

DeCOLORES AURORA BOREALIS

Jesus has put the colors of His love in us, His "Northern Light".
Let your light shine on all around you.
Spread the colors of His Love.

The Newsletter of the Diocese of Thunder Bay Cursillo
664 Red River Road, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 1H8
www.cursillo-thunderbay.org

Issue 1/2017

SUMMER SEASON, 2017

2017 WEEKENDS – Men’s Weekend – October 19 to 22; Women’s Weekend October 26 to 29
Both Weekends to be held at Eagles Nest Retreat Center, Dorion Bible Camp

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NEWSLETTER: Submit Articles before 15th of month to:

Don Tribe -Email: 2121.tribe@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER MAIL OUT

If you know of a Cursillista who would like to receive our newsletter, please let us know so we can send them one.
If you no longer want to receive our newsletter or move, please let us know.

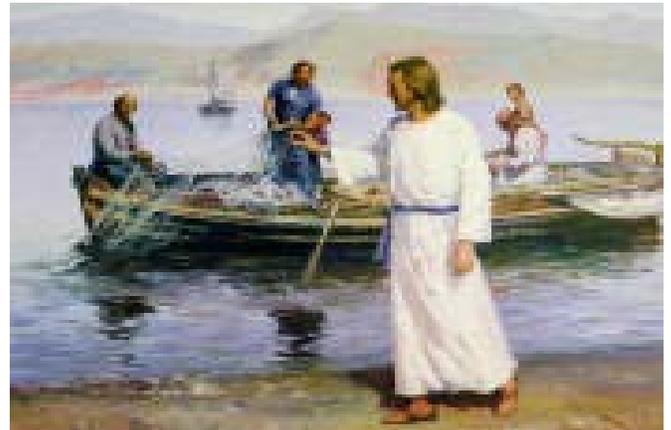
If we can email your newsletter it will save us about \$1.00/letter—we still have 150 names on our actual mailing list
If you received this newsletter by email you do not have to send a reply email

WEBSITE TO EXPLORE

A worthwhile site is called "THEPOPEAPP" to keep up with the worldwide church and activities of Pope Francis.

WEEKEND APPLICATIONS FOR POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

Applications for the weekend can be printed from the web site and mailed to the address at top of page!



JESUS CALLS THE APOSTLES

Scripture tells us that Jesus calls his apostles from many different professions. Each were unique – with their strengths and weaknesses - but Jesus loved them for who they were. He nurtured and strengthened them to become true witnesses to his early church to be able to spread his message of peace and love.

Each Cursillo weekend is another opportunity for the candidates to open themselves up to discover their own uniqueness and let Christ become a deeper part of their lives and faith journey.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR REPORT

By Reverend Deacon Dennis McDermott

On May 12 and 13, the New Evangelization Summit was held in Ottawa. On these dates, about 100 people from Northwestern Ontario gathered at St. Martin School in Terrace Bay to participate via livestream. We were united with many other towns and cities across Canada, the US, and Guatemala in this experience. Several Cursillistas were in attendance in Terrace Bay.

The Holy Spirit has given the Church the Cursillo Movement precisely for the purpose of (the new) evangelization. “Go forth and make disciples of all nations” is Jesus’ command for the Church. Traditionally, for most, evangelization meant to go far away and bring Christ and his Church to others. New evangelization just means to refocus and realize that evangelization is everywhere and every Christian is to participate.

In the last 50 years as we are all aware, many have drifted away from Christ and His Church. There are many reasons for this and it is good to know some of them so we can respond to others when asked. That is why it is so important to take opportunities when offered to strengthen ourselves with answers that make sense.

This is the area I would like to stress. Cursillo is based on community Christian friendship for growth in Christ so that by God’s grace, we effect change in our own selves with our friends and those we meet.

To enhance growth for men, we began a group at Corpus Christi Church in January, 2016 called Spiritual Fitness for Men. This is a resource for ongoing growth in men, open to all men. We engage in prayer, Bible study, and group sharing. We meet twice a month on either Saturday mornings at 8 AM or Tuesday evenings at 7 PM. In both cases, it is the 2nd and 4th Saturday or Tuesday each month.

This is an extension of friendship sharing groups. We desire to grow as Christ’s disciples. We develop our prayer lives and we grow in our relationship with Jesus. This also includes growing in our knowledge of scripture and developing a Catholic understanding of its meaning. The key here is being able to share our ideas and growth with other men.

We pray that the Holy Spirit will equip us as evangelizers in the world right where we live!

RECTORA’S MESSAGE

By Mary Jo McDermott

4 months from now, we will gather again at Eagle’s Nest to meet and participate with new friends in this life-changing experience that is a Cursillo weekend. We are in “communion” with thousands of others around the world. 4 months will come fast especially with summer coming. We need our new cursillistas to register by September 15th, if possible, so you see time is short.

As one of the co-rectoras, I am asked by other Cursillistas. “What can I do to help?” Perhaps it is not your time to be on team, but if it is, please let us know your desire. But there are huge areas that need what each of you can offer uniquely. You know what Cursillo meant to you and you most likely have friends who likely would benefit too. Please pray for and encourage them. Sponsor them to make a weekend.

Secondly, the Women’s Team has Prayer Veronicas – people who offer to pray (palanca) for a person making the weekend. Even if you haven’t sponsored someone, you can volunteer to do prayer for someone specific on the weekend. Then attend the closing and welcome them with a special pin and a personal note from you.

Thirdly, there is general palanca. As you know, we follow the founder’s recommendations and send general palanca to each Cursillo weekend. But local palanca is such a treasure to the participants and the team. Please send that palanca in so the team can share it with the candidates.

Finally, attend the closing. It means so much to everyone to see that this enhanced spiritual journey that they are on is full of fellow travelers. And it’s such a great opportunity to re-connect with each other.

Looking forward to seeing you at St. Mark’s Church, on October 22 & 29, at 3:30 PM to welcome our new cursillistas.

If you need a ride, that can usually be arranged, please let us know.

LAY DIRECTOR REPORT

I have recently finished "Eduardo Bonnin, An Apprentice Christian" based on Eduardo's vision of Cursillo as well as reading "Rediscovering the Vision" The Lifelong Journey Continues the booklet of rollos from the 2016 Canadian Conference. Having read these I have come to a deeper understanding of the importance of friendship to the charism of Cursillo - that all people know they are loved by God. They need to know they are loved, loveable and capable of loving in return. We discover this truth for ourselves and then help others discover it.

We start by focusing in Precursillo. In the Precursillo we "find a friend". Finding friends is a simple and enjoyable task. Every day we meet people, at work, at our leisure pastimes, at church and when we are out and about town running our various errands. Simply put, in our own environments. A conversation can start with a simple, sincere "Hello and how are you today". This may lead to an opportunity for the person you are speaking with to open about anything on their minds and if you sincerely listen to what they say it can be the seed of a new friendship.

The next step is to "be a friend". This is the part of a friendship where we get to know our new friend. Their likes, dislikes, wants, needs, ambitions, hobbies, family situation etc. We develop true, lasting friendships.

If we are sharing the gift of Christ's love the first steps become quite easy and rewarding to accomplish.

The rest of the Cursillo Method, the Charism, becomes simply natural. Who would not want what is very best for their friends, so if you determine that your friend may be searching for something would it not be a comfortable conversation to discuss the love of Christ and then a Cursillo weekend ("bring a friend to Christ") a method to get in touch with that love. In loving friendship, we help to facilitate a potential close encounter with Christ. Once this encounter has occurred we show them through the fourth step how to maintain and enrich their closeness with Christ. We, their friends, travel with them, looking forward to our small group meetings and Ultreyas.

A good Precursillo is essential for the method to succeed. If we do not know the candidates, are not their friends how can we know if they are searching and ready for an encounter with Christ. How can we comfortably join them on their journey looking forward to every encounter?

Linda and I are heading to the Canadian Cursillo of Cursillos in Grande Prairie the first weekend in June. We are looking forward to spending time with our cursillista friends from across Canada and those from the US who also go. We are looking forward to spending time with our Mallorcan friends who are facilitating the conference. We are looking forward to making new friends to journey with. We are looking forward to spending a weekend with our friends learning how we can all journey closer to Christ.

*De Colores
Reino*

TREASURER REPORT

We thank all those who have been donating funds to the Thunder Bay Cursillo movement in the past. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. As well as maybe assisting someone on the weekend there is also cost that need to be paid during the year as fees to be a member of the National network etc.

The last weekends were held at the Dorion Bible camp and there were losses that were made up by your donations. This location was very great as the whole weekend was in one building, and there is room for a good number. The cost includes rooms and meals which are provided by the camp staff.

Please continue to send donation made out to the Diocese of Thunder Bay, stating for Cursillo

Treasurer, Steve Scalzo

PALANCA REPORT

Daily prayer is essential to our spiritual growth. In our busy lives, distractions may hinder our ability to spend as much time in prayer, as God deserves. I would like to share with you, some ways the theologians and saints have included prayer in their daily life.

The Jesus prayer is an ancient form of prayer to help us to be attentive to God. It consists of constant repetition of a few words. "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Or Lord Jesus, have mercy," or even a single word, "Jesus." The main thing is keeping the Name of Jesus, central to the prayer. We may incorporate the prayer into our breathing, by inhaling "Lord Jesus Christ" and exhaling "Have mercy on me". We may use it in a seated pose, eyes closed, repeating the words slowly, as a meditation. Eventually, the prayer becomes a part of us, like a song that remains in our head. – *Irma Zalesky*

Make a short prayer to the Holy Spirit- "Come Holy Spirit; Come now; Come as you wish." – *Vinny Flynn*

Offer each hour of your day, (even if it means setting an alarm!) or each activity to God, as an intention for someone, or for a certain cause- *Matthew Kelly*

"Do all things with great love"- *St Teresa of Calcutta*

Follow the example of *St John Paul 2* by giving each person you encounter, your full attention. This is a great compliment to God.

I have my own set of one line prayers I would like to share with you. Any method that brings you closer to God, is prayer. The goal is to live your life as an ongoing prayer, for indeed, God is listening!

- Good morning God. Thank you for another day you've given me.
- Guide me Lord, to do what you want me to do. I want what you want.
- Thank you for the people you've put into my life; my family and my friends.
- Thank you for the gift of grandchildren. Words fail to describe this grace.
- Thank you for the saints and angels, guiding us on our journey.
- Thank you for my own guardian angel. We give you honour and praise.
- I am sorry for anything I did to offend you. Please forgive me.
- Hold in your loving arms, all who need you today.
- Thank you for the gift of nature. You continue to amaze me.
- Be with me as I face this challenge today. You and I together; it's the only way.
- It's been another sleepless night. This gives us lots of time to spend together!
- Instil within me, your heart of love, so others will see less of me, and more of you.
- I love you, my heavenly father.
- I love you Jesus, my redeemer.
- I love you Spirit of God, dwelling within me.
- Stay with me.

Amen

Mary Jane Safronyck

SECRETARY COMMENTS

By June Enger – 2017 May23

Spiritual Warfare:

God protects us all the time, but we must turn to Him and ask. Every time the enemy taunts us with temptations, bad thoughts towards each other, especial unforgiveness, when we turn to God for virtues to overcome these matters, we show trust in God, and He comes through for us.

So, ask God for graces to overcome a negative approach to anyone. Ask for patience, to be kind, not to be envious, not to be boastful or arrogant. We need grace to not be ill mannered or seek our own interest. You see Love overcomes anger and forgets offenses. It does not take delight in wrong, but rejoices in truth. Love excuses everything, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. These are the virtues of Love as listed in 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7. When you think of this scripture reading, meditate on it, these are the graces we ask God for. These virtues lead us to a peace beyond our understanding. These virtues help us when we are in the middle of chaos, and why we feel calm. It is because when we trust in God and offer up our lives into His hands, He takes care of matters.

You see spiritual warfare takes place in our minds. When our thoughts take us to a place where we hate someone, that is spiritual warfare. The enemy hates us, so he wants us to hate one another. God who is the author of life loves us. Jesus told us when He summarized the 10 commandments into 2 greatest commandments, “to love God 1st and above all” (these are the 1st 3 of the 10 commandments). Then the last 7 are summarized in “love one another as I have loved you”.

Think about how old you are at this moment. Subtract it from 100. Doing this for myself, I am 65 years of age. The rest of my life is shorter than what I have already lived. So, in approximately 35 years there is a possibility for me to see the face of God. I want to be able to look at God knowing that I am the best version of myself that I can be, and that I am this way because I love Him. I want to know that I please God my Father. I want to live eternity in awe and wonder of Him.

As God loves me, I want to love everyone around me, even those who are hard to love. Look back at the virtues I have mentioned. These are not based on our feelings towards someone. They are hard to do on our own, but with God’s help, we can do it.

We don’t know someone else’s struggles or their journey. But we do know is, that we do not want anyone to wind up in the hands of the enemy. I once heard a story about Jesus waiting on the edge of a celebration. Someone approached Jesus asking, “why are you over here Lord”. Jesus replied, “I am waiting for Judas”. When I think of my battle with spiritual warfare, Jesus saying this gives me hope, and I well up inside because of His love for me.

THREE DAY CHAIR

By Colin Campbell

I would like to tell you about a Faith Journey.

Jesus holds a beautiful and peaceful place in our hearts.

His Love for us warms our soul like a favorite melody.

This Melody becomes a chorus, a song is created in our hearts.

The verses of the song embody our memories and encounters in his Spirit.

As our love for Jesus increases, we study his ways and are soon drawn into his kindness.

His love for us is continuous, our hearts begin to swell with many songs.

Blossoming songs of his love become albums.

We celebrate his Love with others, we become as his love.

Our albums of his love are shared with others.

A Musical is created of this Love.

We become a director of our musical, a disciple.

Thank you for the gift of song.

INVITATION FOR FALL “SCHOOL OF LEADERS”

The Diocese of Thunder Bay Cursillo Secretariat is pleased to announce we will be starting a School of Leaders this fall of 2017.

What is a School of Leaders you may ask and why should I be interested?

What it is not is a place solely to create leaders. Leaders may come from the school but it is not the intent of the school. School in this context is a school of ideas. Leaders represents all Cursillistas as we lead others to Christ.

A School of Leaders in Cursillo is a place where those persons interested in studying Cursillo - it's origins, the charism, it's method, rollos from conferences, the rollos given on weekends etc. - may get together to explore and discuss these topics. Just like any other studying you may be doing for your personal hobbies or interests. There is so much wonderful information to be shared on and about Cursillo to really understand the Charism of the movement. Cursillo is not just a weekend, it is a way of life as we travel towards Christ with our friends.

Please consider joining us in this wonderful, enlightening adventure. Contact myself or any member of the Secretariat if you are interested. I have a Rollo on the School of Leaders from this year's conference that explains the school in much more detail and would be willing to forward it to you for the asking. We will finalize details of location and times as we approach autumn.

Reino Pitkanen
Lay Director

COMMENTARY ON WITNESSING

By Dave Wilkie, Rector 2017

Current documentation says that “The Witness” is the rollo for Ultreyas. The idea is similar to the small group sharing in that the person giving the “The Witness” shares on how Christ has impacted their lives and their faith life journey.

There is no hard and fast rule on the composition of this talk. It could be something simple and small - such as how one has tried to evangelize their environment in the past week or so, or it could be how God has worked with the person or acquaintances in the last while. Some persons may give a brief outline of their faith journey. Whatever the person shares is personal to them and their walk with Christ. If possible, it is good to include some of the elements of Piety, Study and Action where appropriate.

The talk is not meant to be a long talk and usually the length of time is between five to fifteen minutes. Commonly, upon the completion of the talk, a discussion or comments may occur with the persons in attendance at the Ultreya on any aspect of the talk that they found inciteful or inspirational.

All of us, just like the gospel story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, encounter Jesus in different ways and at different times in our faith journey. It is good for us to reflect back on those special moments where we have felt Jesus acting in our lives, and sometimes his absence.

We are all living out our Fourth Day where we work on evangelizing our environments – where we try to make friends, be friends and bring our friends to Christ.

If you are asked to do a “Witness”, pray on it and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in preparing what to share. It is a great opportunity to share your faith among friends who share your faith.

Ultreya (Onward)
Dave