

Pre-Cursillo Report for 2023-24

We were very pleased to hold both a women's and a men's weekend this year after the weekends in 2021 and 2022 were postponed because of COVID. We have also moved to a new venue –the Galilee Centre in Arnprior – as the convent (La Maison de la Providence) in Orleans has closed and is no longer available as a retreat house. With the move to Galilee Centre, we now have fewer rooms available (36) for both candidates and team members on a weekend. The lay rectors for these weekends have consolidated some team roles, thereby reducing the size of the team and allowing more candidates to attend.

The 129th Ottawa Anglican Cursillo Weekend - Women's was held September 22 - 24, 2023. We welcomed 17 new cursillistas to the movement that weekend. We had 19 members on the team and a waiting list of 8 candidates. All the candidates on the waiting list have been invited to attend the next women's weekend in November.

Eight candidates were registered for the 130th Ottawa Anglican Cursillo Weekend - Men's on April 12-14. Two of those candidates became ill or had to withdraw leaving us with 6 new Cursillistas joining the movement. There were 15 members on the team.

During this year, I was a member of the Sponsorship Workgroup of Kathy Gibb, Renée Laroque, Bonnie McNally and myself. This workgroup was part of the Re-Imagining Cursillo for the 21st Century initiative. We reviewed and discussed the meaning and understanding of sponsorship in the movement and made several recommendations to the Secretariat to help improve communication and understanding about the important role of sponsors. Many of these recommendations are now being implemented.

We are looking forward to the 131st Ottawa Anglican Cursillo Weekend - Women's being held November 1-3, 2024. There are 18 members on team, allowing for 18 candidates. We continue to pray for the team and candidates who will be attending weekends this coming year.

Respectfully submitted
Harry Bender
Pre-Cursillo Coordinator