

Rooster Tales

News from Across Canada

Loving Holy Spirit took charge of Cursillo Renewal Weekend!

By DAVID HOLEHOUSE

Edmonton’s Cursillo Renewal Weekend proved to be a grand reunion, as Cursillistas with multiple years’ experience came back for a time of revival and refreshment.

The November event at the beautiful Star of the North retreat centre in St Albert left harbour with 40 souls aboard, and a full complement of fine music, deep prayer, God-led healing, uplifting worship, animated discussion, and a total abandonment of our own agendas to the irrepressible, loving guidance of the Holy Spirit.

There was dancing, and boisterous, joyful singing, especially for our theme song - “Bless the Lord, O My Soul.” There was the most beautiful hand-made banner - started in Tofield but finished in Calgary after Rev. Laureta’s sewing machine gave up the ghost - proclaiming the theme verse of the Weekend: “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

It was a Weekend much like any other - an opportunity to examine our current place on the journey of life, to appreciate once more the depth of God’s grace and the power of faith, to hear testimony about how companionship with God, perseverance in study and love of neighbour give us the life worth living. The prayer team underpinned all our doings. As always, the focus of Sunday was on how do we go out from this safe, hallowed, spirit-filled place to bring our environments and friends to Christ in a world that is so easily distracted with other baubles, frets and pursuits.

If there was a difference, it was the frequency with which the words revival, renewal and recommitment to the way of Cursillo came up. The tools remain the same - regular group reunions for small-group prayer among friends, monthly ultreyas to encourage us with regular witness and fellowship, continuing education and formation for spiritual growth and strength.

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Special interest

- Reflections from a CACS Member
- New Guidelines
- Q&A
- ‘The Common Cup Company’

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We had a beautiful community meal on Saturday, with tables decorated by the prayer team. Our music leader came all the way from White Rock, B.C., for team training days and the Renewal Weekend.

We had leaders with the Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat come from Ontario and Calgary to speak to us with words of love and encouragement. We had local speakers who opened their hearts to God and to the gathered community to tell of Christ's healing love in their lives. The level of generosity and commitment by all was extraordinary. And - as always - there was a healthy strain of holy humour flowing throughout.

We were also blessed with friends from the indigenous community, opening our minds to their traditional practices of prayer and praise to our shared Creator God.



There was a banner!

A top-notch music team!!

Animated table discussions!!!

And dancing!!!!



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Know this: There is an absolute and abiding assurance that God still has work for the Edmonton Cursillo Community to do. That work has everything to do with building up lay people who will be co-workers with their clergy in building up God's church and kingdom here on earth. We are the body of Christ, walking and singing and praying and praising as we continue our pilgrimage of faith, hand in hand with Christ and community.

There is nothing else like Cursillo! And already there is a growing group of new candidates looking forward to their own Cursillo Weekend in fall 2019. Why don't you come and join us for this next chapter in the story of your freeing, healing walk with God!

Please like and share
facebook.com/edmontoncursillo/
and also watch www. Edmontoncursillo.ca
for updates.

By DAVID HOLEHOUSE
Lay Director, Edmonton Cursillo Secretariat

ONE MORE THING.....

Cursillista Scott McDonald, the Edmonton Renewal Weekend's music team's drummer— is also a member of the talented and internationally known music group "The Common Cup Company". They recently released their newest CD— Earth Beneath Your Feet.

The definitive Common Cup Live Collection is finally available!

Released as 2 separate CDs, each album features selected highlights and standards from the group's archive of concert recordings dating as far back as 1993 – as well as newer songs you won't find on earlier Common Cup albums.

The Common Cup Company Live Volumes 1 & 2 are available for purchase at all Common Cup concerts, or at their website's "Company Store" and also available at online retailers such as CD Baby, and iTunes.



The Common Cup Company is planning a Prairie concert tour this June. beginning in Sherwood Park on Friday, June 14, and final concert in Winnipeg on Sunday, June 23. Check out the website for details.

If any congregations are interested in having them , they would be delighted to connect with you! With good advertising and pre-concert ticket sales, this can be a good congregational fund-raiser. The music in their concerts connects with all ages, runs from meditative to joyous, with lots of opportunities to sing along.

www.commoncup.com

News from Across the Country

British Columbia - A Co-Ed Cursillo Weekend was held Feb 28 - Mar 3, 2019. We are planning a fundraiser Fiesta in September 2019.

Calgary -Secretariat had a very successful meeting with the Archbishop with the purpose of bonding, sharing and discussing some organizational difficulties and planning the way forward. We are planning to hold a CLW and CACS meeting in September 2019.

Central Nfld - The distances between Cursillo Communities is taking a toll on attendance at Ultreyas and Cursillo events—especially in the winter.

Edmonton - Celebrated a successful Renewal Weekend for those who have previously taken their Cursillo Weekend, 18 attended (in addition to team), and interest in participating in future Weekend leadership is still evident. Two vacancies on Secretariat have been filled. Monthly Ultreyas continue. We are having a Secretariat Planning Day to look at options for 2019 and beyond. We have interests in Interfaith Housing, Habitat for Humanity and inmate support that we would like to explore as well as the 2020—30th anniversary of Edmonton Cursillo celebration.

Niagara Huron - A member conducted a survey of 30 Cursillistas (summer 2017 to 2018) and reported to Secretariat (Oct 2018) a number of interesting facts to determine the health of our movement and to offer next steps. As a result, we have launched a Phone Survey (200 active with a good few hundred in 'archival' status). Cursillistas volunteered to be Leaders for ten different geographical areas. This project has just begun with the issue of our bi-annual newsletter. We are asking our members to call us to confirm their information, then, our Phone Survey Leaders will phone those who do not respond by March 1st. We hope to re-engage and to reconnect with many Cursillistas.

We are working with our diocesan staff to help reclaim the participation of clergy in our movement. The current proposal we are working with will be intentional in gaining their input and their participation in working with Cursillo candidates before and after their Cursillo weekend. Our past weakness as a duo-diocesan movement has been sponsorship so we are hoping to make this a priority over the next year. Grouping/Reunions have fallen away in the lives of many of our members.

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2018—2021 CACS

REPRESENTING THE ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCES:

**Marion Bailey, (Huron
Diocese) CHAIR**

**Rev. Yvonne Thistle,
(Diocese of Central
Nfld) CANADA**

**Jennifer Jacobs,
(Diocese of
Qu'Appelle)
RUPERT'S LAND**

**Wendy Goodall,
(Calgary Diocese)
RUPERTS LAND**

**Bev Hatt, (Ottawa
Diocese) ONTARIO**

**Bp Rob Hardwick,
(Diocese of
Qu'Appelle)
EPISCOPAL ADVISOR**

**Anne Gould, (Diocese
of Niagara) ONTARIO**

**Barb Hobson,
(Diocese of Nova
Scotia & PEI) CANADA**

**Rev. Rob Hutchison,
(Diocese of British
Columbia) BRITISH
COLUMBIA & YUKON**

Check out the website:
www.anglicancursillo.com

News from Across the Country

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We are experiencing more attendance at our Diocesan Ultreyas and our Annual Meeting when we offer an Ultreya. This began in 2017 and has gained good traction in 2018.

We are *thinking* about a Renewal Weekend in the spring of 2020. This would be one way to channel some of the energy we hope to have revived through our Phone Survey.

NS PEI – In December 2018 we launched a new website: <https://nspeicursillo.ca/>. The site is much more user friendly for updates which will, in the end, improve communication with our membership. I invite you to take a look. At the January annual meeting, 3 new members were appointed/elected to Secretariat. We continue our search for a Secretary. I am confident that our Lord will show us the way. We have a helpful, committed and faithful team, for which we thank God every day. We ran a shortened weekend in October 2018. The intent is to run another in 2019, so we will be eager to hear what CACS has decided regarding the adoption of the new three-day weekend. Secretariat approved the hosting of the CACS meeting in March 2020 followed by a Cursillo Learners Workshop (CLW). We have scheduled a Cursillo Day on June 8, 2019. Planning is ongoing with consideration of a joint event with the NS/PEI Teens Encounter Christ Movement.

Ottawa – We held our first three day shortened Weekends In the fall. They worked well, nothing was left out and they ran smoothly with an organized “Back Table” keeping everything on schedule. Hosted CACS Meeting and CLW in March 2019. A Day of Deeper Understanding is planned for September/October 2019

Qu’Appelle – On Saturday, January 19, 10 Cursillistas from the Regina area travelled to Yorkton (2 hours one-way) to share lunch and participate in an afternoon Ultreya. This was a wonderfully successful event that provided encouragement and blessing to all. Guests who attended were interested to learn more about Cursillo. Our May 3-5, 2019 weekend was booked at a facility that we have used for the past couple of years. Unfortunately, the owner and operator is in hospital with a broken hip and the facility will be closed for the next two months at least. We have investigated other locations but ran out of options. With challenges in recruiting team and finding committed candidates, we have made the decision to cancel the May weekend and Secretariat will consider another date this fall.

W. Nfld - Welcoming and building relationships with a new bishop, The Rt. Rev. John Organ.

British

Columbia

We are planning a fundraiser Fiesta in September 2019.

Calgary

We are planning to hold a CLW and host a CACS meeting in September 2019.

Edmonton

30th anniversary of Edmonton Cursillo celebration in 2020! We are planning to hold a CLW and host a CACS meeting in September 2020.

Ottawa

We held our first 3 day shortened Weekends In the fall. They worked well, nothing was left out and they ran smoothly. “Back Table” kept everything on schedule.

Reflection on Cursillo Journey

As a member of the CACS (Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat) we are all responsible to review several the CACS Guidelines during our term. I am presently reviewing The Guideline “**The Evaluation a Diocesan Cursillo Movement**”. As I read it, I was reminded of what makes a healthy Cursillo movement. I was reminded of the importance of grouping, attending Ultreyas, being in community with others and the importance of mentoring those on their journey by helping them to join a group reunion, bringing them to Ultreyas and holding them up in prayer.

As I read the guideline, I was been taken back 23 years to when I became a Cursillista. I was reminded of the community that supported me. The love and support I felt when sitting with those strong women at my table. Seeing the gifts they had as we shared how the talks had spoken to each of us. It made me see myself as they saw me. We were surrounded by a community of Cursillistas holding us up in prayer, bringing us to the weekend, helping us to become part of a Group Reunion and fostering us as we were introduced to the Cursillo community.

It had a profound effect on me, and I have been active in the Cursillo movement since then. But it was not until I reviewed the guidelines that I was reminded of the importance for each of us to share our gifts in some way to support and strengthen our local Cursillo movement. The weekend had helped me to discern the leadership gifts to share within the church, work environment and my community. We are called to help others discern their gifts by supporting them on their journey.

Over the past twenty years the dynamics of the Cursillo community has changed. Persons in group reunions or attending Ultreyas has decreased and often, many new Cursillistas are not aware of the importance of being in community. This guideline suggests how to look at your movement, to access its health and to formulate ways to reenergize it.....to reach these new Cursillistas where they are.

As I read the guidelines, it made me look at my faith journey through fresh eyes. To try to discern: Where am I in my spiritual growth? Am I open to change? Have I become complacent? Am I missing opportunities to invite persons to Ultreyas and, by not following up on announcements of upcoming Cursillo weekends at church with an individual invitation to persons, maybe I may have missed opportunities to reach someone wanting to grow in their faith?

It has reminded me to evaluate how I am growing? where I am struggling? And am I open to change as I serve within the Cursillo and wider community? Am I willing to step out of my comfort zone? Is it time to spread my circle wider?

The first page of this guideline was a good place for me to start. It has an overall approach outlined under these headings;

- a. Develop a vision,**
- b. Assess where you are.**
- c. Identify gaps**
- d. Set goals**
- e. Plan actions**
- f. Evaluate yourselves.**

Continued.....

Niagara Huron

A member conducted a survey of 30 Cursillistas (summer 2017 to 2018) and reported to Secretariat (Oct 2018) a number of interesting facts to determine the health of our movement and to offer next steps.

NS PEI

We have scheduled a Cursillo Day on June 8, 2019. Planning is ongoing with consideration of a joint event with the NS/PEI Teens Encounter Christ Movement.

Secretariat approved the hosting of the CACS meeting in March 2020 followed by a Cursillo Learners Workshop (CLW).

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These six statements are ways of looking at our Cursillo movement, but as I read it, it made me reflect on my own journey. Am I sharing the gifts God wants me to? Am I following the Fourth Day Method? Am I fostering others on their journey? And how can I reach people where they are?

We are encouraged to be a friend, make a friend and bring a friend to Jesus. We can do this by just asking a friend to attend an Ultreya with you, or to join a Group Reunion, and to invite them to attend a workshop to help them understand the Cursillo method more and be in community. We can never be a community of one. Remember, Jesus sent his disciples out in groups of twos. We need to be in community to grow.

One way we may be able to encourage new Cursillistas to come to Ultreyas, group etc. is to have a Servant Community to support these new Cursillistas - not just the candidates sponsor to walk with them, but a servant community to support and journey with them.

The Cursillo Movement runs Workshops such as DODU. (Day of Deeper Understanding) and CLW (Cursillo Learners Workshop) to build on the Cursillo weekend to reinforce the Three-Day Method.

You can check this CACS guideline and others by going to the **Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat website.**

www.anglicancursillo.com
All guidelines can be downloaded but not altered.

I will leave you with these questions to ponder:

Where are you on your faith journey?
Do you need a short course to rekindle the fire?
Do you want to be in community with friends?
Where are you being called to serve?

Reach out to the Cursillo community. "We are all on the same journey. The load seems lighter when we walk with a friend."

DeColores
Bev Hatt.
Ottawa Diocese
CACS Rep. for the Province of Ontario

QUESTION: What resources have you discovered that might be useful to other dioceses across Canada??

YOU ANSWERED:

Calgary CACS Website

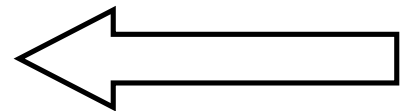
Edmonton - Diocesan lay reader training (leading worship, reading the Bible aloud, pastoral care visits, personal prayer) such as provided by Edmonton Diocese would include excellent topics for a future Renewal Weekend. This training gives us additional tools to be leaders in our community.

Niagara and Huron - REVIVE is a diocesan program that is in the process of determining if Cursillo is best used as a followup step or as a preliminary way to enhance spiritual formation.

Q & A

Your 2019 Spring Diocesan Report, we asked:

Your Response:



www.anglicancursillo.com
Canadian Anglican Cursillo Movement

Is there a Guideline that you want us to review?

Is there something that you want a Guideline for?

Connect with your Provincial Representative or the Chair.

We are here to serve your Movement!!!

NEW GUIDELINES:

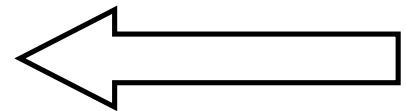
- ◆ Floating Group Reunion Card
- ◆ CACS Meeting Guidelines: The Basics

REVIEWED AND UPDATED GUIDELINES:

- ◆ Website and Facebook
- ◆ Duties and Responsibilities of CACS Representatives
- ◆ Evaluating a Diocesan Cursillo Movement
- ◆ Permanent Group Reunion Card

UPDATED GUIDELINES Spring 2019!

Resources for you to check out!



**PLEASE
PRAY
FOR THE
MEETING OF
GENERAL
SYNOD
JULY 10—16,
VANCOUVER**

2019—2020 WEEKENDS

BC	Co-Ed:	Date: March 6 - 8, 2020
Edmonton	Co-Ed:	Date: October 18, 2019
Niagara and Huron	Co-Ed:	Date: November 1-3, 2019
NS/PEI	Men:	Oct 18 – 20, 2019
	Women:	Oct 18 – 20, 2019
Ottawa	Men:	Spring 2020
	Women:	November 22 – 24, 2019

PRAYER REQUESTS

BC- We would like your prayers for a positive move by the clergy to become more involved in promoting the Cursillo Movement.

Calgary- growth of the Servant Community

Central Nfld—For the next weekend that they can have about 20 or more younger people experience the weekend. Prayers are needed for this

Edmonton - That we all, across the country, remain strong in faith and joy, for Christ and Community, so that the Cursillo movement continue to be a bridge between the yearning for the Kingdom and participation in building the Kingdom.

Niagara and Huron – REVIVE is a diocesan program that is in the process of determining if Cursillo is best used as a follow – up step or as a preliminary way to enhance spiritual formation.

NS PEI—As there has been some difficulty in getting Witness speakers for our Ultreyas, please pray for guidance for Secretariat in this and for our community to respond positively when called. Please pray for guidance for Secretariat in seeking a secretary and that God’s call will be heard by one of our sisters or brothers.

Ottawa— For recruiting people to serve on Secretariat – Open positions to be filled for January are Assistant Lay Director, Treasurer and Secretary.

W. Nfld - We have a new Spiritual Director and we are under the supervision of a new Bishop. Please continue to pray for our diocese and our movement as we transition.

Qu’Appelle—Continued strength and commitment from our active members. Renewed strength and re-commitment for those who are inactive.



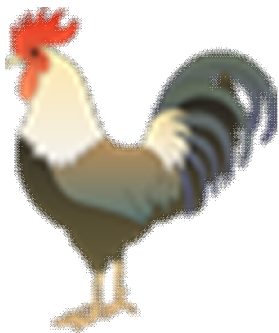
Greetings from the Chair

Your 2018– 2021 Chair



Chair—Marion Bailey

My Fourth Day began in March 1995 in the Diocese of Niagara . I am retired but actively involved in the Brantford community as a School Bus Driver. I attend Grace Anglican Church in Brantford, where I serve as a Lay Reader, and ACW President. I am wife, mom, step-mom, daughter, sister, sister-in-law, aunty, grandma and friend. I love animals and am owned by two rescued cats, Willow and Beverly.



Recently I attended, with some members of our small group, our Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Conference in my home diocese of Huron. Have you ever been to a conference where you were surprised? I should not have been; I knew the theme ‘*The Role of Imagination in Prayer: the Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola*’ ; I am familiar with Ignatius methods of prayer; I knew our Bishop Linda Nicholls was to be the keynote speaker (worth the trip to London on its own); and I have attended many of these conferences before. What could surprise?

Our CACS Episcopal Advisor, Bishop Rob Hardwick, gave us some insight on “surprises” during our last meeting —
“Surprises = a moment of blessing. ”

I am being quite honest when I say If I had known, before I went, that **I** would be asked to use my imagination to color and draw with crayons and pencils—I would have found something else to do that day. Those who know me would concur art is not one of my gifts. **I was expecting** to hear how others do that ‘artsy stuff’. **I was not expecting** that I would be drawn into an incredible experience through prayer—a moment of blessing.

I also learned some things about icons. Marilyn Malton, Director, Renison Institute of Ministry in Waterloo, ON, led us through a workshop of how to make an Icon using a book she found “*Drawing Closer to Christ: A Self-Guided Icon Retreat*” by Joseph Malham. I pass this recommendation along to you for a summer retreat suggestion.

As you have probably experienced, when the Holy Spirit is invited into our midst, we should expect the invitation is accepted. Christ met me exactly where I was that day. Calmly, I was reassured and reminded of how we met. I left with a renewed enthusiasm for the many tasks at hand and patience for the daily trials—as well as some half finished art.

As we journey together, I pray that you, also, will be surprised with an encounter with our Lord in a moment of blessing, even when you least expect it.

Blessings and Ultreya!

Marion