

# Fully Alive



THE NATIONAL RESOURCE DOCUMENT OF THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC CURSILLOS



1<sup>st</sup> Candle - (purple) The Prophecy Candle or Candle of Hope - We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

2<sup>nd</sup> Candle - (purple) The Bethlehem Candle or the Candle of Preparation - God kept His promise of a Saviour who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to "get ready". Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

3<sup>rd</sup> Candle - (pink) The Shepherd Candle or the Candle of Joy - The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

4<sup>th</sup> Candle - (purple) The Angel Candle or the Candle of Love - The angels announced the good news of a Saviour. God sent His only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

5<sup>th</sup> Candle - (white) The Christ Candle - the white candle reminds us the Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)

CONTENTS

Officers' Corner	3	Matters Spiritual	9	Eduardo Prayer Card	17
Food for Thought	7	Around the Country	12	From Mallorca	18
Cursillo Prayer Line	8	Witness	16	Matters Spiritual (cont.)	21



## OFFICERS' CORNER

Linda Pitkanen, Chair of CCCC

De Colores, Everyone! I find it quite fascinating to see how fast the time has flown since March when our country started to lock itself down due to the Covid pandemic. It is now November, and that was eight months ago. The first few months dragged on and on, and the days seemed to have no end. It seemed excruciating at times. I have friends that seem to suffer from loneliness and the beginnings of anxiety. Everyone was talking about doing so much praying even if we couldn't go to our churches. Then technology reared up. Soon you could find all sorts of Masses from across the world, in different languages, different times, from the Pope to the priest next door. All kinds of Catholic conferences are starting to pop up, offering free conferences to anyone interested. Group reunions, Ultreyas, Schools of Leaders were being offered locally to some, regionally to others, internationally; one just had to ask, and it was at your fingertips. Prayer groups, rosary groups, you name it, and you could find it. The world got much smaller very quickly.

It was strange that we could not go to our National Conference this year. This year is the first time I missed a conference since living my Cursillo. We know that many really missed the annual opportunity to reconnect with old Cursillo friends and the pleasure of making new friendships. To create a means through which Cursillistas from across Canada could

reconnect and experience something of Cursillo outside their own diocese, the Officers Group decided to host a virtual annual general meeting (AGM) on Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, to which all Cursillistas were welcome; it was held via Zoom, and we are grateful that Carlos Munoz agreed to be the host. It was a blessing for those of you who joined us to 'see' you all. We missed seeing you at the conference.

The Officers' Group continues to meet monthly through Skype, and we continue to pray for all of you, keeping you close to our hearts. We know that this is a difficult time for all of us, and we are working behind the scenes trying to be of service and anticipating your needs. We are continuing our work on next year's conference; the venue will still be Thunder Bay.

The Officers of CCCC join with the Cursillistas of Hamilton diocese in mourning the loss at the untimely death of David Milne. David assisted CCCC on several occasions, especially in streamlining the CCCC website. He was a valued member of the Hamilton Cursillo movement and will be greatly missed by all. Our prayers are with his family, and we join with the Hamilton Cursillistas in saying, 'God Speed David, may you now rest in peace in the light of God's presence.'

De Colores and Ultreya!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

### Cause for the Beatification of Eduardo Bonnin Aguilo

As many of you know, Eduardo Bonnin Aguilo (1917-2008) is the founder of the Cursillo Movement, which started in Mallorca, Spain. We have reported previously that the process is underway for his Beatification. Eduardo has already been given the title 'Servant of God', a

title given as the first step in the Beatification process. An official prayer has been created, which may be used when seeking Eduardo's intercession in our special prayer requests, and many of you have the prayer cards. Three professional historians hired last year have started a comprehensive investigation into Eduardo's life.

We recently received a request from Mallorca to assist in the process by collecting small donations, to be sent, with the donors' names, to Mallorca. All Lay Directors received this information and were asked to assist CCCC by sharing this request with all their Cursillistas, sending the donations and lists of donor's names to CCCC. If you did not hear of this opportunity from your Cursillo community, please join this holy work and send your small donation and relevant information, outlined below, directly to the CCCC treasurer by e-transfer, [cccctreasurer2017@gmail.com](mailto:cccctreasurer2017@gmail.com). Please share the request with Cursillistas that you know and encourage them to participate.

The request that we received from those in Mallorca who are working on the Beatification process is the result of information received from the Postulator, the bishop responsible for investigating Eduardo's life and the cause for his Beatification. It is now necessary to demonstrate that Eduardo, his sanctity, wisdom, humility, and generosity are known far beyond Mallorca. He travelled to all five continents proclaiming that God in Christ loves us. It is also necessary to demonstrate that the Cursillo Movement, born through his

action, is active on all five continents. Therefore, Cursillistas from all over the world are being asked for a small donation, \$2 to \$5, to assist in the process of his Beatification.

However, of greater importance than the amounts donated, we are asked to provide each donor's name, city, and country. The goal is to gather the names of as many persons as possible to testify that his sanctity, humility, generosity, wisdom, and evangelizing spirit are known far beyond Mallorca or Spain. Even though many Cursillistas never met Eduardo personally, all who belong to the Cursillo



movement, often working tirelessly to bring its Essence, Purpose, and Mentality to life in their environments, can witness to the reality that their lives were changed by the Cursillo Movement that was born from the charism that Eduardo received from the Holy Spirit. Through the

method of the Precursillo, Cursillo, and Postcursillo, countless thousands of people around the world have encountered the Lord in a new and more profound way.

There are two methods of donating, depending on how your Secretariat wishes to proceed. You may give your donation and your contact information (name, city, and province) to your local Secretariat, who will then send the collected monies and information to CCCC. Alternatively, you may send an e-transfer directly to the CCCC treasurer using the memo/message box on the e-transfer form to send the required personal information with the notation, Beatification. With both methods, the CCCC treasurer will then submit the collected monies and

information by Swift Code bank transfer directly to the Mallorcan bank account of the Postulator in Mallorca. When a couple donates, it is better to have your donations tabulated separately and to register your names separately.

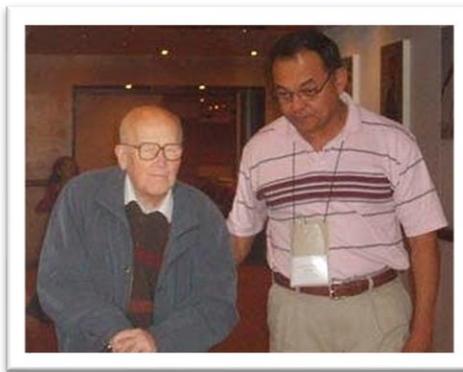
For those diocesan Movements who choose to collect the donations, they will also be able to use the e-transfer method to send the collected donations to the CCCC treasurer, as you would when paying affiliation fees; send an e-transfer to [cccctreasurer2017@gmail.com](mailto:cccctreasurer2017@gmail.com).

**Mallorca is seeking the help of all Cursillo Movements in every country to gather these names and to collect small, donated amounts.**

All Saints began their journey to sainthood with this same process. We, as Cursillistas, can be proud to be invited to join this holy endeavour. For those of us who did not know Eduardo or have perhaps never heard of him, we may ask ourselves, how many of us have met St. Mother Theresa, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Francis? Yet, we are inspired by these and all saints and look to them for guidance and to intercede for us before the Father. It is because of their lives that many of us live as better Catholics, better Christians. Very recently, Fr. McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, was Beatified; many Cursillistas are also Knights so that they would be familiar with the importance of this endeavour.

At the initiation of this process, people who personally knew Eduardo were asked to write testimonials of the influence he had been in their lives, the joy of sharing friendship with him, and the inspiration that he was. Most of

those sending written statements of having known Eduardo were, of course, people who lived in Mallorca, who saw him every Monday night at the Ultreya, and who visited with him in his office, were in Group Reunion with him, and simply shared a friendship with him. There are, of course, a few people outside of Mallorca who did know him personally and who met with him over the years in Mallorca or their countries when he travelled. Most of these people engaged in an ongoing dialogue with him by letters or telephone calls. The Mallorcan leaders invited people from other countries who shared a friendship with Eduardo to write their own experiences and his place of importance in their personal lives.



These anecdotal witness statements were necessary as the process towards Beatification could not begin until the Officials overseeing it were convinced that Eduardo had indeed been an extraordinary

Christian witness and inspiration to many, many ordinary people in his daily life. This phase of the process is now completed.

Once Eduardo was officially declared a 'Servant of God' and an official prayer was introduced to be used to seek his intercession, a second phase began. This involved inviting those who had prayed for Eduardo's intercession for healing or resolution of a situation, to explain their experience in a letter, signed personally and mailed by regular mail, not email, directly to the Postulator in Mallorca. This process is ongoing, and at least two Canadian Cursillistas have been inspired to send letters to the Postulator with details of Eduardo's

intercession. If you feel that you have received healing or an answer to prayer through Eduardo's intercession, you are welcome to inform the authorities responsible for the Beatification process in the manner described above.

Please mail your letter directly to:

D. Gabriel Ramis  
POSTULATOR FOR THE CAUSE OF  
BEATIFICATION OF EDUARDO BONNIN  
AGUILO

Church House  
Cause of the Saints  
C/ Seminar, 4  
CP-E 07001  
Palma de Mallorca  
Balears Espagne

Please include the following

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

This process regarding Eduardo is because his life is an inspiration to millions of people around the world. If it were not for him, the life that he lived and the Charism that he received, there would be no Cursillo, and our lives and the lives of millions would not be what they are, the Movement that we love and for which we work would not exist. A saint is a person whose life inspires us to follow their way of living, whose sanctity is evident. Whoever is a Cursillista is already following

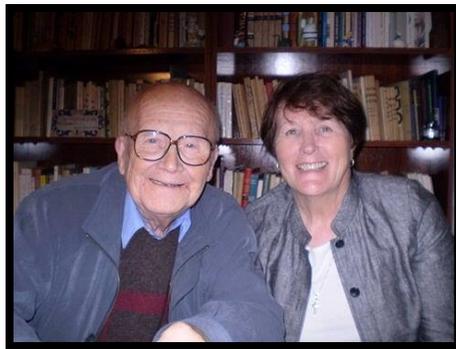
Eduardo as he leads us all in the footsteps of Jesus.

If you have any questions, please contact the Resource Centre [cccresource2@gmail.com](mailto:cccresource2@gmail.com)

Father Brendon (Bud) Gallant, CCCC  
Spiritual Advisor

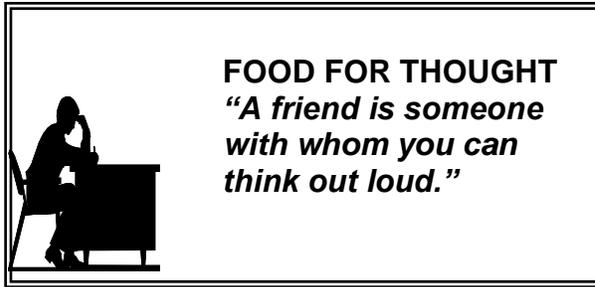
Saint Irenaeus, one of the early church fathers, wrote, "The Glory of God is man Fully Alive."

What does this mean? Glory is that which radiates from God, which shows his holiness. Therefore, the holiness of God is radiated in mankind fully alive. To be fully alive, both physically and spiritually. We can then say, "The holiness of God is seen in the woman or man who is both physically and spiritually alive.



I can remember when I made my Cursillo Weekend in 1996 and left on Sunday evening, I was "Fully Alive." Both physically and spiritually. And since that time, I strive to live the "Fourth Day" so that people can see in me the "Glory of God." Isn't this the charism of the Cursillo movement? To be able to radiate God's Glory to those who are searching for God in their lives!

In Acts 12:20-21, it is recorded that the disciples of Jesus Christ were first called Christians. Those who saw them said, "See how they love one another." As Cursillistas, we are asked to "make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ." More than ever, as Covid-19 continues to dominate our lives, we have to reach out to the many people who are lonely, depressed, and searching for answers. As we do so, may they be able to say about us, "See how they love one another." See how the Glory of God is "Fully Alive" in them.



## The Postcursillo after the Pandemic

In this extraordinary time of the pandemic, many of us have used technology to overcome isolation and a sense of being deprived of all our usual activities. Unthinkably, our churches have been closed or are very restricted in the size of congregations. In some parishes, one must book their place at mass. For many who cannot attend mass in person, the situation has been somewhat alleviated by online masses. In Canada, the bishops have granted a dispensation so that the attendance at mass on Sunday is no longer obligatory, but Sunday is still the Sabbath.

In many areas, Cursillistas have used their creativity to stay connected as a community of friends and have been innovative in finding ways to continue to have Group Reunions, Ultreyas, and Schools of Leaders. Carlos Munoz, from the Hispanic Cursillo, has written in this issue about the many online Cursillo happenings he is involved in. He talks of how, in this time of being unable to grow the movement because no Cursillos can be held, he and his group of Hispanic friends have seen the Kingdom grow in the lives of those who come together to share on a regular basis. The social restrictions that we are experiencing have made space in busy lives to give the Lord and his people more of our time. Many are thankful for the time to deepen their relationship with God.

We have heard from some that Cursillistas are saying they want to continue having virtual Ultreyas, Schools, and Group Reunions. There

is an ominous feeling that people will not return to celebrating the Eucharist in person; it is so easy to turn the TV on. Some are now saying that they would like to continue doing Cursillo activities online, even after the pandemic is over and socializing is back to normal. Is this OK?

As we know, being present physically at the sacrifice of the mass is central to our faith. We cannot receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament virtually, and God also calls his people to be together, as one body.

While Cursillistas have been more than creative in organizing ways to stay connected to their Cursillo friends, it must be remembered that God created us to live in communion with each other. The Ultreya was designed to bring the Cursillistas together, to be in the warmth of each other's company, to look into one another's eyes and to see the Holy Spirit who resides in each one, to 'feel' each other in hugs and handshakes. As human persons, we need the whole person, not the one-dimensional image that is beamed into our living rooms. There is something of God that emanates from the person who stands in front of you. God has filled his creation with beautiful things that are evidence of his love for us. Flowers whose fragrance and beauty fill and satisfy our souls, stunning vistas where gentle breezes carry the scent of trees and oceans to our senses. These are gifts from God; they are the Lord saying, "I love you." A vase of artificial flowers or images in an art gallery can only remind us of the real thing; they will never be the real thing. While we are fortunate to live in a world where technology can provide some semblance of being together, it will never satisfy our need for each other. We need God with a skin on.

For some, perhaps living virtually seems acceptable, but we are Cursillistas and there are many for whom being with others is

essential; they hunger for the real thing. We attend Ultreya and Group Reunion because we are friends, and we realize it isn't just about us and what we can get out of it. God places us where he wants us; each one has something, some gift, or characteristic that the other needs. Ultreya and Group Reunion are where we gather in Jesus' name, being there for him and being his love for the other. Trying to make an effort to 'be' there in the flesh is an act of love; it is laying down one's life for one's friends. Isn't that who we say we are? Once the pandemic is over and we can go back to holding Cursillos and welcoming new Cursillistas, how will those new Cursillistas get to know and nurture the kind of friendships that Cursillo is built upon if they only ever meet at virtual Ultreyas? The time after the Cursillo is not always an easy time for new Cursillistas. They often have a difficult time transitioning into being part of the community. This is gradually overcome by being warmly welcomed by all. Having only virtual Cursillo meetings jeopardizes the Postcursillo of the new Cursillista. The oft-repeated quote of President Jack Kennedy sums it up exactly when adapted to Cursillo, "Ask not what the Ultreya can do for you; ask what you can do for the Ultreya".

The Officers of CCCC have three in-person meetings a year where we spend two or three days together. Due to financial restraints, there are months when we do not meet in person; we hold our meetings virtually, via Skype. While this is better than not meeting at all, every Officer would confirm that one doesn't build friendships on a Skype call in the same way that we become one body by being together; really being friends results in work being accomplished much more effectively. In-person friendship is the backbone and driving force of all phases of Cursillo.

We say thank you to our God for the technology that has enabled us to maintain threads of friendship during this time. But we will thank our God with even more grateful hearts when we can once again be with those friends that we love so well.

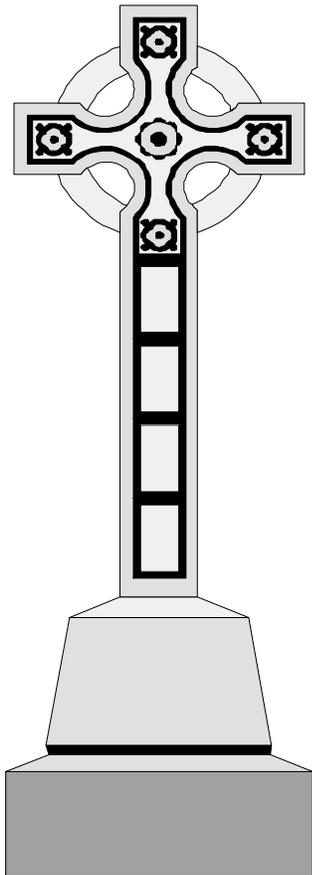
\*\*\*\*\*



### 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)



## MATTERS SPIRITUAL

*The following is a departure from our regular format in Matters Spiritual but in these anxious times of the pandemic what Father George Rutler has to say in his book "Calm in Chaos: Catholic Wisdom For Anxious Times" seemed an appropriate message. His wisdom is shared in question and answer form.*

Timing is everything, and for Father Rutler, the timing of the Church's most recent struggles is part of a pattern of crisis and resolution throughout our history.

"One doesn't have to be a prophet to say that there will be anxious times," says Rutler. "That's been the case since our first ancestors dropped the ball in the Garden of Eden."

But the times we're living in now have incited panic and a widespread fleeing from the faith for many Catholics, and those who are left to pick up the pieces are struggling to resolve their feelings about the Church's most current crisis with the faith they have long cherished.

In his book, Father Rutler offers some guidance on staying hopeful.

**Kris McGregor:** In your book, you say, here's the present situation, but don't let it rob you of your hope. How important is hope?

**Father George Rutler:** There's a difference between optimism and hope. Optimism is wishing things will get better, which they may or may not. But hope is trusting that God has an agenda that only he knows, and he works his purposes out. It's up to us to cooperate with that agenda or not — we have free will. But sometimes in the darkest hour of civilization, he becomes even clearer.

I think the Church, and society in general, is going through a massive purge. What's going on now, as unpleasant as it is, is like extracting a tooth. Once it's out, you feel better. We're dealing with a spiritual cancer. Many Church leaders have failed in so many ways — we all have. So Our Lord is dramatically intervening and taking out this cancer, and that's why I'm hopeful.

**McGregor:** So many people say they're losing faith in the Church. Are they really losing faith in the Church, or are they just lacking confidence?

*Continued on page 21*

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

---

- ◆ 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.

## ATLANTIC REGION

### CHARLOTTETOWN CURSILLO PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

We were pleased to hold our Annual General Meeting on Sunday, September 20th at St. Paul's in Summerside. It was later than normal this year due to the province's health restrictions and guidelines concerning the ongoing pandemic. A huge thank you to Andy Doucette, Rodney Delaney and Dianne Gallant who completed their terms on Secretariat. Their hard work and dedication did not go unnoticed. A warm welcome was extended to incoming Officers Tammy Arsenault and Sheila Trainor.

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold our spring 2020 weekends and our fall 2020 weekends because of the world-wide pandemic. However, we are remaining optimistic and have reserved the dates for our Men's and Women's weekends in April 2021. The Men's weekend will be held April 15-18<sup>th</sup> and the Women's weekend will be held April 22-25<sup>th</sup>. The previous Rectors and formed teams are continuing to work toward this plan.

We are extremely fortunate to have one of our group reunions committed to hosting an Ultreya every second month. They alternate between two western PEI parishes. The average attendance is 40 Cursillistas. Their most recent Ultreya was held on October 23<sup>rd</sup> in Palmer Road. That evening, they announced that two group reunions in West Prince, PEI, had made a commitment to host a men's group reunion and a women's group reunion, once a month. Wonderful news knowing that group reunions are so important!

Secretariat PEI continues to use the PEI Cursillo website to update information regarding forms, weekends, sponsors, volunteers and more. Also, prayer requests are forwarded to Roger Burke who chairs the master list of Cursillistas. We are grateful for Roger's help and dedication to Cursillo PEI.

Angela Arsenault, Lay Director

# building bridges from coast to coast




---

## YARMOUTH CURSILLO MOVEMENT HALIFAX - YARMOUTH DIOCESE, NS

The Yarmouth and Area Cursillo Movement had three Ultreyas prior to Covid-19 shutting down the ability to meet (Jan-Mar) with about 30 Cursillistas attending. We have had the occasional mail out asking the Cursillistas to pray the Apostolic Hour for the end to the pandemic. Our Secretariat met in January and February and we had discussion about the alignment of the weekends to better match the original charism of the Cursillo movement as outlined in the June 2019 Cursillo of Cursillos and modifications have been made. We also met October to begin planning for the possibility of Ultreyas starting again. Of course, our Cursillo weekends have been cancelled.

Our School of Leaders met in January and February to review the Ideals Rollo and we had a robust attendance and good discussion about the rollo. Since the provincial shutdown we have not met again.

Our Cursillo movement stays in touch with email messages and some Group Reunions have met virtually and when health guidelines permit, in person.

We continue to pray for the Cursillo movements and its momentum to continue once the pandemic is under control.

Liz Richard, Lay Director

## CENTRAL REGION

### KINGSTON CURSILLO MOVEMENT ARCHDIOESE OF KINGSTON, ON

The Kingston Cursillo covers essentially the City of Kingston and the small townships within a ½ hour drive; Gananoque, How Island, Wolfe Island, Odessa and Napanee, etc.

There is an elderly retired community, older than 70 years, who did their Cursillo before 1981, and newer more recent members who did their weekends in 2018 and 2019. Before Covid-19, it was estimated that 70 to 80 % of the Cursillistas from the recent Cursillos were involved in either weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly group reunions. The Ultreyas were held monthly at the St. Mary's Cathedral Parish Centre in Kingston, with attendance ranging from 12 to 36.

CCCC (Sheelagh Winston) has been an excellent resource for support documents for the presenters at our School of Leaders. The Kingston School of Leaders is open to ALL the Kingston Cursillistas and like the Ultreyas are hosted at the St. Mary's Cathedral Parish Centre in Kingston.

The Kingston Cursillo Ultreya consists of:

1. Introduction of New Cursillistas
2. Interpersonal meeting (Group Reunion)
3. Collective meeting (Witness rollo)
4. Response Speaker(s) Reflections
5. Spiritual Director or Assistant Spiritual Director Reflections/Teachings after the Witness Rollos. There is no Blessed Sacrament in the Parish Centre available.

It was estimated that 70 to 80% of the Kingston newer Cursillistas were involved in Group Reunions. Some would meet weekly (ideal), some bi-weekly, and some monthly.

In 2018 and 2019, the Kingston Movement have had 2 weekends per year 1 Men's and 1 Women's Weekend for a total of 4 at the Providence Spirituality Centre of Kingston, which is also the home for over 60 Sisters. It is by its nature a Spiritually Charged Environment for holding a Cursillo. The Step by Step Weekend Rector's Guide is used to facilitate these weekends.

In response to the Covid-19 restrictions, we are looking at using Zoom in some fashion to facilitate a Virtual Ultreya. Unfortunately, you need a special ZOOM license that allows multiple distinct rooms to do the small group sharing. The Kitchener/Waterloo area has a weekly Virtual Ultreya on Zoom that is working quite well without the small group reunions.

Lionel A. Ryan, Lay Director

### CHATHAM-KENT CURSILLO LONDON DIOCESE, ONTARIO

**School of Leaders:** Held twice a year – fall and spring with approx... 25 attending. It is open to all Cursillistas. The weekend teams are not necessarily selected from the School. The School is usually held in a central location.

**Ultreyas:** Held monthly at various locations with 50 to 100 attendees before COVID-19. Our format is similar to the Mallorcan model. The format is Mass followed by group reunion, witness rollo and fellowship.

**Group Reunions:** At this time, we do not know the percentage that are active.

**Weekends:** There no weekends scheduled for 2021 because they are held in January and February.

**Special Events:** We hold a Grand Ultreya in the fall, a Christmas potluck and an evening at a local Shrine in the summer.

**Liaison with diocesan bishop:** We submit an annual report to our Bishop.

Tom Venne, Lay Director

### LONDON AREA CURSILLO LONDON DIOCESE, ON

**Cursillo Community:** London, St. Thomas, Tillsonburg and Goderich

**Group Reunion** There are approximately 32 involved about 7%. We are waiting to start up the weekends again since co-vid.

**School of Leaders:** We planned a School of Leaders in March and we had to cancel due to co-vid. There has been nothing planned since March. The School is open to all Cursillistas Unfortunately we don't have enough participants in the School of Leaders to be able to choose from the participants. School of Leaders is held in London.

**Ultreyas:** They were held once per month. Since co-vid, we have just started them up twice per month on zoom. Last Ultreya, we had 17 people on zoom. The Ultreya follows the Mallorcan model. The Ultreya contains the essential elements of:

Interpersonal meeting (Group Reunion)

Collective meeting (Witness rollo)

Prayer- meeting Christ during the visit to the Blessed Sacrament (prayer and intentions)

**Three Day Cursillos:** Once per year at the Michaelite House near London which is a retreat centre. We follow the Weekend Rector's step by step guide closely.

Colleen MacLeod, Lay Director

## HISPANIC CURSILLO IN CANADA ONTARIO AND QUEBEC

The Hispanic Cursillo in Canada, despite the pandemic, is alive. We cannot grow outwardly, but we are actively growing inwardly. The five Dioceses are active in their own way: Longueuil and Montreal in Quebec, Toronto, Hamilton, and London in Ontario.

Every Thursday, the Dioceses of Montreal and London meet to pray an Apostolic Hour. We have the support of Fr. Carlos Cana Perez, who makes the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the end.

Each of the Dioceses has its own activities: Ultreyas, School of Leaders, and Apostolic Hours.

At the end of the month of October, we had a National Ultreya where cursillistas of the 5 Dioceses participated. It was a meeting of friendship where we brought life and went out with more life to continue winning more alms for Christ.

Starting in November, we will be meeting once a month at the School of Leaders for all Hispanic cursillistas. We have planned that in order to make these encounters more attractive, we will invite rollistas from Mallorca and Latin America.

Every day at 3:00 pm Eastern time, we pray the Rosary asking for all intentions. We especially ask Eduardo for his intercession for the Cursillo Movement of Canada and the world.

All our activities are virtual conferences by Zoom.

Carlos Muñoz

## WESTERN REGION

### EDMONTON CURSILLO MOVEMENT ARCHDIOCESE OF EDMONTON, AB

We have a very large geographic area that we serve in the Edmonton Archdiocese and that is presenting us with a few challenges. The Cursillo community includes Cursillistas in Edmonton, Beaumont, Sherwood Park, Camrose, Wetaskiwin, St. Albert, Stony Plain and as far away as Edson. This means that some of our members must drive for two to three hours to gather for Ultreyas, School of Leaders or for team meetings for Cursillo planning. While not so bad in the summer months, this is a real challenge in the depths of winter. We have not yet tried to have Skype meetings with the more remote members of the community. This could be a plan for the future. In fact, the pandemic has forced our hand on this, and we have used ZOOM to host three of our monthly Ultreyas and two of our School of Leaders sessions!

The School of Leaders is open to any Cursillistas who wish to attend. They are all advised by email of the date, place, and topic of each meeting of the School of Leaders. Our focus for this past year has been to look more closely at living out our Cursillo charism in our daily life. The School of Leaders spent five sessions over the past year discussing the book by Matthew Kelly *The Greatest Lie in the History of Christianity*. We found many comparisons between the Moments Closest to Christ and what Kelly refers to as the Holy Moments in our lives.

Overall, the sense of community and the

depth of discussion that was evident at these gatherings of the School of Leaders was a wonderful example of the charism of Cursillo! As the attendees at the School of Leaders began to deepen their understanding of the charism and gift that is Cursillo, we also agreed that the rollistas for the next weekends do need to arise from the School of Leaders to ensure that the true spirit and message of Cursillo is passed on to the candidates. We plan to continue to involve other Cursillistas in supportive roles on the weekends.

The Ultreyas have been a regular monthly gathering of the community in a meeting room at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on the last Monday of the month. We have been attempting to follow the Majorcan model more closely and do begin with the Group Reunion opportunity for all present. The witness talks that we have been blessed to hear have been wonderful testimony to the power of God and the Holy Spirit in the lives of the speakers! There is always a time for fellowship and socializing as well as raising our voices in song together. Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, we have had to cancel all in person Ultreyas and have tried to organize online Ultreyas using ZOOM. This has been difficult for the witness speakers, as not having the live audience in front of you does affect the sense of personal sharing. Nevertheless, we have hosted three such Ultreyas and felt that they were reasonably effective. The overall attendance has been down from what we are used to in the in-person format.

There are five different Group Reunions that meet on a regular basis (weekly) throughout

the Archdiocese, not counting the three new groupings in Stony Plain who are just getting organized. Each of these is comprised of approximately 5 or 6 Cursillistas. One of the Group Reunions uses technology to link with fellow cursillistas in Sri Lanka, where they first lived their Cursillo weekend! This weekly global Group Reunion is inspirational to us as we look at new ways of linking with cursillistas in other parts of Alberta. There are still many cursillistas in the Archdiocese who are not active in a Group Reunion and there is a challenge to invite them and involve them for the future. During the time of pandemic restrictions when the Catholic church was not open to the use of the room we normally use for grouping, our grouping used ZOOM to connect for our weekly sharing about 6 or 7 times. We did enjoy seeing each other and sharing even in that format, but were very glad when the restrictions were lifted, and we are now able to share in person again.

The new Step by Step Rector's Guide has been our guide in the most recent weekends, and everything went very smoothly. Many team members commented on the relaxed and natural feel to the weekends. The success of the weekends is due to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in helping all of us focus more on the Pre-Cursillo phase where we invite a friend to come to Christ with us! An additional blessing as we began to prepare for the weekends, was the involvement of cursillistas who were either new to Edmonton or had been around for some time and decided to re-engage with the community! We are so glad to welcome these friends to our community!

There have been a few social events as well during the year for all the Cursillo community to come together and enjoy each other's company. These have included a New Year's Eve 2020 bonfire. Since the onset of the pandemic, we have had few gatherings but have met in small groups to share faith and boost each other's spirits in this time of isolation. It has been a difficult year for our Cursillo movement, with a real challenge to gathering the larger community together. The focus has been on individual groupings and also on the one to one contacts by phone, Skype or email to stay connected with each other.

Dave Kornder, Lay Director

**GROUARD-McLENNAN CURSILLO  
ARCHDIOCESE OF GROUARD  
McLENNAN, AB**

School of Leaders is held once a month, with only a handful of attendees as we've only had a formal School for the past year. It is open and the dates are communicated to all Cursillistas. Our goal is to have our Three Day teams chosen from the School, but being as the School is in its infancy in our Movement, that is not the case yet. The School is held in one place, and broadcast live over Facebook.

Our Ultreyas are held in Grande Prairie once a month, last about an hour (up to two with fellowship after). We mostly follow the Mallorcan model of Ultreya as demonstrated by CCCC at the annual conference, as we are transitioning to it from our old model. We have a Witness Rollo, a Group Reunion, but it does not always have a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, as we do not hold all meetings in the Church itself.

A small percentage of our active membership is in Group Reunions.

We aim for one men's and one women's Weekend per year, held in Grande Prairie. We don't charge for our Cursillos. We operate by donation, and do not ask for said donation until the last day of the Cursillo, and they are held in local schools. We have held two Cursillos using the Step by Step Guide and have made the official decision to adopt the Guide going forward.

Shannon Backmeyer, Lay Director



# WITNESS

*Daily we touch Him*

## The Kingdom is Alive and Growing in the Middle of a Pandemic

News from our Hispanic Cursillo Friends  
Around the World

Carlos Munoz, November 2020

Hello dear friends of the Cursillo Movement, I hope the Holy Spirit is giving you the strength you need to fight this devastating virus, COVID-19. The situation is difficult, but thanks to God and technology, we have maintained our enthusiasm, dedication, and spirit of love. The Hispanic Cursillistas from many countries in Latin America meet regularly, almost every day, through Zoom, WhatsApp, and other virtual video conferencing platforms. So far, there are so many virtual meetings every day that it is impossible to participate in all of them. There is a lot of enthusiasm to participate in the meetings. The pandemic has caused these means of communication to flourish to keep us united as Christian Cursillistas dedicated to the Foundational Charism, which inspired Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló, founder of the Cursillo Movement, to create, with a small group, the Cursillo in Christianity Movement.

At the end of April of this year, a group of Cursillistas met to pray, plan, schedule, and initiate the "Hour of Friendship." This meeting is structured as a School of Leaders. **Cursillos and Cursillistas** is a place of encounter and reflection on the Foundational Charism of the Cursillo Movement. People who recognize the enlightenment given to Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló for the foundation of this movement participate in this forum. Out of respect for

the thinking of the majority of those who form this group, we ask that you refrain from making negative or derogatory comments that go against this thinking and the spirit of Cursillo.

Every Sunday at 3:00 p.m. EST, an average of 150 Cursillistas meet on the Zoom platform. We begin with the prayer to the Holy Spirit, followed by a rollo of 30 to 40 minutes, then divide into small groups to share on the ideas that have been shared during the rollo. After 20 to 25 minutes in small group discussions, similar to table groups at the Cursillo, we return to the large room to begin a plenary session consisting of comments, questions, and answers from the participants. Usually, approximately 10 Cursillistas have the opportunity to give their comments. We say the final prayer and sing De Colores.

I say that it is like a School of Leaders because the rollista chooses his/her theme based on the Foundational Charism and the thoughts of Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló. This has helped us to expand the Cursillo Charism to many Cursillista friends who sometimes do not know the true history or have not heard the name of our founder. The topics covered explain from different points of view what Cursillo is and what it is intended to be.

We always thank God for the Grace that always helps us to maintain our enthusiasm, dedication, and spirit of love.

It is not easy to spend 2 hours in front of a screen to listen to a rollo, express our opinions, and share with others on a Sunday afternoon.

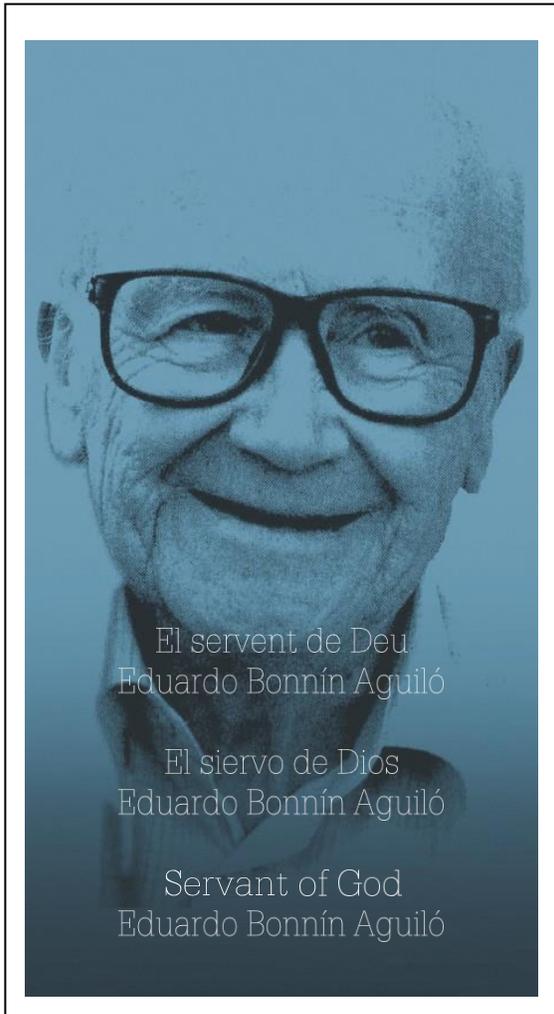
I can assure you that since we have been meeting, many candles have been lit

throughout the Hispanic Cursillo world. We hope that more candles will be lit in different languages.

"Christ is counting on us, and we are counting on his grace."

\*\*\*\*\*

The following prayer is the officially approved prayer to be said when seeking the intercession of Eduardo. The process for his beatification is continuing and all Cursillistas are encouraged to pray for this and to seek Eduardo's intercession.



Oh God, the dispenser of all graces and charisms

You granted your servant  
EDUARDO BONNIN AGUILO  
the grace of dedicating his whole life,  
with humility and generosity,  
to the work of the  
CURSILLOS IN CHRISTIANITY MOVEMENT.  
He travelled the five continents  
proclaiming that  
God in Christ loves us.

Grant us through his intercession  
the favour that we now implore Thee.  
(Name the favour being requested)

Also grant us  
the grace of his beatification for your  
glory and the good of your Church that  
shines out through the lives of its saints.

We beg this of You in the name  
of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.  
(At the end we pray The Lord's Prayer)

# FROM MALLORCA

*A Reflection given by Juan Aumatell*

## HUNGER FOR GOD

The following is a reflection given by Juan Aumatell of Mallorca at the FEBA, USA, online event shared with English speakers around the world.

In the preceding week FEBA USA, shared articles and reflections authored by Eduardo to enable interested Cursillistas to spend time reflecting and sharing on the thinking of Eduardo. At the Encounter, entitled, Oh Festival of Thought, held on August 22, English speaking Cursillistas from the USA, Canada, Ireland, Australia, the Caribbean and beyond, joined in friendship via Zoom. This was a 'virtual' answer to the 'Day with Eduardo', which is held annually for the Mallorcan Cursillistas. The Mallorca School of Leaders shared the content of the Encounter that they recently held in Mallorca and English speaking Cursillistas presented the reflections in English. Each rollista at the Encounter received a short article by Eduardo on which they based their rollo.

The Resource Centre sent an invitation to join the Zoom Encounter to all the Canadian Lay Directors asking them to share the invitation with their own Cursillistas.

### I.- WHAT THE CURSILLO PURSUES AND ACHIEVES

That's how Eduardo's article begins:

The Cursillo Movement pursues, and by the grace of God, manages to provoke the **HUNGER** for God in people, and, if they continue in the same spirit as in the Cursillo, they can maintain their **AWAKENED** appetite for what is **FUNDAMENTAL** to

being Christian and allowing it to give meaning to their life.

And what grounds it all for Eduardo is the fact that God in Christ loves me. St. John in his first letter tells us " We love God because He loved us first". Eduardo had it very clear that to love God and our brother is not possible if we don't feel beloved by the Lord first.

And in the V World Encounter of Cursillos in Korea (in 1997) Eduardo said that the Cursillo Movement was not born as a response from the Church to the world, but as a way to communicate to the world that God loves us.

And at the 1996 (G.E.T.) European Working Group Encounter, Eduardo said : It is not the same to be told that "we should love God" as to know personally that God loves us as we are. And he also said: What Cursillos want to achieve, and in fact are already doing so, is the most urgently needed thing, specifically that the Good News reaches the greatest possible number of men and women today. And the Good News is that God loves me, communicated by the very best means which is friendship.

When we discover in the Cursillo that God loves us, the first encounter with Jesus takes place. This wonderful encounter makes us discover that the Lord has approached me to generate a story of Love and Friendship. This love drives away all my fears and the immediate consequence of this discovery is the need to know our friend Jesus better, this is the **HUNGER AND APPETITE** that Eduardo talks about in his article.

And in the same meeting in 1996, Eduardo said: "We must simply try to promote the **HUNGER** for God in the world.

## II. How did Jesus awaken the APPETITE of the people?

Let me say a few words about this Jesus, this man of about 30 years. Everywhere Jesus went, he was followed by large crowds. Five thousand people, not counting women and children, listened to him all day long, even forgetting that they were hungry. Every town he went into, the whole town, we are told, turned out to hear him. The poor man who was paralyzed and wanted Jesus to heal him, couldn't get near Jesus because of the crowds and had to be lowered down through the roof.

And do you know why they followed him? Do you know why Jesus awakened in them this need and this desire to listen to him and to know more? For many years they had been told of a God of the Law, a God who judges, who rewards those who keep the law, punishing and condemning sinners.

Now thousands of people followed Jesus and crowded around and listened to Him because Jesus used another language; instead of a God of the Law He spoke of a God of Compassion, of a God who is Love, who forgives and eats with sinners.

Saint Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador who was murdered, said something totally revolutionary: "Christianity is not a set of truths to be believed, of laws to be obeyed, or of prohibitions. Christianity is a PERSON who loves me and loves me so much that it always claims my love. And this person is called Jesus Christ".

## III.- FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE

Eduardo points out in this article that the Cursillo awakens the **HUNGER FOR GOD** which means **DESIRE AND NEED FOR GOD**. And the Cursillo produces an impact

on the people who attend that causes the Rebirth of a new **FUNDAMENTAL ATTITUDE** with regard to the meaning of life. This **CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE** is manifested in **THREE ASPECTS** of the same reality: **FAITH, HOPE and LOVE**.

1) **FAITH** is not a mental act, it is an act of trust, it is a personal encounter with Christ. He does not solve our problems, but goes along with us, at your side, all day long, in the moments of joy and in the moments of darkness, walks with me and says: I love you.

Deuteronomy 31.6 tells us: "Be brave and strong, do not fear or tremble before them, for Yahweh, your God, is with you, he will not leave you or abandon you"

2) **HOPE**: Victor Frankl wrote: "It is not unemployment itself that leads to neurosis but the lack of meaning in life.

The Hope that the world offers us is limited and false. The world programs us for a material success in life. Everybody is on the go all day long because everything is running out. We have to run because Love, Money and our bodies are continually being depleted.

The Hope that we discover in a Cursillo is about realizing everyday that we are connected to something and somebody that never fails.

We are convinced, as we wake up every day, that Life has a meaning if we open our heart to the tenderness of God.

It is a whole program of Hope.

3) **LOVE**: Faith and Hope lead us to Love. If you have felt beloved by God, you cannot stop loving Him and loving your brother.

The only condition of the Lord to give us his Love is love for the brother: "You are my friends, if you love one another as I have loved you".

**IV.- ISSUES RAISED BY EDUARDO**

What is true in the Cursillo, can it continue to be true afterwards?

If the encounter with the Lord has taken place in the Cursillo, this encounter will last if we continue to be connected to HIM, through Piety, Study and Action.

And if this true encounter has not yet taken place on the Cursillo, we can make it happen through friendship.

The world is tired of hearing talk about God, tired and full of words, they have no more patience. All they ask to us is: "Show me this God of whom you speak so much". And if we are able to present to them, the Love of Christ that we have discovered in a Cursillo, a Love that liberates us from all the fears, if we can transmit to them THE PEACE, THE JOY AND THE HAPPINESS, that this Love gives us every day, not with talks or rollos but with our life, it will be much easier to awaken this **HUNGER** and this **APPETITE** of which we are speaking.

Our Pope Francis in his homily in the Convent of Santa Marta on June 28th of this

year, said that we do not have to convince anyone. Wanting to convince can lead to proselytism. Faith has to be transmitted not to convince but to offer a gift. Not to preach but to show how I am living.

And when one has discovered that God loves him, let's not make the mistake of telling him what he has to do or where he has to go to do good Christian works.

Eduardo in the Encounter I mentioned earlier in 1996 said that Christ also had this in mind and in Zacchaeus' house he does not act as any of us would have done. He does not make him check the salary of his workers, nor create a cooperative, nor a bank for the poor, nor a donation for the temple in Jerusalem. He knows very well that Zacchaeus, once he has discovered God's love and the real freedom, will have a new attitude and will do much more with greater enthusiasm and creativity.

Those of you who were able to spend hours talking to Eduardo, you know how he did it, to provoke your **HUNGER** for God: looking at your eyes, listening and loving, making you feel the most important person for him. This is how the Lord does it when we are alone with Him: *"If you hear my voice and open the door to me, I will come in to you, and have supper with you and you with me."*

\*\*\*\*\*

**An Advent Family Prayer at Mealtime:**

As we prepare for the coming of your Son, O God, we are hungry and thirsty for signs of his love in our lives. We give you thanks for this season of waiting and hopefulness for Jesus to be even more present in the life of our family. We give you thanks for this food and drink, signs of your gracious love. May this meal strengthen us to love each other and our neighbors as we wait for the coming of your Son, Jesus. Grant this through Christ our Lord, Amen.



*Matters Spiritual continued from Page 9*

**Father Rutler:** People who say they're losing their faith are just losing what they mistakenly thought was faith. Faith is a gift from God, and God doesn't give us something and then grab it away. We don't lose faith – we throw it away.

In the American Revolution, Thomas Paine wrote that powerful pamphlet, "Common Sense," rallying people to be brave in a crisis.

He wrote, "These are the times that try men's souls." This is not the time for the summer soldier or the sunshine patriot. The summer soldier enlists because he likes to wear the uniform. The sunshine patriot is the one who's loyal in good times but doesn't want to get involved in a challenge to the country.

And Our Lord is reminding us that we're baptized to be soldiers of Christ. We can't be summer soldiers; Our Lord says we have to be soldiers in good times and in bad.

**McGregor:** What role does "cultural Catholicism" play in this crisis?

**Father Rutler:** We have a lot of cultural Catholicism – weddings, baptism. For a lot of people, unfortunately, these are cultural ceremonies to get the family together. I'm at a lot of weddings, and at one, we had a wedding planner. We had a big icon of Christ over the altar, and he said, "When the bride comes in, could you dim Jesus a little?"

What's going on here? What do we think matrimony is?

It's at the end of the spectrum too, in the funeral. When people turn a funeral Mass into some kind of sentimental gathering where people make speeches about how good Uncle Fred was, they've lost the sense of God, who gives us the faith.

**McGregor:** A lot of people think these political times are the worst it's ever been, but is that really true?

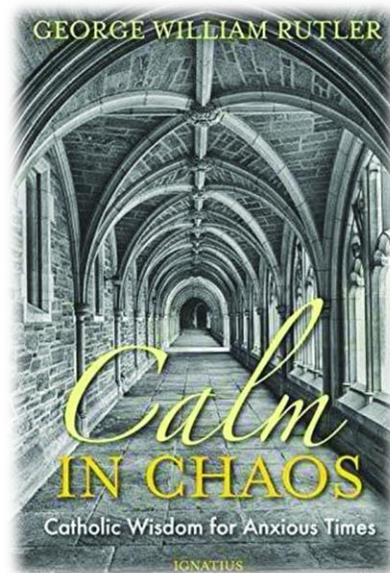
**Father Rutler:** George Washington was at the point of despair when he saw what was happening to the country he'd fought to create. Their newspapers were as vicious as what we have now.

We have to remember that St. Joan of Arc was about the age of a college freshman when she led an army and saved France. Alexander Hamilton was 21 when he was a lieutenant colonel fighting in the Revolutionary War. In the Second World War, the average age of a bomber pilot

was about that of a college sophomore. None of them ran into safe spaces.

What we need now in the Church are people with vision and purpose. The weakness and confusion is ripe from the very top. But just as you have heroes of each generation face the crisis of the time, we just pray that these people will rise up. It's a crisis of saints.

Our Lord has been raised from the dead. He says, "Be of good cheer. I have overcome the world." It's the devil who doesn't want us to know that. So these are the times that Our Lord says to us, "Will you also go away?" Our response has to be the same as that of St. Peter: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."



## OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT 2020

CHAIRPERSON		SPIRITUAL ADVISOR	
Linda Pitkanen 1136 Riverdale Rd Thunder Bay ON P7J 1N2	(807) 621 4453 ccccchair2017@gmail.com	Fr. Bud Gallant PO Box 295 North Rustico PE C0A 1X0	(902)214 0497 Brendongallant123@gmail.com
Allan Forsberg 311-12330 102nd Street Grande Prairie AB T8V 0N4	(780) 830-8776 ccccwestern2017@gmail.com	Muriel Brideau 13-53158 Range Rd 215 Ardrossan AB T8E 2C9	(780) 922 6341 cccctreasurer2017@gmail.com
Barb Wonnacott 1B-6 Harley Street Charlottetown PE C1A 5T2	(902) 393 4557 ccccatlantic2017@gmail.com		
Gerald Kolkman 5901 Line 53 RR2 Monkton ON N0R 1P0	(519) 347 3689 cccccentral2017@gmail.com		

*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 2017 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 [cccresource2@gmail.com](mailto:cccresource2@gmail.com) [www.cursillocanada.org](http://www.cursillocanada.org)