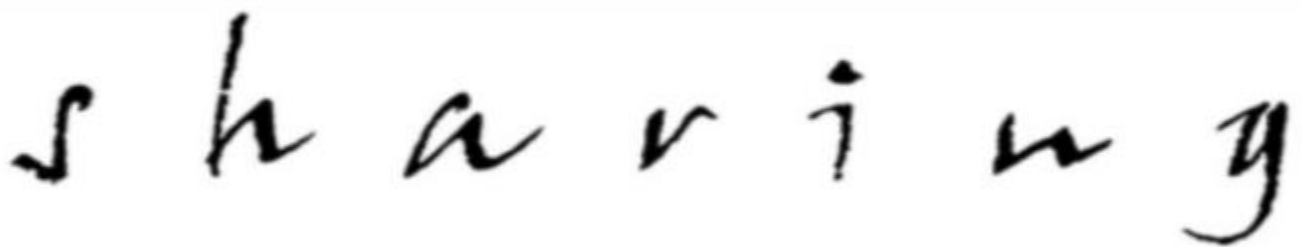


# Cursillo Movement of the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese

NOVEMBER 2023



sharing

*Our Christmas Gathering and AGM - The Secretariat*

*Greetings from Greg - Greg Standing (Secretariat President)*

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# Our Christmas gathering and AGM!!



Maitland Newcastle Diocese  
Cursillo

## Thanksgiving Mass and AGM

Murray room - Diocesan office

24th November 2023

7pm Mass

BYO dinner

Tombola \$10 value

Dessert to share



## GREETINGS FROM GREG

It is hard to believe this year is passing by so quickly, again. They seem to be going quicker and quicker, even though we know they are not.

Soon it will be time for us to gather and draw our year to a close with our Thanksgiving Mass, AGM and our meal together. It is always a fun night with a little bit of business thrown in.

We have so much to give thanks for with the year that has gone by. We held our Three Day Course attended by six wonderful and inspiring candidates, who were guided by our wonderful team led by Sr Christine and Stephen.

We have had many wonderful gatherings in various parts of the diocese for our Ultreyas with a wide variety of witness talks to inspire us to continue our journey together.

Our Secretariat have continued to guide our Movement to bring us closer to the Lord and each other. I thank them on your behalf for their commitment and vision they bring to our Cursillo community. I encourage anyone who would like to come along and be part of this group, as we all learn more about the Movement.

DE COLORES

GREG

# Witness Talk October 2023

Good evening.

Tonight, I would like to begin by giving you a brief idea of what my faith life has been.

I was born in Tamworth to Catholic parents. From 5 to 15 years attended St Joseph's Convent. With our strict upbringing we went to church a lot - Masses, Novenas etc. My young understanding of God was that we were good little children and that we earned his love, not that it was freely given. Even after leaving school at 15 and working I was still living at home with my parents going to Mass and all the time thinking I was earning God's love. At 22 years of age my little rose-coloured world came crashing down when my mother died. My Dad, brother and I went in separate directions with our grieving. My adult faith life stayed with the idea that God was there. I turned to Him in prayer asking for help, but it was all on my terms not His.

I met Kerry who was still living at home with his parents in New Zealand. We got married and I moved to New Zealand and I thought I had the security of a family again. Well, that didn't really happen as Kerry was not a catholic and his parents although lovely people were not understanding of my religion. RELIGION as at that stage I really didn't understand a loving relationship with God. It was just religion. I continued to attend Mass, but I was feeling very much alone.

We moved back to Australia, living back in Tamworth for 1 year and then moving to Bathurst. Being very unsettled with where we were heading as a family, my faith life was changing. I was reluctant to keep going to Mass. Six weeks later I had a car accident Myself and my two young sons. I was at a very low point in my life and began thinking that God was not there for me after all I had been doing. I asked the priest about joining a prayer group and he put me in touch with Mary-Sue who took me to the prayer group that she went too. This was my first introduction to a Charismatic group. They were lovely people and I felt very comfortable there. I thought "this is a bit different to what I have been used to."

**HOW DID THIS CHANGE MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.**

Well, I went to confession and back to Mass and started to have a little conversation with God. I had a lot of support from the people in the prayer group and the mothers in the mothers' club at the school. I knew that it was not always going to be easy but I now knew that I had a father in heaven who loved me no matter what I did not someone waiting with a big stick when I did something wrong.

I still had my arm in a sling from the accident when I first attended the prayer group and the immediate result laying of hands upon my shoulder and praying over me for healing. I was surprised at myself as I was open to this experience. I know that previously I would have loudly questioned this. For the next three years, I was committed to participation in weekly meetings where I grew in trusting that God was nearer. I had the good fortune to meet good friends, friends who I witnessed living their faith daily. My discovery was that God's love can't be earned. I was able to accept that God gives his love freely to me.

Leaving Bathurst was hard for me, we moved when Kerry got a job in Taree. The Charismatic group said lots of prayers for me and I was on my way. God does work in strange ways, but it is only in hindsight that I have seen it. When we arrived in Taree, I looked at ways to meet people at the church. I was given a name and when I contacted Margaret, our family was invited to a home mass at their newly completed home. We met lots of couples who had just done a Marriage Encounter weekend. From there I put my name down to be on tuck shop at the school and who should I be on with but one of the ladies I had met at Margaret's place. Her name was Elaine. We really clicked and we both agreed that God had put us together. She and Norm had just done a marriage encounter and she offered to look after the boys if Kerry and I would like to do a Marriage Encounter weekend too.

Just like in Bathurst after the accident, people that we hardly knew came to our aid. These occasions were the first times that I had seen Christianity in action and it taught me a good lesson in humility as I thought "I can't repay any of this." This is true community, God's love in action through his followers.

After many years of wonderful support through Marriage Encounter groups that met regularly, and the Charismatic prayer group, life was just rolling along. I was beginning to grow in a more personal relationship with God. Children leaving home and jobs changing, we moved to Tuncurry for work. I was a live in receptionist at Shangri La Caravan Park. This time, work prevented me from joining a church group as I could not leave the park during the week. I was still able to attend Mass, but I began feeling spiritually dry. I knew some of the friends down

here who me had met through Marriage Encounter and when the job ended, I came to the Cursillo prayer group although I had not yet done Cursillo. I did my weekend in 2012.

Little by little, I was learning that my faith had grown and that Jesus has a place in my life. At that weekend I bought a little book called, "Jesus Calling." It has daily readings and I try to read it and a couple of other daily readings. I do miss at times but mostly I try to start my day with a reading. Jesus talks to me through this little book. I feel like He is talking to me personally. I respond by focusing on the message throughout the day, following his direction and letting Him stay with me.

Even before I did Cursillo, I know that I looked for the opportunity to reach out to people - the sort of thing that we as Cursillistas know to be ACTION. While working at the Caravan Park in 2003, I met a man called Joe who lived in a caravan alone, no family. Joe had no car. He stayed close to home and didn't mix with many people. We used to have some good chats and I looked out for him. After the new people bought the park, my job was coming to an end as they were turning it into a permanent home village. This created a problem for Joe as he now had to pay his rent at the Commonwealth Bank, over the bridge in Forster. The bus trips took hours, so I assisted. It became a thing once a month to go to the bank, have lunch and an occasional flutter on the pokies. I know that I was able to share my Catholic faith with Joe. Through these 16 years of friendship with Joe, he trusted me and relied on my visits. Sadly, in December last year Joe died. I knew he wanted to be buried from the Catholic church so Fr. Peter did a lovely service for him attended by my friends and I will be putting his ashes in the columbarium by the time of his anniversary.

During that time, I was also caring for my husband and helping my neighbour next door whose husband was in the nursing home. He passed away and she was on her own as her family all lived away. I used to get annoyed at times and tired feeling about helping others, but through my Cursillo journey I have been trying to practise the power of praise and gratitude, so I try hard to stop grumbling and say thank you for everything. I was cleaning the toilet one day and grumbling away and I thought I should be saying thank you Lord that I am still healthy enough to be doing the cleaning and caring for others. It is not always easy, but I have become more conscious of this in my life. Also, I remember Fr. Greg once saying to bless yourself with holy water before leaving the house and so I have a bottle of holy water near my car keys and I always practice that.

Our Group Reunion meets fortnightly. I am nourished spiritually and go home each time with a message that carries me through the next few weeks. My unwell husband Kerry, my family and neighbours keep me busy.

At the moment I only have Kerry to care for as my neighbour has now moved to be with her family and I just wait on the Lord to see what is next in store for me. I try not to worry about things anymore and I am happy with my relationship with my God and my Cursillo friends.



### **MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD NOW.**

In my daily reading last week in very plain language, it said how the human body was wonderfully crafted but gravity and the inevitable effects of ageing weigh it down. As you identify more and more fully with me my life becomes increasingly intertwined with yours. Though the process of aging continues inwardly you grow stronger with the passing of years. Those who live close to me develop an inner aliveness that makes them seem youthful in spite of their years. Let my light shine through you as you walk in the Light with Me. Since my 2012 Cursillo experience I think that has been happening as I am getting older, I am feeling more peaceful and more confident knowing God is so close.

De Colores!

# Sacrifice Flower

*Franciscan sister, Jose Hobday (1929-2009) was a Seneca Elder, and a friend of the CAC in its earliest days. She writes of a way of praying she learned from her mother:*

A very special way to pray was the Sacrifice Flower Prayer, which my mother adapted from the heritage of her people, the Seneca Iroquois. She taught me to say this prayer when I was feeling low or had a burden I wanted lifted. Later, I learned to use it for happy occasions and when I had a special request I wanted to make to God.

Like all mothers, she could always tell when something was bothering me. She'd say to me, "All right Jo. I think it's time you went outside and found yourself a Sacrifice Flower..."

That flower was supposed to be special, one that meant a lot to me...In addition, Mother said I was to be very careful with the flower because it had been selected for a holy purpose. I lovingly cupped it in my hands so nothing would happen to it.

When I got home, I did as my Mother instructed and told the flower what burden I wanted lifted and taken to God. How was the flower to do this? Remember, this was a Sacrifice Flower, one that was going to die. The idea was, that as life went out of the flower, it would carry my prayer to God...



Every time I saw the flower, I could see it giving its life for me and I could imagine my prayer being carried to God...When the flower finally died, I would take it outside, say good bye to it, and thank it for giving its life for me and for delivering my prayer. Then I would bury it so it would have a chance at a new life...

In this simple graphic way, my Mother taught me how uplifting prayer can be. And, in the process, she taught me about life, too - how basic both dying and rising are to living and how important it is that we become Sacrifice Flowers for each other.





# World Cursillo and Us

from Anne Moloney

This year has been an eventful one for me, as it involved preparation for my trip to Monterrey, Mexico where I attended the IX World Encounter, 1-4 June, 2023. As the International Representative for Australian Cursillo, part of my role was to vote in the election for the next world body of Cursillo, the OMCC.

During the Encounter, in the lead-up to the election, time was given to the two nominated groups to present their goals if elected to the OMCC. Nominations came from Spain and Italy, but the recently approved statutes determined that the group be made up of representatives from different countries.

The final vote was 19 Spain to 12 Italy. The new OMCC is listed below and includes the Cursillo roles they held prior to the election:

**PRESIDENT:** Álvaro Martínez Moreno (Spain)

Formerly president of the Spanish National Secretariat of the MCC.

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Adair Batista (Brazil)

Current Coordinator of the National Executive Group of the MCC of Brazil.

**SPIRITUAL ADVISOR:** Mons. José Ángel Saiz Meneses (Spain)

Archbishop of Seville Current Spiritual Advisor in the National Secretariat of the MCC of Spain.

**TREASURER:** Thomas Patrick Creen (Ukraine)

Current MCC Coordinator in Ukraine.

**SECRETARIAT:** Françoise Delaunoy Horta (Chile)

Leader in the Diocesan Secretariat of Talca (Chile).

The OMCC also has a representative from each of the 4 International Groups. The Asia Pacific Group representative is Alfred Bongi from Australia. Alfred is a Cursillista from the Canberra-Goulburn Diocese and represents this Cursillo Secretariat as delegate to the Australian National Secretariat.

In September, Alfred met with the OMCC in Rome where they began discussions on how to move forward with their proposed projects. At our recent National Secretariat AGM, further discussions helped us to understand ways to be more involved with the two world bodies APG and OMCC. National Secretariat is responding to requests that come from the APG for Australia to participate in worldwide Cursillo activities.

**Of note, OMCC has asked the APG whether our young people would wish to participate in a proposed Cursillo Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, Spain, from 5 to 11 August 2024.**

It is recognised that the incorporation and integration of young people into the service structures of the Cursillo Movement is urgently needed. Hence, the OMCC has a priority project to make a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela for young people aged 18 – 35 from all over the world. This pilgrimage can be for Cursillistas or not, thus inspiring the motivation of current Cursillistas and a Precursillo for future Cursillistas.

Please think about ways to reach out to young people who may respond to the call to participate in this pilgrimage. Perhaps you yourself are aged 18-35, have an openness towards talking about your faith and would like to connect with the Cursillo community. This is an opportunity to engage with Cursillistas from all over the world as you discover more about God who walks with us.

## From the Spiritual Advisor

Sharing a few thoughts ... from Anne Moloney

The beginnings of Cursillo have a connection to the pilgrimage, the “Camino de Santiago” or in English the “Way of St James” which is a network of pilgrim’s ways leading to the shrine of the apostle James in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain.

Today, I have gathered some information that helps to build awareness about the faith journey of Cursillo. From its beginnings in the 1940’s, Cursillo has encouraged us in our daily walk with God.

Fr John Armstrong (Spiritual Advisor for the Australian Catholic Cursillo Movement) writes a weekly blog called “Walking with Jesus: A pilgrimage of faith relating scripture to daily life.” Bernard Reilly includes this in his weekly email to Maitland-Newcastle Cursillistas under the heading: “Fr John’s reflection for this weekend”.

Many times, I have appreciated the way Fr John helps me to understand better what pilgrimage is about.

Quotes from Fr John:

“The pilgrimage of life is not one of travelling from one place to another but discovering how God is present in our day to day lives. Our prayer seeks to help us rest in that place where God has always been.”

“We become who we are called to be by setting out with each other on the journey. We start to meet ourselves as we are rather than in whom we think we should be. In this slow steady pace, we encounter the one who walks with us on our pilgrimage through life. We find a sense of healing and resilience which can confront our inner fears. We discover that life enables us to make the next obvious step and transforms the environment in which we live.”

Hearing now that the young people of Cursillo are being called by the OMCC to take their own pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in August, 2024, I am encouraged to know that doing the Camino opens hearts and minds both physically and spiritually.

At the APG Encounter held in Hawaii in 2019, one of the talks was given by Merran Martin who is a Cursillista from the Canberra-Goulburn Diocese. Please read on as Merran’s words give further insight into the theme of Cursillistas as “Pilgrims of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”.

This is part of Merran's talk presented at the APG Encounter:

"Pilgrimage has always been a very old practice in the Church. Pilgrims were people who travelled, usually on foot, to spiritually significant places. Their motivations were various, ranging from a longing for spiritual rebirth, a search for a cure, as thanksgiving for a favour granted or a desire for adventure. One of the most popular pilgrimage destinations, which Fr John referred to last night, is the Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela to the tomb of St James the apostle in Spain, dating back to the ninth century. The question of why those pilgrims set out on an arduous journey is just as relevant for pilgrims today. People seek time out from the busy routine of life and desire the opportunity for sustained reflection. They want to slacken the pace to the natural rhythm of walking and to leave the familiar for a while, to experience an environment of continual change.

I heard about this pilgrimage when I came to Cursillo 33 years ago. I learned that the Pope [Pius XII](#) called for a gathering of youth from all over Europe to meet in Santiago on the Feast of St James on 25 July in 1948. I learned about the idealistic young men from Mallorca, who prepared themselves spiritually during the 1940s in order to undertake this pilgrimage. Their study became the basis of the Cursillo Movement and the Talks they prepared are those we still use on Cursillo weekends. That formation was in effect the first School of Leaders and the elements of pilgrimage spirituality are very much a part of the Cursillo experience today.

I was one of the Australian cursillistas who walked in a group gathered together by Fr John in 2003 to walk the pilgrimage to Santiago – the Camino. It was significant to us to walk in the footsteps of our forefathers in Cursillo, along the same paths, bonding together in community and being witnesses to our faith.

At the outset, Fr John invited us to reflect on the following questions:

*How do we encounter the road?*

*What do we struggle with along the way?*

*How do we become one with the road?*

*How do we seek the sacred in a world which has pushed this search to the margins of consciousness?*

Each day there were opportunities to walk in solitude -a time for prayer and contemplation of these questions and to be aware of God's accompaniment on the way. The rhythm of footfall became like a mantra,

a useful aid to meditation, in an effort to reach inside myself and to connect with God in that special place within. Cursillo also invites me to come to know myself by taking time to ponder the deep questions of life of who I am and where I am going – the Encounter with Self.

I also walked the Camino in the company of others and there were days when I walked with one other person or in a small group. These were the times which very much resembled the Emmaus Walk (Luke 24:13-17). There were some special moments of contact as we took down the barriers, shared our stories and revealed our woundedness to each other. We were privileged to discover the Christ in the other person and these encounters of grace enhanced the sense that we are all in this life together, travelling the road and supporting each other as we travel towards our heavenly home and the fullness of God's presence.

The necessity of living simply is vital on the Camino – we must travel lightly, stripping away the accoutrements of modern life, back to the bare essentials of what will fit in a backpack. What do we really need in life? **Emotionally** too, there were items of baggage that were carried, such as brokenness, pain, hurt from the past, grief or loss, a sad memory or ongoing worry. These are as much a part of the struggles of the road as are blisters and fatigue.

One of the most profound experiences on the Camino for me was the joy of understanding that I am an integral part of all creation. A walking pace allowed me to take in the detail of the surroundings, which would have been impossible by any other means of transport. I saw Spain through the soles of my shoes! I was treated to a Feast for the Senses in experiencing the beauty of creation in all its springtime glory – the farmlands, rivers, mountains, valleys the most amazing and colourful array of wildflowers I have ever seen and of course, rainbows across the blue sky! It was **the song** De Colores come to life! Being able to stop and pick a field poppy, to hear roosters crow in the farmyard, or to sit beside a stream all gave a great sense of being part of nature, of closeness to the Creator and time seemed to stand still. I understood the meaning of living in the present and becoming one with the road.

At the conclusion of my pilgrimage, my thoughts centred on the similarities between the Camino and the Cursillo experience. We speak of the Three Days as a pilgrimage, as Fr John noted last night. An essential element of this is to leave the familiarity of home and to go away to a quiet place. The Cursillo weekend, as with a pilgrimage, gives us the space to shift between the old life and the new life of grace. This space enables us to gain a more profound sense of self, of God and of other people.

I believe that there are elements of pilgrimage spirituality every time we

journey to be together at Cursillo events. This weekend you have come from all over the Asia Pacific region. We are taking time out from our roles as leaders in our communities to come together to talk. Perhaps there are issues and difficulties that you have left behind, which are worrying you. Like the disciples, perhaps you are downcast and disillusioned. Are you concerned by the situation of Cursillo in your countries? Let this be a time when you can talk to Jesus about them and talk also to your fellow delegates. We are all in this together and we can all lean on each other – we don't have to walk alone.

Fr John's last question brings us back to the reality of the world: How are we to seek the sacred in a world which has pushed this search to the margins of consciousness?

I think this is the question that is most relevant for this Encounter entitled Pilgrims of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It is difficult for many to find the time and inclination to go looking for the sacred in this beautiful world and as a consequence, their lives are poorer. Over the course of this Encounter, can we grapple with the question of how best to help others to find God in the busyness of modern life? We do not have all the answers – rather we are all pilgrims on the road of life sharing what we have. Pilgrimage spirituality recalls for me the words of Pope Paul, VI "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are also witnesses." (Evangelii Nuntiandi 41) and further he says: "The beauty of Christian witness expresses the beauty of Christianity and provides for its future. How can we be credible in announcing the "good news" if our lives are unable to manifest the "beauty" of this life?"

Listening to witnesses who shared their stories at Cursillo and coming to know them through Group Reunion and Ultreya, I was attracted to live the same life of grace that they did. I wanted to join them in their walk."

I thank Fr John and Merran for their times of reflection which teach us and encourage us as we take further steps towards living as Christians with God who walks with us.

DE COLORES!







# YOUTH OF AUSTRALIA

18 - 35 YEARS

This is your opportunity to walk the Camino as a Pilgrim from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela, Spain from 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> August 2024, together with youth from around the world and members of the Cursillos in Christianity Movement.

What will the Pilgrimage entail? The distance from Sarria to Santiago Compostela (SdC) is 115.2 km. Most walking will be on paths and tracks or quiet roads. Sarria is a traditional starting point for many pilgrims because to receive the 'Compostela' (the official certificate of completion) one needs to walk at least 100 kms.



Pilgrims generally walk between 20-30km per day, staying in affordable sports accommodation and are entitled to buy Pilgrim meals. Breakfast is provided with the accommodation each day.

There will be opportunities for fellowship, morning prayers, and evening eucharist each day. In SdC there is a Pilgrim Mass, each day in the local Cathedral, when the countries of the people who reached SDC the day before are announced.

Do you know of any youth who may be interested in making the Pilgrimage? Expressions of interest should go to Anne Moloney [annemmoloney@gmail.com](mailto:annemmoloney@gmail.com) (International Representative) by 30 November 2023



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**Conrado P. Dizon**, President  
**Fr. Paul Nguyen Van Tung**, Spiritual Advisor  
**Anthony Phan Quang Thinh**, Vice-President  
**Goreth Z. Bendoy**, Secretary  
**Maria Tran Ngoc Tram Anh**, Treasurer  
**Alfred Bongi**, International Representative to OMCC

*Make a friend,  
Be a friend,  
Bring a friend to Christ*

**November 10, 2023**

**TO :** **Terrie McLean**  
President  
Australia National Cursillo Secretariat

**SUBJECT :** PILGRIMAGE TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA 2024

Greetings!

I hope you find this letter well. With regards to the proposed Pilgrimage of OMCC to Santiago De Compostela next year, August 5-11, 2024. We would like to follow-up, if there's a possible youth candidate from your country who would like to attend this pilgrimage. Our APG International Representative, Alfred Bongi, has tentatively reserved 35 slots for APG. The purpose of this pilgrimage is to engage young individuals in the mission of the Cursillo Movement.

Attached herewith is the OMCC proposed program for Pilgrimage.

Hoping to receive your response until November 30. Further details are to follow.

Yours in Christ and Mary,

  
Bro. Conrado

# GO!

*The Lord said "Go!" And I said "Who? Me?" And He said "Yes; You."*

*And I said, "But I'm not ready yet and there are friends coming.*

*You know there's no one to take my place." And He said, "You're stalling."*

*Again the Lord said "Go!", And I said "I don't want to.*

*Listen, I'm not that kind of person. I just don't get involved,  
and what will the neighbours think?" And He said, "I'm waiting."*

*Yet, a third time the Lord said "Go!" And I said, "Do I have to?"*

*And He said, "Do you love Me?" And I said, "I'm scared.*

*People are going to talk about me, and cut me into little pieces."*

*He said, "Where do you think I'll be?"*

*Then the next time the Lord said "Go!", I sighed and said:*

*"HERE I AM LORD. SEND ME."*

## AN ADVENT MESSAGE FROM Fr JOHN

(From the Asia Pacific Group Cursillos in Christianity Meeting Oct 2019)

With the approach of Advent, we often start to notice the pace quicken as we come closer to Christmas. Media encourages us to start focusing on what is in the future in anticipating what is unfolding and what we prepare for. There is a sense of expectation that this will all turn out as we plan and be an experience that we will not easily forget. Yet this very anticipation may well rob us of the peace of becoming present to the presence of Jesus who accompanies us along the journey.

This is the remarkable mystery of this season. That in the midst of well-planned lives everything is turned upside down in a way which draws a person into a way of being present which they had not expected. This is often seen as a threat to our well-ordered lives, but it is the place where our anticipation meets the vision of God after which nothing can be the same. We start to discover an incarnate way of living where God enters into our human story with great intimacy and vulnerability. This puzzles and amazes us with wonder in how we are called to respond. This is not how we expect God to become present to us but it does teach us something important about our life and prayer.

God meets us as we are, not as we think we should be, and allows us to notice how in offering our whole self to this unfolding mystery nothing will ever be the same. As you prepare for Christmas may the peace of Christ disturb you.



## From the Editor

### 1 CORINTHIANS 13 - A CHRISTMAS VERSION

Sharon Jaynes: ["Celebrating a Christ centred Christmas"](#)

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family,

**I'm just another decorator**

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family,

**I'm just another cook**

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the Nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family,

**It profits me nothing**

If I trim the tree with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ,

**I have missed the point.**

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linen.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, **but giving the gift of love will endure.**

**CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS AND LOTS OF LOVE TO YOU ALL**



A  
Holy  
and Blessed  
Christmas