

The Love Letter

Summer 2008

From the Episcopal Cursillo Community of Minnesota

The Convenor's Corner...

DE COLORES!!

The entire Cursillo community joins with me in giving a huge **THANK YOU** to the retiring convener and Secretariat members. Mike Kramer, the previous convener, has given many years of service to the community, and his servant attitude and determination to “keep the ball rolling” were instrumental in keeping us focused on God’s plan for our future. Others retiring from the Secretariat are The Rev. Alice Mae Applequist, clergy representative and liaison with the Bishop; Rose Harris, secretary; Lynda McPherson; and Vicki Raiche, who resigned her position. These members had a dedication that will make our task to replace them a challenging one, and it is underway.

Your new convener has already been chosen. Let me introduce myself: My name is Dick Guiton. I have been around Cursillo for a long time (since 1975) and have done a lot of different things with and for our community. My wife, who died in 2004, was on the Council in the ’70s and was a Rectora in Duluth in the ’80s.

Your Secretariat has been very busy. We have contacted the Council members of the Lutheran Via de Cristo to consider discussing opportunities for our candidates to attend their weekends. This could also be an avenue for those who want to be on a team to get some experience. In addition, we will be talking with the Cursillistas in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and in Iowa and North Dakota about a joint weekend.

Why are we doing all this? We have had a hard time recently getting enough candidates, clergy and team members to have a weekend of our own.

What else are we doing? We have started having regional Ultreyas and so far we have had two in Kasson, Minn., two at Messiah in Saint Paul, and one in White Bear Lake at St. John in the Wilderness. More Episcopal Ultreyas are being planned and announcements will be made via e-mail (see page 4).

We have also been praying for our Bishop and all Bishops in a nationwide Cursillo effort to lift them up in prayer, especially during the 2008 Lambeth Conference. Bishop James Jelinek sent us a gracious Thank You note for these prayers.

Some individuals seem to think that Cursillo is no longer applicable. I do not believe that! Cursillo doesn’t exist just to have weekends. It has the mission of bringing souls to Christ so that they are able to better relate on a personal and corporate level with our Savior. As our cross states, “Christ is counting on you.”

So, what do you do next? How about planning an Ultreya and inviting several other congregations. We certainly do not limit ours to Cursillistas and we encourage others to come. Remember Reunion groups? Start one.

Do you need a “Rule of Life” card or a “Guide for Renewal Meetings”? Call me and I will send you what you need (651-454-1418). Talk with the clergy at your church and if you have any input for the selection of the new Bishop, make that a point of consideration. For instance, ask **“Have you been, or are you willing to go, to Cursillo?”** We are looking for help of any kind—time, talent, financial—and we need it to promote not **our** agenda but **HIS**.

♥ Dick Guiton, Convener

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<p><i>The Love Letter</i> is a publication of The Episcopal Cursillo Community of Minnesota 5224 Minnetonka Blvd., St. Louis Park, MN 55416 Phone: 952-929-2952 E-mail: mncursillo@kmtel.com website: www.mncursillo.org</p> <p>Summer 2008 issue date: August 2008 Newsletter publisher: Ellie Voisin Newsletter editor: Nickie Dillon</p>	

Next Secretariat Meeting:

Saturday, September 13, 2008
 9:00–11:00 AM
 Church of the Nativity, Burnsville
 ♥ *All are welcome!* ♥

**The Episcopal Cursillo
 Community of Minnesota
 COMMITTEES**

♥ **Communications Committee**

Ellie Voisin, Chair
 Nickie Dillon
 Jerry Harris
 Bob Rupp
 Linda Storlie

♥ **Leadership Committee**

The Rev. Alice Mae Applequist,
 Chair
 The Rev. Steve Judd
 Dick Guiton
 Mike Kramer
 Mary Lou Lamain

♥ **Nominations Committee**

The Rev. Steve Judd

♥ **First Day Committee**

Mike Kramer, Chair
 The Rev. Steve Judd
 Dick Guiton
 Vickie Kramer

♥ **Documents Committee**

Cara Knittel, Chair
 Sheila Faricy
 Chris Johnson
 Ann Olson

♥ **Fourth Day Committee**

Rose Harris, Chair
 Chuck Bailey
 Karen Doll
 Phyllis Langenfeld
 Steve Linney
 Lynda McPherson
 Charlie Melcher

*Interested in working on a committee?
 Call Dick Guiton at 651-454-1418.*

National Cursillo contact info:

National Episcopal Cursillo office: necoffice@episcopalcursillo.org

National Episcopal Cursillo Council’s Northcentral District Clergy Representative:

The Rev. Don Nesheim, 763-529-9097, dnesheim@earthlink.net

A MESSAGE FROM THE REV. ALICE MAE APPLEQUIST

Retiring from service to the Secretariat as Clergy Representative and Liaison with the Bishop

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Welcome to this day, a day the Lord has given us for prayer, pondering, play and plentiful work. It is a day to really share with one another the gifts and love that God has given each of us. May you find yourself energized and revitalized by the Great Spirit as you give thanks for the many blessings in your life.

I know that for many of us, these times are holding challenges and discouragements that seem to have no end. Please know that Jesus is walking with you and that God has a plan for you and that we, your Cursillo sisters and brothers, are holding you in prayer. Please, if you would like the Leadership committee or Fourth Day Committee to pray for you, they are willing. Just send a note to the Cursillo office or revquistapple@yahoo.com and your request will be put on a prayer line.

This is a very challenging but exciting time for the people of the Episcopal churches in this Diocese. It is a time when the leadership qualities and gifts that your weekend helped you discern and later develop are needed to be used in your churches and in your feedback to the Diocese. We, as members of the Fourth Day Community, have much to bring to the Greater Church, i.e., to the "table," at this time. We understand what it means that "Christ Is Counting On Us!" We have an understanding, and an acceptance and a willingness to serve as Apostles and Disciples, for that is what our weekend prepared us to do. And we understand what it means to be a part of the Body of Christ by working together on teams in team ministry. We understand that all parts of the body need to work together and be in sync to get things done effectively and efficiently.

As I read various reports from different churches and from our Diocesan Office, the fire of hope grows brighter within me. What I am reading says that this Diocese is now looking for the passion, love and understanding that many of us wanted and continue to want to share with others after our weekend. In the past, that may not have always been eagerly accepted. Now it seems to be what our churches are looking for. They want leaders,

team ministries, and congregations excited about the Word of God, and they want people to be evangelists and to thrive upon action and outreach. Brothers and Sisters in Christ, this is our time to employ all that we have gathered in knowledge from our weekend and continued study and be the children of God that the Father created us to be.

This is a time that requires us to do more than just believing that someone else is doing something. It is the time for each of us to take up our crosses and to help our Episcopal church leaders think outside the box. We need to bring the water of life to those who are continuing to wander in the wilderness, and to facilitate others to feel the breath of Holy Spirit as that Spirit breathes new life into the very soul of the church.

I know that most of you are very busy in your lives and have little time or energy to give to anything else. I thank you all for everything you have done and continue to do in your churches. I urge you to continue to serve with even greater energy and passion, for the time of planting seeds prayerfully is at hand. And I believe that God is holding us and waiting for us to scatter seeds and nourish those seeds with passion and energy. If we are wise stewards and plant well we will be blessed with seeing a harvest that we can reap with great joy and have an abundance to share.

- ♥ *May you feel the power of God's love within you...*
- ♥ *May others see the light of Christ within you...*
- ♥ *May you speak the Word of God with others...*
- ♥ *May you hear the breath of the Holy Spirit at work within you...*
- ♥ *May you always remember that you are a Child of God...*
- ♥ *May you know how much you are loved...*

God bless each of you for all you do. Have a blessed day and remember to pray and to invite God into your day.

Yours in the love of Christ,
The Rev. Alice Mae Applequist

CURSILLO COMMUNITY MESSAGES

- ♥ **Help Wanted: Web Designer** — We are looking for someone to do a design makeover of our website. The information is current and complete, but we'd like to give the site a fresh, new look. This is a one-time volunteer opportunity. Contact Rose Harris at raharris@kmtel.com or 507-635-5789.
- ♥ **Cursillo Church Coordinators** — We need to know who is the Cursillo contact coordinator in your parish. Please contact Rose Harris at raharris@kmtel.com or 507-635-5789 with information.
- ♥ **Information Updates Wanted** — Please send notifications to the Cursillo office or website for:
 - ♥ Change of address or winter address
 - ♥ Cursillistas entering into the Fifth Day
 - ♥ How you wish to receive *The Love Letter*
- ♥ **The Cursillo Secretariat (leadership group) is seeking new members** — If you are interested in serving your Cursillo community in this important way, contact Dick Guiton at 651-454-1418 or rguiton1418@comcast.net

♥ Upcoming Weekends: Adults ♥

Via de Cristo Weekend
www.viadecristo.org
August 7–10 #508 (Men's)
August 14–17 #509 (Women's)
Calvary Lutheran Church, Golden Valley, MN
Clausura 3 PM Sundays

Unidos en Cristo Weekend
www.unidosencristo.com
October 2–5 UEC #231 (Men's)
October 9–12 UEC #232 (Women's)
First Presbyterian Church, Albert Lea, MN
Clausura 4:30 PM Sundays

Minnesota Methodist Walk to Emmaus
www.mnemmas.org
Men's Walk October 16–19; Women's Walk October 23–26
YMCA Camp Ihduhapi, Loretto, MN

♥ Upcoming Weekends: Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) ♥

October 3–5, 2008
Northwaters TEC #40
Zion Lutheran Church, Superior, WI

November 14–16, 2008
MMLTEC #101
Minnetonka Lutheran Church, Minnetonka, MN

♥ Ultreyas ♥

“Ultreya” means onward. It strengthens our understanding and reinforces our faith.

Singles Ultreyas (All Cursillo Communities)
2nd Saturday of each month, 5:30 PM
For locations visit www.mnviadecristo.org/news

Please send notice of Episcopal Ultreyas to: MnCursillo@kmtel.com

To receive e-mail announcements of upcoming Ultreyas,
send your e-mail address to mncursillo@kmtel.com,
or visit the Cursillo website www.mncursillo.org for Ultreya announcements.

Feel free to attend any and all Ultreyas you can!!

ABOUT ULTREYAS AND GROUP REUNIONS

ULTREYAS offer two gifts that are vital to following the path of Christian ministry:

- ♥ **Faith**—the force that draws us forward
- ♥ **Hope**—the force that pushes us and keeps us going

An Ultreya is a reunion of the Cursillo community. It should also be open to people who have not made a Cursillo weekend.

It is an opportunity for Christians to link together to encourage each other through sharing of witness stories about how Jesus has helped them do what they could not do without Him.

An Ultreya consists of group prayer, witness stories and announcements. Music can play an important part at an Ultreya. The songs that were sung at a weekend are often heard after that only at Ultreyas and can bring back wonderful memories.

Eucharist, meals and other activities can take place before or after an Ultreya, but are not part of it.

Guidelines for Ultreyas:

- ♥ Obtain a location.
- ♥ Solicit a witness speaker, at least one lay response and a clergy response.
- ♥ Encourage the witness speaker to inform the other speakers about the nature of his/her talk so they can plan their responses.
- ♥ Arrange for music.
- ♥ Focus on the intent of the Ultreya: to encourage participants by sharing apostolic action stories.
- ♥ Keep the Ultreya to the prescribed time: normally 1 hour.
- ♥ Keep the attention fixed on Jesus.
- ♥ Keep the Cursillo movement focused on the Fourth Day.



GROUP REUNIONS serve these purposes:

- ♥ Help with continual individual conversion.
- ♥ Help us mature gradually in faith, hope and love.
- ♥ Help us become the Church in the world.
- ♥ Join us in friendship and union with Christ's love.
- ♥ Support our commitment to transform our environments.
- ♥ Do all this by sharing our Christian life.

Guidelines for Group Reunions:

- ♥ There should be 3 to 6 people in the group.
- ♥ The group should meet on a regular schedule, in a comfortable environment.
- ♥ Be serious to form authentic relationships.
- ♥ Allow humor to lighten tensions.
- ♥ Ensure confidentiality to encourage sharing.



**Diocesan Search Committee:
Working to Select a New Bishop**

It is important that we in the Cursillo community make a united effort to influence the Cursillo representation on the search committee.

Please go the Search Committee’s website: **www.episcopalmn.org/bishop** and make it known that you want the new Bishop to be a Cursillista and to support the movement.

Each one of us must become a lobbyist to ensure a positive change in the Minnesota Episcopal Cursillo movement.



Vision and Mission Statements

The **vision** of the Episcopal Cursillo Community of Minnesota (ECC) is to actively support the strengthening of adult leadership in the church and other environments. The three-day weekend is the event by which those attending Cursillo for the first time are again presented with the fundamental principles for Christian living (prayer, study and action). All are then strengthened by the subsequent continued renewal of regular gatherings in the renewal groups and Ultreyas as the Fourth Day Community.

The **mission** of the ECC of Minnesota is to work for the growth and strengthening of the Fourth Day Community.

[Excerpted from the Bylaws of the Episcopal Cursillo Community of Minnesota]

Your Attention, Please!!

In the interest of being a good steward of our resources, our goal is to distribute *The Love Letter* electronically to as many people as possible. Please let us know your mailing preference as indicated below.

If you have Internet access, you may e-mail your preference to www.MnCursillo@kmtel.com or you may go to the Cursillo website at www.mncursillo.org, click on the link “Name & Address Change” and then enter your mail preference under the “New Information” section.

You may also mail a copy of this form to the Cursillo Office at:
5224 Minnetonka Blvd., St. Louis Park, MN 55416

_____ Please send *The Love Letter* by regular mail.

_____ Please send *The Love Letter* by e-mail. My e-mail address is: _____

_____ Please remove my name from *The Love Letter* mailing list.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Reflections on the Cursillo Weekend That Almost Was

Ellie Voisin, Co-Rector for Team #33

Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to extend a public “thank you” to the Cursillistas who worked on Weekend #33, which was scheduled for January 2008 and was eventually postponed after several attempts to reschedule. This was an incredibly fantastic group of committed Christians, 45 of us total, that came together, many meeting for the first time. The group was a mix of new and seasoned team members, including Cursillistas who had not been on a team in a long time. We ate and prayed together, bonded, and truly became a family of God in the process.

We were guided by an outstanding group of Clergy; we heard and sang with the leadership of talented musicians (guitars, bass fiddle, accordion, banjo, flute and, of course, tambourines); we listened and discussed the Rollos, planned menus, organized all the bits and pieces, and on and on.

We were almost ready for the onslaught of candidates that were sure to appear and were anticipating a successful weekend. The entire team was disappointed with the postponement, but we unanimously agreed that the weekend could not succeed with the small number of candidates (there were 6).

My sincere thanks and appreciation to:

- ♥ The Rev. Dr. Anne Miner-Pearson
- ♥ The Rev. Theo Park
- ♥ The Rev. Cathy McDonald
- ♥ The Rev. Chuck Nelson
- ♥ Greta Abruzzese
- ♥ Pat Anderson
- ♥ Jean Campbell
- ♥ Tom Campbell
- ♥ Cindy Clark
- ♥ Guy Drake
- ♥ Nan Drake
- ♥ Sheila Faricy
- ♥ Dawnlynn Greeney
- ♥ Betsy Hanson
- ♥ Dawn Hanson

- ♥ Paul Hanson
- ♥ Ann Henjum
- ♥ Bob Langenfeld
- ♥ Phyllis Langenfeld
- ♥ Mary Loomer
- ♥ Darrell Lynn
- ♥ Christina McCann
- ♥ John McDonald
- ♥ Charlie Melcher
- ♥ Laura Mobry-Bathke
- ♥ Mike Mullaney
- ♥ Sandy Mullaney
- ♥ Ann Olson
- ♥ Earl Olson
- ♥ Carrie Pekarek
- ♥ Ebie Richardson
- ♥ Jim Richardson
- ♥ Don Roening
- ♥ Mary Roening
- ♥ Barbara Scaia
- ♥ Joanna Schmolke
- ♥ Helen Stillwell
- ♥ John Sundell
- ♥ Susan Taylor
- ♥ Sue Triebenbach
- ♥ Dan Vogel
- ♥ Norma Walton
- ♥ Beth Wanamaker
- ♥ Frank Whitman

Thank you for your dedication and willingness to serve. I know you are blooming where you are planted!! ULTREYA!!

♥ Ellie Voisin, Co-Rector for Team #33

Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So, be swift to love, make haste to be kind and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

♥ Henri Frederic Amiel

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www.mncursillo.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MAILINGS: Please use the form below for name and address changes (or go to **www.mncursillo.org** and click the link to the Name/Address Change page). Each returned Newsletter costs us an additional 42¢. The Post Office will not forward Third Class mail. If you are away for an extended time, please contact us with your new address and the dates that address is in effect. If you wish to discontinue receiving this Newsletter, please let us know. We'd like to e-mail more Newsletters to save costs. Please provide your e-mail address on the form below or go to the Name/Address Change page on our website. Thank you. NOTE: E-mail addresses will not be provided to any organization.

Name: _____

Old Address: _____

Old Phone #: _____

New Address: _____

New Phone #: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Present Church Membership: _____

Date new info will be effective: _____

Signature: _____

Comments: _____
