



**Cursillo Calendar**

October 22	Day of Deeper Understanding
September 11	A.G.M.
May 3 – 6, 2012	Weekend #47

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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***

*Nancy Harris*

My how time flies!! I can hardly believe that this is my second Lay Director’s Report and therefore, the second AGM where I will preside as Lay Director.

One way or another Secretariat was kept active. The highlight of our last year was Weekend #46 under the leadership of Sharon Insley as Weekend Coordinator. The weekend saw 10 new participants who were introduced to the Cursillo method.

We have two members of Secretariat that will be completing their 4 year terms in September 2011. They are Richard Turner and Laura McKenzie. I wish to personally thank these two members for their dedication to Secretariat over the last 4 years. There will be two members completing their first 2 year term, namely John Newton and Shirley Kitchen. This year saw the introduction of an interim Spiritual Director, the Rev. Stephanie Pellow who filled in superbly for Canon Susan Wells who took a short medical leave of absence. I am grateful to both Spiritual Directors for their support and assistance to me.

I wish to thank also all the members of Secretariat for their dedication to the Cursillo movement in the Niagara Diocese.

I have personally been a member of Secretariat for the past 5 years, the last 2 of which I served as your Lay Director. My 2 year term as Lay Director will end in September of this year. At the Bishop’s discretion I have the option to renew my position as Lay Director however, for personal reasons I have decided not to exercise this option. I have advised Bishop Michael Bird accordingly. Secretariat will therefore be required to seek a new Lay Director subject to Bishop Michael Bird’s approval.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the AGM which will be held at Church of The Nativity on Sunday, September 11, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.

Ultreya and God Bless,  
Nancy Harris

## ***Clergy-at-Large/Interim Spiritual Director***

*The Reverend Stephanie Pellow*

Have you ever heard anyone say, "You can never go back." I don't agree with them. When my late husband, Don, and I decided we could no longer manage three children, three jobs, commitment to our church congregation and continue what had been a ten year commitment to Cursillo, it was involvement with Cursillo that we decided to give up. We both agreed that someday we would be back. Don's battle with cancer and his passing in 2007 did not allow him the opportunity. I was welcomed back by the Ultreya group in Guelph which meets once a month in the homes of members of the group. I found there exactly what I thought I would always find - acceptance, caring and faith in Christ practiced and celebrated. This Ultreya group doesn't function just like some of the large events I remember from the past but the purpose for the gathering has not changed. We come together to pray, learn from each other and encourage each other to use our God-given gifts to do the work of Christ.

In September 2010, I accepted an appointment to Cursillo Niagara Secretariat as Clergy-at-Large. I didn't know exactly what to expect or what would be expected of me at first but found myself working with a group of individuals dedicated to promoting Cursillo in the Dioceses of Niagara and Huron, willing to support each other's efforts and sustain each other with prayer. Our Secretariat is only "the tip of the ice berg" of the large number of people who have attended a Cursillo Weekend in our diocese but it is very important in the process of organizing and providing direction to the whole group. I had planned to keep my ears open for the first little while to learn as much as I could from those with more recent experience with Cursillo than myself. Cursillo teaches us to plan our apostolic action but God expects us to be flexible. So, when our Spiritual Director, Reverend Susan Wells, suffered a broken ankle, with the blessing of Secretariat and Bishop Michael Bird, I became Interim Spiritual Director. The learning curve became a little steeper.

In March/April, I had the privilege of being part of the team on Weekend #46 at Mount Mary. We welcomed Reverend Mark Gladding as one of the Spiritual Advisors for the first time. One of my goals was to contact clergy in Greater Wellington, Trafalgar, and parts of Hamilton to encourage them first to attend an Ultreya and later to attend or encourage parishioners to attend Weekend # 46 in March/April. One thing I learned was that many of the clergy need a great deal more lead time prior to an event than we were able to give them before the recent Cursillo Weekend. I plan to continue to invite clergy to Cursillo events as we move towards Weekend # 47 in May 2012.

At our June Secretariat Meeting, we took time to share with each other what Cursillo has meant and continues to mean to each one of us. What started as a simple exercise became heartfelt witness and a moving spiritual experience. It enabled each one there to rededicate himself or herself to offering this gift that we have in Cursillo to others. I encourage you to take a few moments and bring to mind how you have been encouraged, how you have grown in your faith, and how you may have felt the love of God through your experience of Cursillo. I said at the beginning that I don't agree with the statement, "You can never go back." So, I would encourage you to come back again or continue to be involved with Cursillo in our Diocese. Don't expect everything to be exactly the same. Do expect that you will find welcome, be valued, and be met with caring from a group of people who want to share the love of Christ with you and with others.

May the Peace of Christ be with you,  
Stephanie Pellow

## ***Communication Committee***

*John Newton, Communication*

*"Would you consider attending a Cursillo weekend?" I'm not completely sure if this was a question or a statement of fact.*

Little did I know what I was getting myself into when Marilyn DeBeau 'asked' me to consider attending a Cursillo weekend back in early 2006. I had the usual & most probable standard questions many will have, when asked to attend a weekend, 'What's it all about?' 'What will be expected of me?' and with Marilyn in particular, I later learned one should've asked 'What are you getting me into?' to which she would have answered 'its all good' If not with those words specifically others that would have communicated the message, of that I am sure.

So, what does the above, possibly interesting recollection have to do with the Communication Committee you might ask, nothing really if the truth be told. And yet ...

Our – yes our – next Cursillo Weekend is scheduled for **May 3 - 6, 2012** at Mount Mary Immaculate in Ancaster, ON. Now would be a wonderful time as we return from the summer busyness, to prayerfully consider who among our congregations and circle of friends may be candidates to attend the upcoming Cursillo Weekend.

## ***Website & Email Communication***

If you have visited our website, you will have noticed that it has a new look and feel. It is about to undergo another 'renovation' in the coming months. If you have a particular wish, form or function, for the website please forward your ideas to [communications@niagaracursillo.org](mailto:communications@niagaracursillo.org) and I will do my best.

Along with the updates to the website I hope to update the email lists, particularly the Prayer Chain (requests) watch for an email and notice through the website. For the present, please continue to forward your Ultreyas notices, Parish events and Prayer Requests to [communications@niagaracursillo.org](mailto:communications@niagaracursillo.org). Once the work is done you will have the option to choose which notification lists you might wish to receive.

## ***Annual Report for Rainbow***

*Jessie Johnstone - Huron Liaison*

Joyfully we welcomed Gary vanKooten from St. James, Ingersoll, a participant in the most recent Weekend #46. Gary's account of his experience was published in the June issues of The Huron Church News and The Niagara Anglican. Gary's daughter, Kristy (also from Ingersoll) participated in Weekend #45 and worked with the musicians for Weekend #46 and the closing celebrations. Alleluia!!

We have attended Secretariat meetings giving support to the decisions made for Cursillo in Niagara and in Huron: we have supported Shirley Kitchen in the investigation of a possible new location for the weekend; and we have supported the Fourth Day Chair working to support worldwide Palanca.

In addition, we continue to attend the Guelph Ultreyas on a monthly basis and participate in groupings in the Brant Deanery. One cannot say enough about all of the support we give to each other as we share our Faith, Study and Action.

## ***Weekend Committee Report 2011***

*Shirley Kitchen, Chair*

On March 31- April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Weekend #46 took place with Sharon Insley as Coordinator and Pat Roberts as Assistant Coordinator. In spite of a number of obstacles, the weekend was a resounding success. It was truly a Holy Spirit blessed time for all involved.

Our next weekend, **Weekend #47**, is scheduled for **May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6, 2012** and will again be held at Mount Mary Immaculate in Ancaster, though we are in the process of looking at different venues.

As you all know a Cursillo Weekend cannot happen without the help of all of you who are Cursillistas. Consider now if there is someone you would like to invite and sponsor. 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 take part in the Mananita and the Closing welcoming our new Cursillistas.

I encourage all who have had concerns about the changes to the weekend to come and see that the weekend still works. It may not be what you were used to, but God is still blessing this movement. Personally, I helped out on the Support Team for weekend #44 and was Support Coordinator for Weekend #45 and it was wonderful to be a part of the team and get to interact with the participants.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up to help please contact me at (905) 878-2630 or by email at [p\\_skitchen@hotmail.com](mailto:p_skitchen@hotmail.com).

Utreya,  
Shirley Kitchen, Chair

## ***Fourth Day Report for AGM Sept 11, 2011***

*Richard Turner, Chair*

Thank you to Marion Bailey for taking on and organizing our national and international Palanca and to John Newton for your help from the communications aspect. Supporting others in prayer is an essential part of our spiritual lives as Christians and as an organization within the Christian community.

The regional ultreyas in Guelph, Milton/Acton and Oakville are flourishing. Thank you to those who organize these events and to everyone who helped with the Diocesans Ultreays. These are done with much energy and love. To those who take the time to prepare and present witness talks at the regional and Diocesan ultreyas, this can be a daunting undertaking and so thank you for sharing your Christian walk with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our musicians are angels in our midst. Please know your talents and devotion is so very much appreciated, admired and respected...Thank you to Margaret Wilding for taking on the music leadership this last year.

Since attending my first weekend in Montreal back when dinosaurs walked the earth, I have been involved with Cursillo in one way or another. There is no doubt in my mind about the effectiveness of Cursillo in the Christian community. I urge everyone to attend ultreyas and if you are not grouping please seriously consider doing so I know grouping can be a challenge, but being supported and sharing our walk with our peers is so much better than walking independently.

Your brother in Christ  
Richard Turner

Niagara Anglican Cursillo Movement  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

Held Sunday, September 12, 2010  
At Church of the Nativity, Hamilton.

**1. Call to order**

Nancy Harris, Lay Director and Chair called the meeting to order at 3:12 pm. and welcomed everyone. Rev. Susan Wells led the opening prayer.

**2. Welcome**

Nancy asked if everyone had signed the attendance record. All 26 people in attendance signed the sheet.

**3. Minutes of the previous AGM.**

a) No errors or omissions were found.

b) *MOTION: Nancy Wood/ Larry Collinson*

*"That the minutes of the September 13<sup>th</sup> 2009 Annual General Meeting, as published in the Rainbow, be accepted."*

**CARRIED**

**4. The Lay Director's Report was published in the August Rainbow.**

Nancy thanked Secretariat for their work over the past year and introduced the members of Secretariat, explaining that Susan Little, Jan Collinson and Laurie McDowell had finished their terms of office and would be stepping down.

**5. The Spiritual Director's Report.**

Rev. Susan Wells gave a verbal report. She talked about the differences in the roles of Lay Director and Spiritual Director. Susan told of her work trying to inform the clergy about Cursillo. She felt a disconnection between the discussions she had experienced with clergy, at various levels, which were positive and the lack of support for the programme. Susan feels we need to work to resolve this stumbling block.

There was a request, from the floor that Susan's report be put in writing and published on the web site. She agreed to do this.

**6. Reports from Secretariat, all published in the August Rainbow.**

*MOTION: Susan Little/Susan Wells*

*"That the reports as written in the Rainbow be accepted."*

**CARRIED**

**7. Treasurer's Report for 2009/2010 and Budget for 2010/2011**

**a) Financial Statements.**

Jan Collinson, the Treasurer, gave an overview of the statements. She explained that the Sponsorship fund was growing. That it had financed the past two Weekends and had been a great help to the participants.

*MOTION: Janice Collinson/Laurie McDowell*

*"That the Financial Statement for 2009/2010 be accepted"*

**CARRIED**

**b) Budget for 2010/2011**

Jan explained that the budget was roughly the same as last year.

The cost of the Weekend depends on the number of participants. It is therefore difficult to be sure of the cost for the budget. Hopefully we will have more participants at the Weekend this year.

The cost of the two Weekends had exhausted the Sponsorship Fund but the amount of money going into it should begin to build this year. Jan hopes eventually to be able to cover the costs for the leaders at the Weekends.

*MOTION: Janice Collinson/Laura MacKenzie  
"That the Budget for 2010/2011 be approved"*

There was a lengthy discussion about transferring money from the General Fund to the Sponsorship Fund and how that should be recorded in the budget.

*MOTION: Jan Collinson/Susan Wells  
"That Line 4 of the budget be amended to read, Transfer from Sponsorship OR GENERAL FUNDS"*

**CARRIED**

*MOTION: Susan Wells/Bill Harris  
" That if there is a deficit in funding for a Weekend, enough money should be transferred from the General Fund to the Sponsorship Fund to cover the cost of the Sponsorship portion of the Weekend"*

**CARRIED**

*MOTION: Jan Collinson/Richard Turner  
"That the Budget be approved as amended"*

**CARRIED**

## **8. Spiritual Director**

Susan Wells rose to speak about the PAP programme. She feels strongly that if members of Cursillo were to sign up for the PAP program and donate \$10 on the 15<sup>th</sup> or the 30<sup>th</sup> of each month we would have enough funds to support this worthy cause which can make a profound difference in people's lives.

## **9. The Nominating Committee Report was published in the August 2010 Rainbow.**

Nancy Harris announced the names of people willing to allow their names to go forward for a position on Secretariat.

Carol Summers  
Margaret Wilding - DeNew  
Rev Stephanie Pellow (Clergy- at- Large)

a) Jan called for any nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming.

b) *MOTION: Ann Gross/ Lorette Shermet  
"That nominations for Secretariat be closed"*

**CARRIED**

c) *The nominees for Secretariat were acclaimed.*

Nancy welcomed the new members, Margaret, Stephanie and Carol.

## **10. Appointments**

### Treasurer

Janice Collinson has been appointed as Treasurer

### Secretary

Carol Summers has been appointed as Secretary.

## **11. Other Business / Announcements**

### **Palanca**

Marion Bailey brought palanca for upcoming Weekends for us to sign. She brought to our attention that Trish McCarthy is holding her first Weekend since moving out to Regina.

## **Bookmarks**

Laura MacKenzie offered the bookmarks she had created to promote the next Weekend and asked that people take them to their parishes.

## **Important Dates**

### **October 23 rd. Day of Deeper Understanding to be held at Church of the Nativity**

A day of reconciliation and healing. It will end with a Eucharist. More information will be found on the web page. We are looking for volunteers.

### **March 31-April 3 Weekend 46 at Mount Mary, Ancaster.**

- Sharon Insley will be the Co-cordinator. Nancy asked us to keep Sharon in our prayers, especially as her Mother is ill. Sharon would have been at the meeting if not for her Mother's ill health.
- Susan Wells talked about the need to connect with people to have people attend a Weekend. There was a discussion in which it was suggested we need to look at the insistence on a Sponsor. What do people who hear of Cursillo from outside the parish do if they don't know anyone who could sponsor them? We need to look at doing all we can to remove the barriers stopping people from coming to Cursillo.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm. Stephanie Pellow led us in prayer.

Following the meeting there was a service of Commissioning of Secretariat and Eucharist.

***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: John Newton 42 Malkin Ave. Fort Erie ON L2A 5J1. Or [communications@niagaracursillo.org](mailto:communications@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.

A Day of Deeper Understanding

# Listening to God: Listening to Each Other

9 a.m. Coffee and gathering



**Worship and meditate as we  
come together as a collective in  
a drumming circle**  
Led by Mark Chindemi

Lunch available (free will offering)

## **Listening to God in Scripture**

Led by Reverend Brian Galligan

## **Listening Workshop:** Led by Reverend Stephanie Pellow

What is your “body language” saying?

How can your responses encourage sharing?

Learn more about listening attentively and with empathy.

- **When:** Saturday, October 22, 9am to 2pm
- **Where:** St. Simon’s Anglican Church  
1450 Litchfield Rd., Oakville, access just off Trafalgar Rd. north of the QEW
- **Cost:** \$10 per person

All welcome. Come and bring a group.

Questions or R.S.V.P to 519-942-1678 or [revspellow@gmail.com](mailto:revspellow@gmail.com)

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