



Calendar at a Glance

- † **Weekend # 48**
April 11th - 14th 2013
Mount Mary Immaculate,
Ancaster
- † March 1, 2, 22, 23 -
Team Training
St. Christopher's,
Burlington
- † Sunday, March 17 -
**Cursillo Niagara 30th
Anniversary** 4 - 10 p.m.
St. Christopher's,
Burlington
- † Sunday, April 7 -
Moonlight Service
3 p.m. St. Christopher's,
Burlington
- † Sunday, April 28 -
Diocesan Ultreya
Church Of The Nativity
4 p.m. Potluck To Follow

Inside this issue:

<i>Lay Director</i>	1
<i>Spiritual Director</i>	2
<i>Weekend Chair / Coordinator</i>	3
<i>Huron Liaison</i>	4
<i>Palanca</i>	5
<i>Pre-Cursillo</i>	5
<i>Continuing Education</i>	6
<i>Communications</i>	7
<i>Faith, Innocence & Belief</i>	8

Rainbow Newsletter

Lay Director

Secretariat is working on several projects at present. The Weekend is approaching fast, Rev. David Toth has prepared a presentation, which he has taken to churches and Larry Collinson is heading up a team planning the celebration for the 30th anniversary of Cursillo Weekends in Niagara. We held a Leader's School in November and I attended a CACS meeting in October. We are also preparing a Pastoral Plan for Cursillo in Niagara, which should help everyone to see how we fit into the Diocesan Vision for the Church.

As you can see, your Secretariat takes its responsibilities seriously and we are working hard to share Cursillo with the rest of the Church.

I was wondering how I was going to express what I wanted to say in this Rainbow, praying for inspiration, when my computer beeped and this story appeared which illustrated my thoughts beautifully. I thank Jess Johnstone for sending it to me.

Ubuntu

An anthropologist studying the habits and customs of an African tribe found himself surrounded by children most days. So he decided to play a little game with them. He managed to get candy from the nearest town, and put it all in a decorated basket at the foot of a tree. Then he called the children and suggested they play a game.

When the anthropologist said "Now!" the children had to run to the tree, and the first one to get there could have ALL the candy to himself/herself. So the children all lined up waiting for the signal. When the anthropologist said "now", all of the children took each other by the hand ran together towards the tree. They all arrived at the same time, divided up the candy, sat down, and began to happily munch away.

The anthropologist went over to them and asked why they had all run together, when any one of them could have had the candy all to himself/herself. The children responded: "Ubuntu"! How could any one of us be happy if all the others were sad?" Ubuntu is a philosophy of African tribes that can be summed up as: "I am what I am because of who we all are."

Lay Director's Report

cont'd

Bishop Desmond Tutu gave this explanation in 2008: "One of the sayings in our country is Ubuntu - the essence of being human. Ubuntu speaks particularly about the fact that you can't exist as a human being in isolation. It speaks about our inter-connectedness. You can't be human all by yourself, and when you have this quality 'Ubuntu' - you are known for your generosity.

If you are spending precious time reading this then you are a Cursillista, someone who has attended a Weekend and you have received the great gift that someone else gave to you. It was so obvious to those African children that we have to share our gifts. We simply cannot just keep them to ourselves. Please consider supporting the Weekend in some way as the Team shares the gift of Cursillo with our fellow men and women. What a privilege it is to have such a gift to share.

Ultreya,
Carol Summers

Spiritual Director's Report

30 Years and Still Counting

Thirty years ago right now, the teams for Weekend 1 and Weekend 2 were already meeting for training. It was a very exciting time. I was thrilled to have been asked to be part of the Conference Room Team, giving the Ideals Talk. I had been on team for the first time in Toronto Diocese a year or so before, offering the first co-ed weekend but found I still had a lot to learn. I had no experience working with a Fourth Day Team that provided a kitchen team and outside people to prepare our meals. Our participants slept in the gym, later transformed into our Closing venue. I remember the spiritual highlights for me included worship in the lovely chapel and winding our way through the dark corridors of St. Mildred Lightbourne school on our Way of the Cross journey. Weekend 1 in Niagara was my first experience of a full three day Cursillo as Toronto had shortened their weekends to an intense Friday evening to Sunday evening package. We had a wonderful sense of blazing new territory with the help of God, in loving friendship.

30 Years & Still Counting

Thirty years ago right now, the teams for Weekend 1 and Weekend 2 were already meeting for training. It was a very exciting time.

Thirty years later, some of the participants of those first few weekends are still around, some have passed into the nearer presence of God, and many more although no longer active in the movement have gone on to serve and live out their lives as faithful Christians and church members in our Diocese and beyond. A few have discerned a call to further study leading to ordained ministry. I am one of those and on occasion have had the opportunity to witness to the fact that my experience of Cursillo set me on that path of faith, study and action that mapped my life in Christ.

Some of the methods and peripherals of Cursillo have changed in thirty years. We no longer have separate weekends for males and females. Husbands do not have to attend a weekend before their wives. A parish priest no longer has to attend to enable his/her parishioners to attend. Equity is a positive thing but in Cursillo it has led to somewhat negative effects. Mirroring the wider church, we now have more women than men attending Cursillo. When once the worship and experiences of a weekend were totally unique, now many Christians are familiar with the Way of the Cross, Healing and Reconciliation, extemporaneous prayer in a group. The flip charts have all but been replaced with colourful Power Point presentations.

Spiritual Director's Report

cont'd

As we continue on, more peripherals will change. Perhaps it is time to look at the music we use to praise God. When Carol Summers and I attended the Triennial Conference last June, we found that three quarters of the music was new to us. Think about it. The folk/ praise music of the 1960's and 70's is forty or more years old, many gospel favourites coming up to one hundred.

Practices may have changed but the core values of the movement have not. Teams present a solid overview of Christian Faith and a way to live it enlivened with authentic witness. Table groups welcome people and provide a safe place for them to explore their faith. The wider community calls upon the Holy Spirit to enable the entire process. Ideally a loving community receives new Cursillistas to help them grow on in faith. We have struggled somewhat with the last part. The love is real and the spirit is willing but too often the flesh is weak. Jesus warned us that this could be so.

I invite each one of you to come to the Thirtieth Anniversary of Cursillo in Niagara to be held at St. Christopher's in Burlington on March 17. Let's make it a time for long term and new Cursillistas to come together to celebrate the good that has come from this movement in the Diocese of Niagara. Let us reminisce and be refreshed in the loving community which we share. Then let us go on to future years in the strength of it.

Ultreya,
Stephanie Pellow



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

Weekend Chair Report

Cursillo Niagara Weekend #48

Plans are well underway for our next Weekend in Niagara that will take place at Mount Mary the Immaculate Retreat Centre in Ancaster from April 11th to the 14th. The team is coming together and we are looking forward to serving a new group of participants and sharing the Cursillo method. Our theme this weekend is from 1Peter 5:7 "Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you."

Please keep the Weekend in your prayers and sign up to be part of the Prayer Vigil for the weekend. You can find the sign up form for the vigil on the Niagara Cursillo web site www.niagaracursillo.org under "Weekends" on the side bar on the right. You will also find a PDF application on this page as well.

And as always, please prayerfully determine how you can support the weekend and participants. There are many opportunities through prayer, Palanca, helping out with the Agape, being at the Mananita, (please arrive at Mount Mary Sunday at 6:15am and go to the dining hall) and the Closing (beginning in the Chapel at 2:30pm) and welcoming the new Cursillistas to Ultreyas and Grouping. Also,



share the message of Cursillo at your church and consider sponsoring a participant. For more information on sponsorship go to the Canadian Anglican Cursillo site www.anglicancursillo.com and look under "Documents". This should tell you all you need to know.

Hope to see you at the Moonlight April 7th at 3pm at St. Christopher's in Burlington.

Utreya and God Bless,
Shirley Kitchen
Weekend Coordinator

Huron Liaison Report

A lot of conversation at Secretariat has centered around the Pastoral Plan for the Diocese. The pastoral plan developed by the Bishop of a Diocese and the Secretariat is the working plan for the Cursillo Movement in that Diocese. In the manual, it states that "The Pastoral Plan is important because it encourages communication between the Secretariat and the Bishop: the publication and distribution of the Pastoral Plan to members of the Diocese plays an important role in informing people how Cursillo can help fulfill the objectives of the Diocese: It provides a guide for the work of Cursillo in the Diocese and encourages the Cursillo movement to maintain a focus on the Fourth Day, which is the centerpiece of the Cursillo Method.

As a member of Secretariat in the role of Huron Observer, it is evident to me that the vision of the Diocese of Huron is not very different than that of Niagara. We are geographical neighbours, so that is not difficult to understand. Simply stated, the vision of Huron is as follows: "***The Diocese of Huron: A people transformed in Christ by God's Spirit***".

Our Bishops have identified "Five Marks of Mission" for us to live by:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

We share a display – a visual tool - which will be visible at the upcoming Huron Synod in May and has been used at the Niagara Synod. It can also be requested to display in your church.

Cursillo supports the core values of both Diocesan Visions. Within the Cursillo Method, we are exposed to a variety of spiritual practices and we are encouraged to develop a pattern of life that includes spiritual discipline. We are encouraged to listen to each other with respect and compassion and with this, we learn to value diversity. We learn to work together and share authentically in discussion.

Following Christ passionately is at the heart of Cursillo. It is the love of Christ and our love for Christ that impels us to work hard both within and outside of the church and to show that love in all the environments we inhabit.

Utreya
Marion Bailey

Palanca

April 11th is rapidly approaching and excitement is rising as things start to come together in anticipation of our next Anglican Co-ed Cursillo weekend #48. The core team is calling for help and pulling together the details for training and all that makes the weekend run smoothly and efficiently. It is time for us, the wider community, to put Palanca in high gear!

I think that the most awesome task of my Fourth Day journey is to serve on the team which receives and sends written palanca around the world! It gives me goosebumps to know that, while our Co-Ed Weekend #48 is happening there will be at least 23 other weekends going on in Canada and around the world. Using the Cursillo method, many affiliated weekends will be also be happening and some within the confines of prison walls! **Kairos** (prison ministry) in Mississippi, Indiana, Florida and Texas: **Walk to Emmaus** (Methodist) in Indiana, Georgia, Texas, Philippines, Virginia, South Africa, New York, Vermont: **Keryx** (prison ministry) in Michigan: **Via de Cristo** (Lutheran) in Michigan/Ohio: **Journey to Damascus** (Methodist/Catholic) in Texas: **Episcopal Cursillo** (Anglican) in Virginia and **Roman Catholic Cursillo** weekends in Nova Scotia, will be happening at the same time as our Weekend #48.

Following are the Canadian Anglican Cursillo Dates for 2013 as published on the CACS website:

Qu'Appelle	Men	February	14-17
Nova Scotia/PEI	Men	April	25-28
	Women	May	2- 5
Western Nfld	Co-ed	May	28-31
Ottawa	Women	November	8-11
Edmonton	Co-ed	November	21-24

On behalf of the Dioceses of Niagara and Huron, it is my great pleasure to send our best wishes to all of these weekend coordinators to share as well as the many others that are listed on the websites (I Google Cursillo and follow the links from there). We are so blessed to be able to communicate so easily and have the information so readily available on the information highway we know as the Internet!!

I ask you to help me by praying for all weekends, the participants and the teams.

Ultreya
Marion Bailey

Pre-Cursillo Chair Report

On February 3rd I had the wonderful experience of going to St. Michael's Parish in Hamilton to give a power point presentation about Cursillo. I would especially like to thank the Reverend Shelia Van Zandwyk for the opportunity, and our Lay Director Carol Summers for coming out to support and give a witness account of her experience with Cursillo.

We had around a dozen people show up for the presentation and there was much interest among the people. What I found surprising was the fact that there was only one person who had heard about Cursillo. This tells me that there really is a lot of work to do to bring awareness to the people of Niagara.

All in all the presentation was well received and there was a great deal of interest and excitement in going to the next weekend. One of the parishioners said that they had something planed in April this

year, but they were looking forward to participating at the next weekend. Another said they were happy to have Carol show up and talk to have a laypersons point of view.

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. Embrace all equally!

If you would like to have me come out to your church and give a presentation please contact me at rectorhollytrinity@shaw.ca or (905) 383-2951 and we will set up a time.

Continuing Education

Over the last month I have concentrated on the significance of the season and what it means to me and my family. The celebration of the birth of Jesus and how our faith is a rebirth, and as Jesus grew and developed into our Saviour how we grow in our faith and my own development. This is Continuing Education, we all develop and continue to learn and grow in all we do, see and hear. It is important to keep an open mind open heart and your faith will grow.

As we continue to work towards the goals and objectives of the Cursillo Movement let us keep this in mind, Jesus, we are told grew in His faith and spirituality for 30 years and then He Evangelized His environments. He did not do this by Himself, Jesus recruited ordinary working people to assist Him and to spread the Good News to all corners of the known world.

30th Year Anniversary Celebration

Now Cursillo Niagara is reaching a significant level on our development, at St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School, Oakville in March of 1983 the first set of weekends took place. Thirty years ago, March 17, 1983 men's Weekend #1 and March 24, 1983 women's Weekend #2 officially started the Cursillo Movement in Niagara with help from The Diocese of Toronto and Huron.

A celebration is planned for ***Sunday March 17, 2013*** at St. Christopher's Church in Burlington. Tentative plans include a praise and worship service followed by a catered meal with many surprises. Tickets for the event will be available soon at a cost of \$30.00 each or \$50.00 per couple. To reserve tickets email your request to d.duck4853@gmail.com or call *Larry Collinson* at 905-545-4285. Purchase early as tickets are limited and sold on a first come first serve basis.

Larry Collinson
Continuing Education
Niagara Cursillo

The following are anecdotal stories created by unknown authors that share a small portion of their belief or share an insight to the innocence of others. Enjoy them as you will.

DOES GOD EXIST?

This may be one of the best explanations on the nature of God that I have ever seen...

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed. As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects.

When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said: *'I don't believe that God exists.'*

'Why do you say that?' asked the customer. *'Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine a loving God who would allow all of these things.'*

The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument. The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop. Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and unkempt. The customer turned back and entered the barbershop again and he said to the barber: *'You know what? Barbers do not exist.'*

'How can you say that?' asked the surprised barber. *'I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!'* **'No!'** the customer exclaimed. *'Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside.'* *'Ah, but barbers DO exist! That's what happens when people do not come to me.'*

'Exactly!' affirmed the customer. *'That's the point! God, too, DOES exist! That's what happens when people do not go to Him and don't look to Him for help. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world.'*

BE BLESSED & BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS!

Shirley and Marcy

A mother was concerned about her kindergarten son walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe. So she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbor if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her. The neighbour said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, the neighbor and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor girl he knew. She did this for the whole week.

As the two kids walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally she said to Timmy, *'Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?'*

Timmy nonchalantly replied, *'Yeah, I know who she is.'* The little girl said, *'Well, who is she?'*

'That's just Shirley Goodnest,' Timmy replied, *'and her daughter Marcy.'*

'Shirley Goodnest ? Who is she and why is she following us?'

'Well,' Timmy explained, *'every night my Mum makes me say the **23rd Psalm** with my prayers, 'cuz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, ' Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life', so I guess I'll just have to get used to it!''*



Twinkies and Root Beer

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of Root Beer and he started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an elderly man. The man was sitting in the park just feeding some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the man looked hungry, so he offered him a Twinkie. The man gratefully accepted it and smiled at boy. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer. Again, the man smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the man, and gave him a hug. The man gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?"

"He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? God's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen."

Meanwhile, radiant with joy the elderly man returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked," Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added," You know, he's much younger than I expected."



We welcome submissions from readers. All submissions must include a name, telephone number or email for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for content and / or length.

All submissions should be Cursillo or Christ oriented. The Niagara Anglican Cursillo Secretariat has final approval for all submissions. Events, activities or other items of interest to Cursillistas are also welcome.

Send your submissions to Niagara Anglican Cursillo Newsletter c/o Cathedral Place 252 James Street North Hamilton ON L8R 2L3 or via email to communications@niagaracursillo.org