



The Cursillo Movement of the Archdiocese of Toronto

# The Fourth Day Newsletter

March 2012

*“Make a friend, Be a friend, Bring that friend into friendship with Christ”*

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## Spiritual Director’s Message

### **Remembering the National Conference 2011**

The subject of last year's assembly was Group Reunion and Ultreya. Various rollos addressed the purpose and value of these two elements of our movement's methodology.

What came clear for me was how group reunion and ultreya fulfill the purpose of the movement. The purpose of the movement is to provide what is fundamental for growth in the Christian life. One may conclude from this definition that what is fundamental is the practice of the tripod, that is, piety, study and action. Or, one may conclude that what is fundamental is the appreciation and pursuit of the life of grace. These two conclusions would be correct, but insufficient.

A third fundamental for growth in the Christian life of grace is sharing. This need is met through group reunion and ultreya. The structured, regular and disciplined sharing cultivates our nutrients from the tripod. Group reunion and ultreya are where Christian living becomes Christian sharing. Since the Christian life calls us to and provides the grace for friendships, we need a forum for this process. Group reunion and ultreya are the vehicles for this development.

Further, these two units of our methodology which deepen friendships also deepen our desire for conversion. Conversion is not static but fluid. There is a pilgrim mentality with the grace of conversion. We are not nomads who refuse to leave our address until living conditions become intolerable. Rather, we are pilgrims who will leave a comfortable situation for one that is more promising. The grace of conversion beckons us to be pilgrims, fellow pilgrims, to a more compelling lifestyle of joy, peace, communion with God and humanizing community with one another.

In addition, one rollista, Bernie Reilander, observed that group reunion is where we experience more intensely the encounter with self, Christ and others. Still another, Mary Weber, pictured ultreya as a well-tended garden. This means that we all cooperate to uproot any weeds of unholy ambition and fracture in order that the ultreya will recall the fun, the affection and the closeness of the three days.

Finally, another rollista, George Henry, urged us to promote group reunion and ultreya in order to populate the school of leaders.

So, consider attending the 2012 National Conference this June to hear more good news about our precious movement.

Father Terry McKenna  
Spiritual Director

### **From Your Lay Director**

With God all things are truly possible.

New cursillistas are in Group Reunions and are meeting regularly and are attending Ultreyas. Cursillistas overflowed with joy at our March Toronto East Ultreya. We closed with prayers led by Deacon Derek and blessing by Fr Terry, in front of the Blessed Sacrament like MIMICO Ultreya, as John J advised.

Thanks to God's grace working in team members, candidates and sponsors. Our spirits are high as we approach the Women's weekend, 17 – 20 May 2012, and the Men's weekend, 13 – 17 June 2012. New cursillistas have already sponsored candidates, and others have approached potentials with much joy and enthusiasm. The Holy Spirit has rejuvenated us. We must strive to bring others to share in our joy, who is Jesus.

Much joy, learning together, fellowship and deep friendships beckoned us to attend and enjoy the School of Leaders on Monday nights at 700 p m at Consolata. This winter term we discussed our weekend rollos on Friday, Ideal, the Layperson in the Church, Piety and Study. Next term we will discuss the Saturday weekend rollos including Action, Leaders, and Study of the Environments.

Thanks to all the hard working School of Leaders and Ultreyas rectors (John J, Tony L, Manchiu W, Richard A, Evie W, Jack I, and Denis L), weekend rectors Diane C and Dennis C, pre cursillo (Frank M, and Evie W), post cursillo (Victor Bohus), palanca Lucia T, our ever ready and ever willing cook par excellence, Dave James, our inspiring spiritual director, Fr Terry. Let us pray that we will be blessed with Fr Terry for a very long time.

I wish to personally thank Cathy F, our past Lay Director, for her strategic help and time despite her crushing schedule.

Lord we thank you bringing Bill French to be with us at Cursillo at Leaders School. Our joy lives on. And he looks so good, thanks again Lord.

I am going and I now strongly invite you to our National Cursillo Conference, (yes all of Canada and some USA also) right here in London, Ontario, our back door, this June 21 – 24, 2012, for less than \$300, which includes meals and accommodations. God bless you and I will look for you there.

Gabriel Ferdinand

Palanca, in word and in deeds. We need to succeed. Lent is the perfect time. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving above our usual is palanca.

## **A Reflection on Psalm 116**

Today at Mass, the Psalm reading was from Psalm 116. As I listened to the reading of verse 15: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones," something very special began to stir in my heart.

At the time I was not feeling very well. I had been having discomfort in my stomach for the past three weeks. On Thursday of that week I had a CT Scan as part of my routine check-up at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto. That evening I felt extremely ill, as though I was going to die, and so I went to bed quietly, to die. Next morning I woke up feeling better but not 100%, so I believe I might have been having a reaction to the chemicals which were injected into me during the CT Scan.

When I heard the words of verse 15, it meant a great deal to me and I found myself reflecting on the meaning of this verse. Later that day, in the afternoon, when I got into my car to go to Canadian Tire, verse 15 began coming stronger to my mind along with some deep thoughts. I had to turn off the radio to listen to the thoughts which were coming into my heart and head. The thoughts were as follows:

*"When a loved one dies, we naturally feel sad along with a sense of loss. We have lost someone who we love and who means so much to us. Most of the time we cannot understand why and we might even find ourselves becoming angry with God, and questioning His goodness and love. How can God allow such a thing to happen to such a good person? And if it is a child, how can He do this to such an innocent person, who has not even began to live his or her life, let alone to be deserving of death?"*

*However, if we are able to understand the true meaning of who we are, and who those loved ones are (not were), then we would see things in a completely different light.*

*What do I mean by "the true meaning of who we are"?*

*In Genesis 1:26, God said, "Let us create man to our image and likeness." Therefore each and every one of us has been created to the image and likeness of God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).*

*We have been created out of God's "Pure Love", and we are meant to return to God to be united with Him, to continue to be part of this "Pure Love" for all eternity. This is what we have all been created for. God alone decides when we will be born and when we will die, to return to Him. It is all part of His perfect plan.*

*If it is God's plan, then it cannot be anything else but perfect, and His timing has got to be perfect. Right now as we live out our short lives on this earth, we are like a piece of a jigsaw puzzle waiting to be put in its right place to complete the puzzle. We are part of God's Divine jigsaw puzzle, namely His Body. 'His Pure Love'."*

Then I thought:

*“We are all members of the Body of Christ. What does that mean?”*

*In order for a body to function properly and efficiently, it needs all of its members to be healthy and functioning well, as God intended it to work when He created it, with His Love and Perfection. So each member of that body has been created to God’s perfection, which is different from our human perfection. His is infinite and divine perfection. And that is how we have all been created. We have been created out of God’s Pure Love. Therefore, we have been created to be “pure love”.*

*Now, imagine we set out to make something that we always wanted to make because we love that thing so much and just want to make one of our own. It might be a car, a boat, a house, a bicycle, or any other thing that requires different component parts to be made to a certain specification, in order for them to work perfectly together and become what we set out to create. Each component would have to be made and set aside until it is ready to be installed in its place before the next component can be installed. That is how things are put together to create the car, boat, house, bicycle, or whatever we set out to build.”*

*Well, it is the same with “The Body of Christ”. If each one of us is a member of “The Body of Christ”, then each one of us must be thought of, created, set aside, and installed at the exact time so that we are in place, and ready to do the job for which we have been created. Only God knows what this ‘divine job’ is, and when we have been scheduled to be installed.*

*So, that is what it means when God decides to take a loved one away from us at a certain time.*

*But, is He really taking them away from us? Did that person ever really belong to us, or were they given to us in order to help them and us, to be the perfect persons we were created to be? Only when we become the perfect persons that we have been created to be, can we function as members of “The Body of Christ”, to which we belong, and return to live with God, as He intended it to be, as per Genesis 1:26”.*

Therefore, being aware of verse 15: “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones” should make us rejoice and be happy to see our love one return to God to be fully the person he or she was created to be - PURE LOVE, and a member of “The Body of Christ”.

AMEN

E .C. King  
May 02, 2009

## What is in the 'making'

"My name is ... I made my Cursillo on ... ". Those words would roll out, as if on cue. It was an introduction of sort. No, it was a tradition, I soon surmised. For why would one feel obliged to introduce oneself even when no introduction was needed, as with a familiar crowd?

But why this choice of word in me having '*made*' my Cursillo? What is in the '*making*' anyway?

Then I came across the following quote translated from the founders' of the Movement:

*"... it is precisely the Cursillistas who 'make' the Cursillo. This is shown even in the spontaneous terminology itself when we say 'I made Cursillo no. X'. ..."*<sup>1</sup>

It appears then that to say "I *made* my Cursillo ..." is to invoke a word ingrained in the Cursillo lexicon.

But words are not just words. Words signify. What might the senses be behind the word '*made*' then, I wondered?

First there is the obvious sense that to say "I *made* my Cursillo" is to say that I *attended* my Cursillo weekend. To have attended also means to have *participated*. For, even if one were to have completely daydreamed oneself through the weekend, one had nevertheless participated by one's presence. One was in all that the weekend was.

Then there is the sense that to say I '*made*' my weekend is to say that I successfully *completed* it, as when I proclaim "I made it!". Inherent in this proclamation is the sense of having passed some sort of a milestone. Indeed, if my Cursillo weekend was an out of the ordinary episode that was somehow injected into my life story on Thursday, and became part of it Sunday evening, then I had passed some sort of a milestone.

Could there be more in the '*making*', my curiosity still beckoned?

There is the sense of '*making*' something as in *bringing* something *about*, from making meals to making model airplanes to making choices. From morning to evening, my day is a stitching together of my being-in-my-world from moment to moment, with all my choices made and acted on. To be sure, it is a day that the Lord has *made*, as the good hymn goes. But I collaborated in its becoming MY day, and therefore in its '*making*'. I *made* MY day by living it.

From Thursday to Sunday evening, my Cursillo likewise was a stitching together of my being-in-*that*-world from moment to moment, with all my choices made and acted on. It was an episode that the Lord scripted for me, to be sure. But I collaborated in its *making*, in its becoming MY Cursillo as I and only I experienced it, by living out my scripted role in that episode, daydreaming and all. Indeed, I *made* MY Cursillo by living it.

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<sup>1</sup> Excerpted from the booklet titled Cursillo Weekend in the Ideario Series, a translation of original writings of the founders of the Movement.

As I was *making* my Cursillo, I collaborated in *making* the Cursillo's of everyone else, as each uniquely experienced it. For I was a character among characters – the rollos, the meals, the songs, the jokes, the people, the palancas, in the scripted play that was that particular weekend. I was in all that the weekend was, uniquely to each and every one there.

Indeed, "... *it is precisely the Cursillistas who 'make' the Cursillo*".

So what is in the '*making*'? Perhaps all the senses suggested above.

Still in the making, my Fourth Day lies.

Manchiu Wong  
Toronto, Ont.

### **Events Calendar**

Secretariat Meetings	Fourth Tuesday of each month @ 7:00pm. All Cursillistas are welcomed to attend. Meetings are conducted over Internet conferencing using Skype. Contact Gabe Ferdinand (gabriel.ferdinand@gmail.com) for meeting logistics.
Team Formation	April-June 2012. Please pray and do palanca for the weekend rectors and teams.
Moonlight Retreat	Monday May 14, 2012 7:00-9:30pm at Consolata in the hall
Women's Weekend	May 17, 2012 at Consolata
Men's Weekend	June 14, 2012 at Consolata
Day of Reflection*	October 13, 2012 9:30am-3:00pm at Consolata in the hall
Commitment Celebration*	October 15, 2012 7:00pm. Location TBA

\* The Commitment Celebration is an annual ceremony for Cursillistas to confirm their commitment to the Cursillo Movement as their prime apostolate for one year. The Day of Reflection is a day set aside for Cursillistas to discern on this commitment.

### **Ultreyas**

Archdiocesan Ultreya	First Monday of every month at 7:00 pm (except holidays) at Consolata in the hall.
Brampton Ultreya	Third Thursday of every month at 7:45 pm at St. Jerome's Church.
Mimico Ultreya	Every Thursday at 7:30 pm at St. Leo's Church (basement)
Toronto East Pickering Ultreya	Second Saturday of every month at 10-11:30 am at Holy Redeemer Church

**For further information, visit our Toronto Cursillo Website [www.cursillotoronto.com](http://www.cursillotoronto.com).**

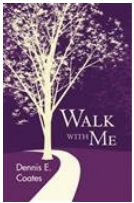
## Pre-Cursillo

As of mid-March, there are 7 confirmed candidates – 3 women and 4 men, for the upcoming Spring weekends of May 17-20 for women and June 14-17 for men. We anticipate at least tripling these numbers as the weekends approach. Let us pray for the confirmed and potential candidates that they receive the call to a life changing experience.

## In Memoriam for a Fifth Day

Let us pray for the repose of the late Gilbert "Bep" Vanderkooy, a faithful participant of the Mimico Ultreya. Bep entered his Fifth Day in his seventy-eighth year. His funeral was held at St. Leo's Church, Mimico, on Saturday March 03, 2012.

## What is new



*“Remember how I walked with the two disciples on the way to Emmaus ... And now I wish to take a similar walk with you”.*

Thus begins ***Walk With Me***, a book by our very own Cursillista-Author Dennis Coates, his first published. Available at Chapters-Indigo and Amazon.ca.

*“A charming road map to your Kingdom of heaven. Enjoy a simple talk and delightful walk with Jesus. The WORD made easy to live and love.”*  
– Dr Gabriel Ferdinand, Toronto

*“My response to our Lord’s invitation to ‘Come and See’ is indeed to Walk with Him. A Holy Hour companion, in more ways than one.”*  
– Manchiu Wong, Toronto

## From the broader community ...

The 19th North America Chinese Cursillo Weekend was held in Houston on March 15-18. Archbishop Emeritus of Taipei, the Most Rev. Joseph Ti-Kang led the spiritual director team. Thirty two candidates from different cities successfully made their grace-filled weekend. A multitude of Cursillistas from all over N America, including some from Toronto, converged in Houston to support the event.

The Chinese Cursillo Movement of Toronto extended their thanks to the palanca offerings from the Secretariat members of the English Cursillo Movement of Toronto.

**Canadian Conference of Catholic Cursillos (CCCC)**

**The Canadian National Conference  
June 21-24, 2012 London Ontario**

Come and join your friends to learn about the Ten Topics of Cala Figuera – Friendship, Person, Joy, Normality, Criterion, Liberty, Life, Love, Sincerity, Conviction, topics inherent in the Gospels that form the foundation of the Cursillo charism.

Online registration at: <http://www.cursillo-canada.org/>

**De Colores!**