

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**EDMONTON ANGLICAN CURSILLO**  
**SEPTEMBER 20, 2019**

**Lay Director's Report - David Holehouse:**

Dear Cursillistas and all friends of the Cursillo movement. The members of Secretariat take pleasure in presenting this report with some highlights of the year now ending.

Our mission is to reach out to those who wish to join our pilgrimage walk with Christ, who share our passion for Christian leadership, and who desire to share the abundant life and love of a close and caring Christian community. We sum up this vocation with the words: "Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ."

We did something new in 2018, in the form of a Renewal Weekend, which was an opportunity for those who have previously been to Cursillo to come back and refresh their walk with Christ and their own leadership energies. The conference team and palanca team included experienced Cursillistas from across the West, as well as the very welcome participation of some enthusiastic supporters who joined us from the national and provincial Canadian Anglican Cursillo level. We learned, prayed, sang, conversed and communed with 19 returning Cursillistas. My sense was that many found themselves re-energized for Cursillo and Christian leadership.

2019 has seen the formation of another strong team to present this year's Cursillo Weekend, October 18-20. Secretariat presented an initial training morning and overview on September 14, and the team is now in full swing with meetings to plan this year's Weekend. The Holy Spirit has brought us a full team of loving servants for Christ, and the same spirit has moved in the hearts of a number of registrants already.

Please pray for the teams, for the candidates, for sponsors, and for your own role in maintaining the life and spirit of Cursillo in our diocese. Your palanca and presence will mean so much. Key dates are as follows:

<b>October 11</b>	<b>Workbee Ultreya, St Tim's</b>
<b>October 6</b>	<b>Moonlight and Team Commissioning Service, St Tim's</b>
<b>October 18-20</b>	<b>Palanca Chapel open all Weekend, Star of the North</b>
	<b>Clausura service Sunday afternoon</b>
<b>November 22</b>	<b>Welcome Eucharist and Potluck, St Tim's</b>

Another exciting development in 2019 has been the formation of an energetic and creative team, under the leadership of Jenny Stuart, to plan next year's 30th Anniversary of Cursillo in our diocese. **Save the date! June 19-20, 2020.** Plans are under construction, but early thoughts are that this will be a Friday night and Saturday event at King's College (with

accommodation for those needing it), filled with worship, witness and an excellent opportunity to reconnect with those people who have so enriched our lives over the past decades.

All in all, our Cursillo movement has continued to be a lever for Christian development and leadership in the diocese. Numerous positions on Secretariat become vacant as of now, and my prayer is that the Spirit will move in all who read this and cause them to offer a portion of their time and talent to keeping our movement alive for another 30 years. I would love to hear from you! 780-499-0255.

My deepest thanks to all who have guided Secretariat over the past year (and in some cases, numerous prior years too!):

Past Lay Director	Brian Richardson
Spiritual Director	Rev. Laureta Blondin
Treasurer/Registrar	Barb Lingelbach
Secretary	Vacant
Servant Community Chair	Vacant
Communications Chair	Gen Ashwell
4th Day Chair	Janie Seguin
Pre-Cursillo Chair	Elaine Dickie
Palanca Chair	Joyce Farion

### **Spiritual Director's Report -- Rev. Laureta Blondin**

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus, our Lord,

First, I want to say "thank you" for the opportunity to serve as the Spiritual Director for the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton Secretariat. It is my responsibility to pray regularly for the leaders of the Secretariat Board and annual weekend team leaders, attend all Secretariat Board meetings and actively participate in our monthly Ultreya gatherings.

During this past year, I have been overjoyed to visit and pray with Cursillistas throughout the diocese. I was also encouraged when Secretariat took the bold step to take a couple of our monthly Ultreya gatherings out to two rural parishes – St. Mary the Virgin – Vegreville in May and the Bishop's Teaching Day in June at St. George in Devon. My deepest gratitude to both the parishes for their warm welcome and to the many Cursillistas who travelled to one or both rural towns for the Saturday morning events. I know that for some of you, you travelled more than 200 kilometres – one way – to be present. I am encouraged not only by your faithfulness but your willingness to carry the light of Christ into the world as you visited these parishes.

That willingness also reminds me of Jesus. Although Jesus valued his time with his disciples and used it for support and refreshment as well as a teaching time for them, he spent much of his time among strangers. That is when we see Jesus "loving the one he was with" (remember the woman at the well, Nicodemus, the young man lowered through the roof for healing, Jarius and his daughter and all those individuals who came to be healed and received healing in a few

moments of time with Jesus). Jesus gave each person his attention, acceptance and full regard in the moment of contact. Going out to visit people in the rural parishes was our opportunity to spend time among strangers sharing the joy of the Gospel. That said, one of my personal regrets is that I did not attend any of the Ultreyas at Emmanuel in Gibbons. That parish's continued commitment to regularly host Ultreyas north of Edmonton has been extraordinary. Therefore, I pledge to make this right in the coming year: I will visit Gibbons this year.

Of course, I think two of the great highlights of this past year were our Renewal Weekend that we held last year and our Annual Ice Cream Social this year. And while I was unable to enjoy the fellowship time of the last day of the Renewal Weekend, I was encouraged by the many people that "came back" to be refreshed in their own spiritual journey with Jesus as well as reconnect with other committed Cursillistas in songs, prayers and worship. To that end, I am certainly looking forward to the 30th Anniversary of Cursillo in our diocese when we will have another opportunity to gather for a "refreshment time" in our journey. The other highlight of course was our annual Ice Cream Social where we combined our summer social with an opportunity to serve a barbeque dinner with an ice cream dessert to 150 neighbours of Christ Church in downtown Edmonton. Thank you to the many Cursillistas who came out to be our Lord's hands and feet in this inner-city parish.

My dearest friends, Cursillo has been an important part of my life and ministry since the Spring of 1992 when I made my Cursillo as a lay person. I look forward to learning how together we can inspire and prepare the next generation for Christian leadership and influence all environments with the Gospel. Please drop me a note or give me a call, if there is anything that I can do to assist you and our local secretariat better serve God through this important ministry.

The Peace of Christ be with you & De Colores!

#### **4th Day - Janie Seguin**

Since our last AGM in September 2018, we have gathered the community for nine monthly events ranging from reunions with guest speaker, prayer and song, to a teaching day with Bishop Jane, to our August ice cream social that was piggy-backed on our opportunity to serve a BBQ meal to 150 neighbours of Christ Church in downtown Edmonton.

This idea of moving to other churches around Edmonton and the diocese is part of Secretariat's effort this past year to take Cursillo "to a neighbourhood near you," rather than expecting Cursillistas to always come to our traditional home at St Timothy's in south Edmonton.

Other examples were the well attended Ultreya in Vegreville in May, with speakers Deb and Jim Philipchuk from St Albert and an awesome lunch hosted by the parish of St Mary's. Also the Bishop's teaching day, held at Devon parish church.

We want to also recognize the Cursillo community at Emanuel Gibbons, which has continued to host monthly Ultreyas in that community for the many who cannot always travel to Edmonton.

Ultreyas revolved around a witness talk revealing how a person has been moved to work for God in the world, as well as a large group reunion, or prayer among the whole gathering.

### **Communication - Gen Ashwell**

Regular articles have been placed in the Anglican Messenger, which reaches parishioners across the diocese. In addition, work is undertaken to keep the website [www.edmontoncursilo.ca](http://www.edmontoncursilo.ca) current, and to post notices of events on our facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/edmontoncursillo>. It is important to bookmark this specific Facebook page, as there is another page out there that was set up by another entity and is not maintained. We use Mailchimp as well to broadcast messages directly to all Cursillistas on our roster - about 300.

We include our messages and notices in the weekly Synod Scene email distributed by the diocese to parishioners.

Finally, we take advantage of diocesan opportunities to make the presence of Cursillo known. For example, at one of the Clergy Retreats in 2019, and at the Diocesan Synod coming up on October 4.

### **Pre-Cursillo - Elaine Dickie**

Pre-Cursillo refers to the work done to pray about the upcoming Weekend and its potential candidates, and to ensure that as many Christians as possible know they have an invitation to register for their own Weekend experience.

Members of Secretariat and the Weekend team have been making announcements to their congregations, and the Lay Director has visited area churches on a regular basis to talk about Cursillo after worship time, and to deliver posters, brochures and other information.

### **Palanca - Joyce Farion**

Numerous Palanca letters of blessing were sent out all over the world wherever Cursillo retreats are held, and it has been an amazing blessing to know that our own Weekends are being prayed for by others throughout the world and our own community.

The highlight of 20218 was serving as Lay Leader of the Palanca Chapel during the Renewal Weekend at Star of the North. We had a wonderful team and thanks go to the Rev. Sandra Arbeau, Joanie, Gen and Linda for all their prayers and devoted commitment to this very important role.

### **Treasurer and Registrar - Barb Lingelbach**

I am in my 4th year as the Treasurer for the Edmonton Diocese Cursillo Secretariat. We are finishing the year in good fiscal shape.

The structure of the renewal weekend in November 2018 was different from our normal weekends as the participants were asked to cover the cost of the weekend, rather than make a tax-deductible donation for the future work of Cursillo in our diocese. However we had a shortfall which created a draw on our reserves. The total weekend revenue in 2018 was \$5,390.70, while the cost was \$7,966.00. The cost represents all expenses that were submitted. Please note many of our members do not submit receipts and the cost of their donation is known only to them and our Lord Jesus.

There are plans to hold a 30-year anniversary celebration of our Edmonton Cursillo movement in June next year, and our intent is that this event will be priced to be self-funding.

Cursillo runs differently than most organizations. All the costs of the upcoming 2019 weekend will be fully paid from our current balances. All donations received from this point forward must be clearly marked as General Giving and will be issued a Tax Donation Receipt. I have attached a donation form to this report. You can also designate a portion of your weekly giving through your regular church donation form. Please see me if you have any questions.

I have attached donation and expense forms to this report and ask that they be used by anyone who either donates or has expenses for Cursillo.