WINDSOR-ESSEX CURSILLO

Newsletter

Make a friend, be a friend, bring that friend to Christ

FALL 2026
November 2026



OPENING PRAYER

Come Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful and enkindle in us the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit and we shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray: *O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

LAY LEADER
Movement of Cursillos in Christianity

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR
We Remember

LAY LEADER ELECT
To Lead Is to Serve

UPCOMING
School of Leaders, Ultreyas & 2026 Census

COMMUNITY
Secretariat, library & more

FROM THE LAY LEADER

Movement of Cursillos in Christianity

Wendy Wittine · Lay Leader

Greetings Cursillistas,

I will begin this message by giving praise and glory to God for all that He is doing through the Cursillo movement, and for the transformation of each of our lives and our environments. I quote from the ***Leaders' Manual of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Cursillos:***

> *"The immediate purpose of the Movement of Cursillos in Christianity is to provide an understanding and conviction concerning what is fundamental for being a Christian and to strengthen individuals to live out that understanding supported by Christian community life so that their environment may be transformed into a more and more Christian one."*

After making a Cursillo weekend, God isn't calling you to take on more ministries, He is calling you to use what you have learned and experienced to change your environments and make them more Christian. You are called to evangelize by the way you live and serve. You cannot do this without the support of your Cursillo community. Attending Ultreya's and participating in Group Reunions, gives you the strength to persevere.

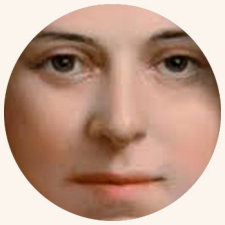
The Men's and Women's teams are hard at work preparing for the 2027 weekends. They will begin their team meetings on Thursday November 12th. Please continue to keep both teams in your prayers.

As you are praying and doing your Palanca, remember that your prayers and sacrifices along with your written blessings is sufficient. You may also want to include a prayer card.

If you have not completed the 2026 Survey, please complete it as soon as possible using this link https://forms.gle/4Fh8FjZquonfEapy9. Thank you to those Cursillistas who have already completed the survey.

May God Bless you and protect you, and may you persevere on your 4th Day!!

De Colores,
Wendy Wittine
Lay Leader – Windsor-Essex Cursillo



PRAYER FOR OUR COMMUNITY

St. Thérèse of Lisieux

St. Thérèse, flower of fervor and love, please intercede for us. Fill our hearts with your pure love of God. Give us the heart of a child in loving obedience to God's will. Instill in us your little way of doing ordinary things with extraordinary love. Please continue to shower roses and grace upon us, so that all that we do as a Cursillo community may prepare hearts and minds for the grace to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ.

FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

We Remember

Deacon Mike Horoky · Spiritual Director

For us Catholic Christians, other than Easter the month of November is supposed to be a time to celebrate the HOPE we express in our creed, "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body and life everlasting". ETERNAL LIFE. That place Jesus has prepared for us since the beginning of time.

We are reminded that we are all children and members of the Household of God. We remember then those who have gone before us and pray for us on all Saints Day, those who gave their life for us so that we may continue our journey in freedom on Remembrance Day, and those who have gone before and yet continue, this journey on All Souls Day.

November though is not only a time of Remembering but also a time of Thanksgiving. Being thankful not only for those who gave their life for us, for those who pray for us, as well as those who gave us life, through our many generations but also those who shared life with us here in this world.

> *One of the greatest acts of thanksgiving as children of God's Household, we can do during this month is through the GRACE of Prayer.*

The power of those prayers is beautifully expressed in the story of St. Malachy and his sister. St. Malachy' s sister had died at a young age; she had become very hardened and critical of the Church and had all but abandoned her faith. She appeared

to her holy brother in a dream standing in the middle of an area well outside the church, sad and clad in mourning and entreating his compassion, complaining that for the last 30 days he had neglected her. When he quickly woke, he remembered that is was 30 days since he celebrated mass of her. On the following day he began anew to offer the Holy Mass for her. Then the deceased appeared in another dream, where she was at the door of the church, knelling and lamenting that she could not enter. He continued his offering and some day's later in a dream he saw her entering the church, walking up the central aisle but unable, despite her effort, to reach the altar. He decided to persevere in offering the mass for her soul. Finally after a few days in a dream, he saw her near the altar clad in magnificent attire radiant with JOY and free from suffering. So, during this November in THANKSGIVING continue to do for others what is now being done for you.

De Colores,
Deacon Mike Horoky
Spiritual Director – Windsor-Essex Cursillo



FROM THE LAY LEADER ELECT

To Lead Is to Serve

Marcelo Arbex · Lay Leader Elect

Dear Cursillistas,

As our Teams prepare for the 2027 Weekends, I have been reflecting on a word we use often in Cursillo: *leader*.

In the world, leadership usually means titles, positions and managing people. For us as Catholics, leadership is first a responsibility that flows from our Baptism. At its root, it is service. Christ, the perfect leader, tells us: “The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Mt 20:28).

> *If we can serve, we can lead. In fact, we must.*

Many of us hesitate here. We fear failure or rejection or think someone else is better suited. But leadership in Cursillo has never been about being perfect. It is about saying yes to God and trusting Him to guide us. And as He guides us, He grows in us the qualities every Christian leader needs, qualities that are within everyone’s reach: initiative, courage, responsibility for bringing Christ into our environments, authenticity, and generosity with our time and talents. None of these is reserved for a select few. They grow in us when we allow God to lead us first.

Above all, we can lead others well only when we let ourselves be led by Him. “Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour” (Jn 12:26). The Good Shepherd goes ahead of us. Our task is to follow closely enough that others can follow too.

Since my Weekend in 2020, God has given me many chances to say yes, and each one has taught me that leading begins with serving. Where might God be calling you to lead by serving - around your own kitchen table, in your workplace, in your parish, or in the Secretariat?

De Colores,
Marcelo Arbex
Lay Leader Elect – Windsor-Essex Cursillo

UPCOMING

Mark your calendar

School of LEADERS
Make a friend, Be a Friend, Bring a Friend to Christ

COME JOIN US!

2027 Spring School of Leaders

Saturday, April 17, 2027
9:00 AM – 12:00 noon

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
4401 Mount Royal Drive, Windsor

COMMUNITY

Our Fourth Day together



What is "Ultreya"?

The Spanish word "Ultreya" means to go forward – to keep on going. The term came to the Cursillo Movement from the Spanish shepherds who called their flocks to move along the rocky trails of southern Spain. Having contact with others who share the same ideals blesses us with the support and encouragement that strengthens our Christian growth, so we can keep on going on our journey.

An isolated Christian is a paralyzed Christian. Sharing with others is the best thing we have – the knowledge and love of Christ – the active bringing of the Kingdom of God into the world.

All Ultreyas begin at 7:00 PM unless otherwise noted. See the full schedule at wecursillo.com/ultreya and come out to the next Ultreya.

2026 - 2027 Ultreya Schedule *All Ultreyas begin at 7:00 PM unless otherwise noted.*

WHEN	TIME	FAMILY OF PARISHES	HOST PARISH	ADDRESS
November 13, 2026	**7:30pm**	Erie Shores South	St. Michael's	2153 Parkwood Ave., Leamington
December 11, 2026	**7:30pm**	LaSalle – River Canard	Sacred Heart	1425 Divine St., LaSalle
January 08, 2027	**7:30pm**	South Windsor	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	4401 Mt Royal Dr, Windsor
February 08, 2027	**7:00pm**	Central Essex County	Holy Name of Jesus	146 Talbot St S, Essex
March 12, 2027	**7:00pm**	LaSalle River Canard	Sacred Heart	1425 Divine St, LaSalle
April 09, 2027	**7:00pm**	South Windsor	Corpus Christi	1400 Cabana Road W, Windsor

PLEASE TAKE PART

The 2026 Census

The Windsor-Essex Cursillo Movement is conducting its 2026 Census to update our contact list. It will also help us better understand the composition and reach of our community.

The survey is open to **all Cursillistas** – whether you are actively involved or have been away from the Movement for some time. Your responses are strictly confidential and will be used solely to help the Secretariat plan future activities and strengthen our community.

Scan the code or visit forms.gle/4Fh8FjZquonfEapy9 · takes about 3–5 minutes

Questions? Email wecursillo@gmail.com

SCAN TO BEGIN

SERVE WITH US

What is the Secretariat?

The Secretariat is a group of people who serve, work together, and have charge of the Movement in an area (Windsor-Essex Cursillo). *All human activity in general must be planned in advance.* How much more care should be devoted to planning the work of Christ in the Church?

I invite you to consider serving on the Secretariat – there are still unfilled positions. The harvest is plentiful, and more laborers are needed.

We meet on the 2nd Monday of every month at 7:00 PM at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Windsor.

2026–2027 Secretariat

Spiritual Director	**Deacon Mike Horoky**
Lay Leader	**Wendy Wittine**
Lay Leader Elect	**Marcelo Arbex**
Past Lay Leader	**Mike Scott**
Secretary	**Trish Sylvestre**
Treasurer	**Marta Silva**
Pre-Cursillo	**Sara Palmer**
Pre-Cursillo Assistant	***Open – could this be you?***
Post-Cursillo	**Jeff Rivard**
Post-Cursillo Assistant	**Kitty Haris**
Material Director	**Lisa Jones**
Materials Assistants	**Joe and Judy Jones**
Men's Director	**Ivan Jaramillo**
Men's Director Assistant	**John Benn**
Women's Director	**Joan Bachmeier**
Women's Director Assistant	**Linda Brownlie**
Newsletter	**Marcelo Arbex**
Newsletter Assistant	**Pierre Boulos**
Palanca Coordinator	**Linda Brownlie**
Palanca Coordinator Assistant	***Open – could this be you?***
School of Leaders	**Jackie Bordignon**
School of Leaders Assistant	**Johnathan Kopp**
Library Director	**Joan Rankin**
Library Assistant	**Carolyn Zivinov**
Parish Rep Coordinator	**Luisa Ruiz**
Parish Rep Coordinator Assistant	***Open – could this be you?***
Men's Rector 2027	**Luis Sardinha**
Women's Rector 2027	**Dina Sardinha**

A NOTE ABOUT

Confidentiality

Sometimes it is important to review and be reminded of those things that often go without saying. For the Cursillo Movement to continue to thrive, an important element is confidentiality. As we all know, on a Cursillo weekend our Rolloists share themselves so deeply when bringing meaning to the topic of their talks. They are vulnerable and willing to share personal elements of their lives and their faith journey. This is often what truly touches the hearts of the new Cursillistas. It takes true courage and the help of the Holy Spirit to witness in this way.

In our table groups, we form a community by sharing our lives with one another. When we join with the larger community and share our impressions, they are renewed and rejuvenated with the impact that Cursillo has on our lives. When we come together at Ultreya, form small groups and listen to a Fourth Day witness, we once again share that bond of trust with our fellow Cursillistas.

This trust and total security with one another can only be realized with the knowledge that all of us respect the confidentiality of what is shared. It is because all things revealed are kept confidential that we can be our true, authentic selves with one another. What a beautiful treasure we have – to not have to hide or put on masks! To show the same love and acceptance of another as Christ shows all of us. Let this serve as a reminder never to take this for granted, and to continue to work together to welcome new Cursillistas into this vibrant faith community.

De Colores,
Windsor-Essex County Cursillo Secretariat

BORROW A BOOK

Cursillo Library

A large selection of Catholic and Christian books is available at every monthly Ultreya. Just sign out a book and return it at another Ultreya.

SHOP

Cursillo Cross

Missing your Cursillo Cross? Order one here.



WE PRAY FOR YOU

The Prayer Line

Send your prayer requests to Fred or Virginia Eade at v-eade@hotmail.ca.

Come be a part of the journey

Want to know more about the Secretariat or the Cursillo Weekend?

Help keep this Movement going for our family and friends and for those still searching to know Our Lord.

EMAIL wecursillo@gmail.com **WEBSITE** wecursillo.com