



# The RAINBOW

Niagara Anglican Cursillo Newsletter

February 2007

[www.niagaracursillo.org](http://www.niagaracursillo.org)



## CURSILLO CALENDAR

<b>Feb</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Diocesan Ultreya</b> St. John's Nelson (Burlington). Eucharist at 3:00pm, Ultreya at 4:00pm followed by potluck dinner
<b>Apr</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner</b> Renaissance Banquet Hall 2289 Barton St. Hamilton Eucharist at 3:30pm Dinner at 6:00pm
<b>May</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Huron Ultreya</b> – Christ Church Meaford, ON
<b>Nov</b>	<b>27 – 30</b>	<b>Weekend 43</b> (co-ed) Mt Mary in Ancaster

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### We welcome submissions

from readers as viewpoints, faith journey stories, book reviews, news and coming events from parishes.

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

*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. **Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*** Hebrews 10:23-25

Hebrews 10:23-25 has become my verse for the year. It was part of our weekly office meditations early in the fall of 2007 and it 'struck a chord' with me as Cursillo Ultreyas decline in attendance and Secretariat begins a season of visitations to Reconnect with those we have not seen for a while.

We hear reports that many, many Cursillistas continue to group and we are very encouraged by that. Ultreyas are another way to meet together and encourage one another, but do not appear to be meeting the needs of the wider community as they are currently run.

### RECONNECTING WITH YOU VISITATION

It is our hope and prayer that as the members of Secretariat visit the various regions, and meet with as many Cursillistas as we can, that we can build on the strengths of the Cursillo method and truly support each other on our Christian journey. This is an energizing undertaking for us and we are looking forward to talking with as many of you as we can.

### REMEMBER, RENEW REJOICE RENEWAL WEEKEND

Also encouraging for us was the Renewal Weekend held last November. We had four speakers who were not Cursillistas, but each of whom God led us to ask to speak. As each talk was delivered, it was amazing to see how they each built on one another and a theme emerged: "I am the vine, you are the branches"; being fruitful was the message received through the Holy Spirit. Jan Collinson did a wonderful job of organizing the weekend and I thank her, again, for being a willing and joyful servant in this way.

### SILVER ANNIVERSARY

We have a milestone event this spring celebrating 25 years since the first weekends were held in Niagara. There is further information and a flyer attached to this newsletter with details of that event and how to get tickets.

*(cont'd on page 2)*

## FROM OUR SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

REV. SUSAN WELLS

It is hard to believe that Christmas has just ended and already we are moving into Lent. This is the earliest beginning of Lent in over 50 years. I have barely had time to catch my breath from Christmas and already find myself planning Ash Wednesday services. Cursillo too has barely had time to catch its breath.

***For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord (Jeremiah 29:10-14)***

It is time for Cursillo to seek a new direction, to seek God with all our heart. It is then we will find God and the plans God has for this community.

As part of our plan to seek God, Secretariat decided a year ago to try and touch base with as many Cursillistas as possible to talk about their Cursillo experience and to get feedback on how Secretariat can best serve and support Cursillistas in their Christian journey and ministry. In the next few weeks you should be called and invited to a meeting to discuss Cursillo. Secretariat is hoping to tap into the collective wisdom of the community in order to determine the strengths of the movement and where God is leading us.

If you have not been called by the end of February and invited to attend a meeting, and would like to get together with other Cursillistas to discuss your Cursillo experience and how Secretariat can support you in your Christian walk, please contact me ([spiritualdirector@niagaracursillo.org](mailto:spiritualdirector@niagaracursillo.org)) or Zandra Pennylegion ([laydirector@niagaracursillo.org](mailto:laydirector@niagaracursillo.org)).

On April 20 we will gather to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cursillo in Niagara. Our new Diocesan Bishop, The Right Reverend Michael Bird, will be joining us for worship and for dinner. This will be a chance for us to worship and break bread with our new Bishop, and to renew friendships we have made in the Cursillo Movement. Jan Collinson and her committee have been working hard to make this a Spirit-filled experience and a time of renewal. Seating is limited so please get you ticket early. More information about this event is found in the advertisement in this issue of the Rainbow.

Secretariat has also spent the last year evaluating every aspect of the Cursillo Weekend with the view of returning to the basics. The main focus of the Cursillo weekend is the building of Christian

*continued on page 3*

## FROM OUR LAY DIRECTOR

*(cont'd from page 1)*

### WEEKEND #43

Weekend #43 will be held November 27-30, at Mt. Mary Immaculate Centre in Ancaster, coordinated by Marion Binns. We ask for your prayer support for Marion as she organizes the first 'back to basics' weekend with a streamlined schedule and smaller team – all designed to create one community (no more "Them" participants and "Us" team). The process of team selection has started, which also needs to be covered in prayer. Please see the "What am I Saying When I Say Yes?" article to help direct your prayers, and for consideration by those who may be called (both by Marion, and the Holy Spirit) to serve on the weekend.

### NEW SECRETARIAT

A warm welcome to our new Secretariat members elected at the AGM in September – Richard Turner and Rev. Deacon St. Clair Cleveland. Since the AGM (and as reported at the AGM) Secretariat has actively been working toward greater clergy involvement on Secretariat. Rev. Paul Tinker has just joined our number and we are thrilled to now have three clergy in our number. Sadly, Lise Simmons has had to resign leaving the position of Fourth Day Chair vacant. We continue to pray for discernment in how/when to fill this role.

A full listing of the members of Secretariat can be found on page 4.

### DIOCESAN ULTREYAS

During the vacancy on Fourth Day and our Reconnecting Visitation, Secretariat will organize and run the Diocesan Ultreyas. The next one will be February 24, 3pm for Eucharist, 4pm for Ultreya, at St. John's Nelson in Burlington (on Dundas Street just west of Guelph Line). We hope that these gatherings will indeed help us to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds".

Ultreya!

Zandra Pennylegion

## FROM OUR NEWEST SECRETARIAT MEMBER

"To the church of God that is the Niagara Cursillo Movement, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind - just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you - so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ."

*(1 Cor 1:2-7 NRSV)*

This is of course the greeting that St. Paul gives to the people of Corinth in his first letter to them, of which I made one small adjustment. I open this way as I feel I share in a similar ministry to that of St. Paul in his writing. I am writing from a distance to many of you. I am writing to you both encouraged by you and your witness in this world and to encourage you as well. I give thanks for you always, for those that were so wonderfully supportive during my weekend, both physically present and in prayers. And for those that have been involved in being of part of the Cursillo movement in Niagara at any point; that have been part of laying the foundations for such an important Gospel initiative in our diocese. Thanks be to God, our Lord Jesus Christ, that has stirred up in each of our hearts a love for our brothers and sisters. A love that calls us to share this good news with others and for the provision of the Cursillo method as one way in which to do this. Recently I have accepted the offer to be a 'member at large' of the Cursillo secretariat. I have done this for several reasons. The prime reason being that I believe it is a wonderful way in which we can live out our 4th day. We can serve Jesus by sharing and being community to others while being accountable to others in grouping. Being

*Cont'd on page 5*

## SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*Cont'd from page 2*

Community. Much of our work has been centered on discerning how best to create one community and to remove any barriers that might tend to separate the team and participants. Team and participants will be housed together. The back teams have been reduced in size; this will allow the team and participants to share in the operation of the weekend. The back team will be introduced on Thursday evening and will eat their meals with the participants. The Palanca chapel will be made available to both team and participants, all of whom will be encouraged to use this chapel for personal prayer and meditation. After the weekend, we will undertake a review to evaluate the changes. The main basis for the evaluation will be whether or not the participants and team were able to hear the voice of God through the events of the weekend.

The next Cursillo Weekend is scheduled for November 27-30, 2008. Marion Binns has agreed to coordinate this weekend. Marion has begun putting together her core team and after her winter vacation will assemble the rest of the team. Team training will begin in September. If you are called and asked to be on team, prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to be part of this new format.

Cursillo is blessed to have three clergy on Secretariat, myself as the Spiritual Director and the Rev. Paul Tinker and the Rev. Deacon St. Clair Cleveland as members at large. This marks the first time in a long while that there has been more than one clergy on Secretariat. Paul and St. Clair are both men of faith and I look forward to learning from them.

I also look forward to renewing acquaintances with some of you at the local meetings and at the 25th anniversary.



### WEEKEND # 43 – NOVEMBER 27-30, 2008

#### MT. MARY IMMACULATE, ANCASTER

Team selection has begun... please up-hold Weekend 43 in prayer as team is selected and candidates approached to attend. Please read over "*What am I saying when I say YES*" on page 7.

Also prayerfully consider who you might invite to attend this weekend.

Applications can be obtain on our website under "Weekends" or you can request applications to be mailed to you by contacting the Weekend Committee Chair, Nancy Harris at [weekends@niagaracursillo.org](mailto:weekends@niagaracursillo.org).

## YOUR 2007-2008 SECRETARIAT

The Chairs of each of the committees always welcome new members; if you are interested on serving on any of the committees, please contact the Committee Chair. *For e-mail contacts to go [www.niagaracursillo.org](http://www.niagaracursillo.org)*

Position	Name
Lay Director	Zandra Pennylegion
Spiritual Director	Rev. Susan Wells
Cont. Ed. Chair	Jan Collinson
Pre-Cursillo Chair	John Pennylegion
Weekend Chair	Nancy Harris
Communications Chair	Nancy Wood
4th Day Chair	<i>vacant</i>
Music Chair	Susan Little
Member-at-Large	Laura McKenzie
Member-at-Large	Richard Turner
Clergy Member	Rev. Deacon St. Clair Cleveland
Clergy Member	Rev. Paul Tinker
Huron Liaison	Jessie Johnstone
Huron Liaison	Marion Bailey
Treasurer	David Eccles
Secretary	Lorrette Shermet

## PRE-CURSILLO

JOHN PENNYLEGION

Our new presentation board was received at the end of September and has already been used at the sesqui-centennial celebration for Huron Diocese in London in October, and was a central part of our exhibit at Niagara Synod on November 19 & 20. In addition, we provided delegates at Synod with material advertising our upcoming 25th anniversary celebration and the weekend in November 2008, and had our Cursillo pamphlet available.

In 2008, we will be working to make presentations at clericus meetings and other diocesan events. We also hope to be able to make presentations at parishes. We will be contacting Synod office to request an opportunity to make a short presentation at the 2008 General Synod on November 8, 2008.

John Pennylegion,  
Pre-Cursillo Chair

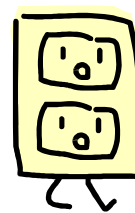
## GONE TO THEIR FIFTH DAY...

Welcomed into the loving arms of their Lord & Saviour

Pauline King  
Diana Rooke  
Olive Duncan

Marilyn DeBeau  
Gordon MacKay  
Aileen Sherrett

## Reconnecting



## With You

Please join us at one of the many small meetings  
being organized in your region  
Local representatives will be calling soon

disciplined by educational days of 'Walk in the Spirit'. And worshipping God and witnessing to the power of God working in our lives with Ultreyas. And I want to do my part in promoting it.

I was struck by one significant fact when I was on my weekend and learned about the initial motivation for Cursillo. That is was to provide a way in which slightly disconnected people of the church could learn the basic principles of discipleship, acquire tools and develop an accountability method for participation in the body of Christ, the church. I was struck by this because I saw it as a vital and yet often missing piece in engaging people into community, a community of disciples.

As you are aware or soon will be aware, there are several "visitations" about to take place regionally throughout the diocese. The purpose of this is to engage with the wider community; those that have good things to say, those that may need the opportunity to re-engage and also those that have reasons why they are no longer active cursillistas. All your views are important and need to be heard, so please consider prayerfully being a part of these upcoming opportunities to share with others your experiences with Cursillo.

I write to you aware that much of what I have to say is old news to most of you, but I write it again to remind you and encourage you onward in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ultreya & God Bless,  
Rev. Paul Tinker

**CURSILLO PRAYER CHAIN**

If you have a prayer request (for a Cursillista or an immediate family member) please e-mail Doreen Langston, the coordinator.

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.

Coordinator:  
Doreen Langston  
hdlangston@sympatico.ca

**REGIONAL ULTREYA SCHEDULE**

**HAMILTON & BURLINGTON:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month (excl. Jul & Aug) at 7:30 pm  
Church of the Nativity, Hamilton  
Contact: Tim Standish standish@mountaincable.net

**OAKVILLE:**

Sunday afternoons as determined, at St. Simon's  
Contact: Lorraine Cassidy neil.cassidy@sympatico.ca

**GUELPH:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month at 7:30 pm, rotates among:  
St. George's, Guelph                      St. Matthias', Guelph  
St. John's, Elora                              St. James, Fergus  
Contact: Brian & Elizabeth Rothwell  
brothw1124@rogers.com

**GEORGETOWN/MILTON:**

1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month (excl. Jul & Aug) at 7:30 pm  
Grace, Milton  
Contact: church office secretary@gracechurchmilton.com

**NIAGARA PENINSULA:**

*(currently inactive)*

**NEXT HURON ULTREYA**

The Huron Diocese is planning a spring Ultreya for Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup> 2008 at Christ Church in Meaford, Ontario. Details will follow soon.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this event.

Ultreya  
Julia Jean-Marie

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**The Will of God never takes you  
where the Grace of God cannot  
protect you.**

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## CONTINUING EDUCATION

JAN COLLINSON

### RENEWAL WEEKEND

**Remember Renew and Rejoice** was held in November and the overall consensus was that it was a wonderful success. Over the course of the weekend between 30 and 37 people attended. The weekend was planned with praise, worship, talks and time for relaxation, talking or doing whatever the Spirit moved us to do.

It was quite amazing on Saturday when we had three speakers who had never met, hadn't talked to one another and did not know what the other speakers were talking about, all with a common theme and each one led into the next perfectly.

Sunday Terry from National Secretariat spoke to us on Fourth Day and provided us with a wealth of information which will be very helpful in the future.

It was a very Spirit-filled weekend. This being the first time for such a weekend some changes need to be made but overall the feeling was that such a weekend should be held again. The suggestion was somewhere between 3 and 5 years.

This is a brief outline of the weekend. I personally would like to thank everyone for their participation, help and prayers.

Ultreya,

Jan Collinson

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When you get to your wit's end...  
you'll find God lives there.

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Notice, we never pray for folks we gossip about, and we never gossip about the folk for whom we pray! For prayer is a great deterrent.

-Leonard Ravenhill

## HURON LIAISON

JESS JOHNSTONE

### HURON NIAGARA DIOCESE GATHERING/ULTREYA

On a beautiful sunny Saturday, September 8, 2007, 89 folk from Niagara & Huron dioceses met at a Cursillo Ultreya to share their Christian journey in worshipping, singing, praying & enjoying the Parish of the Bruce Peninsula's hospitality at St Edmund's, Tobermory.

Both dioceses were well represented from Sarnia, Windsor, St George, Oakville, Ft. Erie, Niagara Falls, Owen Sound, to Meaford. The witness talk was given by Jim Anderson of St Edmund's, Huron & the reply was done by Bill Parker from the Niagara diocese. Ven. Dr. J. Kolohon presided at the Saturday Eucharist & Rev. Carol Langlotz of Burlington, Niagara, officiated at Sunday morning service.

This was truly a strengthening of Faith event of encouragement to all who made their way to the tip of the Bruce Peninsula & shared God's Grace in a blessed setting of water, rocks, sunshine & Christian love. We envision more of these shared Ultreya's within the two dioceses.

Shirley Clifford & I went to the Sesquicentennial Service & Celebration for the Diocese of Huron in London, on October 28<sup>th</sup>. We "manned" the new Cursillo display board which was well received by the crowd.

God's Peace  
Jess Johnstone

### **Did you know ...**

It costs \$1 – \$1.50 per copy to print and mail the Rainbow?

You can help reduce costs by receiving the Rainbow online. We'll send you a 'notification' email as each issue is published (there are no attachments in your email).

You can access the online version from a link in the email, or go to the Niagara Cursillo web site [www.niagaracursillo.org](http://www.niagaracursillo.org) and click on the 'Newsletter' link.

***As team selection begins, please read and pray on "What am I Saying, When I Say Yes".***

***If you are asked to be on team, please consider this again before you give your answer!***

### WHAT AM I SAYING WHEN I SAY 'YES'?

The CoOrdinator of the next Weekend has just called and asked if you will prayerfully consider being on team! As you hit your knees, please give honest consideration to the following questions:

- Have I the time to give for:
  - meetings?
  - training sessions?
  - reading the appropriate manual?
  - writing a talk or prayerfully supporting those doing so?
  - praying for team (prayer palanca should begin as soon as names are known).
- What are my commitments over the training months? Will they drain me of needed enthusiasm and energy so that I will not be able to go to team training and the Weekend rested and at my best to serve God and my brothers & sisters on this Weekend?
- Have I checked my calendar carefully to make sure that I can attend *every* team training?
- Am I able to make the financial commitment? (team members pay for their weekends just like the participants)
- If my spouse is also asked to be on team, can we both make the commitment of time and money? Which of us should accept? (should we establish taking turns?)
- Will my/our commitment allow adequate time for the children?
- Am I planning to sponsor a participant? Will I be able to fulfill my responsibilities as a good sponsor? Will I be able to arrange to have someone get my participant to and from the facility, perform any needed duties for them (look after animals, etc.,) keep in touch with the spouse of the participant, etc.?
- Can I set aside my own agenda with my own preferences, and honour the working of the Spirit through the leadership of the Weekend CoOrdinator?

Now that I have dealt honestly with these issues, I need to take some quiet time to listen to what the Holy Spirit is leading me to do. It is an honour and a privilege to serve on team.

Being on team is not *for* everyone; it is also a servant calling to serve "off team" as part of the Wider Community. Without the prayer support of the Wider Community, the Weekends would not be as strong and as Christ-centered as they are. It is indeed a gift to have time to do the extra palanca of prayer and sacrifice.

***"Give me a discerning heart and spirit Lord. Do you want me to serve You on the team - or off the team? Either way, Lord, I am serving You."***

## I'M SPECIAL

I'm special. In all the world there's no one like me.

Since the beginning of time, there has never been another person like me. Nobody has my smile. Nobody has my eyes, my nose, my hair, my voice. I'm special.

No one can be found who has my handwriting. Nobody anywhere has my tastes – for food or music or art. No one sees things just as I do.

In all of time there's been no one who laughs like me, no one who cries like me. And what makes me laugh and cry will never provoke identical laughter and tears from anybody else, ever.

No one reacts to any situation just as I would react. I'm special.

I'm the only one in all of creation who has my set of abilities. Oh, there will always be somebody who is better at one of the things I'm good at, but no one in the universe can reach the quality of my combination of talents, ideas, abilities and feelings.

Like a room full of musical instruments, some may excel alone but none can match the symphony sound when all are played together. I'm a symphony.

Through all eternity no one will ever look, talk, walk, think or do like me. I'm special. I'm rare.

And in rarity there is great value.

Because of my great rare value, I need not attempt to imitate others. I will accept – yes, celebrate – my differences.

I'm special. And I'm beginning to realize its no accident that I'm special. I'm beginning to see that God made me special for a very special purpose. He must have a job for me that no one else can do as well as I. Out of all the billions of applicants only one is qualified, only one has the combination of what it takes.

That one is me. Because.....I'm special.

*Submitted by Nancy Wood*

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for our

## Silver Celebration

Sunday, April 20, 2008  
at 3:00 pm

Renaissance Banquet Hall  
2289 Barton Street East , Hamilton, ON

Bishop Michael will celebrate  
the Eucharist at 3:30 pm

Dinner at 6 pm

Tickets: \$40 per person  
(incl. Hors D'Oeuvres between Eucharist and dinner;  
4-course dinner & wine on the table)

Tickets can be purchased from any member of Secretariat,  
and will be available at the "Reconnecting with You" meetings being held January through March.

The Rainbow is published four times per year: at the beginning of November, February, May, and August. Deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication. Please send to: Kenneth Simmons, by e-mail [RainbowEditor@niagaracursillo.org](mailto:RainbowEditor@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.*