

**ANGLICAN CURSILLO OF EDMONTON**  
**ANNUAL REPORT BY SECRETARIAT**  
**SEPTEMBER 24, 2021**

**Lay Director's Report:**

What a joyful turn-around year we have experienced, surprised by the Spirit with a renewal of energy, community connection and love for God. I say this recalling the previous 12 months in 2020, a time of great uncertainty and near-dormancy of our movement due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thanks to the technical skills of our Spiritual Director, the Rev. Laureta Blondin, we launched monthly Ultreyas on the Zoom platform starting in February 2021. These were, to my mind, a great success, thanks also to the gifts of our 4<sup>th</sup> Day Chair and Communications Chair. We were blessed with excellent musical leadership by the Rev. Barry Rose and his guitar. Barry also led a short service of Evening Prayer after each Ultreya, offering a perfect ending to our day and time together. We heard from a diverse and inspirational succession of Witness Speakers and Clergy Responders, and made time for plenty of prayer and community conversation. Attendance was greater than many times when we met in-person, due to the convenience and effectiveness of Zoom. Participants joined us from all parts of the diocese, as well as from sister movements in Ontario and Newfoundland. It may be that we could continue with Zoom for our Ultreyas, or at least engineer a blend of in-person and Zoomed or Streamed events.

The year was a time of great revelation concerning the treatment of First Peoples and their children who were taken, and even buried, at residential schools. Our movement shared the grief of the nation and sought ways to go beyond apologies and walk in new relationship with those who have suffered so much. Fred Matthews, a Metis pastor at the Anglican Church at Frog Lake, moved our hearts with his talk at our Ultreya in June. We knew right then we needed to learn more from Fred, and worked with the diocese to arrange a bus and a cavalcade of vehicles to join him at the Frog Lake National Historic Monument in August, and afterwards at the community pow-wow. We learned from elder Herb Stanley, and from the gracious, beautiful people who welcomed us into their community.

Corinna Kubos went on to arrange an Ultreya and picnic in Fort Saskatchewan in August, when Fred joined us again to take a walk and explore the properties and use of medicinal plants along the river's edge.

Corinna and I participated in the national Cursillo conference that takes place every three years. This was a great time to hear what other Cursillo leaders are doing, and how God still has big plans for this movement in Canada. Some strategic priorities emerged at the national level that could be very useful to us. I was personally excited to hear of Ontario's approach to affirming relationship with the parishes, and hope we can use some of their tools in our own work.

We are not presenting a full financial report this year, as there have been no significant expenses or revenues with the abeyance of in-person Ultreyas and Weekends. However, it is just awesome that we had a great response to our invitation for members to Feed The Rooster online, through the diocesan donations site. Our bank balance has actually increased by \$949.00 since January 2021, thanks to these online donations. The total now stands at \$18,300.

Members may give \$5 a month, or \$60 a year, by simply clicking on the Donate button at [edmontonanglican.ca](http://edmontonanglican.ca) and choosing Cursillo as the recipient. We hope this generosity will continue!

One hugely significant development this year has been the election of the Rt. Rev. Steve London as 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Edmonton in August. Steve was a candidate on our last Weekend in 2019 and has shown considerable appreciation for the movement's objectives and outcomes. Secretariat set up a 24-hour prayer vigil for the hours leading up to Steve's consecration, with all of the time slots taken up in short order by about 40 clergy and lay people around the diocese. We also felt the nudging to go to Steve's house at the crack of dawn on the day of his consecration to wake the dawn with the Mananita.

I owe a deep debt of gratitude to my fellow Secretariat members who hung in through the early days of the pandemic, and those who have come forward since to join the team. The Rev. Laureta Blondin as Spiritual Director, Corinna Kubos as 4<sup>th</sup> Day Chair, Janie Seguin as Communications Chair, and Kathy Hancock as Palanca Chair. With flowers and hugs we thanked Barb Lingelbach for her untold years of dedication to Cursillo, as Registrar/Treasurer and all-around willing helper. We were delighted and grateful when a number of Cursillistas stepped

forward to fill vacant roles on Secretariat. Judy Purkis offered to take the role of Secretary-Registrar and Treasurer. Betty Tyszkiewicz came forward to be Pre-Cursillo Chair, and the Rev. Sandra Arbeau will fill a new position as Parish Liaison. Sandra will play a lead role in helping us build relationship and trust with the parishes of the diocese. Rita Stagman joins Secretariat as 4<sup>th</sup> Day Chair.

And something I never expected – someone came forward and said they would like to take on the role of Lay Director, allowing me to make the long-overdue move to become Past Lay Director. This person is Corinna Kubos, and I salute her love for God, her energy for Cursillo, and her boundless ability to come up with new and exciting ideas for our community. I pray she will enjoy the support of all the membership as she leads us through this ever-changing, but always spirit-filled, landscape.

Wishing you all God's many blessings, and with thanks for your support to me these past few years. It has been my honour and pleasure.

*David Holehouse*

### **Spiritual Director's Report:**

Rather than repeating much of the same information reported by my esteemed friend, David Holehouse, I will simply offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the hard work done by David these past few years and a prayer of welcome to his successor, Corinna Kubos and the new Secretariat members:

Gracious God, we give You thanks for the past leadership and support of your faithful servant, David. He generously donated to us his most precious things: his time and talent. And we are sincerely grateful for all his hard work and guidance as the Lay Director on Secretariat for our Cursillo community. As David steps down from this important role of sharing the Gospel with others, give him a sense of peace that he accomplished much. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord, our Great Shepherd, You give wisdom generously to those who ask. Empower your servant, Corinna and all the members of our Secretariat with a wisdom that comes from You and not earthly wisdom as they boldly step into their new roles on Secretariat. Direct them in your ways, Lord, even as they bring

new insights and ideas to their roles, also help them to approach any problems with clarity and creativity. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen**.

*The Rev. Laureta Blondin.*