

The Fourthday Newsletter

The Archdiocese of Vancouver Cursillo Movement
<http://decolores.ca>

Vol. 21 No. 1

Autumn 2008

**Cursillo Annual General Meeting
Friday March 20-2009
8:00 p.m.
St. Bernadette Parish
6543-132 St. Surrey B.C.**

**Cursillo Ladies Weekend
May 15-18-2009
Our Lady of Fatima Parish
Coquitlam, B.C.
Rectora: Bette Stirling**

From The Lay Director:

The Gift

I would look out the window and everything everywhere was white. Snow had been falling for days and according to the weatherman there was still plenty more to come. "*There hasn't been this amount of snow at Christmas in more than 50 years!*" he'd say. Outside it was like a fairytale with trees covered in confectioners sugar, houses looking like big *meringues*, and the mountains – when finally it became clear enough to see them – resembling *baked Alaska*.

OK, I admit it was beautiful outside, but *inside* I was feeling despondent. It was the Christmas Season and after coming through the most agonizing pain in my life due to a kidney stone and having to endure two medical procedures to get rid of it; after being

away from work on short-term disability for almost a month and having received a reduced pay cheque because of it, I was looking forward to some Christmas cheer by celebrating the day with my father at a friend's house where we had been invited for dinner. Instead because of the snow that made my street impassable to cars (with or without snow tires) I had to stay indoors for days that stretched like weeks - "cooped in" that's how I felt - and my disposition was not good.

Sure, I had "decked" the apartment with greenery and red candles and ribbon, with brightly coloured strings of beads and tree ornaments. I had even decorated the dining table with crystal platters displaying a nice cake, plum pudding, shortcake, and chocolates in the hopes that friends would be brave enough to make it to my house for a cup of tea, some goodies and a hug. But I learned soon enough they were all snowed in, too. No, the radio might proclaim it was "the season to be jolly" but it didn't feel that way to me, and I would get irritated every time I would hear that tune. Even the cat was starting to get on my nerves, constantly meowing and asking to go on the balcony. "It's full of snow, silly!" I would tell her. "Your paws will get cold and wet!" I would explain. But cats have a mind of their own and mine is as stubborn as they come. I finally caved in one afternoon and opened the door to allow Chloe out. Feeling I was well protected by my big fleecy nightgown (it was 3 p.m. and I was still in pyjamas) I ventured on the balcony myself. A little fresh air might do me some good, I thought.

There I stood for a while, half-in half-out the door to the balcony, looking at all that whiteness, feeling the stillness, listening to the silence, my thoughts vague and numb... All of a sudden it happened – a jolt, as if a bolt of lightning had struck, a jolt of pure JOY straight into my heart. Not quiet, polite, well behaved joy, but wild, fierce, out-of-bounds JOY!!!! impossible to describe. I felt shaken as if someone was trying to wake me up; my breath caught in my throat, my chest expanded and for a moment I thought my ribcage would crack, that it could not contain my heart. I remember blinking repeatedly, my eyes beginning to tear up, and still uncomprehending I remember thinking and saying out soft "God is in Heaven and all is well!" Then great peace and I felt "normal" again.

I moved back into the room and sat there still not understanding what had happened. Chloe came in, too and sat close by licking her paw, stopping once in a while to look questioning at me. I reached out and grabbed one of her ears, pulling it gently (she loves that!) my thoughts elsewhere. I don't know how long this went on, I just know I was feeling like a new person, as if a light was inside that made me see things completely different. I thought how I had come out of my kidney stone ordeal unscathed; how I had been surrounded by kind, loving friends who gave of their time and energies to be with me through it; how wonderful that I lived in a country where I could go to hospital and not have to spend a cent to be admitted; how, despite it being

smaller, I still had received a cheque; how I had my pantry and fridge well stocked; how I had power in my building and had a cozy place to live; how my father here and relatives back home were all in good health... I considered all this and suddenly realized how lucky I was. And then I understood I had received the Grace of a special Gift – a supernatural Gift. The JOY I had received (and which I'm happy to say is with me still) was my Christmas gift from the Holy Spirit. What I find so special about it is that normally I should have been moved to joy after my feelings of gratitude. Instead it's because I received Joy that I was able to see all the goodness I had been receiving.

With a heart full of gratitude I moved to where my simple Nativity scene was. The King of Glory, represented by a tiny figurine, lay humbly in a manger, a reminder of what Christmas is all about. I didn't say anything; I just looked at Him and let the tears flow. And the sounds of a different song from "Deck the Halls" with words filled with deeper meaning came to my mind: *Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love; hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*

Since that day every time weary thoughts or feelings of despondency come to me I remember what I felt that afternoon and say to myself, don't worry, "God is in Heaven and all is well."

Blessings on you all. Happy New Year! De Colores!

Odete Redondo

Lay Director

From The Editor:

It has been a very long time since you have received an issue of the Fourthday Newsletter.

2008 has been a great year for our Movement in Vancouver. We had two successful Cursillo Weekends. We welcomed enthusiastic men and women into our Cursillo family. Now we need to find a way to keep this enthusiasm alive! How do we go about living our Fourthday? How do we make it vibrant, thrilling and desirable? How do we become a Fourthday People who believe God loves us as we are?

The first questions you may ask are 'What is the Fourth Day? Or what is a Fourth Day person?' These are good questions. The Fourth Day is the period we live after the Three day Cursillo weekend, i.e. 'the rest of our lives'. This is the time in which we strengthen our relationship with God and with each other in all that we do. This is the period in which we understand more deeply that 'I am loved by God. He loves me unconditionally and all that He asks of me is that I

love Him in return. By loving Him I love my neighbor and I love myself because we are His creations and we are worthy of love. The Fourthday is the time when we are willing to be vulnerable to what God's love is asking of us. This may be frightening but when we fall in love with God the fire within us grows from a sparkle into a brilliant flame that shines forth from us. This radiance is seen by those around us. They see something different about us and they begin to wonder what it is that has taken root in us. They begin to want to have what we have. But if we do not foster each other in this journey to God then the flames will not shine forth and others will not see the God of Love in us. We need to help each other. We need to strengthen each other.

This strengthening and helping each other to grow in our love for God and for each other does not have to be difficult. We all want to support each other and to encourage each other. Coming to Ultreya is a great way to see this love in action. It is more enjoyable to come to Ultreya with someone. The car trip is not so lonely and you will actually grow in friendship with those that you travel with. The trip to and from the Ultreya goes by so much more quickly and with a great enjoyment when you are with others. You may come to grow in you love of each other in the time that you spend together and who knows, a group reunion may form from those with whom you carpool.

A phone call to a cursillista may be just the opportunity to open a channel for growth and friendship or it may just be a way to say that you care for that person who may need to hear that they are loved.

Living our Fourth Day will at times be challenging but it is in the challenge that we see God at work. He gives us examples as to how we can be like Him. He shows us the way. We see the suffering around us. What can I do to help alleviate this pain? We see joy around us. How can I help to make this joy even greater? These are questions that we are able to take with us, mull over them, pray to God about them and then do something about them.

Living our Fourth Day is 'living our lives' on a higher level. This level is elevated to the level of the Divine. We keep Him in our every action and our way of living. But some may say that this is impossible. Not so. If we allow God to enter our lives then we will see ourselves changing and becoming persons that are willing to be examples of a life filled with grace; a life filled with the love of God; a life filled with joy. AND we will be a joy-filled people.

This sounds like an ideal. It is! Is not our Ideal to live a life worthy of the love of God? When we take the risk to reach out and do what God is asking of us we grow! We learn about ourselves, others and God. In this learning we discover who we are, who God is and who is our neighbour. We learn things about ourselves that we thought were not there or were not possible.

In the last Rollo of the third day of the Cursillo weekend we were told that there is Total Security; that there is no need to be afraid of the world that we live in because we are there to help each other. We are here to help each other get to God, i.e. to become like Him; to be loving of each other; to be tolerant; to care for each other; to know that God loves me!

We need to be authentic, real, true to ourselves and to each other. In so doing we awaken in ourselves and in each other the reality that God is there; that God does love me and that I love Him.

We have heard so often that 'God does not ask of us what we are not able to handle'. This is true! We may not want to believe it but if we are honest and we look at what has been asked of us in our lives have we not always had the strength, the grace, the help to get through what God is asking of us. Afterwards, when we look at what has happened do we not see that we have grown and that our Love for God has deepened?

Living our Fourth Day is living our pre cursillo, Cursillo and post Cursillo all at once. It is taking what we saw in other cursillistas before we went through our three day weekend; taking what we discovered on our three day weekend and taking the opportunities given to us in our life after the Cursillo weekend and making of it a reality of a life with God through out daily lived life.

Living our Fourth Day is living life in God and in the world with a new attitude, a new understanding, and a new belief: God Loves Me! With this truth I am able to go on with my daily life knowing that I am not alone; that I am loved. With this knowledge and reality then I am ready to face the challenges that life gives to me.

When we live our Fourth Day we become a Fourth Day People. We then live with a Fourth Day mentality that reaches out to the world; to every situation we are in; to every person we encounter then we understand, we feel, we believe and we know that God is real and that God loves me!

De Colores - Sidney- editor

PS This is what comes after the Weekend. We try to become living proof that God loves us and that through this love we can, with His help, change the world, change the environments that we live in to become Christian environments, better places to be. On the Weekend we experienced the first steps in changing our environment. We discovered the essence our faith, our belief in God. We saw that God, through his love for us, will transform us and consume us with his love. In so doing God show us how to do the same thing in our environments. He lights the way.

Now, the key to what will happen after the weekend is the post Cursillo: the Fourthday. We do not live and unending Cursillo weekend. That is not possible but rather we live our lives one day at a time with the understanding that Jesus is always calling us to 'Come and see' where he lives; to 'Come and see the goodness of God'. When we respond to him with an emphatic 'yes' as did Mary, then we will find that the living of our Fourth day is so easy. We will nurture each other and we will grow in God's love. In this growth our community will be strengthened and our lives filled with joy. We will be a DE COLORES PEOPLE – A FOURTH DAY PEOPLE!

New Books now available from the CCCC Resource Centre:

Frequently Asked Questions (Putting the Pieces Together) – a book about the questions we most often ask about Cursillo

The 4th Day – A Perennial Cursillo - a valuable book about living out the Cursillo Method in our 4th day.

2008 Conference Booklet

The following letter is taken from the web page of the Peterborough Cursillo Movement. It is a letter of encouragement from their bishop. The message of this letter should encourage us to remain faithful the Cursillo commitment to bring people and ourselves closer to Jesus.

*A Letter from Bishop De Angelis
To the members of the Peterborough Cursillo Movement*

Dear Cursillistas,

There are many niches for the various charisms, methods of formation and forms of service present in the various lay-groups to be found in the Church. The Cursillo Movement has its own special gift to offer to the Church. Like all movements, there are times of great enthusiasm and at other moments the hard plugging away at something that is worth doing. It is the latter that proves our mettle as committed, determined and courageous messengers of the Gospel and witnesses to the Risen Christ.

Eduardo Bonnin, your founder, who passed away Feb. 6, 2008, in Mallorca, knew this. I am sure when he and others began the movement in the 1940's, they never dreamt of the success that it would achieve. His was a desire to enlighten laymen and women to the fact, that in virtue of the sacraments of baptism and confirmation, they too were called, in fact mandated, to perform an active role in evangelization.

Recalling the press release upon the death of Bonnin, the spokesperson stated: "Eduardo has always been for us someone important, but beginning now, in our prayers we can ask him to intercede for us before the Father, so that we can continue with his work of evangelizing the world and making as many as possible have the joy of knowing that God loves them. If he did everything that he did on earth, what won't he do now that he's in heaven?"

I encourage you to remain faithful to the Cursillo commitment. Bring people to Christ, and in doing so you will find him as well.

Bishop De Angelis

**Cursillos of Cursillos
July 2-5-2009
Wilfred Laurier University
Kitchener, Ontario**

This will be a most exciting event for the Canadian Cursillo Movement. We will experience Cursillo with new understanding and vitality. We will grow in our love for each other and for the faraway. We will experience Christ IN one another. We will know that God loves us.

PAPAL APPROVAL:

The following article is an extract taken from CTS Publication: Cursillos in Christianity ISBN 1 86082 117 0, published in 2001.

Since its early beginnings Cursillo has spread to become a world-wide movement. It has, for many years, been a member of the International Catholic Organisations of the Pontifical Council for the Laity in Rome.

Pope Paul VI

On the occasion of the First World Gathering in Rome on 29 May 1966 Pope Paul VI had the opportunity to address the Cursillo Movement. Among his words of encouragement were the following, which highlight characteristics of Cursillo:

"Cursillos in Christianity, that is the word, purified through experience, affirmed by its fruits, that today travels with citizenship papers throughout the world...We know that in your plan of spiritually and apostolate in the Cursillo Movement the mind of the Church (Sensus Ecclesiae) is the guiding light that orients you...Beloved sons and daughters: Our soul is so oppressed by the vision of the evils which afflict the Church and mankind. But permit us to express our overwhelming joy that, at this moment, floods our soul should before the immense chorus of your manly faith in Christ, your fidelity to the Church, your fervent loyalty to this Chair of Peter and to the ministry of the episcopal hierarchy - Cursillos in Christianity! Christ, the Church, the Pope, are counting on you!"

In Motu Proprio, December 14, 1969, Pope Paul VI approved St Paul becoming the patron saint of the Cursillo Movement.

Pope John Paul II

In July 1988 Pope John Paul II sent his cordial wishes to the Second World Gathering of Cursillo in Caracas. He trusted that under the action of the Holy Spirit...members of Cursillo would be facilitated to:

"live a personal and communitary experience of the permanent love of God for men", that they would "experience more intimately the transforming force of the Good News of Salvation and as a consequence form authentic nuclei of Christians capable of witnessing in a coherent way the action of Divine Grace by the intercession of St Paul the Apostle, special patron of the Cursillos in Christianity".

On Saturday 29th July 2000 Pope John Paul II sent his apostolic blessing to 20,000 members of the Cursillo movement who had come together in Rome for the Third World Gathering.

"You, have generously opened your hearts to Jesus, are being asked by Him to proclaim His name untiringly to those who do not yet know Him....You have experienced that true happiness is found in following the Lord. This personal and community experience must be passed on to others. Many men and women of our time, who unfortunately turn away from God, expect from you the light of faith that will help them rediscover the colours of life and the happiness of feeling loved by God."

Conclusion

Cursillo developed as a Movement to evangelise secular society through personal conversion and the formation of Christian community. While necessarily emphasising that it (is) a lay Movement, it remains committed in loyalty to the Pope, open to spiritual guidance through papal decrees and encyclicals and alert to the signs of the times. It looks for a laity grounded in prayer, ready to grow in spiritual awareness and open to the Holy Spirit but this is only the preparation for the task. The goal of Cursillo is to make the church into a truly apostolic influence in the world.

As cursillo has developed in English there has been an increasing awareness that this is a movement which seeks to find, form and sustain those who will become those apostolic leaders, who will help others to be effective in transforming their environments for Christ. The Cursillo Movement is now active in over 60 countries worldwide with an estimated 5-million people participating in the Movement's goal. In the spirit of the Millennium the Cursillo movement recently undertook a 'Jubilee Review' as a result of which it formulated its mission statement which reads:

"Cursillo is a Catholic movement to form leaders, who grow through prayer, study and action to evangelise others for Christ".

The following article featured in 'The Catholic Herald', on 18 June 2004.

Rome recognises new movement

The CURSILLO movement, a Christian renewal effort that started in 1949 in Spain, and spread worldwide, has been recognised officially by the Holy See.

This movement received the decree of recognition today during the course of a Liturgy of the Word, at the headquarters of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, presided over by Archbishop Stanislaw Ryfka.

Among those attending were leaders of the movement's four international groups, as well as bishops from several countries.

The Cursillo movement is present in 60 countries, with a following of some five million. The basic idea of the cursillo, or "little course," is a three day retreat for those seeking God to whom the fundamental truths of the Christian faith are proclaimed.

The first cursillo was held in 1949*, on the island of Majorca, the fruit of the commitment of Catholic Action youth who had made a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella in the Marian year of 1948.

The cursillos spread so rapidly. Within five years cursillos were held in all the continents.

At a May 2000 meeting with Cursillo representatives, John Paul II encouraged the process of discernment that led to today's decree.

* In the summer of 1944, they (Eduardo and his friends) led a first *Three Day Cursillo* for friends in a cottage in Cala Figuera. They repeated the experience many times, inviting mostly those they saw as born leaders, recruiting among non-practising as well as among the practising. Each Cursillo led to the formation of small groups which kept on meeting for mutual support in prayer, study and action.

Witnessing the wonderful results of their experience, Mgr. Juan Hervas, the new bishop of Mallorca decided to sustain it and to actively get involved. In January 1949 was held the first Cursillo officially sanctioned by the ecclesiastical authorities. From that point on, thanks to Mgr. Hervas, Cursillos were held at an accelerated pace - around thirty in his diocese during the first year - and the Movement was given a tremendous boost.

PALANCA:

We pray for Our Archbishop Michael and archbishop emeritus Raymond Roussin that they may lead us closer to our God

We pray for all our priest, brothers and sisters of the Archdiocese of Vancouver

We pray for cursillistas who are sick.

We pray for the needs of our Country and the world as we face difficult times

We pray for those who do research to help find cures for different illnesses.

We pray for the Women's Cursillo weekend that will take place in May 09

We pray for the rector, her teams and the candidates that will experience the weekend

We pray for the Cursillo National Officers group who will be meeting in Toronto May 15-18 that the work they are doing will help us remain faithful to the Charism of Eduardo, our founder.

We pray for the faraway.

We ask these prayers knowing that you will answer them, Lord Jesus. Amen



Archbishop's Office
100 HERRON STREET
VANCOUVER 8, B.C.

February 26th, 1965.

Rev. Alfonso M. Duran, C.M.F.,
4633 N. 51st Street,
PHOENIX, ARIZONA, 85016.

Dear Father Duran:

Your letter of February 16th addressed
to my predecessor, Archbishop Duka, has been referred
to me. I am happy to assure you of our approval
and permission to promote your *Ultreya* Magazine among
the ever increasing number of Cursillistas.

With every blessing,

Devotedly yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Martin H. Johnson".

Most Rev. Martin H. Johnson, D.D.,
Archbishop of Vancouver.

MMJ:kcm

The above photo copy is a letter from the April 1965 Vol 7 no 4 edition of the National Voice of the Cursillo Movement for the United States of America *ULTREYA* Magazine.

You can see that Archbishop Johnson was giving his approval to promote the *ULTREYA* magazine in the Archdiocese of Vancouver. What a wonderful piece of our history. In the same magazine it gives the Cursillo contact for the Archdiocese of Vancouver as Rev. J. Obrien. At The time of the printing of this magazine there were Cursillo contacts in the Fort William Diocese, Edmonton, Montreal, Nelson, Toronto, and Vancouver.

Thank you Ed Wingenbach for this priceless info.

The Year of St. Paul:

***From the assistant spiritual director of the Thunder Bay Cursillo Movement-
Rev. Dennis McDermott***

On July 28 this year Pope Benedict XVI dedicated the whole year to honouring St. Paul. St. Paul is also the patron saint of Cursillo.

In our study as Cursillistas, our readings and reflections on the letters of St. Paul in the New Testament will continue to be nourishment for our hearts in our ongoing conversion. Another inspiration is the Acts of the Apostles which was so inspiring to the original Cursillistas when the Cursillo movement was founded. These too focus on the work of St. Paul. The Cursillo, and in particular, the three day experience, we say is an encounter with Christ.

St. Paul had his first encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus. He experienced the Lord Jesus Himself and in that experience I can't help but expect he also felt the tremendous love of God. Many of us may recall a time in our lives when we had a similar experience of God. I remember on my own Cursillo weekend when God revealed His profound love to me. I often say that this was my "St. Paul experience".

When St. Paul encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus, he was driven to know all about Jesus and to allow Jesus to transform his life. (In Cursillo we call this STUDY and on going conversion.)

His desire to be one with God and his awareness of the Holy Spirit deepened his prayer life and became the natural consequence of the awareness of this life in the Spirit (PIETY).

St. Paul was an apostle, having been sent out by Jesus; he gave all that he could for the rest of his life to proclaim to every soul he could the good news of Jesus (Apostolic Action).

St. Paul even studied the environments that he encountered in order to know the people that he was evangelizing. He adapted his teaching to their many different needs.

The call of Cursillo is "Ultreya" meaning, "onward". This was St. Paul's understanding when he said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7).

St. Paul pray for us.

From the 1986 Vancouver Newsletter:

My Path

**God wills that I reach heaven and He grants me the means.
All I have to do s give my consent:
To decide to walk the path the Lord has marked out for me
And walk it well.**

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604-274-76140

Ultreyas

1st & 3rd Fridays- 8 pm - St. Bernadette Parish - 6543-132 St, Surrey BC
5th Friday- 8 pm - St. Paul's Indian Church. 424 W Esplanade. North Van BC

Dates to Remember:

Annual General Meeting	March 20-2009
Women's Cursillo Weekend	May 15-18-2009
Cursillos of Cursillos Kitchner On	July 2-5-2009

Christ is counting on You!