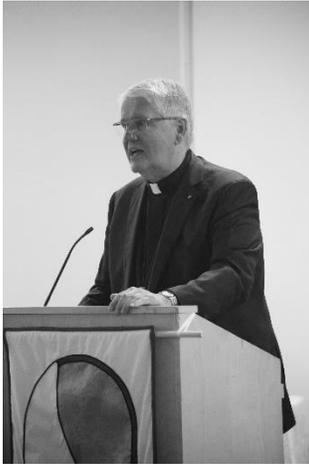


# Fully Alive



THE NATIONAL RESOURCE DOCUMENT OF THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC CURSILLOS

*Conference 2018, Waterloo, Ontario  
July 5-8, 2018*



This is Cursillo - in Group Reunion for many years



Beautiful symbolism of our faith

Bishop Crosby gives opening address

Celebration of the Eucharist, a daily occurrence



Carlos Muñoz of the Hispanic Cursillo gives the witness rollo at the Ultreya



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## OFFICERS' CORNER

Linda Pitkanen, Chair of CCCC

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My name is Linda Pitkanen, and it is my honour and privilege to be nominated as the new Chair for the CCCC. I lived my Cursillo weekend in September of 2013. I joined my local Secretariat in April of 2014. I attended the 2015 Cursillo of Cursillos in Ottawa, the IV Conversations of Cala Figuera in May of 2016, the 2016 National Conference in Moncton, the Cursillo of Cursillos in Grande Prairie in 2017 and recently the 2018 National Conference in Waterloo. It has been an exciting and rewarding journey so far.

God has a plan for each of us, and sometimes it takes many years for us to see his design. In Ottawa, we had arrived early and were wandering the halls of the conference venue. Diane Coates (who happened to be the Central Officer at that time) introduced herself and asked if we would like to attend Mass with the Officers' Group. We were interested in attending Mass, so we joined her. After Mass, we were invited to go out for lunch with the Officers' Group. Throughout the weekend it seemed we kept encountering the Officers or the Three Amigos (Miguel, Juan, and Manolo) from Mallorca. This was a very special time for me, to be having quality time with them on a one to one basis. At the time, being so new to Cursillo, having contact with these people so deeply immersed in the movement was a profoundly moving experience.

The day we were heading home, we had several hours to wait in the airport, and sure enough, several members of the OG and the Three Amigos joined us for dinner and conversation. I felt so blessed to spend this time with all of them. These

coincidences (I think not) occurred at every conference we attended including the Conversations in Mallorca where we spent many hours with each of the Officers at differing times. Being in Mallorca and observing how they live the authentic Cursillo was an enlightening experience that convinced me, without doubt, that they had it right. My husband and I started wondering why all of these chance meetings with the Officers and the Three Amigos were occurring? What was God's plan, if there was one, around these chance meetings? We were not searching them out. It just seemed to happen naturally.

In December of 2016, the Chair of the OG contacted me and asked if I would consider becoming the officer for the Central Region. After a lot of prayer and discernment, I accepted the position. There is a saying that comforted me when making this critical decision "God does not always call the qualified, but He does qualify the ones He calls."

In less than a year's time, Arlene van Diepen told the OG she was in the last year of her term as Chair and someone from the OG would need to replace her. Talk about big shoes to fill. Arlene was doing an excellent job of leading the Canadian Cursillo movement back to the authentic Cursillo Charism, as was given to Eduardo Bonnin, and the authentic Charism is doing very well wherever it is followed.

At our in-person Officers' Group Meeting this past spring and after much discernment and prayer time, led by Father Nel, including a Novena to the Holy Spirit, a secret ballot was held, and it was there that

I was chosen to be the new Chair of the Officers' Group.

Now God's plan is clearer to me. There were just too many God-incidences to ignore, too many chance encounters and I believe that this is a role he wants me to fill. I have faith and trust that God will qualify me to fulfill this important task.

On behalf of the Officer's Group and all of the Canadian Cursillo movements, I would like to thank Arlene for her many years and hours of dedicated service as the Atlantic Officer and Officers' Group Chair. Well done good and faithful servant! She will be a tough act to follow. Arlene always gave fully and totally of herself as Chair. I have observed her dedication and commitment in my role as Central Officer and only hope that I, with the guidance and love of the Holy Spirit and the Officers' Group, can maintain the high standard that she has set for me. I will be relying heavily on her mentorship together with Muriel Brideau, Officer for the Western Region and

Treasurer, Ann Myers, Officer for the Atlantic Region and Resource Supplier, Fr. Pat O'Mara as Spiritual Advisor and especially our long-serving Resource Person and my good friend, Sheelagh Winston. We will continue to serve the Cursillo Movements of Canada.

One of our first jobs will be to pray to the Holy Spirit for discernment and guidance in our quest to find the next person to become the Central Officer.

I am fully committed to continuing to lead the Canadian Cursillo movements back to the Foundational Charism and Sheelagh's connections to Mallorca and her many hours spent with Eduardo make her an invaluable asset to this goal. As a deacon once said, "I would never want anyone to hear those terrible words from Christ"; "I do not know you." My goal is to continue to work with the Officers of the CCCC to ensure Canadians have the best Cursillo method possible and for me, that is the authentic Cursillo method.

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Incoming Chair Linda Pitkanen

Sheelagh Winston,  
CCCC Resource Person



Past Chair Arlene van Diepen

## Conference 2018: Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo - From the Weekend to the World

The Annual National Canadian Conference of Catholic Cursillo, July 2018 at Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario was like going to the best School of Leaders ever!

The format of the Conference was designed this way as a teaching tool for us, so we could experience the fruits of a School of Leaders as envisioned by Eduardo Bonin. The four main presentations at the Conference were well prepared and renewed us in our desire to focus on vital aspects needed for a candidate in leading up to a weekend; during the weekend; and the importance of Cursillista beyond the Cursillo.

We sat at tables with about seven other Cursillistas from various parts of Canada and the U.S. After each presentation, we individually, did a private reflection on what we had just heard. Then after a few minutes, at our tables, we had a summary discussion of the Rollo. Then we had a large group feedback period that was handled by the presenter or the Rector of the School. This method was very beneficial for me. It emphasized concepts that needed a little more attention, added clarity, and affirmed work already being done. It displayed the insights and wonderful zeal of fellow Cursillistas in the room as a School of Leaders. I felt enlightened in so many aspects of being a Cursillista.

The various walks of life represented by the Cursillistas in attendance were unified within the Cursillo method. We were being taught that the framework, laid out in its original charisma, as given to Eduardo Bonin, is a fertile field for the Holy Spirit to

work among us, God's Apostles. Leading a friend to Christ is done in so many ways and we discussed several of them. I felt inspired to bring a friend to Ultreya more so now than ever before. Perhaps, before they make their weekend they will see the Holy Spirit at work among all in attendance at the Ultreya. I have never done this before and am now inspired to do so. At my table, stories of the "Cold Turkey" approach, that is, "Just go...you'll like it!" had positive and negative experiences on those asked to attend by a sponsor.<sup>1</sup> We discussed that having a potential candidate attend an Ultreya might lessen the "Mystery" of Cursillo Weekends and have the candidate become more open minded to their Cursillo experience.

Sponsorship was discussed and the importance of following through at many levels with the candidate and then the new Cursillista was incredibly important. This need not be a daunting task but one of Spirit led friendship that lets your candidate know you are interested in how they are doing in life itself. Being joyful for them means so much in their journey, post Cursillo Weekend.

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<sup>1</sup>The 'cold turkey' approach is not recommended by CCCC nor is it proper to the Cursillo method. A properly conducted Pre-cursillo, walking with the person in friendship, is the method prescribed by Eduardo and has proven to be the most effective. While there may be some random successes, we are called to do all that we can prior to the weekend to prepare the candidate to gain the most beneficial experience from their weekend. Unless we have walked with the candidate for some time and know them well, we cannot be sure how the intensity of the message of the weekend and the Three Encounters will affect the person. It is better to err on the side of caution than to toss the method to the wind. Do all as if it depends on you, and pray as if it all depends on God.

Palanca was evident everywhere. Palanca was also happening unseen. I would like to know the secret to how hard boiling and PEELING 200 eggs was accomplished! Wow! The food was abundant and the *Martha's* who lovingly thought out and planned and prepared our food, set up and took down tables, cleaned up, and made sure dietary needs were met are Apostles among us! Palanca very much! Many other unsung tasks were performed to help all in attendance feel at home and looked after. This was Christ in action. Also, the liturgies had many behind the scenes preparations occurring. In a meeting room that was transformed as a Holy Sacred space, we too were transformed by the profound actions of the clergy, the readers and the music. Healing graces were flowing as witnessed by many after these humble liturgical ceremonies. The palanca in preparing all of this was wonderful.

Corridor work by the CCCC Officers and the Hamilton Diocese Cursillistas was humbly profound. The priests in attendance, including Bishop Douglas Crosby, were displaying their corridor work and it was evident and hidden as spontaneous talks and even Confessions were occurring throughout the Conference.

Names we all see in our newsletters and Fully Alive, now had faces and personalities to them. The Executive of Cursillo Canada is very Spirit-filled and we are all in competent caring Christ-like hands. To me, I felt an Apostolic leadership from the members of the Officers' Group.

Pilgrim experiences were all around and experienced by everyone. Struggles with flight connections, getting lost trying to find Bricker Street (University students removed the street sign for a souvenir). The changing of venues throughout our day required Pilgrim efforts as the heat and mobility

issues were endured and handled with love. But all was experienced for the Joy of the Fruits of this well planned Cursillo Conference. Ultreya (Onwards and higher and better) my friends!

De Colores,

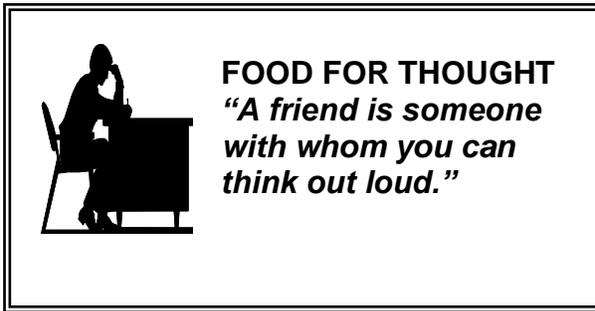
John Devine  
Cursillo 2014  
Deemerton, Ontario  
St. Mark's Friendship Table



A table group deep in thought



Table group discussion



### The Job Ahead

*At the close of each CCCC conference, one of the officers, typically the chair, gives a 'wrap up' rollo of the conference called Job Ahead. It sums up the content of the conference and proposes actions that are possibilities for the following year for the Canadian movements on which to base and focus their coming year's activities. Arlene van Diepen, the outgoing chair presented this rollo for our reflection.*

This weekend has been so rich. Rich in blessings of friendship and rich in the gifts of knowledge and understanding from the Holy Spirit. I am feeling a sense of hope in this room. In our corridor conversations, the CCCC Officer's Group have experienced hearts that are indeed on fire. We believe that we truly are Cursillistas Beyond the Cursillo and we are ready to go from this weekend to the world. Our Job Ahead is to permeate our environments with our consuming burning desire to help our friends to become friends with Christ. Another aspect of the Job Ahead is with the structures of our Cursillo movements. We have leaders in our diocesan movements who need to hear the message that we heard this weekend so that the focus of their Schools of Leaders is to put high priority on the formation of leaders who WILL be able to have every candidate on our weekends ready to be Cursillistas Beyond the Cursillo weekend; new leaders who are ready and enthused to go from their Cursillo weekend to their world! We need Secretariats who are ready to carry out the direction of the leaders in the Schools.

In this Job Ahead I am going to provide you with 3 things:

- #1 I am going to identify some challenges our movements are facing,
- #2 because Linda told us that Cursillistas are realists, I am going to provide you with some reality checks and finally
- #3 I want to identify some opportunities.

You have heard this weekend that the Cursillo method provides all that we need to fulfil our roles as Christians and Cursillistas. Kevin said to you that the meditation and rollos of the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the Cursillo weekend enable us to turn our faces to the world to focus on 'the others'. He was humble enough to tell us that when he first spoke at a school of leaders about the others he was off the mark. That is what school of leaders is all about. We all learn together. Let me tell you, he got it right this time. He also told us that the process outlined in the Study of the Environment rollo is the 'how to' of Cursillo. Following this process will enable us to reach the hearts of those in our environments - heart to heart.

Often I have heard that the Study of the Environment rollo is too long, that it doesn't have the personal impact that other rollos have as they listen to the Rollista's life experience and that it is judgemental. If your Rollista takes the time to deliver ALL the outline of the Study of the Environment Rollo and is able to demonstrate with a sprinkling of personal experience how he or she has carried out the process outlined in the rollo in a non-judgemental manner - rather a caring manner to help those in his or her environment who have varying degrees of relationships with Christ. Kevin did a great job of sharing the 5 groups with us. If you can say yes, we have rollistas who can do this. You have achieved SUCCESS. You have achieved the Gold Standard. So CHALLENGE #1 to you the leaders in your

Diocesan movements: Do not accept anything less. The Cursillistas on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of a weekend should be ready to move beyond the weekend. They have heard the why of the need to share Christ with others in their environments and now they are ready to hear 'the how to'. Don't sell them short. They know by the 3<sup>rd</sup> day that they are their brother's keepers and they are feeling that sense of urgency. Give them the tools they need! As leaders you MUST ensure that this happens on your Cursillo weekends. Are you up to the challenge?

Linda presented to you the very beautiful rollo Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo. This is what it is all about as we live our lives as Cursillistas. Hearing this rollo on a weekend results in the Cursillistas saying "It is possible! It can be done! I want that!!" Hearing the witness from a Cursillista who lives the Cursillo method gives the candidates confidence that they can act upon what is in their heart.... reaching out to those in their environments to bring them to Christ. They see a living example of what can be done with God in control. I have been faithful in attending Group reunion since making my Cursillo. My relationship with Christ has deepened as a result of my piety and study. It has made me stronger. The Cursillo method taught me that Jesus loved me, and I continued to practice my piety and study since my Cursillo and my relationship with Jesus deepened. As a result of a close encounter with Christ in front of the tabernacle, when I lost my son in a car accident, I found I was ready to face the future; keeping my family as Matthew Kelly states "not only surviving but thriving". For the next few years my family was my priority environment where I experienced apostolic failures, yes, but thanks be to God and my very special friends in Group Reunion, many apostolic successes where I was able to nurture my husband, my 23 year old daughter and my

15 year old son. Our family chain didn't have a missing link. We had a chain with a link made out of gold!

CHALLENGE #2: provide your candidates with an opportunity to know that they can turn to Christ in all situations. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day they may feel overwhelmed or be feeling despair about how to reach their loved ones. Demonstrate to them through the solid lived experience of a Cursillista delivering the Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo and the Total Security Rollos that they don't have to give in to despair as Judas did. Help them to realize that by living the Cursillo method they will know that without God they can do nothing. He will turn their sorrow to joy. He takes the impossible and makes it possible. We will not give up on our brothers and sisters. We are very much their keepers. If we don't do our part to reach them, then who will? Give your candidates the tools they need.

Muriel provided you with an in-depth look at the Group Reunion format and emphasized that without preparing yourself through piety and study and developing a plan, apostolic action loses its direction or doesn't happen at all. CHALLENGE #3. Work diligently to ensure that all Cursillistas from a weekend are in Group Reunion and attend Ultreyas. If they are not, you MUST analyze the situation to determine reasons and adjust your pre-Cursillo, Cursillo weekend and Post-Cursillo as required to achieve a higher rate of participation in the Cursillo method. Not all new Cursillistas will be able to commit to these but a high percentage should be able to commit. Remember a small group of Christians can change the world, one heart at a time! Perhaps new weekends shouldn't be held until as many new Cursillistas as possible are in Group Reunion and are attending the Ultreya.

So, there are my three challenges for you. Now knowing that you are realistic Cursillistas! I want to share with you a few reality checks.

We are very fortunate to have dedicated priests and deacons here this weekend. How wonderful it was to see them on the altar celebrating mass. Some have said that their movements are challenged due to a lack of priests who are able to dedicate a full weekend to Cursillo. When Sheelagh and I met with Bishop Crosby last year, he asked us to challenge movements to meet regularly with local bishops to keep them up to date with how things were going with the Cursillo in the diocese. Secretariats have taken this to heart and have met with Bishops and have had discussions about how to get more priests involved. So herein lies REALITY CHECK #1. If Cursillistas were walking with far away people in their environments and bringing them to Christ and possibly to Cursillo ...changing their lives so they start to live their lives with Christ as its center and if church pews started to fill up with these people, these actions would demonstrate how vital Cursillo is to the health of a parish. Yes, there are not as many priests as there used to be and yes, they are really busy in their parishes. However, if Cursillo was making a very noticeable difference in parishes, the bishop and priests would be falling over us to be involved. The bishops have to put priority on what is most important to the parishes. If they saw new people in the pews because of the apostolic actions of Cursillistas, Cursillo would very quickly become a Diocesan priority! Make Cursillo vital to the health of a diocese!

REALITY CHECK #2: If it ain't broke why fix it? If I had a loonie for every time I heard that I would be in the money! If you do not have a high percentage of Cursillistas in Group Reunion and attending Ultreya

regularly, if you do not have a waitlist for Cursillo, if you haven't filled the pews of your church, if you scramble to get the numbers at the last minute or cancel weekends for lack of numbers....well....REALITY CHECK #2 it's broke and it needs fixin'. Trust in the Holy Spirit. Trust in what was gifted to Eduardo and what we at CCC have been working with Mallorca on for many years. Stop believing you know and with great humility, just.... let go and just start knowing you believe.

REALITY CHECK #3: I made a stop at Walmart here in Waterloo. We were busy getting ready for this conference and so it was a very quick trip to pick up items we needed for our meetings and for the conference. It didn't take us long to pick up the items because the Walmart was set up exactly as it was set up in Charlottetown. I was able to pick up my items in no time flat. I recall a number of years ago Johnny and I were having a vacation and it in the Dominican Republic. We went to a church in a nearby town on Sunday. Of course, the Mass was in Spanish, however when the priest made his opening blessing I felt that I was home. Even with a different language the Mass was patterned the same as what I was familiar with. Cursillo should be no different. If I go to an Ultreya in Waterloo it should be the same as when I go to an Ultreya in Charlottetown. If I move and I'm lucky enough to find a group reunion, the process of the Group Reunion should be the same as it was in my Group Reunion in Morell. Do you recall how Eduardo described the Cursillo? He said it had so many ornaments on the tree of Cursillo that you cannot recognize the tree for what it truly is. Like a Christmas tree weighed down with ornaments. When we in our movements try to get back to the basics... to the beauty and simplicity of Cursillo, we take a lot of flak! When I talk to Cursillistas

across the country and hear we do this and we do that, the Cursillo is often unrecognizable from one diocese to another. When leaders try to change things to make the Cursillo more consistent as described in the step-by-step, veteran Cursillistas resist removing items such as personal Palanca, team anonymity, etc. REALTY CHECK #3: Who expects these? The candidates? No ... they haven't experienced a Cursillo weekend before. It is the team who resists having these items removed from the weekend. To be fair they had a great experience because of these things...it may have created a moment very close to Christ for them and they believe that if these are removed the weekend will not be effective.

So here is REALITY CHECK #4. The simplistic format of a Cursillo weekend described in the Step by Step Rector's Guide **will** enable candidates to encounter self, Christ and as a result of these encounters they will be more than ready for the Encounter with Others and thus will be Cursillistas Beyond the Cursillo and they will confidently go from the weekend to the world! Eduardo and his friends put all this together with the direction of the Holy Spirit. Many movements across Canada have implemented the guide. The only thing stopping the rest of us is fear that we will destroy our movements. I don't need to tell you where fear comes from. It is not from God.

REALITY CHECK #5: The CCCC OG works very hard with many movements across Canada. We spend much time in prayer and discernment. At times, we are disappointed that our efforts have not yielded any fruit. Other times, they bear much fruit. We often refer to the Scripture reading Matthew 10:14 **If no one welcomes you or listens to your words, as you leave that house or town, shake its dust off your feet.** In other words, move on; we have

done what we could – we need to set our gaze on other opportunities. As a Cursillista, in your post-Cursillo, you may need to do this as well when you have been working with someone. You have planted a seed and it may not have turned out as you hoped. Therefore, you felt an extreme sense of Apostolic Failure as the Total Security rollo outlines. You need to move on and leave it to God. However, your work may lead to someone else's Apostolic Success. Let's look at this through the lens of your School of Leaders and your Secretariats. There may be those who are not receptive to the Cursillo method, the Step by Step Guide for weekends and it can be quite frustrating and disappointing to try to affect change. Reality Check #5. Sometimes we focus on 10% of the Cursillistas trying to bring them along. Focus on the 90%. Anthony J D'Angelo says, "focus 90% of your time on solutions and only 10% on problems." Move on. Convince those who are convinced that the Holy Spirit does not make junk. Leave the others in God's hands.

Some challenges and a few doses of reality!  
Let's get to the opportunities!

We have 114 people at this conference representing 16 Dioceses and Reps from the Korean, Chinese, Hispanic and Croatian ethnic groups. We had 6 priests, 1 Deacon and we had the pleasure of having the Bishop with us twice! Cursillo is alive and well in Canada! We have leaders who are interested and ready to listen and act!

CCCC.... made up of volunteers and I can attest to how hard all members work. Ann from Atlantic, Linda from Central, Muriel from West, Fr Pat our beautiful humble Spiritual Advisor, Fr Bud whom we have kidnapped this weekend to help Fr Pat, and Sheelagh who is the gel that keeps this all together. Canada is well respected on the world stage and we play our part in the

international Cursillo organization in the capable hands of Carlos Muñoz and Bernie Reilander. I am ending my term as Chair of the CCCC. I spent 4 years as an officer and 3 as chair. After prayerful discernment, I am pleased to advise that Linda Pitkanen has agreed to serve as chair. Please be assured that I will continue to serve in any capacity that I am needed.

Annual Conferences. What a tremendous way to keep our Cursillistas up-to-date. It would be impossible without the volunteers of the Hamilton Diocese. We have been truly blessed this weekend to have been able to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the Diocese of Hamilton Cursillistas. It is very evident that their Movement is healthy and vital to this Diocese. They are leaders in many ways. They were one of the first movements to attend a Step by Step Workshop and as a result, immediately implemented the guide in its entirety. What

excellent examples of true leadership. On behalf of the officer’s group, I want to thank them for the excellent coordination of this conference. The health of their movement is also evident in the great number of locals present at this conference, and of course, the fantastic volunteers who were instrumental in making this conference go so smoothly. Thank you so much.

On a final note, thank you for taking the time to come to this conference. Thank you for your dedication to Cursillo. As I pass the torch of chair of the OG to Linda Pitkanen, I know that I leave the CCCC in good hands. I thank God for the opportunity to serve you over the past 7 years. It has been my privilege and I look forward to serving Cursillo in whatever capacity the Holy Spirit needs me.

God Bless, Ultreya and DeColores.

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**REPORT RE. KINGSTON’S 1<sup>ST</sup> WOMEN’S CURSILLO (August 9-12, 2018)**

The team consisted of myself as Rector and team members from Toronto, Peterborough and Thunder Bay. One lady from Kingston was there as an observer but did not give a rollo. Fr. Shawn Hughes who had been a candidate on the men’s weekend was the Spiritual Advisor.

There were many challenges forming the team, and most rollos were being done in the last few weeks causing much stress and last-minute extra work. There seemed to be on-going palanca being asked of us, and in the end, it all bore great fruit.

The team was truly great, truly lived make a friend, be a friend and make your friend a

friend of Christ and they are continuing to do so.

Most the 17 candidates were “well-churched” Catholics, but this did not diminish the need or the ultimate response. All but 1 saw Fr. Shawn privately. There was a great deal of healing. Given the overall depth of faith prior to the weekend, we were actually amazed at the depth of response to the weekend.

The team members that had not previously experienced the Step by Step Cursillo – all said they loved it, finding it so much more comprehensive and effective. Several of the veteran team members stated that other

than their own weekend this was the best ever and thus have an ever stronger commitment to the fullness of the Cursillo that is based on the Foundational Charism. Father Shawn stated his deeper commitment to the movement.

Father Shawn was absolutely wonderful as the sole Spiritual Advisor - doing everything. He loved the Spiritual Advisor's Manual and followed it faithfully, just adding some examples, etc. He is precise, clear and a great preacher and rollista. He's totally solid and so full of the joy of the Lord - what a blessing he is. Unfortunately, he didn't accept my invitation to take him with me back to Toronto.

He has very ambitious plans for Cursillo in the Archdiocese of Kingston. He is totally committed to the Foundational Charism and will ensure its adherence and faithfulness to it. As we know from experience, it takes time to convince people of the need and benefit of what they perceive as change. He is very conscious and respectful of Cursillo being a Lay movement.

Mary Joan Jaynes, Jan O'Brien and I attended the Kingston Ultreya on Sunday, Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> at which 13 of the 17 of the new Cursillistas attended and are most enthusiastic in remaining connected. Three of the 4 that did not come had previously informed us that regretfully they had prior commitments.

Following the Christianity in Action rollo, two tables had developed such a bond of friendship that they decided then and there that they were both forming group reunions. As far as we know at this point, 4 permanent group reunions have been formed and several have expressed a desire to become fully involved in the movement.

At this point, it likely means that at least 12 are in group reunions already. This is the most I have seen in many years.

We had our first post-weekend team meeting today (Aug.29<sup>th</sup>) having formed true friendships with one another and with the candidates. For most of us the role of friendship throughout Cursillo had not really been understood before; we have since decided to continue to sustain those friendships. The team members will continue contact with the new Cursillistas and are praying for them. We have also decided to continue our meetings in order to keep updated as to how they are doing, what more we can do for them, and our collective prayer and palanca. We also wish to continue the sharing and bond among ourselves in the spirit of group reunion.

In conclusion, this being my first actual experience of living the Step by Step weekend in its fullness, it has been such a blessing to have the privilege of coming to such a deep appreciation of the absolute wisdom, understanding and practicality of the Cursillo as it was meant to be and throughout the post-cursillo.

FYI - Kingston has already booked the next 2 weekends:

- a) Men's - March 28-31 - Kevin O'Brien has been invited to be Rector and has accepted.
- b) Women's - July 11-14 - I have been invited to be Rector and accepted.

De Colores,  
Diane Coates, Toronto

## ESSAY

*Sheelagh Winston, CCCC Resource Person*

**Eduardo Bonnin Aguiló** was a meticulous record keeper, keeping copies of his correspondence, meetings, conversations, rollos, articles, both his own and those he received.

On his travels outside of Mallorca, he quickly realized that the Charism that he had received was being lost to adaptations, additions, deletions and through a lack of understanding of the mentality and method that flows from the Charism. He began to travel frequently to all five continents, even taking Cursillo to Africa some years ago. The Mallorcan leadership assisted his efforts and beginning in 1994, held meetings of the Cursillistas from around the world who were genuinely interested in understanding and therefore living the authentic Cursillo; what has become known as living the Foundational Charism.

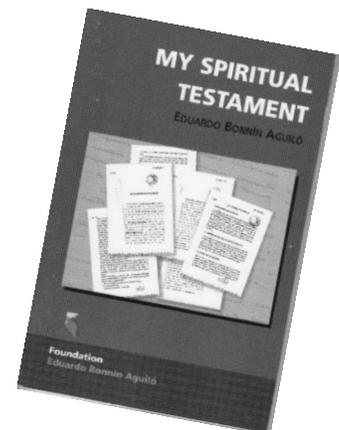
These meetings were named after Cala Figuera, the small fishing village in which the very first Cursillo was held in a small and simple seaside chalet, much like one of our fishing or hunting cabins in Canada. They named these gatherings the Conversations of Cala Figuera and beginning in 1994, there have been four. Describing them as Conversations is profoundly important. They were not presentations by Eduardo and other Mallorcan leaders well versed in the Charism and its mentality, the presentations were given by leaders from around the world. At the I Conversations of Cala Figuera we were told that we had been called to Mallorca to converse with each other. Francisco Forteza, the facilitator told us:

*"We want, in these Conversations to do what their name indicates: to converse. I believe that means to pour together into a common interior bowl what each one of us really is, sharing their truth and their life. It is important that we reach that place, to converse, to empty ourselves, to share in common all that each one has inside. Therefore, to converse is not to teach but neither is it to hide our talents. Nobody, I believe, can come to these Conversations with the notion that he or she possesses the truth, coming to us to teach the others. I believe that we all have discovered the enthusiasm of being Christian and, therefore, we can contribute many things. But here our mission is not teaching, of being teachers, but neither is it the opposite, hiding the talents that the Lord has desired to give to each one of us, and therefore we must not have a complex of being shy, not wanting to contribute. Those who have a teacher's complex, it will be removed because there is only one Teacher, and the Lord will also remove any complex of shyness or inferiority because we all are the same and, thanks to God, we are also all different. And, we want to converse on topics that are in the Foundational Charism of the Cursillo, for that reason the Conversations are called of Cala Figuera, remembering that first Cursillo of all, and they take place exactly on the fiftieth anniversary of that event."*

As Eduardo approached his 90<sup>th</sup> year, he began to compile his thinking and his work into one document which he called his Spiritual Testament. This is Eduardo's Last Will and Testament. In its opening pages he says:

### *I. THE REASON FOR THIS, MY TESTAMENT*

*I sincerely believe that one of the greatest assets that I possess is the knowledge of what*



*the real Cursillos in Christianity consist of, as well as the Movement engendered by them. And I know by proven experience that when each piece that makes it up: Pre-Cursillo, Three-Day Weekend and Post-Cursillo - fulfils its purpose, it responds with clockwork precision to its aim, which is nothing else but to try to have the Good News of the Gospel reach as many people as possible, and preferably those furthest away ("The far away").*

## II. A CATEGORICAL RESPONSIBILITY TO THOSE WHO MAY COME AFTER ME

*As I already mentioned, the knowledge of the "Cursillos in Christianity Movement" is the most important property that I own. At the time of making my will I think that the best thing I can pass on to those who come after me is to leave in writing and in detail what this Movement consists of, what its purpose is, and what are the aims to be achieved by the Movement.*

## III. BY WAY OF WARNING TO SEAFARERS

*The reason (or raison d'être) for this warning to seafarers- so that they may be faithful to the goal that Cursillo is after and for which they were devised, designed, prayed for and structured- is that it has been proved that from its inception in 1944, more than a few times - I wish to believe with good intention - they have been skimmed, deactivated, abducted or nipped in the bud of their nature and effectiveness, undoubtedly by people of goodwill and perhaps even believing that in so doing they were making a gift to God and to Cursillo.*

*However, there are serious reasons to believe that many interpretations, changes, restructuring, "updates" and reductions have been made with the desire to use the Cursillo. At times this has even been done with the aim of taking their cut, with a wish for being in the limelight of something they assume can help*

*them to excel in the pious market which is normally so lacking in originality and creativity.*

For the past several years, CCCC has been working at introducing the Step by Step Rector's Weekend Guide to the Canadian Cursillo Movement. CCCC collaborated with the US in the work of translating the document, which consists of the Schedule of the Three Days and 16 Appendices that clarify and deepen understanding of all that is pertinent to the Three Day Cursillo. CCCC has provided workshops on implementing the Step by Step and some Movements are already using it. One movement, Hamilton, has used it on 6 recent weekends with great success. It was also used in Kingston where the leaders, with the assistance of CCCC, have resurrected their movement after approximately 30 years, again with great success.

The Step by Step Guide with the Appendices was to have been included in Eduardo's Spiritual Testament. In his Spiritual Testament, he says:

## VI. FIDELITY TO THE METHOD: PRECURSILLO, THREE DAY WEEKEND AND POSTCURSILLO.

*"Assuming all this, I will detail in a separate document, Step by Step, what the Cursillo in Christianity is and what it consists of (Appendices)"*

Unfortunately, Eduardo passed away before this project came to completion. The Mallorcan leadership made the decision not to delay printing My Spiritual Testament and thus it was printed without the documents that pertain to the Three Day Weekend. This will be remedied in future printings of Eduardo's book.

As we at CCCC attempt to fulfill the mandate to which we have been called by the Pontifical Council for the Laity, “*know your Charism by studying the thinking and writings of your Founder*”, (the words of Saint John Paul II in an address to the Ecclesial Movements) and the mandate from OMCC, the World Body of Cursillo, to maintain fidelity to our Charism, it is to be expected that some movements are resistant to what they perceive as changes to what they know and love. The contents of the Step by Step Guide are not changes, they are what has always been the way in Mallorca, the Mentality and Method of the Cursillo Movement, its Essence and Purpose, for which Eduardo Bonnin prayed, studied, worked and prayed again. It is his life’s work, his legacy.

The process has begun to have Eduardo beatified, part of the procedure for being eventually declared a saint. When this happens, the hierarchy compose an official prayer to be used when seeking the intercession of the saint in question, Eduardo Bonnin, intercede for us. These prayers cards are available through the Resource Centre.

Many Cursillistas across the world are excited and happy that Eduardo has been accepted into this process. Our own Founder, the humble little man from Mallorca, who received the Charism of Cursillo in the early 40s and who has given his entire life to its goals, is in the process of becoming a saint! If we are excited and happy about this fact, enough to celebrate and pray for it to become a reality, then we should be absolutely delighted that he has left his legacy to us. As he said in his Spiritual Testament;

*“I sincerely believe that one of the greatest assets that I possess is the knowledge of what the real*

*Cursillos in Christianity consist of, as well as the Movement engendered by them.”*

In our personal lives, when somebody we know, admire and love, dies, if they love us enough to leave some part of their legacy to us in their last will and testament, we are humbled, honoured and grateful. The item left to us is cherished, valued, and takes pride of place in our home or is carefully invested so as to preserve this precious gift. It becomes a family heirloom, a treasure, to be carefully guarded and passed down from generation to generation.

The Step by Step Weekend Rector’s Guide is part of Eduardo’s legacy to us, his Spiritual Testament, his Will: it is the best thing he owned which he could leave to us.

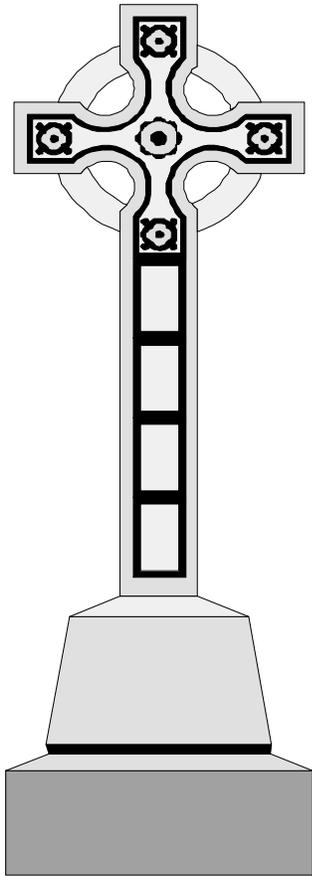
Let us then treasure his legacy, the Charism of Cursillo, which he has entrusted to our care. We cannot inherit the Charism, but we can do all that we can to preserve it as it was

given, to be keepers of the flame of Cursillo, in honour of Eduardo yes, but first and foremost, as grateful participants in a gift that the Holy Spirit has given to us through Eduardo.

Let us all cherish what Eduardo has left to us, let us continue the work that he began through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and let us honour his memory by listening to his words, being guided by his wisdom and following in his footsteps, for we know whose were the footsteps in which he walked. Would that we all had something as sacred and as precious to leave behind to mark the fact that we have been here.

Eduardo, intercede for us.





## MATTERS SPIRITUAL

### Fr. Bud Gallant, Spiritual Advisor to CCCC

#### AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?

When the Lord inquired of Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" Cain arrogantly replied with the question, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

Over the years that question has been asked numerous times. Many today would respond with firm conviction, "Yes Cain, you are your brother's keeper, and, not only you, but each one of us is our brother and sister's keeper.

In teaching His followers, Jesus often used the scriptures to get His point across.

At one time, a certain lawyer asked Jesus, "What must I do to be saved?" Jesus asked him what he had read in the Torah. The lawyer replied, "Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all your heart and soul, with your mind and your strength, and love your neighbour as yourself."

Jesus told him that his answer was correct.

But in order to justify himself, he asked Jesus the question, "And who is my neighbour?"

Jesus told him the story of the Good Samaritan. After he was done, he asked the lawyer, "Which of the three was the neighbour to the man on the side of the road?" He answered, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said, "Go and do likewise."

Isn't that the mandate to us as Cursillistas? To go out into our community, our environment and live the Fourth Day?

(John 13: 1-17, 26) Just before the Passover, Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart from this world and return to His father. After He instituted the Eucharist, He laid aside His outer garments, took a towel, tied it around his waist, poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet. And when He had finished, He told them, "Do you know what I have just done to you? You call me Lord and master and so I am. If I, your Lord and master, can wash your feet, should you not be able to wash the feet of your sisters and brother's?"

As I read this scripture, the line that caught my attention was, "And taking a towel, He tied it around His waist." The towel tied around His waist symbolizes Jesus yoking Himself to His disciples. He is saying by this gesture, "I will be with you especially in the most difficult times in your life."

As Cursillistas, we are invited to tie the towel around our waist and yoke ourselves to our brothers and sisters who are struggling in their lives. It is so easy for us to walk with our own kind, but as we listened to Bishop Douglas Crosby's talk last night, when he was giving a retreat at Dalhousie University, he saw Mary up at the front with her feet on the clean table.

He did not know what to say. "Am I going to tell her to take her feet down?" But then he noticed that she was wearing a bulky sweater, she had no arms. And then, he kind of laughed at this also, when he said, "What am I going to do when it is time for the Sign of the Peace?"

I think we have difficulty to reach out to those struggling at times. It is difficult to reach out to our brothers and sisters who are in need. The alcoholic, those addicted to drugs, gambling, the homeless, and the list goes on and on and on. And so, as Cursillistas, we are to stop by the side of the road and help our sisters and brothers who are in need.

A beautiful song years ago by Glen Campbell: Try a little kindness.

If you see your brother standing by the road  
With a heavy load from the seeds he's sowed

And if you see your sister falling by the way  
Just stop and say, you're going the wrong way

Jesus asks us today the same question he asked to Cain. "Where are your brother and

sister?" And we ask as Cain asked, "Am I my sister and brother's keeper?"

(John 13: 34-35) Jesus says, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

As we attend the National Conference, and when we leave on Sunday, we will be gung-ho to bring our brothers and sisters to Christ, to bring them the love and grace we received.

More than ever before, as our world loses its Christian values, when we return back to our homes, our environment, we must never ever tire of yoking ourselves to the stranger on the side of the road. When we go back home, let us not wait until the last minute to bring a brother and sister to Christ. Let us begin to walk with them right now.

Because yes, we are our sister's and brother's keeper!



Father Bud Gallant from PEI

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

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

◆ **QUEBEC,**  
Montreal English.

◆ **ONTARIO,**  
London Area,  
Essex/Windsor, Kent  
County/Chatham)  
Peterborough, Toronto,  
Hamilton, Ottawa,  
Kingston, Thunder Bay,  
Korean.

◆ **WESTERN,**  
Vancouver, Edmonton,  
Grouard-McLennan,  
Northern Native Cursillo.

- 1993 - The 3000th Cursillista lived a Weekend
- 2000 - Found a new home for our Weekends at the Ignatius Retreat Center in Deemerton
- 2005 - Adopted the Mallorcan Outlines (Rainbow Book)
- 2016 - Adopted the Mallorcan Step-by-Step method of the weekend.
- 2017 - The 4000th Cursillista lived a Weekend

## CENTRAL REGION

### HAMILTON - 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

In honour of their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, The Hamilton Diocese Cursillo Movement hosted the 2018 National Encounter in Waterloo, Ontario. A slideshow presented the following highlights:

- In 1963 Fr. Hugh DiCicco, Pastor of St. Raphael's Parish, lived a Cursillo with a group of Burlington men in Detroit, MI. In November 1963, he and another group of men attended the first Cursillo in Toronto led by a team from Detroit. Then their wives experienced a women's Cursillo weekend in Toronto. The First Men's Weekend in the Hamilton Diocese was held Feb 1-4, 1968 at the Ignatius Jesuit Center in Guelph which also hosted the First Women's Weekend from May 15-18, 1970.

- 81 Men's and 80 Women's Cursillos have been held since 1968. Over 4,000 Cursillistas have experienced a Cursillo, including 200 Clergy and Religious (78 Priests have served as Spiritual Directors). Some milestones along the way:
  - 1978 - The 1000th Cursillista lived a Weekend
  - 1983 - The 2000th Cursillista lived a Weekend

The Hamilton Movement continues to celebrate 50 years of inhaling God's love in Piety and Study and exhaling God's ways in Apostolic action with a number of special events:

- September: 50 hours of prayer across the diocese,
- October: A Grand Ultreya in the north of the diocese,
- November: A Celebration Dinner in the central of the diocese, and
- December: A Retreat in the south of the diocese.

# building bridges from coast to coast



## WESTERN REGION

### NORTHERN NATIVE CURSILLO MOVEMENT ALBERTA

We have been very busy in early July with two Cursillo weekends held in Saskatoon, hosted by Our Lady of Guadalupe parish (designated the indigenous in parish Saskatoon) We welcomed 17 women and 13 men. We had two Spiritual Advisors for both weekends and the new bishop of Saskatoon presided over the Clausura. Life is so good and God is great.

We are now gearing up for two more weekends in October.

### STEP-BY-STEP WORKSHOP IN THE GROUARD MCLENNAN ARCHDIOCESE

A workshop on the *Three Day Guide: Step-by-Step* was held in Grande Prairie on Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Sheelagh Winston, from the CCCC Resource Centre, facilitated the workshop, assisted by Muriel Brideau, CCCC Western Officer. Twenty participants including Archbishop Gerard Pettipas, Monsignor Charles Lavoie, and Fr. Albert Sterzer, the Spiritual Director of the local movement, took part in the in-depth study of the weekend guide. Eight Secretariat members attended in addition to members of the School of Leaders which has met monthly since forming the School, (a first

for Grouard McLennan) since hosting the Cursillo of Cursillos in 2017. The absolute

necessity for an authentic School of Leaders that meets regularly and frequently throughout the year was affirmed throughout the workshop.

The goal was to gain understanding of which elements are essential, which are non-essential, and which are incidental to the weekend in the local reality. At all times a spirit of love and a desire to understand the charism given to Eduardo Bonin took priority. Secondly, participants examined the mentality and the method that resulted from Eduardo's vision, work and experience in Cursillo, beginning some years before the first Cursillo, held in Cala Figuera in 1944. Finally, participants looked at ways to more closely "live" the Cursillo within their unique and challenging environment. It was an exciting day and a half, full of hard work, but also full of laughter, questions and an abundance of conversation.

Sheelagh began her presentation with a short history of the Cursillo movement and a brief look at the life, schooling and inspiration of Eduardo as he fulfilled his military service in Mallorca, Spain. To many participants this was new information. As we began to understand how Cursillo started, what it looked like in the early days, and the reasons why the pre-Cursillo, the weekend and the post-Cursillo were changed as they moved out of Spain and across the world, we understood the

necessity to get back to the original vision, mentality and method of the charism given to Eduardo Bonin: Spreading the best news – the gospel of Jesus, by the best method – friendship, to the best that is in each person. As is so often the case, as we examined the 3 Day Guide, we found we have to let go of some of the non-essentials in our weekend schedule to focus on the essential parts. Most ended the workshop believing that the benefits outweigh the cost and look forward to regaining the essence of the foundational Charism, both on the weekend and as we live the Cursillo in the fourth day. We move forward with many questions, some concern about how to implement any changes, and communicating what we learned to those not involved in the conversation. However, there was also much excitement and a sense of being led by the Holy Spirit. Thank you, Sheelagh and Muriel, for sharing your wisdom, experiences and guidance!! De Colores!

Submitted by Allan Forsberg

**CURSILLO PRAYER LINE**

Let us help one another lighten our burdens and what better way than to join regularly in prayer for one another. The Cursillo prayer line has been established especially for this and we want to encourage the greatest number of people to benefit from it. When we have occasions to pray in gratitude for the many blessings, we gladly share this and multiply our joy. We want to also care for one another through all occasions of life, to erase worry, lighten the burden, be a presence in hardship, to share with God’s people who are in need. As a community, united, we want to look ahead in faith, and unwavering trust that God is indeed by our side in every battle and we are strengthened by the faith and confidence of all his people.

**Become a member of the prayer line by contacting Yvonne, [cursilloprayerline@gmail.com](mailto:cursilloprayerline@gmail.com)**

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**Q.** An attendee at the annual conference questioned why we sang De Colores in Spanish. “If the movement had started in North America and had been introduced to Spain, would we insist that De Colores had to be sung in English and could not be sung in Spanish”?

**A.** The reason we sing De Colores in Spanish is primarily because it is universally sung in Spanish. When one

travels around the world and attends conferences or Ultreyas in different countries De Colores is sung in Spanish, with the result that everyone present, irrespective of their native language, can join in the singing of what has become known as the Cursillo song. In the recent conference the Koreans who were present sang De Colores in Spanish at the Fiesta, no easy task for them. Whilst at the recent Encounter in the US, there were many linguistic groups present; Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Spanish, English etc. In our own country of Canada we have English, Chinese, First Nations, Korean, Hispanic, Croatian, French, Vietnamese. All sing De Colores in Spanish. This song, sung in its original Spanish, is a point of unity, it binds us together as does our shared faith.

**Q.** Could CCCC create/advise with written guidelines on methods to get Group Reunions formed for new Cursillistas. Our movement struggles with not keeping new Cursillistas. Perhaps part of Post-Cursillo or a new secretariat position altogether, to keep track of groups looking for new members. Members ...for groups. Members willing to temporarily form a group with new Cursillistas to get others going. i.e. better retention of new Cursillistas.

**A.** In the authentic Cursillo weekend, an actual Group Reunion is held as part of the Total Security rollo. The rector forms the candidates and team into Group Reunions, not by table group but by a careful discernment of those who live or work in close proximity together and who could be potential group members after the weekend. If a candidate is present and there is no other person at the Cursillo who lives close enough to form a group with them, the rector will invite one or more persons from that location to join the Cursillo for the Total Security rollo and the Group Reunion. This is not a mock Group Reunion or an example of what it is, but an actual Group Reunion, right there at the Cursillo. This creates the core of a Group Reunion so that the candidates leave the weekend, already familiar with and comfortable enough to immediately being grouping. In addition, team members and sponsors who are already in Group Reunion may find it necessary to form or join a new Group Reunion simply to start the new candidate off on the right track. In Mallorca and here at home, many Cursillistas are in more than one Group Reunion for the sake of the newest Cursillistas. This is addressed in the Total Security presentation from the Cursillo of Cursillos presentations and is available from the Resource Centre.

**Q.** At the conference, Rollo responses frequently had little to do with the rollos. They were witness talks in themselves!

**A.** CCCC presents the annual conference following the format of the School of Leaders. The days are divided into units of time that replicate actual sessions of the School. Each session, as should happen at a School session in the local movements, consists of prayer, the rollo, the witness to the rollo, discussion and feedback. This being so, the witness to the rollo is not the same as the responses given after the Ultreya rollo or witness. The witness at the conference is asked to give an example of how they live the topic that has just been presented. Therefore, in light of this, the witness is supposed to be a short witness of how that person or persons, there may be two or three, lives what has been spoken of. That is what was experienced at the conference. We will endeavour to make this clearer in future conferences.



The Korean Cursillistas singing  
De Colores in Spanish  
(that's why we sing it in Spanish)

# Witness

*Daily we touch Him*

## My First Time as Rector on a Weekend - How the Holy Spirit Works on our Weekends

It was a lovely start to the day. I met the registration team at the local church where we store all our Cursillo supplies and eventually we began the journey to the venue, a 45-minute drive east of town. We met the Spiritual Advisor there and started to set up the chapel and rollo room. I checked all the bedrooms and made sure all looked in order.

The Secretariat had made the decision, and was committed, to following the Step by Step Weekend Rector's Guide for the first time. This being so, the team was to meet all of the candidates at a local church at 4:45 pm, make sure all were there before leaving, and possibly leave by 5 pm, rideshare together and drive out to the venue as a convoy. One of the candidates had a mother that was ill, and she wanted to take her own vehicle in case she might be needed in the course of the three days. I agreed and arranged for another team member and candidate to travel with her.

At 4:00 pm she called me up and tearfully told me that she had a flat tire. I told her that my husband would be able to get there, but she informed me that she lived a good distance away, 45 minutes west of the city. She said that her father-in-law was going to help her change the tire and that she would drive to the city and go to her husband's workplace and exchange vehicles with him (even though hers was the more reliable of the two). She would then proceed to drive another 45 minutes east of the city to the venue.

I texted my husband as he was waiting at the church parking lot to be part of the welcoming of the candidates before they left for the venue with the team members. He informed them that she would be coming on her own later after her tire was changed. The team member that was to go with her was advised to jump in someone else's car and off they went. Unfortunately, in the excitement and change of plans, another candidate who arrived late was inadvertently left behind. She waited at the church then phoned her sponsor as she had not brought my contact information with her. She eventually phoned me and I was flabbergasted. That has never happened since I have become a Cursillista that I am aware of.

I apologized profusely and told her that someone would come and pick her up and bring her to the venue. My husband said that he would pick her up ...that all he had to do was get gas for his truck. He got in contact with her, and they proceeded with the plan. Both of the missing candidates arrived within two minutes of each other and all were in good humour. Thank you Jesus!

My husband, Lay Director of our movement, joined us for supper and right after the supper we went to the rollo room and began the weekend.

Thursday night was done quite well, and I was pleased with the work that we did. Phew, my first night as a first-time rector

was over. Team meeting and off to bed we went.

The next morning after morning prayers and the Mass, I was at the podium giving my Initial rollo when a member of the staff came in and gave a phone to one of my team, a table team member and close friend. It was the hospital asking her to come back to the city as her husband was in the hospital and the nurse said it was crucial that she get there right away. She left immediately with another team member who drove her to the hospital, roughly an hour away.

She was met at the hospital by her sister and brother-in-law, and the other team member drove back to the venue. It was during a table discussion that I received a phone call from our priest; he gave me the news that my friend's husband, a long time Cursillista, had passed away. What a shock; the Spiritual Advisor, a close friend of the deceased and a member of his permanent group and I, were momentarily stunned. We then looked at each other, hugged each other and cried.

We composed ourselves, and the SA went to the podium and announced the shocking news. All of the team and with the exception of two, the candidates also knew our friend who had just passed away. There were tears, many tears. Then we went into the chapel to pray for him and his wife and daughter. Praying to our Father gave us time to collect ourselves and focus. We had given the candidates a choice, 'you may join us in the chapel if you wish, it is your choice'. They all joined us in the chapel. This is one of those incidental moments that sometimes happen in the weekend where we need to be free of the schedule of the weekend and listen to what the Spirit is calling us to. The essential, the non essential and the incidental became

abundantly clear - this spontaneous visit to the chapel is exactly what needed to be done at this particular time on this particular weekend. Not to be repeated on subsequent weekends, despite the fact that it was a profound experience of the presence of God.

We continued our day with laughter and little bouts of sadness and grief. When we were told, late that afternoon, that something was wrong with the water supply and they didn't know how long it would take to be fixed...I started to wonder what Satan was doing rearing his ugly head. I was starting to think that we were doing so much good that he decided to really interfere...little did I know. The posters that were done were terrific. Finally, the day that started so quickly was now at an end and we went to bed.

Sleep was short lived! I was awakened at 3 am by a team member. Her room and mine were joined by a wall. She was panicky and said that I should come to her room. She was awakened by bugs crawling all over her face and shoulders and that she was being bitten. Bed bugs! I looked in her room and was aghast. I called the caretakers right away and he and his wife quickly arrived. In Mallorca they talk about these things that happen to disrupt the three days as the devil's Cursillo. I now know why. The caretakers quickly cleared the room of all soft materials, including her luggage and personal items. My team member went for a shower while all her clothing was washed in the hottest water possible. She went downstairs to the dining room and stayed up until everyone got up for the day. Her room was blocked off and sealed while I checked my room carefully for any signs of the bugs. None to be found, so I tried to go back to sleep.

Every chance I had I would go and discreetly check all the rooms for signs of bugs. Thankfully no others were found all weekend. The staff also looked for them at different times throughout the weekend. Only the team knew about the bugs; we were all on the lookout.

Sunday morning, there was a planned power outage starting at 8 am. It was to last until noon. It lasted until 3 pm. We had little-LED lanterns on each table in the rollo room for the candidates and team to write by, while the rollistas held their cell phones with the flashlight app to read their rollos. To say I will never forget my first time as rector is an understatement!

As a side note, when my husband returned home and opened the front door, he was greeted by clouds of billowing smoke and smoke alarms screaming in the night. He had been gone for a total of 3 hours and left his supper cooking on low heat. He swore he had turned the stove off. Again, thank you Jesus that the house did not burn down, we have a house to return to, and thank you also that we are now living in a hotel until the house is restored!

The new Cursillistas were overjoyed and full of the graces that God has poured down on all of us this past weekend. Although we dealt with grief over the death of our friend and were aghast at the bed bug incidence and the inconvenience of no power, the candidates were not affected. They were in fact, so very grateful that we carried on with the weekend and asked the question frequently, 'how are you doing this?' The team rallied round and we had many opportunities, through what could have been a disastrous end to the weekend, to witness to the fact that the Holy Spirit guides the weekend; we knew we were supported by the prayers of many and we could simply say to the candidates that

God's grace is enough to guide us through any and all situations. We are so grateful to him for loving us so much!

The Weekend itself was a resounding success and we were so blessed by the Holy Spirit. Though we were quite shaken and saddened by Dave's death we dedicated the weekend to him and persevered. A team member and I gave the two rollos that his wife, our team member was to have done, and life in the spirit continued to grow. This was a witness to us that, 'yes you can conduct a weekend with very few team members'. Eduardo had it right once again. There was no better place to be than there, surrounded by friends and brothers and sisters in Christ. We held each other up on Friday and glorified in the Lord. I, though saddened, knew in my heart that he was so lucky to have run the race and in the midst of sadness at the loss of a dear friend, I could be happy that he was called back home to be with God and live eternal life. Well done, good and faithful servant! God is so good!

I share this with you because we were able to witness to the candidates in a tangible way, that "all things work for good, to those who love the Lord". Because we were following the simplicity of the Step by Step Weekend Rector's Guide, there was nothing that we could not accomplish with a diminished team, all that we had to do was give our rollos, ensure that Mass was celebrated, prayer times took place and to be there for the candidates during corridor work. The deacon who was the Spiritual Advisor and a veteran of many Cursillo weekends said, "we should have been doing this all along"!

**De Colores and Ultreya!**

# FROM EDUARDO

*The following is an excerpt from History of a Charism by Eduardo Bonnín. It will be available by the end of the year in book form. It should be noted that the book is a collection of Eduardo's writings, some written in previous years, so the dates will not appear to be current.*

## COMMUNICATION OF THE DIOCESAN SECRETARIAT OF MALLORCA TO THE IV WORLD ENCOUNTER OF THE LEADERS OF THE CURSILLO IN CHRISTIANITY

### THE CURSILLO, YET TO HAVE ITS DEBUT?

#### I. INTRODUCTION

It is probable that both this present communication and its title surprise a few people, but not those who have been in the Cursillo Movement, in other words, those who have been living it. We have always been occupied and preoccupied with the existence of the Cursillo, from its very beginnings. And we have persevered in Cursillo until today. We know we have an obligation in conscience not to be silent and to say once again before the whole world - as we did when we published the "Manifesto" - that the Cursillo Movement has not yet had its debut.

We know we must say it and proclaim it to the four winds, so that those who undoubtedly believe that they are making a gift to God and to the Cursillo, understand that instead they are in fact dedicated to distorting, mutilating, undermining, modifying, and twisting its course. Perhaps they are doing this without having bothered to think about the purpose of Cursillo, the originality it presents and contributes, and the mission it is called upon to undertake.

This is nothing new, despite the fact that

there have been people who have spent hours of their time and their lives trying to give life to the Cursillo. They do this so that the Cursillo continues to live. It is well known that the only works that live are those that have persons ready to go to any length to make it possible for them to live. As restless people can see, and we are very restless, the Cursillo has yet to debut for the same reason that some other things await their debut, the New Commandment, the Our Father, and the Beatitudes.

Things happen this way. It is painful to us that Christians are far too accustomed to the existence of everything that has come down to us through the Church. So much so that we tend to ignore or forget the marvel of their simple existence. It would seem that we Christians have suffered through the sprouting remains of the earthly life of Jesus Christ, as if it were a burdensome and demanding inheritance, humanly impossible. We fail to see the splendid task full, amazing, indelible, paradoxical, and unique, to which our life is leading us, when we admit that Christ is the Truth. He, Himself, has paved the way for men to have access to authentic life. By saying that the Cursillo is yet to debut, we are not forgetting what has been achieved thanks to it. Realities that are expressed through persons and facts that are clear and real evidence of what can be achieved if Cursillo's purpose is carried out with more precision, decision, and conviction.

Thanks to the people who embody them, when these realities are able to be penetrated by the Gospel, the unstoppable force of these values become visible, audible, and operative, in those who make them transparent by living them in spirit and in truth. Then there is nothing that can resist, not the men who seek the meaning of

life in other areas, nor even those who do not bother to look for it because they have come to believe, even if not completely, that all life is nonsense.

## II. THE DANGER OF MANIPULATION

Like anything human, the Cursillo isn't perfect. But the confusion and the mess begins when some people, without a complete picture of why they were thought up, attempt to take the generosity that the Cursillo arouses, by the grace of God, to benefit what seems best to them.

The Cursillo has its own identity and being. When it is used for something else, it is not surprising that it does not give the desired result. The Cursillo is called upon to stimulate a hunger for God. Its novelty is that in our world, in the environment where the Christian grows and develops, this element of faith, the living faith, the true faith, the only faith that is capable of igniting, animating, and infecting, this hunger for God is always taken for granted, even though the events and circumstances that occur every day show that this is far too much to assume.

It is true that the Cursillo arouses an effervescent and impetuous faith that can upset the spiritual digestion of the ones who have always been in the Church. It is also true that those who have worked since sunrise do not look kindly on those called at the eleventh hour to work in the Vineyard. It is this attitude, that already existed in the days of Our Lord, that the Cursillo Movement, since its beginning, has tried to take into account. Cursillo does this by use of a few means: the Group Reunion and the Ultreya. If not distorted, these foster and increase the hunger that the Cursillo arouses in the cursillistas, since each one, when focused in its specific nature, is essentially dynamic and this matures in the

same way the life of each person is maturing. If it is not forced or pressed, it usually produces abundant fruit.

The human material that the Cursillo manages to bring closer to the Church needs to be understood, respected, and cultivated with anointing, without paternalism, something not acceptable today, but with true friendship. We don't want to impose secondary things, especially on those who are more generous. All of them tend to be so after leaving a true Cursillo. Doing this, besides discouraging them, shines a spotlight for the newly discovered, to point out pious practices and suggest acting in ways that do not square up with their own being and doing.

It is curious that the Cursillo, like everything simple, is put to a multitude of trials, proofs, manipulations, and subjugations that are alien to its purpose and its method. Evidence of this includes not using them for the purpose they were thought up for. This has become a confusing manna for each group of Christians that has a different taste. That explains why some treat Cursillo as over pious and others as elitists, others, up to date and efficient and others like an ancient exponent of something naively clinging to the past, an idea that remains thanks only to the stubbornness of some who also believe that humanity and the Church came out losers with Vatican II.

By wanting to defend the quality of genuine and authentic Cursillo, we are not trying to cling to archaic, outdated and fossilized things. Rather we uphold truths that when believed by, lived by, and incarnated in the normal man have the power to free him from what now and always has been difficult for him. That is to be able to live life in its fullness.

### III. HAS CURSILLOS' TIME PASSED?

No doubt to help us better explain what we want to convey, not to go back to the past, but to see the real possibilities that Cursillo can have when people strive to understand it and carry it out, we think it is necessary to throw a few questions into the arena of this Fourth Encounter. They are questions that we brought up more than thirty or forty years ago to open the way to the mentality of the Cursillo for those who, at that time, wanted to take the Cursillo down pathways strange and alien to its purpose. Now it seems that there are some who want to do the same thing today. God forbid that they are able to do it:

1a. Isn't it a serious problem that many baptized persons do not live their baptism?

2a. Wouldn't it be worthwhile to have a movement entrusted with solving this serious problem?

3a. Is it not true that the problem cannot be solved by making them live their baptism for only three days?

4a. Don't you think that all the works of the Church would come out ahead, and would have to welcome a movement that could fill such a void that the Church has been aware of for such a long time?

5a. Do you think that living one's baptism must necessarily coincide with being situated in a Catholic organization or association?

6a. Do you think that salvation depends on the life of grace or on being a member of some association? Which is best to enroll or to find salvation?

7a. Can illiterate persons be saints?

To put these questions in tune with Vatican II, we can formulate them today as follows:

1a. Isn't it a big problem that there are many people in each one's environment who do not know that God loves them?

2a. Wouldn't it be worthwhile to tell

them that He loves them in some isolated place, with much faith, much hope, and much charity at work? To make it apparent to them by an attitude of attentive and hopeful understanding? To try to infect them with the faith that we have in such good news?

3a. Isn't it true that if we limited ourselves to only three days of friendly coexistence and did not provide them with a simplified way so that what they lived for three days they could live in their normal lives, we would have played a dirty trick on them? For "a blind man who has never seen and does not know what it is to see, is never in as much pain as the man who has seen and now cannot see".

4a. Don't you think that everything we call Christian, despite the goodwill and generous devotion of many, needs a real and effective approach to people who do not have faith, or do not know if they have it, because they live absorbed by things that they think are important, but that do not fulfill them? Might there not be among them those with the most personality who tend to be the leading actors in many wrong things, and only because they have not received the news that God loves them in a language, willingness and style appropriate for them not only to capture it, but to go on deepening it?

5a. Don't you think, with the greatest respect and without underestimating them, that these people are like the ones the primitive Church called the Gentiles? Do we have to first demand from them that they fulfill all the requirements of the law, before making contact with a warm, natural, true, and continuous touch, that the Group Reunion and the Ultreya, when they are true and simple, facilitate and energize?

6a. Do you think, even after Vatican II has ushered in the concept and criterion of freedom through the front door of the Church, that new converts have to be put under the pressure to become part of one of

the Christian organizations of times long gone? Organizations where things sail along in different orbits and where, almost certainly, no one will understand them, despite the best will on both sides, and thus will subject them to the risk of their spirit being extinguished? Instead of this, shouldn't we be providing them with the means to grow, by living close to those who also one day lived the joyous adventure of a Cursillo?

Do you think that their salvation requires putting them, whether they want it or not, into our same old networks? Do you think that by the mere fact of being in such structures, they will automatically travel the path that goes from their behaviour to their full conviction?

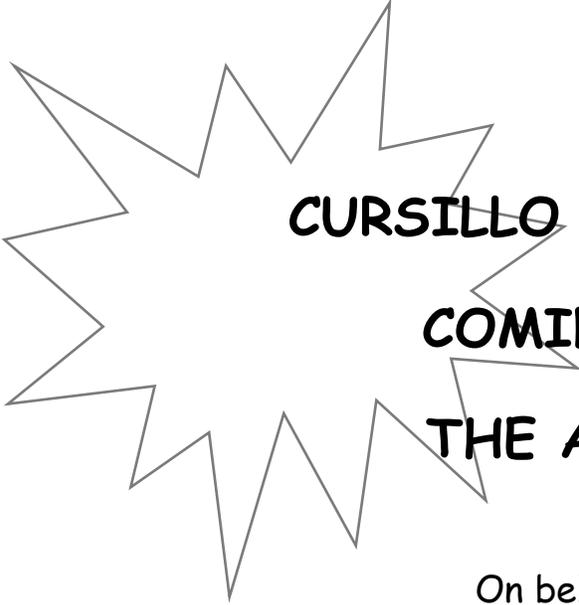
7a. Isn't it surprising that a person without much human culture, but with a lot of divine grace, can be the instrument, not

only for an intellectual to meet Christ, but so that, by seeing Him alive in the brothers, he will truly be astonished. He will discover new dimensions in his life, become more humble, and enjoy himself if the Lord grants him the grace. Without feeling that he is superior, or even better, but by feeling quite the opposite, he comes to count it a great gift from God that he has been led to a situation that makes it possible for him to live side by side, with simple people, making Group Reunion and attending the Ultreya?

Perhaps this long explanation may help to clarify what we feel the need to say, with all humility, but also, with all truth. We think that, in general, the presentations proposed for the Fourth Encounter point neither to the essence, nor to the purpose, nor to the method of the Cursillo and they are many light-years away from our original idea.



Don't forget to send the  
dates of your weekends to  
the Resource Centre so we  
can include them on the  
web site  
[cccresource2@gmail.com](mailto:cccresource2@gmail.com)



**CURSILLO OF CURSILLOS IS  
COMING TO  
THE ATLANTIC**

On behalf of CCCC  
The Cursillistas of the Atlantic will be  
hosting a  
Cursillo of Cursillos  
at  
Mount St. Vincent University,  
Halifax, NS  
June 27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> 2019

The three Amigos from Mallorca, Miguel Sureda, Juan Aumatell and Manuel Fernandez, will once again facilitate the event, sharing their love and knowledge of Cursillo, learned through their relationship with Eduardo and living the Cursillo with him.

*The Cursillo of Cursillos was created by Eduardo Bonnin and he recommended that a diocese hold one every four years.*

*The C of C looks deeply at the Charism of Cursillo and the mentality and method which that charism engendered. The format is the same as a Cursillo weekend comprising rollos, sharing in the table groups and much fun and laughter.*

*More information and registration will be made available in the coming months. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this event which we are blessed to be able to provide.*

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