



The RAINBOW

Niagara Anglican Cursillo Newsletter

February 2007

www.niagaracursillo.org



CURSILLO CALENDAR

Mar	18	Diocesan Ultreya Church of the Nativity Hamilton
Apr	21	Walk in the Spirit St. John's, Thorold
Jun	24	Diocesan Ultreya St. Simon's, Oakville
Sep	?	Diocesan Ultreya St. George's, Guelph
Nov	2-4	Renewal Weekend Mount Mary, Ancaster

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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.

(see last page for submission details & deadlines)

From our Lay Director

Zandra Pennylegion

It seems people don't necessarily remember what they are told of God's love, but they never forget what they have experienced of God's love.

-Steve Sjogren

Reading the above quote as part of my daily morning devotions caused me to meditate on what an experiential people we are. And that often when we are greatly moved by an experience, we want others to experience it too – however in our human frailty we want them also to experience it *in exactly the same way we did*. Sometimes, we take the task on ourselves trying to create, or duplicate, the experience instead of releasing it to God who through the Holy Spirit has a very specific, and different, experience for each individual. God did not create any two people exactly alike ... no two lives are exactly the same ... and so too, our experiences are different. The end result should, however be the same ... to glorify God by doing God's Will and fulfilling God's purpose for our lives ... *our* lives, not everyone else's. What a release! I only have to fulfill God's purpose for me and glorify God!

Recently I heard a pastor sharing his experiences as the principal of a Christian school. He related that while the teaching during the school year was solid and the students gained knowledge, it was the summer camps that had the most impact. He noted that while the information taught at the camps was the same as at school, there was something about drawing apart from the world, being in a Christian community for a period of time, that opened the students up and allowed the Holy Spirit really to work, and in that setting individuals were changed by the experience – *the experience of God's love*.

I reflected that this is what also happens on a Cursillo weekend. However, the Cursillo method recognizes that it is not the individual experience that is to be focused on, but rather how each person allows that experience to work in him or her – what we do with the rest of our lives to demonstrate God's love and draw the world to Jesus. What we call our "4th day" as we go forth into the world "and make disciples of all nations ..." (*Mt 28:19*). The strength of the method lies in continuing the community experienced on the weekend, in supporting and encouraging each other through grouping, ultreyas and Spiritual Direction.

As Niagara Cursillo begins a year of renewal, I have spent quite a bit of time reading the "official literature" (The National Episcopal Cursillo manuals) and meditating on being God's servant. Secretariat has an awesome task and busy year ahead – reading the NEC literature, understanding the intent and purpose of the Cursillo method, planning stewardship visits to revitalize Niagara Cursillo, reviewing all aspects of running weekends, and planning a Renewal Retreat in the fall. We ask for your prayers throughout this year and especially as we meet the second Saturday each month.

As weather and schedule permit I look forward to attending

continued on page 4

From our Spiritual Director

Rev. Susan Wells

Sunday, January 21, was a great Cursillo Feast. We gathered as a community for a regional Ultreya in Milton. We began as usual with a Eucharist and spirit-filled music. The witness talk was given by John Page, after which we broke into groups and discussed the witness talk. It was a chance to share our faith journey in a different way than in the traditional grouping. Secretariat decided that we would try this instead of grouping since several people had expressed concern about the 'floating group reunion.' We need your feedback. Lise Simmons and her Fourth Day Committee would be interested in your comments on this way of grouping.

The Ultreya was also a chance for us as a community to bid farewell to the Rev. Trish McCarthy and Art Howell. Since coming to Niagara Trish and Art have been very active in the Cursillo Movement. We have been blessed by their ministry and wish them God's speed in their journey to Alberta.

Our year of renewal has begun. Secretariat has begun a prayerful study of the Cursillo Movement looking at the official literature of the movement as well as gleaning insight and inspiration from our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters.

We find as we begin to look at the official material, that there are many instances where we do not follow the guidelines. Over the next few months Secretariat will be looking at each of these differences; determining why we differ and trying to discern whether or not what we are doing augments or detracts from the Cursillo experience. Although this effort is primarily focused on the weekend, we will also be looking at everything that we do to ensure that we are keeping to the method and purpose of the Movement.

It has been said that Cursillo is predominately a lay Movement but that is not correct and it is not what the official literature says. Below is an excerpt from the official literature "National Episcopal Cursillo".

"For years, Cursillo was often described as a 'lay movement.' But, from the beginning, Cursillo was understood as a 'movement of the Church' involving all orders of ministry and equipping ministers, lay and ordained, to be apostles for Jesus Christ. The role of clergy in Cursillo is essentially the role of clergy in the Church. In ways that are appropriate for each order, clergy are expected to function prophetically within the Cursillo Movement. That is, they are to challenge the cursillistas – at whatever level of responsibility they have – to know, understand and be faithful to the Cursillo strategy and Method."

Another part of our future plans involves determining

- **What does Cursillo mean to you?**
- **How can we as a community support your ministry?**

To get the answers to these questions, a committee has been struck to develop a plan for reaching as many of you as possible. The aim is to develop a plan for the future. More information on the initiative will be distributed shortly.

Change is not something we should shy away from, or fear. God is with us through it all.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea; though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble at its tumult. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Ultreya!

- Susan

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Marion Binns

Now is the time to mark your calendar for our Spring Event. We have scheduled a ***Walk in the Spirit*** for April 21 at St. John's, Thorold. The theme for the day is "***Growing our Spirituality.***" Watch the web site for more details and watch for a blast e-mail closer to the time.

Many of you will recall when St. John's Hall was destroyed by fire, and now that they have rebuilt, we want to celebrate with them and continue to grow in fellowship and thank God for the guidance of the Spirit to continue to send us forth. Look forward to seeing you there.

- Marion

MUSIC

Susan Little

The Music Committee is sponsoring a workshop on Saturday, February 24 at Grace Church, Milton, to help familiarize musicians and singers with songs. Since the arrival of the new song book, this seems to a good way to gather together and enjoy the wide array of resources we now share.

Experienced and not-so-experienced musicians and singers are encouraged to attend what promises to be a worthwhile and enjoyable event for a half-day. Special thanks to Sue Anderson for volunteering to lead this workshop.

Our committee members are:

- Susanne Adams
- St. Clair Cleveland
- Andy Wilson

- Susan

From Jan Collinson ...

- As of February 11, Church of the New Creation (formerly St. Mary's, Hamilton) is no more. We are officially **Church of the Nativity**. It's a long story ...
- Renewal Weekend 2007 is fast approaching. It will be held on November 2 – 4, 2007, at Mount Mary, Ancaster. If you are interested in helping to organize this event, please contact me at ... dduck48@hotmail.com or telephone (905) 545-4285. ***Your help would greatly be appreciated.***

- Jan

POST CURSILLO / 4TH DAY *Lise Simmons*

I would like to start off by saying how wonderful our last Diocesan Ultreya was! On January 21 we met at Grace Church in Milton, where we started with our Eucharist service, then the Ultreya, followed by a pot-luck supper. We were blessed to have the Rev. Trish McCarthy as the Celebrant, this being her last time at a Niagara Cursillo event. She and her husband Art were preparing to move out west. It was a blessing to see how God worked through Pastor Trish and our witness speaker, John Page, weaving the theme "Here I am, Lord" and following God's leading, when neither one knew what the other was going to talk about. We serve an awesome God! We were also encouraged by the attendance. There were 72 people at the Ultreya and 63 stayed for supper.

We tried a new format during the Ultreya grouping time. Instead of sharing our faith, study and action, the groups were asked to discuss the witness talk and what it meant to them. This grouping method was well received, judging by the comments we received afterwards.

I would like to encourage everyone to plan on coming to the next Diocesan Ultreya, Sunday March 18. We will meet at The Church of the Nativity (formerly St. Mary's), hosted by the Hamilton-Burlington Region. We will start with a Eucharist service at 3:00 p.m., followed by the Ultreya, and closing with a pot-luck supper. We will keep you informed as we finalize the details of the June and September Ultreyas.

Secretariat is looking for your thoughts on Regional and Diocesan Ultreyas. We want to hear your ideas and concerns, what you like or don't like about them, why you attend or don't attend. Our desire is to help you in making them what they need to be in order to encourage, feed and motivate you in your faith and growth in the Lord. Please take the time to complete the questionnaire on Page 6, then send your comments by email to fourth.day@niagaracursillo.org or by regular mail, % Grace Church. Thank you, and may God bless you as you seek to serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

In terms of Palanca, we are connected to approximately 55 locations worldwide. Tim Standish sent about a dozen letters to other Weekends in Canada, Brazil, USA and Britain in 2006. It must be exciting to receive Palanca from "Niagara Falls"! You have probably noticed these letters at various Cursillo events ... let's not forget to fill them up with as many signatures as we can get, and most importantly, remember to pray for them. Have you noticed the ones we receive for our weekends, posted in the hallways? Some are quite beautiful, hand done posters with signatures. Maybe we'll get something from the "Diocese of the Pyramids" some time!

Doreen Langston offers suggestions when sending your prayer requests. See CURSILLO PRAYER CHAIN on Page 4.

Ultreya! - Lise

COMMUNICATIONS

Nancy Wood

Introducing Niagara Cursillo Secretariat

The following are the members of Secretariat who were elected or appointed at the General Meeting held on September 10, 2006.

Lay Director	Zandra Pennylegion	laydirector@niagaracursillo.org
Spiritual Director	Rev. Susan Wells	spiritualdirector@niagaracursillo.org
Communications Chair	Nancy Wood	communications@niagaracursillo.org
Continuing Education Chair	Marion Binns	continuinged@niagaracursillo.org
Weekend Chair	Nancy Harris	weekends@niagaracursillo.org
Pre-Cursillo Chair	John Pennylegion	pre-cursillo@niagaracursillo.org
Fourth Day Chair	Lise Simmons	fourth.day@niagaracursillo.org
Music Chair	Susan Little	music@niagaracursillo.org
Member-at-Large	Jan Collinson Laura McKenzie	
Treasurer	Davis Eccles	
Secretary	Lorette Shermet	
Liaisons with Huron Diocese	Jessie Johnstone Marion Bailey	

Should you wish to contact the Lay Director, the Spiritual Director or any of the committee chairs, please use the email addresses listed above.

Receiving Emails

I have heard that some Cursillistas are experiencing problems in receiving emails. The problem, of course, could be that our distribution list does not include the most up-to-date email addresses. So, please make sure you notify the Communications Chair if your email address changes.

However, on many occasions when I have received queries about email addresses, when I check our list I find we do, in fact, have the correct address.

We know that some internet servers view emails originating from a '.org' address as 'junk' or 'spam' and they do not deliver these emails to a user's *Inbox*. Rather, they are put into a '*Junk*' or '*Spam*' mailbox. The user would have to access the junk email folder to see emails from *niagaracursillo.org*.

When accessing the Junk Email box, some servers allow the user to identify a message as 'Junk' or 'Not Junk'. By identifying the message as 'Not Junk', future emails from the same address will be delivered to the *Inbox* instead of the *Junk* box.

In other cases, adding our email address to your address book <communications@niagaracursillo.org> will prevent email from us from being discarded as junk or spam.

So, you can help your fellow Cursillistas. If you hear a comment that someone is not receiving emails from Cursillo (Prayer requests, Rainbow, other communications) please suggest that he or she look in the 'Junk' or 'Spam' box. Hopefully, our emails will be there. In this way we can help all Cursillistas to be kept up to date.

- Nancy



Congratulations
John & Zandra (Miller) Pennylegion
married October 21, 2006

regional ultreyas (other than my own region of Hamilton/Burlington) to meet old friends and make new ones.

We began the second day of our Secretariat orientation retreat with a meditation and the following prayer, which I'd like to share:

Gracious God, we surrender the past and give it up to You. We give You our failures, our regrets, and our disappointments, for we have no more use for them. Make us now a new people, pressing on toward that which lies ahead of us.

We give You all our hopes and dreams for the future. Purify them by Your Spirit so that our wills shall truly reflect Your Will for us.

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, encourage us by our successes of the past, challenge us by the power of Your Word, and guide us by the presence of Your Holy Spirit.

Amen & Ultreya!

In God's service - Zandra

CURSILLO PRAYER CHAIN Doreen Langston

If you have a prayer request (for a Cursillista or an immediate family member) please phone or e-mail the coordinator (see below). The members of the prayer team will offer prayers daily for 14 days; if further prayers are required after this time please renew the request. All requests are strictly confidential.

- 1. Include the church where you are attending and the weekend you were on. This helps us to feel connected.
2. Follow up is most important. Remember to send updates on your requests, whether for continued prayer or to offer thanksgiving.
3. Your contact information remains confidential, through 'list manager'.

(Please forgive errors ... "I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world."

- Mother Teresa)

Thank you for sharing your prayer requests!

Coordinator: Doreen Langston (905) 333.1683 hdlangston@sympatico.ca

PALANCA REQUESTS Tim Standish

Please pray for the participants and team members for these upcoming weekends:

Diocese of Umuarama, Brazil:

- Youth Weekend Feb 23-25
96th Men's Weekend May 4-6
96th Women's Weekend June 15-17

Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island:

- 29th Men's Weekend April 26-29
29th Women's Weekend May 3-7



REGIONAL ULTREYA SCHEDULE

Niagara Peninsula:

Second Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m. Contact: Sharon Insley (905) 871.6729

Hamilton & Burlington:

Second Friday of every month at 7:30 pm January, March, May, September and November - St. Philip's Burlington February, April, June, October and December - Church of the Nativity, Hamilton Contact: Tim Standish (905) 318.7405

Oakville:

Last Friday of every month at 7:30 pm at St. Simon's Contact: Terry & Winnie Burk (905) 825.8629

Guelph:

Third Friday of every month at 7:30 pm, rotates among: St. George's, Guelph St. Matthias', Guelph St. John's, Rockwood St. John's, Elora St. James, Fergus Contact: *see note below

Georgetown/Milton:

First Friday of every month at 7:30 pm Meetings at St. George's, Georgetown or Grace, Milton Contact: Lise Simmons (905) 878.2377

Guelph Ultreyas

On June the 15 we are having a picnic and Ultreya in Guelph, at Riverside Park, starting at 5 pm, with a Pot - Luck picnic at 6 pm. More details later. Brian Rothwell will the contact person - telephone (519) 823.1124.

There was no Ultreya in February, as many of us were supporting Peter Scott and his play (or should we say pantomime), Sleeping Beauty, at the Fergus Theatre.

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Don't let your worries get the best of you. Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

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PRE-CURSILLO *John Pennylegion*

Since I accepted the position of Pre-Cursillo Chair, the primary activity of the committee has been organizing our display table at the Diocesan Synod on November 26, 2006.

We spent some time reading the NEC manuals and creating new materials which focused more on the Cursillo Method of Grouping, Ultreyas and Spiritual Direction, and less on the weekend. We created a new brochure, "business cards" with contact info and information on all regional ultreyas, and a PowerPoint presentation to run on the Cursillo laptop. Based on all of that material, we also re-did our tri-fold display board. Along with the Cursillo banner and the past two weekend banners, our table looked very impressive, if I do say so myself! As I was otherwise occupied that day, our Lay Director, Zandra, 'personed' the table and our Spiritual Director, Rev. Susan Wells, also helped out on breaks when she could. Compared to last year's Synod, the number of displays in the exhibit area was about half, and with only a one-day Synod we did not have as much over-all traffic in the area as last year. However, we felt the Cursillo table itself had more non-cursillistas drop by than last year. We now have some clergy to follow up with, to discuss possible presentations or other ways to introduce Cursillo to their parishes.

Future plans are to provide displays at various diocesan events and to arrange for presentations to parishes throughout the diocese.

I will be need a full committee to plan these activities and if anyone is interested in being involved in Pre-Cursillo, please let me know.

- *John*

Huron Liaison *Jess Johnstone*

Huron group will be meeting shortly to organize another Ultreya for the spring.

Several small groups continue to meet regularly to support each other and exchange their walk in Faith, Study and Action.

An article about the last weekend was published in the January edition of The Huron Church News.

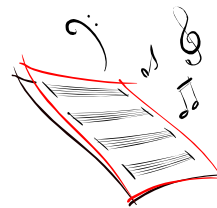
Ultreya - *Jess*

Did you know ... that it costs over \$1 per copy to print and mail the Rainbow?

You can help reduce our costs by receiving the Rainbow online. We'll send you a 'notification' e-mail as each issue is published (there are no attachments in your e-mail). You can access the online version from a link in the e-mail, or go to the Niagara Cursillo web site (www.niagaracursillo.org) and click on the 'Newsletter' link.

To join the e-list, just send an e-mail message to: newsletter@niagaracursillo.org

**Attention
CURSILLO
Musicians & Singers**



**Half-Day
MUSIC
WORKSHOP
Saturday, February 24**

9:15 – 11:30

**Grace Church
Milton**

- ✓ **Learn some new songs**
- ✓ **Practise new and familiar songs**
- ✓ **Bring your new music book**
- ✓ **Led by Sue Anderson**
- ✓ **Sponsored by Cursillo Music Committee**

For further info contact:

**Susan Little (905) 528-3326 or
music@niagaracursillo.org**

**The Rainbow is published approximately four times per year: in November, February, May, and July.
Deadline for submissions is the end of the month prior to publication.**

Please send to: Kenneth Simmons, 622 Elliot Crescent, Milton, ON L9T 3G4, or e-mail editor@niagaracursillo.org.
All submissions must be Cursillo or Christ oriented, not of a political or controversial nature, and are subject to editing.
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.

**Niagara Cursillo Survey
Regional and Diocesan Ultreyas**

Secretariat would like to hear from you on the subject of Ultreyas as we look at how Cursillo is supporting Cursillistas on their Fourth Day, and what we could do better.

1. What do you believe is, or should be, the most important aspect(s) of an Ultreya?

2. Are regional (local area) ultreyas supporting you in your Christian walk?

3. Are Diocesan ultreyas supporting you in your Christian walk?

4. Do you currently attend Regional Ultreyas?
Diocesan Ultreyas?

What do you like about ultreyas:

What do you NOT like about ultreyas:

If you do not usually attend, would you please share the reason(s) you don't attend?

5. How do you feel about the
 - a) location
 - b) frequency
 - c) time
 - d) day

6. Additional comments:

Thank you for your time. May God bless you!

Please return by email to: fourth.day@niagaracursillo.org

or by post to: Lise Simmons
c/o Grace Church
317 Main Street East
MILTON ON L9T 1P5