



The RAINBOW

Niagara Anglican Cursillo Newsletter

August 2009

www.niagaracursillo.org



CURSILLO CALENDAR

Sept 13	AGM & Commissioning of New Secretariat 3:00pm Church of the Nativity
Nov 1	Moonlight 3:00pm Church of the Nativity
Nov 5-8	Weekend 44 Mount Mary, Ancaster
Nov 22	Diocesan Ultreya 3:30pm Church of the Nativity

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We welcome submissions from readers as viewpoints, faith journey stories, book reviews, news and coming events from parishes.

All submissions must include a name, telephone number or e-mail for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for content and length.

(see last page for submission details & deadlines)

From our Lay Director

Ann Grose

How are you all enjoying this soggy summer? I know Brian and I have not been able to spend as much time sitting on our deck and enjoying meals outside as we would have liked! I play tennis on outdoor courts (my only exercise!) and many of my games have been cancelled because of the wet weather. Nevertheless there is always a silver lining! Everything is so lush and green and flowers so colourful, and it has meant we didn't have to use the hose! ☺

Secretariat members have had a little vacation from meetings. We didn't meet in July in order to give everyone a break. Our next meeting is on August 15th when we will be concentrating on fascinating items such as Financial Statements and 2009-2010 Budget, and of course, Nominations to Secretariat for the coming year.

On a very serious note - our financial position is in dire straits! There is just not enough money coming in to support our expenses. Our major expenses are the Cursillo Weekends, the Rainbow, and our yearly apportionment to CACS (Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat) - which we didn't pay this year because of lack of funds - not good! It has been Cursillo's vision over the years to be able to sponsor our participants on a Weekend. We have managed to do that for a couple of years with the participants paying only a deposit, and Cursillo Niagara paying the remainder of the cost through its Sponsorship Fund. Last year total donations to the Sponsorship Fund amounted to \$50!!! We have Weekends coming up in November this year and April 2010, and it is very likely indeed that the participants will have to pay the full amount as we simply do not have the funds in our coffers!

I appeal to you all to pray about donating to Cursillo on a regular basis (weekly, monthly, quarterly or even yearly). Even a small amount, on a regular basis, will be enormously helpful. The Pre-Authorized method is by far the easiest and most reliable way to ensure a regular payment without having to worry or think about it. Decide on a certain amount, fill in the form at the back of this Rainbow, and send it to the Treasurer. That's all there is to it! And at the end of the year you will receive an income tax receipt from the Diocese of Niagara for your donation. When you donate this way, Secretariat is able to get some sense of monies coming in and can, hopefully, draw up a sensible budget. There are other ways to donate - through the JOG envelopes which are available at Ultreyas, and of course, you can always send a cheque at any time to the Treasurer. Cursillo Niagara **relies totally on you, the Wider Community**, for donations to help us meet our expenses. There is no other source from which we receive money! **Only you!**

(Continued on page 2)

FROM OUR LAY DIRECTOR

(cont'd from page 1)

Further on in this Rainbow is a report on the Nominating Committee, and the slate of names that have been nominated to be on Secretariat for the year 2009/10. At the September AGM, I will be stepping down as Lay Director, and handing over the reins to **Nancy Harris** with the Bishop's blessing. I have thoroughly enjoyed my year in this position. I especially want to thank Susan Wells, our Spiritual Director, for her warm and gentle guidance, and also members of Secretariat for the kindness, generosity and support they have shown to me over the months. The current members of secretariat are wonderful people and they have worked hard at their respective jobs. Together we have accomplished many important initiatives over the year. Reports on each Committee are elsewhere in the Rainbow, including a report from Nancy Harris and Jan Collinson on the CACS Triennial Meeting in Halifax. My thanks to them both for representing Cursillo Niagara so ably.

Finally, my best wishes to Nancy as she steps up to the plate, so to speak! Being Lay Director is a responsible position and she will be in my prayers. Nancy is a committed and dedicated person in whatever she undertakes, and I know Cursillo Niagara will flourish under her leadership.

Blessings and ultreya,
Ann Grose

Weekends

Weekend # 44 – November 5-8, 2009
Coordinator – Marion Bailey

Weekend # 45 – April 22-25, 2010
Coordinator – Larry Collinson

Weekend # 46 – March 31- April 3 2011
Coordinator - TBD

All weekends to be held at Mount Mary
Immaculate in Ancaster

Banner Stands

If anyone is interested, we have a number of banner stands. Contact Nancy Harris at weekends@niagaracursillo.org or (905) 465-3985

FROM OUR SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

After 26 years is Cursillo still relevant and does it still have a role to play in the mission and ministry of this Diocese? That is one of the questions that Secretariat has faced over the past year.

I am not sure what your answer might be but mine is an unqualified YES.

This past year has had its challenges but with challenges come opportunity.

Last fall our Lay Director Zandra Pennylegion resigned. Zandra was an integral part of the Cursillo Movement in Niagara. Her unexpected and sudden departure, left a big hole in the movement and was quite traumatic for Secretariat as well as other members of the community. We needed to take some time to acknowledge Zandra's (and John's) contribution and to acknowledge our own feelings. It was a difficult time but God is gracious. We were very blest that Bishop Michael, on recommendation from Secretariat, appointed a former Lay Director, Ann Grose to take over the role as Lay Director till September 2009. Ann would only assume this role for a one year period during which she would work closely with the next Lay Director.

Nancy Harris has subsequently been appointed by the Bishop to take over the role of Lay Director and will assume those duties at our AGM in September 2009. During this past year Nancy has been chair of the Weekend committee and has also worked closely under Ann's tutelage. It has been a gift to have Ann so capably step in and allow us the time to make a smooth transition.

Thank you Zandra, it was a joy working with you, and I look forward to yours and John's continued involvement in the Cursillo community. Thanks also to Ann and Nancy for your willingness to serve God as Lay Director and Lay Director in training.

In the spring of 2007, several regional meetings were held to speak to people about their experience of Cursillo, and how they saw its future. Overall these meetings were very positive but did identify certain areas where we could improve. One of these was communication especially with those who do not have e-mail and some who do not like to read documents (like the Rainbow) on-line. So this year 4 issues of the Rainbow were mailed to everyone. We would be interested in your comments on whether or not this has addressed (at least in part) the communication issue.

In November, Marion Binns and her awesome team served on Weekend #43 – "Come ye apart and rest awhile." As a Spiritual Advisor on the weekend it was a joy to see how God can use the Cursillo Method to encourage and help both participants and team to grow in their faith and in their relationship with Jesus. Thank you, Marion, team and participants for an enriching weekend.

(Continued on page 3)

Spiritual Director's Report

(cont'd from page 2)

This year there were some changes made to the weekend schedule (removing some of the add-ons and attempting to get back to the basics). One of the big changes was to the break-in and closing which were combined into a closing service. The comments that we received were all positive and everyone seemed to find the new format to work well. One of the comments by a prominent clergy was: "this is the most spiritual closing I have ever been too."

Secretariat continues to evaluate every aspect of the movement to ensure that our focus remains on making and supporting disciples for Christ. What a blessing God has given me to work with people so dedicated to following Jesus and discovering how Cursillo fits into the Bishop's vision for the Diocese and the building up of the Kingdom of God.

Brian Galligan and David Toth, both Cursillistas were ordained to the transitional Diaconate in May 2009. Already David has offered to serve as a clergy on team for Weekend #44. We look forward to his and Brian's continued involvement in Cursillo. A presentation will be made to both Brian and David at our AGM on September 13th.

One of the dreams of many Cursillistas has been to offer Cursillo as a gift to new participants. That is, to subsidize the cost of participants so that they need only pay the registration fee of \$50. However, the sponsorship fund has not kept pass with the number of participants. At the moment there is not enough money in the sponsorship fund to continue this practice. This makes me very sad.

The cost of sponsoring 24 participants is about \$3600 a weekend. If 36 people would donate \$100 (less than \$10 a month) to the sponsorship fund this practice could have continued or could (hopefully) be resumed.

Cursillo's future continues to lie in making and supporting disciples for Christ. It is about making a friend, being a friend and bringing that friend to Christ. (Make Jesus your friend, reach out to others, share Jesus with them).

As your Spiritual Director, I continue to take every opportunity to talk to other clergy about Cursillo and how it can be a powerful tool in making disciples for Christ and creating a climate of evangelism in a parish.

When asked the question "*what must we do to do the works God requires?*" Jesus responded, "*The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.*" (John 6:28-30)

It is our belief in Jesus from which our work and ministry flow. May your love of Jesus continue to grow and to bloom.

Ultreya,
Susan
The Rev. Susan Wells
Spiritual Director

The Post-Cursillo Committee

This winter, Secretariat made a few changes to the format of the Diocesan Ultreya which from all reports received by this writer, have resulted in a more dynamic and interesting event. Each of the Diocesan Ultreyas has been well attended and the witness talks inspirational. Did I mention the food?!?

The new format provides time for social contact, laughter, singing, sharing and quiet time, prayer time and, most importantly, time for God to be in our lives.

This past winter we moved the Diocesan Ultreyas to different regions and from the attendance numbers this would also seem to be well received. Comments have been made by a few people who find it difficult to travel to Ultreyas in other areas that it is wonderful to be able to celebrate God's love with friends that they do not see often. Sometimes being a friend does not require a lot of effort and comes with much love.

The Guidelines for Witness Talks at Ultreyas have been issued and hopefully will be of help to those wonderful people who share their Christian experiences with us. The guidelines are on the Diocesan web page, and issued in the Rainbow. Copies of the guidelines are available for regional leaders for distribution.

This past year I have attended several different regional Ultreyas and hope in the coming fall and winter season to attend each region at least once. I can witness to the fact, that there is much love in our Christian communities and it is wonderful to feel the welcoming warmth. Should I mention the food?!?

I want to thank all the people who organize and support the Regional and Diocesan ultreyas, palanca, and music. There is much that happens behind the scenes. The hard work and effort is very much appreciated.

A note of recognition to Tim Standish who has been maintaining the palanca communications on behalf of the Niagara Anglican Cursillo with other Cursillo communities across the world.

Thank you to my team, Marion Bailey and Laura MacKenzie for their support and work on the Fourth Day committee. They keep this guy in line and cause me to be on time!

Richard Turner
Fourth Day Co-Ordinator

Weekend Committee Report

We have had an exciting year! Weekend #43 Coordinated by Marion Binns was successful. This was the first weekend using the updated manuals with all the changes that were made bringing us 'back to basics'. The former back teams of Palanca, Kitchen and 4th Day were replaced by the Support Group. The Support Group worked with 5 team members. The Support Group was not hidden away and was included with the other team members and the participants for meals and chapel services. This really helped us to be one community.

Ann Grose and I have reviewed all the evaluations from the last weekend. We have taken some of the comments and have worked them into some changes in the schedule for the next weekend. We have been working on updating the manuals again with these changes.

We are now preparing for Weekend #44, which is being Coordinated by Marion Bailey of Huron Diocese. Marion is busy working on getting her team together. Please watch for names and updates on the Cursillo website as the team comes together.

The dates for weekend #44 are November 5th to 8th, 2009 and will be held at Mount Mary in Ancaster.

Hope you are thinking of possible participants for the weekend. Get the names in as soon as possible!

We have also booked two more weekends. Weekend #45 April 22nd to 25th, 2010 and Weekend #46 March 31st to April 3, 2011. All weekends will be held at Mount Mary in Ancaster. It is exciting that we were able to plan for 3 weekends during this year. Please note all these dates on your calendars and be thinking of possible participants.

Ultreya,
Nancy Harris
Chair

Would anyone be interested in a nicely decorated, life size Rooster. It has attended many weekends, where I was Spiritual director. It is now available in Beamsville, Ontario Contact Walter at 905-563-1022 or wmittler@cogeco.ca

DeColores
Walter Mittler

Pre-Cursillo Report

This committee started the 2008/09 year strongly with four members on Secretariat – Dave Tinker (Chair), John Pennylegion, Rev. Paul Tinker and Laurie McDowell.

Unfortunately, John Pennylegion and Rev. Paul Tinker both had to resign from Secretariat and the Pre-Cursillo Committee because of other obligations. We were sorry to lose them and express our thanks for all their hard work.

During the year we revised and fine-tuned the Cursillo brochure which now includes supportive messages from both our Bishop and Archdeacon in Niagara, and also the Bishop of Huron. The brochure reflects Cursillo's partnership with Huron which at this point in time does not have a fully operational Cursillo movement. These brochures will be available at Ultreyas and upon request.

Our new Cursillo information board was on display at the 2008 Niagara Synod, and at one of the parish churches in Huron. This Display Board can be borrowed to be used at any parish wishing to provide information on Cursillo.

The Committee has made presentations about Cursillo to a few parishes, and has provided a presence at various clericus meetings. To increase Cursillo's profile with the clergy and their parishes, a letter of information has been formulated and is in the process of being sent to all parishes through the regular Diocesan mailings.

To date, we have been unable to replace the two members we lost, but will continue to work on this in the coming year, and hopefully, will see a wider committee, and increased vitality.

The chair has benefitted from the encouragement and support of the rest of Secretariat, particularly the Lay Director.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Tinker
Chair, Pre-Cursillo Committee

Cursillo Prayer Chain

The co-ordinator for the Prayer Chain is now Hilda Fair. If you have a prayer request (for a Cursillistas or an immediate family member) please phone or email to Hilda (289-389-0768 hfair@cogeco.ca)

Music Report

Throughout the course of the past year, there have been a number of occasions for our dedicated musicians to share their joy in providing music.

The Music Committee organized music for the Ultreya and Commissioning of the Secretariat members which followed the Annual General Meeting in September 2008. The Committee also gave leadership in the Conference Room to Weekend 43 held in November 2008 as well as at the Moonlight service of commissioning. Special thanks go to Susanne Adams and Jim Parker for leading the music at the Closing Eucharist of Weekend 43.

As a result of Cursillo Niagara's revision of the Weekend, the musicians on the Support Team felt invigorated to enjoy the fullness of the weekend as well as to combine with the Music Team at worship, thereby enhancing the total experience for all Cursillistas.

In October and January, the committee led the music for the Diocesan Ultreya at the Church of the Nativity in Hamilton while in April the committee led the singing at the Ultreya held in Grace Church, St. Catharines. In July, the committee led the singing at the Cursillo picnic held at Bronte Park Conservation Area.

Our Diocesan Ultreyas have strong percussion and keyboard support, thanks to Richard Turner and Ann Grose. Cursillistas like Susanne Adams and Margaret Denew provide special blessings when they are free to help. The Music Committee also appreciates those unnamed here who have offered leadership support whenever music has been requested across the diocese.

Special thanks also go to Tim Standish and Larry Collinson who help set up the projection system to keep us singing the right words and to John Newton for the work he did in digitizing lyrics for PowerPoint projection.

Two other events this year called us to celebrate our strong friendships and relationships. We were sad but privileged to provide music for the funeral of our beloved Past Spiritual Director, the Rev. Joyce Phin in January. From all parts of our diocese, musicians appeared to celebrate the life of our dear friend and sister in Christ. Secondly, we were pleased to have Nancy Wood, Ann Grose and Richard Turner lead music for the Ordination service in June at the Cathedral when Brian Galligan and David Toth, two of our Cursillistas, were ordained.

Our job is to ensure that all music sung is covered by license and that annual payment is channelled to the licensing organizations. Thanks to our treasurer, Jan Collinson, who works hard to cover this essential part of our work.

The Music Committee looks forward to another year, especially with the Diocesan focus on increasing passionate spirituality and exciting worship. We pray that new voices and instrumentalists will grow over the next year. As always, music continues to bless our lives and enrich our journeys.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan A. Little
Music Committee Chairperson
Committee Members: Susanne Adams, Margaret Denew

Treasurer's Report

This is a very hard report for me to write. While we are holding our own financially our plans to pay for new participants is sinking into the sunset.

Our monthly P.A.P. (pre authorized giving plan) meet our monthly costs however there is none left over for the Sponsorship fund. We need to collect approximately \$ 3000.00 per weekend to sponsor the candidates. In the past few months I have asked for more donations, more people to sign up on the P.A.P. plan and have had film canisters for people to fill with loonies/toonies. It only takes three toonie film canisters to sponsor one candidate. I have filled one and have started on my second. You don't miss a toonie or two. To those of you who have answered this call I thank you. Please remember for all funds given you receive a tax receipt. A PAP form is included in this Rainbow.

We have two weekends coming up and I as well as the other members of Secretariat would love to be able to sponsor all the participants. On the past weekend they paid \$50.00 and we paid the rest.

It is a lovely way to welcome them into Cursillo.

Submitted by
Jan Collinson
Treasurer

Communications Report

As always, maintaining the email distribution lists is an important on-going task as this is one of the primary ways we communicate with the Wider Community. As such it is essential that any changes to an email address be provided to us so the lists can be promptly updated. When providing the change please provide the old email address as well as the new one. This makes it easier to determine which address requires a change (it is not always obvious).

The other primary means of communication is the Rainbow which is issued four times per year. At last year's AGM it was decided, based on feedback received from our Visitations in early 2008, that we would change the way we approached the issuing of the Rainbow. Previously the Rainbow was posted on the web site and an email was sent to all Cursillistas advising them that it was available. Paper copies were mailed via Canada Post only for those people who had specifically asked that it be received this way. We are now doing the opposite. Everyone receives the Rainbow via Canada Post unless we have been advised that they only want to get it via email. It is therefore important that any changes to your mailing address are provided to us so the mailing distribution is also up-to-date. As Susan mentioned in her Spiritual Director's report we would be interested in any comments you may have on this change. I should say here that the AGM

issue of the Rainbow is always mailed to everyone.. This allows you to see the budget information which is not posted on the website as it is a public domain Changes to email or mailing addresses can be sent to

communication@niagaracursillo.org. Or you can call me (Nancy Wood) at 905-335-6067 or mail to 2262 Kirkburn Dr, Burlington, Ont L7P 4G7.

This year in addition to adding the new Cursillistas to the database and email distribution lists and the on-going updates, a significant number of email addresses for our brother and sister Cursillistas in Huron were added. Thanks to Marion Bailey for providing these email addresses.

Over the course of the year we have been working at updating the website with a view to professionally presenting information about the Niagara Cursillo movement to non-Cursillistas who may visit our site. We have made great strides with this activity but there is still some work to be done. Check it out – the address is www.niagaracursillo.org. We have also arranged to have advertising in the Niagara Anglican to help to make our logo recognizable to non-Cursillistas throughout the diocese. .

Our previous Rainbow editor, Ken Simmons stepped down after many years of dedicated service. I would like to take this opportunity to again thank Ken both from my role as Communications Chair

and on behalf of the Wider Community for the commitment and proficiency he brought to this ministry. I have been acting as editor since Ken stepped down and as my term on Secretariat is coming to an end I will continue in this role.

Just a reminder - if anyone wants to share a Cursillo experience with the Wider Community, just send an article either by mail (see my address above) or by email to editor@naiagaracursillo.org. You can also share with non-Cursillistas through the Niagara Anglican – they are always happy to receive an article about Cursillo.

As I mentioned before I am finishing my second term on Secretariat and I would like to say that it has been my great pleasure to serve as Communications Chair for the past 4 years. Thanks to all the members of Secretariat that I had the opportunity to work with – they are all dedicated to serving Christ through the Cursillo movement. Thanks also to John Newton and Shirley Kitchen who came on board as committee members in the spring. We didn't have a lot of time to work together but as I will be on the Communication Committee in my role as Rainbow editor hopefully there will be an opportunity to do so in the future.

Respectfully submitted
Nancy Wood
Communications Chair

Continuing Education Report

It was a quiet year for Continuing Education; we held no special workshops or training sessions. At the Diocesan Ultreya we did a short education segment, one was about secretariat and another sponsorship. If you have something in Cursillo you would like to learn about please contact me or a member of secretariat. I am also looking for people interested in helping on this committee.

Jan Collinson
Chair of Continuing Education

Overhead Projector

Our overhead projector which was being stored in Susan Well's basement was unfortunately destroyed in the recent flooding in Hamilton/Stoney Creek.

If anyone has one of these projector or knows where they can get one that could be donated to Cursillo it would be greatly appreciated. Please advise Susan Little (Music Chair) if you can help at 905-528-3326 or littleivo@yahoo.ca.

Weekend #44

November 5 – 8, 2009

Mt. Mary Immaculate in Ancaster

**Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God;
trust also in me.**

John 14:1

The plans for the upcoming weekend are in full swing. Team training starts on September 18th – just a few weeks away!! We are looking forward to this time of community building – an opportunity for Cursillistas to come together to prepare for the Three Day Weekend, during which time new participants will be exposed to the Cursillo method of fifteen talks, five meditations, daily worship, music and fellowship.

Please prayerfully consider sponsoring a candidate. Let the Lord direct you – and don't give up if the immediate response is negative. It is amazing to me how we have any Cursillistas at all when I hear of how many folks were asked many times before they finally agreed. Applications forms are available on the website on the Weekend page. The direct link is: <http://niagaracursillo.org/ApplicationForm2009.pdf>

The Wider Community is an essential part of the weekend experience. We ask for your daily prayers as we prepare; your support at the Moonlight, the Agape, the Mananita, Palanca and the Closing. I hope we will mark your calendars and set this time apart.

God is counting on us, as we are on Him.

Ultreya!

Marion Bailey
Weekend #44 Co-Coordinator

Team

Co-Ordinator
Assistant Co-Ordinator

Marion Bailey
Richard Turner

Spiritual Advisors

The Rev. Michael Mondloch
The Rev. Stephanie Pellow
The Rev. David Toth

Music Director

Susanne Adams

Professor / Table Enabler

Ann Grose

Conference Room

Laurie McDowell
Ann Mulvale
Nancy Harris
Margaret Wilding-Denew (music)
Renee Anderson
Donna Cousineau
Tim Standish
Brian Langlotz
Terry Cousineau

Support Group Co-Ordinator
Support Team

Larry Collinson
John Newton
Pat Roberts
Shirley Kitchen
Karen Galligan
Richard Summers

Team list can be found on the Weekend page of the website. Direct link is: <http://www.niagaracursillo.org/Team44.htm>

Huron Liason

This past spring, Grace Anglican Church, Brantford hosted the Pre-Cursillo Chair, Dave Tinker, at a Parish Council Meeting. He was well received as he explained to the Parish Council how the Cursillo Method “worked”. We were thankful that he gave his time to travel on a Tuesday evening. To follow up, in June the display was set up for two consecutive Sundays during the coffee and conversation time – “Grace Café” held in the parish hall after the 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. Cursillistas were on hand to answer questions.

The Huron Liasons to Secretariat, Jessie Johnstone and Marion Bailey, traveled to London, Ontario at the end of May to set up the Cursillo display board at the Huron Synod and to hand out brochures with hopes to raise an awareness of Cursillo in Huron. The immediate goal was to invite folks to attend Weekend #44 or Weekend #45 – both dates scheduled as Cursillo Weekends for 2009 and 2010. We spoke to many people.

We encourage you to use the Display Board: a great tool to raise the awareness of Cursillo in your parish!

Ultreya
Marion Bailey

Regional Ultreya Schedule

Hamilton & Burlington: Second Friday of month (excl. Jul & Aug) at 7:30 pm Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Contact: Tim Standish (905) 318-7405

Guelph: Third Friday of every month at 7:30pm.

Location as determined

Contact: Brian & Elizabeth Rothwell
(519) 823-1124

Oakville: Sunday afternoons as determined, at St. Simon's

Contact: Lorraine Cassidy (905) 842-5832

Goergetown/Milton: First Friday of month (excl. Jul & Aug) at 7:30 pm Meetings at Grace, Milton

Currently no contact: *(Call the church)*

Niagara Peninsula: *(currently inactive)*

Guidelines for Witness Talks at Ultreyas

Witness Talk by a Lay Person

A witness talk is-

- A description of how you live your life with Christ and how you are trying to bring others to know Him in the ordinary circumstances of your life.
- A sharing of a recent (within 6 – 8 weeks) experience. Make 1 or 2 points of “What you are doing for Christ”
- Keep the witness talk simple, sincere, concrete & practical: the who, what, where, when and why of your action. A person's name should never be used in a witness talk without first obtaining that person's permission to do so.
- Include in the talk a sharing of what happened as a result of your action, both successes and failures. Not all attempts to make a friend, be a friend and bring a friend to Christ are immediately successful. Sometimes through our efforts, a seed is planted, a candle lit, a heart mended. We do not always see the results.

A witness talk should not be sensational or too emotional. Certainly a touch of tasteful humor is always welcome in a talk. One or two references to bible selections, if suitable, can be read.

Visual aids such as posters or overheads are not required and in fact may hamper your presentation..

A witness talk is to be from eight (8) to ten (10) minutes, maximum. Please stay within that time limit.

Practice the talk as much as possible so that you are at ease with the content. If possible, practice with a spouse, or supportive friend.

If you select an individual to give the lay response, that person will need to have a copy of your talk well enough in advance along with a copy of this outline.

Giving a witness talk is a wonderful opportunity to share a part of your walk with Christ with your brothers and sisters. Please relax and enjoy your presentation. You are loved.

Lay Person's Response.

The lay response is to be **two (2) to three (3) minutes** long .The response should include a simple thank-you to the speaker and center on an affirmation of the persons experience possibly with a personal example.

Priest's Response

A priest's response gives a Biblical reflection lasting up to **five (5) minutes** after the witness talk and lay response to pull everything together and relate it to some part of the Gospel. It is also helpful if the priest has some prior knowledge of the contents of the witness speaker, although this is not essential.

This is the teaching part of the Ultreya when those present can learn how the Gospel relates to daily life.

**2009 Triennial Conference and General Meeting
June 5 – 7, 2009 Halifax, N.S.**

Nancy Harris and Jan Collinson attended the Halifax Conference. Nancy Harris was the voting delegate.

The theme for the weekend was “Let Christ’s Light Shine”. Christ’s light certainly did shine throughout the weekend.

The keynote speaker was The Right Reverend Susan Moxley, Bishop of Nova Scotia and P.E.I.. She gave us many ideas on what and how to keep our light shining. Jesus says “I am the light of the world” but he also said “You are the light”. We should go out and shine our light.

We have communities of Faith – our church and Cursillo. In the Cursillo movement “is the light of Christ our focus?” When we return from a Cursillo weekend our candle is burning very bright when we go back to church. This sometimes scares people off saying that they don’t want anything to do with that Cursillo stuff.

The next speaker was George Henry. He is the Chair of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Cursillos. The title of his talk was “Good Stewardship & the Cursillo – The Necessity of knowing its History”.

Cursillo is only completely understood when you know the roots of Cursillo. Cursillo was not meant for the church but for the individual. Faith, Study and Action is heart, head & feet. It is important to remember that Cursillo doesn’t rely on the weekends to fulfill its purpose. It isn’t about weekends. It is about Group Reunions.

Leaders School needs to be held regularly.

The next workshop was a Sponsorship Workshop.

It was said that Cursillo was never meant to be a recruitment movement. It certainly should never be a numbers game for a weekend. Sponsorship must be – Make a friend, be a Friend and bring that friend to God. One should always speak to God before asking a person to go on a Cursillo weekend. A candidate is working towards their fourth day not just the weekend. A sponsor should really get to know the candidate by asking him or her to attend Ultreyas and Group Reunions. The weekend should be explained including the talks. And only after all this has happened would the sponsor be in a position to know if the candidate should attend a weekend.

We should read the rules for Secretariat’s responsibilities of sponsorship.

Cursillo and the Clergy – When a lay person approaches a clergy to attend a Cursillo weekend he/she should approach as a friend. Explain what goes on a weekend; tell about the talks, table communities. Also tell them they don’t have to wear the collar and they don’t have to do any clergy work. Take them to an Ultreya and Group Reunion.

The next workshop was a CACS Panel Discussion on Witness Talks at Ultreyas.

Giving a Witness Talk – A witness talk is:

- A description of how you live your life with Christ and how you are trying to bring others to know Him in the ordinary circumstances of your life.
- A sharing of a recent (within 6 weeks) experience. Make just 1 or 2 points of What you are doing for Christ.
- Make it simple, sincere, concrete & practical: the who, what, where, when & why of your action.
- Sharing of what happened as a result – both successes & failures.

A Witness talks should not be sensational or too emotional.

The next item of business was the General Meeting of CACS.

We are to let CACS know if any changes to our local website address are made so CACS can update the link.

If we should be interested in holding a CLW contact the chair of CACS

It is recommended that we send \$3.00 per person to CACS

The Canadian Anglican Cursillo Constitution was reviewed with a few minor changes made.

The elections to CACS were held.

- Bishop Jane Alexander – Episcopal Advisor
- Chair of CACS – Valerie Roper
- 2 priests – Ed Keeping – Newfoundland
Trish McCarthy – Diocese of Qu'Appelle
- Atlantic Canada – 1 rep. Marianne
- Ontario – 2 reps. Robert Campbell, Ottawa & Wendy Fitzpatrick, Ottawa
- Rupert's Landing 1 rep. – Terry G.
- B.C. – 2 reps. Roger Parks, & Peter Powell

CACS is thinking that the next Triennial meeting might be held in Central Canada. The attendance was down this year possibly because of the distance and cost that representatives have to travel. It was suggested that an amount could be set in the budget each year for 3 years to pay for the voting delegate to attend the conference. The next Triennial meeting will be in 2012.

Questions that I asked of CACS on behalf of Niagara Secretariat.

1. Can a person redo a weekend?

Answer – No. Need to live your 4th day everyday instead of wanting to redo a weekend. A person can only have one weekend experience which then leads to your 4th day.

2. Sponsorship is very important. See section above in this report.

I spoke with various people attending the conference about how they handle the privacy issues around the Mananita. Some areas don't have the Mananita at all. Others only have team and do not have the wider community. It appears that most areas have men only and women only weekends and no co-ed. So that would make a difference. One area had all participants up and dressed and when they went to breakfast the wider community was there to greet and serenade them. After the singing the wider community then left.

I asked if participants pay for the weekend.

Some areas - participants pay the full amount

- participants pay what they can

- participants don't pay at all then a request for money is sent out to the wider community.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Harris

ELECTION OF VOTING REPRESENTATIVES TO CACS TRIENNIAL MEETINGS

At the last Annual General Meeting of Cursillo Niagara held on September 7, 2008, it was stated in the minutes that "*our Movement is entitled to send two(2) representatives to vote at the (Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat – CACS) meeting....*".

As a result of this statement, the Lay Director at that time, Zandra Pennylegion, and Ann Grose were elected to go to the Triennial Meeting in June 2009 as voting members.

On reviewing the National Cursillo Constitution it was discovered that each member Diocese (that is a diocese with an active Cursillo Secretariat operating with the consent of the Diocesan Bishop) shall have **ONE voting member**.

4.1.2. of the Constitution states, "*Voting members shall have one vote per Diocese. A representative from the member Diocese must be present at the National General Meeting in order to vote. No proxy votes shall be permitted*".

5.3 of the Constitution states, "*Member Diocesan Movements are encouraged to send a number of participants to a National General Meeting; however, each voting member diocesan movement has only one (1) vote.*"

Continued on page 11

ELECTION OF VOTING REPRESENTATIVES TO CACS TRIENNIAL MEETINGS

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After discovering this mistake, it was decided at the March 2009 Secretariat meeting that the Deputy Lay Director, Nancy Harris** would attend the CACS Triennial Meeting in June as Cursillo Niagara's voting member. Another member of Secretariat, Jan Collinson would attend as a non-voting participant.

Any motions that are made, seconded and voted on (whether passed or defeated) at our Cursillo Niagara Annual Meetings and/or any other meetings called for the general vote, are always honoured by your Secretariat. In this instance, clearly we were mistaken in the number of votes allowed, therefore it was our responsibility to rectify the mistake and bring Cursillo Niagara in line with the Constitution.

** A word of explanation: At the time the Lay Director was Ann Grose who had taken over from Zandra Pennylegion for one year to complete the term. As Nancy was taking over as Lay Director in Sept. 2009 for a two year term, it seemed more sensible and beneficial for her to attend this meeting. Our National Representative, Mark McDermott and Secretariat members concurred.

Ann Grose

Nominations for Secretariat

Our By-laws states that: *the Secretariat shall be composed of clergy and lay people with a total membership of not less than nine or more than fourteen of which no more than three shall be clergy, and no more than three shall be members-at-large.*

This year:

- One member (Nancy Wood) retires after completing two, 2 year terms
- Two members (Richard Turner and Laura MacKenzie) are eligible to stand for re-election having completed their 2 year term..
- Clergy-member-at-large position is vacate

This creates four vacancies on Secretariat.

The nominating committee is putting forth the following individuals, who have agreed to stand to fill these vacancies:

John Newton Shirley Kitchen
Richard Turner Laura MacKenzie

Together with the following members (serving the second year of a 2 year term) the Lay Director the Spiritual Director and

The Huron liasons, the total membership of Secretariat would be thirteen.

Jan Collinson Dave Tinker
Laurie McDowell Susan Little

If you, or someone you know, would like to serve for a two year term on Secretariat, please nominate them. It takes one Cursillistas to nominate and one to second the nomination. Prior to submitting his or her name, please ensure that the individual is willing to serve at this time. Nominations can be sent in writing up to the date of the AGM. In addition, nominations will be accepted from the floor of the AGM.. If someone nominated from the floor is elected, the election will not be ratified until the elected person has fulfilled the requirements of the screening procedure as outlined in the Code.

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee:
Marion Binns
Lorraine Shermet
Jack Beddgood

The Rainbow is published about four times per year: at the beginning of November, February, May, and August.
Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Pease send to: Nancy Wood, 2262 Kirkburn Dr, Burlington. ON L7P 4G7 or e-mail editor@niagaracursillo.org.
All submissions must be Cursillo or Christ oriented, not of a political or controversial nature, and are subject to editing.

Secretariat has final approval as to appropriateness of any articles submitted.

If you know of an event, concert or activity that you feel might be of interest to Cursillistas please let us know.

Niagara Anglican Cursillo Movement

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held Sunday, September 7, 2008
at Church of the Nativity, Hamilton, ON

1. Call to Order

A sign-in sheet was circulated and signed by twenty-eight Cursillistas. This being a quorum to hold the meeting, Lay Director Zandra Pennylegion, acting as Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:10pm. Rev. Susan Wells opened the meeting with prayer. The Chair then welcomed everyone and introduced the current members of Secretariat.

2. Approval of Minutes of the AGM held September 16, 2007

The minutes were published in the August 2008 Rainbow. There being no errors or omissions noted, the Minutes were adopted as published on a motion made by Larry Collinson, seconded by David Eccles and carried.

3. Reports from Secretariat

Reports from the Lay Director, Spiritual Director and all Committee Chairs as published in August 2008 Rainbow were received as published on a motion duly made by Rev. Rod McDowell, seconded by Mike Chetman and carried.

4. Treasurer's Report for 2007/08 and Budget for 2008/09

The Financial Statement was published in the August 2008 Rainbow. David Eccles, Treasurer, gave an overview and invited comments from the floor. Following discussion, the Report was received as published and presented on motion by Jan Collinson, seconded by Rev. Mark McDermott and carried.

David then presented the Budget for 2008/09, which was also published in the August 2008 Rainbow. In particular David pointed out the higher budgeted cost for the Rainbow to address the request at visitations for more communications particularly in paper, as well as the line item to purchase an LCD projector. Rev. Susan Wells elaborated on David's presentation, drawing to everyone's attention the Sponsorship Fund Reconciliation, and that Secretariat was proposing using \$3,600 of the Sponsorship Fund to subsidize \$150 of the cost of participants attending the weekend this fall. This would then mean that participants for weekend #43 are only paying \$50. The cost for team members remains at \$200. Following discussion, upon motion by Laura MacKenzie, seconded by Laurie McDowell that the Budget for 2008/09 be approved as presented. Carried.

5. Election of New Members to Secretariat

Larry Collinson, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the Report as published in the August Rainbow and nominated the following individuals for election to Secretariat: Nancy Harris, Jan Collinson, Susan Little, Laurie McDowell, David Tinker, Rev. Paul Tinker. Motion to accept the Nominating Committee report made by David Eccles, seconded by Jan Collinson, carried.

No other nominations being received from the floor, on a motion duly made by Laura McKenzie, seconded by Marion Binns and carried, nominations were closed.

The Chair declared that a vote was not required and all nominees to Secretariat were elected by acclamation.

Rev. Susan Wells thanked John Pennylegion, retiring from Secretariat, for his contributions over the last four years. Rev. Susan also recognized and thanked Lise Simmons, who was not present, for her work on Secretariat. Lise resigned during the year for personal reasons.

6. Election of Voting Representative to stand for election to Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat (CACS)

Chair, Zandra Pennylegion, explained that CACS is our national body for Cursillo in Canada, and that it holds Triennial meetings. The next meeting is in June, 2009. Our Movement is entitled to send to representatives to vote at that meeting, and in addition we may put forward one individual to stand for election to the National Secretariat at that meeting.

Larry Collinson, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the Report as published in the August Rainbow and nominated the following individual for election as a Voting Representative and to stand for election to Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat: Zandra Pennylegion.

The Chair was passed to Rev. Susan Wells. Motion to accept the Nominating Committee report made by Susan Little, seconded by Rod McDowell, carried.

No other nominations being received from the floor, on a motion duly made by Ann Grose, seconded by Marion Binns and carried, nominations were closed.

Chair, Rev. Susan Wells, declared that a vote was not required and Zandra Pennylegion was elected by acclamation.

Chair returned to Zandra Pennylegion.

7. Election of 2nd Voting Representative to CACS Triennial Meeting

Larry Collinson, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the Report as published in the August Rainbow and nominated the following individuals for election as a Voting Representative at the June 2009 Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat meeting: Jan Collinson, Ann Grose.

Motion to accept the Nominating Committee report made by Eva Standish, seconded by John Pennylegion, and carried.

No other nominations being received from the floor, on a motion duly made by Larry Collinson, seconded by David Eccles and carried, nominations were closed.

Ballots were distributed and collected by Larry Collinson. Larry and Rev. Susan Wells acted as scrutineers and counted the votes.

8. Report from CACS Representative, Rev. Mark McDermott

While the votes were being tallied Rev. Canon Mark McDermott brought greetings from CACS and reminded all present of the requirements of our license from the Catholic movement, the need to present talks as set out in the outlines and above all to be gentle and loving in our presentations. Rev. Mark also advised that the dates of the Triennial meeting are June 5-7, 2009 at Kings College in Halifax, NS.

9. Report on Election of 2nd Voting Representative to CACS

Rev. Susan Wells advised that the votes had been tallied and Ann Grose was elected. Upon motion by Bill Harris, seconded by John Pennylegion, and carried the ballots were destroyed.

A point of clarification was made that in the event Ann was unable for any reason to attend the Triennial meeting, Jan Collinson would be the alternate and go in Ann's place.

Rev. Susan Wells made a motion that Cursillo pay additional travel expenses, up to \$500 for a third person, i.e. Jan Collinson, to attend the June CACS meeting as a non-voting representative. Seconded by Bill Harris and carried. It was also clarified that anyone may attend the meeting and are in fact encouraged to do so, however Niagara Cursillo will only pay for travel costs of the three nominated individuals.

The Budget will be adjusted to reflect the additional \$500 cost as approved.

10. Appointment of Treasurer

The Chair advised that David Eccles was retiring as Treasurer having served in that capacity, and previously as Secretary-Treasurer, for many years. A vote of thanks was given for his work over the years. Lorette Shermet, who was not present, has also resigned as Secretary, and a vote of thanks for her work was given.

The Chair announced the appointment of Jan Collinson to the position of Treasurer. The position of Secretary remains open for further consideration by Secretariat.

11. Other Business / Announcements

- Laura MacKenzie commented on how well received our "ultreya" with John & Joyce Phin at the nursing home was received and that we have been asked to come again. She suggested that we try to go on a monthly or bi-monthly basis and also consider doing this at any other nursing homes where Cursillistas are.

- Zandra Pennylegion advised that a short Rainbow will be sent out following our first Secretariat meeting this Saturday to report the results of the AGM
- Rev. Susan and Zandra will be meeting with Bishop Michael on Thursday Sept. 11
- Marion Binns, CoOrdinator of Weekend 43, advised that to date there are only two applications in, and encouraged everyone to please get applications in soon
- Eva Standish asked about Sponsorship Workshops. Zandra explained that they are no longer being held as they were poorly attended, and that the sponsorship requirements have been changed significantly – there is no report required and the application form is now only one page
- A question was asked regarding getting more clergy involved and promoting Cursillo more. Zandra advised that Pre-Cursillo will be a major focus in the coming year
- A request was made to send out a flyer promoting the weekend, along with application forms, that can be posted on Church Bulletin Boards – these can be sent in the next Rainbow

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, on motion made by Laura MacKenzie, the meeting closed at 4:05pm

The meeting was followed by an Ultreya and Commissioning of Secretariat.

Date Approved: _____.

Zandra Pennylegion, Lay Director

Nancy Harris, Recording Secretary

cc -Bishop Michael Bird



Niagara Anglican Cursillo Pre-Authorized Giving Program Authorization Form

To: Jan Collinson, **Treasurer**
156 Crosthwaite Avenue North
Hamilton, ON L8H 4V5

I/We wish to take advantage of the Niagara Anglican Cursillo Pre-Authorized Giving Program.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: Postal Code: _____

I/We hereby authorize you to debit my/our account on or about the 15th of each month in the amount of \$ _____ payable to The Diocese of Niagara for Niagara Anglican Cursillo

Enclosed is a blank cheque clearly marked "VOID" showing my/our bank account, which you may use to obtain the correct account number.

Your treatment of each payment shall be the same as if I/we had personally issued a cheque authorizing you to pay as indicated and to debit my/our account accordingly.

I/We understand that this authorization may be cancelled or changed at any time upon written notice by me/us, provided that I/we provide this notice in reasonable time for the current month. ***(Please allow two weeks for the change to take effect.)***

Please note: for joint accounts both parties should sign below

Date: _____

(Signature)

(Signature)

- Note:** 1. Income tax receipts are issued in February for the previous year.
2. The Treasurer can be reached at (905) 545-4285

[Please attach VOID cheque here]