



The Escarpment *Newsletter of the Wollongong Cursillo Movement*

Issue No. 1 February, 2019

Welcome everyone to a New Year for Cursillo. I hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas break with their family and friends. I pray that the Blessings that were bestowed upon us by the baby Jesus stay with us throughout the whole year.

I wish to start this Escarpment by acknowledging the wonderful work Frank has done over many years producing the Escarpment, particularly the inspiring editorials which have given us all food for thought. Thank you Frank from all of us. I am unable to duplicate what Frank has done as I don't have the same gift for words or computer expertise, so I can only produce it my own way with some help from the Holy Spirit. I do hope many of you will help me with some input. I am happy to say Dianne Garland has agreed to help me collect information and Gail Woodcock is doing her bit with the computer skills I lack.

BE INSPIRED BY OTHERS

Over the Christmas holidays my husband went through 34 sessions of radiation for prostate cancer, some days I went with him to Liverpool hospital and I have to tell you I was blown away by the people I met in the waiting room of the cancer unit. These people inspired me with their courage, patience and resilience. Sandro firstly, who didn't waste energy on whinging about his predicament, in fact no one I met did. There was the 86 year old lady who drove herself from Bankstown every day, she had a walker. Some days she had to park on the top level of the carpark and slowly walk down to the unit. She was a happy positive lady who had praise for everyone involved in her treatment. Each time I spoke to her I left the hospital in a happy place.

I discovered a friend who was also having treatment, or she discovered me. She put her arms around me when I was waiting with hubby, how wonderful to see her (rather it be elsewhere) she was so bubbly and positive. She told me a story I'd like to share with you. An old man with a very heavy accent sitting next to her told her he was from Chile and finding out she was Australian said "It's very lucky to meet an Australian" "Why?" she replied, "because there aren't many of them around" he

said. She laughed "How true, well I hope I bring you good luck" she said, "You already have" he replied, "How?" she said, "You have to be positive", was his answer.

There was another very heavy accented man when asked by staff "Where are you from?" he replied "I'm from Cabramatta, Australia", this remark I found priceless.

There was also the lady from Thirlmere, she had a neck cancer and had to fight to get transport as she was told she couldn't drive, she was having Chemo and Radiation. She is a single lady and has no family support, what courage to do it all on her own.

Then there's the Cancer Council volunteers, what a great job they do in their supporting role. One lovely lady came to speak to me telling me the services that were available if needed.

We indeed live in a wonderful country with the health services that are available to us. When life serves us lemons, somehow it gets changed to lemonade.

Look around you, be inspired by those you meet and say hi to those near you in a queue and give all you meet a smile.

Denise

INSTRUCTIONAL ULTREYA AND POT LUCK DINNER

In November 2018, we were privileged to have Bishop Brian Mascord, Bishop of Wollongong attend our Instructional Ultreya and Pot Luck Dinner, along with a some of our new Cursillistas and a few parishioners from the Camden parish joining us for dinner. Lesley, Denise D and Dianne spoke to all present and Bishop Brian encouraged us all to continue to support each other and the Cursillo movement. The Pot Luck dinner was a gourmet delight with an array of wonderful food and great company. After dinner we played Lucky Number and Trivia (where do they get these questions from!!!). Our Silent Auction was very popular and Marie made sure no one else got the children's pack. A fun night was had by all and thank you to all those who made it possible.





ULTREYA ROSTER 2019

DATE	VENUE	HOST GROUP
16 th February	St. Clare's Narellan Vale	Secretariat
16 th March	St. Anthony's Tahmoor	Tahmoor Ladies Lesley
20 th April	St. Peter and Paul Kiama	Kiama ladies Janine
18 th May	OLHC Rosemeadow	Campbelltown Ladies Vanessa
15 th June	St. John's Dapto	Dapto men/Southern men Matthew/Steve Pot luck lunch

Address for February Ultreya:

St. Clare's Presbytery, 59 Holdsworth Drive Narellan Vale.
Nearest crossroad – Liquidamber Drive.

Address for April Ultreya:

St. Anthony's 20 Stratford Rd. Tahmoor. Coming from Picton
on Remembrance Drive turn left after Rockford Rd.

The following article appeared in the Australian Catholic Cursillo Movement Canberra – Goulburn newsletter in November 2018.



The Way and The Eagle November 2018

At the recent National Secretariat meeting, we had a workshop reflecting on the charism of the Cursillo Movement in Australia. This presentation was ably presented by Peter McMahon from Brisbane who reflected on Pope Francis's Call to Holiness, Steve Porteous from Brisbane on the Charism of Cursillo, Pablo Rossi from Perth Spanish on the Essence and Purpose of Cursillo and Ken Garland from Wollongong on How We Recognize Signs of Holiness. They were supported by Palanca which was organized by Lester Smith before and after each of these talks. I helped to facilitate the talks and the feedback from each of the table discussions. Anne Maloney then presented each of the Diocesan Secretariats with a pack of material which would allow them to present and adopt the talks in their own environment.

What struck me about this weekend was how it drew us closer to the vision of Eduardo Bonnin which would appear timeless and touches the heart of the Gospel. Essentially the vision he presented was how we meet Christ in our own environment; how this calls us to reflect on God's profound love for us and in friendship reach out to each other particularly the "Far Away". One of the points that I am pondering on is the reality that we can often think that after we have attended a Cursillo Weekend, we have completed our journey and now we can return to normal life. What stays with me is that Eduardo saw the weekend as an important waypoint on our journey. Essentially it was there to strengthen our relationship with Christ and with each other. There were important encounters which need to happen before the weekend which allowed us to meet Jesus who opens up our hearts to each other in friendship as we travel along the road. This important stage of Pre-Cursillo is that our lives matter to God and each other. I think too often this time is spent preparing talks, seeking candidates and raising funds rather than asking what does God want from us at this time. It is

important that this is the starting point of any journey and one which will continue beyond the weekend. Otherwise, we can just become very good event managers or program planners rather than people who allow all the people who walk with us to deepen their experience of Jesus Christ who walks with us.

Similarly, as we meet after the weekend we can see this as an opportunity to continue the journey or just another meeting to attend. There can be a sense where the structure of meeting overshadows our reason for the meeting. We start to focus on what we want rather than what God is asking of us at this time on our journey. This is especially important as we consider people who put their hand up for roles in secretariats and to lead weekends. We often focus on logistics rather than on people. The central call for any role of leadership is that it should foster our living out of the Cursillo Method in Piety, Study and Action. This should not be considered as an additional burden added on to our lives but a natural expression of who we are as Cursillistas who seek to walk with Jesus. If we are not able to discover this spirituality for ourselves then we will find it difficult to live it and share it with others in our own square metre. De Colores will just become a friendly greeting rather than a way of life. I think God is asking more of us, not in working harder or longer hours for the Movement but allowing us to deepen our friendship with God and each other. This should feel like we are walking more with Jesus rather than working for Him.

This brings me to my last point on which I ponder the "Far Aways" who might be far distant from us but may also be people who we encounter on a daily journey. It may even include ourselves when we feel alienated from the love of God or that our influence over our own environment doesn't seem to move people to a deeper and more committed faith. I believe it is this reaching out to the Far Aways which means that our journey starts from where we are, not where we think we should be. I believe that the challenge that faced the Spanish Church after the Civil War also confronts us in our current Church life in Australia. How will we set out

together on pilgrimage to discover what God is asking of us? In Eduardo's time, the Spanish Bishops sought to encourage people to set out on the ancient pilgrim road to Santiago de Compostela. A journey where they could talk, walk, share hospitality and consider what was happening in their own life. In our own time, the Australian Bishops have called for a Plenary Council in 2020. This is a similar call which recognizes that each person is called to encounter Christ anew and to ponder the call to listen to what God is saying to us. In many ways what is proposed is very familiar to us within the Cursillo Movement. To pray together, to study our environment and what God is asking of us at this time, to reflect, to share and listen to each other and then to make an appropriate response. I believe that this is not just about rushing into prefigured responses but rather a deep discernment of how God is already at work in our own lives, in the life of the community and within our country Australia. Rather than just looking at the night sky and seeing the darkness we are called to recognize the glimpses of light which guide us. I believe that as Cursillo Movement in our diocese we are called to meet, to reflect within our group reunions, ultreyas and schools of leaders that this is a profound time in the life of our Church communities. We could easily let it pass and sit on the road with our head in our hands saying the road is too long or travelling is too hard on the feet. Or we can stand up and encourage each other onwards with the words of the ancient pilgrims. Ultreya! Ultreya!

De Colores

Fr. John Armstrong

National & Asia Pacific Group Spiritual Advisor

PO Box 4149,

Homebush South, NSW 2140

DE COLOR S!



Marie, Vanessa, Lucy, Amparo, Pauline, Kristine and Margaret from the Campbelltown lady's group enjoy a Christmas dinner outing at "Enzo's" Glen Alpine.

They had a Kris Kringle gift exchange and played a Christmas themed game while enjoying a lovely meal and each others company.

The group meets at 7pm on the first Thursday of the month at varying homes.

I would love to feature your group in the Escarpment, so please send me a photo and a little information about your group.

If you are not in a Reunion group and wish to join one, let Ken, Dianne or myself know and we will help you find a group in your area. All groups welcome new members.

ASIA PACIFIC GROUP NEWS

The following is information from the A.P.G. December newsletter:

- The 22nd A.P.G. Encounter - “Pilgrims of the 21st Century” will be held in Honolulu 25th to 28th April 2019. Limited numbers from each country have been invited. Please keep all organisers and attendees in your prayers.
- The O.M.C.C. has launched a world-wide competition to design an official Cursillo pin to be worn by Cursillistas all over the world if anyone is interested in taking part contact our president Ken or our delegate Vanessa for specification details.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Our next School Of Leaders will be held on Saturday 16th February at 12pm before the Ultreya.

S.O.L. is for all Cursillistas, so bring your lunch and come along and join in the conversation. We will be studying “Gaudete Et Exsultate” by Pope Francis. We will also be planning for the year ahead.

Our first Secretariat meeting for the year will be held on Thursday 21st February. If you have anything you wish to be discussed at the meeting please contact Ken.

And please keep both groups in your prayers this is the “Service” arm of Cursillo.

There will be four issues of the Escarpment this year, February, May, August and November. If you wish to have something placed in the next issue of the Escarpment please contact me. I would particularly like to feature extracts from Ultreya witnesses and Reunion groups. I will also be incorporating an article on “Kindness”, if you have any stories of someone being kind to you or indeed you have been kind to someone, please send your story to me by the 3rd May. My contact details are - denisedamore0@gmail.com or phone: 0438254139

Keep smiling

De Colores

Denise D’Amore and Helpers