



Rainbow Newsletter

Calendar at a Glance

- + **Leader's School**
November 10, 2012
Holy Trinity Fennel
Ave Hamilton 9 am -
3 pm.
- + **AGM** will be Sept
16th 2012 - 3 pm
Holy Trinity Church
Fennel Ave. Hamilton
- + **Ultreya** before the
meeting & a Potluck
to follow.
- + **30th Anniversary** of
Niagara Cursillo –
2013
- + **Weekend # 48**
April 11th – 14th
2013

Lay Director's Report

My work this year as Lay Director has certainly taken over my time but I want you all to know how privileged I feel to have been soaking in the spirit of this movement of God.

I must begin by thanking the members of Secretariat for their work and support of Cursillo during the past year. It has been wonderful getting to know these people you wisely voted into leadership positions. Secretariat appointed Larry Collinson to the Continuing Education chair as that position was open. Larry brings years of experience and knowledge to the role which is greatly appreciated.

We held our regular meetings at Holy Trinity, Hamilton, thanks to David Toth who is Rector there. Secretariat held seven formal meetings during the past year and we have had many discussions through email. This edition of the Rainbow contains reports from the various "chairs" which will describe the work which has been done during the past year.

There are no elections necessary this year, however this will be Shirley Kitchen's final year as Weekend Chair and John Newton is also in his final term as Communications Chair, so we will be looking for people to fill those roles. If you are interested in either of these positions, or know someone who is, or might be, please talk to any member of Secretariat, we would be delighted to discuss it.

Rev. Stephanie Pellow and I went to Ottawa for the Triennial Conference. The speaker, Rev. Charles Owens, has a huge church in South Carolina. He talked about the Weekend, pointing out the significance of everything we do as he unfolded the Weekend for us. Sometimes we get so caught up in all the details we miss the overall design. He made various points which we will bring to the discussions as we plan the next Weekend.

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Lay Director's Report

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Elections to the Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat were held during the conference and I was elected as one of the two members from Ontario, the other one coming from Ottawa. Our first meeting takes place in Halifax in October and I look forward to working with the other members from across the country.

Over the past year I have been asked quite regularly where I get the energy to do this work and also fulfill my other commitments, which were keeping me very busy before this role popped onto to "To Do" list. I cannot take the credit. I am most definitely not a superwoman but simply one who follows the Lord's leading. I trust that God will not give me more than I can handle. Enthusiasm helps too. I am by nature enthusiastic. I was always caught up by things that were of interest to me and was raised to believe that "if a thing is worth doing, it's worth doing well." I thought I might grow out of this tendency towards enthusiasm as I matured and, I assumed, became more sophisticated but it appears that I am not going to become "cool"!

I looked up the definition of enthusiasm and found the following -

"intense enjoyment, interest, or approval...religious fervour supposedly resulting directly from divine inspiration - origin- C17- from French enthousiasme-or via late Latin from Greek enthousiasmos, from enthous meaning "possessed by a God".

So, maybe being enthusiastic is not such a bad thing after all. The sophisticated world may look down on enthusiastic people but God inspires them, the Oxford English Dictionary even says so!

In this past year I have met many Cursillistas, on Secretariat, at Ultreya, funerals, the Weekend, and at the Triennial Conference in Ottawa. I am struck by the similarities in the individual stories, diverse though they are. I saw people moved to tears, to great joy and thankfulness for what had happened in their lives. They had all attended a Weekend, some were very reluctant to do so, but God had reached deeply into their lives and wakened them to His presence. Their lives were enriched beyond measure. The changes in their commitment to God and the Church were profound. They were enthusiastic, in the best sense of the word.

So as we look back at the past year and forward to the beginning of another year - our thirtieth- of Cursillo in Niagara, know that we are spending our time and energy on something worthwhile, which produces results. Keep up the good work, spread the news, our God is alive and well and working through Cursillo. Don't be ashamed to be enthusiastic, it's a gift given for us to use so that we may have the energy, and find the time, to do His work.

Ultreya,
Carol Summers

definition of enthusiasm

"intense enjoyment, interest, or approval...religious fervour supposedly resulting directly from divine inspiration - origin- C17- from French enthousiasme-or via late Latin from Greek enthousiasmos, from enthous meaning "possessed by a God".

Spiritual Director's Report

As I write this report for our Annual Meeting in September, I have just returned from a month at a cottage on Lake Simcoe. I feel rested and refreshed by a time spent close to nature and in the company of good friends and family members. It is hard to soak up this feeling and keep the memory close through the other eleven months of the year when things can be more active and exciting but also hectic and harried. However, I can rely on other times of refreshment that are the gifts of our loving Creator. There is the Sabbath rest; the time when God calls us apart to rest, pray, clear our heads and focus on the wonder of life on earth. There is also the rest and refreshment that we have in our Cursillo method: time for reflection in the company of a trusted small group and Ultreya to encourage and uphold us.

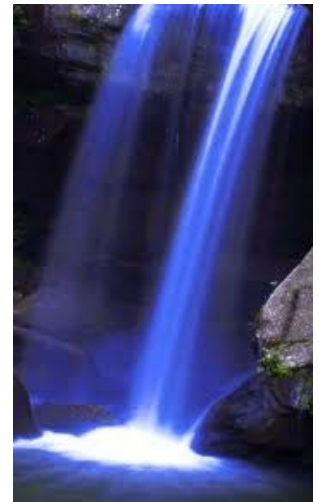
Since our meeting last September, our Secretariat and Cursillistas have been active in planning and holding events to encourage each of us to invite others to explore their faith through Cursillo. We held a successful Day of Deeper Understanding in October 2011. Although we were not able to enjoy the contributions of a native drummer as planned, we had opportunities to deepen our spiritual lives and learn new skills through Rev. Brian Gilligan's presentation on "Lectio Divina" and the Listening Skills Workshop. Watch for a Leaders' School day being planned for later this year.

The Diocesan Ultreyas were well planned, enjoyable and helpful. Thank you to all who gave witness talks and responses as well as our musicians and organizers. We are happy to report that regional Ultreyas have continued in Milton/Acton, Oakville and Guelph. Ultreyas have now been held in Huron Diocese and are being planned for Fort Erie. We are working towards the goal of restarting regular Ultreyas in the Hamilton.

Our Secretariat has been able to communicate effectively with our Diocesan Resource Centre personnel so that our mailings are distributed through the diocesan system and notices can be posted to the diocesan website more easily. Those responsible for congregational development are suggesting Cursillo to parish leaders. I have also contacted clergy by mail, at meetings and informal gatherings.

Weekend # 47 in May introduced new participants to Cursillo. The group was small but we had a sense of the Spirit working mightily among us over the weekend. Hearty thanks to the many Cursillistas who supported the Moonlight, prayer vigil, Mananita and Closing.

Finally, in late June, I was privileged to accompany our Lay Director, Carol Summers, to the Triennial Conference of the Canadian Anglican Cursillo in Ottawa.



"The difference between older people and younger people is that older people tend to look back while younger people look ahead."
Rev'd Church Owens
From speech given at Triennial Conference in Ottawa - June 2012



Carol and I learned a lot of new music and heard challenging talks. A former school principal of mine used to say if you got one good idea out of a professional development session that was enough. What stood out for me was part of one of the addresses by the Rev. Chuck Owens from South Carolina, U.S.A. He said, "The difference between older people and younger people is that older people tend to look back while younger people look ahead." Like the church, Cursillo for many reasons, has a preponderance of older people. If we are always reminiscing and looking back to "the good ol' days," we will not be able to attract younger people. They simply won't understand why we think the way we do. So, I am challenging myself and praying for God's help to be more youthful in my outlook; to plan and look ahead with the kind of optimism that says the glass is half full rather than half empty, to live as though I have more life ahead of me than behind. After all, Jesus came that we might have abundant life.

Stephanie Pellow

Huron Liaison Report

Weekend # 47 was encouraging for the Huron diocese. Three of the team leaders were from Huron and we welcomed another new Cursillista. The Day of Deeper Understanding, held in Oakville, was well attended by the Huron Cursillistas despite the travel distance. In addition, the enthusiasm created there encouraged two Ultreyas – the first held in June and the second to be held on August 19th in Ingersoll. There were 28 guests at the June Ultreya in Brantford and the newest Huron Cursillista gave the witness talk. Thanks to the musicians and folks from Niagara who supported this event.

Huron Cursillistas have been attending Ultreyas in Guelph and have been actively involved with leading the Ultreyas, giving witness talks and assisting with the program.

We displayed the Cursillo Display Board at our Synod in London, on May 28th and 29th. Many brochures were distributed. Our goal was to raise awareness of Cursillo in Huron and how it supports the Five Marks of Mission and the Mission of the Diocese of Huron. The display board is now in Ingersoll as we continue to promote Cursillo and to turn non active Cursillistas into active members again.

Respectfully submitted

Marion Bailey

Communications Report

It's been my hope that communications with and among Cursillistas in this Diocese and wider, would flourish and be source of fellowship, trust and community. Communication is best received and provided when it is requested and relevant.

Earlier this year we began emailing the Rainbow Newsletter, weekend information along with news and updates regarding Cursillo events & Ultreyas using an Email List Manager - **MailChimp.com**. Mail Chimp is relatively easy to use, allows you to store up to 2,000 subscribers & send up to 12,000 emails per month with out a charge. If you haven't received an email recently your email address may have changed or your email service may have denied the email before it landed in your in box.

If you have changed your email address, or just haven't been receiving any email from Niagara Cursillo please send an email to : communications@niagaracursillo.org

If you would like to be added to our email list and haven't previously received our communications please visit this page, < <http://eepurl.com/IP4dz> > fill in the fields, hit the submit button. You will receive a confirmation request email, to confirm that you did indeed make the request, simply click on the link (or copy and paste the link if clicking it doesn't work for you) and you're done!

Ultreya!
John Newton

Weekend Chair Report

Weekend #47 took place at Mount Mary in Ancaster this past May. What a Spirit filled weekend it was from all reports! The Theme Song was **"How Can I Keep From Singing"** and the music was one of the highlights of the weekend. Thanks to Kristy Van Kooten Bossence and her team. Pat Roberts from Oakville was Coordinator, John Newton from Fort Erie was Assistant Coordinator and Marion Bailey from Huron Diocese was Support Coordinator. We had three clergy, Rev. David Toth, Rev. Stephanie Pellow and Rev. Brian Galligan, which worked very well and a wonderful team. And we welcome seven new Cursillistas; Jane French, Sharon Mashinter, Kathryn McCulloch, Diane Preston, Jennifer Settle, Colin Shutt and Tim Timbers.

Now we look forward to the upcoming weekend, Weekend #48. Mark your calendars for April 11th to the 14th 2013 and please keep this weekend in your prayers and consider whom you would like to sponsor. We will be at Mount Mary again. The facility seems to work so well for our purposes, but this time we will stay in the Manor. If you are interested in serving on this weekend, be sure to let Secretariat know. The team is already coming together, but it helps us to know who might be interested for this and future weekends.

And I repeat as I mentioned in my last report, you all know a Cursillo Weekend cannot happen without the help of

all of you who are Cursillistas. Mark your calendars and make a commitment to help out in some of the many ways that are needed. The team needs your help to: pray for the weekend, set up at the beginning of the weekend, prepare for the Agape Dinner and clean up after and to help with packing up after the Closing. Many hands make light work and a whole lot of fun!! You also will be a blessing to the participants as you support the participants with Palanca, take part in the Mananita and/or the Closing welcoming our new Cursillistas.

Ultreya,

Shirley Kitchen
Weekend Chair



***The Rainbow* is published once a quarter: March, June, September and December**

We welcome submissions from readers, as viewpoints, faith journey stories, book reviews, news and coming events from parishes, etc. All submissions must include a name, telephone number or e-mail for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for content and length.

Deadline for submissions is the end of the month prior to publication. Please send to: Niagara Anglican Cursillo Newsletter c/o 42 Malkin Ave. Fort Erie ON L2A 5J1. or communications@niagaracursillo.org All submissions must be Cursillo or Christ oriented, not of a political or controversial nature, and are subject to editing. The Niagara Anglican Cursillo Secretariat has final approval as to appropriateness of any articles submitted. If you know of an event, concert or activity that you feel might be of interest to Cursillistas please let us know.