

Fully Alive



THE NATIONAL BULLETIN OF THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC CURSILLOS

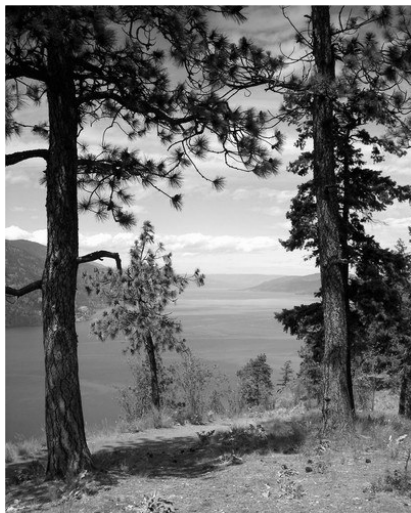


Eduardo Bonnín greets Pope Benedict

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OFFICERS' CORNER

CCCC 2008 Conference UBC Okanagan Pre-Cursillo: Witnesses to the Good News



The beautiful Okanagan Valley

Prior to the opening session that began our exploration of the conference theme, *Pre-Cursillo: Witnesses to the Good News*, lay leadership from across the country and other interested Cursillistas came together for the CCCC's annual business meeting. Sidney Bilsky, our treasurer, presented the financial report that he and Erika Romwalter, our retiring treasurer, prepared. This showed that our stewardship of the resources entrusted to our care reflects positively upon the organization.

Reports received from the lay directors of the various affiliated movements were distributed as was the annual report of the Officers Group (OG). The latter shared the highlights of our efforts during the previous twelve months.

The OG's report noted that the Dollar Campaign was launched and was meeting some success though it was not working as we had envisioned. We had hoped that this campaign would be used by our affiliated movements to reach out to all Cursillistas in their area, especially those who, though supportive of the Cursillo, were not active in the Ultreya or the School. Though these persons are not active and visible, they still feel a part of the movement and will respond generously to any opportunity to support the work of the Cursillo. To date the campaign has raised a little over \$2000.00 for the valuable and important work of revising the book on the Fundamental Ideas,

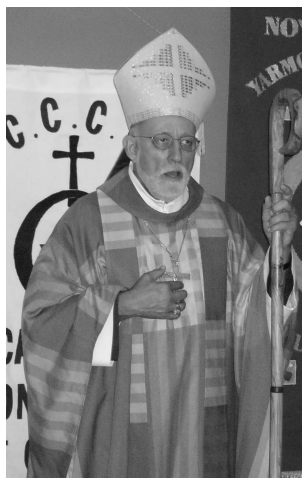
a text that all secretariats will find helpful in growing authentic movements that reflect a deep understanding of the charism and the early history and development of the movement and the role played in it by its founder, Eduardo Bonnín. In another international movement where this has been tried they have raised over \$20,000.00.

The OG's report also spoke to the progress made on three projects that the OG had undertaken. One of these was the development and production of a distinctive pin for the Canadian movement. Through the efforts of Carlos Muñoz, CCCC Officer for the Quebec Region, we were able to present to the group our finished product which went on sale at the conference. A second project that came to fruition was *Frequently Asked Question: Putting the Pieces Together*, a question and answer booklet that will prove to be an excellent addition to the CCCC's Resource Centre offerings. All of the officers and spiritual advisors had an opportunity to provide answers to the sixty plus questions; however, it fell to Sheelagh Winston and Carlos Muñoz to answer, edit, proofread, and prepare for printing this excellent resource. The final project was the presentation of the booklet *The 4th Day: A Perennial Cursillo*. The Officers Group commissioned this book in October of 2007. A committee consisting of Fr. Syd Miffen, Sylvia MacKinnon, Sandy Graves, and George Henry was asked to produce our own fourth day book that would be beneficial in educating those new Cursillistas who have expressed a desire to 'go deeper' in their understanding of the Cursillo. Its secondary purpose was as a review for seasoned Cursillistas. With the help and input of Sheelagh Winston and the Mallorcan secretariat the group was able to produce this document which will, we hope, prove to be a benefit to all Cursillistas.

The business meeting also looked ahead to next year's conference in Kitchener/Waterloo, Ontario. The success of the Cursillo of Cursillos held in Mallorca in November of 2007 led the OG to decide to hold a Cursillo of Cursillos in place of its regular annual conference. This will take place from July 02 to 05, 2009.

Finally, the venue for the 2010 CCCC annual conference was discussed. It would be good to hold it in the Atlantic region and with that in mind, Blair Murray, lay director for Cape Breton East/Richmond

Cursillo Movement was asked to investigate the possibility of holding the conference in the Cape Breton area.



The business meeting was fruitful and productive. Later on in the evening, the participants came together in the lecture theatre for the opening of the conference which was on a topic that needs greater understanding by all of us. This topic is the Pre-Cursillo and we begin with our founder's word about the Cursillo where the Pre-Cursillo's

importance is clearly established.

Eduardo Bonnín said 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 no other than to try and get the Good News of the Gospel to reach as many people as possible, and preferably the most remote from the Church and Christ, 'The far away'."¹ In the Cursillo of Cursillos held in Mallorca in November of 2007 one of the presenter said that, "the Pre-Cursillo contains the DNA of the whole Movement." This is an interesting and thought provoking insight that both stimulates and challenges.

Those who strive to live the authentic Cursillo can identify with this statement and know that it expresses a truth that must be accepted and lived. These Cursillistas are aware of the time and effort that must be invested in understanding the underlying charism of the Cursillo and the history and development of the method and movement that is its outward reality.

This *need* to comprehend is of paramount importance. Without this understanding we cannot hope to harvest the full potential of this gift and the method and movement that are its outward signs. Realizing this was the chief motivator for the Officers Group of the CCCC and its conference coordinator, Sheelagh

¹ Eduardo Bonnín, My Spiritual Will. This is a newly published text from FEBA (Fundacion Eduardon Bonnín Aguila and will be available in English in the near future.

Winston, to select as the theme: Pre-Cursillo, Witnesses to the Good News.

It was an excellent choice and produced a great conference. The venue was ideal, the weather cooperated, and the presenters delivered well-researched rollos that combined fact and lived experience that were well received and provoked good discussion and sharing.

We learned much about the role of the Pre-Cursillo in the Cursillo. Together we examined all aspects of the topic, developing our own understanding of this essential part of the method. We looked at what Pre-Cursillo is, what the ideal candidate is, and we examined the role of the sponsor. We also looked at what lay ahead for the Canadian movement. Sidney Bilsky presented an overview of what Pre-Cursillo is which provided the listeners with a solid foundation upon which to build. Arlene VanDiepen presented a well thought out discussion of the ideal candidate and Marg Weber's thoughts on sponsorship were insightful and inspired much discussion. Nancy Bath's Job Ahead presentation provided a good summary and mapped a direction for the CCCC in the coming year.

There were about 70 cursillistas in attendance who entered fully into this program, and God poured out His Grace which produced hearts filled with fire and heads filled with ideas.



The meditations by Frs. Rioux, Miffelen, O'Meara, and Chisholm added much to the development of the theme and to our general understanding of the three theological virtues that we ask of each candidate on the three-day weekend: enthusiasm, dedication, and a spirit of love.

Bishop Corriveau of Nelson added his enthusiasm and wisdom and presided at the closing mass. He

also commissioned all those present in the name of the Church.

Our music ministry added greatly to the program and to the fun. Sharon Penlington and Dianna Hardy,



together with John Schlosser and Ann Charlton, shared their talents wonderfully well. Circumstances did not allow these musicians much lead time to prepare; however, their 'yes' and God's grace made all that they did more than sufficient.

Carlos Muñoz provided those gathered with a



marvellous explanation of the Ultreya as it is lived in Mallorca and in those places that live the authentic Cursillo. He led the Ultreya that followed and presented the witness rollo. It was a wonderful conclusion to our day and a great segue to the fiesta that followed.

We were blessed with great entertainment and had the added blessing of visitors from the outside community to help us to celebrate. It was a fun time on a hot night in the Okanagan.

The Officers Group extends to our host movement our sincere thanks for all that you did to make this conference the success that it was. Well done!

Reviewing the evaluations that were submitted by the participants indicates that this was a timely discussion of a misunderstood but absolutely essential aspect of the Cursillo. People left Kelowna with ideas, enthusiasm, a new pin, two great new resource books, a plethora of happy memories, and with the parting words: Next year in Kitchener/Waterloo in the Hamilton diocese. See you there!

George Henry
CCCC chairperson

WHAT THEY SAID!

An overwhelming majority of the participants indicated on their evaluation forms that they were convinced that CCCC is on the right track in its goals for the future and too, they were going home from the Conference having gained new insight and understanding and information that would be of assistance to their local movements.

Here are some of the comments:

1. I appreciated the aspects that were revealed the goodness of others i.e. the spontaneous way we celebrated James' birthday - the cleaning of the room - the laughter shared - the wisdom offered - the acceptance of all - those that reveal who we are.
2. I really liked the way pre-post and the weekend were tied together. Making one complete circle.



3. The theme "Pre-Cursillo" - we all need to refocus and understand the connection between the 3 phases. The smaller number in attendance made it easier to connect and to talk to people - no hiding in a crowd.
4. The Theme - perfect choice for me and Toronto. The content was rich and probing for me. All the work since Windsor in incorporating the foundational charism allowed me to really listen to what was being said and the 4th Day "A Perennial Cursillo" was an unexpected surprise and a wonderful addition to the content of the encounter for me.
5. I found the topic of Pre Cursillo extremely relevant since so many of us did not understand before this conference how interwoven the three parts, Pre-Cursillo, the Weekend and Post-Cursillo work as a whole. I did not understand until now how the lived Post-Cursillo is so important to the Pre-Cursillo, how it is inserted into the Pre - Cursillo work as a whole. I did not understand until now how the lived Post Cursillo is so important to the Pre-Cursillo of the possible candidate. Wonderful. The Rollos complimented and supported each other very well - good job.
7. The new knowledge of the preparation in Pre-Cursillo. How the Pre-Weekend-Post-correspond with the unfolding of the weekend. Friendship is what makes the difference.
8. The presentations were very well done. The information around sponsorship was information we all need to hear.
9. I learned so much. As someone had mentioned we need to hear this information over and over again so that it becomes second nature. The experiences in the Rollos helped me to reach a deeper understanding.
10. The talks were excellent. The Spirit of God was with us. The friendliness was very touching. We were a big family.
11. The leadership of the Officers' Group was obvious, fraternal and not paternalistic in its wrong side. We all experienced love around us. A very good conference. I loved the theme and its appropriateness for all of us. Thanks.
12. Christians need to be with other Christians and I have been saturated and overflowing happily here from the words of the song I love how you love me and just listening to the speakers. I love the

warmth and humor and infectious joy of this time here;

13. This Conference deepened my understanding of Cursillo especially the complete integration of Pre-Cursillo, the Weekend and Post-Cursillo. It was wonderful to meet so many committed, joyful people from across the country.

Things they didn't like.

1. In my prayer I am a quiet, still person and I found the oasis too busy and intrusive. Calm restful. Prayerful, that what I was looking/hoping for, but for me they were disquieting (to be honest).
2. Detail set-up not done, no chapel, no supplies for note taking and carrying a simple bag with note pad.
3. No chapel. Conference room - Rollo room a little awkward for movement. Seating noise (like kneelers at church). More room for good display of banners.
4. Personally I like a room for the Rollos to be table groups of 4-6 people. Sharing seems to be at a deeper level when you are together at a table for the Rollos and sharing rather than leaving the space and finding a place to group.

General Comments

1. Totally on track proceed.
2. Keep up the good work. Sometimes you may feel like you are banging your head against a brick wall. God is slow to anger. Cursillistas are slow to learn, slow to accept changes, perseverance does win.
3. Right on. Move forward in this direction.
4. The proposal to reorganize the central region is a very good one. Having no functioning regional groups for a large area and many local movements is bad.
5. I found that some people from the same location stayed together.
6. All in all it was a VERY GOOD conference. The Officers' Group is magnificent in their job and dedication. They are a model for all leaders in such events as annual conference. The theme of this conference on Pre-Cursillo was well chosen. We, Cursillistas, were long overdue to tackle this part of Cursillo, neglected by many. Good job well done. May God bless you all.



George Henry, chair of CCCC, passes the bible to Marg Weber who received it on behalf of the Hamilton secretariat, hosts for the 2009 Conference.

7. The CCCC conferences keep us connected. None of our local movements function well in isolation. Keep up the good work. De Colores and Thank you.
8. It is important to study and discern the original intent meant by the founder. Maybe there is still a lot to learn - for me at least. I appreciate these opportunities and look forward to a deeper understanding of the movement still. Thank you.
9. I found the talks to be excellently prepared, presented and effective. They all gave an overall vision of Cursillo and the specific importance of pre-Cursillo and as our movement in Halifax is evolving we have begun to struggle with the issues of pre-Cursillo. The whole experience here is very timely.
10. This is the second national conference I have been privileged to be part of. I have truly enjoyed my time. I have renewed friendships and made some



new ones. George's chairing is excellent - good balance of seriousness, understanding and humour. The talks were excellent and well prepared. The meditations were not what I thought meditations were to be.

11. For host movement need 15 days minimum notice for transportation requirements to and from centre. Preferably 30 days.
12. When I come to a National-Atlantic and even our weekends I rack my brain to try and think of some way to get more young people involved even 30-40 not so many old shiny heads like me, I think we need to work on people with young families - where do we start? Possibly somewhere on the weekend we could include a moment of silence for all our fellow Cursillistas who started their fifth day in the past year.
13. I go home with my heart on fire and my head full of ideas, renewed in love for and dedication to the Foundational Charism. My special thanks to the UBC kitchen staff who made life so easy for me -

the best yet. Thanks Sheelagh for arranging that, it made my life smooth like everything else.



14. Some of the responses to the Rollos did not pertain to the Rollo - response was on a totally different subject. Would have liked to have had more large group sharing to learn other groups comments and/or ideas.
15. Having no schedule for the participants is a great idea. I liked the informal approach.
16. I felt that had our group been brought into some of the planning at the onset we could have generated more attendance and involvement. Transportation was not known early enough. Could the first name be printed twice as large?



17. What was presented here is food for our School of Leaders to share, explore and refine in our area. Candidate selection will also make a great

sharing. The topics here will help us grow as Cursillistas and in turn benefit our movement.

- 18. This was an interesting time for me to come to the conference since I only made my Cursillo a year ago. This conference deepened my understanding of Cursillo, especially the charism passed on to the founders and it was a real confirmation of my experience at the weekend a year ago.

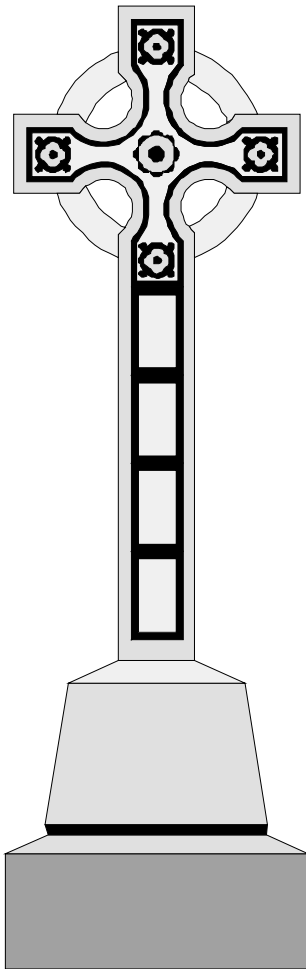


- 19. As in so many parts of the movement - how do you get people to come out? I feel that it was a missed opportunity for the local Cursillistas. I find this very sad. Thank you for all the hard work that you did and as Fr Pat said, for the dedication to the Glory of God and to spread his message



- 20. I am totally delighted with being here. I sense Canada has a great Cursillo base and it is sound, healthy and thriving overall. I Hope this is true and I trust it is. The weekend in Kelowna indicates so - at least for all of us here. I personally feel affirmed within my own Cursillo journey and collectively I think Canadian Cursillistas are on track. I can only relate to what I know. I am proud of our dedication in Vancouver and across Canada. This encounter was excellent.





MATTERS

SPIRITUAL

HOMILY

Holy Mass at the Meeting of Fundamental Ideas Commission Miami, July 24, 2008.

Manuel M^o Hinojosa Petit
National Vice Counsellor of the CM in Spain

Ecclesial context of our encounter.

This meeting of the Fundamental Ideas Revision Commission is being celebrated in a very particular ecclesial context – the Jubilee Year that commemorates the second millennium of the birth of the Apostle St. Paul.

Pope Benedict XVI has called the whole Church for such celebration, but for our Cursillo Movement, whose patron is the Apostle St. Paul himself, this commemoration is a real challenge, and the process of Fundamental Ideas Revision we are going through, requests us to go to the core of what our Cursillo Movement can offer to the Evangelizing pastoral of the Church, that is, 'fundamental Christianity'.

By proclaiming a Pauline Year, Pope Benedict XVI asks the Church for a particular fruit: the occasion for rediscovering St. Paul's figure and activities, since the opportunity to approach the rich doctrine of his letters and teachings should motivate our evangelizing commitment and our endeavour to work for the unity of all Christians.

This commemoration, at this particular point in our history, should mean three special Graces for us, members of the Cursillo Movement

1) Centering our life in Christ. Paul affirms '*Christ is my life*' and '*I was determined not to know anything among you but Jesus, the Messiah, and a crucified Messiah*'. The Cursillo mission, the essence of our charism is to enable the announcement and the encounter with Christ as a person. In *Deus Caritas Est* Pope Benedict says: "*Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, Christ*". What a large responsibility the Church entrust us with: that Christ be known, loved and followed as 'the only way, the truth and the life'!

Our Cursillo Movement is essentially Christocentric, and this joyful announcement constitutes the essence and the reason of our own being. We will carry on this mission faithfully as long as each one of us, in our cursillos, is a better witness through the testimony of our own life centred in the person of Christ.

I beg the Lord to grant all of us – members of the FICM commission, and leaders of the Cursillo Movement worldwide – the Grace of being able to proclaim this announcement of Christ not as masters, but as witnesses, so that we ourselves also might say that '*Christ is our life.*'

2. Recovering the evangelizing dimension in the Church. We know that "*the Church exists in order to evangelize*" and the Cursillo is a movement in the Church's pastoral that exists to evangelize through the announcement of fundamental Christianity. And no one can evangelize other than from his or her own experience. Such experience is **holiness of life**. We will be better leaders in the Cursillo Movement if we are holier. Let us not be afraid... This is a commitment that urges us to a sincere conversion to holiness. The holiness is a call and a demand that the baptism places upon

us all. Evangelizing asks of each one of us a life of holiness, so that we will not live a Christian life 'at the water's edge', but 'put out into deep water'.

We should be aware of the risk of getting lost in the accidental rather than searching for the essential: holiness. "To Santiago, saints" was the cry of those pilgrims going to Santiago sixty years ago. Do we remember? And, back home, committed by that pilgrimage, the cry was "now, saints and apostles".

Let us beg for the grace of holiness - to ourselves, to our International Groups, to our Secretariats and Schools. Only through holiness shall the Cursillo Movement be faithful to its own charism and to our evangelizing task, being a valid answer to the present claims for evangelization.

3. Favouring the communion among the Churches.

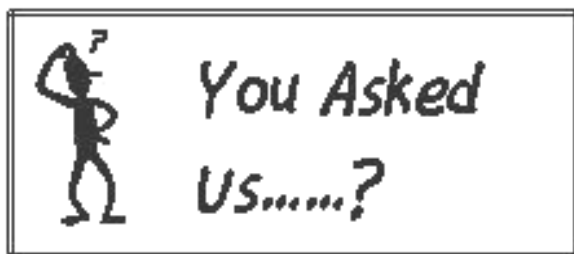
What a program for the Cursillo Movement: recovering the communion among all people! Let us be conscious of the need of communion among all people. Communion is the sign of evangelizing credibility, 'so that the world may believe', said Jesus. We run the risk of falling into the sin of sticking to our 'Peters, Pauls, Apollos' of today (1st Corinthians, 1, 12-13), thus forgetting the Spirit that bears fruit. As Francis of Assisi, let us be instruments of peace and

communion, "where there is discord, let me bring harmony; where there is error, let me bring the truth." We now need to encourage much more what unites us rather than what divides us. Loving communion is creating communion.

The Apostle St. Paul created communion among his communities and is a model that encourages us too in the urgent call by Pope John Paul II that still echoes: 'let us be house and school of communion.'

The above three fruits are graces granted to us in this year of St. Paul's Jubilee. "As in early times, today too Christ needs apostles ready to sacrifice themselves. He needs witnesses and martyrs like St Paul. Paul. He lived and worked for Christ, for him he suffered and died. How timely his example is today!" (Benedict XVI, homily, mass of 28th June, 2007). We could and should take these words as particularly addressed to each of us, members of the Cursillo Movement.

Celebrating the Eucharist each and every day is to receive the Body of Christ himself who will help us in our mission. It is a Grace that centres us in Christ, and makes us live in Him; it is a Grace that encourages us to be the witnesses of His love; it is a Grace that unites all those who eat the same Bread.



Q. What is really meant by the "faraway"? It seems to always be a challenge. When I made my Cursillo over 30 years ago, the Cursillo was looking for married couples and Christian leaders who were in good standing with the church.

A. We understand totally when you say how different it was for those who made their Cursillo weekends 30 years ago. We were always told that the whole purpose of the Movement was to form leaders for the Church. This of course meant that we looked for candidates among the ranks of practicing Catholics. Our understanding of Apostolic action was working in ministry within the institutional Church. When we first met Eduardo we began to hear a different focus. If you read the history you will see

how Eduardo was affected by the young soldiers with whom he shared army life. Up to his time in the army he had only mixed in Catholic circles and mixed with young people who were Catholic. He was more than shocked when he was confronted by young men in the barracks who not only didn't seem to believe in God, many had never heard the Gospel or known a God of love. This led him to study and reflect on why they were like they were. This study and reflection prompted him to write a paper, (he was a brilliant thinker) and this paper became eventually, The Study of the Environment rollo. The young men in the barracks were definitely 'far away', that is far from God and the Church and Eduardo realized that many of the young people in Spain at that time were of the same mindset.

If we reflect on those to whom Jesus went in the Gospel we will see it was the sinners, the outcasts, and if we reflect further we will see that those whose encounter with Jesus was life changing were the ones for whom the Good News that God loves us, was in fact news and good.

The faraway for us are all those who are in need of hearing the Good News which is not that we must

love God, but that He has loved us first. These people may well be far from the Church and God, but conversely, they may well be the person beside us in the pew on a Sunday. That is why the meditation on the Prodigal Son is so important on the first night of the Cursillo. We are not only concerned with the Prodigal himself, who was obviously far away, but many who come to the weekend may be the elder brother. They have always been in the father's house but they have not understood his unconditional love, and, like the elder brother they have remained close out of duty, not out of love.

Q. We are faced here in our Diocese more than ever with a 50% rate of marriages that break up and about 70% of so called younger couples who are living together. Some are living together divorced by law but no annulment in the Catholic Church. At our orientation session, our spiritual director, (Fr. Pat O'Meara) was sort of put in a corner with the question "Are these couples eligible to attend the weekend"? He answered, "We all know what Jesus Christ would do".

A. Fr O'Meara is exactly right of course, what would Jesus do in these situations? We must remember what the purpose of the weekend is. It is to facilitate the three encounters, with Self, God, and then Others. It isn't anything else but that. We are only instruments, people who having heard the Good News, have understood that we are loved and lovable and therefore capable of loving. This being so, we have an urgent desire to share the Good News, just as the people of the Gospel did who went away from Jesus, leaping and dancing for joy.

A person who is in a situation that prevents them from receiving the sacraments needs all that Cursillo can offer them. An opportunity to encounter themselves, to see themselves as they are; to encounter Christ; to come face to face with Him and realize the depth of His love; to know that he is not some remote entity either in the tabernacle or floating about somewhere other, but is in fact, alive, close and seeking their friendship and happiness. If a person is in a difficult situation, to say to them that they must sort out their life before they can make the Cursillo is like telling a sick person who needs to be admitted to the hospital that they must come back when they are well. In order to change their situation, wouldn't it be better for them if they had entered a relationship with Christ, understood that no matter what, He loves them, and to then have the support of a group of friends and a community to help them find their way?

Of course, every situation must be dealt with individually and this presupposes an authentic Pre-cursillo. Too often the focus is on 'getting candidates' when it should be friends bringing friends, to discover what they themselves have discovered before them. The person who sponsors someone for the weekend must have journeyed with them in friendship, for however long it might take. They must know them and their situation well enough to be able to say that they believe that attending a weekend will be a good thing for their friend, that they are ready to hear how they might come to understand themselves and God better.

If it isn't common knowledge that a couple is in a marriage that is outside the Church, why does the question need to come up? The sponsor will need to tell them that it is a Catholic weekend and that they probably shouldn't go to Eucharist but the priest may make the decision that they may. That is not something that CCCC can have any opinion on. This is a question of following the norms prescribed by the Bishop of the particular diocese. Many couples in these situations understand their situation and despite it, go to mass and at communion time, they go forward for a blessing. Obviously they feel welcomed or they would not keep coming. If the Church itself welcomes them in, how can Cursillo do anything less?

The sponsor should also let them know that one can be a Cursillista, attend Ultreya, join a Group reunion and be fully a part of the community. It is important that they understand that being a Cursillista is not about being on team, it is about learning to live the Gospel in their ordinary environments, just simply being a better one of what they already are. As the Cursillo is a Movement of the Church, candidates in these situations should not ordinarily be invited to work as team members.

If it is common knowledge that their situation is irregular, it doesn't need to be discussed. If they are being sponsored by someone who lives the Cursillo method of group and ultreya, they will have explained things to their candidate and will probably already have some notion that the person is aware of their situation and the Cursillo may be the first step in regularizing it.

If we consider the Woman at the Well we know that Jesus didn't judge her, what he did was allow her to see her situation for what it was; she encountered Him and in doing so encountered herself. He didn't tell her to go home and get her life in order and then He would give her the Good News. He helped her to

Continued on Page 19

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

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

ATLANTIC

CAPE BRETON WEST

Another Cursillo year has passed and we had a very successful one. Our executive met on a regular basis and I believe with our leadership we had a good year.

In February the men and the women had their Cursillo weekends and they were very successful. The men had fifteen and the women twenty-four. Our Ultreyas were well attended this year. We were treated to some great witness talks. They brought out some of the troubles in our society but they also brought out a lot of hope for the future.

We had our rally in September. This night gives the large membership an opportunity to come and join in the friendship of our large Cursillo family. We have a great meal and we were treated to a special guest speaker.

We continue to hold meetings at the Sisters' Renewal Centre. We are fortunate to be able to hold them there. Hopefully, the sisters will be around for many years to come. Unfortunately, their numbers are decreasing. Our spiritual leader, Father Angus Morris, is still with us. He is a great benefit to our movement. People like his personal and common sense approach to sometimes difficult problems. His health is still a question mark but we pray he will be with us for a number of years.

- ◆ QUEBEC,
- ◆ ONTARIO, Sarnia, London, Kent County/Chatham, Windsor, Peterborough, Toronto, Hamilton, Timmins, Ottawa, Thunder Bay, Korean, Latin American
- ◆ WESTERN, Vancouver, Nelson, Prince George, Calgary, Edmonton, Grouard-McLennan, Kamloops, Native Cursillo, Winnipeg.

As an executive we still feel it will become a problem to recruit new members to the Cursillo family as we have a small community to draw from. Our population is getting older as a lot of our younger people have left for opportunities elsewhere. We will continue to try and welcome more to our family because we believe in the strength that the Cursillo movement brings to each and every one of its members.

Yours truly, Hubert Chiasson

Lay Director of the Western Cape Breton Cursillo Movement June 2008

ST JOHN'S,

Goals:

- To Bring Back Fellow Cursillistas who have been absent from our Ultreya.
- We look forward to having a men's and women's Cursillo weekend in St. John's and on the Burin Peninsula (The Burin Peninsula is about a 4 hour drive from St. John's)

building bridges from coast to coast



Secretariat Activities:

- In September, 2007 we hosted the annual ACCC Conference at Burry Heights, Salmonier Line, NL
- In May, 2008 we met with with our new Bishop Martin Currie and he seems upbeat about our movement and will assist us in any way he can.
- Our secretariat meets once a month and will meet after the Ultreya if needed.
- As of June 11, 2008 we have replaced four of our outgoing members whose terms are up.

Successes:

Pre-Cursillo:

- We held an Advent and Lenten day of reflection where we had four speakers and three of the speakers were fellow cursillistas.
- We had a Christmas Dinner and Dance which was well attended and of course we had special guest appearance by our local Mummers who danced in with Santa.
- We had a Renewal Weekend June 6-8, 2008 and had 42 cursillistas in attendance. We also had a couple of guest speakers. One speaker who most of you know, Sylvia MacKinnon, certainly shared her Cursillo knowledge through her presentations and responses to questions asked her about Cursillo.

Cursillo Weekends:

- The last weekend we had was a women's weekend on the Burin Peninsula in Oct. 2007; however, we are hoping to put teams in place this summer and have them prepare for a weekend later on in the fall.

Fourth Day (Post-Cursillo)

- In St. John's we have a weekly ultreya (20-30 people in attendance) and on the Burin Peninsula we have Ultreya once a month with (20-30 people in attendance).
- We have a phone tree in place to let fellow cursillistas know of any prayer requests and advise them of upcoming events within the Movement.
- We have a Fifth Day Celebration every November to remember those Cursillistas who have passed away.

Communications:

- We continue to have a quarterly newsletter that is e-mailed to 30 Cursillistas and of course we have 30 distributed to the Burin Peninsula and other copies are available at our Ultreya. Should anyone wish to have a copy of our Newsletter please email icroke@nf.sympatico.ca.

Background Information:

- Cursillo has been active in this Diocese for 26 Yrs.

Respectfully submitted for the Secretariat

Terri Bailey
Lay Director
St. John's Archdiocese Cursillo Movement

LABRADOR WEST

Goals:

- We planned to hold a men's week-end June 5 to June 8: 2008 (unsuccessful in this attempt due to insufficient numbers)
- We focused on providing "nourishment" and renewal to current Cursillistas.

Secretariat Activities:

- We welcomed our new Spiritual Director, Fr. Jarek Pachocki.
- We organized a special day of renewal for Cursillistas, this was very well attended and concluded with a Potluck Supper.
- We set up and organized our Archives room.
- The Co-Lay Director attended the Annual ACCC Meeting held in Burry Heights, NL
- We revised the *Guidelines and Practices for the Labrador Cursillo Movement Handbook* (with the wonderful assistance of Mrs. Erica Furlong).
- We contributed to the Dollar Funding Campaign.
- We participated expressions of prayer (Spiritual Bouquet) for Fr. Reg MacNeil on

the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

ONTARIO

CHATHAM/KENT

The Movement continues to flourish in the Chatham-Kent community. This past year we have had two wonderful Sprit filled weekends that have embraced the new Cursillistas within the Cursillo community. We currently have a waiting list for new candidates for the winter 2009 weekends that the two teams are in preparation for.

Our monthly Ultreyas are held at different churches throughout Chatham-Kent area and are very well attended. Most of the priests in our area are Cursillistas and we can continue to celebrate the Mass prior to the Ultreyas. We also now have four ordained Deacons who are also present for our Ultreyas. We are very blessed to have such a strong, active and supportive clergy in our community.

We have two infromatory days of *School of Leaders* this year, one prior to the weekends for those wishing to learn about the Rollo's and another after. This is where we strongly urge the new Cursillistas to attend to learn more about the history of the Cursillo Movement and what it means to be welcomed within their new found community.

Our Secretariat meets once a month and is very well attended. The meetings start with prayer and meditation and then carry on through the prepared agenda, concluding with a message from our Spiritual Director and closing prayer.

We continue to have bi-monthly newsletters that are made available in all the churches within our community. This newsletter and other Cursillo notification are sent out through e-mail to over 250 Cursillista's, these are much appreciated and an effective means of communication.

Again this year, we as a Community have come together to sing the Funeral Maninita at the passing of our dear Cursillistas. We use this as a time to say good-bye to a friend and to give the family support at this difficult time.

The Chatham-Kent Movement is going into its 33rd year and is still very enriched in its tradition.

This summer I will be passing the leadership role over to our new Lay-Leader Virginia Hoste.

Respectively submitted,
Phil Gavin
Lay-Leader Chatham-Kent Cursillo

WINDSOR/ESSEX

We are beginning to re establish the Cursillo movement in Essex after some 15 years of absence. We are looking to simplify the weekend and get closer to the Mallorca experience.

We are going to have our weekends men's Oct.23, 24,25,26. Women's Nov.6, 7, 8, 9. In Amhurstburg at the House of Shalom.

We hope next year's report will be filled with the progress and growth of the Essex Cursillo Movement.

José Salvador
Lay Leader of Essex Cursillo Movement.

KOREAN CURSILLO MOVEMENTS IN CANADA

캐나다 한인 꾸르실로 사무국

1. Spiritual Director

We have a new Spritual Director in 2008.
Fr. Andrew Ko, Pastor, St. Peter Yu Parish, Hamilton, Ontario assumed this duty as of January 1, 2008.

Currently, the Korean priest's conference in Ontario will provide the spiritual director in rotation.

All of the pastors in Korean parishes in the conference, except Buffalo's, are Cursillistas.

2. The secretariat

The current secretariat, 18 members including the Spiritual Director, is the 9th term (two year term) for the Korean Cursillo Movements in Canada. We are affiliated with CCCC and participating in Korean Cursillo Conference in North America with most of members coming from the U.S.A.)

The secretariat meets in the second month of every quarter.

This secretariat is serving the Korean communities in eastern Canada.

The cursillistas in BC (Vancouver) and Alberta (Edmonton and Calgary) are currently served by NorthWest Regional Secretariat of the U.S.

movements. Vancouver Ultreya is spearheading the establishment of a secretariat for western Canada with the support of Calgary and Edmonton Ultreya. All member secretariats of the Korean Cursillo Conference with a strong support of this secretariat, are supporting this effort.

This secretariat, in 2006, made commitment to implement the current CCCC initiative to restore the original vision and the foundation charism.

In line with CCCC initiative, we have switched the Cursillo weekend program from 2006 on, to the revised version of "Weekend Outlines" from CCCC and the new "Cursillo Movement's Cursillo Manual" from the United States National Secretariat. The U.S. Cursillo Manual has more comprehensive details for conducting the weekend based on the same "Weekend Outlines" as CCCC.

3. The Women's weekend (September/2007)
The secretariat conducted the Women's Cursillo (Toronto Women's #251) with 51 new cursillistas and 18 member team. This weekend generated four new group reunions after weekend. We had the team members and candidates from Syracuse, Rochester, Ottawa, Peterborough, Cambridge, Hamilton in addition to Greater Toronto Area.

4. Status of Group Reunions and Ultreyas

This year's focus has been promoting the Group Reunions and the target number was 30 for year 2007. It was major topic in our annual renewal retreat, the School of Leaders, and General Ultreya.

The member cursillistas are mainly located in the Korean communities in Ontario and northwestern New York State area.

Major concentration is in Greater Toronto area, Hamilton, Peterborough in the Province of Ontario and pockets of cursillistas in Cambridge, Ottawa, London, Niagara, and Kingston in Ontario and Buffalo, Syracuse, and Rochester in the State of New York and Montreal in Province of Quebec.

Seven Ultreyas, all aligned with local Korean Parishes, are active (all gathering once a month): HanMam Ultreya (St. Andrew Kim Parish, Toronto)

Sacred Heart of Jesus Ultreya (Toronto)
Hamilton Ultreya
Hamilton West Ultreya (Cambridge)
Peterborough Ultreya (Brighton)
Ottawa Ultreya
Buffalo Ultreya

As of December, 2007, at the time of the annual General Ultreya, about 25 Groups were reported active with regular Group Reunions.

5. Rector training (June/2007)
Based on the revised outlines and in the tradition of Toronto Movements' rector training program, we have trained 8 candidates for weekend rectors: 4 women and 4 men. Now the secretariat has a good number of weekend rectors ready for service.
6. Annual Renewal Retreats (February/2008)
With 40 cursillistas attending, the annual retreat was the opportunity for New Year reflections and better understanding of the movement's mentality.
7. General Ultreya (December/2007)
8. Outdoor "Way of Cross" (March/2008)
We had this year's Way of Cross (the week before Easter) in a foot deep snow at the Sunny Brook Park in Toronto. We had a good number (about 80) in this outdoor prayer this year.
9. Leaders School (May/2008)

This year's School of Leaders were held in two consecutive Saturdays (6 hours each) to review the revised Cursillo weekend rollos in preparation for the upcoming men's weekend in September/2008. About 20 attended at both sessions.

WESTERN

EDMONTON

The Edmonton Cursillo Community continues to work together to bring Christ's invitation of a closer relationship with Him to others. We are continuing to strive toward the full understanding of the Cursillo original Charism as the late Eduardo Bonnin has intended. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Eduardo Bonnin was truly blessed. We continue on the journey that our Lord Jesus Christ inspired Eduardo Bonnin to take.

Last fall we had both a men's and women's weekend scheduled. The men's team struggled, and with the lack of candidates, we decided to reschedule for the spring of 2008. The women's weekend went ahead as scheduled (no surprise) and was very fruitful. The rectora, Christine Smits and her team, under the wings of the Holy Spirit did an excellent job. Fr. Jim Corrigan and Sr. Gertrude Mulholland our spiritual directors, solidified the weekend for both the candidates and team.

The men's team regrouped and Dave Kornder with his strong leadership skills, lead the men's team through a great critiquing process. The men's team grew together in faith to such a closeness that the thinking was; if the weekend did not have enough candidates we would gather together just as team for the weekend using the weekend outline. The men's team met regularly and the critiquing started with mass, celebrated by our Spiritual Director Fr. Jim Corrigan. The men's weekend had 10 candidates plus front team and a great kitchen team. The mountain top experience was expressed as "It was good to be here". We will review the weekends and start preparing for the spring of 2009 weekends.

Last year's conference with the theme "The School of Leaders, One Mind, One Heart" was an inspiration for our Leaders' School. Rod Kroetch our animator for Leaders' School has renewed vision after reading the pamphlet from the 2007 conference. We are meeting on a regular basis and continue to grow in our understanding.

Our quarterly newsletter is about due out and we have a great picnic planned for June 1st. We are inviting Cursillo family and friends to our annual pot-luck picnic and B.B.Q. The other social gathering we enjoy yearly is our Christmas - New Year pot luck and Bon-Fire (Huge Fire). It's a good thing there is snow all around.

We continue to meet for Ultreyas the last Wednesday of every month at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Sherwood Park, just east of Edmonton. We have a few more groupings taking place since the weekends and we are hopeful for the future in our Diocese. The Edmonton Cursillo Community is alive and well, and we pray for the grace and friendship of the Holy Spirit, who leads us on.

Dennis Gelasco, Lay Director

THE VIETNAMESE CURSILLO MOVEMENT OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF VANCOUVER.

1. The Activities of the Vietnamese Cursillo of the Archdiocese of Vancouver. Secretariat Activities:

Officers Election for 2007-2008.

- a. President: Andre Nguyen Van Ba.
- b. Vice-President: Michael Ho Kinh.
- c. Secretary: Maria Tran Son Ha.
- d. Treasure: Elizabeth Nguyen Kim Hoa.
- e. School of Leaders: Joseph Nguyen van Muc. & Joseph Nguyen thanh Dat.

Thanksgiving Mass & Celebration on the 10th Anniversary of the Vietnamese Cursillo Movement: 1997-2007 on October 12th 2007 at St. Joseph's, Vancouver, B.C.

Pre-Cursillo:

- a. Praying & searching for new potential candidates for the Cursillo Movement & leading them to the Lord, Jesus Christ.
- b. Palanca were sent to "everywhere" having the 3 day Cursillo Weekend.

Cursillo Weekend:

- a. Responding to the Archbishop Adam Exner's invitation to the Canadian National Cursillo Conference in September 2001 in Mission, B.C. The theme: Launch into the deep and become food for the world.
- b. July 2002: Having the 1st Cursillo 3 day for the Vietnamese men in the diocese of Calgary, AB.
- c. July 2003: Having the 1st Cursillo 3 day for the Vietnamese men & women in the Archdiocese of Toronto.
- d. July 2005: Having the 1st Cursillo 3 day for the Vietnamese men in the Archdiocese of Edmonton, AB.
- e. July 2006: Having the 1st Cursillo 3 day for the Vietnamese men in the diocese of Vinh, North Vietnam. Planning, organizing and finally having the 1st Cursillo 3 day Weekend in the communist government was a big and dangerous mission! However, it was a successful 3 day Cursillo Weekend. Now there are 48 cursillistas, included 2 seminarians; one of them, whose name is Joseph Nguyen Viet Nam, will be ordained as a priest on June 29th 2008. Praise the Lord & De Colores!
In 2000 a few priests from the Diocese of Vinh, North Viet Nam, were sent to France to study. These priests attended the 3 day Cursillo Weekend in France, then during the Summer 2002 they went to help at the 3 day Cursillo Weekend in Calgary, AB, Canada. Now

going back and working in their diocese, these "Cursillista-priests" quietly bring the Cursillo Movement into North Vietnam.

f. July 2007: Having two "the 3 day Cursillo" for the Vietnamese: 28 Cursillistas (women) and 16 Cursillistas (men) at Rosemary Retreat Center, 3690 - 152 nd Street, Surrey, B.C.

Fourth Day (post Cursillo).

a. Group Reunion: Once on every 2 week. There are 6 groups.

b. School of Leaders: Once on every other month beginning with January 2007- 2008. @At,

c. Ultreya: Once every other month beginning with February 2007-2008.

11. Evangelization:

In 2001 a small group of senior Cursillistas began the work of evangelization among the Vietnamese Canadian Seniors of Greater Vancouver. After a long period of evangelizing there came happy news: Two seniors from the Vietnamese Canadian Seniors came for the RCIA program then were baptized on Easter Vigil 2006; then 2007 one Senior were baptized on Easter Vigil 2008 and two Seniors were welcomed into the full communion with the Catholic Church on the Feast of Pentecost in 2008 at St. Joseph's parish.

The Vietnamese Secretariat and the School of Leaders continue to pray, study and make plans to open the 3 day Cursillo Weekend for the Vietnamese in the Archdioceses of Montreal and Ottawa.

We humbly ask you to pray for us, the Vietnamese Cursillo Movement in Canada, and for our endeavors.

Respectfully submitted. De Colores.

VANCOUVER

Goals:

- To continue spreading the good news of God's love to everyone, especially those who are "far away" by following the mission of Cursillo: make a friend, be a friend, bring your friend to Christ.
- To learn more about the Cursillo movement by studying in-depth the writings of Eduardo Bonnín and the results of the meetings at Cala Figuera.
- To continually educate cursillistas by de-emphasizing the Weekend and emphasizing Group Reunion, Ultreya, and School of Leaders as the main components of Cursillo.

Secretariat:

- Secretariat has been meeting regularly every second Saturday of the month. Although some members have been working double duty (and more!) spirits have been high, and we have grown in closeness. There is great openness and seriousness when discussing Cursillo business, and much has been accomplished in the two hours we are together.
- We decided to and have implemented the "Dollar Campaign" which so far has been quite successful.

Weekends:

- We had three very good weekends: a men's in May/07 with 21 candidates; a women's in July/07 with 22; a women's in May/08 with 20. In Oct/08 we will have another men's weekend - the Rector has already been chosen.
- Closures Mass for this years (May/08) women's weekend was celebrated by Coadjutor Archbishop J. Michael Miller. Assisting Archbishop Miller were Fr. Patrick Chisholm our Spiritual Director, and Fr. Patrick Tepoorten pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish where the weekend took place.

Ultreyas:

- We have Ultreyas on the first and third Fridays at St. Bernadette's Parish, and when the month has a fifth Friday, we also have Ultreya at St. Paul's Mission (First Nations), in North Vancouver. Ultreyas are always a time of great joy and are well attended. A good number of the more recent *graduates* have been participating regularly.

School of Leaders:

- We continue to meet on the second Wednesday of the month. Although the group is small, there is nothing small about the discussions. We are studying Eduardo Bonnín's writings and going deep into the roots of Cursillo. It has been for some of us an eye-opener and we have shared moments of awe at the realization of how the Spirit moves and what He accomplishes.

Fourth Day:

- **Workshop:** Due to conflicting schedules we didn't have a workshop after the women's July/07 weekend as we had intended. However, we have already planned two workshops for 2008: the first in July, the second later in the year.

- **Prayer Line:** Has been very successful.

Picnic:

- We held our annual picnic in August 2007. Unfortunately the weather was not in our favour. We were few in attendance, but we had good fellowship, the food was tasty and plentiful, and the children had fun anyway.
- We're already preparing for the next annual picnic and will be announcing the date and place at next Ultreya.

Deceased:

- On November 16, 2007 our spiritual director, Fr. Patrick Chisholm, celebrated Mass for the repose of the soul of deceased Cursillistas.

Newsletter:

- We had three newsletters published. Most newsletters are emailed but hard copies are also available for those who prefer or don't have access to a computer.

Annual General Meeting:

- We held our AGM on April 18, 2008. Secretariat remains almost the same in number, with only the addition of one new member.
- Our First Nations representative resigned for personal reasons and was replaced by a new First Nations member.
- Archbishop Raymond Roussin renewed Fr. Patrick Chisholm's appointment as our Spiritual Director.

Respectfully submitted for Secretariat,

Odete Redondo
Lay Director
Archdiocese of Vancouver Cursillo Movement

The Atlantic Conference

The annual conference of the ACCC (Atlantic Catholic Cursillo Council) was held the weekend of September 26 - 28 at Villa Madonna Retreat House in Rothesay, New Brunswick. The Cursillistas of the Saint John Diocese were our hosts and, as usual, all attending received a very friendly welcome.

For the past several years our Atlantic conferences have been following the lead of the CCCC conferences in order to try to keep as many of our Atlantic Cursillistas as possible informed of the

ongoing journey back to the Foundational Charism of the Cursillo movement. The 2007 CCCC Conference was presented as an actual School of Leaders therefore our Atlantic theme this year was "Living the School of Leaders". Talks presented were:

- Good Stewardship and the Cursillo - The Necessity of Knowing Its History
- The Charism of the Cursillo
- The Conversations of Cala Figuera
- The Cursillo Method - How and Why
- Where Are We Going From Here?

According to the evaluations received following the conference, these were very informative topics and were well received.

The Executive of the Atlantic had invited Sheelagh Winston, Secretary/Resource person for the CCCC, as guest speaker. Again referencing the evaluations, those in attendance felt that having Sheelagh was an added bonus and are very appreciative of her willingness to share her knowledge and experiences of Eduardo Bonnin and the Mallorcan School of Leaders.

Our conferences rotate between the four Atlantic Provinces and due to the fact that attending each year's conference is not possible for everyone, the evaluations often bring to the attention of the Atlantic officers the fact that we will need to look at ways to communicate, from one year to another, what has actually been presented at our conferences. Hopefully we will be able to find ways to accomplish a feeling of 'connectedness' and some continuity for our Cursillistas.

This was an election year in the Atlantic Region and the elections take place at the General Meeting held on Sunday. The following Cursillistas have been chosen as the executive for the next two years:

Secretary/Treasurer-Janice Bourque (Yarmouth area-Diocese of Yarmouth, NS)
Spiritual Advisor-Father Danny Wilson (Charlottetown-Diocese of Charlottetown, PE)
Vice Chair-Leo LeBlanc (Miramichi area - Diocese of Saint John, NB)
Chairperson-Sylvia MacKinnon (Halifax - Diocese of Halifax, NS)
Past Chairperson-Ed McCarthy (Charlottetown - Diocese of Charlottetown, PE)
Member-At-Large - to be named by Diocese of St. John's, NL

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the Cursillistas of Saint John Diocese who worked so tirelessly to see that all of our needs were met this year and we look

forward to the 2009 Conference which is being hosted by the Halifax Cursillo Movement in Nova Scotia.

Our Fall meeting will be held in November this year on Prince Edward Island as for the past number of years the Executive and Fall meetings have been held where our Spiritual Advisor resides. We have much to discuss at this meeting and ask for your prayer support as we discern the how and the why of Cursillo matters in the Atlantic Region.

De Colores - Ultreya!
Sylvia MacKinnon
Chairperson ACCC

Continued from page 11

and she went and told the people of her village. We don't know what she did about her situation but we can be certain, it would have been a lot easier for her to make any decisions she needed to make after having encountered Jesus.

The whole method of Cursillo is based on Friendship. Genuine, authentic, Christ-like friendship and this must be true of the team.

The bottom line is that before anyone is invited to a Cursillo, the sponsor and even the sponsor's whole group, must pray and pray for wisdom before anything is said to any candidate about a weekend. It is only then that they should be approached. Another point is that if the sponsor does not follow through with their candidate, the candidate becomes the responsibility of the team. The rationale for this is that the sponsor only brings the candidate to the weekend, it is the team that gives them the message and in so doing, they become equally responsible for the person.

Q. Since it is necessary for the magisterium to discern and approve all charisms of the lay movements in the church and since both popes Paul VI and John Paul II accepted and commended the charism of the world wide Cursillo, can the Cursillo method practiced over the last 60 years in the world be as wrong as Eduardo Bonin seemed to think?

A. It is true what the questioner is saying about the need for a charism to be affirmed by the hierarchy. However, Rome, meaning the popes, only know what they are told: they may not have first-hand knowledge of all the Movements and their charisms.

Francisco Forteza, marked as Eduardo's successor before he died prematurely, wrote in his book, *Historia y Memoria*, that it was widely believed in

Mallorca, that Father Segui, Eduardo's spiritual advisor since the beginning, had a lot to do with the writing of the speech that Pope Paul VI gave at the World Ultreya in Rome where he acknowledged the Charism of Cursillo. Therefore, what Pope Paul VI was affirming as the Cursillo Movement was based on information that came directly from Mallorca. Pope John Paul II reaffirmed this sentiment when he spoke to Cursillistas at the World Ultreya in Rome in 2000. Pope John Paul's reaffirmation would have been after Bishop Josef Cordes of Cor Unum had interviewed Eduardo as the Founder of Cursillo, along with other founders of lay movements in 1997.

So, one could say that what the popes were affirming was the authentic Cursillo as it was lived in its birthplace. Eduardo's travels to various part of the world gave him a different perspective and it is this perspective that led him to the observation that outside of Mallorca, Cursillo had yet to be tried.

Eduardo would have been satisfied to let Cursillo just develop around the world if he hadn't seen how distorted the message was becoming. Eduardo has never said that the method that is commonly practiced around the world has done harm or has not had its benefits. What he insisted on was that the method as originally thought out and structured was the most effective in achieving the purpose.

Thus, Eduardo never said that we got it wrong. He said that it hasn't been tried. I think the word 'tried' means lived in this instance. Cursillo is a lived experience. It invites a person to encounters, which, if lived authentically, will produce a conversion that will transform the life of the individual, and that *transformed life* has the potential of influencing others and that's how we transform the world one person, one friend, at a time. For this to happen we need to understand so that the Pre-Cursillo, the Cursillo, and the Post-Cursillo 'work with clock-like precision' to accomplish its stated purpose.

By not studying the Cursillo in its birthplace where its growth and development were guided by its founder, the one to whom the Charism was given, we have imperfectly understood it and have grown Cursillos that are but a shadow of what they could be. God expects us to be good stewards and a good stewards knows his master's business and allows this understanding to guide his every action. Our stewardship of the Cursillo demands no less.

WITNESS

daily we touch him

My name is Tom Hickey. I made my Cursillo in 1992 and sat at St. Pius X table.

When asked to tell how the 3rd Day impacted me, I said I would have to review the whole weekend and lead up to this day since it was after the 3rd day that the whole picture was revealed to me.

To start at the third day, without reflecting on days 1 and 2, is like reading a book and starting at chapter 3. To focus just on one day would be like a retreat. To understand Cursillo and a Cursillo weekend, we have to know how one rollo leads into the next and by the end of the 3rd day one book ends while we continue and start a new 4th day book remembering one follows the other. During my weekend I was told that things would unfold as time progressed and I was willing to wait and see.

Father Jim Davis, my spiritual director, in 1992 started the weekend with the meditation *Know Yourself*. After this talk, I knew I needed to look into myself and allow God to touch places hidden not only from others but from myself. I know I had to get my mind, my heart, and my life in order. Who am I really in my own eyes?

Next came *The Prodigal Son* and it was then I realized a loving Father and knew whatever needed to be forgiven would be forgiven if I just asked.

It was during the next hours of the retreat phase that I prayed that my Father in Heaven would ensure I got to know myself. I also knew this would be the most difficult encounter allowing my mask to come off to myself and God. This silent retreat time gave me time to reflect on the truths presented during the meditations.

I found from listening to the meditations and rollos of the first day (*Three Glances of Christ, Ideals, Grace, Layperson In The Church, Faith and Piety*) that conversion was not a change but a process which would continue and unless I encounter myself the process would stop. Ideals got me to think of Jesus as my ideal, Layperson - my mission to God, while Piety allowed me to be aware of God in my life.

The first encounter - Encounter with Self - is where I befriend myself. For conversion to happen, this

encounter is vital and will continue until I am finally home with my Father. Also for this to happen, I must be able to forgive myself. I needed to acknowledge my sins, confess them, accept forgiveness and move on.

I then asked myself: How do I become Pious? How do I live a life of Grace? What is my Ideal? It was here I discovered - it's so easy to swallow a little host at Sunday mass but so awfully difficult to swallow a human being who is made to the Image and likeness of God. I spent time thinking of my world surrounded by values that are in complete contradiction to the values of God.

Now that I was getting to know myself, I would do something about it.

The second day attempted to show a practical way. On this day, I encountered Christ. I met him as my friend. He is living with me and I am never alone. The Encounter with Christ, or "Conversion" phase, is where I met the Spirit of God and realized the fact God loves me as I am, where I am. This sank deep into my heart. It became a personal conviction. At this point, I was enthusiastic and excited to follow Him and to hear more.

As Sylvia told us, the Meditations and Rollos of the Second Day facilitate the Encounter with Christ by showing what is fundamental to being a Christian. It shows that the solution to my questions is in growing closer to Christ and be like Him. I need to know Him as a fully human person, follow Him - and do what He commands. In other words, Encounter Christ. I needed both time and space for the Second Encounter to take place - for it is in making this encounter that I learned that no matter where, no matter what, He is there. Through this Second Encounter, I came to know I was encountering Christ by opening my heart and allowing Him in through other people.

It is here where a quote from Eduardo Bonnín speaks to me about being a Christian Leader and influencing others:

"To be Christian is to first feel being loved by God, and to live in wonder of it, since what is most authentically Christian is to let God love us. The interior attitude created by this reality, when believed

and lived fully, becomes a leaven and is transmitted to others. But to grasp this, to experience it, to encounter God who is love, it is necessary to present ourselves to Him as we truly are."

The Third Day puts the finishing touches on the picture that has been painted. The theme of the Third day is the insertion of the Cursillista into the world – the encounter with others. The journey outward, the journey toward other people. WE encounter Jesus present in other people and through each other we experience God's love.

As a leader in my Cursillo movement, I need to understand the message of the Third Day. This day is very important. As Lorraine told us, we share the love discovered with others – with those on our journey, and also with those who have never heard the Good News. We find ourselves wanting to help others find the joy of living in Grace. We become Christianity in Action – that is, working together with those who believe as we do. When this is done, a Christian community is born.

The meditation and the rollos of the third day made me aware of being able to count on Christ for everything, however, He is counting on me too. He wants me to bring the message of His love for each of us to everyone I meet in my daily life, and that doesn't mean I go around 'preaching'. It means I do my best to live in Grace, and to reach out to those around me in friendship. The best way for me to live out my 4th day is to be in Group Reunion, sharing with my brothers-in-Christ.

The method which is to bring the best news, that God loves me, by the best means which is friendship is tough on my own and the reason I need Group Reunion and Ultreya. I know that each time we gather, we gather not as a crutch, not as a support group, but as a sign – as a witness – we are saying we believe in the Charism of Cursillo.

My call to evangelize the world doesn't mean anything more than living my life in such a way as to attract others. When I live my life in Grace, in relationship with God, the way I deal with things day in and day out is something others notice. When I am willing to be understanding, compassionate, accepting and a loving human being, accepting my own gifts then I am ready to answer my Baptismal call. I can touch the lives of others in ways I may never know. This is true, especially when I serve on team.

I must always remember the importance of these facts.....

In order for new Cursillistas to believe all they have heard on the weekend is true, I must witness myself that I am indeed living my 4th day in the Cursillo method of piety, study, and action, and active in Group Reunion and Ultreya – or they find the door closed when they try to join a group reunion. I know attention to the full picture of the encounter with others is one of the things that separate Cursillo communities who have just really nice weekends from the Cursillo communities who live the message.

This is what I got from the Rollos of the third day: The Study of Environments helped me to understand that I need to take the time to look at the world around me – at home, at work, and in my social activities.

Christian Life gave me some practical ways to continue my spiritual growth

Christianity In Action, which had been changed to Christian Community when I made Cursillo, helped me realize the importance of close friendships with other Cursillistas.

The Cursillista After the Cursillo was not part of the weekend I made. As Lorraine told us, this talk had been dropped. Hearing it now has shown me the importance it holds. This pulls it all together! A summary of our mission and the possibility of carrying it out. It points out the dangers that we will encounter and ways to avoid them. It demonstrates through the lived witness of piety, study, and action, how life is a continuous Cursillo.

Total Security – - Group Reunion in the Total Security rollo.... It was here I remember how Jesus washed his disciples feet and how I must wash other's feet. By washing feet in my home or at work, I would do it without expecting anything back. When I do it out of love, I won't call it washing feet – I will call it ministry – visiting the bereaved, bringing communion to the sick or instructing a confirmation group.

No, we don't find Total Security by attending group Reunion and Ultreya and Total Security does not mean that life is now free of worries and problems. What it does mean is this: if we continue what we began on the Cursillo weekend where each table group was its own little group reunion, the conversion process can continue, grow deeper, and carry us through the rest of our lives.

God loves us and there is nothing that can separate us from His love.

There is no greater friendship than that.

I realized after the 3rd day that the how of Cursillo would be easy: a weekend, group reunion, and ultreya, but I knew I would have to work on the why of Cursillo: reach out and attract others to Christ – draw others to Christ in their own conversion.

In closing, if you remember one thing I said today – remember this:

Cursillo is not a religion that you and I must practice. It is not made up of rules and regulations. Cursillo is a gift from God. This gift comes with many wrappings and as we unwrap each one, we discover the love of Jesus present to us through the people we encounter daily.

Cursillo is the heart of the way we live.

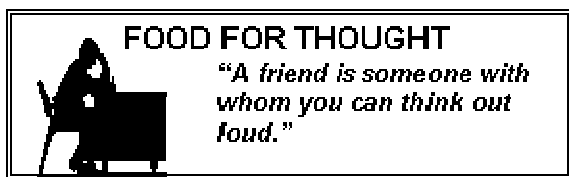
Cursillo is not something – Cursillo is not something you know – Cursillo is something you live. And

living this method is better than all the knowledge available.

Let me say here – Cursillo is facing many challenges. In order to meet those challenges, we need to come to unity – a united understanding of what Cursillo is and what it is intended to accomplish. We need to consolidate our strengths. To achieve this, we must first unite our hearts so we can unite our ideas.

And so, I want to prepare myself and know, that one day, I will be united with my brothers and sisters who journeyed with me on this pilgrimage. I am looking forward to Jesus saying, “Come in good and faithful Cursillista and enjoy the banquet prepared for you since the beginning of time.

De Colores and God bless
Tom Hickey
St. John’s, NL



When CCCC was first structured, it was organized along the lines of the CCCB, that is into regions consisting of West, Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic. It took some time for the regions themselves to become organized but once they did they served a very necessary purpose as a vehicle for communication between the various areas of Canada and the CCCC.

Unfortunately there is now only one region that is active and vibrant and that is the Atlantic. The article that follows is an example of how a region might be structured and how it meets the needs of the Cursillistas it serves and CCCC. We publish it here in the hopes it might encourage and inspire the leaders in Central and Western Canada to re-establish regional structures in their respective areas.

ATLANTIC CATHOLIC CURSILLO COUNCIL

The Atlantic Catholic Cursillo Council (ACCC) is a body made up of Cursillistas from the various Dioceses of the Atlantic Provinces. It’s purpose is to unify, co-ordinate and enrich the Cursillo movement

in the Provinces of Newfoundland-Labrador, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Its action and direction is in accordance with the objectives of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Cursillo (CCCC) and the Atlantic Conference of Catholic Bishops.

At the present time this body consists of the following Secretariats:

- St. John’s Newfoundland
- Labrador West
- Charlottetown
- Saint John
- Saint John – Mirimachi
- Cape Breton East – Richmond
- Cape Breton West
- Tri County
- Yarmouth
- Yarmouth – Valley
- Halifax

Our aims include assisting with communications within the Cursillo movement in the Atlantic Provinces, including information circulated by the CCCC, and by maintaining a current list of Lay Directors, Spiritual Advisors, and Palanca contacts in each of the Diocesan Secretariats of the Atlantic Region. Also to encourage awareness of the strategy and method of Cursillo and its consistent application in the Pre-Cursillo, the 3-day weekend, and Post Cursillo aspects of the movement in accordance with the vision of the Founder, Eduardo Bonnin.

Each member is welcome to share ideas which will promote the fundamental ideas of the Cursillo

Movement at scheduled planning sessions generally held in the Fall of each year as well as at the annual conference which is held on the third weekend of September each year.

The Council executive consists of the following officers: Secretary/Treasurer, Spiritual Advisor, Vice Chair, Chairperson, and Past Chairperson, who are elected by the Cursillistas present at the Atlantic Conference with the exception of the Past Chair which is an automatic appointment. In the event that one of our Provinces is not represented on the Executive, a Member-at-Large is appointed from that area to ensure there is representation on the executive from all Provinces. Each officer serves for a 2-year period and may be re-elected for a second two-year term after which the officer must wait out one term before being eligible for re-election to the executive.

In an election year, each Secretariat receives a letter from the Executive asking them to submit names for the all positions except Past Chair. Keeping in mind that no names are submitted for anyone who has not been approached and asked if he/she is willing to allow his/her name to stand in the election. These names are sent to the Secretary/Treasurer who prepares a list of nominees for the conference. Nominations are also accepted from the floor during the conference weekend. When the election is held on Sunday, everyone present is eligible to vote in the election.

Elections, guideline changes and major policy decisions are voted on at the annual conference. The Executive is responsible for the ongoing business of the Council between annual meetings.

The Fall meeting mentioned above consists of an executive meeting being held on a Friday evening and an 'open' meeting being held Saturday which usually concludes about noon. This Saturday meeting is open to all Cursillistas who wish to attend. In recent years a meeting of the Lay Directors has been arranged which enables those people to meet and share among themselves. This has proven to be very successful and is a practice which will be continued. Traditionally our Fall meetings have been held in the area in which our Spiritual Advisor resides. For the next two years our meetings will be held on beautiful Prince Edward Island.

In 2007 the Atlantic Region was well represented at the Cursillo of Cursillos held in Mallorca, Spain. This has also been of great benefit to our Cursillistas as many of them have been willing to share what they experienced and this helps all of us with grasping the authentic Charism of the Cursillo movement.

The general consensus is that the Cursillistas in the Atlantic Region find having a Regional body a great benefit, especially for those who are unable to attend the yearly CCCC conferences. Having the ACCC following the CCCC lead in conference topics enables all of us to keep up to speed on where the Cursillo Movement in Canada is going.

Q. Does the new booklet that CCCC has produced, *The Fourth Day, A Perennial Cursillo*, replace the the booklet we have been using for several years and should this now be included in the envelope that we give to our Candidates at the end of the Cursillo weekend?

A. Originally when CCCC embarked on the 4th Day booklet project, it was intended to be a Canadian version of the booklet that you describe.

As the project progressed, it evolved into a booklet that would be a useful resource for not only new candidates, but also more veteran Cursillistas who are looking for more insight into the charism and mentality.

The booklet has received an enthusiastic reception from those who have read it and it is literally 'flying off the shelves' at the Resource Centre.

CCCC is aware that there is a custom in many Movements to give the candidates several items as they leave the weekend, including the 4th Day booklet. This is a practice that has evolved over time and it isn't a necessary part of the candidate's experience. They do retain the Pilgrim's Guide that has been used on the weekend and this can serve as a first prayer book for those candidates who have been among the Far Away.

CCCC suggests that the new Fourth Day booklet not be given to every candidate but only to those who have shown their desire to persevere in the Fourth Day of Ultreya and Grouping. It could be given at the Ultreya a few weeks after the weekend.

The rationale for this is that to distribute it to all candidates, some of whom may not be interested, could be seen as answering questions that they have not yet asked.

As with all CCCC suggestions, those Movements who wish to continue to give the booklet to all candidates are free to do so.



JESTERS' CORNER

.....NO SAD SAINTS HERE!!

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

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, "Johnny, what is the matter?" Little Johnny responded, "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?"

The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your Dad."

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100."

The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

A police recruit was asked during the exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" He answered "Call for backup."

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!" While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again! in. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!"

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" "Because white is the colour of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life." The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So why is the groom wearing black

An elderly! woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor thy father and thy mother," she asked "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

ESSAY

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

BEING GOOD STEWARDS OF THE GIFT

Presentation by George Henry, CCCC Annual Conference, 2008

Eduardo Bonnin prefaced his spiritual will with these words, "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 no other than to try and get the Good News of the Gospel to reach as many people as possible, and preferably the most remote from the Church and Christ, 'The far away'."²

Whenever I'm given the chance to speak about the Cursillo, I like to spend some time in research, hoping to find some words of wisdom from Bonnin that will help point me in the right direction. Usually, when I do find such wisdom, it directs me to the place where Bonnin himself found inspiration, help, wisdom, and guidance, the Gospel.

We are stewards called to give our time, our talent, and our treasure to building up the Kingdom of God here on earth. We do so most effectively and efficiently by allowing God to form us and prepare us for the great work that is always to hand: being the Good News to those in our environments. Through Eduardo we have been given this wonderful method and movement, the Cursillo, a means to accomplish a great end. We need to have an understanding, a working knowledge of this gift in its entirety. Without this perspective, we run the very real risk of under utilizing and under appreciating this gift. A partial understanding permits us to accomplish only a fraction of what a full working knowledge of it would allow.

During the past 15 National Conferences the CCCC has been trying to give to the Canadian Movement a perspective from which to view this great gift of the Holy Spirit. We have, in a figurative sense, been trying to get the participants to "stand on the moon and look at the earth." We have done so to allow all of us to see the parts in relation to the whole. We have

done so because all of us, planners and participants, need to understand and to appreciate the gift. Far too often these God given Gifts go under used and under appreciated. This perhaps is a symptom of our consumerism, one of the many 'isms of the secular world. Just consider the attitude to gift giving and receiving in today's world.

Shouldn't we, when we are given a gift, be grateful, feel gratitude? We can express this gratitude by our acceptance and use of the gift. This tells the giver that not only was the gift appreciated; but it has also become part of our treasure. How many of us view the giving and receiving of gifts in this way?

Perhaps it is a characteristic of our society that gift giving has become so superficial as to be almost meaningless. We give gifts to satisfy an expectation or an obligation and the gifts we receive from others are often the product of the same motivation. Such gift giving engenders no appreciation and has no meaning for us. We tend to end up with closets filled with meaningless gifts, which find their way into yard sales, flea markets, the landfill, the recycling depot or are re-gifted. This happens because we have lost the meaning of gift giving and receiving. We have become caught up in the business of life and spend our time, talent, and treasure in the pursuit of that which does not satisfy nor provide lasting benefit to us or to our world.

It is little wonder that this attitude toward giving and receiving has dulled our appreciation for even the things of God. We need look only at our own Cursillo movement. The foundation of our movement is a charism, a gift from God. He gave this gift to Eduardo Bonnin who viewed it as answered prayer. Eduardo shared his vision and his mission with some close friends and from that collaboration of both the human and the Divine grew the Cursillo method and the movement. The giver of the gift and the receiver of the gift have become one in spirit and this has transformed lives and those lives have transformed environments. The Gift has become the foundation of a vast movement that has the potential to solve all of the world's problems and create the unity for which Christ prayed: that all may be one.

² Eduardo Bonnin, My Spiritual will

In Mallorca, the Cursillo today is the same as it was in the beginning. It has been faithful to the charism, the gift, and to the vision and early history of its founder. This is true because they have taken the time to pray, to study, and to allow that prayer and study to guide their action. Their group reunions flourish. Ultreya is well understood and attended. The School of Leaders is vibrant, alive, and is what keeps all things in the movement faithful to the charism and to the vision of its founder and to its history. Their emphasis is not on the weekend; it is on the whole experience. They see the Cursillo method as a way of life. They understand that the Cursillo is God once again reassuring His people that He loves them completely and unconditionally.

The method that His Gift to the world through Eduardo inspired is based on friendship. It calls all of His Children to live the Gospel naturally, normally, genuinely, and daily. We must become the Good News. We must be the continuing presence of Christ in the world where we live and can have an impact. We must be light in a dark world. We must be the face of hope to those who desperately need to experience the love of God in the person of His Servants, us.

The Cursillo, when understood and lived, can be for us and for the world the palanca that is needed to move the world from self-absorption to self giving. Bonnin said that, "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,..." The evidence of this is the strength of the movement in the birthplace of its founder. The evidence of this is found in those movements that live the authentic Cursillo.

Our piety, study, and action need to be directed to understanding the whole as it is lived in places where the authentic Cursillo is found. Our Schools of Leaders need to provide forums for our leaders in the Cursillo to learn the method so as to become good stewards of it. We must constantly remind ourselves that being familiar with the parts of something doesn't make us experts in its use. I know the different parts of the brain and the general functioning of each, but would you let be operate on your head? I think not, at least I hope not!

Yesterday, when I was a child, I took apart the family's windup alarm clock. It was fascinating to see the inner workings, the dials and the cogs. I managed to put it back together, almost. There were a few pieces left over. It still looked like a clock and it told the correct time twice a day but it no longer marked

the minutes and the hours like it was meant to do. A more experienced individual rescued the clock and me and managed to put it back in working order. That person knew how it was supposed to work and had experience with mechanical things and maybe he had taken apart his own family's clock when he was young and inquisitive. The clock became a working reality again. It still needed to be maintained, wound and adjusted but it continued to work as it was supposed to.

The Cursillo method is like that clock. It's made up of the Pre-Cursillo, the three-day weekend, and the Post-Cursillo and when they are all understood and when they work, as they should, "it responds with clockwork precision to its aim." As good stewards it is our duty to study the whole, understand the workings of each part within the whole and help other leaders in the Cursillo to do likewise. In this way we will be cooperating in the great work of salvation.

This Conference has as its theme *Pre-Cursillo, Witnesses to the Good News*. It has been structured as a School of Leaders. It has a rector, presenters, opportunities for private reflection, small and large group sharing, and time to hear and attempt to respond to questions.

We did not select this topic because we knew that there were serious problems with the Pre-Cursillo as it was understood and lived in the Canadian Movement. We don't know your movements well enough to be able to make such a judgment.

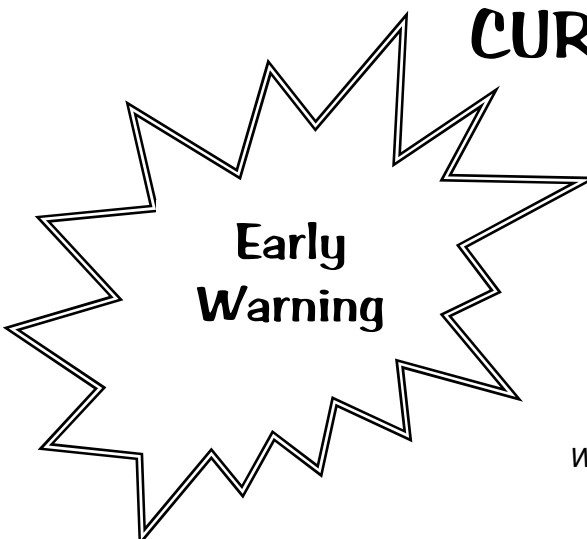
We decided upon this topic after reflecting upon the evaluations submitted from last year's conference and upon our own informal conversations with Cursillistas from various parts of the country. We were hearing about concerns with sponsorship and with candidates for Cursillo and we were discovering that in many parts of the country the School of Leader is either non-existent or, where it does exist, underutilized or misunderstood. It is the School of Leaders that ensures that the movement remains true to the charism and to the vision of its founder and its early history. If that important element is not properly understood and functioning as it should, there is little wonder why there are problems with candidate selection and sponsorship. If there are problems with these, then we need to look at the Pre-Cursillo. Do we understand its role in the Cursillo method and movement? Are we equating it with organizing weekends, team selection, candidate selection, menus, and a host of other details that are part of the three-day weekend and not the Pre-Cursillo?

Only you will be able to answer these and similar questions and you will only be able to provide answers for *yourself* after you experience this conference weekend. In many ways this is like the Cursillo weekend. On the Thursday of the Cursillo you were asked to set aside any preconceived notions, ideas, or prejudices. If your mind is already made up, there will be little room for new ideas. We need you to forget your own movements and focus on the Cursillo Movement. We need you to forget for the moment the way it's done in your movement and hear how it was meant to function. We need once again those three theological virtues: your enthusiasm, your dedication, and your spirit of charity. Together we will explore and discuss so as to leave here with something to think about and to further study in our own individual movements.

Let us focus our attention on what is a key component of the method and the movement. We begin with the premise that a strong Pre-Cursillo equals a strong Post-Cursillo and with strength before and after, the weekends will be powerful sharing of lived experiences. If this is true then our Post-Cursillo people are the Pre-Cursillo influences in the environment and are leavening their environments with the Gospel message through their lived conversion. They are the Good News and they are bringing others to Christ. They are the continuing presence of Christ in their environments. That's what the method and movement wants, strong faith filled individuals reaching out in friendship to the world and awakening by their lived conversion a hunger for God. That's how we bring our friend to Christ and, if it's the right for our friend, to Cursillo.

None of the presenters were selected because of their expertise. They were selected because they have become leaders in the Cursillo in their respective movements. They see the method and movement as a solution to all of the world's problems and they live the Cursillo in their own environments. They are sharing what they live, nothing more. Their presentations are starting points. Your private reflection, your table discussions, your large group sharing, and your conversations with one another in non-scheduled time will be what shapes your understanding of this topic. In the coming days you will be given the opportunity to listen, to reflect, to share, to question, to challenge. You'll also be given the chance to influence future conferences through your thoughtful, signed evaluation of this conference.

Remember, we have come here to learn together about this movement and method so that we will be the wise stewards who pass on to future leaders in the Cursillo and Cursillo leaders the authentic Cursillo whose foundation is the Charism given to Eduardo Bonnín by God whose Grace and Wisdom guided its formation and development. We study because we need to understand how it is meant to work. We study so as to come to believe what Eduardo himself said: 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 no other than to try and get the Good News of the Gospel to reach as many people as possible, and preferably the most remote from the Church and Christ ("The faraway").



CURSILLO OF CURSILLOS

JULY 2-5, 2009

**Wilfred Laurier University
Kitchener, Ontario**

The Cursillo of Cursillos is meant to present some important ideas but also the enthusiasm to begin to carry out those ideas.

Watch This Space for more information or check the CCC website www.cursillo-canada.org

The Cursillo of Cursillos will be hosted by the CCC Officers Group and the Cursillistas of the Hamilton Cursillo Movement.

FROM MALLORCA

CURSILLO DE CURSILLO

Palma de Mallorca, Spain

1-4, November, 2007

I was taken aback by what was once written by an author who was speaking about a Spanish boy who while he was eating a snack made with beef from Argentina, was watching a soccer game between Brazil and Italy that was being retransmitted from Mexico on a television made in Japan.

What draws my attention is how people call their offspring in different parts of the world; in Argentina they call them 'files', in Guatemala 'atopos', in El Salvador 'chipote', in Honduras 'huaro', in Chile 'cabros', in Mexico 'chamacos', and in England 'kids'.

In Cursillos, it is better to know how to believe than to believe that you know. Every person has four corners in within themselves; truth, goodness, friendship and contemplation. It is much better to know how to believe than to think you know because if you believe you already know, you close off your ability to perceive the truth.

Cursillo needs leaders who can perceive the truth and can awaken to the call of Christ to the truth, goodness, friendship and contemplation. Cursillo needs to serve in opening the eyes of Christians so that they not remain in slumber and to be able to awaken those who are distanced from the Church. Christians needs to be open to these four truths.

For them, the truth is the truth. They themselves need to be truth. A person can be truth and can give testimony to the truth, be the way and give testimony to the way. They must act.

Goodness makes us better. When one is good, we experience certainty in what is good and this is what matters. To feel within one's interior being the echo of what is certain. This can be obtained by practicing good, living what is good and doing good, not for the sake of doing good or being better, but rather to do good in spirit and in truth.

If we do not have friendship, our interior never unfolds and we cannot be at the service of what the Lord desires because we don't have the abilities, which have shrunk when egotism has grown in our interior along with ambition and pride.

To know how to contemplate life also helps us to perceive what is fundamental for being Christian. What Cursillo wants to do is to make known the Christian message-unadorned and without additions that only complicate it.

When these four corners have been covered and allowed to grow to their full potential, what we can see in truth, goodness, friendship and contemplation, is the way that we make known that we have understood the message, we have understood that Christ calls us to a great task—to make visible to man the tenderness of God; that God loves them and God loves them in his own way giving them a way to find the truth.

When Christ loves us, he always loves us. He puts us in touch with reality. In order for a Cursillo to take off, three things are required; an encounter with one self, with God, and with our brothers and sisters, all in the context of our circumstances.

We should transmit the tenderness of God and do so by being in contact with God. First we go to the Lord to tell him of our problems when we understand we can be in contact with Christ. Contact with Christ allows Christ to give us the idea that we can be present within Him by means of Grace. And so we are in contact and we listen to the word of God. This then goes to a second level, which is to listen to God, after we stop talking and allow God to speak. These three things happen when we have contact with Christ.

When we are in touch with our brothers and sisters, who are people we appreciate, know, and listen to. Our brothers and sisters are loved because God loves them. What we can then do, because we have the ability to do so if we are connected to Christ, is to transmit His joy, His enthusiasm, because of the great value in the message and what matters is the connection with Him.

He says He is the way, the truth and the life. If we are united to Him, we can also be a part of the truth—we cannot be the complete truth—but we give testimony to the truth of our life, which we are called to make known to others.

This is important. To be the way for others and also to be life because this is what Christianity is. It is not doing good, it is most important to have contact with Christ by means of Grace to make this Grace extend

to every corner of our existence, in order that they will see how our ability to love is deep and profound, and that it is Christ that lives in us. Christ should be the influence and not the circumstance that takes us from place to place. We need to be immersed in the love of Christ in order that then, all will be possible.

Christ makes possible the most possible possibilities of the person and this is what we need to understand. We need to develop this understanding because to be Christian is something so great that it is as Romano Guardini says. He says that to be Christian is so important that we cannot state as final that "I am Christian". Rather, it needs to be thought over, considered, and reflected upon and then finally after giving much thought to our thoughts, to think that perhaps we can come to be a little Christian. We should maintain this context.

To be Christian is something grand. It is not something small. It is not about giving a little. God is joyful over the little faith a man has. But we should be people of faith so that our vision can be clear and we can know that the solution rests in Christ.

When we hear that parable or event from the Gospel when Christ praises the company of Mary rather than praise for what Martha was doing, we need to realize that what matters is to be with the Lord. Sometimes we think that the things of God are more important than God himself. We should leave aside the things of God in order to be with God and so that he can communicate His love to us and we can communicate it to the rest.

We are mistaken when we think that we love our neighbour more than God loves him. God loves the sinner more than he loves the one who is not a sinner and this is impossible to understand. We need to accept this and give affirmation of this with our very lives by coming closer to those who are faraway. We need to understand the story of the prodigal son and that a great celebration was held for the son who returned. The Gospel tells us that the father made a greater celebration for a sinner that has converted. There is more joy in heaven than there is for 9 or 100 who persevere. A Christian often doesn't understand how those who were called to labour in the vineyard later in the day were given the same wage.

What we want is that those who are faraway will come close, but when we see the distant ones we are filled with envy because we think that God loves them more than we, who have been serving him all our life. We need to have a Christian vision. The Lord rejoices and we should be glad with Him. We should consider it a cause for happiness if a sheep is killed or

a bull, whether 2 are killed or 3 instead of just one because the brother has returned and we should be much happier. This is what Christianity is all about.

We need to understand that it is a great joy to be part of the return of these people to Christ. Those who have gone astray need to return to the arms of Christ. And they need to return by seeing His tenderness as we manifest it in the love we have for each other.

God will have to forgive me because when I was young the words just spilled forth but now that I have aged, it doesn't happen this way. Sometimes I get twisted up and they don't come out. Good thing you all have a phenomenal capacity for putting up with this old man who is telling all kinds of stories of experiences that have value because they have Christ in them and yet are a little tiresome to live up to. It seems that Christ holds us in a grip but he doesn't choke us. This is a great truth. The things of the Lord are bittersweet. We need to think that this bitter sweetness will be all sweet in the other world. But in this world, we need to fight for heaven and we need to make of this earth a heaven by means of friendship. When friendship is incarnated and we love one another and this love is like the Lord's—praising our friend's things and taking note of them instead of looking for defects in our brothers and sisters—we then expand the kingdom of God and this is what we want. That they might say, "Look how they love one another".

When someone tells me they have just been to visit a Cursillista because they are amiable and because they have been well received I am filled with joy. It is not that I want there to be many Cursillistas but rather that there be many Christians. What matters is that they are Christian. We should not be so self-centered to think that it matters more to be a Cursillista than to be a Christian.

We need to put things in their place and that for us to strive so that there be many Christians that are conscious of being Christian and are proud to be Christian with a holy pride, so that they may see our joy and our pleasure. Bad things often give pleasure but this pleasure begins and ends. But the pleasure in being Christian lasts for always. It has no end. This is what we should strive for; that our pleasure has no end among Christians so that when there is joy in the world they will know it is from Christ who said he was the way, the truth and the life!

Eduardo Bonnin
English Cursillo de Cursillo
Palma de Mallorca, Spain
November 4, 2007

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