



DeColores

*The Newsletter of the Edmonton
Anglican Cursillo Community*

*Winter 2008 inching into
2009*

HAPPY NEW YEAR and do we have an extraordinary way for each one of us to start the New Year ... an opportunity to help spiritually enrich someone's life just as our's was when we attended our Cursillo Week-end. How you might ask? Two ways ... **first by inviting someone we know (who has not already attended a week-end) to come to our Cursillo dessert and information night on Friday, January 23rd, 2009, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, 11111 – 57 Avenue in Edmonton.** This is an ideal time for those who may be discerning whether or not to attend a week-end to come and have some of their questions answered and have an amazingly good time.

The second way is to sponsor someone from your church for their week- end. (following are excerpts from CACS Oct. 1999) Perhaps one of the most important things to understand about Cursillo is the sponsoring of candidates. In the Cursillo movement, we must choose people after due thought and prayer have been given to the key environments in which they live. Potential candidates should be well known by the sponsor, and should not be isolated in their environments. They are men and women who love Christ, are maturing in their Christian lives and influence their environments. They are interested in spiritual growth and open to the challenge of the Cursillo method. They have stable personalities, and are baptized. For married couples, it is desirable that both partners attend a Cursillo weekend.

Discernment in choosing a suitable candidate for Cursillo may take time. In the search for potential candidates, we are admonished: **“Before speaking to a person about God, we should speak to God about that person”.** It is important that those who come into the movement come in with their eyes open to the social environments surrounding them; otherwise, they may seek only solutions to their personal needs. Their parish priest should be consulted. We must remember not to use Cursillo to add individuals to the movement, but rather to transform environments. We would hope that the candidates understand the truth of the Gospel, wish to do so, and are able to help others to understand it.

Once a possible candidate is identified, he or she should be approached through personal contact. The sponsor should explain the purpose and process of the entire method, including the weekend, the nature and importance of the Fourth Day, and support available in the Fourth Day through Group Reunions and Ultreya . Sponsors should be in permanent group reunions and attending Ultreya. It is appropriate for sponsors to consider inviting potential candidates to join their group reunion and attend Ultreyas before making a weekend. Of greatest importance is the prospective candidate's understanding of the purpose and method of the Cursillo movement.

A potential candidate must be told something about the talks and about the dynamics of the weekend. Any surprise elements need not be mentioned and the person will probably not ask about them. There are no secrets if they ask. A potential candidate must be told about the costs of the weekend. Funds should be found if a potential candidate cannot afford the weekend. Again, great care should be taken to explain the challenge of the Fourth Day. Remember – invite the person to a Fourth Day experience, rather than a weekend experience!

SPONSOR'S ROLE DURING THE WEEKEND

During the weekend, the sponsor's role should be:

- Offer to help with family, babysitting, pets, etc.
- Arrange to take the participant to the weekend site (Star of the North Retreat Centre)
- In the case of a couple, contact the spouse left at home over the weekend and perhaps invite that person for dinner or other fellowship.

The sponsor must arrange palanca, which is prayer and sacrifice. Support letters as indicators of that prayer and sacrifice may be included. Palanca indicators from family should be picked up if the other members have already made a Cursillo weekend. The sponsor should attend the closing, and bring the spouse if the spouse has already made a weekend, take the candidate (and family) home again and contact the candidate the day following the Cursillo.

SPONSOR'S ROLE IN THE FOURTH DAY

There is a saying in Cursillo: "Once a sponsor, always a sponsor!" Sponsorship lasts longer than the weekend. A commitment of one year is encouraged. The sponsor must help the Cursillista to become part of a Group Reunion. They should accompany the new person to Ultreyas and Servant Community, offering transportation if needed. The sponsor should support the new Cursillista in the Fourth Day with continued prayer.

It is vital for us to recognize how important sponsorship is for the health of the Cursillo movement. It is our task and calling to bring together into the Cursillo movement those Christian leaders who have the capacity to Christianize their environments.

In the Gospel of John 15:16 we read:

"You did not choose me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last."

And in Acts 1:8 we are assured:

"You will receive power ... and you will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth."

ULTREYA Happenings:



What an amazing opportunity we have to be part of the Cursillo Fourth Day family to experience a "Christian Community in Action". To listen to our fellow cursillistas talk about how God is moving in their lives, and not just theirs but those around them. To be encouraged and uplifted. – thanks to David, Ian and Barb and Evelyn for their words of encouragement and inspiration.



I want to share an excerpt from the following article from the [National Episcopal Cursillo – The 4th Day Magazine, Fall 2008 issue – why I Like Ultreyas](#)

“I attended small groupings with the people of my parish and a monthly Ultreya. I realized that the Ultreya was very much like a weekend. People from other churches attended the Ultreyas, some I knew, and some I would get to know. We had Praise and Worship time, reflected on Piety, Study and Action in small groups (like table discussions during the weekend), and listened to a Witness Talk by a lay person. A member of the clergy gave an ECHO of the witness talk linking the Word of God to the Action to bring Christ into the world. Good fellowship with food followed. It was like a – MINI Weekend – for an hour. An Ultreya has all the elements of a Weekend: music, talks, grouping, prayer, lay ministers, clergy, food and, most important, no distractions from the Presence of God! We are reminded that we *all* have been called together as *one body*, lay and clergy, in unity to carry out the common goal to minister and bring the Love of Christ Jesus into the world in which we live.

I personally look forward to the monthly Ultreya. This is where I can really praise God and be reminded of how much he wants a personal relationship with me. After all, He has called me by name, and He knows me far better than I know Him. The joy that I have I get from serving Him. The Witness Talk and the ECHO from Clergy help to assure me that we are carrying out our Baptismal Vows by walking in the footsteps of Jesus! We are at this time one body with a common goal to serve one God in the world in which we live. The making of new friends happens through the fellowship, encouraging, sharing and holding each other up in prayer.

It is very easy to forget these things if you are not reminded by the fellowship that an Ultreya provides. We are many churches but *One Body serving One God. Ultreya!*” [THE ABRAZO Newsletter of the Maryland Episcopal Cursillo by Fran Nicholls, Western Maryland Area Representative](#)



Prayer Requests

Please keep these upcoming Canadian Weekends in your prayers:

<u>Ottawa</u> Men: 5 – 9 March 2009 Women: 12 – 15 November 2009	<u>Calgary</u> Mens: 23 – 26 April 2009 Womens: 30 April – 3 May 2009
<u>Saskatoon</u> Men: 5- 8 March 2009 Women: 12-15 March 2009	<u>Hay River</u> Co-ed weekend tentatively set for March 2009
<u>Vancouver Island</u> Men: May 7 to 10, 2009 Women: May 21 to 24, 2009	

It is never too early to start praying for those who may be thinking of attending a Cursillo weekend. Also, I encourage you to prayerfully consider anyone whom you might want to approach about being a candidate for the upcoming weekends. The application forms are available on our website or through your parish's. Please have all three forms completed and sent in to the Synod Office.

Pray for Upcoming Cursillo Events:

Ultreya's are scheduled for the third Friday of each month at St. Timothy's at 7:30 p.m.

April 23 – 26, 2009 Men's Weekend #20
Lay Director: Dale Purkis

April 30 – May 3, 2009 Women's Weekend #20
Lay Director: Debbie Phillipchuk

Though not an official Ultreya, **Drayton Valley** holds floating potluck group reunions on the first Friday of the month at a member's home. For more information call Bob Mills at 727-4453 or email him at catkabob@telus.net.

If you are aware of any other events or announcements for the Cursillo Community, please contact Jenny Stuart: laydirector@edmontoncursillo.ca.

Please keep your Secretariat in your prayers.

Vacant Secretariat Position: Servant Community Chair

This position has been vacant since last June 2007. If you are interested in filling this position, or know of someone who might be interested, please contact any member of Secretariat. This position is responsible for arranging educational events for our Cursillo Community. There is the possibility of working with the Calgary Secretariat to plan a special event for the fall of next year. It is vital that our Community continues to "study" and the Servant Community Chairperson provides opportunities to the entire Community to do so together. Further details are available from any member of Secretariat: <http://www.edmontoncursillo.ca/contact.htm>. Please continue to pray for the successful manning of the Servant Community position.

Watch for it, it's coming ... a Cursillo Learner's Workshop (CLW) re-scheduled to take place in October 2009. This event will help people understand why we do a Cursillo Weekend, as well as being a good teaching tool for Secretariat members and Weekend team members. Watch this spot for more information on this exciting upcoming opportunity.

What's new ... Do you have any gently used, or new Christian Books. As a fundraiser, we are going to have a **book table** at our monthly Ultreya's from which books will be sold, joyfully read and then, hopefully, returned to go through the process again. I know it's time for me to go through my book shelves, how about you?

Mark your calendars: **Ultreya's:** Fri. January 16th; Fri. February 20th; Fri. March 20th;
Fri. April 17th (Ultreya Work bee)
Friday, May 15th our welcoming Ultreya (pot luck supper)

Dessert and Info Night January 23rd, 2009 – 7–9 pm at St. John the Evangelist
Commissioning Service February 8th, 2009 - 7:00 p.m. at St. Timothy's
Moonlight Service April 19th, 2009 at St. Timothy's

The Edmonton Anglican Cursillo Community's website can be found at:
www.edmontoncursillo.ca

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