



The Cursillo Movement of the Archdiocese of Toronto

The Fourth Day Newsletter

September 2009

“Make a Friend, Be a Friend, Bring that Friend into Friendship with Christ”

31 Cursillistas Made Special Commitment to Christ

On Sept 14, 2009, Bishop Emeritus Pearce Lacey received the commitments of 31 members of the Cursillo Movement of the Archdiocese of Toronto during a special concelebrated mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church at 2565 Bathurst Street, Toronto.

Bishop Lacey, in his comments to the Cursillistas, shared how happy he was to be with them for this occasion. He said he knew he could speak plainly to them for he knew they spoke the same language.



The 31 Cursillistas promised to serve Christ and his Church through the Cursillo Movement as their prime apostolate for a period of one year. The commitment is renewable each year.

The commitment involves serving the Movement by attending the Movement’s School of Leaders, attending Ultreya, possibly serving on team for Cursillo Weekends or being part of the Movement’s Secretariat as well as accepting certain needed leadership roles within the Movement.

The commitment ceremony followed a day of reflection and prayer relating to what the Christian priorities are; it showed that God comes first in heart and mind, vocation to marriage or ordination second, avocation (our work) third, and apostolate fourth. Choosing an apostolate is in response to Christ’s call as contrasted to volunteerism. Through a prayer process Cursillistas were able to determine or affirm where Christ was calling them to serve his Church in the coming year.

Every movement of the Church needs people who are committed to serving Christ and the Church through that apostolate. They are the backbone of any Movement and without their service a Movement cannot exist and propagate itself.

Cursillo is an outreach to the “faraway” from God with the intent of making them friends with Christ. A “faraway” is a Catholic who has effectively moved outside the orbit of God’s influence whether they are “outside the walls” of the Church or sitting in



the pews. They are not in proximity to God in mind, heart, or in daily life.

Cursillo's founder, Eduardo Bonnin, pinpointed the purpose of Cursillo when he said, "When we speak of 'EVANGELIZATION' in the context of the Cursillo, we do not only mean it in the sense of simply passing on or spreading the Gospel Good News, but rather to succeed in *making the person* 'BECOME' the GOOD NEWS, that joyful good news that Christ is alive in and amongst his people today just as surely as He was 2000 years ago." "If the Movement is given the space to live its basic and minimum structure of Group Reunion, Ultreya and School, it can bring the Good News of the Gospel to all the hidden places of human existence: personal, family and social."

In committing to the Cursillo Apostolate we are seeking to fulfill Eduardo Bonnin's goal to make the faraway BECOME the Good News.

A Humble Living Legend

Pointing to his cane, he said that that he just started to use one, six months ago. Would we all be doing as well as Bishop Pearce Lacey, who turns 93 on November 26th.

On Monday, September 14th, 2009, the Cursillo Movement hosted our annual "Commitment Celebration". On this day, we were blessed to have Bishop Lacey preside over the celebration, and receive the commitments of the Cursillistas in attendance. My family and I received a little more as well.



My offering for the evening was to act as chauffeur for His Eminence. Since Claudia, my wife, was also making her commitment, she was also with me, and so were my children. Together we arrived at the Bishops home to pick him up.

A gentle and kind man, the Bishop introduced himself to Claudia and the children. As we drove, we chatted along the way to Our Lady of the Assumption Church. I shared with the Bishop how much I appreciate St. Stephen's chapel - a Catholic haven in the business district of downtown Toronto. Bishop Lacey, along with several business leaders founded the

chapel in the late 1970's, and is one his many accomplishments during his life of service.

The Bishop shared how proud he was of our Spiritual Director, Father Terrence McKenna, for serving the Cursillo movement all these years. During his homily, the Bishop shared about his life. He also shared about the blessings that he receives serving the community in our multi-cultural Archdiocese of Toronto.

Many Cursillistas remember Bishop Lacey, who has presided over past celebrations, most recently in 2005. They expressed to him how joyful they were in seeing him that evening, and reminisced with him with their past experiences.

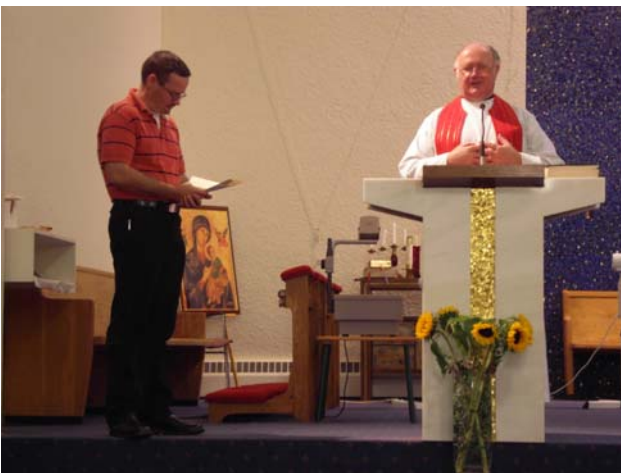
Soon after the celebration was done, we were heading back to the Bishops home. When we arrived, a parcel was waiting for the Bishop. I volunteered to help him bring it up to the apartment, for the parcel was heavy. He invited me in for a few minutes, and showed me the pictures of his family, of his parents, and of old family home in Toronto. An accomplished painter, he showed me some his work, one of which (a painting of Pope John Paul II) has been recently published in a book. I was touched and wished that we could continue to talk - for he is filled with the faith history of this great city. Alas, it was getting late, both for him, and for my children. I thanked him again for his service and said good night.

On the way home, the family and I reflected on what a wonderful man we had encountered. We shared the grace that came from our experience. My children will be able to tell others in the future; "I once met Bishop Lacey". But, I think they also take with them the grace that comes from knowing that priests and Bishops are holy men, deserving of respect - and that they are human too.

I am so pleased to have been able to spend a time with the Bishop, and to be inspired by this humble legend.

DeColores,
Franz Gangl

Photo Gallery



Fr. Terry McKenna
Spiritual Director

Fr. McKenna gave the homily explaining for us the importance of the Commitment Ceremony as “the event” of the Cursillo year and the value to ourselves and the movement of making Cursillo your prime apostolate for one year with the focus that commitment brings to our piety, study and action.

To his left was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening Franz Gangl, Lay Director Mentor.

Members of the music ministry participating at the ceremony included from left to right; Victor Bohus, Janet King, Audriana Massy, Clement Hazell, Brigitte Ng, Cathy Ferren and Franz Gangl. Many others helped with set up before and tear down after the event.





Preparing to make the commitment to Cursillo as Prime Apostolate.



Making the commitment.

Decolores!