



The RAINBOW

Niagara Anglican Cursillo Newsletter

July 2008

www.niagaracursillo.org



CURSILLO CALENDAR

Sep	7	Annual General Meeting Church of the Nativity Hamilton
Nov	23	Moonlight for Weekend 43 (Time & place T B D)
Nov	27-30	Weekend 43 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 Spiritual Director

Rev. Susan Wells

This year we, as the Niagara Anglican Cursillo, have so much to be thankful for. In May we celebrated twenty-five years of service to God as part of the bishop's pastoral plan for our Diocese. We had a wonderful celebration at the Renaissance Banquet Hall. It was encouraging to have our new Diocesan Bishop, Michael Bird, come and share this time with us. Thank you, Michael. As always the music was awesome – thanks to Susan Little and the music team who not only did what they were asked but went over and above by playing requests later in the evening.

An event like this does not just happen. It takes work and dedication to the details. Jan Collinson and her committee did a terrific job of pulling this all together. Thanks, Jan *et al* for your hard work and for making this event so special.

Your Secretariat has been working very hard during the past two years, undertaking the revamping of the weekend along with a regional visitation with as many Cursillistas as possible to discuss what you see as the strengths and weaknesses of Cursillo and how Secretariat can best serve the community in the future.

Marion Binns has accepted the invitation to coordinate the next Cursillo Weekend, #43, to be held November 27-30, 2008. She is busy putting together her team which will begin training in September.

A revised format will be introduced for this weekend. It is Secretariat's fervent hope that the weekend will take us back to the original intent and purpose of Cursillo – "Empowering disciples for Christ." During the past few weekends at the closing, most of the participants when asked to speak thanked their sponsors and told us how much the weekend had meant to them. This was in stark contrast to the Roman Catholic closing where participants spoke of their encounter with Christ through the events of the weekend and through their private time of prayer in the Palanca chapel.

The team, the sponsors and the wider community need to make sure that we allow God to work through us, and that the participants are able to encounter the Risen Christ during the events of the weekend. We need to be diligent in ensuring that "our light so shines among others that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in Heaven." If we have been guilty of anything in the past it is of trying to do too much to show God's love. Unfortunately, sometimes the extras that we do (to make things better) point to us rather than to God.

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Weekend #43

November 27-30, 2008

Weekend 43 will be held at the Mount Mary Retreat Centre, 437 Wilson Street East, in Ancaster. We are pleased that we are again able to subsidize the cost of the weekend for the participants by 50 percent. With the cost of the weekend being \$200, this means that the participants will only pay \$100. The balance will be paid from the Sponsorship fund.¹

Please prayerfully consider if there is any one whom you feel should attend the weekend. Applications can be submitted NOW. Applications are available on the niagaracursillo.org website. Click on **Weekends** in the left-hand menu.

Weekend 43 Team Members have been selected. Please pray for the team as preparations are underway for the weekend.

Weekend 43 Team

Co-Ordinator	Marion Binns
Assistant Co-Ordinator	Bill Harris
Spiritual Advisors	Rev Susan Wells Rev Michael Mondloch Rev. Pam Guyatt
Music Co-Ordinator	Susan little
Assistant Music	Anne Grose (also a Table Enabler & Professor)
Table Enablers	Zandra Pennylegion Jan Collinson Gladis DiPaolo Michael Jones John Newton Lorrette Shermet Carol Summers Larry Collinson Fred Predon
Support Group	Nancy Harris (Co-Ordinator) Marion Bailey Nancy Wood Laura MacKenzie Richard Turner John Pennylegion

As you can see, there are fewer team members than in the past. This is just one of the changes that will be evaluated following the weekend. You may also have noticed that many team members are also current members of Secretariat. Given the time these people have spent over the last year-and-a-half working on the changes to be implemented on this weekend, it was felt that providing hands-on experience would make evaluating the impact of the changes more effective.

¹ *One day we hope to be able to subsidize fully the weekend costs for all participants. This can only be done through the generous support of the wider community.*

As we move forward each and every one of us has a role to play in the continuation of the mission and ministry of Cursillo. Your role can take many forms:

- sponsor
- member of Secretariat
- member of one of the committees which support the work of the movement
- weekend team member
- part of the wider community that upholds the weekend and the movement in prayer
- offering Palanca as an expression of your prayer and sacrifice
- regular financial support of the movement

Following are some thoughts on two of these roles:

Sponsorship and Palanca.

Sponsorship

Look around your congregation and you will see people who are seeking a deeper relationship with Christ. Often times these are people on the edge of the community. Cursillo is about making leaders, about making disciples. At its heart are the core doctrines of the Church. The message is presented and experienced in a way that calls participants and team to be disciples and offers them ongoing support on their Christian journey.

In every congregation in our Dioceses there are those who are looking for a deeper understanding of their faith. These are the people that we need to encourage and invite to attend a Cursillo weekend. Part of our calling as Christians is to live the great commission in Matthew's Gospel – "To go into the world baptizing in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." In Cursillo language we are sent forth to "Make a friend, be a friend and bring that friend to Christ." This does not mean that we can only send our best friend to Cursillo or that we need to know someone's life history before we can invite him or her to attend a Cursillo weekend. It merely means that we have identified in this person someone who is seeking a deeper relationship with Christ, and with whom (like all our Christian brothers and sisters) we are willing to walk, and to encourage and to build up. The logistics of getting people to and from the weekend and Ultreyas and involving them in grouping are not your responsibility alone. We are a community, and as such you as a sponsor should feel free to call on others to help in this important role of sponsorship. Look around your congregation, ask God to show you who He would like to attend a Cursillo weekend.

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At our AGM several years ago we as a community formed a sponsorship fund to help offset the cost of a weekend for participants. There are several Cursillistas who regularly donate to this fund. The cost for participants is only \$100. That being said, there is additional money available for those for whom \$100 would be a hardship. You need only to call the Spiritual Director. If there were more Cursillistas who supported the sponsorship fund we might be able to offer weekends free to all participants.

The Cursillo Movement requires that each participant have a sponsor. However, some of our churches share sponsorship between all the Cursillistas in that congregation. Sponsorship is about encouraging participants to take advantage of the Cursillo Method of grouping, Ultreya and Spiritual Direction. The tasks of sponsorship do not have to rest solely with the named sponsor. In baptism it is the responsibility of the whole community. In our baptismal service the priest asks the congregation, "will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these people in their life in Christ." The same is true for Cursillo, we are all responsible for encouraging and supporting each other, especially those who have just had a weekend and are not thoroughly versed in the Cursillo Method. Table leaders also can play a key role in encouraging participants after their weekend. I know mine did.

Do not be intimidated by sponsorship; we are a community doing God's work together. Collectively we are the body of Christ and collectively we are called to encourage and build up the community. That does not mean that the role of a sponsor is mute, but that it is not yours alone.

Palanca

On our weekends each of us learned that Palanca is a lever. That is something that makes the task of being lifted up to God easier. Palanca is intercessory prayer and sacrifice on behalf of the participant and others that is intended to help break down any barriers that prevent people from encountering Christ. Palanca is individual, personal notes to participants indicating your prayer intentions and/or what sacrifice or other spiritual discipline you have undertaken on their behalf as intercession for them. Palanca is not computer generated notes, nor book marks (unless they contain a personal note), nor is Palanca lapel pins or other gifts.

I want you to consider for a moment an event that happened on the last weekend. There was a person from a congregation with very few Cursillistas who shared a room with a participant from a parish with

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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*

**NOMINATIONS REQUESTED FOR
2009 SECRETARIAT**

*The Annual General Meeting of the
Niagara Anglican Cursillo Movement
will commence at
3:00 pm on September 7, 2008
at Church of the Nativity
1831 King Street East, Hamilton.*

All Cursillistas who are members of the Niagara Anglican Cursillo Movement are invited to attend this year's Annual General Meeting, which will be immediately followed by a Eucharist, Diocesan Ultreya and Pot-luck Supper. Part of this year's business will be to elect several new members to serve on Secretariat for a two year term.

Article 12 of the By-laws that governs the nomination of persons for Secretariat is reproduced below:

12. The nominating committee shall be responsible for presenting a slate of names to fill the vacancies arising on the Secretariat to the AGM . In addition, any member of the Cursillo Community may be nominated by another member, using the following guidelines:

a) The person making the nomination will write a letter to the nominating committee giving brief details of the experience of the person being nominated, and indicating that s/he has been approached and is willing to accept the nomination.

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Spiritual Director's Report

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many Cursillistas. When Palanca was distributed the first received one pin; the other received close to 20 ... which were proudly worn. Does this show God's love equally? Or is the subtle message that one participant is more loved, more valued than the other. The same is true for books and other gifts. Not all sponsors are in a position to give gifts to their participants and yet when other participants receive them it tends to show that even in the Kingdom of God (where supposedly all people are equal) there are favorites.

In attempting to get back to the basics, Secretariat determined that, in order to show that God shows no partiality, that all are equal in the site of God, any gifts that are received for participants will not be distributed with the Palanca but will be put with the participants' luggage on Sunday for them to take home and open.

If you want to give gifts to participants it would be better if you gave it to them when they got home. That way you could give them those special pins or those special books, and more importantly, give them your time and allow them to share their weekend experiences with you.

This year will be different and exciting as God continues to lead and direct us into faithful witness to the Gospel through the Cursillo Method. Hopefully your input at the regional meetings will shed new light on the direction Cursillo should be taking and along with the attempt to return the weekend to the basics will revitalize the movement and allow it to expose more and more people to the Risen Christ and to support each other on our Christian journey.

May we all continue to "Bloom where we are planted."

Your sister-in-Christ
Susan Wells
Spiritual Director (905) 547-8851

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**The good Lord didn't create
anything without a purpose ...
but mosquitoes come very close!**

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b) These nominations where feasible should provide geographic representation among members of the Secretariat. All persons nominated must agree to follow the screening procedures as outlined in the Code.

c) Nominations will be accepted from the floor of the AGM. If someone nominated from the floor is elected, their election will not be ratified until the elected person has fulfilled the requirements of the screening procedure as outlined in the Code. As soon as is practical, the nominating committee chair will present to the Lay Director, who in turn will present to the Wider Community, the names and brief details of the experience of those people being nominated. When an election takes place at an AGM, it shall be done by secret ballot and a majority decision will be accepted. In the case of a tie, the Lay Director will cast the deciding vote.

Nominations from the wider community should be submitted *in writing*, either by e-mail or hard-copy. Every nomination should provide brief details of the person being nominated and confirmation that each one is willing to let his/her name stand.

Nominations must be received no later than September 7, 2008, and should be sent to:

Larry Collinson
Chair of Nominating Committee
156 Crosthwaite Avenue North
Hamilton Ontario L8H 4V5

or by email to dduck48@hotmail.com

De Colores!

SECRETARIAT

Each year, our Annual General Meeting held in September marks the retirement of Secretariat members whose terms have ended and new members are elected. Secretariat members are elected for a term of two years with the option of standing for re-election for one additional two-year term. Following a second term, the member must retire. This approach allows for a flow of new ideas while providing some consistency in following through on work already in progress.

In addition, there are also positions that are appointed. For example, the Lay Director and Spiritual Director are appointed by the Bishop. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer are appointed by Secretariat.

Generally, Secretariat meets monthly but frequency of meetings is dictated by what is going on.

At the first Secretariat meeting following the AGM, members are matched to various roles based on skill sets and preferences. For example, Committee Chairpersons are required for Communications, Music, Pre-Cursillo, Fourth Day, Education and Weekends. Others may be Members-at-Large and help out in different areas as required.

If you have ever thought you might like to serve on Secretariat we would love to hear from you. Any current member of Secretariat would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Nominations will be going on for potential members to be elected at the AGM which will be held on September 7, 2008.

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.