

## Report of a Spiritual Director

It is almost a year since I started my term as associate Spiritual Director with the OACM. I remain grateful to our bishop, Shane Parker, for the appointment. It has been a very odd year, as I do not need to tell any of you. I have none of the usual things to report on concerning Cursillo. However, I have benefitted a great deal from my association over these past months with the other members of Secretariat and you, faithful cursillistas.

We are moving through a very difficult time for everyone, perhaps particularly for the Church, which centres on coming together. Our group revolves around the kind of communion found in weekend encounters and in various group gatherings. How then, to continue Cursillo when weekends are not possible and in person gatherings difficult? This has been our challenge.

Amazingly to me, men and women are finding ways to come together and prepare to be teams for weekends when next we are allowed to hold weekends. Pray for all of them as well as for the people we do not yet know who will encounter God's love in a new way through Cursillo.

I commend to you the ministry of each member of Secretariat. I have been amazed and impressed at all that has been accomplished by these people. We have met monthly, supported and prayed with and for each other. We have reviewed and updated job descriptions and the handbook and constitution. Palanca has been sent. The Rainbow has continued to encourage. New music has been explored. New venues for weekends have been considered. We have organized ultreyas by zoom, exemplifying the meaning of that word: Ultreya – Forward.

You have joined us, via zoom, to worship, support, share, sing and pray. We have all been encouraged by talks from people who have journeyed long in the faith. It has been wonderful to see faces that I know from my decades in the Cursillo community, as well as people I have known just a few years and some I have met through zoom. Zoom is an excellent tool for allowing people from the stretches of our diocese, and even of our country, to gather and I hope we will continue to make use of it when we are once again able to gather in person.

I particularly commend to you the ministry of our Lay Directors: David and Colleen. It has been a difficult year for them in many ways and they have met the challenge, with God's help. I have also been delighted to work with my dear friend and colleague, Anne.

I have no doubt at all that God has continued to be active in and through us this past year, as always and in all ways. Ultreya.

The Rev. Jan Staniforth