

Secretariat 2023

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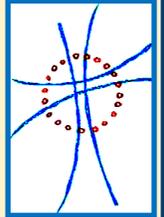
Thank you, Ross Lehman, Treasurer

Acknowledgements: P2. **Seeds of Faith:** ultimateChristianpodcastnetwork: AFewMinutesWith God Podcast.com. P6. **Pomegranate seeds** Free Stock Photo—Public Domain Pictures.
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CURSILLO COURIER

**Grafton Diocese
Cursillo Movement
Summer Edition 2023/4**



REGENER8 2023

A word from Bishop Murray

My wife Leanne is a Primary School Teacher and so we have plenty of packets of seeds lying around the house in various places, awaiting wholesale planting in punnets so the children can learn about seeds and growth. Some of the packets of seeds sit around for a few years before being used so I often worry that they won't grow, but it never seems to make any difference. The potential for new life contained in a seed is amazing.



In a tomb in Argentina in the 1960's Archaeologists found a children's rattle that they dated to be about 600 years old. It was made of Walnut Shell with Canna Lily seeds inside. They took some of the seeds out and planted them. They grew and even produced flowers!

Jesus knew of the tremendous potential within the seed to bring about new life, growth and change. So he taught using seed parables. We each sow the seed of the Word each day as we share our faith with others. A key Christian belief is that the seed of the Word (semina verbi) sown by the Spirit is part of God's ongoing creation and prepares the whole creation and humanity for full maturity in Christ. Yet it's easy to be discouraged when we think that our sharing (or sowing) appears to have had no effect.

But who knows when, with the Spirit's help and encouragement, this seed will spring to life?

+Murray



Rod Lollback and Fran Legge performed a wonderful skit about sowing seeds into the soil!

How difficult it is to trust God in the process of dying to self, like a seed that is planted into the soil of life.



We even tried our hand at painting little pots to take home to remind us of the great day we shared together at Regener8 2023!





A great line-up of Cursillistas: Doug Ridley, Geoff Duffy, Sandra Bush, Fran Legge, Carol Anderson, and Rev Rhonda Callendar. We were discussing the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).



We enjoyed fun and creative activities together. This poster shows how we can share our faith. The plentiful seeds of the sunflower display how we can spread love, joy, peace and hope to our friends and neighbours!

From Diocesan Lay Co-ordinator, Rod Lollback

Dear Fellow Cursallistas

I have been asked recently about where I think Cursillo is heading. This is a very challenging question. It seems most of Cursillo in Australia has the same problems. People getting older and less capable of helping and a lack of new candidates.

So, what should we do? Has Cursillo run its course? Is it over? I don't think so, but we do need to explore Cursillo in new ways. Secretariat has just begun to look at how we can go forward into the future but I think right now we have to embrace one of the keys of Cursillo: **Fellowship**. I always thought that one of the best things about Cursillo was that I knew like-minded Christians from all over the diocese and beyond. It was so great to go to Ultryeas and see people from all over our diocese.

So, what I'm trying to do is encourage everyone to participate in the activities organised by Secretariat. Come enjoy the fellowship, the joy of Christian community, and the love for our Lord, and of our Lord that we all cherish.

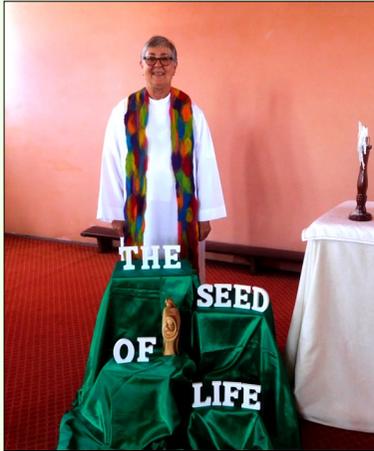
Let's come together and be a Godly community regardless of where we are from.

God's blessings, De Colores, Rodney Lollback



Regener8 2023

From our Spiritual Director



'The Seed Of Life' was the theme for our recent Regener8 weekend. A seed is the essence of all life. When you look at a seed it doesn't look like much, a bit like some dried up nothing but the potential for life and the potential for growth is there deep within because a seed contains all the DNA to replicate and multiply abundantly. And so the seed waits for real life to begin. The seed can't do this by itself. Help is needed. It needs soil, sun, fertilizer, weeding and most especially it needs water. Without water, new life can't begin.

We have the seed of life planted deep within us all - Jesus is that seed. Through the Holy Spirit Jesus has sown himself into us and out of this seed we are born spiritually. The seed of Jesus planted in us carries all the DNA of Jesus, replicating him in our lives with all the potential for growth if that seed is nourished. That's where we need help. With help we have the potential to produce many seeds. So how do we nurture our tiny seed of faith into a beautiful, life-sustaining plant that leads not only us to the Father but others as well?

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REGENER8 PHOTOS



We enjoyed Holy Communion as we worshipped on the first day, with Rev'd Rhonda, our Spiritual Director, leading us.



Enjoying table fellowship, from left: Robyn Higham and her husband from Grafton Cathedral, Susan Lollback (our wonderful chef) and Fran Legge, Diocesan Lay Co-Ordinator

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Firstly, it's a choice we need to consciously make to get to know Jesus more and to nurture your relationship with him. Give God your full attention. Water your faith by talking and listening to Jesus. Water your faith also through study and learning. Give your seed sunshine positivity so hold tight to the positive influences around you. Their sunlight will strengthen your stem and deepen your roots. Weed out doubt and negative influences in your life. Feed your seed of faith with prayer and be sure to include thanksgiving for the blessings you do have. Prayer brings your heart closer to God. Making the choice to care, commitment, good soil, water, sunshine, feeding and weeding are all necessary to grow your spiritual faith. The more you know Jesus, the stronger your faith will become.

Does your garden need a bit of attention or is your faith seed thriving and flourishing into a big beautiful tree that produces more seeds to sow into other people's lives as we tell those around us what the Lord has done for us?

De Colores,

Rev'd Rhonda Callander



Report from National Secretariat

Melbourne 26th-29th October

National Secretariat journeyed to Sunbury, Melbourne for our annual meeting.

Melbourne Diocese Secretariat is in recess, along with 8 other dioceses Australia wide, though let me stress—their fourth day communities are still active. It was the 30th anniversary of Cursillo coming to Melbourne, hence the reason for the gathering there this year with an encouragement day and dinner for Melbourne's Cursillistas.

We have seven active dioceses- Bathurst, Bunbury, Perth, Newcastle, Grafton, Southern Queensland and Tasmania, with representatives from Canberra-Goulbourn and Wangaratta very interested in re starting. That's a prayer point for you!

Each diocese is allowed two delegates- a Diocesan Lay Coordinator and a Diocesan Spiritual Advisor.

Our theme, discussions and reflections over the weekend were about "What is important and what is not?" Yes, it was all about the future of Cursillo, the Cursillo weekend and what needs to CHANGE! Our message is and will always be relevant. So many lives have been positively changed and are still changing through Cursillo as the grace of God is renewed in our lives. Cursillo has given us the tools to live a Christian life in a secular world.

It has equipped and encouraged us to go back to our home parishes (and beyond) and become more active members supported by our group reunion communities.. But we need to bring Cursillo into this era. It's been forty years since Cursillo came to Grafton.

The world has changed and so have we. What needs to change on a Cursillo weekend? What are the essential non-negotiable things and what are the fluffy, 'that's nice to have' but non- essential bits? This is what we all need to be thinking about for Cursillo to be relevant today.

Where to now? The good news is we have already begun to rethink Cursillo in our diocese with the introduction of 'Fire Days' and 'Regener8' for not only our Fourth Dayers but for anyone who wishes to have a time of encouragement, sharing and drawing closer to God in community. Please keep us in your prayers as we navigate our way onward and upward.

Rev'd Rhonda Callander, National Secretariat delegate.

REGENER8

A report written by Dawn Back, Lismore



A great weekend was had by all at the recent Regener8 weekend held at Grafton Cathedral, October 20-21. The time and effort put into the planning of the weekend by Secretariat made for a diverse, enjoyable and fast-flowing time spent together.

Though the numbers were small (25) the weekend was an amazing and uplifting success for all who attended.

The theme was “The Seed of Life” and was, once again, inspiring, thought provoking and meaningful, with many relevant messages for each of us as we continue our faith journey.

It was a time of fellowship, singing, play acting, crafting, eating great meals, learning, listening and praying. All the elements of a Cursillo Weekend, minus the surprises! Some who attended had not experienced the Cursillo Weekend but they enjoyed the experience of Regener8.

The great Witness Talks given by Gail Griffiths, Graeme Booth, Wendy Varcoe, John Doman, and the reflections by Rev Rhonda, our Spiritual Director, were the highlights of the weekend and sincere thanks to all who spoke so heart-warmingly. And thanks so much to Jill Gunning who played the keyboard so beautifully for all our favourite songs.

We pray that we can all strive to live by the “Seeds of Life” in our lives. **Dawn**



Singing praises to the Lord!