



IN THIS ISSUE

From our.

1. Lay Director
2. Spiritual Director
3. Pre-Cursillo Chair
4. Huron Liaisons'
5. Weekend Chair
6. Fourth Day Chair
7. Palanca Chair
8. Education Chair
9. Weekend #49 Chair
10. Witness Box
11. Communications

Rainbow

Newsletter

"Like the bow in a cloud on a rainy day such was the appearance of the splendor all around. This was the appearance of the glory of the Lord. Ezekiel 1.28

1. Lay Director *(Carol Summers)*

This has been a memorable winter. Driving has been difficult and although we did have a long and beautiful fall, it seems as if we have already had a long winter and its only February!

We have been looking forward to the spring; I have been working with Tim Standish on the preparations for the next **Weekend**. I have found on every **Weekend** that as the work gets started I am always a little nervous; will it take off or not, will people come? The momentum builds, and at some point I find my feelings change from the anxiety involved in getting the preparations done to a sense of excitement at watching this work of God and seeing people stepping up and joining in, sharing the load, the expectation and the joys. That change of attitude happened early this time; **The Team** is a wonderful mix of new and seasoned Cursillistas and the Participants' names are coming in and I know it's going to fly! It is going to be amazing!

We follow the directions laid down for us and do the work involved in putting the **Weekend** together but it is only when God blesses it that it takes on a life of its own. Each **Weekend** is unique and has a different flavour from the others but if we are faithful and allow the Holy Spirit to lead, the results are more successful than we can ask or imagine.



Lay Report continued:

Please join us in this journey to the **Fourth Day** by supporting the **Team** in prayer, lending your hands when needed, seeking **Participants** or making a donation.

Do try to come and be part of the glorious worship on April 27th as Psalm 146 says “ **Come let us lift up our voices in the praises of the Most High ... that so long as I am able to hold open my mouth, or to whisper, I will never cease to praise God, and to confess the truth**”
Ultreya !

2.

Spiritual Director

(Rev. Stephanie Pellow)

Some of you may have attended a workshop or presentation by Michael Harvey. Michael has visited our diocese from the U.K. a number of times. Most recently he met with ministers in the Erin-Hillsburgh area. Michael Harvey's claim to fame which he humbly would not claim at all is that he is the founder of the “ **Back to Church Movement** “. When a church decides to engage with the “ Back to Church Program ”, the main component involves members of the congregation inviting their friends , relatives neighbours and lapsed members to church. We all invite people to our homes , to go for coffee , to go to the theatre and so on , but for some reason , we can encounter a block when inviting someone to come to church.

Do not fear , only believe
(Mark 5 – 36)

Do not be afraid , Mary , for you have found favour with God.
(Luke 1 – 30)

I think inviting someone to come to **Cursillo** is very similar. Michael Harvey would say that one of the blocks that gets in our way is fear. When faced with a situation in which what we ask may be rejected , We fear that rejection. Harvey reminds us that Jesus faced rejection regularly and the Apostles inherited that legacy as well. Not everyone who heard Paul preach became a follower of Christ. No Evangelist has a 100% record! We have to be reminded often that as beloved of God we do not need to fear. Remember how the Angel came to Mary to invite her to be the mother of Jesus , began with “**Do not be afraid**”. God is so serious about not wanting us to be afraid that ; that phrase appears 366 times in scripture. (according to Mr. Harvey's research) I did not try to count myself!!

Another of Mr. Harvey's wise teachings about invitation is how we define success. The way of the world tells us that success is getting the result we want. Michael suggests this is too narrow a definition. Our goal is to invite , so success is extending that invitation. The choice belongs to the person invited. That “yes” or “no” is in God's hands. We have succeeded in doing our part if we made the invitation.

When you are ready to invite a friend to **Cursillo** keep in mind that you are offering someone a gift. It is of an opportunity to set aside time to learn about God and to be still and be with God. It is a time to

Spiritual Director cont.

talk about things that really matter. It is a time for someone to learn about God , themselves and others and grow from that knowledge. An invitation to Cursillo is an opportunity to bring joy into someone's life. You are offering a gift of value.

Prepare for the invitation with prayer. Practice a simple way to broach the subject. Have a brochure available. It is available on the website. Suggest the person think about it and come back to you with their questions. Answer these questions directly. Share some of what the weekend experience meant to you. With this you have succeeded in inviting.

Similar to the fear of rejection , another fear we face is judgement. Sometimes that judging begins with ourselves . We invite a friend to Cursillo and then before we give them a chance to say" yes" or

"no" we decide that they will probably say "no" for any number of reasons. And so we never ask because we are sure we know the answer already. Imagine that , we think we know better what is best for a person than that person does ! You never know who God may be inviting.

There is still time to offer someone you know a special gift – the gift of the **Cursillo** experience . Do not be afraid. Pray about that person . Pray about your own fears. Let the Spirit guide you through the process. There is time for you to invite someone to **Weekend #49** in April or **Weekend # 50** in Oct/Nov.

Ultreya !

Be a friend,

Make a friend,

Bring a friend to Christ



3. **Pre-Cursillo Report** (Rev. Rod McDowell)

At the Clergy Education Day on Thursday Feb. 13 the Rev. Stephanie Pellow gave a short presentation to the clergy of the Diocese about Cursillo and announced our upcoming **Weekend**. Pamphlets about Cursillo and the weekend were distributed.

4. **Huron Report** (Marion Bailey)



In Matthew 28, Jesus gives his final instructions. He commands his followers to make disciples among every nation. I think you will agree that this implies people who don't just call themselves Christians, but who will also apply themselves to his teaching and way of life. Jesus wants us to be instructed in all the ways of God, so that the life-giving transformation of the gospel would be experienced both in the heart and the life of every person. For me, Cursillo method is the tool God has given to me to help me transform my environment for Christ, and by God's grace, I find myself in the Diocese of Huron.

The Cursillistas here in Huron are faithful. The biggest hurdle we have, in my opinion, is the distance we have to travel between ourselves making grouping and Ultreyas difficult. However, with ever growing numbers, weekend by weekend, we will overcome this barrier and grouping and Ultreyas will become less difficult. We are using the Cursillo Method – Faith, Study and Action. With group reunion and Ultreya, we will succeed in coming together with strength through the Father.

Everyone agrees that patience is a virtue – but I am one who does not like to wait! I like fast paced technology and service. Patience is also defined as “long suffering”. It is more than just a virtue: it's a godly trait. I am reminded that God has been so patient with me and the human race in general; since he created it, who am I to complain about waiting?

We in Huron, continue to count on you for your prayers and support. An Ultreya is planned for Friday the 13th day of June in Princeton which is a little town just outside of Paris Ontario – more details to follow.

Ultreya

5. Weekend Chair (Wendy Beresford)

Preparations are well underway for **Weekend #49**. We are also in the midst of planning a Fall **Weekend # 50** October 30 to November 3rd. Secretariat is planning “something *new and exciting*” for next April 2015. This is an exciting time for **Cursillistas!**

Ultreya

6. 4th Day Chair-post Cursillo (Paulette Switzer)

When I was asked to be on Secretariat I felt so humble and honoured to be asked. After spending time in prayer and taking some things off my plate I said yes. It is a pleasure to serve with all on Secretariat. We work well together and focus on spreading the news of Cursillo.

I organized the Diocesan Ultreya in February at The Church of the Resurrection. I received lots of support in doing that and I now have a clear idea of my role.

I am looking forward to supporting our new Cursillistas on their **4th Day**.

7. Palanca Chair (Marion Bailey)

I don't know if you are aware, but shortly before **Weekend #48**, Pre-Cursillo prayer team was initiated. This team of twelve Cursillistas began praying for Cursillo, The Diocese of Niagara and Huron Secretariat, the Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat and for Weekend # 48. As well as the needs of other Cursillistas. Their prayer list is growing as they are currently praying for **Weekend # 49** as well. They have been praying for the team as it comes together and they are praying for the unnamed **Participants** as the inviting, responding and application process begins. You are encouraged to submit names of those who you are considering as participants.

“Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven”

(Matthew 5-16)

.So I tell you, whatever You ask for in prayer, Believe that you have received it and it will be yours.

(Mark 11: 24)

Palanca report continued:

The Pre-Cursillo prayer team will be delighted to pray for them. I urge you to be a friend and bring a friend to **Christ**.

Weekend #49 is fast approaching! It is time for all of us to pray without ceasing for the team and for the participants that God will send to us. I urge you to participate in this weekend , by attending the Moonlight, the Manianita , the Closing , writing Palanca and of course praying. Make sure you sign up for prayer vigil on the **Niagara Cursillo.org website**. It always amazes me how He fills me when I attend these events.

I encourage you to think about your own special weekend and the joy that Cursillo has brought to your life. Recently, I became aware that a very dear friend of mine was on the Palanca team that was praying for me on my weekend in 1995! How wonderful it was for me to find out that this person began loving and praying for me before I knew her... and how wonderful it was for her when she revealed this to me. I think that for both of us , this is a gift that only a gracious God could give.

Utreya

8. Education

(Larry Collinson)

There will be a **Cursillo Niagara Workshop** to help old and new **Cursillistas** familiarize themselves with the **Anglican Cursillo Movement** and it's goals.

It will be held at the **Church of the Nativity** Saturday May 10th , 2014. The church can be found @ 1831 King East (Red Hill Pkwy)
From 1:00 – 4:00 pm

There is a \$5.00 registration fee. Also there will be a cold dish **Pot Luck** to follow.

The **Diocesan Utreya** is at 7:00 pm.

It will be a Great day of Learning and Worship !!!!!

Be a Friend , Make a Friend , Bring a Friend to Christ

9. **Weekend Coordinator**

(Tim Standish)

Niagara Cursillo Weekend #49 is on April 24-27th at Mount Mary Immaculate Retreat Centre in Ancaster. The Team has been selected and training is underway. We are expecting a very good turnout of participants for this weekend and it will be an exciting and Spirit filled time for them as I am sure it was for you on your **Weekend** . I know it was for me. I have participated in several weekends and I often think of them as little slices or glimpses of God's Kingdom-the way he wants life to be for his children. Once you have had a taste there is no going back. You want to keep striving to make it happen everyday , not just three days,once a year.

So let us all pray and prepare for the upcoming weekend with our foremost goal being to let the participants see and experience some of that Kingdom. As always , there are several ways for the wider community to participate: **Sponsor** a candidate , sign up for **Prayer Vigil** (go to niagaracursillo.org) pick a time and email it in , **Pray** anyway , attend **Mananita** , decorate for **Agape** , send snacks , send **Palanca** , come to the **Closing Service** , make a **Donation** etc. Again please keep all participants and the team in your prayers.

**“He is before all things
and in him all things
hold together”**

(Colossians 1:17)



Ultreya!

Gods richest blessings for all of you !

10. *The Witness Box*

'Cursillista testimony of their journeys in Faith ,Study & Action'

- I hope it is not too late to say a few words about my experience From Weekend # 48. I wasn't quite sure how to put into words what I felt And feel about the Weekend but Yeah God !

I was not sure what to expect but I'm restored in my Faith and my heart was filled and is still fulfilled as I continue my journey.I met some of the nicest people and made lasting friendships with my table mates the "figs" Friends in Gods Service.

The best part of the weekend was the music and fellowship of other Christians.

My tablemates and I meet every couple of months for lunch and fellowship.

The Cursillistas from my church : St. John the Evangelist in Hamilton meet every Wednesday and share our Faith , Study and Action , which is awesome.

Thank you for my participation in **Weekend # 48** . It is now part of me forever !

Patti T.

- Over the past six months I have had the opportunity to discuss my "journey of faith" with a student at Trinity College as part of a project required for the course she is taking.

This has been a most enlightening experience for me as it has helped me To reach a deeper understanding of what it is that I have been called to do.

Bill S.

(please contact 4thdaycalling@gmail.com and share your journey with the rest of us)

Niagara Cursillo

c/o Cathedral Place
252 James St. North
Hamilton, ON L8R 2L3

Web:

<http://www.niagaracursillo.org>

Communications
Contact

4thdaycalling@gmail.com

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.niagaracursillo.org

11.**Communications**

(Colin Shutt)

Getting this **Newsletter** out to our **Cursillistas** and keeping you informed of what is happening in our **Niagara Cursillo** movement via the **niagaracursillo.org** website is a great privilege and I can only pray I am up to the task.

Please visit our website: go to the **weekend** page for applications and weekend info, go to **upcoming events** for what's up in **study, faith & action**, Ultreyas, workshops and more.

Go to the **prayer schedule** page and sign up to pray for **Weekend #49** and the **participants** that they find the same joy, love and inspiration that we did on our weekends and that they be given through God's Grace the tools for their own 4th days.

There is a section where you may offer your **support**.

If there is a Cursillista who needs our prayers contact me and I will gladly get them in our Cursillistas page.

Please contact me at 4thdaycalling@gmail.com with any inquiries, if you find something missing, if you wish something added or if there appears to be a mistake.

Yours in Love and Service, **Ultreya!**

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ.

1st Peter 4 10-11

Ultreya