so are others. Any attempt to live the spiritual life begins with a recognition of the essential goodness and value of all humans. What we claim for ourselves, we claim for others. What we want for ourselves, we want for others. Humility not only helps us live out the vision of the Cursillo Movement, it continually reminds us of our Christian imperative to reveal to everyone we meet their essential goodness, their loveableness.
and their inheritance as beloved children of God.

2. Secondly, Enthusiasm. St. Paul to the Galatians said: Never tire of doing what is good. Don’t get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time” (6:9). Enthusiasm will enable us to overcome disappointments and setbacks, so we can be positive, optimistic, and keep up our interest, attitude, and zeal, even when things are harsh. Enthusiasm is the fuel that empowers the Christian to give our testimony, and gives us the love for the call that we have been given. Enthusiasm is the pipe through which flows the earnest endeavor of our work and service. Along with this passion will come the natural desire that we do our best for God’s glory.

3. Third, Openness: We must be open to the foundational Charism and the Holy Spirit who will guide us, if we are open. We must be open to the people God puts in our path, those far away from the Lord, and those who think they know, but still yearn for a real communion to God. We must be open to each other and be willing to engage in the conversations about what is essential, and what is not. We must listen – and hear.

4. Fourth, A desire to serve: The Cursillo Movement is a rooted in the life and work of Jesus, and so must our lives be. At the last supper, St. John tells us, Jesus got up and took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel he had around him (Jn. 13:4,5).

Jesus first took off His robe – this is significant because in Jewish culture the outer robe signified status. By taking off His robe, Jesus was making himself indistinguishable from the others, humbly claiming his identity as a beloved child of God, and recognizing the same in the others he was about to serve. Then he washed their feet – something slaves did. He became the servant, and asks the same of us who follow him.

5. Fifth, A spirit of love: Really, it is all about love, because God is love. But more than that, it is all about how far we are willing to go because of love. Richard Rohr recognizes that Christ’s sacrifice on the cross is the great act of redemption. However, he says it also shows how far God is willing to go to bring all people back to Him. Christ died on the cross not to change God’s mind about us; He died to change our mind about God - to show us love in its most radical form (Pope Benedict XIV). Let us be changed by that love and help others to experience that kind of love.

6. Finally, What will make things better is living the tripod:
   - Piety - Drinking from the well – opening ourselves to the living water only Jesus can give and letting it transform us into willing servants.
   - Study - Learning from the source – learning from the writing of Eduardo, and others who know the vision and the foundational Charism.
   - Action - Go out to the world. Pope Francis reminds us:
     “the mission of the Jesus (and therefore of Cursillistas) is that of ‘fishing’, of going out in search of men and women, not to proselytize, (make them Catholic or Cursillistas), but rather to restore full dignity and freedom through the forgiveness of sins, which is the result of encountering Jesus and deciding to follow Him” - (Pope Francis Feb 7 2016). Once a person meets Jesus as real, close to them and alive, what happens is between them and God, not for us to channel them into our activities.

Our Cursillo journey can be likened to the journey up Mount Tabor. The way there will often be difficult. Once there, it is so easy to say with Peter, James and John, “Let us stay here, (in the joy, and comfort of Cursillo weekends)”. But, like them we must go to the world, that is where we are called: into the Precursillo of living the Study of the Environment Rollo and, then to the Postcursillo, which is the lifeblood of the
Movement, the heart and soul of all that is Cursillo.

When we, in Grouard-McLennan, found our movement floundering, we suffered. We felt discouraged and confused. However, we did not give up. Fr. Erik Reickers says that “you must be willing to suffer for the great loves of your life”. Cursillo is, for us, a great love. This work for Christ is so important. And so we dug deep and out of the suffering came new realizations. We now increasingly focus on the Postcursillo period - changing how we help create and support reunion groups and the Ultreya. We are working with teams and sponsors to understand their role in studying the environments in which they live and work, and to understand more deeply the Pre-Cursillo period. We hold one weekend for men and one for women each year. We are attempting to bring the Cursillo movement out of “ecclesiastical” closet, so to speak. It is no longer about secrecy and strangeness - and no longer about getting people through the weekend. It is about friendship in new and more open ways. We have a way to go, yet, but we are on the road. I am pleased to tell you that we are doing well. This year we had to limit the number of candidates on a weekend because we are getting so many candidates. There is a thirst for God. And now our struggle is to discern how to deal with this thirst in ways that are true to the vision and the Charism of the Cursillo Movement. We know we cannot go back to simply holding weekends.

CONCLUSION
Hopefully this rollo will light a fire within you, help you to continue the journey, or begin again, as your Officers have done, and will continue to do. Richard Rohr, who has been informing so much of my thinking within the last year, says, “We do not think ourselves into new ways of living, we live ourselves into new ways of thinking.” The Vision is the same as that which Eduardo had while in the barracks, to bring the Good News to all those who do not know that God loves them, to tell that they are loved, loveable and able to love in return. The vision is the Gospel lived in the lives of each one of us, so much so that we become the Gospel for others. And this all done by living in the friendship that drives Cursillo.
Des Colores!

CURSILLO OF CURSILLOS

CONFERENCE 2017
JUNE 1ST TO 4TH
HOSTED BY THE CURSILLISTAS
OF THE GROUARD MCLENNAN DIOCESE
IN
GRANDE PRARIE ALBERTA

A CURSILLO OF CURSILLOS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO DEEPEN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE ESSENCE, PURPOSE AND MENTALITY OF THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT. ORGANIZED IN THE SAME MANNER AS A CURSILLO WEEKEND, THERE WILL BE ROLLOS, WITNESS, PRAYER AND DIALOGUE WITH CURSILLISTAS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY. WE ARE ALSO DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THAT MIGUEL SUREDA, MEMBER OF THE MALLORCA SCHOOL OF LEADERS AND LONG TIME FRIEND OF EDUARDO BONNIN WILL JOIN US FOR THE CURSILLO OF CURSILLOS. WE ALSO HOPE TO WELCOME TWO OR THREE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MALLORCA SCHOOL TO SHARE THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY WITH US. PLAN NOW TO ATTEND, A “NOT TO BE MISSED” OPPORTUNITY. REGISTRATION INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE NEW YEAR.
GRATITUDE
Fr. Brendon (bud) Gallant

A meditation given at the 2016 Annual Conference based on one of the topics at the IV Conversations.

Daniel Defoe gave us some good advice through his fictitious character Robinson Crusoe. The first thing that Crusoe did when he found himself on a deserted island was to make a list. On one side of the list he wrote down all his problems. On the other side of the list he wrote down all of his blessings. On one side he wrote, “I do not have any clothes.” On the other side he wrote, “but it’s warm and I don’t need any.” On one side he wrote, “all of the provisions were lost,” on the other side he wrote, “but there’s plenty of fresh fruit and water on the island.” And on down the list he went. In this fashion, he discovered that for every negative aspect about his situation, there was a positive aspect. Something to be thankful for, to have gratitude for.

It is easy to find ourselves on an island of despair and see the glass half empty rather than half full. We are coming to the end of our conference, for the next few hours that remain let’s take an inventory of our blessings.

Gratitude is more than saying “thank you” when someone gives you something. It is more than an action which we decide to do by act of the will power. We may say the words (thank you), when there is no gratitude in our heart. Gratitude is a feeling that arises un-coerced in the heart.

An example, (I give a ten-year-old boy a necktie and a pair of socks for Christmas. He may say “thank you,” but the spontaneous feeling of gratitude will probably not be there, like when I give him a new electronic game or a hockey stick. Gratitude is a feeling not an act of will power - and it is a good feeling. When it rises in our heart we like it. It is a part of happiness, not misery. Gratitude is a form of delight.

In the Gospel of Luke, (7: 36 - 8. 3). A woman in the city goes to Simon’s house. Simon had invited Jesus to dinner. A woman goes to Simon’s house, she knew that Jesus would be there.

Before this scene, I would imagine that Jesus had met this woman previously somewhere along the road, perhaps in a way that he met the woman at Jacob’s well.
She was a prostitute, Jesus saw this woman as a person and knew that she was in need of healing. After their encounter this woman went away free and forgiven, so much so that she wanted to show her gratitude to Jesus. So she goes into Simon’s house and bathes his feet with her tears and dries them with her hair. She then pours costly perfume on his feet. He tells Simon, “this woman whose sins were many were forgiven her”.

A few weeks ago on a Sunday afternoon, I was driving from Tignish to my home town of North Rustico. I was listening to the final game of the world hockey championship between Canada and Finland. As I was passing the church in Richmond I noticed a hitch hiker. I passed him by but a little voice told me to pick him up. It was a man in his mid-forties. He was quite jaundiced. He told me he had stage 4 bowel cancer and was in Richmond to visit his sister but his sister wasn’t home. He was going to ask her for $20. I shut off the radio and we talked for a while. I drove him to downtown Summerside and as he was leaving I said, “wait a minute.” I took $20 out of my wallet and gave it to him. He seemed dumbfounded and he said, “thank you, God bless you.” This was a gesture of gratitude that came right from the heart.

Many times we read in the Gospels where Jesus healed people, afterwards he told them not to tell anyone, but they were filled with gratitude. They told everyone they met what Jesus did for them.

In a little while we will celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. In the Mass Jesus comes to meet us where we are. Eucharist means “thanksgiving.” It is a time for us to show our gratitude to God. “for God so loved the world that he gave us his only Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.” (Jn. 3: 16). Just before holy communion we say, “Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof, say but the word and my soul will be healed.” As we say these words let us do so with gratitude in our heart.

HAMILTON DIOCESE CURSILLO

50 YEARS OF CURSILLO WILL BE CELEBRATED IN HAMILTON IN 2018 AND CCC will BE JOINING THE CELEBRATIONS AS HAMILTON HOSTS THE 2018 ANNUAL CCC CONFERENCE.

JULY 3RD TO 6TH

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND WATCH FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

◆ ATLANTIC, Antigonish (Tri County, Cape Breton East, Cape Breton West) Halifax, St. John’s, Charlottetown, Yarmouth, Valley, Saint John.

◆ QUEBEC, Montreal English.


◆ WESTERN, Victoria, Vancouver, Nelson, Calgary, Edmonton, Grouard-McLennan, Native Cursillo.

Prior to each conference CCCC invites the Cursillo movements across the country to send in an annual report of their activities during the past year. These reports are compiled into the CCCC Annual Report which is distributed at the business meeting at the beginning of each conference. For those of you who enjoy reading about the activities of the other movements in Canada, this report is available by email from the Resource Centre. Please email your request to:

cccc@cursillocanada.org

V World Ultreya

OMCC, Organismo Mundial de Cursillos des Cristiandad (World Body of the Cursillo in Christianity Movement)

The OMCC are preparing the V World Ultreya to be celebrated in Fatima, Portugal on the 4th, 5th and 6th of May 2017. They are appealing for palanca for the success of this event, meaning prayer and sacrifices, asking the Lord for his grace. Please send your palanca to the email address below. This can be from an individual or a community.

omcc.palanca.ultreya@gmail.com

And, don’t forget, the deadline for registration for participation in the V World Ultreya, ends on the 31st January 2017 and that it must be registered via email to:

omcc.secretary@gmail.com

Information on the V World Ultreya can be found on the OMCC website www.orgmcc.org
The following is a reflection by Muriel Brideau on her experiences and insights gained from the IV Conversations of Cala Figuera. She presented this at the Edmonton Ultreya and while not strictly an Ultreya witness rollo it is given in the style of witness so it is included here in the Witness column.

I am here to speak to you about something experienced at the beginning of May, almost 5 months ago, now. It’s not that all is forgotten but rather it will take much more time and effort to reflect on, unpack and put to good use all that was shared and attempted to be passed on to all of us attending. I cannot say I know something unless I am actually living it, that it is part of my day to day life in action and practice.

Let’s go back a bit, starting with the invitation that read: “We, Eduardo Bonnin’s friends, feeling full of joy because we know that we are loved by God, are happy to contact you to invite you to the upcoming celebration of the IV Conversations of Cala Figuera, which will take place from the 5th to the 8th of May 2016. Eduardo, along with Francisco Forteza, always considered it necessary that, besides the organization of the “Three-day weekends” and the schools for leaders – which are mainly focused on the proliferation of Cursillo’s Method, - it would be necessary to create a circle of reflection and encounter to go deeper in “the ideas.”

Since making my Cursillo weekend in May 1992, Cursillo has pretty much become my primary apostolate. I have worn different hats, served in various roles on Secretariat and still do; been a team member and rectora during weekends, gladly attend the giving and receiving at the school of leaders and I am definitely a groupie in a few group reunions and most recently I said yes to being a member of the national Officers Group.

I don’t give this list to boast but rather I can compare it to the fact that I am able to love because God loved me first, loved me into being. I can serve and give in Cursillo because Cursillo has first given and served in my life and important relationships, such as with the divine trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with myself, with others, family, friends, in all really that holds value in my every day ordinary life, it continues to give and serve that which I choose to live.

So yes I was most interested in this Circle of reflection and the opportunity for an encounter to go deeper. That’s what our life is all about anyway – at least it’s what I desire mine to be about – Encounter, the relational, relationships, yes with self, the 3 person God head, other and of course creation. These are definitely my main lines; in front of which there is great awe for nothing can beat the presence of God in all things.

I accepted the invitation and gift of community to go to Spain, to the island of Mallorca specifically and I do see it as a great gift, a gem with countless facets to discover and work at bringing to its full brilliance. And as with all God’s gifts, it must be shared – received and handed on – or as Richard Rohr put it this past week: “The divine flow either flows both in and out or it is not flowing at all. Let me quote Rohr’s example here that demonstrates it all so well.

“Imagine you are part of a water wheel. Water flows into one bucket and pours out and into a lower bucket. IN the act of lowering and emptying yourself, you make room for more water to fill you. This self-giving flow creates energy and power; it can literally change our relationships our politics, and our world.”

So yes, I am pretty sure I need that flow to change my life. And in this location there were over 200 Cursillistas gathered from around the world who
also value this way of being and choose to honor the charism and the inspiration given by the Spirit to our founder Eduardo Bonnin. When it was asked during the introduction- why we are here?

These are some of the responses that flowed from that question:
- deep love for the Cursillos,
- to think, to reflect, porque se cambia nuestra vida - because it changed our life,
- adventure, passion,
- to update ourselves - not the Cursillo, maintaining the freshness,
- make it perfect by quality,
- to learn of the grandeur of our charism, its depth
and of course it was “un Festival de Amistad” - a festival of friendship where we could make more friends – from some 18 different countries. To be able to share from such a gathering and variety of people is pretty impressive. I think of our symbolic bowl at the School of Leaders, where we can all put in our thoughts, ideas and sharing, ourselves such as we are into the one container and also remove from it whatever we like which could be of value to us. Anything and all can flow in and out without anyone being the poorer, rather the graces, gifts, wisdom is shared and multiplied. And just like a Cursillo weekend, I shouldn’t forget the primary reason we were all there is that God attracted us there – He brought us and offered it as gift (un regalo de Dios). And they brought up the idea of going through life with God’s glasses - now wouldn’t that be helpful on our journey as Christians because people want to see Jesus, not only hear about some historical figure but to see him in the people.

On May 4th, it would have been Eduardo’s 99th birthday and to commemorate this we celebrated mass at the Capuchins church where a photo of Eduardo hangs above the very spot where he is buried. A man whose entire life was so dedicated to making sure his brothers and sisters in Christ knew that they were loved by God that there he rests within the foyer of his own local church. It was a special moment to be able to gather there. And a mass celebrated within a community of believers where you can feel and “see how they love one another” is indeed a joyous celebration and we had many of these. The process to have Eduardo beatified has begun and a bishop came and addressed all of us during the conversations to explain the lengthy process of accomplishing this, giving us the pertinent information.

The IV conversations were taking place in Cala Millor, so on our way by bus from Palma, we stopped to celebrate mass at the Monastery of Saint Honorato and also to visit Cala Figuera. Cala, by the way means small bay or cove. I had to look up that word since it kept popping up and I knew it had to mean something. Cala Figuera was the picturesque little fishing town where the first Cursillo weekend in history took place. And as pretty and charming as this place by the water was and is; it still cannot hold a candle to the light of Christ within every human person; the Christ within them that we are called to see and encounter and view with God’s own glasses.
“Person” and their importance as we know was part of the ten topics covered in the first conversations that took place in August 1994, to coincide with the 50th anniversary of that first Cursillo weekend.

This last time 7 topics were covered: Search, News, Meeting or Encounter, Hope, Gratitude, Fulfillment and Signs. All words we know, use, are part of our current vocabulary so what’s the big deal, we might ask?

Well, I suppose it is about putting it to the use of our Friends, being of service, responding to our calling and mission and desire to do the will of the Father or as Juan Ruiz began in the first rollo “Buscar/Search” bringing the tenderness of the gospel to everyone” since what all of us are seeking is to give more sense or meaning to our life. It might be of benefit to stop and ask ourselves – what am I looking for to give sense to my life? (Qué busco para dar sentido en mi vida?). He also mentioned that search was not a job but rather an attitude of a Christian, an apprentice Christian as Eduardo said he was during his entire life.

And if we adopt this model of being an apprentice on the path to holiness, we seek with Christian love and perseverance. We may be but a drop in the ocean but with that drop the ocean will never be the same. I am pretty sure each of our drops is required for the ocean to be all that it can be just as each and every member has its role to play in the body of Christ.

Padre Tony from Mallorca gave the rollo News (las Noticias) and his Spanish was quite easy to understand; but boy - look out when he got excited and all passionate about this Good news then it could be delivered with such gusto and speed as to make it a little less easy to comprehend, reflect on and for it to sink in all at once. I was grateful for my God given love of languages that allow me to speak and encounter more persons in their own language. I was both surprised and delighted how much I could understand in Spanish but these topics trying to go deeper in our understanding would take more prayer, reflection and study to comprehend. French and English I am ok but Spanish now needing more work and time to assimilate. As I took notes I couldn’t decide which language to write them in; so there are probably at least 3 in there and switching back and forth depending on which one seemed to say it best. That was part of the beauty of being in Spain, the language, the people, culture, the sights, being on an island, surrounded by sea, beach, water, sun - these are a few of my favourite things as Julie Andrews would sing. Rest assured I did walk by all that to go to the auditorium where the rollos and sharing were happening. That call was stronger.

Father Tony cautioned us to beware of the human experience that closes the door to the heart too tightly where you may not hear the news. He spoke of the Remnant people, which may seem the same as waste but one does not flourish. Our life can be a waste or remnant which has the capacity to bear fruit. Far from being a code of behaviour, the Gospel is a call to let us be accompanied by the friendship of the Lord. That is why it is the best piece of news and it can turn our life into a piece of news. (Que tu vida sea esta noticia)

The gospel cannot be updated but I on the other hand am not finished being updated and the mentality and method of Cursillo continue to make this possible – even if it is only in taking baby steps.
**Encounter** - The third rollo was given by Luis Reyes from Vera Cruz Mexico and he was present there with his entire family. I believe some of his grandchildren may have been the youngest attendees. We were reminded that the process of friendship is so necessary to pre-cursillo and making the post-cursillo effective. And it is our hearts filled with love that can produce the encounter. There will not be a time when we can say, we got there, no - encounter is every day. I think of the Canadian contingent that came – 14 beautiful people from across our nation – from coast to coast. I had met them previously but it was an opportunity to make the meeting and encounter that much more meaningful, get to know them a little more, go deeper and it was a joy to do that. And I must say, I was kind of drawn to the luck of the Irish too. There was a group from Ireland, including their bishop that was a pleasure to meet and spend time with. There was a great rendition of Johnny Cash’s song “ring of fire” with this lively bunch. In our sharing though, they also gave credit to Cursillo for helping them with the divisions within their country. All those who kept hope found a way.

Leila Gracia, a Cursillista from Argentina presented Hope, which is not pretending that we have no problems but neither do we need to focus only on the problem. - We can illuminate the situation with Hope, with Jesus. Hope can be an attitude of opening ourselves to the wonder of each and every new day or moment. It is not illusion or our imagination but since Hope comes from God, it has a foundation. It is not optimism but with Jesus all things can be made new – even us to be able to see with new eyes, regardless of the situation - we can also become glimmers of hope for others. And lastly, she mentioned - remember where you are anchored, not to an artificial lagoon, but to an infinite horizon. Now there is an anchor to last a lifetime.

I better jump ahead to Gratitude - which is the best response to the gift of life. All of life’s moments are gifts to our becoming, the lessons to be learned – it is all gift so an attitude of gratitude is certainly worth having and using, helping to make us more aware of our many blessings – from the very small to the big and awesome. A new friend, Gail Terrana from Niagara Falls New York presented this one and she mentioned too that “Our charism is the gift that keeps giving.” Since it is based on the gospel and its values, I can only agree or on Jesus’ own words “Behold I call you friends”. This journey back to the Father is a well accompanied pilgrimage – Thank God!

In the last rollo that Loren gave on Signs – he spoke of the reality that we are not always signs of God’s love but it is worth it to keep trying. That’s the only reason I am here - I choose to keep trying and with God’s infinite Horizon, there will always be more. And being that I am now also part of the CCCC, I am by far not done reflecting and going deeper into the charism of Cursillo and its many gifts.

But that very thing I am continuing to discover, and uncover and reveal is what will help me in the whole process not for Cursillo’s sake – to pay any dues but for my life, my living of it. Just as we do not study the rollos to give them but to live them. Same idea.

Ok so I cannot transmit the message of 7 rollos and a whole weekend experience into one witness talk but suffice it to say that in the Search, I found nothing but Good news as I met and encountered many Cursillistas from around the globe who gave the light of hope into a future that could bring fulfillment and I have more than gratitude for all the signs that point towards the God that loved us into existence and longs for us to have life and joy in abundance. And you know you are on the right track when all you read alongside this work of discerning the gifts of this journey give words to your thoughts and ideas. And I will end with these two quotes

The first is from Richard Rohr: “Trinitarian revelation begins with the loving – and this is the new definition of being! There is now a hidden communion, an Absolute Friendship at the heart of everything.”

The second one is taken from the book – The God who won’t let go written by a Jesuit.
Peter van Breenen, S.J.
“IT is God’s abiding desire that our lives be eminently meaningful and bear rich fruit, fruit that lasts. Put simply what counts is love.” Voilà - the same answer I have for all my questions – I love you – thanks for the chance to share, the
experience, the friendship, being companions on
the journey and I continue to count on your
ongoing love and support as I go forward –

Muchas Gracias and De Colores!
Muriel Brideay

Q. In our attempt to keep the costs in
line whilst facilitating an authentic Cursillo
weekend, what should we be giving to the
candidates on each weekend?

R. The only item that it is absolutely
essential to provide is the Pilgrims Guide.
The Pilgrims Guide is used throughout the
weekend for morning and evening prayers,
prayers before and after the meditations, and
the Stations of the Cross. Bearing in mind that our focus
is on those who are far away,
from God and the Church, the
Pilgrims Guide also contains
the parts of the mass and
various prayers such as the
Our Father the Rosary and the
Angelus. After the weekend,
the Pilgrims Guide is used by
the new Cursillistas as a first
prayer book. Once again, this
of course presupposes that our
Precursillo work has been
focussed to the far away. If the
candidates are already regular
church goers, perhaps even already
in different ministries, then the Pilgrims
Guide may appear to be somewhat simple.
This may account for the fact that in many
movements, the Pilgrims Guide is not used
at all.

We often get requests at the Resource Centre
for bibles, finger rosaries and various other
items. Although all of these things are of
value, they are not part of what it is
necessary to supply on a Cursillo weekend.

At some point after Cursillo came to North
America, it became traditional to provide
each Cursillista with a cross. Even this is not
necessary. CCCC learned this after we
designed a special Cursillo cross for Canada
when we went to Mallorca and noticed that
none of the Mallorcan Cursillistas wear a
Cursillo cross. We asked the reason for this
and were told that it has never been
customary and they do not have a specific
cross that could be identified as ‘Cursillo’. A
cross is sometimes given by a sponsor or
friend once the person has shown a
commitment to the Ultreya and
is seen to be living the 4th
Day. On reflection, this does
make sense, how many
people who have made a
Cursillo and have never been
seen again are walking
around with a Cursillo cross?

Pilgrims Guides are available
from the Resource Centre at
ccc@cursillocanada.org We
have recently revised them to be
paginated so that they are the
same as the Mallorca Pilgrims
Guide. It was really helpful to be
in Mallorca and to be able to follow
the prayers and liturgies in English.
FROM EDUARDO

CURSILLO IN ELEVEN POINTS  EDUARDO BONNÍN AGUILÓ FOUNDATION.

1. **Essence and Purpose of Cursillos in Christianity**
   Cursillos in Christianity want to be a live element, and therefore grow and develop by affirming its criteria, which is its own and essential and therefore, avoid losing its identity when separated from it. Essence - Cursillos are a lay Movement from the Church. Cursillo has a method that helps to make possible for people to live what is fundamental to being Christian. Purpose - The purpose of Cursillo is life itself, not the Ultreya, nor the Group Reunion. Cursillo seeks to create a hunger for God rather than trying to satisfy it.

2. **Structure of Cursillos in Christianity**
   We believe that if the Cursillo Movement is given space to live, in its basic structure of Group Reunion, Ultreya and School of Leaders, it can bring, through its own dynamic, the Good News of the Gospel to all the recesses of human existence, personal, family and social life. Cursillos in Christianity as a Movement are governed by its administrative element, a Diocesan Secretariat comprised of people who respect the guidelines of the Church.

3. **Mentality**
   The living of what is fundamental to being Christian is to know, capture, and understand that God loves us. Therefore, keep it simple, centre it, embody it, and clarify it by living, believing, and witnessing to the Gospel.

4. **School of Leaders**
   The School of Leaders is a group of Christians united in an atmosphere of Group Reunion in order to accelerate and give effectiveness to the purpose which Cursillo wants to achieve. The School of Leaders is not a School of Formation, but is intended to be a School of Holiness attempting, in a climate of sincerity and authenticity, that its components are more focused on what is essential in Cursillo and more engaged in the journey of commitment among people and more integrated in the plans that unite them.

5. **Leaders**
   These may be and are in fact all the people who accept and live even without knowing the truths expressed in the essence, purpose and mentality of Cursillos in Christianity. Leaders, above all, are those who do not pretend to be. Leaders are those who open themselves each day to the astonishment of a God who loves them and to the admiration of their brothers and sisters.

6. **Group Reunion**
   Cursillo does not seek for people to assume new commitments, but rather, to accept and give meaning to the commitments which they already have in life. This commitment which originates from life itself, and through living it and sharing it, we wish to convert it, to nothing more and nothing less, into a commitment of friendship. The Group Reunion is a channel for friendship in the conversion process. A friendship with purpose and atmosphere in which we can develop as persons and as Christians. The four important elements are: regularity, seriousness, discretion and sincerity.

7. **Ultreya**
   The Ultreya is the act Cursillistas celebrate weekly with less intensity and less intimacy, but with greater diversity and increased possibility than the Group Reunion in order to admire and encourage each other in our common faith. The Ultreya serves to enhance our Group Reunion and
in it the Cursillista seeks to become better by virtue of being better and being with the best. The Ultreya has to be lived and experienced and is not intended to be educational or formative.

8. **Relations with the rest of the Church**

We believe that what is essentially evangelical goes toward an enlightened and dynamic sense of life in the person, and not toward the narrow minded in compliance and without the spirit of the principle. What is serious is not getting sidetracked from the path with distractions, but in distorting its purpose. What is difficult is the accompaniment of people and sharing with them “the associative force of friendship”. The journey of living with dedication and perseverance in the face of God and with the brothers and sisters can never be substituted by thoughtless programs in which the person is not given priority in moving towards God. Cursillo is not opposed that Cursillistas provide an active personal collaboration at the diocesan level, parish, etc. and that there have been and will continue to be many Cursillistas who will decide to do so without external pressures. There may be those who become leaders of many associations, church or civic; however, we think that to do this will lower the aim since Cursillo, without a doubt, aims at and is oriented toward a purpose much more efficient, effective and comprehensive that ensures that many men and women take the leap of faith and feel loved by God.

9. **Action**

By means of the three stages of Precursillo, Cursillo and Postcursillo, the Cursillista attempts through his personal witness, to communicate the message to as many people as possible. For this, the Cursillista depends on the means of Group Reunion and Ultreya and with the grace of the Lord which is specifically related to the activity of the Cursillista to live in grace, or to attempt to live in grace or is sad for not living in grace. In summary, the expanded view of Cursillo in its most profound truth, certifies that the real encounter with self is the structure that makes possible the encounter with others and the Gospel.

10. **Respect for the Founding Group**

Cursillos in Christianity which were born in Mallorca rely on numerous people who knew and lived the Cursillo in its origins and with someone whom we recognize as the Founder and voice of Cursillo. To those possible enemies, with respect to these people they could be the subject of the words spoken by Pope Pius XII in a speech on June 10, 1953: “History has shown that ideas which are more fruitful tend to move slower when faced with conflicting interests. Experience has shown it a hundred times, in order for reasonable solutions to prevail, a single reason is not sufficient. The person who represents the interests of others, the one who speaks for them, must be governed by the will to serve. He must believe in the nobility of his own cause and be devoted without limits to a great deed.”

11. **Notes**

- To act as leaders or rectors is not an acquired right.
- Go for the prize. The only prize is service itself.
- The Group Reunion is not to correct others, nor to admonish, nor to make groups who pressure others.
- Envy is motive for confession. Admiration is motive for joy. Jealousy causes bitterness.
- There is a need to serve Cursillos and not make use of them for self-serving reasons.
- The Cursillo Movement of Mallorca is reaffirmed in its totality in the Manifesto of 1981.
- The truth cannot be invented; each one must discover it. We are in the process of discovering truths and listening to those who shed light on reality.
- Manipulation can be confused with awareness. Awareness is to discover truths and understand them not only because the Lord requires it, but because we live them.
- It is essential in the Cursillo Movement, that, for the fascinating and unstoppable process of fermentation of what is Christian in man, in men and in society, we realize that with honesty
and simplicity, we need to play fair [conduct oneself properly] with the things of God by taking seriously the world of men.

- What is specific about the Movement is to place what is fundamental to being Christian within the reach of man. To ensure that the liberty of man encounters the Spirit of God. This will go beyond all agendas and will collide with the temptation of framing and classifying something as fluent and spontaneous as the encounter of people with the Christ of the Gospel.


This book contains reflections and notes from Eduardo, written on index cards. His friend and great connoisseur of his thinking, author Guillermo Bibiloni, compiled then into a volume of his writings. This manuscript was found in Eduardo’s office sometime after his death.

Not an easy read but a must for those who want to go deeper into the thinking of our founder.
The following information was included in the last issue of Fully Alive. It is so important that we are running it again in this issue for your information and response.

**PROCESS FOR BEATIFICATION OF EDUARDO BONNIN**

At the recent IV Conversations, celebrated in Mallorca last May, the bishop introduced the person who is now officially in charge of the cause of having Eduardo Bonnin declared a saint. He is Rev. Gabriel Ramis. He gave a presentation on the subject but cautioned that it was a long and slow process.

On the fifth of February two thousand and fifteen, the persons mentioned below gathered in the courtyard of Capuchins Church in Palma, where Eduardo Bonnin Aguiló, the founder of the Cursillo Movement is buried:

Mr. Lorenzo Marian Barrientos, the president of the Diocesan Secretariat of the Cursillo Movement.
The honorable gentleman Dr. D. Antonio Perez Ramos, Counsellor to the Diocesan Secretariat.
Rev. D. Jaime Más Juliá, Vice-counsellor.

The following members of the Standing Committee of the Diocesan Secretariat of MCC:
Mr. Antonio Oliver Garau, Mr. Bartolome Adrover Capellá, Mr Miguel Sureda Tierno, Mr. Manuel Fernandez Jordá, Ms. Carmen Enseñat Puigdorffila, Mr. Francisco Javier Polo Cañavate, Mr. Ramón Rosselló Forteza, Ms. Francisca Riutort Lozano, Ms. Isabel Cabrera Pérez, and many cursillistas who are present at the event, as well as the Hon. Mr. Josep Adrover Vallbona, Chancellor and Secretary General of the Bishops of Mallorca, who is acting as a notary to this act.

In this solemn ceremony in front of the tomb of Eduardo Bonnin, that has become and is today the pilgrimage point for Cursillistas coming from the five continents.

After the celebration of the Eucharist, on the eve of the seventh anniversary of Eduardo Bonnin’s meeting with the Father, all members of the Diocesan Secretariat unanimously proceed to the constitution of MCC as a functionary in the process of beatification and canonization of Eduardo Bonnin Aguiló.

The beginning of this process has occurred following the requests received from the National Secretariats of the Cursillo Movement in Portugal (the current headquarters of the World Organization of Cursillo, OMCC), Italy and El Salvador.

And so that this Act may be officially recorded, we - the members of the Standing Committee of the Secretariat- sign this document on the date and at the place indicated above, and so does the Chancellor - Secretary General, who is bearing witness to the authenticity of this document

Marian D. Lorenzo Barrientos President of the Diocesan Secret. MCC
M. I. Dr. D. Antonio Perez Ramos MCCC Diocesan Chaplain
Mn. Jaime Más Juliá Diocesan Vice-Counsellor of MCC’s Diocesan Secretariat .
Honourable Mr. Josep Adrover Vallbona, Chancellor – Secretary General.

Taken from the official Act of Constitution, Palma de Mallorca.

All those present at the Conversations were given prayer cards with a special prayer that has been composed, to be said when asking Eduardo’s intercession for any need. This prayer card is now available from the Resource Centre.
To add weight to the process of beatification, the participants at the Conversations were also told that it is imperative that many, many people should testify in writing what the fact of having known Eduardo has meant in their life, and that everybody who know something about something special happening in their life or in their environment through Eduardo and the Charism, should write about it in detail.

See below.

WITNESS OF EXAMPLES OF SANCTITY TO INITIATE THE CAUSE OF BEATIFICATION OF EDUARDO BONNIN AGUÍLO TO BE SENT FROM ANY PART OF THE WORLD

NECESSARY INFORMATION

- DATE
- NAME
- IDENTITY DOCUMENT (passport, driver’s license)
- DIOCESE
- MAILING ADDRESS
- PHONE
- EMAIL
- SIGNATURE

Send your witness in an official letter to:
CASA DE LA IGLESIA
DELEGACION CAUSA DE LOS SANTOS
CALL SEMINARIO NO 4
(07001) PALMA DE MALLORCA – BALEARES – SPAIN
### Officers of the National Secretariat 2016/2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Chairperson</strong></th>
<th>(902)961 2271</th>
<th><a href="mailto:abcandiepe@hotmail.net">abcandiepe@hotmail.net</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arlene van Diepen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RR2 Settlement Rd</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morrell,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE C0A 1S0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Spiritual Advisor</strong></th>
<th>(902)881 2565</th>
<th><a href="mailto:paddyandpat@eastlink.ca">paddyandpat@eastlink.ca</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fr. Pat O’Meara</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 331</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NS B5A 4B3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Assistant Spiritual Advisor</strong></th>
<th>(905)840 8377</th>
<th><a href="mailto:diane.coates@bell.net">diane.coates@bell.net</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diane Coates</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76 Trudelle Crescent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brampton, ON</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L7A 2Z2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Articleman</strong></th>
<th>(780)835 2040</th>
<th><a href="mailto:nelesguerra@yahoo.com">nelesguerra@yahoo.com</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Muriel Brideau</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-53158 Range Rd 215</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ardrossan, AB</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T8E 2C9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

*Fully Alive is published three times per year 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 CCCC. © CCCC 2016 all rights reserved*

---

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

S. Winston, Editor. c/o CCCC, Resource Centre
PO Box 23066 Shoppers Westend PO, Vernon, BC V1T 9L8
Phone (250) 307 6585 email cccc@cursillocanada.org www.cursillocanada.org