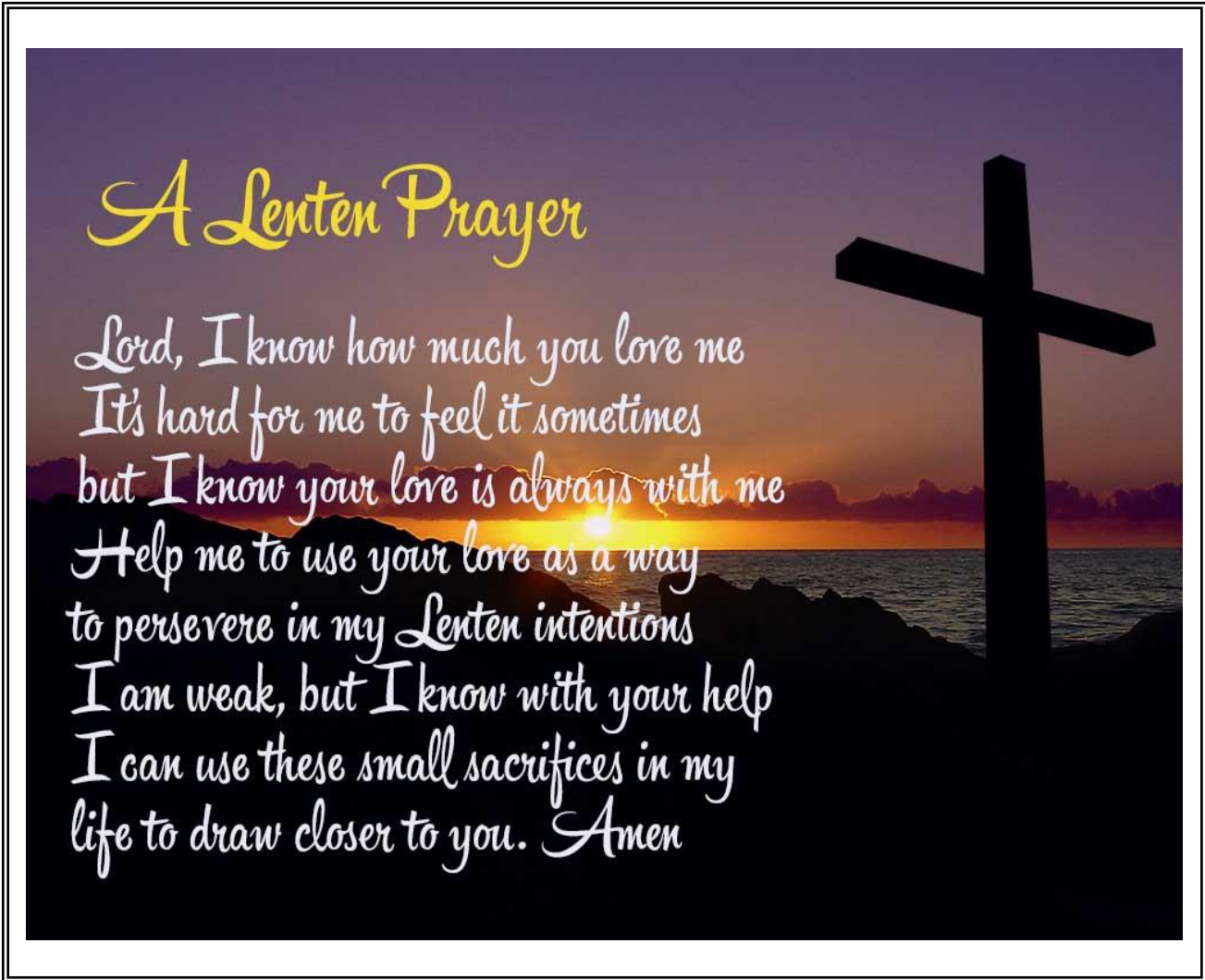


Fully Alive



CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC CURSILLOS, NATIONAL SECRETARIAT
ENGLISH LANGUAGE



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OFFICERS' CORNER

Reino Pitkanen, CCCC Chair

Happy and Blessed New Year everyone! The one guaranteed constant in our lives is change; every new year brings its own changes. We all age and have life events like births, deaths, marriages, new jobs, retirement, new homes, vacations, illnesses, etc. The CCCC is also going through change. We have had to start using video conferencing more often to hold meetings, and we now have a very successful National School of Leaders on Zoom. The pandemic caused many changes; some have had a longer-term effect than we would wish for.

We have all missed the Annual CCCC Conference,

where many Cursillistas from across Canada would get together to share Cursillo, reconnect with old friends and make new

friends. This conference also provided the opportunity for those in the Officers' group to get to know Cursillistas who have developed an understanding of the Cursillo method and mentality. These Cursillistas are potential leaders for the movement and potential future Officers of the CCCC.

The Officers of the CCCC are the liaison between the regions and the CCCC, bringing valuable information in both directions. The CCCC gets a better understanding of what the dioceses in each region are doing and where they may want resources to help the growth of their movements. The diocesan movements

can share their strengths and areas of concern and get support from the CCCC if they wish. There is also the opportunity to develop unity across our great country in the true spirit of friendship that is the foundation of our movement.

Now to the heart of this message. We need leaders. We need Cursillistas to step up and fill the leadership roles in the Diocesan movements, at the regional level, and in the Officers' Group. Cursillo cannot continue without leaders, and the same people cannot continue their roles indefinitely. For a healthy functioning Cursillo movement, new leaders are required.



Why not? What is holding you back? I joined our local Secretariat in my second year as a Cursillista. In my third year, I became Lay

Director because no one else would step up, and I could not accept that Cursillo should fade away in our diocese. This was not an easy decision, nor was it something I had aspired to do. Fear of failure and inadequacy in the task were my big reasons not to step up. The Lord speaks through people, and a wise old Cursillista told me, "The Lord does not always call the qualified, but He always qualifies the ones He calls". The Lord always keeps His promises, and when I started attending Annual Conferences and working with the CCCC to find solutions to our local concerns, it became apparent that my fears of assuming the leadership role were groundless.

I was even blessed with the opportunity to travel to Mallorca, where Cursillo began, not once but twice, and I was immersed in Cursillo as originally envisioned by its founder. The sincerity of the friends we made there and their conviction to follow the fundamental charism were simply an ingrained part of their mentality.

All I required was faith, and God took care of the rest. The same process occurred when I was asked to be a Regional Officer and later the Chair of the Officers' Group. In both instances, God provided all I needed, the people and resources, to perform the duties of the roles I accepted.

It is truly that simple. If you feel God is calling you to do more in Cursillo, He will provide all the resources for your success in any role you choose. The Diocesan Secretariat members, the Regional Officers, the CCCC and your Spiritual Advisors are all there to help. Conferences are an excellent resource, and the CCCC is planning to resume annual conferences this June.

Cursillo is an effective tool for evangelizing and living out our baptismal calling. Through friendship, we bring Christ's unconditional love to our troubled world. In Cursillo, we become the light on the hill, a beacon for others to follow.



Take some time in prayer and discernment. Listen to God's quiet voice. Is it you he is calling? One of my favourite hymns is "Here I Am Lord", so how could I refuse to answer when He called? How about you?

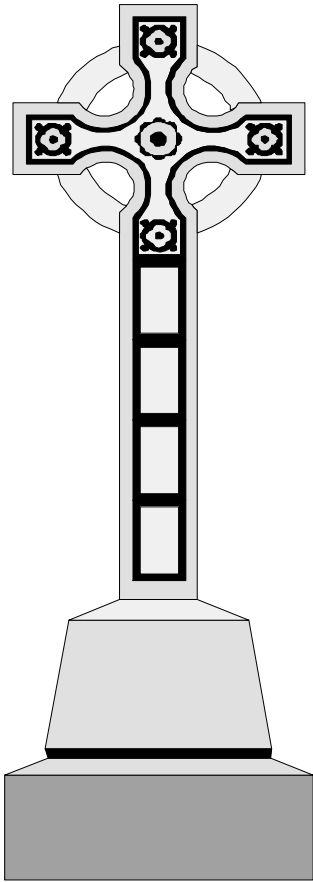
Reino Pitkanen
CCCC Chair

CURSILLO PRAYER LINE



Let us help one another lighten our burdens and what better way than to join regularly in prayer for one another. The Cursillo prayer line has been established especially for this and we want to encourage the greatest number of people to benefit from it. When we have occasions to pray in gratitude for the many blessings, we gladly share this and multiply our joy. We want to also care for one another through all occasions of life, to erase worry, lighten the burden, be a presence in hardship, to share with God's people who are in need. As a community, united, we want to look ahead in faith, and unwavering trust that God is indeed by our side in every battle, and we are strengthened by the faith and confidence of all his people.

Become a member of the prayer line by contacting Yvonne, cursilloprayerline@gmail.com



MATTERS SPIRITUAL

To Live Cursillo is to live the Gospel taught by the Catholic Church Presented by Fr. Jacob Carlin, July 2023

Good morning, my name is Fr. Jacob Carlin; I am a priest for the Diocese of Wichita in Kansas. I have been ordained for six years, and I currently serve as the priest assistant to Bishop Kemme. However, more directly related, I serve as the spiritual advisor for the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Wichita in English and Spanish. I am honoured to speak to you today and to promote the authentic living out of the Cursillo movement. I am passionate about this topic because I have witnessed how the Cursillo movement has made an incredible positive impact on myself and many people in the Diocese of Wichita in helping them to live out the Gospel message taught by the Catholic Church. In fact, the purpose of my talk is to illustrate that the living out of the Cursillo movement is, in fact, to live out the Gospel.

I first encountered the Cursillo movement in a more specific way at my first parish assignment, St. Patrick in Wichita. When I arrived, I had a deep desire to know the people. I wanted to be part of their lives; I wanted to know about who they were, what motivated them, what types of challenges were they facing in their lives? All these questions were important, but most of all I had a desire to know: What has motivated you to live out your life of faith so authentically? I was intrigued by the fact that as I asked so many people to give testimony for their faith, repeatedly both in the English and Spanish speaking communities, the Cursillo movement had a huge impact on their faith life. I was impressed and I thought to myself, what is it about this movement? I had lived the Cursillo 3 day weekend a year before as a transitional deacon, and I had thoroughly enjoyed my experience, but I was intrigued to know that the influence of the Cursillo movement had spread farther in the diocese of Wichita than I had imagined. So, I started to investigate. Little did I know that a simple investigation would lead to me being the spiritual advisor. Maybe it was a trick, I think it was all part of God's plan.

I had two great mentors in the Cursillo Movement, a priest by the name of Fr. Jerry Beat, and a layman by the name of Manuel Esperza, may they both rest in peace. These men helped me to develop an authentic knowledge of the movement that avoided any pitfalls or misinterpretation of the purpose of the Cursillo movement. The specific PURPOSE of

Cursillo, the Manual tells us, is to save souls and structure Christianity in the world. I was drawn to this simple, yet profound mission. How basic and straightforward. We seek to save souls. However, if we are to save souls, we have found it that a particular structure or methodology can be helpful. As I studied I learned more about the structure of the Cursillo movement and the methods that it employs to lead souls to Christ. Looking at this structure and methodology, I see the Gospel in every aspect and would like to share my insights into why each part of the structure is important to living out the Catholic Faith and the Gospel mandate to:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold I am with you always, to the close of the age”. This is the heart of the Gospel, and this is the mission of our movement. I entrust these words to our patron, St. Paul, the great evangelizer, and proclaimer of the Gospel. Make a friend, be a friend, make your friend a friend of Christ. Although this phrase can feel somewhat stereotypical or like an overused phrase for us, I have become convinced that this simple saying can help us to authentically live the Gospel. Jesus came to the world, and the first thing that he did was to befriend people. By his captivating personality and his intentionality in all things, he desired to cultivate authentic friendship with people. Jesus wanted followers, but more than that he wanted friends. “I no longer call you slaves, but friends.” Jesus modelled for us this method of friendship. Befriending people in all types of environments whether

they were fisherman, tax collectors, Pharisees, rich, poor, or anything in between. Then, he would be a friend to them. He would do what was in his power to help them in their difficult situations. I think that we think of Jesus’ relationships with his disciples to be clear cut and perfect, but the reality is that these relationships would have been difficult and messy. No friendship is straight forward. But, we can’t simply make friends, we have to be willing to go the extra mile and be a friend. This means investing in the well-being of another person. Taking interest in their lives and supporting them.

We see how he would heal those who were sick, even save the party at the Wedding of Cana, how he would be patient with his disciples when they lost their way. How he would forgive them and help them to see the right way. He was never harsh or judgmental, but he helped people to raise their standards and to live upright and holy lives. In that cultivating of friendship, he naturally brought souls to God. I think we often think that if we say the right thing, if we prepare the right argument, if we give the best talk, etc. then we will convince people to live out

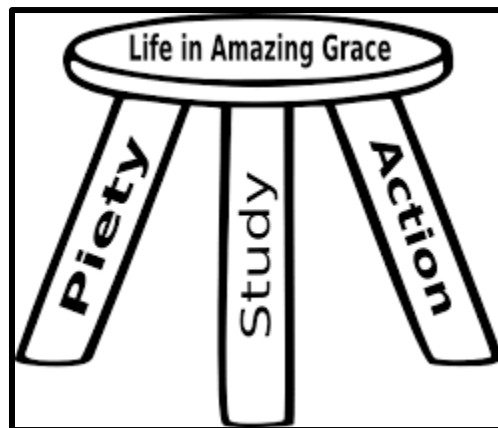
the Gospel. However, I think our living out of true Christian charity, giving without counting the cost, loving when it is hard, and bringing hope and encouragement to places is the real way to win souls for Christ. However simple this methodology may sound, it is actually quite complex and difficult. If it were easy, the whole world would be doing it. We would not have any inactive Cursillistas, and we wouldn’t have to keep learning more and more. These national encounters would not even be necessary because everyone would already



have it down. But no, we make mistakes sometimes, we need help, we need new and fresh ideas, we need companions on the journey, and we need grace most of all. In order to live out this methodology is to live out the Gospel mandate to make disciples. If we are to do that, we need strong supports. The Cursillo movement, as we know, proposes to us three pillars of the tripod of Christian life, and they are so utterly necessary for each of us.

Piety is the first of the pillars. I purposely talk about this one first because the life of piety is at the heart of the Christian life. It is what keeps us in friendship with God, it is what unites us to him. We purposely use the word piety because it implies an important point. The life of piety consists of the sacraments and personal prayer. The sacraments are the life blood of the Church. They are a sure and certain fount for the grace of God to be active in our lives. They are where we encounter the living God. Where he

becomes present to us body, blood, soul, and divinity in the Eucharist. They are where we experience his unconditional love and forgiveness in confession. These are certainly irreplaceable, essential aspects of the Christian life. However, we can regularly participate in the sacraments and still struggle to live out the Christian life. I am convinced this is true when we lack a life of personal prayer. My personal prayer is where I spend time reflecting, pondering, meditating, evaluating. It is there where the presence of God is and where the sacraments can take root in my life. The imitation of Christ or lack thereof, becomes more evident when I spend time in his loving presence. So,



these sacraments and devotions both play an integral role in the spiritual life, they help to strengthen me, to challenge me, to keep me alert and aware to my living out of the Christian life. They help me to be in right relationship with God and to avoid becoming self-reliant. You may know that the most popular selling genre of literature right now in the United States is self-help. We have become convinced that if we try harder, and persevere, we will eventually find success. But the Christian realizes and admits our complete and utter dependence on God. His presence in our lives is irreplaceable, and when we try to replace it we constantly hit the obstacles to the life of grace be they the flesh, the world, or the devil. This pillar of the Christian life helps us

first and foremost to be a friend with Christ. If I am not a friend of Christ, how can I possibly bring others to him?

This life of prayer impels me, pushing me on towards living a life of Christian action. Let us recall the Gospel mandate that I shared with you in my opening remarks. It is not the Gospel suggestion or

challenge. It is a mandate. This message that we have, the light in the darkness, the hope for the hopeless, the rest for the weary, is meant to be shared. No one who has a lamp hides it under the bushel basket. It is meant to be proclaimed from the rooftops. It is a privilege to be invited into the mission of Christ who seeks to bring all souls to eternal life. This action is certainly a key aspect of the Cursillo movement. Although palanca is the most powerful tool in the Cursillo movement, I cannot simply pray someone into the Christian life. We see Jesus model this action for us. We see that he is intentional and deliberate about offering personal invitations to his followers.

Although many catch wind of his efforts and are intrigued and interested in his message and works, his primary form of drawing others to himself is individually. We know this to be important for our Cursillo methodology, in this we imitate the Gospel. This is why we as a Cursillo movement, avoid impersonal things like announcements after Mass or publishing in parish bulletins especially if they are to the detriment of me reaching out to someone and saying, "I thought of you, we miss you, or I thought of you, might you be interested in living the Cursillo weekend." This action is so important to "being a friend." It is by my action that I give credence to my words. When I tell someone I love them and care about them, it is important that my actions portray the same message. This action brings people into deeper relationship with us and then allows us to help lead and guide them to deeper relationship with God. I would like to note here that our action should always be intentional, deliberate, and determined, but it should not be pushy or overbearing. This message of the Gospel is meant to be a beautiful thing that invites people to something more meaningful and fulfilling. It is not meant to be something that makes them feel like they are forced into it or told they are bad if they do not.

Study is perhaps the most forgotten of the pillars of the Cursillo movement. Maybe I am the only one but when I do my group reunion or grouping at the Ultreya, School of Leaders, or Secretariat, I always find my most often admitted shortcoming is in the area of study. It seems that it is no big deal, but it is not called a pillar for nothing. See, the living out of the Christian life is difficult. If I am going to learn how to cultivate a more authentic life of prayer, and if I am to persevere in my action in the apostolate, it is important to study. This study helps me to grow continually. Without this, our life of prayer or action can become stagnant. I

wonder why my methods and routines are no longer serving the purpose they once fulfilled, but I haven't tried or learned anything new in who knows how long. The pillar of study informs, illuminates, strengthens, and challenges the pillars of prayer and action. No stage of life is the same. Some things that worked for me before will not work for my living out of the Christian life later. The circumstances of life change, my environment takes a shift, outside factors influence me, or obstacles present themselves. Study helps us to be ready to overcome these things, helps us to persevere through challenges and to adapt when necessary. This rings true as well for trying to bring others to Christ. No two people are the same and no environment is exactly like another. One method of evangelizing that worked with one individual may not work with another. Study can often be neglected or forgotten but I think that this causes us to be stagnant, fall into "well that is how we have always done it," and hampers our progress in the Christian life.

I don't claim this to be an exhaustive overview of these important pillars, but I want them to serve as a reminder of the importance of each of these three pillars of the Christian life. Both individually and as a whole being interrelated. These are the supports that hold up our particular methodology of making a friend, being a friend, and making our friend a friend of Christ.

Group Reunion- The group reunion is so important in the Cursillo movement that I cannot iterate strongly enough how essential it is. Eduardo Bonin says that the purpose or goal of the three-day weekend is to incorporate people into a group reunion. It is so important that we make time for this important endeavour and take it seriously. I could get into all the important aspects of a

group reunion, but I want to mostly focus on how it relates to the Gospel. When Jesus sends out the seventy-two disciples to go and proclaim the Gospel, he tells them to take nothing with them. No money bag, no sandals, no extra tunic. However, he does not send them alone, he sends them out two by two. This Christian life is not lived in isolation it is lived in community. When I have others around me not only do I imitate the life and love of the Trinity, but it has practical benefits. When I have another person around, they can often share new insights or perspectives, they can challenge me even where I am not aware that I need to change, they can support me when I feel weak, and encourage me when I feel down. This type of trusted support is irreplaceable, and it helps us to be held accountable. When I go to my group reunion, I don't want to tell them time and time again that my prayer life is failing, or that I haven't taken any apostolic action, or that I haven't studied so as to grow. This type of group helps me to take the initiative, to be a bit more motivated, to take the pillars more seriously. Man is not an Island.

God made us and created us for community, it is so important to live it in this tight knit, trustworthy group. On a personal note, I can testify to the importance of this. I do my grouping with another priest, and we have done so for over five years now, maybe missing once or twice that whole time. He is now assigned two hours away from me and has been for over a year. But, each week, we both drive a two hour round trip to do our grouping, because we know how important it is.

Ultreya- The Ultreya is the getting together of the various group reunions. If we are

doing our grouping correctly then we will certainly be aware of God's work, the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. From this should naturally spring forth witness. The witness in the Ultreya is important for many reasons. We should always be ready to give reason for our Faith as St. Paul tells us. If we are going to bring others to Christ, we have to be able to give witness.

This witness is so important. It is good for me to hear the witness of others because sometimes, it is hard for me to see how God is active in my life. But, when I hear it from others it makes me more alert and aware. It is also important to prudently give witness to my struggles. This lets people know that they are not alone, it helps them realize that not everyone else has it all together or doesn't struggle with anything. Then the responses help us to connect and to go more deeply into relationship and realize that we share so many similar experiences and feelings. The Ultreya is a time to build community, to build up the life "de colores" and to recall all the many graces of God at work in the good times and in the bad times. The gathering of the group reunions is a way to stay connected and to share in the joy of living the Christian life.



School of Leaders- The School of Leaders relates specifically, in my opinion, to the pillar of Study. Many confuse the School of Leaders as something that is optional, if we have time for it. Or they think that it is only for those who plan to help with the three-day weekend. But, to the contrary, it is an essential aspect of the Postcursillo that should not be ignored. The School of Leaders is a key tool to the authentic living out of the Cursillo movement. There is no way that everything to be known about the Cursillo

can be learned in the three- day weekend. We have to keep learning and growing. Also, the School of Leaders has many important functions like helping to form the secretariat and other important tasks. I hope that everyone takes the School of Leaders seriously. I understand the challenges. In fact, it has proved difficult for us in the Diocese of Wichita in the English movement due to geographical challenges. But, we are trying, because we don't want to forget this important aspect of growth. The School of Leaders is the place where growth is cultivated, where we are formed, moulded, where we discuss together the future of the Cursillo movement and make a plan for evangelization.

From the School of Leaders comes our vision, it is where we are reminded time and time again of our mission and how to live out the key aspects of that mission. The

Cursillo movement has always been about forming leaders. The movement is not looking for people who desire to sit back and conform to the world. We want people willing to be different, willing to face the challenge to take charge and to be witnesses. I hope that more people will take seriously this role of being a leader, being apostles, proclaiming that the Kingdom of God is at hand.

Grace- planting seeds. My brothers and sisters, wow, that can all be a bit daunting. To recap. The methodology of the Cursillo movement is to make a friend, be a friend, and make your friend a friend of Christ. The pillars that support this methodology, that are essential separately and as a whole are piety, action, and study. And the essential

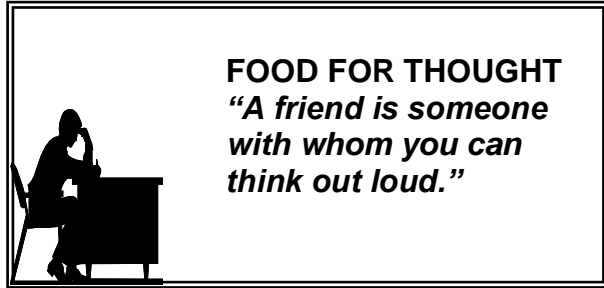
forms of accountability and growth of living out the Christian life in community are the group reunion, the Ultreya, and the School of Leaders. Please, please do not forget, the primary force, the primary cause of conversion in the Christian life, is Grace. With God, all things are possible, without him, we can do nothing. I want to take us back to this past weekend's Gospel that we heard from St. Matthew. Remember the seed being scattered and sown. We think of farmers when we think of this parable. A farmer can be the very best at his profession. He can pick the perfect ground, till the ground perfectly, and plant the best seed.

But there is still something outside of his control. He still depends on sunlight and moisture to yield a good crop. No matter how much he would like to or how much he tries, he cannot control every



aspect of his success. So is evangelization in the Christian life, so it is as we make friends, be friends, and try to make those friends, friends of Christ. The primary work is God's. He is in control and bringing about his plan in mysterious ways. Please, please, never lose hope, never doubt the goodness of God who is working the good for all who love him. I can assure you that if you choose to live out the Cursillo movement in its authentic nature, then you will live the Gospel taught by the Catholic Church. They are intertwined and inseparable. May we build up the Body of Christ with our unique gifts and be his tireless instruments in the world imitating him and living in holiness.

De Colores.



Written by the Editor

Let us all ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in growing the Canadian movement, not for the sake of having a movement, but for the sake of our apostolate. Our goal is to evangelize those in our environments with the message of the Good News; there is much work to be done and many are struggling. God is the answer; but!.....

."How then are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? How are they to believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear unless there is someone to preach?

But how are they to preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Romans 10: 14-15

This is our calling as Christians. This is especially true of Christians who have chosen the Cursillo movement in which to become the 'bearers of Good News' that St Paul speaks of. Cursillo provides the method that enables us to live out our baptism. The Cursillo Group Reunions and Ultreyas exist to help us to persevere in carrying out this calling. We respond to the call because of our baptism and because we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, not because we have planned a Cursillo and need to find enough people to fill the seats. The Group Reunions and Ultreyas are also far more than warm places where we seek comfort focused on ourselves. Eduardo Bonnin stated that a Group Reunion can be just as selfish as an individual and that could be true of the Ultreya. The Group Reunions and Ultreyas are in addition, and even more so, the pillars on which the entire movement rests. It is from them that we as apostles go forth, called by

our baptism, and supported by this unique and most effective method.

Many movements are discouraged because they believe that holding the Cursillo Three Days is the only answer to reawakening and revitalizing their movement; but doing this appears to be a monumental task. We must make haste slowly, focusing on what is the essence and purpose of our movement. Group Reunion, Ultreya, and the School of Leaders are the foundations and building blocks that build an authentic movement; these can be scheduled and participated in far more easily than planning a Cursillo weekend. Learning and growing from participating in the Postcursillo enables us to be those people spoken of in the above scripture, those who bring the Good News to their environments. It is this evangelizing, Christianizing work, the Precursillo, that generates the need for holding Cursillos. The Precursillo is where we live out our well-known and oft-used adage, 'Make a Friend, Be a Friend, Make your Friend a Friend of Christ'. If we can commit to this, to what we say, holding a Cursillo will become imperative, absolutely necessary; it is the method we use to bring our newly found friends from where they are at, to where they could be. Another adage we use is my Postcursillo is someone else's Precursillo; a never-ending circle, where those in Grace bring others to an encounter with Christ, to a Grace filled life.

Our focus should be that spoken of in the scripture above, those who don't know that God loves them so, therefore, they also don't know that they can, or how, to call upon him. This is Cursillo, being the Gospel in our own square metre, in the environments which we each inhabit; being the Gospel in the marketplace of our everyday lives. This great apostolate does not rely on a three day weekend, even if it is called Cursillo; it relies on us, living our baptism, journeying towards the Father and bringing others with us.

ESSAY

POPE, CURSILLO AND CHARISMS

Gail Terrana

Gail is a Cursillo leader from the United States; she presented this at a US Encounter in San Antonio, Texas.

My topic today is, "Popes, Cursillo and Charisms". What do the Popes have to say about Cursillo (or Movements in general), and Charisms, well plenty! Pope John Paul II explained the phenomenon of Movements in the Church; he said that the Church had forgotten its charismatic dimension! The Church is both institutional and charismatic, and for years, hundreds of years, the Church lost sight of its charismatic side.... But with the Holy Spirit, all that was about to change!

For many years I wondered how Cursillo was serving the Church. This was an interior prayer, a desire and a cry from my heart. I was searching for more, and in my heart, I knew there was more to Cursillo. Through my group reunion, my study, my friendships and the witness of others, I was on a road to discover the gift of Cursillo's charism. The 1st Conversations of Cala Figuera. Presented ten topics are the foundational core of our movement. Person, Freedom, Criterion, Conviction, Friendship, Sincerity, Love, Normality, Life, and Joy. It was an exciting Encounter and many were invigorated to study our charism. We had something that resonated within us for we were focused on studying from the person who was given this Original Charism.

When I heard, "The first thing we have to do is become friends, for if we become friends, we can accomplish anything." What did I just

hear? Become friends! How refreshing! No four-year plan, no timetable, no lecture on the World Cursillo, just become friends.

Part of my journey was to serve the World Cursillo Movement, the OMCC, when the US held the seat. As part of that service, we received an invitation to attend the 2nd World Congress of Ecclesial Movements at the Vatican in June 2006. It was scheduled to coincide with Pentecost and 123 World Movements were represented.

The Congress held major presentations from Cardinals, Archbishops, and there were several workshop sessions with the other Movements. The Pontifical Council for the Laity distributed books from their "Laity Today" series. The books were the documented proceedings pertaining to Movements in the Church.

Going to the Vatican and discovering these books on Movements in the Church, were a gift to me in my journey of discovery. Within the pages of these books, I

discovered what a movement is, what a charism is, and how it serves the Church. And more importantly, how a movement's charism is transmitted through its founder.

What is a charism? A charism is a free gift from the Holy Spirit, given to an individual person, and given for the good of the whole Church.

Why is the charism important? - The original charism gives life to a movement. The charism is the source of every movement's spiritual strength and character.

Where do we go to find our charism? To find a movement's charism, we need to go to its FOUNDER. In the words of Pope St. John Paul II, "the FOUNDER is the bearer of the



original charism". He said: It is the person of the FOUNDER from which the charism is born. It is Through the FOUNDER that the charism lives.

After hearing the Pope and the Cardinals talk about a Movement's charism and its founder, we departed Rome and flew directly to Mallorca, Spain and we spent one week with Eduardo Bonnín our founder.

As God knows all the desires of our hearts, He answered my prayer in a special way by bringing me to the Vatican and to our founder in Mallorca.

How did Eduardo come to develop our charism? Here is a little history: Studying Eduardo's life, we see his strong Catholic upbringing. His family were devoted Catholics with one sister who became a nun and one brother that was a priest.

Eduardo's time in the military had a significant impact on him. The men in his barrack lived a life very different from his. In quoting Eduardo, he stated, "... I realized that God loved them. Then, I became interested in making this reality known to them."

And then in 1940 Eduardo heard the words of Pope Pius XII that spoke about reaching out to people who are in the parish boundaries but who are not in the church pews. Something touched Eduardo's heart.

I want to point out the significance that the Pope's address is dated February 6, 1940 and Eduardo passed away on this exact date - February 6, 2008. Certainly, this is not a "coincidence" but a providential sign.

Eduardo prayed and studied and put together these three experiences: his life with the soldiers, the message he heard

from the Pope and his friendship with others. These became the three pillars in Eduardo's study. Eduardo knew psychology, the study of man, Man wants to be loved, and he knew Theology, the study of God, God loves man. He brought these two together in a powerful and spiritual way. Man can find happiness in knowing he is loved by God.

Eduardo wanted to find a simple way for others to know God's love. The structure of the Church was not reaching those "far away" a term he used to reference those who are: uninformed, misinformed, or not informed. And so, he developed a method that was not about teaching, it was about living and sharing - through living witnesses and genuine friendship - God's love would reach the heart of an ordinary person. Through his study he wrote the Study of the Environment rollo. This "rollo" became the cornerstone of the Cursillo Movement, for it is from this one "rollo" that all the others are developed.

I want to point out some essential elements in this rollo:

First, it is not structures in society we want to focus on, but communication between people in everyday life.

Second, it involves three (3) levels:

First ourselves - how we think and what we say,

Then, the condition of others, and our relationships with them

And finally, the surroundings in which this communication takes place, whether it is sporadic, or it only takes place collectively (with others around). Simply put - We take a warm approach by concerning ourselves with the person.

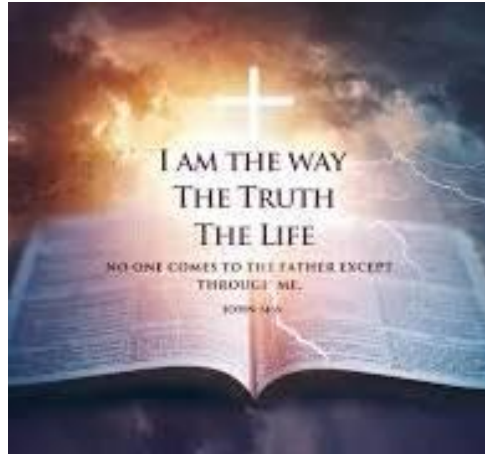
This all takes place "person to person". Through friendship we show the love of



Christ and offer a way to live this life, by sharing and encouraging one another as we freely journey together. You can find this in the booklet, "The Manifesto"!

From all this, the first Cursillo was held in August 1944 in Mallorca. In 1966, there was the First World Ultreya in Rome, and Eduardo gave a presentation on the Purpose of Cursillos. Pope Paul VI was the first Pope to give his blessings on the Cursillo Movement. This is what he said:

"Cursillos in Christianity! Christ, the Church, the Pope, are counting on you!" (Pope Paul VI, First World Ultreya, Rome, May 28, 1966) This is reprinted in the back of the Pilgrim's Guide that we are all familiar with.



The Church is experiencing the flourishing of Movements as a "providential response" for our times. As the Church was catching up with this phenomenon of LAY movements, Pope John Paul II was open and accepting. For he, himself was involved in a LAY movement as a young adult.

And so, it was Pope John Paul II who called together the first Congress of World Movements in 1998; and he helped us understand the movements - giving a definition, explanations, and details. One quote from "The Person of the Founder" states:

"As the founder gradually discovers the various dimensions of the charism, he indicates the goals to be reached and defines methods and organizational structures." (The Ecclesial Movements in the Pastoral Concern of the Bishops, Laity Today, Volume 4, p. 29) I want to outline these three discoveries of a founder: goals, method, structure.

Eduardo prayed, studied, and reflected and discovered the goals to be achieved and the method to accomplish them. The goals are to make Christianity alive in a person, to offer the occasion for a personal experience of living a life of Grace to the fullest and for the person to know God loves them through Christ. (The How and Why, p.26)

The method he found was for the Cursillo to be an instrument of the truth and life of the Christian. A place where one could encounter himself, Christ, and others, having a mutual communication by listening to one another, getting to know, understand, respect and value one another, and to transform the encounter into friendship through the

method of Group Reunion and Ultreya. The person discovers that his life has meaning and that Christ and His Grace is the only thing that can give him the feeling of being alive and leading a meaningful life. (Foundational Charism presentation, 5th World Encounter, Seoul, Korea, Study of Charism II: Source Documents book, p. 144)

The structure was given to us by Eduardo in his book "Structure of Ideas".

Another quote from the Vatican documents states:

"From the founder's special position springs his spiritual paternity and the authority—unique of its kind—that he exerts over the movement's members." (The Ecclesial Movements in the Pastoral Concern of the Bishops, Laity Today, Volume.4, p. 29)

Continued on page 16



Q. I keep seeing acronyms such as OMCC, NACG in texts relating to Cursillo. Could you explain what they stand for and explain to what they refer.

A. OMCC is an acronym for Organismo Mundial de Cursillos Cristiandad, Spanish for World Body of the Cursillos in Christianity.

The OMCC is comprised of a slate of 5 Cursillo leaders from various countries. The National Secretariats cooperate by forming slates of their choosing as the potential OMCC. The slates are put forward and one is elected at a World Encounter, to serve as the OMCC for 4 years. The elected OMCC coordinating committee is comprised of a President, Vice President, Spiritual Advisor, Treasurer, and representatives of the four International Groups. These groups are also referred to by acronyms. APG, which is the Asia Pacific Group, GLCC, the Groupo Latino de Cursillos de Cristianity, Latin American Cursillo Group, GECC, Groupo European de Cursillos de Christianity, the European Cursillo Group, and NACG, the North American/Caribbean Group.

The four International Groups select one of their member countries to be Coordinating Country for four years. The Coordinating country of each International Group selects from among its member countries, a 5 member committee composed of President, Vice President, Spiritual Advisor, Secretary and Treasurer. In addition, each Coordinating country selects one person to act as their representative to OMCC: the liaison between themselves and the OMCC.

This format is newly adopted in response to Pope Francis' desire for the Church and all Church Movements and Organizations to work in Synodality: Listening to each other and walking together. Since synodality became the focus of how groups are organized, we have come to recognize that the mentality and method of Cursillo already acts in synodality; we walk together and listen to each other as friends.

Another anacronym that is frequently used is FEBA. Fundacione Eduardo Bonnin Aguiló. This is the Eduardo Bonnin Aguiló Foundation.

Eduardo Bonnin, the Founder of Cursillo, was a prolific writer and note keeper. He was also meticulous with record keeping. Consequently, his legacy is vast and vital as a record of the Foundational Charism.

We just celebrated the 16th anniversary of his death but even before his death, the leaders in Mallorca realized that to preserve and promote his writing and his thinking, they would need to take steps to ensure its safe keeping and promotion. To make this happen they created a foundation, FEBA. Volunteers in Mallorca are working diligently to digitize the mountains of paper upon which he recorded everything.

As you know, the process of his Beatification has begun and he has already been named, Servant of God, the first step towards Canonization. Part of the process is to provide the Hierarchy with everything that attests to his holiness, the dedication of his whole life to the work of the Cursillos in Christianity. As it says on his official Prayer Card, "he travelled the five continents proclaiming that God in Christ Loves us". CCCC has many books, articles both by him and about him, at the Resource Centre. FEBA is constantly working to make more of his legacy available to us.

Witness

Daily we touch Him

*This witness is from Liz Richard, Yarmouth
Cursillo movement.*

The foundational rollo on the Cursillo weekend is the rollo on the Study of the Environment. In 2018 my husband Larry and I decided to move to a new environment and away from the one where we had lived for 33 years together. We had been active members of the Cursillo community for quite a few years. We had worked on many Cursillo weekends, been part of Group Reunions, and attended Ultreyas. We were comfortable in our home and enjoyed the company of many friends. However, God had a different plan for us. My mother was aging, and my father had died in 2014 so she needed some help. God gave me and Larry the opportunity to retire a bit early and move to Nova Scotia from Alberta to be closer to my mom. So, we tossed out stuff, packed up the essentials and drove across Canada in perfect weather. God provides when we are obedient.

Within a few weeks of living in Yarmouth we noticed that there was going to be an Ultreya at the parish. I knew that there was an active Cursillo movement in the area because we always received palanca from the Yarmouth Area Cursillo during our Cursillo weekends in the Grouard-McLennan diocese. I would woo-hoo every time the palanca was read out during the weekends.

We were warmly welcomed at the Ultreya and as I got to know Cursillistas I started asking about group reunions. It was hard to leave my old group as we had spent quite a few years together and I had become used to regularly sharing about our piety, study, and

action with the other Cursillistas. I was missing that connection with others. As God is always looking out for us, He found both Larry and I groups to join. As is the nature of groups, it evolved and changed but almost every week we get together and share our faith journeys, pray together and learn.

God called mom to be with Him 3 1/2 years after we moved. It was such a gift to spend so much time with her. Our Cursillo group reunions supported us during this time. It is such a blessing to belong to a movement that exists in Canada and around the world. The simplicity of the Cursillo movement made it easy for us to transition from one environment to another. I would encourage anyone who is moving to another part of the country or another country entirely to prayerfully seek out a Cursillo movement in your area. God will never disappoint!

ESSAY *(continued from page 14)*

I love the term spiritual paternity – Eduardo is our spiritual father! For he not only was given this charism, but he has lived this charism. We see the charism lived when we look at his life. And because we live the method of Cursillo, we can look at our own life and see how we are living the charism, and how we can live it more fully.

The Pope tells us the founder has AUTHORITY that he exerts over the members of his movement. And he identifies this authority as being “unique of its kind”.

It is the founder who gives details of its structure, and in doing so, we the members

have a roadmap, a “way” to follow to discover our charism.

Speaking as a member of the Cursillo Movement for 30 years, I have had a hunger and a longing for this Original Charism. That unique authority that the Pope speaks of is important. I want to know more about our method, the weekend, the phases of Precursillo and Postcursillo, the Essence and the mentality of our movement and its purpose... and it helps to know there is a person to go to where I can find MORE. All this study helps me to BE more Christian.

I discovered from the Vatican documents that the founder has an irreplaceable role in communicating a movement’s charism. No one else can fill this role but the person who received the original charism.

St John Paul II explains:

“The passage from the original charism to the movement happens through the mysterious attraction that the founder holds for all those who become involved in his spiritual experience”.

(John Paul II, “Address at the Meeting with the Ecclesial Movements and the New Communities”, *Laity Today*, Volume 2; p. 222.)

Eduardo wanted all of us to become involved in this spiritual experience of Cursillo. He wrote books, for example: *Structure of Ideas*, *The How and Why*, to name a few. He wrote many papers, articles, and letters about the Foundational Charism of Cursillo; one example, *Rediscovering the Vision*, etc. He developed a weekend for

leaders to assist with a better understanding of the charism calling it: Cursillo of Cursillos, which has been presented many times in Canada with Mallorcan leaders comprising the team.

He travelled to five continents to meet Cursillistas and give presentations. One important presentation was on the Foundational Charism given at the 5th World Encounter in Seoul, Korea; another presentation, *Evangelization Through Conversion*, given at the first Canadian Cursillo Encounter in 1992. He organized the 1st Conversations of Cala Figuera which I spoke of before. He wanted us to know and understand the deeper truth of the Cursillo – that the real encounter with oneself is what makes possible the encounter with others and with the Gospel. He was attracted to us in North America in a special way and we are attracted to him as we journey to discover the Original Charism of our Movement.



Continued study of the books from the Pontifical Council for Laity demonstrates clearly how they emphasize the place of movements and their importance throughout our Church’s history.

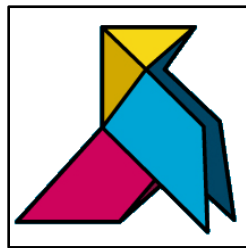
Cardinal Ratzinger’s presentation on the history of movements entitled, “The Ecclesial Movements: A Theological Reflection on Their Place in the Church”. In it, he recounts the Movement of the Orders in the Middle Ages including St. Dominic, and St. Francis, and others. He compares the Cursillo Movement to one of these Movement of Orders?” The significance of

the Cursillo Movement and all movements in the Church are as important as the Movement of Orders of St. Francis, and others. This discovery fills us with AWE! Making this connection, we see that our Movement IS important to the Church. It is no wonder that Pope John Paul II called the Movements in the Church “providential” for our time, for it was a re-discovery of the charismatic dimension of our Church.

Our own Pope Francis is a beacon for Movements. He calls us again and again to live our faith with JOY! Pope Francis describes a Movement: “You are not simply a small group. No! You are rather a movement, always on the way, always in movement, always open to God’s surprises which are in harmony with the first call of the movement, namely the founding charism.” (Pope Francis Address at the Third World Congress of Ecclesial Movements, Nov. 22, 2014)

He is encouraging us to go back to our beginnings. And now we know how to do this – by going to our founder.

This discovery from our Popes on Movements, Charism and Founder, needed to be shared with others. After serving in the Executive Committee for the World Cursillo, I then had an opportunity to continue serving in the International Group - North America Caribbean Group. My first thought was to put information together on the charism for others to read. So, I asked permission to reprint articles from our World Cursillo mailings that were written by Eduardo Bonnín on our charism. The World Cursillo approved and our International Group, NACG, supported this project and published a book titled, “The Cursillo Movement: Study of the Charism”. In the book’s Preface, it states: “May this book enkindle your desire and



hunger to continue your journey of DISCOVERY of this great gift of our charism.”

At this time, NACG planned an International Encounter for the North America Caribbean Group, meeting new friends from Canada, Cuba, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago. With the leaders from all these countries, this was another opportunity to share this information from our Popes about the charism, the founder, and the movements. Again, our NACG group put together a SECOND book which includes some of the presentations on “Movements in the Church” and three presentations from our founder.

This book is titled, Study of the Charism II: Source Documents and is not available in print, but it is available “online”. If you are interested, please contact the Resource Centre.

Going back to our Popes, Pope John Paul II explains that: “A movement ... is a Christian witness that bases its own instructive method on a precise charism given to the person of the founder in specific circumstances and ways.” (Movements in the Church, “Message to the World Congress of the Ecclesial Movements”, Laity Today, Volume 2, p.18)

Providentially, our founder was putting together a comprehensive “instructive method” in a document he referred to as his, “Spiritual Testament”. He did not complete it before he died, but his work has been taken up by the leaders in Mallorca, following Eduardo’s directives. In another year, the Foundation for Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló – known as FEBA, will have completed the entire contents of our founder’s “Spiritual Testament”.

This will include: -

- A Rectors Guide for a Three-Day Weekend. Eduardo calls it: "Step by Step"
- Appendices to the Step by Step, (16 Total, including: "This is the Way")
- Lay Rollo Outlines
- Precursillo and Postcursillo Details

This work is an answer to what the Pope stated, that a movement "bases its own instructive method on a precise charism given to the person of the founder in specific circumstances and ways". Our National Secretariat has a committee who is studying, praying, and reflecting on the English translation of this Step by Step section of his Spiritual Testament.

Conclusion

How does Cursillo serve the Church. A movement serves the Church when it lives its charism.

You may be asking yourself, "What is our movement's charism?" You have to discover it for yourself. This presentation contains many clues, and they must be shared with all. Here is a quote from Eduardo in the Manifesto.

"We know that people today want to be able to ask questions more than to find answers to everything, and to do it in an atmosphere of hope and with the possibility of finding the answers for themselves. A person feels more like a person when they ask questions and discover things than when they accept answers from others." (Manifesto: Cursillos in Christianity, A Reality Not Yet Realized, p.31.)

We all need Eduardo's words so we can study and reflect on them to make our own

discoveries. We have been lacking the English translations of Eduardo's writings. FEBA, the Eduardo Bonnin Foundation, is working with English speaking Cursillistas to remedy this. It is exciting to know we can be more effective when we understand the "why" of our movement. Cursillo provides a method and a way to understand and discover for ourselves that our life can be a "perpetual" Cursillo. This means it is ongoing - lived in our daily lives - using our unique method of "Group Reunion" and "Ultreya" that keeps us on a continual conversion and helps us to grow in friendship with Christ and others.

Eduardo is with us as we continue to GROW in the GRACE of this Gift from the Holy Spirit, so that our lives are a LIVING witness of the Charism, through which we can faithfully serve The Cursillo Movement and serve our Holy Mother Church. LIVING the Charism is SERVING the Church.



Fr. Fernandez, one of the presenters at the Vatican meeting said: "The person who receives this grace [of the original charism] communicates it during his mortal life and, once he has entered into the glorious communion of saints, continues to act with his power of intercession." ("Charisms and Movements in the History of the Church", Laity Today, Volume 4, p. 73)

Eduardo has been named 'Servant of God', the first step in the Beatification process. He is interceding for us in heaven.

FROM MALLORCA

Celebrating Eduardo

Cursillistas in Mallorca and around the world celebrated the 16TH anniversary of life of our Founder, May 4th 1917 – February 6th 2008.

In Mallorca they celebrated in the only fitting way for him, a celebration of the Eucharist and shared memories of his life with them.

These words of wisdom are taken from his book, My Spiritual Testament.

The aim of Cursillo isn't to make Christians become better, but that Christians do become Christians. That people gradually begin to discover themselves as free persons and liberated by Christ, so that they can understand and value the dignity and greatness of being a baptized person. That they understand that being a conscious Christian means being converted at all times.

All this so that they gradually get to discover, from the very place where God has planted them, that God loves them in Christ. In fact, really, for the true Christian, there is just one problem, which is to accept, without being overcome with joy, the grandeur of being so much..."



Eduardo at his first communion



Eduardo with his nine siblings



Eduardo's grave in the front of the Capuchin chapel. Eduardo went to Mass here every morning. The chapel was attached to the prison in Palma where Eduardo visited prisoners every week for years.



Eduardo served for 9 years in the army

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