



The Cursillo Movement of the Archdiocese of Toronto

The Fourth Day Newsletter

November 2015

"Make a friend, Be a friend, Bring that friend into friendship with Christ"

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR MESSAGE

Growing in Common Sense

As a child, I listened to the adults express admiration for those that they considered to be blessed with common sense. This attribute seemed to be somewhat different from being clever or smart. Those with common sense were not highly educated or educated at all.

Therefore, I often wondered how one acquires common sense, which seems to be uncommon among people. How could I become that person who assesses a situation or proposes a solution that others then conclude is the elusive but obvious view on the matter?

I am pleased to share that the National Catholic Cursillo Conference last June and our relaying of its content within the fall semester of the School of Leaders have answered my life-long question.

A key word in this quest is mentality. Mentality refers to the sets of attitudes and outlooks that one develops by our immersion in the particular culture or environment where we spend our time or pursue our ideal.

As Cursillistas, our purpose is to understand and live what is fundamental to being a Christian. We believe that our Catholic Christian faith and understanding is the most realistic and authentic grasp of reality available. The tripod helps us to connect more dots every day. Group Reunion, Ultreya and the School of Leaders comprise a perennial Cursillo for us.

The good fruit, therefore, is that we and our lives are making more sense every day. Less and less are we mimicking the irrational mentality of the world around us, an outlook that is indifferent, if not hostile, to God and His revelation of our human predicament.

As we live the truth that sets us free, we are inheriting the common sense of what is real and what is not.

De Colores!

Father Terry McKenna
Spiritual Director

FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

What do you say that Cursillo is?

Some say Cursillo is the Cursillo Weekend. Some say Cursillo is the Cursillo method. Others say Cursillo is a faith community, of which one becomes a 'member' after making a Cursillo Weekend. Still others say it is all of the above.

But what do you say that Cursillo is?

In June 2015, 11 leaders from the Toronto Movement, including 5 Secretariat members, attended the Cursillo of Cursillos weekend in Ottawa organized by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Cursillos (CCCC). To those of us who were there, the weekend brought a deeper understanding of the charism of Cursillo as it has been maintained in Mallorca, Spain to this day since the early 1940's.

The Ottawa weekend, in essence, confronted the leaders with the question "What do *we*, the Toronto Movement, say that Cursillo is?". It prompted us to soul search – Are we in accord with the criterion of the charism of Cursillo; are we true to its essence and purpose; what is our understanding of the 4th Day etc. To bring the community into this reflection, the 2015 Fall School of Leaders focused on the topics covered in the Ottawa weekend.

Our reflection continues in this edition of the Fourth Day Newsletter. Here Diane Coates offered the second installment of her reflection on the vision and mission of Cursillo in *Vision to Mission – The What and the What For (Part II)*.

Deepening one's understanding of anything requires study. The annual CCCC event has always offered a rich opportunity for study. In *Ottawa Cursillo of Cursillos June 2015 – The Messages We Heard*, Drina and Stephen Tallo shared what they took away from the Ottawa weekend. In *Pope Francis on Cursillo (Part I)*, Fr Terry McKenna offered an excerpt of the letter from Pope Francis to Cursillistas in Argentina when he was still Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio.

Behind Cursillo is a mentality, which is but the most fundamental of the Christian mentality. Just as there is Christian *doing* and Christian *being*, Cursillo is "a method and a life"¹. The method of *doing* is the mean; the life of *being* is the end. Pondering on Cursillo must therefore involve pondering not just on the Cursillo method but also on the life that the method targets. This is a life motivated by the encounter with Christ into a life that ferments, a life that begins with being confronted with that most fundamental of questions, the question that compels a response: "But who do you say that I am?" (Mt 15:16).

De Colores!

Manchui Wong
Lay Director

¹ Bonnín, Eduardo. Eduardo's words as excerpted in *Fully Alive* Vol. 14 Issue Number 67 Pg. 24. CCCC.

VISION TO MISSION – THE WHAT AND THE WHAT FOR (PART II)

The following is Part II of a rollo presented initially at the CCCC Conference June 2014 then at the School of Leaders March 2015. Part I (The Vision – The What) was in the May edition of the Fourth Day Newsletter.

My name is Diane Coates, I lived and shared my Cursillo with St. Anne's group in 1976 in Toronto.

First, I will briefly recap a few points about Part I:

THE VISION – THE WHAT:

- Quoting Eduardo Bonnin: “To summarize our original view point, we would put it this way:
 - a) **The person** was – is – the axis of our concern.
 - b) We see people as “beings – created – for love”.
- Eduardo's concern was mostly (although not exclusively) for those who were **far away from God**, the lost sheep, for they did not have the joy of the knowledge of God's love for them.
- **A movement that by means of its own method, attempts from within the Church**

What does “**from within the Church**” mean?

- It means it is NOT “IN” the Church or “FOR” the Church.
- It means that the method shows us how “TO **BE CHURCH**” - not people of Church, **but a Church of people**, as members of the Mystical Body of Christ.
- Our action comes **from** the Church **because we are Church**.

So now we will look at ...

The Mission – The What For

When we understand the vision we cannot help but accept that we have a mission.

It's like breathing, the VISION is the inspiration – the breathing in of the fresh air that gives life to the body, but it cannot be contained – it must be exhaled in order for the life within to be sustained. Like the exhaled breath, the MISSION is the necessary outflow of the VISION. The VISION purifies and gives life to the MISSION.

I have spent many years studying this wonderful movement and continue to grow in awe of its inspired mentality and method. Through its mentality and method I came to realize that I am called to cooperate with God in bringing His love into **MY** world – one person at a time.

My parents were totally the faraway from God. My father, raised a Catholic, stopped going to church at a very young age – he had been kicked out of being an altar boy when he was caught drinking the altar wine. His fun and partying

lifestyle eventually led in later life to becoming a severe alcoholic. He only set foot in church for weddings and funerals.

Back in those days, my mother had to convert to the Catholic Church in order to marry in the church ... but her heart and mind did not convert – she resented the church and its rules... she was in fact an atheist, as was her family.

After my Cursillo, I became deeply concerned for their souls and longed for their realization and acceptance of God's love for them. They would not have had such misery in their lives had they known God's love.

Through much prayer, Christ gave me the grace to see Dad through His eyes ... not the embarrassing drunk that I saw ... but a suffering soul filled with feelings of despair, guilt and unworthiness.

Through Christ, I was able to forgive Dad and love him not when he cleaned up his act, but in his drunkenness. In his miserable state, I was given the grace to love him with Christ's love ... as he was.

Who would have shared God's love with my parents who were so far away from God if not ME?

Who was concerned for their salvation and eternal life with God if not ME?

Who would bring a priest to them prior to their death so that they could be reconciled with God through the Sacraments, and receive His peace and love, if not ME?

The reality was that even though he came from a catholic family, no one else in his life at that time thought to do so.

After a great deal of persistent prayer, much witnessing, repeatedly seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit as to what to say or do that would touch their hearts, finally, both Dad and Mom accepted Jesus' forgiveness and love through the sacraments shortly before their death. My father died in 1978 – it took 2 years for him to accept Christ's friendship, love and forgiveness.

My mother died in 2001, receiving the sacraments just prior to her death – for her, it took **25 years**.

Our loving, compassionate God never gave up seeking out his lost sheep!! Nor could I.

This is the Mission of Cursillo! This is our Mission!!!

The Church calls us to bring the Gospel to those who have never heard it. We have this common saying in the Action rollo, "You may be the only Gospel some people may ever read. Preach the Gospel, but **only when necessary** use words." This is the call of our Baptism.

The original Charism asks us to go to the "faraway", as Jesus did when he reached out to Zaccheus, the Woman at the Well, the Leper like my father, and so many others in our own lives.

Jesus Valls, President of the Mallorcan Cursillo Movement stated: "The objectives of the Foundational Charism were, and still are, to

bring people close to God through the Gospel, **especially** those who lived outside the structures of Catholic religion.

The Cursillistas were not looking to make faith comfortable; **they were apostles** who wanted to bring people close to God, to take the Good News to those who were far from Him”.

Cursillo makes it possible for the message of Christ to reach those outside the faith, either because they have **not been informed**, or have been **misinformed** or **badly informed** (like my mother).

Eduardo said, “The Faraway can generally identify their craving for happiness with Christ’s life, if they can see His life reflected in other people, people who already treat them as friends”. “If environments are **permeated by friendship and faith**, they will generate a new sense of History which hitherto has only been based on vested interests and self- interest”.

Again I quote Jesus Valls:

“If your motivation is friendship in Christ – Who is risen and lives in you - and because of that you try to understand the persons close to you – that will be for all time ... A Cursillo in Christianity.”

Antonio Punyed summarized the method of Cursillo in his rollo at the III Conversations of Cala Figuera:

“It is in this way that we make it a reality that **Cursillo is the best news** communicated **by the best means** which is **friendship**, to the best of each one, which is their being **as a person**. That

means which we use to communicate the joy of being Christian and the shared living of the life of Grace is friendship, but friendship understood as the encounter with the other, this interaction in which we become transformed and we merge, and that has its central axis in the friendship of Jesus Christ.

Conditional friendship (for ulterior motives) is not possible. Genuine friendship can only exist when there is a desire to **BE a friend**, without expecting anything in return”.

To sum this up, **the Cursillo method calls us into the world**, not into church ministries, not implying that a Cursillista should not be in church ministries, but only to clarify that this is not the purpose of Cursillo.

Eduardo stated that in order to achieve all this, we have to:

- Be aware
- Affirm ourselves as people
- Stress our Laity
- Affirm ourselves as a Movement
- Take charity to further extremes

In Conclusion I wish to restate a few points:

- a) The main point in all this is that... it’s not about what we think Cursillo is, it’s about understanding and embracing the method and then using this method of Cursillo, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to continue the work that we are called to as baptized Christians.

As Cursillistas, we go back onto our normal everyday living places, of family, work, social areas, but the difference is through love and friendship in Christ

who is the foundation of Cursillo and of life because God loved us first!

- b) The dismissal at the celebration of the Eucharist sends us to “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and one another”, and the words of our own commissioning affirm this: “Go and bring the Good News to your environments”.
- c) From within the Church – as Church, as a members of His Mystical Body, the Lord sends us forth, and we respond to His call.
- d) As we no doubt have all experienced, “the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few!”

Nothing else matters but that all people come to know themselves as loved by God, lovable and capable of loving in return.

As we grow in relationship with Jesus and know Him as friend, we give witness to a Christ who is alive, personal and reachable and what once seemed impossible dreams become possible as we come to recognize that we are workers in His vineyard, but that He is the master of the harvest, this is His plan, not ours.

- e) It is important here to reiterate that Cursillo is not about getting Cursillistas into service within the church, **we are called into the world.**

Cursillo is not about **DOING**, but about **BEING THE GOSPEL, EACH, IN OUR OWN PART OF THE WORLD.**

It seems to me in retrospect that for about my first 30 years in Cursillo, there was somewhat of a disconnect in my various efforts and participation in Weekend teams, Ultreya, School of Leaders and Group Reunion. I didn’t realize the total interconnectedness of each of these parts. It seems that I lived them rather independent, one from another, until I came to realize and understand the Vision.

Becoming aware of Eduardo’s Vision has given a central focus in my Fourth Day. It’s not just going to my Group Reunion as a separate entity, or School of Leaders or Ultreya, or participating on weekend teams, but I came to see them as part of the one method seeking to fulfill the one vision. This clarity has deepened my desire and commitment to faithfulness to its original intent and method of being Christ’s presence in my world, **BEING CHURCH**, seeking to lead all back to the Father.

This has led me to a more fervent and hopefully more fruitful attempt at the living out of my God-given mission.

“GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS”, says the Lord. **Cursillo has its own method and it is that method that can make that a reality.**

That is the VISION - the What ... becomes ... the MISSION - the What for!

De Colores!

Diane Coates

OTTAWA CURSILLO OF CURSILLOS JUNE 2015 – THE MESSAGES WE HEARD

In June 2015, 11 Cursillistas from the Archdiocese of Toronto attended the Cursillo of Cursillos hosted in Ottawa by the CCCC. In attendance were three leaders from Mallorca, Spain, who were friends of Eduardo Bonnin and whom we affectionately came to know as our “Three Amigos”. Much like a Cursillo Weekend, the weekend included meditations, three full days of rollos given by officers of the CCCC and the Three Amigos, and table sharing. The weekend also provided question and answer periods.

We were excited to attend our first national Cursillo event, and went with a mix of sheer curiosity and a desire to deepen our understanding of our Movement. While it would be impossible to condense all the learnings from the weekend into a few paragraphs, we took away some key messages that we are eager to share with our fellow Cursillistas who could not be there:

- ✚ **Without true friendship there can be no Cursillo:** As we know, the purpose of Cursillo is to communicate the best news that God loves us, through the best means that is friendship. It was said that Cursillo teaches friendship and indeed, friendship is key to everything we do in Cursillo. It underpins the Pre-Cursillo, the Cursillo Weekend, and Post-Cursillo. After the weekend, we felt challenged to reflect on the authenticity of our friendships and how we may grow to be better friends, to be witnesses to the

kind of friendship that Christ desires with each of us.

- ✚ **It’s not about “doing” but “being”:** The Mallorcans have a natural way of living Cursillo in the normality of their everyday lives. Their presence and conduct at the Ottawa weekend was inspiring and made us want to emulate their ability to witness to the presence of Christ in them by the example of their own lives. In this way, we too may attract others and support our existing Cursillistas, and keep our Movement strong.

- ✚ **Let’s not constrain the Holy Spirit:** Our Movement is a divine gift and our efforts must be guided by the Holy Spirit. It was amusing to see during the Q&A sessions that the Mallorcans often seemed perplexed by our many “how-to” questions. The Mallorcans encouraged us to approach everything we do with common sense and not get too hung up on putting too many rules around things.

If we truly practice friendship and stay true to the gift of our Movement, as it was given to its founder, and allow ourselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit, our Movement will stay close to its essence and purpose.

De Colores!

Steve & Drina Tallo

Attendees, June 2015 Cursillo of Cursillos in Ottawa

POPE FRANCIS ON CURSILLO – PART I

THE FOLLOWING IS PART I OF EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER FROM CARDINAL JORGE MARIO BERGOGLIO (NOW POPE FRANCIS), ARCHBISHOP OF BUENOS AIRES, TO THE CURSILLISTAS OF THE ARCHDIOCESE

My dear Cursillistas: June 13, 2011, Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church!

"The good seed are the children of the kingdom"
(Mt. 13:38)

As we approach the celebration of the feast of Saint Paul, your patron and model of how to live "de colores", we give thanks to God for all the fruits that the Cursillos in Christianity Movement has generously given the Church.

Your service of proclaiming Christ by being his witnesses in your everyday environments, is an embodiment, a concrete renewal of the Baptism that we have received in Him and makes you disciples and missionaries of the Word, as this was expressed in the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church: "Through their Baptism and Confirmation all are commissioned to the apostolate by the Lord Himself" (Lumen Gentium no. 33).

I write to you conscious of the challenge that today's society presents to the enculturation of the Gospel; but I trust that your audacity and apostolic fervor - born of a personal encounter with self and with Christ - will lead you to make history for the good of all. So that, many brothers and sisters, marginalized or not, who

live on the fringe may feel embraced by the love of Jesus.

To be a pilgrim in our City means not becoming comfortable, but to be open to life and to pay attention to what is happening in our heart - like a good Samaritan confronted with the difficult circumstances of so many brothers and sisters.

(Compiled by Fr. Terry McKenna)

A LONG-TIME CURSILLISTA

Some of you may remember fondly the Cursillo office on Bond St, a meeting place to help out with typing, photocopying, etc. and just sharing with friends in Christ. You would also remember Lucy Nagel the secretary, the go-to person if you wanted to know who was who, or where anything was. Lucy is now bedridden in a nursing home, but has expressed that she would love to have Cursillistas visit her to share some wonderful old memories.

Lucy is staying at Vermont Square, 914 Bathurst St., Room 511.

IN MEMORIAM FOR THE 5th DAY

We remember our friends who were called home in the past year to their 5th Day:

- Rudy Nagel – December 2014
- Jeanne Kupiec – September 2015
- Patricia Poulo – November 2015
- Nora Dyllon – November 2015

Calendar of Events

Team Formation and Palanca for Weekends	Ongoing prayers and palanca for the weekend rectors, teams, and candidates
Moonlight Retreat	Monday April 18, 2016 7:00-9:30 pm F2 at Consolata Missionaries, 2671 Islington Avenue, Toronto
Women's Weekend	April 21-24, 2016 at Consolata Missionaries
Men's Weekend	April 28-May 1, 2016 at Consolata Missionaries
School of Leaders	February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, March 7, 14, 7:00-9:30 pm F2 Conference Room at Consolata Missionaries

Ultreyas

<u>Archdiocesan Ultreya</u>	November 30, 2015 7:00 pm-9:30 pm basement hall at Consolata Missionaries May 9, 2016 7:00 pm-9:30 pm basement hall at Consolata Missionaries
<u>Brampton Ultreya</u> Rector: Diane Coates (905) 840-8377	Third Thursday of every month at 7:45 pm at St. Jerome's Church, 8530 Chinguacousy Road, Brampton
<u>Mimico Ultreya</u> Rector: Manchiu Wong (416) 277-4685	Every Thursday at 7:30 pm at St. Leo's Church (basement), 277 Royal York Road, Etobicoke
<u>Toronto East Ultreya</u> Rector: Clifford Rachpaul (905) 239-7353	Second Saturday of every month 10-11:30 am at Holy Redeemer Church, 796 Eyer Drive, Pickering

Mailing Address for Toronto Movement

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Links

Toronto Cursillo: www.cursillotoronto.com
Canadian Conference of Catholic Cursillo: www.cursillocanada.org
Online CCCC Newsletter: <http://cursillocanada.org/fully-alive/>

2016 January-May Schedule

Date	Time	Event	Location
Feb 1	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	School of Leaders Night 1	Consolata Missionaries (F2)
Feb 8	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	School of Leaders Night 2	Consolata Missionaries (F2)
Feb 15	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	School of Leaders Night 3	Consolata Missionaries (F2)
Feb 22	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	School of Leaders Night 4	Consolata Missionaries (F2)
Feb 29	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	School of Leaders Night 5	Consolata Missionaries (F2)
Mar 7	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	School of Leaders Night 6	Consolata Missionaries (F2)
Mar 14	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	School of Leaders Night 7	Consolata Missionaries (F2)
Apr 18	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Moonlight Retreat	Consolata Missionaries (F2)
Apr 21-24	7:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Women's Cursillo	Consolata Missionaries
Apr 28-May 1	7:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Men's Cursillo	Consolata Missionaries
May 9	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Archdiocesan Ultreya	Consolata Missionaries (Basement)

De Colores!