

The FourthDay Newsletter

The Archdiocese of Vancouver Cursillo Movement

<http://decolores.ca>

Vol. 21 No. 4

Autumn 2009

Annual Christmas Ultreya Potluck Dinner

Friday December 18-2009

7:00 p.m.

St. Bernadette Parish, Surrey B.C.

Everyone is Welcome

Please bring some Christmas goodies to
share

*Conference 2010 will be held
on the campus of St. Francis Xavier University*

in

*Antigonish, Nova Scotia, from
June 24 to 27, 2010 at the
Keating Millennium Centre*

Letter from Jesus about Christmas --

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking My name out of the season.

How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own. I don't care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate My birth, just GET ALONG AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

Now, having said that let Me go on. If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting My birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santas and snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all My followers did that there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town.

Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree, instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can remember Me anytime you see any tree. Decorate a grape vine if you wish: I actually spoke of that one in a teaching, explaining who I am in relation to you and what each of our tasks were. If you have forgotten that one, look up John 15: 1 - 8.

If you want to give Me a present in remembrance of My birth here is my wish list. Choose something from it:

- 1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way My birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell Me all the time.*
- 2. Visit someone in a nursing home. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.*
- 3. Instead of writing the President complaining about the wording on the cards his staff sent out this year, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family this year. Then follow up... It will be nice hearing from you again.*
- 4. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of My birth, and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.*
- 5. Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.*
- 6. Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile; it could make the difference.*
- 7. Instead of nit picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to*

wish you a "Merry Christmas" that doesn't keep you from wishing them one. Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store didn't make so much money on that day they'd close and let their employees spend the day at home with their families

8. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary-- especially one who takes My love and Good News to those who have never heard My name.

9. Here's a good one. There are individuals and whole families in your town who not only will have no "Christmas" tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them, buy some food and a few gifts and give them to the Salvation Army or some other charity which believes in Me and they will make the delivery for you.

10. Finally, if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to Me, then behave like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in My presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.

*Don't forget; I am God and can take care of Myself. Just love Me and do what I have told you to do. I'll take care of all the rest. Check out the list above and get to work; time is short. I'll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those whom you love and remember:
I LOVE YOU.*

JESUS

A Personal Reflection on the Cursillo of Cursillos – An Invitation to remain rooted in Living Waters!

The national Cursillo Conference this past summer was, for me, an occasion to listen, learn, and deepen my knowledge of Cursillo. The format of the Cursillo of Cursillos was a little different to what I had expected, as I had imagined that the conference would closely mirror my Cursillo weekend. Many similarities were evident since we sat in groups at tables, listened to rollistas and then took time for group reflection and sharing. Our Rector, from Mallorca, was Miguel Seruda, a close friend of Eduardo Bonnin. Beyond the Cursillo weekend experience that I had anticipated, I was not disappointed since the National Conference proved to be an opportunity to form and deepen friendships and grow in my understanding of the Cursillo Method and its Charism.

I listened to Rollos on the Essence and Purpose of Cursillo, the Cursillo Mentality, Potential Dangers in the Cursillo Movement, and a Rollo on the Role of Priests in Cursillo as Cursillistas themselves as well as spiritual advisors to the Movement. There were also rollos on Leaders, Pre-Cursillo, a rollo on the Cursillo weekend - its components and how it forms a piece of a larger picture, the Roles of the School of Leaders and Secretariat in serving and supporting local Cursillo communities, and finally a rollo on Group Reunions and Ultreya.

During my Cursillo weekend I was introduced to the idea of thinking about Piety, Study and Action as a tripod, formed by three inter-related essential parts which together provide both strength and a solid framework for living a Christian life through the Cursillo method. As I listened to and reflected on the Rollos at the Cursillo of Cursillos in Kitchener, I began to see

more clearly the significance of the three key elements of Cursillo: the Pre-Cursillo, the Cursillo weekend, and the Post Cursillo. I came to understand that these too can be viewed as a tripod, and that no one part of the Cursillo Method alone is sufficient, and that all three together are necessary to form the whole. I learned that the Post-Cursillo, if well-lived, becomes someone else's Pre-Cursillo as solid friendships are formed that allow others to experience the invitation to a deeper, richer and more abundant life; and the role of the Cursillo weekend is a vehicle to accelerate the encounters with oneself, Christ and others.

Since the Cursillo of Cursillos, I have found myself reflecting frequently on the roots of a tree in search of deep living water. My Cursillo weekend was very significant to me and I often remember that time with a sense of deep gratitude and joy. Beyond that experience, I now wonder if I was breaking ground then and just beginning to scratch the surface; that although my roots were not very far in the earth, they sensed that there was still more to grow towards. As the Cursillo of Cursillos progressed this past summer, I felt an invitation to allow my roots to grow a little deeper and to rest connected to a source of life-giving water by living an authentic Post-Cursillo, and in so doing to mine the rich veins of gold beyond the surface of my first encounter.

A Cursillista

PALANCA:

'Pray always' is a dictum that we need follow. Prayer is such an important part of our lives. Without prayer, conversation with God, life would be more difficult. Let us pray for

- Our Archbishop Michael, the priest and religious of the archdiocese
- The National Officers Group of the Canadian Cursillo Movement
- The National Cursillo Conference to be held in Antigonish Nova Scotia
- Our own Archdiocesan Secretariat members and the Vancouver Cursillo Movement
- For those who are living in the cold, for those who are hungry, for those who are sick
- For those who are dying
- For our deceased Cursillista
- For those who we have offered to pray for but may have forgotten to do so
- For joy and peace
- For the unborn
- For those who will not have the chance to live their precious lives
- For those who have a difficult time during the Christmas season
- For those going through distress in their lives
- For ourselves that we may be open to the graces that flow to us from God as we prepare during the Season of Advent for the coming of Jesus at Christmas

We pray to you our Father that You will answer our prayers with the kindness and love that you always give us through your Son Jesus our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit for ever.

Amen

**ADDRESS OF THE HOLY FATHER JOHN PAUL II
TO THE "CURSILLOS DE CRISTIANDAD" MOVEMENT**

Saturday, 29 July 2000

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

1. I am pleased to extend my affectionate greeting to all of you who have come here from the five continents for the *Third World Ultreya* of the *Cursillos de Cristiandad*, the *Ultreya* of the Great Jubilee. Thank you for your visit and welcome to all.

I greet the Spanish-speaking *cursillistas* who have come from America and from Spain, recalling that this apostolic experience was founded in Palma de Mallorca by Bishop Juan Hervás, the zealous Pastor of that ecclesial community.

I welcome each one of you and encourage you to make this *Ultreya* of the Great Jubilee a time of renewed commitment to holiness of life and to the apostolate.

I extend a cordial welcome to all the French-speaking participants.

I very cordially greet all who are with us from German-speaking countries. May this celebration strengthen your faith.

I greet the President of the World Organization of the *Cursillos de Cristiandad* and thank him for his cordial words to me in your name, and for presenting your movement's apostolic commitment and the good which the Lord works through you. I greet the movement's founders, spiritual leaders and various officers. Your presence here, so varied and festive, shows that the tiny seed planted in Spain more than 50 years ago has become a great tree laden with fruits of the Spirit. Indeed, it continues to be a successful response to the question asked by my venerable Predecessor Pope Paul VI at the first world *Ultreya* in Rome: "Can the Gospel still win over the mature person ... in urban and rural cultures?" (*AAS*, 58, 1966, 503).

I am therefore delighted to join in your thanksgiving to the Lord for all he has done and never ceases to do in the Church through the *Cursillos de Cristiandad*.

The theme of this world Ultreya - "Evangelizing the Milieus of the Third Millennium: A 'Challenge' for the Cursillos de Cristiandad" - demonstrates your effort to repropose the experience of Christ to the men and women of the 21st century with new means and enthusiasm. This has become even more urgent, since "whole countries and nations, where religion and the Christian life were formerly flourishing and capable of fostering a viable and working community of faith, are now put to a hard test ... as a result of the constant spread of indifference to religion, of secularism and atheism" ([Christifideles laici](#), n. 34).

2. In view of this situation which challenges believers to "remake the Christian fabric of the ecclesial community" (*ibid.*), the *Cursillo* method aims at helping to transform in a Christian way the milieus where people live and work through the involvement of "new men and women" who have become such from their encounter with Christ. This is the goal of the three-day "little course" on Christianity, in which a team of priests and lay people, supported by the prayer and

sacrifices of the movement's other members, communicate the fundamental truths of the Christian faith in an especially "living" way. When presented in this way, the message of Christ almost always opens participants in a *cursillo* to the gift of conversion and to a deeper awareness of the Baptism they have received and of their own mission in the Church. They feel called to be the prophetic "leaven" which is kneaded into the dough so that the whole mass will rise (*Mt* 13: 33), to be the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world" (*Mt* 5: 13-14), to proclaim to everyone they meet that only in Jesus Christ is there salvation (*Acts* 4: 12), and that it is "only in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of man truly becomes clear" ([*Gaudium et spes*](#), n. 22).

3. Dear brothers and sisters, be the courageous witnesses of the "*service of the Truth*" and work ceaselessly with the "*strength of communion*". In relying on your rich spiritual experiences, which are a treasure, take up the "challenge" that our time raises to the new evangelization and fearlessly give it your own response.

Faced with a culture that often denies the very existence of an objective Truth of universal value and frequently loses its way in the "shifting sands" of nihilism (cf. *Fides et ratio*, n. 5), the faithful must know how to show clearly that Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life (cf. *Jn* 14: 6).

You who 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. He is calling you to his service, to the service of his Truth, the truth which makes us free.

The more transparent this "*diakonia* of the truth" becomes in your daily lives, the more convincing it will be. As you are reminded in a prayer often used in the Cursillo Movement, "Christ has no hands, he has only our hands to change the world today. Christ has no feet, he has only our feet to lead this world to himself. Christ has no lips, he has only our lips to speak to the people".

4. This is your apostolate, carried out in constant harmony with the Church, to show the "*strength of communion*" which is at once the style and the very essence of the People of God. As you face the various forms of individualism which fragment and divide your evangelizing ability and resources, join your missionary forces with those of the various ecclesial groups raised up by the Spirit in the Church of our time. Endeavour to restore the beauty of the first Christian communities which prompted pagans to say with admiration: "See how they love one another!". And always be docile to the directives of the Magisterium. No charism, in fact, dispenses you from referring and submitting to the Pastors of the Church, whose discernment is a guarantee of fidelity for the charism itself. May the Jubilee celebration instil in all of you a renewed fidelity to your original inspiration and a firmer ecclesial communion.

5. "Bright colours deck the fields in springtime. Bright colours clothe the little birds outside. Bright colours paint the rainbow we see shining..."

During the days of a *cursillo*, the words of this popular Spanish song help the participants to reflect on the multifaceted beauty of creation. In encountering Christ, you have learned to look with new eyes at others and at nature, at everyday events and at life in general. 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.

"Courage! *Ultreya!* Go forth!", the Successor of Peter repeats to you today. Look to Mary, an example of unfailing fidelity to God, and, like her, put your trust in every circumstance in God, the Father of Mercy, who guards your steps on the way of truth and love.

I extend the same cordial greetings to all the other pilgrims who have gathered here. In particular, to those of the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima, led by their Pastor, dear Bishop Serafim:

Dear brothers and sisters!

Two months have passed since I had the pleasure of being among you, enjoying your warm hospitality and witnessing your radiant joy at seeing the holiness of two of your compatriots confirmed: Blessed Francisco and Jacinta Marto. In seeing you here today - as the chosen representatives of this local Church - I see my visit repaid: you have come to the tomb of the Prince of the Apostles in a spirit of prayer and penance to implore pardon and forgiveness, and to renew your dedicated commitment to that work of divinizing humanity which began 2,000 years ago with the birth of the God made man.

I cordially greet the whole Diocese of Leiria-Fátima, with my wish that this Great Jubilee of the Incarnation will be for you all that "year of the Lord's favour" which became a reality with Jesus and in Jesus (cf. *Lk* 4: 19-21), so that you can hope confidently in the power of his message and saving work, love everyone with self-giving love and reparation for the ingratitude to God of so many, and witness to faith courageously and consistently in today's society.

May the Virgin Most Holy, mystically present in your Marian shrines, the most distinguished of which, by her choice, is the Shrine of Fátima, grant you her motherly guidance on your journey of penance and conversion, and support you in the fulfilment of your good intentions for your Diocese and for the world's salvation.

I cordially greet the pilgrims from Poland who have come to this meeting. I thank you for your commitment to the new evangelization and to building the civilization of love and solidarity in the world. The Church needs you! She needs your Christian attitude and your holiness, so that she can carry out the great work of salvation in the world.

I affectionately assure you of a constant remembrance in my prayer and impart my Apostolic Blessing to you all, as a pledge of abundant divine graces.

© Copyright 2000 - Libreria Editrice Vaticana

GROUPING IS THE HEART OF CURSILLO

Cursillo is not just a nice three-day weekend retreat. It is the beginning of your Fourth Day. Eduardo Bonin, the founders of the Cursillo Movement said, "We must bear in mind that Group Reunions are not held so that there may be people to attend Cursillo, but the Cursillo are held so that there are people to make a Group Reunion. And that the Cursillo is only the best means we know of for putting the soul at the necessary level to begin to make Group Reunion."

FINDING A GROUP

When a sponsor agrees to sponsor someone for Cursillo, a commitment is made to assure that person will find a group reunion. It is possible for that person to group with his or her sponsor. It is also possible the new cursillista will not group with his or her sponsor, but the sponsor will make sure that the new cursillista has found someone with whom to group.

SPONSORS!!! If you are not in a group reunion, now would be a good time to start - possibly with your candidate. When grouping, find a place and time that is comfortable for everyone in the group. Some groups meet at coffee shops, homes, church parish halls or offices. Regardless of where you group each member must make a commitment to be at grouping each week. That is why it is important to find a time and place that works for everyone in the group.

When we group we are reminded of what we learned on the three day weekend about Piety, Study and Action. A vital group reunion is comprised of 3 ingredients -- Personal Growth, Group Building and Mission. Like the tripod of Piety, Study and Action, the group reunion will not be vital if any part of this tripod is missing.

1. Personal growth—All members of the group need to be willing to identify their personal spiritual gifts, strengths and weaknesses. They need to be willing to examine where they are in their spiritual walk.
2. Group Building—A group does not become a group overnight. It takes time, caring, sharing, forgiving and affirming. As the group comes together as one, members are able to minister to one another as the Body of Christ. The ability to share intimately about each one's spiritual walk will take time. In order to build that trust requires honesty and trust from everyone in the group. A key requirement of grouping is CONFIDENTIALITY. What is said in the group must stay in the group. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!! Many groups have dissolved because of a lack of confidentiality. This said, the first group you join may not be the right group for you. If the group doesn't work out, don't consider it a failure, consider it a learning experience and find or form another group. Talk to people with whom you share something in common, such as interest, age or children.
3. Mission—Take responsibility as an individual and as a group to share your life with each other.

ENABLE THE BEST IN EACH OTHER

The purpose of grouping is to help each other realize his or her full potential in Christ. We help each other come to this point through sympathetic caring, being loving and allowing one another the opportunity to share openly about fears, broken dreams, hopes for tomorrow and successes.

THREE LEVELS OF SHARING

To determine each person's level of commitment we can categorize our experiences according to 3 levels of sharing – "mouth to mouth", "head to head" and "heart to heart".

- a. Mouth to Mouth is level one conversation; it is more like doodling than talking.
- b. Head to Head is sharing more seriously, but only ideas that are detached from the individual.
- c. Heart to Heart lets the others know where you stand in a relationship to ideas, how you feel about them inside. This communing with one another is where community is built.

Once someone has taken the leap to share "heart to heart" here are some suggestions for the others in the group.

- **Don't interrupt.** Sometimes the greatest gift we can offer is our ears.
- **Don't probe.** There is a fine line between listening and probing. Once someone has opened up, let him or her share more if needed.
- **Don't give advice.** Most of us are not counsellors and even if we are, grouping is not the time for counselling. You may share a similar experience, but advice is cheap and not always received in the vein in which it was intended.
- **Don't judge.** If someone in the group has a different perspective than yours regarding lifestyle, theology, outlook or the church organ, allow love to be put to the test. In at true group reunion, love will win over judgment.

The Group Reunion gives us a nucleus of fellow Christians that will encourage us each week to go into the world to Christianize our environment. It is a group of people that will share our joys and sorrows, our laughter and our tears until we have seen the earthly journey through. In the Eucharistic prayer, we ask God to "Send us out into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve Him with gladness and singleness of heart." A group reunion encourages us to meet the commitment we make after each celebration of the Eucharist. Our prayer for all Christians is that they will find a group reunion to strengthen their walk with Christ.

CURSILLO ULTREYAS

OFFERING A WITNESS TALK

God is constantly and lovingly active in our lives; by His Grace we are able to see the benefits of His work in us and are grateful for His love and compassion. We should, therefore, be prepared to offer a witness talk any time we are invited to do so.

A WITNESS TALK AT ULTREYA

When asked to offer a witness talk at Ultreya, the Cursillista should take into consideration that it should be:

- **Brief** – 5 to 10 minutes, 15 absolute max or you lose your listeners.
- **Actual** – how **God** is working in your life **now** (not your life story).
- **Real** – say it like it is, no fantasies or imaginations.
- **Personal** – talk about **your** journey, not somebody else's.
- **Focused** – do not stray from what you need to communicate.
- **Delivered** – with simplicity, clarity and honesty.

RESPONDING TO A WITNESS TALK

It is necessary that the person invited to respond to a Witness Talk be attentive while the other person speaks in order to address his/her response properly. The person responding should be:

- ❖ **Brief** – no more than 3 minutes.
- ❖ **Appreciative** – recognizing the other person's willingness to share.
- ❖ **Encouraging** – if need be, as the other may be going through difficulties.
- ❖ **Affirming** – reiterating and emphasizing **God's** love at work in that person and in the world

Friday, September 11th, 2009 ~ Witness Talk @ Ultreya (St. Clare's first)

God in my life this past year

Mary-Ellen Burgess

There have been themes of humility, patience, trust, endurance - - not as a burden but more like perseverance or steadfastness throughout this last year. There have been times of joy and sadness too. If I itemized all the events it would be a long list.

Where was God in my life?

-the "new career" that didn't work out
the godless atmosphere of the office I spent 6 days a week in
my new best friend at **the job** was the lady in the dry cleaning shop. She saw my lonesomeness created due to the separation from my family from the long hours spent working and commuting. Her hug on a cold morning and her wave each evening passing by my office window were welcomed. God was there.

This difficult time was made infinitely better because of the constant care and support from my dear family friends Donna & Hugh. Their constant TLC kept me going, mind and body to tackle this new career path. God was there.

Donna's best friend & a dear friend of mine by osmosis was diagnosed with ALS. God was there.
Time to Re- prioritize my life AGAIN. Re-prioritizing meant putting God first, family second and work/job third.

My primary vocation has been homemaker/mother and the last five years the only parent my two daughters have. I really knew I'd dropped the ball when my youngest at 19 years of age said "I might as well move out; you're never home anymore."

I had thought things were OK because my daughters were 20'ish. We were doing the "quality time" – together thing. In reality, I was short changing my family. It became more evident as the dog exhibited "separation anxiety" and wouldn't leave my side – even when I went in the bathroom.

OK - - - new phase of my life

I've never had a long time in between jobs, but the economy & technology have changed dramatically, as we can all appreciate. The isolation and worry did depress me at times. Overwhelm me – no. My self care strategy consisted of: SPIRITUAL care – actively putting God into my life. Grouping, attending Ultreya Going to mass and being part of my parish community. Keeping in touch with my God centered friends and sharing their lives.

FAMILY – TIME WITH MY DAUGHTERS. We like each other as people. I enjoy their humour, wit, conversation, points of view. We don't always get along, but it's interesting. Oh – the dog got lots more walks.

COMMUNITY – I worked for 1 day in the polling station for the last Federal Election. I met more people in my neighbourhood and re-connected with friends "moms" from the school days.
OK – so where was God in all this?

God was in the details. In the silence. The moments when I was worried, anxious and not knowing what next. Don't abandon me Lord. He didn't. It was me. Me feeling distanced. I would remember that God provides for the birds of the air their daily needs. One day at a time. For today, I'd tell myself, I have enough.

I still needed a job and the isolation wasn't good for me. So a friend said another friend was needing some help at the bakery she worked in. I gratefully went to work in the bakery for whatever shifts they would give me. I was scared. New high tech cash registers and products to know – but I was gently cajoled by regular doses of “It's not rocket science – you can do it.” -God was there.

After a particularly long shift that involved not just looking good while selling a loaf of bread - - but washing out equipment and mopping out the store and doing the store front windows - - I was physically exhausted. Spent. I knew I couldn't go on doing this for much longer.

What next? Cry, fuss, give up, get depressed, eat ice-cream, -- tempting. Not the right solution.

PRAY. Pray harder.

I have prayed, light heartedly, to win the lottery. Who hasn't?

My heartfelt prayers have been to be able to provide for my family. Not to be indulged with worldly things but to provide a loving home and shelter and education.

I had heard a little about the “Divine Mercy” and had read the short pamphlet and recited the chaplet – but the picture of Jesus with the words “**Jesus, I trust in You!**” caught my eye time after time.

Divine Mercy Sunday is the first Sunday after Easter. St. Clare's parish had adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet in the afternoon, which I attended. It was an intense spiritual experience for me.

The Cursillo Pilgrim's guide says – Jesus with your mercy and my effort – So I put my trust in Jesus and put my utmost effort into finding the elusive job that would allow me to provide for my daughters and myself. My faith waivered, but I kept praying the 5 little words, **Jesus I trust in you** and kept the picture on my bedside table for the night and day reminder to trust in Jesus.

I've always been drawn to the wonder and beauty of children. Working with children was the key. School's – close but no cigar. Children's Hospital – YES. It didn't happen right away but with a great deal of study, applying and sifting through the web pages and applications and using strategies newly learned for job hunting in these current economic times - - Voila!

Daily I see reminders that God is in the details - - the silence.

I see God in the joy on my daughters & friends faces sharing this time of mercy & grace.

I see God in the way a mother gently wraps a trendle of her daughter's hair around her finger as her four year old daughter's tear stained face shows the upset she's gone through in the medical appointment.

I see God in the tears on the doctor's face when it's been a trying day, when the happy ending doesn't happen.

I am grateful for this new job and it's opportunities to work hard and diligently and be with God's people from all nations. I still have so much to learn. So friends, as we've said in Cursillo: Jesus is counting on me, and I on Him!

De Colores Mary-Ellen

World seat of Cursillo Movement moves to L.A.

Los Angeles is now the seat of the world Cursillo movement . The seat of the World Organization of Cursillos in Christianity has been transferred to Los Angeles for the next four years following the completion of the most recent term in Brazil.

The objective of the world organization is to coordinate four international working groups --- European, North American and Caribbean, Asian Pacific and Latin American --- and to foster the unity of the movement. Juan Ruiz, the new president of the executive committee, said the next term would include an in-depth study of the movement's foundational charism.

Cursillo --- Spanish for "short course" --- is a lay Catholic movement that began among youth in Majorca, Spain, in the 1940s and spread globally. A Cursillo weekend retreat for men or women emphasizes prayer, study, Christian action and living out one's faith in daily life. Those who complete the weekend are called "Cursillistas." Father Perez described Cursillo as a "ministry to do the joyful proclamation of the good news. He added that the three day weekend is "an encounter with self, with Christ and with the community of faith."

The movement, he added, "preceded the Second Vatican Council in calling the laity to their proper role within the church and the world."

In the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, where the movement began in 1962, Cursillo retreats take place in English, Spanish, Tagalog (Filipino), Korean, Chinese, Portuguese and Vietnamese, and each movement has a spiritual director.

Ruiz, said that the basic Cursillo message is "God loves you as you are."

With an awareness of God's foundational love and the friendship of others Cursillistas continue to transform and develop their lives. "People turn out to be very good Christian leaders," said, Ruiz. "The Cursillo brings you an awareness of your responsibility as a Christian and your values as a person. You discover potential you didn't even know you had." .

The new executive committee includes Juan Ruiz of Los Angeles as president, Maribel Gomez of Los Angeles as Secretary. Gail Terrana of Buffalo will serve as vice president and James Wells of Wichita, Kansas, as treasurer. The spiritual advisor to the executive committee is Father David Smith of Miami.

A Note from the Editor:

Dear Friends:

Coming to the aid of a fellow human being is so wonderful. I was asked to spend several hours at Joyful Noise Books and Gifts so that the young lady who was minding the store could go for a job interview that was in her field of expertise.

I have worked at Joyful Noise before. At times it can be lonely if no one comes into to shop but today was a day filled with surprises. People who were new to me and people who were friends came in to the store throughout the afternoon. It was a joyful time and a happy time for me. We talked about God and about friendship; we talked about sorrow and about grief; we talked about advent and about joy.

God, in His wisdom knew that I needed to be at Joyful Noise to help me to keep my sights on Him rather than the problems that have recently cropped up in my life, problems that made me angry and want to lash out and hurt others but instead God asked me to remain calm and to remember that it is not about ME and how I feel but that it is all about Him and how to make others know that they are loved and worthy of God.

God helped me to understand that life's pettiness is just that – pettiness! It is useless. God also helped me realize that when I am expected to do things that I need to do them. God is good!

There is a phrase 'Let go and let God'. How true. So often I do not want to let go of the 'problems' I have and let God work with me to solve them or maybe not to solve them but rather to understand why this is happening in my life and where He wants me to go with it. His wisdom is so overwhelming. He knows the path that I need to follow. He makes straight my crooked walkway. What I need to do is to recognize His wisdom and to follow His directions. I do need to 'let go and let God' do what He does best.

The publication by Liguori Press called 'Daybreaks' in 2005 had Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, do the Advent Reflections for that year. Fr. Ron tells us that "Advent is a time to get in touch with our heartfelt longings and deepest desires. It is a time to give new birth to the soul as we wait in hope for the joyous celebration of the reality of Christ's presence among us here and everywhere, now and for all time." I am to discover the reality of Jesus in my life and in the lives of others rather than to focus on the negativity that I so often see in others.

God is good!

Sidney

**To be sincere is to be uncoated, truly yourself,
not smeared by pretense or posturing**

Fr. Ron Rolheiser OMI

Archdiocese of Vancouver 2008-2009 Secretariat

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--|
| Spiritual Director | Fr. Patrick Chisholm | 604-596-0566 | patrick_chisholm@telus.net |
| Lay Director | Odete Redondo | 604-420-1277 | bcc@rcav.bc.ca |
| Secretary | Shalin Watkins | 604-4584-3470 | vermashalin@hotmail.com |
| Treasurer | Sidney Bilsky | 604-274-7610 | srbilsky1954@shaw.ca |
| Pre Cursillo | Jude Maddalozzo | 604-937-7713 | judithann94@shaw.ca |
| Cursillo | Karen Morris | 604-464-5422 | queenofhartes@shaw.ca |
| Post Cursillo | Sharon & Roger Lafleche | 604-588-1642 | srlafleche@axion.com |
| | Grace SarKadee-ado | 778-216-1354 | kago@shaw.ca |
| First Nations Liaison | Doris Lirondelle | 778-998-1020 | dorislirondelle@gmail.com |
| CCCC National Officer | Deborah O'Shea | 604-274-7610 | deborah@shaw.ca |
| The FourthDay Newsletter Editor | Sidney Bilsky | 604-274-7610 | |

The Secretariat meets every 2nd Saturday after the 9 am mass at St. Bernadette Parish, Surrey BC

School of Leaders

**Changing to the 3rd Saturday of the month in the New Year
St. Bernadette Parish Surrey, BC**

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**

****New Ultreya at St. Clare of Assisi Parish, 1320 Johnson St,
Coquitlam, BC**

**To have faith in God is
To have faith that God is with us.**

Fr. Ron Rolheiser OMI