

DE COLORES MAGAZINE

BRISBANE ARCHDIOCESE

CURSILLO MOVEMENT

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EDITION



"If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world." – C.S. Lewis

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I'm writing this following our pilgrimage to Varroville for the Cursillo National Encounter. There were representatives from Cairns, Brisbane, Lismore, Canberra-Goulburn, Maitland-Newcastle, Wollongong and Perth present. It was certainly wonderful to talk with, listen to and socialise with this many Cursillistas from all over Australia. It really affirms for us the wonderful value of our Movement nationally and globally, and opens our eyes to what is happening in other diocese.

Twelve Brisbane Cursillistas attended, eleven driving down, staying one night at Coffs Harbour and one in Raymond Terrace. We shared prayer, Mass, meals and friendship as we travelled. Together we attended Mass in Coffs Harbour and visited the Green Cathedral in Forster. This is what Cursillo is all about, being a friend and sharing Christ with our friends. This was truly a pilgrimage of hope – hope for our Cursillo Movement and hope the evangelising Church.

We are well into Spring, with Summer fast approaching. The weather is already hot and rain is badly needed. Our Movement has for some years been experiencing a Winter Season, with difficulty getting teams together, finding candidates, keeping active in the Movement those who have lived the 3 days. We



need to bring Cursillo into a Springtime experience – one of new birth, accelerated growth, renewed commitment, taking sponsoring seriously, making new friends and sharing our own experiences of God with everyone we meet.

We have begun this journey by trialling live-out weekends. We are attempting to run men's and women's weekends at the same time. However more is needed to enable Cursillo to grow here in Brisbane and throughout the country. We definitely need new blood, new ideas, younger committed Cursillistas and prayer. If each of us does a little, then God can lead us to what is his will for our Movement.

Remember Friday is Palanca day. Let's all make a concerted effort to pray for our Movement and the building of God's Kingdom in our own environments.

DE COLORES,
Rosemary Haydock



Disagreements may well give rise to conflicts, but uniformity proves stifling and leads to cultural decay. May we not be content with being enclosed in one fragment of reality.

FRATELLI TUTTI (Pope Francis)

Prayer for the Work Day

Almighty God, thank You for the job of this day. May we find gladness in all its toil and difficulty, its pleasure and success, and even in its failure and sorrow. We would look always away from ourselves and behold the glory and the need of the world that we may have the will and the strength to bring the gift of gladness to others; that with them we stand to bear the burden and heat of the day and offer You the praise of work well done. Amen. --Bishop Charles Lewis Slattery (1867-1930)

A Reflection from our Diocesan Spiritual Adviser

Growing up

So often when we're looking at faith journeys we recall instances from our childhood when we were, well, childish, and how that hopefully means we've grown in the intervening years.

As a child I would sometimes look for praise, or look to avoid more serious punishment, through comparisons with my two younger siblings, my brother and my sister. I would promote my own accomplishments while 'dobbing' on my brother and sister and telling my parents all the horrible things they had done, and how good I was because I wasn't like them. Or I would admit to doing something naughty, but at least I hadn't done those worse things that my brother and sister had done - at least I was not like them.

I was promoting myself by putting down my brother and sister. I'm sure we all have similar stories. We'd like to think that when we grow up we stop acting like that, right? That we become adults - BIG people - and we stop acting so childish. But that's not the case. We know the truth. Two, five, or eight decades later, we can still act like we are two, five, or eight years old.

In the Gospel reading for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time this year (Luke 18:9-14) a Pharisee promotes himself at the expense of another. He praises himself, and he puts another person down. He thanks God he is not like the dirty sinner who is praying some distance away. This isn't the kind of disposition in prayer God is looking for. The tax collector has a deep sense of his own guilt, but he still turns to God in prayer. He doesn't compare himself to anyone else, he just opens his heart up to God and prays for Mercy.

God doesn't want us to be comparing ourselves to each other all the time in our successes or our failures. Rather, God wants us to reach out to God ourselves - in all humility - and to ask for what we seek.

So the challenge for us is this - when we pray - or when we talk with other people about other people - let's try to reflect on what we are actually saying and doing in that moment. Are we trying to big note ourselves? Are we trying to belittle another person and get others to do the same? Are we trying to undermine? Are we so petty that we need to make others feel small for ourselves to feel big? Are we THAT childish?

We may grow in years but that doesn't necessarily mean we grow in maturity. However, we are called to have a sense of hope that we can continue to grow whatever our age. We can always learn to be more humble, and God's mercy can always help us be more merciful too.

De Colores

Fr Peter



Look for a space where you can take time to receive the mystery of Mary into your heart. Joseph can help you because he is a receptive father since he welcomed Mary without conditions... Joseph's welcome invites us to welcome others around us without exclusions, just as they are, and with preference for the vulnerable (Pope Francis). Who needs your help today? Who is on the peripheries of your mind? Ask for Mary and Joseph's intercession to love Jesus through those around you.

A Precis of Bishop Brian Mascord's Homily at National Encounter 2025

Australian Catholic Cursillo Movement

Gathered at the National Cursillo Gathering in Varroville, we are reminded of our calling to be “Witnesses of Hope in the Fourth Day.” This theme, drawn from the Jubilee Year of Hope, invites us to rise and shine with the light of Christ, becoming beacons of hope in a world that often feels overshadowed by despair, division, and uncertainty.

The prophet Isaiah’s words—“Arise, shine, for your light has come”—are not just poetic encouragement; they are a divine summons. God’s light has indeed come into the world through Christ, and now it shines through us. We are not meant to keep this light hidden. As Cursillistas, we are called to let it radiate in our homes, workplaces, parishes, and communities. This is the essence of our Fourth Day—the life we live after our Cursillo weekend, where the real mission begins.

St. Paul, writing to the Romans, reminds us that faith comes from hearing the Word of God. But how can others hear unless someone proclaims it? This is our task: to be proclaimers of the Good News, not just in words but in the witness of our lives. The Cursillo movement equips laypeople to do exactly this—to live their faith actively and joyfully, to be salt and light in the world.

Jesus’ final command in the Gospel of Matthew is clear: “Go and make disciples of all nations.” This is not a suggestion; it is a mission. And it is not reserved for clergy or religious—it is entrusted to all of us. The mission field is not far away; it is wherever we are. Every conversation, every act of kindness, every moment of integrity is an opportunity to share Christ’s love.

Cursillo is a Spirit-led movement that awakens the laity to their baptismal call. It helps us see that holiness is not confined to the sanctuary—it is lived in the ordinary rhythms of life. The Fourth Day is where our faith is tested, deepened, and shared. It is where we rise each morning and choose to live as disciples, even when it’s difficult, even when the world seems indifferent.

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, we are invited to be heralds of hope. Not naïve optimism, but hope rooted in the resurrection—hope that knows the cross but also knows the empty tomb. We are not alone in this mission. Christ goes before us, walks beside us, and empowers us through the Holy Spirit.

So let us arise. Let us shine. Let us be witnesses of hope in our Fourth Day. The world needs what we have encountered in Cursillo: a personal experience of God’s love, a community of faith, and a renewed sense of purpose. May we go forth from this gathering renewed, recommitted, and radiant with the light of Christ.

¡DE COLORES!

PRAYER:

Prayer is spiritual communication between man and God, a two-way relationship in which man should not only [talk to God](#) but also listen to Him. Prayer to God is like a child’s conversation with his father. It is natural for a child to ask his father for the things he needs.

There are many promises in God’s Word to encourage us to pray, such as: “He shall call upon me and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him” (Psalm 91:15); “And it shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear” (Isaiah 65:24); “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7). The Scriptures tell us that we are to pray for one another and also assure us that [God hears and answers prayer](#).

SPONSORING A CANDIDATE

The work is accomplished above all through the word and witness of those who have been to a Cursillo 3 Days.

The Cursillo Movement's Fundamental Ideas Book strongly recommends that the Pre Cursillo should be developed as a function of what is first, last, and always the goal of the Cursillo Movement: *to make possible the living out, and the living out together, what is fundamental for being Christian.*

Eduardo Bonnín, our founding father, focused on the person, not on the environment. He kept reminding us that it is through our on-going conversion that others will follow, and consequently, the environments will be automatically and naturally transformed.

Friendship is key to Cursillo — friendship of the individual with our self, with Christ, and with our brothers and sisters.

THE APPROACH

1. Make a friend, be a friend. Pray. Build your friendship with your candidate.
2. Tell them about Cursillo; what being in Cursillo has done for you.
3. Look for a group in which your candidate can grow. Consider your own group reunion.
4. Make a time to talk with your candidate. If the candidate is married, speak to both partners together. Take at least the Cursillo Invitation. Read through it with those you are talking to and leave it with them. Tell them again what being in Cursillo has meant for you. Make yourself available to answer any further questions they may have.
5. Endeavour to get a "YES" response from your Candidate.
6. Follow Up!!!

WALKING WITH YOUR CANDIDATE

1. Complete the application form.
 - Section 1 - candidate keeps
 - Section 2 - candidate completes
 - Section 3 - sponsor completes & hands on to the Coordinator for the Three-Day Weekend.
2. Continue praying for your Candidate.
3. Make opportunities to deepen the friendship.
4. Ensure the Candidate receives the Acceptance Letter from the movement.
5. ARRANGE TRANSPORT. Preferably take the candidate to the venue and introduce him or her to some of the team.
6. Send a Palanca letter for all the team and for the Candidates. Remember to do your own Palanca (prayer and sacrifice) as well.
7. If you think it would be helpful, write a personal letter to your Candidate. This should be given to them privately.
8. Be at the Clausura to welcome your Candidate. If this is not possible, arrange for someone to be there on your behalf with your apology.
9. Ensure your Candidate knows the details of the Instructional Ultreya, has transport and is encouraged to attend.

10. Be at the Instructional Ultreya. If this is not possible, send your apology and arrange for someone else to look after your Candidate. If your Candidate is unable to attend you should do some follow up to ensure she or he understands the purpose of the movement.
 11. Do everything you can to get your Candidate into a Group Reunion. This is the Sponsor's responsibility. Your Secretariat and the team member on your Candidate's table will help you if necessary.
 12. Continue contact, friendship and prayer for at least 12 months after the Three Days.
 13. Encourage your Candidate to read some Cursillo literature. Candidates can start by reading "Keeping It Simple" which is a handout to every candidate on the weekend.
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Be perfect in our love

When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they travelled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

"Why were you searching for me? he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

He then went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

This Gospel reading above according to Luke 2:41-52 is one of my favourites. I don't know why that is. I often wonder what it must have been like for Mary and Joseph to be parents of the son of God.

I know what it is like to have children who are different from others. Who are deeply interested in specific subjects, who can be driven by single-minded purpose and, yes, who have the tendency to abscond sometimes. I feel such solidarity with Mary's experience in this Gospel Reading. Even Mary, our holy mother, had hard days as a parent.

And this got me thinking. How often do we confuse the call to holiness with the holier-than-thou expectations placed on modern parents? These pressures to be faultless in all areas of child-rearing and housekeeping do not come from God. They come from advertisers. Instead, we are called by God to be perfect in our love.

Grow in awareness

We live in a world that is hungry for signs, scientific proof and black-and-white certainty. Like those who sought after Jesus, we often ask to be 'shown something certain', but Jesus gently reminds us that the sign has already been given. Just as Elijah discovered in his encounter on Mount Sinai, God's signs are not in the wind, earthquake or fire, but in the quiet mystery of his presence among us. It's easy to be distracted with scanning the sky for miracles and miss the sacred right in front of us; a kind word, a moment of silence or resilience in times of adversity. We are called to awaken to a greater mystery that is deeper and more enduring than our own limited understanding. The invitation is to grow in awareness, not chase signs, because God is here, now.

Pope Leo's first words to the crowd gathered in St. Peter's Square were words of peace, directed to all of the world:

In a [2023 interview](#), he emphasized the role of a personal relationship with Jesus, rather than doctrine, in evangelization:

"We are often preoccupied with teaching doctrine ... but we risk forgetting that our first task is to teach what it means to know Jesus Christ."

In a [2024 statement](#), he called for a model of humble service in leadership:

"The bishop is not supposed to be a little prince sitting in his kingdom, but rather called authentically to be humble, to be close to the people he serves, to walk with them, to suffer with them, and to look for ways that he can better live the Gospel message in the midst of his people."

In a [2023 press conference](#), he followed in Pope Francis' footsteps of declaring the Church a welcoming place for all:

"Our work is to enlarge the tent and to let everyone know they are welcome inside the Church."

He reiterated his connection to Pope Francis during his address, picking up on many of Francis' key themes: the need to love without fear; to build bridges to unite, rather than divide; to be welcoming to all; and to be a synodal church:

"God loves us, God loves you all, and evil will not prevail! We are all in God's hands. Therefore, without fear, united hand in hand with God and each other – let us go forward."

"We are disciples of Christ. Christ goes before us. The world needs His light. Humanity needs Him as the bridge to be reached by God and his love. Help us also, and then help each other to build bridges, with dialogue, with encounter, uniting us all to be one people always at peace."

"We must seek together how to be a missionary Church, a Church that builds bridges, dialogue, always open to receive, like this square, with open arms. Everyone, everyone who needs our charity, our presence, dialogue and love."

"To all of you, brothers and sisters from Rome, from Italy, from all over the world, we want to be a synodal Church, a church that walks, a church that always seeks peace, that always seeks charity, that always seeks to be close especially to those who suffer."

Leo is an Augustinian, and models his leadership on St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, and author of some of the greatest works of literature, including *Confessions* and *The City of God*:

"I am a son of Saint Augustine, an Augustinian, who said, 'For you I am a bishop, with you, I am a Christian.' In this sense we can all walk together toward that homeland that God has prepared."

Finally, Pope Leo XIV closed his remarks by asking for the intercession of Mary, which is particularly fitting.

"Our Mother Mary always wants to walk with us, be close, help us with her intercession and love. So I would like to pray together with you. Let us pray together for this new mission, for the whole church, for peace in the world, and let us ask Mary, our Mother, for this special grace."



VIX 99 2024



NOVEMBER – ULTREYA/FIESTA

You are invited to our **Cursillo Christmas Ultreya and Fiesta:**

**It will be held on Saturday, 15TH November 2025
commencing at 2.00pm.**

at

Our Lady Queen of Apostle Church

70 Appleby Road, Stafford

This will be a **special Ultreya** where we'll celebrate the joy of our faith and show that
having fun is all part of our Cursillo Journey!

Come along for an afternoon filled with **friendship, music, laughter, and Christmas cheer.**

don't forget

bring a friend!

They'll be made most welcome

Everyone is very welcome and we look forward to seeing you there

EXCITING NEWS

We also have some **exciting news** to share!

In **January next year**, a **Cursillo Weekend for both men and women** will be held at

Mary Queen of Peace Church Facilities

Woody Point,

open to participants from all parishes. Check it out below.

It will be a **three-day "live-out" Cursillo**, offering a wonderful opportunity for new candidates to
experience the joy and renewal that Cursillo brings.

We encourage all Cursillistas to consider **sponsoring candidates** and to help spread the word by
sharing the upcoming Cursillo details with your own parish, especially through **Parish
Newsletters.**

Let's come together in gratitude for another wonderful year of **faith, fellowship, and community.**

Below is a suggested advertisement for your Parish Newsletter/Bulletin

DIOCESAN CURSILLO

The Archdiocese of Brisbane Cursillo weekend for 2026 will be held from 24th-26th January, at Mary Queen of Peace Parish Hall, Victoria Ave. Woody Point



Cursillo is a short course in Christianity which will enrich your faith for the rest of your life. It is Christ-centred, based on Gospel values, and encourages each participant to think about what it means to BE Christian in all their many everyday activities and environments.

The Cursillo Movement has been alive and active across the Brisbane Archdiocese since 1968. It is led by a team of lay people, both men and women, and together with a Priest, participants have the opportunity through a series of talks and discussions, as well as time for personal reflection and fun, to develop a personal relationship with Christ.

To find out more about Cursillo, or the weekend, please contact the following in your parish: [*enter contact details here.*](#)

De Colores

HOW THE WORLD WIDE WEB BEGAN

An old, bearded shepherd with a crooked staff walked up to a stone pulpit and said, "And lo, it came to pass that the trader by the name of Abraham.Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dot." And Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she had been called Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel far, from town to town, with thy goods when thou can trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, can we do that dear?"

And Dot replied,

"I will place drums in all the towns (and drums in between the towns) to send messages saying what you have for sale and they will reply, telling you which hath the best price. And the sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success.

Abraham sold all the goods he had, at the top price, without ever moving from his tent. But this success did arouse envy. A man named Maccabia did secret himself inside Abraham's drum and was accused of insider trading.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums, that no one noticed the real riches were going to the drum maker, one Brother William of Gates, who bought up every drum company in the land.

And, indeed, he did insist on making drums that would work only if you bought Brother Gates' drumsticks. And Dot said, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others.

And, as Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or as it came to be known, "eBay", he said, "We need a name that reflects what we are,"

And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators."
Oh, mmmmm, "Whoopee!", said Abraham.

"No, YAHOO!" said Dot Com.
. . . and that is how the world wide web all began.

School of Leaders:

The next School of Leaders meeting will be held on Saturday, 15th November 2025 commencing at 12.00noon At Our Lady Queen of Apostles, 70 Appleby Road, Stafford 4053.

All Cursillistas are most welcome

PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR RECOVERING

Please continue to pray for all those people who are sick or recovering. We also pray for our own family and friends suffering illness and difficulties in life at this time.

PRAYERS ARE ALSO ASKED FOR THE DECEASED

Please pray for those Cursillistas who have died since our last newsletter. Also, please pray for their families.

In God we trust



Australian Catholic Cursillo Movement

What prayers are heard by God?

There is often a temptation to pray in a particular way for our prayers to be heard by God. This can cause us to put more effort into our time of worship, looking for the right words, the right actions and the right intention if it is to be "successful". The aim is simple: I need to receive from God the effort I put in. Yet often our prayers focus on who we think we should be rather than who we are. God listens to the heartfelt prayer that simply meets us in our poverty, neediness and dependence.

This is evident in the parable about the Pharisee and the publican. This is not just by an exterior display of piety but an inward conversion of heart. This involves a surrender of our whole self to God, recognising our deepest longing and our utter dependence on God. We see it too in the reading from Ecclesiasticus, where it is in allowing our story to be heard that our hearts may be read. This listening heart of God is like an arrow that pierces the clouds with a pure intent. God listens to what is most heartfelt.

This is the race we are called to be part of, seeking God daily. This is a perseverance that sees our effort in prayer as an encounter with God standing by us in power. This is not just focusing on myself, but seeking God who runs with us in the race of life. Stay in the race and pray as you can.

¡DE COLORES!

Fr. John Armstrong
National Cursillo Spiritual Advisor

The intellectual quest is exquisite, like pearls and coral. But it is not the same as the spiritual quest. The spiritual quest is on another level altogether. Spiritual wine has a subtler taste. The intellect and the senses investigate cause and effect. The spiritual seeker surrenders to wonder." (Rumi Wisdom; trans. Timothy Freke)

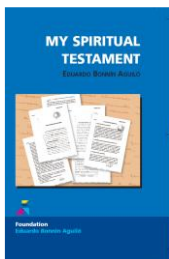
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC CURSILLO MOVEMENT

BOOKS & OTHER RESOURCES

This will be an on-going feature available for readers of the De Colores Magazine/Newsletter. It will provide information to all Cursillistas about what resources are available about the Cursillo Movement and some other items that are available which relate to Cursillo.

In this Edition: - Below are some of the Books about the history of Cursillo available for Purchase:

RECOMMENDED READING



MY SPIRITUAL TESTAMENT by Eduardo Bonnín

(Published by Feba - Australian edition)

- Living water that flows from the Charism
- Easy reading
- Encouraging & inspiring

Price: \$10.00

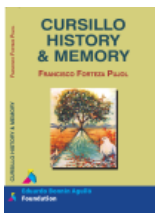


THE CHARISM

A Study of the Founder Eduardo Bonnín's writings

(Australian Edition)

Price: \$5.00



CURSILLO HISTORY & MEMORY (American edition) depicts one of the most unique and yet most unknown events in our recent history: The development of the Cursillo in Christianity Movement. Written by Francisco Forteza who co-authored Structure of Ideas, The Manifesto, and others with Eduardo. This is a 'must read'.

Price: \$14.00



FUNDAMENTAL IDEAS OF THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT

(2017 Australian edition) Eight years in the making, this book seeks to capture what identifies and unites Cursillistas in a unique Movement in the world.

To purchase one of the books shown click on the link below. It will take you to the National Cursillo Website where you can place an order

<http://cursillo.asn.au/resources/>