

## *Canadian Anglican Cursillo*



### **RE-ACTIVATION OF A DIOCESAN MOVEMENT**

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All activity within Cursillo is underpinned with prayer. The place to begin the re-activation of the movement is on your knees. Speak to God and ask him if you are called to do this ministry. Do you have a deep down feeling within you that says, "I must do this for God." Ask yourself, "Why am I wanting to do this? What is my motivation? Am I looking for self-aggrandizement, recognition or some other personal reason? After you have received positive answers to these questions and you are still enthusiastic, only then, start.

The starting place is familiar to you, pray. Pray that you might find other Cursillistas who have had a calling to this ministry. People who have a desire to see Christ's world expanded by the changing of environments. When your prayers have been answered meet with the other interested people and discuss the path that should be followed. Later we will discuss some of the steps that you might want to follow.

When Cursillo was started in the diocese, the Bishop was contacted to obtain permission and blessing for the movement. This is again the starting point. Set up a meeting with the Bishop and determine how Cursillo can fit into the diocesan pastoral plan and how Cursillo can help the

bishop attain his goals. Obtain from the Bishop any past Cursillo records, including minutes of the past secretariat meetings and other items such as policy manuals and guidelines. There may even be funds that have been left in trust from the past movement and that could be a great help in the restart efforts. At an early stage enlist the help of your Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat (CACS) representatives. They will be able to help you to meet with other Diocesan movements that may be able to give you aid. If you need help in sponsoring candidates to weekends it might be that your neighboring diocese can accommodate them at their next weekend. The Bishop may also have knowledge of other contacts that can be of help to you. You need the Bishop's support and permission for the project so keep the Bishop well informed of your progress as you take the following steps to reactivate the Cursillo movement. One point of concern that you might encounter is cultural. Our society has a cultural background of MBA (Master of Business Administration). This attitude demands that we plan strategies, make decisions, format a time line and other very important business tools and then get with it and make it happen now. The most important partner in this effort is God. We need to forget worldly time and work on God's time. We make plans but

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remember that God's plan may differ from ours. Be patient and prayerful. Be in the effort for the long term. Will you need six months, one year or ten? Who of us knows but our Guide will direct us as we progress.

### **STEP1:**

When a diocesan movement is retired or becomes inactive all Cursillistas do not necessarily retire or become inactive with it. In the spirit of Colossians 3," set your mind on higher things, things that are above and not on things that are of the earth. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another." Check with a few nearby parishes and ask if anyone is still in permanent group reunions. If you find group reunions, then meet with them and enlist their aid in reactivating a Cursillo movement in your diocese.

Discuss why the former movement lost direction. What were the focuses of the method on which they concentrated?

- Were weekends the main activity?
- How supportive of Ultreyas, grouping and servant community had the movement been?
- Were there workshops and other training opportunities offered?
- What influences were present?

Look at the make-up of the secretariat.

- Was the Secretariat representative of the whole diocesan family?
- Was there a gender balance?

- Was there a predominant theological leaning?
- Was there a predominant age group?

Examine the records of past weekend

- Were fewer and fewer parishes being represented both on team & candidates?
- Was the authentic Cursillo weekend method followed?

Try and evaluate what the problems were. The paper in The Canadian Anglican Cursillo Library on *Evaluating a Diocesan Movement* can be of great assistance to you and your planning groups.

### **STEP2:**

Now that you have a few supporters you should have a planning meeting. You want to set out a plan of action that will show all involved what actions need to be taken to successfully re-establish an active Cursillo movement. Ground your goals in reality not in wishful thinking. Your goal and ideal must be measurable, have a time limit and be realistic. A goal that says, "We are going to activate the method." is not measurable. How do you measure whether the goal is accomplished? Does it have a specific time limit? In ten years will you still be trying to re-establish the Cursillo method? Is it even realistic or is there little hope of success? A better goal might be "We will have two Ultreyas for fifty participants by a specific date." Is it measurable? Yes. Is there a time limit? Yes. Is it feasible? The feasibility can be assessed after the first Ultreya and then, if necessary, you can adjust your goals. Your

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goals and ideals are not written in stone and can be adjusted down or up, as required.

### **STEP 3:**

Now that you know the, "Who, Why, Where, When and How" of the past you can start to move to the future. The first thing is to hold an Ultreya. Invite everyone. Send people from your planning group to parishes to invite, not only Cursillistas, but also all parishioners. Plan the Ultreya with extra care. Select a location that will assure easy access for all those who attend. Use the authentic Cursillo Ultreya method. Music is important as are the speakers and, in every parish, ask for prayers. If the Ultreya is enthusiastically received, then maybe you can start to plan for a Cursillo Leader's Weekend.

### **STEP 4:**

The next step will be to establish a formal Servant Community. This action is well laid out in the The Canadian Anglican Library The Servant Community/ Leader's School and need not be repeated here. An active Servant Community will be able to help establish a secretariat, in consultation with and the approval of the Bishop, for the new movement. This community will also supply the workers for your weekends, when you start to hold them. Remember that the movement does not hold weekends for the sake of a weekend experience nor to count numbers. Christ said, "Feed my sheep." not, "count my sheep." Weekends are held to feed the sheep and then to develop permanent group reunions, which will go into the world to change environments for Christ. Only after you have active group reunions, Ultreyas are re-established and

an active servant community is strong should you consider holding a Cursillo weekend. In all your activities try to have the group who have been with you from the start retain control of the activities. There will be, as the reestablishment moves forward, some who will try to take control and move back to the old ways. Be aware that this can happen and try to prevent it from happening.

The process of re-establishment of an active Cursillo movement can take several years. Be patient and remember that you are on God's time, not your own. Remember God's promise to Abraham, "I will bless you...so that you will be a blessing." (Gen. 12:2). You are doing God's work so consult with God PRAY, PRAY, PRAY.

### **Further References**

- National Episcopal Cursillo Library
- The Fundamental Ideas of The Cursillo Movement
- The Cursillo Movement's Leaders Manual