



December 2007

The Newsletter of the Ottawa Anglican Cursillo Movement

A Message from the Lay Director

Like Advent, Cursillo Transforms Us

The coming of Emmanuel – God with us, God in us, God for us.

At a recent Ultreya, a Cursillista gave me a booklet of daily devotions for Advent; because she knew that I would like it. She thought of me, she quoted, as she was purchasing them for her parish.

I love the Advent season, because it gives me hope. It makes me focus on the why of Christmas rather than the why bother with Christmas and just get the gift buying over. Are you ready for Christmas, have you done all your Christmas shopping yet? I've been hearing this for weeks now from a variety of store personnel, and I smile and say no, not even close. Should I take a risk and say, "I'm just awakening to the coming of Christ, I'm not prepared yet. I'll let you know if I do.

So, with my new booklet in hand on the first Sunday in Advent and its hopeful message of light piercing through the darkness; I realize how needy I am for this light to pierce through my darkened state, and God willing, if I am obedient, through the miracle of this light piercing through my darkness I will be transformed and "ready for Christmas."



The Wonderful Gift of Cursillo

When we, as Cursillistas, meet at regular Ultreyas and/or group reunions, do we not carry a bit of this Advent message of hope in us; since by and large the message of Cursillo is to bring the world to Christ? The profound joy in the three-day weekend will be the first many will experience, and it is one filled with hope. The weekend will equip new Cursillistas with tools to carry on this message into their daily activities to share that light with others – the wonderful gift of Cursillo.

A Message of Transformation

Just like the message of Advent, the whole significance of a Cursillo weekend is the preparation for what is to come and it begins with the Fourth Day.

The emphasis of the Fourth Day message is not just in meeting together. Instead, the whole emphasis is on meeting in order to engage each other in a vital ministry, to share the grace of God with one another, to plan ways to share that grace, and to hold each other accountable for carrying out our plans! What Cursillo contributes is a method for being a committed Christian. This Method is based on linkage with other committed Christians through the Group Reunion, Ultreyas, and progressive growth in grace through Spiritual Direction. This method though simple, is intended to promote active witness, that is, apostolic action. (*The Point of the Fourth Day, National Episcopal Cursillo* ©2006)

Without the Fourth Day message, from the public point of view, Cursillo seems to be a secret society where the initiated are trying to enlist the non-initiated and seem more interested in promoting the weekend than in changing their workplace and communities around them. If this message is not understood, then we have missed the point. We are like the millions of consumers out there feeling duped by the commercialization of what should be the most meaningful time of the

year and the fact that we should be preparing ourselves to celebrate the birth of Christ is not registering with us.

“In him was life, and that life was the light of all people” (*John 1: 3-4, Today’s New International Version*), Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life (*John 8:12, Today’s New International Version*).

What wonderful gifts God has provided for his children: *Emmanuel, the Everlasting Light*.

Ultreya!

Maggie Villeneuve

A Message from the Outgoing Spiritual Director

Dear friends in Christ,

As I come to the end of my appointment as the Spiritual Director of the Ottawa Anglican Cursillo Movement, I can't help but think of change. Not only will there be a change in Spiritual Directors but also in some of the other positions on Secretariat. That's normal. People are called into and out of certain ministries all the time. However, there are things within Cursillo that remain constant. One of these things is the Cursillo method, a method that has as its purpose the intent to bring us into an even deeper relationship with our Lord Jesus through authentic piety, study and action. This is stressed in the weekend experience; and from that weekend flows another constant, which is the encouragement to live this out in the 4th Day, through group reunion, Ultreya and spiritual direction. These are constant because they have been tried and proven to be effective tools in the Christian walk and because they are recognized as gifts from God, given so that God may strengthen us through community. As a parting word as the Spiritual Director, I encourage you to use these gifts as a regular part of your walk with God so that your faith may be a blessing to others and that they may be a blessing to you.

The past two years were a good experience

for me. I have been blessed by working with the other members of Secretariat and also those who serve in the wider Servant Community. I thank God for each of them. The Cursillo community as a whole has also blessed me. Again, I thank God and I thank you.

As the outgoing Spiritual Director, I extend a warm welcome and a grateful thank you, on behalf of all of you, to Richard Vroom for agreeing to serve as your Spiritual Director for the coming year. I have known Richard for quite some time and I know that he too will delight in the opportunity to serve you and he too will be lifted by your encouragement, and support.

Many blessings to each of you!

In Christ's love and mercy, *Pat Coulombe*

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



**Harold the Angel Sings!!
glory to the newborn king!**

The Rainbow is the newsletter of the Ottawa Anglican Cursillo Movement. It is published four times per year. Your article submissions are welcome.

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From the Editor

The time just seems to fly by. It seems like only yesterday that we were enjoying the hazy, lazy days of August, and here it is almost Christmas again. The other night as I was driving home the number of homes that already had Christmas lights in the yard struck me. There were homes with Santas and homes with stars, and homes with spotlights on elves and others with coloured beams focussed on cutouts of managers and of angels.

It was very beautiful - and during this week it has become even more so. Is it my imagination, or are there more lights and more decorations than ever before? I began to wonder why this might be, especially when so many people profess not to believe in the one whose birth we will celebrate in just a little over three weeks from now - when so many people are so ignorant of the treasure that is contained within our faith.

Perhaps the lights that we see everywhere we go are expressions of defiance in the face of hard times; that they are tangible assertions that when all is fragile, that when all is increasingly dark - that there is hope; that they are an attempt on the part of believers and unbelievers alike to affirm that there is goodness and joy to be had.

And that is a wonderful thing - one that no Scrooge should take from us with comments about how we shouldn't rush Christmas - or how it is all a waste of money, of electrical power, and of time. We all need beauty, we all should defy the darkness, we all need hope. The lights of Christmas provide or represent all three.

Sadly, they do it differently for different people. For many people the lights that they string up represent a sad and futile hope: - the hope for a Christmas like those they had as a child when they did not know the sorrow of this world - a Christmas of warm fires and cold snow, and sweet and never ending smells. The hope for a family gathering - and a family life - like that before they knew the pain of divorce, the agony of untimely death, and the grief that separation brings. The hope for a world of magic where Santa Claus and his elves really make and deliver all the toys that our children could possibly desire, a world in which the problems and pressures of

of daily living can be erased if only the carols are played from roof-top speakers loudly enough; a world in which joy can be had in direct proportion to the number of lights we string and the number of spot lights we shine upon pieces of plastic and wood.

For those who do not have the real hope that Christmas represents, the lights cannot make Christmas like it was when we were children. They cannot hold back the darkness of sin and sorrow; they cannot change the world and bring us the salvation we desire. Only the Christ who was born on Christmas Day can do that. Only the risen and living Lord can make the celebration of his birth something that is more than a brief, frantic, and senseless time of feasting till we are sick of sweets, drinking till we are sick of drink, and of spending money we don't have on gifts that we don't need - till the rest of the world is sick of our wasteful and self-indulgent ways.

For many the decorations and the preparations are an attempt to capture for a brief moment the peace of forgetting the pain of the world rather than a triumphant proclamation that the Lord of Light, the Living God, will soon come and - and that on that day they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and the spears into pruning hooks - and that the pain of the world will be ended - and that peace come to us as nations neither lift up sword against each other nor learn war anymore.

It is a wonderful thing to defy the course of the world and to proclaim that there is a special day - a day in which family and friends may gather and dine together in peace and with joy. It is even more wonderful - when in doing so - you have reason to believe that a day is coming when the whole world will be at peace - and that you can influence its coming by making a friend, being a friend and bringing a friend to Christ.

We have that hope because of the one who first came at Christmas, and his promise to come again. Even now he is present in the hearts of the faithful. You and I can face the world as it is and make a difference.

Ultreya

OACM Weekend Update

Welcome New Cursillistas

We welcome these new Cursillistas from the Women' 106th, and Men's 107th held in March 2007, and the Women's 108th, held in November 2007.

Upcoming Weekends – Spring 2008

Women's 109th - March 6-9, 2008 – Lay Rector Audrey Byres

Men's' 110th – April 3-6, 2008 – Lay Rector William Passmore
(Teams will be announced in the next issue)

Next Day of Deeper Understanding – May 3, 2008
(Venue to be announced in the next issue)

OACM Secretariat 2007-2008

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Come Feed My Sheep – Unknown We Came

Come feed my sheep this very day
With prayers and songs along the way
Cast out your cares, refresh your mind
Be prepared, accept God, unwind.
Comforting Spirit lead me on through thickets deep
To pastures green with time to breathe: Come feed my
Sheep!

Unknown we came to Cursillo
Planned on route to Campostello
With problems shared and faith unfurled
This movement spans across the world.
Through God's Grace supporting sisters kindled the
flame
Friendships forged, time to reflect: unknown we came.

Angela Kilby

Nov 4th, 2007



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The *Rainbow* is your Newsletter. Please feel free to send in articles, poems, humour, announcements, etc. The poem opposite is an excellent example of how you can contribute. It was penned by Angela during the recent Women's Weekend, and we felt that it should be shared with the wider community.

Just put your fingers on the keyboard and mail or e-mail your contributions to the Editor (editor@oacm.ca, 983 route 800 E, St. Albert ON K0A 3C0.

Regional and Central Ultreyas

Central Ultreya – 3rd Wednesday of each month at St Mark's, 1606 Fisher Ave – 7:30 PM

At the time of writing we have information on only two Regional Ultreyas:

January 13th at Almonte Baptist at 7:00 PM – February 10th at Ashton at 7:30 PM

If you know of any other Ultreyas in the Diocese please let us know so that we can post the information!

The Stewardship of Time – An Opportunity to Serve – A Gift of Love

Many of you may have wondered how one can become more involved in the Movement. The most often asked question is how do I get on team. Well, it begins with you identifying yourself and your desire to participate. Keep in mind that Cursillo is not about weekends, its about making apostles who go forth to influence environments for Christ – the weekend is only part of the method, Group Reunions and Ultreyas are essential to our Christian growth. So, if you really want to get more involved in the Ottawa Anglican Cursillo Movement, pray about it and then let us know by completing the following form and sending it to us in the enclosed addressed envelope.

I would be pleased to be considered for future involvement in the Ottawa Anglican Cursillo Movement.

Name: Age:

Parish: Telephone:.....

Date of Original Weekend: Diocese:

I am, or have recently been in a Group Reunion:

I regularly attend an average of Ultreyas each year

Have you ever been on a team? If so indicate duties performed and Diocese (if not in Ottawa).

I am interesting in a contribution of my time because:

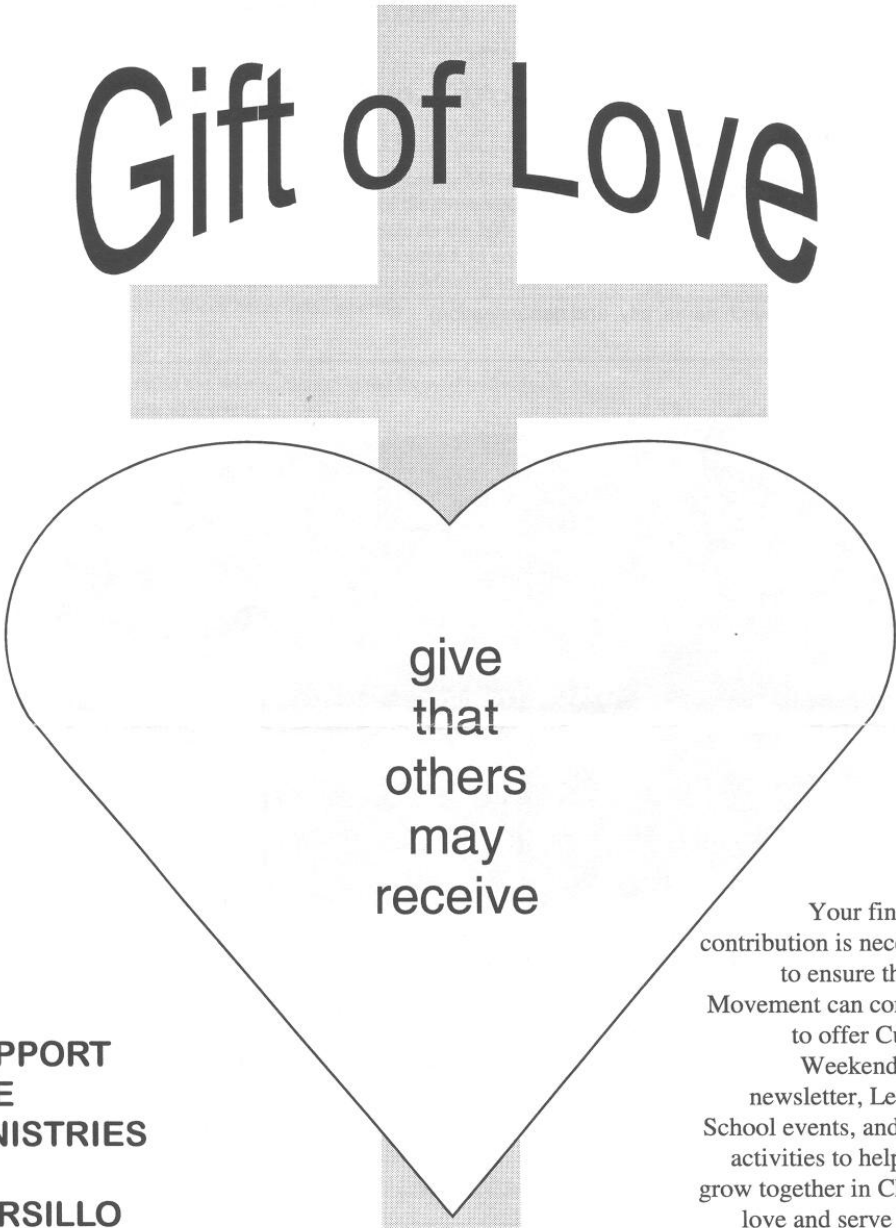
I feel that I can offer to serve in the following ways:

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| On a Team | <input type="checkbox"/> | On Secretariat | <input type="checkbox"/> | Newsletter Contributor | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Newsletter Worker | <input type="checkbox"/> | Musician | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Parish Representative | <input type="checkbox"/> | Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> | Day of Deeper Understanding | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ultreya Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other: (Please specify) | | | |



Rob Brooks is stepping down as Central Ultreya Leader and we are looking for someone to volunteer to fill the position. Duties, in addition to leading the Central Ultreya, include maintaining a relationship and contact with the host Parish (St. Marks), arranging for witness speakers, music, etc. If you are interested and wish more information contact Maggie or Michael, or complete this form and mail it to the Secretariat in the enclosed addressed envelope.

Gift of Love



give
that
others
may
receive

**SUPPORT
THE
MINISTRIES
OF
CURSILLO**

Your financial contribution is necessary to ensure that the Movement can continue to offer Cursillo Weekends, this newsletter, Leader's School events, and other activities to help us to grow together in Christ's love and serve Jesus.

Go in peace to love and serve your Lord. Alleluia! Amen