

THE FOURTH DAY

The FOURTH Day is a Regional Cursillo Publication for the Diocese of NC

ISSUE #17
September 2019
Quarterly

Contents

- * Cursillo Purpose
- * Announcements
- * Testimonies
- * Ultreyas
- * Reunion Ideas

What is Cursillo?

Cursillo is a movement of the church. It is a Diocesan under the leadership of the Bishop. Its purpose is to help those in the church understand their individual callings to be Christian leaders. The leadership may be exercised in work situations, in the family and social life, in leisure activities, and within the Church environment. Leadership, in Cursillo, does not mean power over others, but influence on others; all of us need to be aware that we can exert a positive influence on those around us.

~*~

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, also a Cursillista, says, "When I look to see where the spirit is moving and Episcopalians are lit up with the love of Christ and each other, I know to look to Cursillo. This ministry is such a gift to the Episcopal Church, and never more than in this moment as we seek to follow our Lord's call into the Jesus Movement."

The Way of Love Bishop Curry's invitation
www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love/about-rules-of-life

DeColores! NC!

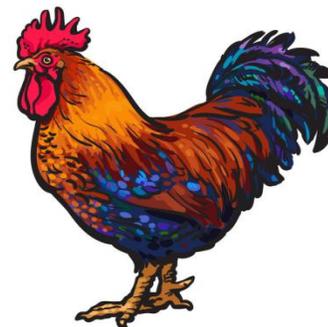
Hello! And DeColores to all of you cursillistas!

Cursillo is a method for training, supporting and ongoing development of Christian leadership. For graduated "cursillistas" they will tell you the retreat is fun, informative, made up of fellowship and song, besides learning. The Cursillo method contains two main components:

- 1) A 3-day weekend filled with 15 talks, group discussions, worship and fun... and
- 2) The 4th-day that represents how we live out the Christian life in support of one another.

There are a lot of Spanish terms like Ultreya and DeColores in the ministry. But did you know a layman named Eduardo Bonnín participated in the early years of the "short courses" in Majorca. He then helped develop the cursillo to the point that it became an active renewal movement in the Church. In 1957, the movement had spread to North America, when the first American **cursillo** was held in Waco, Texas. The ministry uses these Spanish terms to honor its heritage. The Fourth Day is an ongoing ministry for the cursillistas to apply everything they learned from their personal retreat/weekend. The secretariat is the governing body of cursillo in this diocese

Announcements



Secretariat Members Needed

Volunteer to help lead our NC Cursillo movement. Contact a [current Secretariat member](#) to learn more.

Need More Information?

To find out more about attending a three-day weekend or sponsoring a participant, call Lay Director, Dave Moon, 334-202-3608 or williamdmoo@gmail.com.

Secretariat meetings

The Secretariat makes plans and carries out activities for the ministry in this Diocese. Meetings usually run from 10 a.m. until 2 or 2:30 p.m. Meetings occur on the third Saturday of every other month and vary by location. Cursillistas are encouraged to attend; the meetings are open to the public. Call Lay Director, Dave Moon, 334-202-3608 or williamdmoo@gmail.com.

How to Make a Donation

Please prayerfully consider a contribution in support of NC Episcopal Cursillo. Any amount can be given.

Cursillo is supported by contributions from people like you. You may give in three ways:

The Harold Eisner Fund is set aside for scholarships for the 3-day weekend and can be used for candidates or team members.

The Merry Walker Clergy Fund supports clergy who act as weekend Spiritual Directors. Often, clergy must pay for the weekend without parish support and even pay for a supply priest.

The General Fund supports the overall expenses of Cursillo, mailings and newsletter production, this web site, supplies for the weekend and so forth.

Please consider offering a donation by sending your check to NC Cursillo, 200 W Morgan St, Raleigh, NC 27601

~*~

“I think the Lord's Prayer as not just a set of words. If there is anything tragic about the way we currently pray liturgically in our church, it is the way we rattle off the set words without giving any thought to what they mean... What is certain is that it was more than just a prayer. It's sort of a framework, the skeleton, the pattern for a life of prayer. You can pray the Lord's Prayer in thirty seconds or pray it all night or over the weekend or for a month's retreat. You can pray with that pattern. It's not just a prayer. It is prayer itself.”

Bishop
William Frey

Cursillista Testimonies

My name is Jay Maddocks. I made my Cursillo at #108 in the Diocese of North Carolina on July 18, 2019. I sat at the table of St. Maximillian Maria Kolbe. I attend St. Patrick's Church in Mooresville.

For me, Cursillo was a transformational experience, one where I felt very different leaving than I had before my arrival. When I left Cursillo I was “on the mountaintop,” a place familiar to many cursillistas and it's a great place to be. I want to go back there always. But I'm reminded that when Moses went up on the mountain he didn't stay there. He had to come down and bring what he received to others.

I thought I was completely changed when I left Cursillo.

Then about a week later I found myself getting angry with someone I really cared about. And I didn't feel very Christ-like. Later, I caught myself again, being untrue to my new self, when I sped through a yellow light at the end of an exit ramp instead of stopping to help the guy with the cardboard sign who was looking for help. I had a pile of quarters in my console next to me just waiting for that opportunity but I was eager to get home and didn't want to have to stop if I could make the light. I had done the same thing a million times previously, bypassing the opportunity to do good, but now I noticed it.

I'm still struggling for how to be better, and no, I'm not a brand new person. But Cursillo has indeed changed me. I'm now more fully in touch with the Holy Spirit within me than I was before. But change is a process. Not an event. And it is impossible to improve without first recognizing your failings. This is why it is so significant to me to remember that God ALWAYS loves us no matter what. This is the love I felt in my heart at Cursillo. The knowledge that I am a child of God who will always be loved. When we fail, God is here to welcome us back into his arms so that we can move past our shortcomings. As many times as it takes. We are always loved.

And I love all of you. De Colores!



Mother Frances Cox
St Matthew's Kernersville
Cursillo #70 (RC New Hampshire)
February 1970
Table of Faith

Forty-nine years of experience with Cursillo have convinced me that God will meet every pilgrim where they are and begin to move them forward in mission and ministry. I have learned never to predict what the particulars of that movement will be. I certainly never imagined on that February weekend long ago that I would be where I am, doing what I am doing, today. For me the most important part of that weekend was, having driven from College Park, Maryland to Manchester NH. and trying all day to go out and shovel the snow off my car (we had 2 ½ feet of snow over night and I had to take an exam at 9 the next morning,) and being told, “You haven't got time right now. Don't worry about it. We'll help you get it done after we're finished”, I went out after the closing service to find that my little Volkswagen had been not only shoveled out but also completely cleaned off, was running with the heat on (all nice and warm) with my bag already in it, a full tank of fuel, a basket of healthy finger foods and a large thermos of hot tea and a mug of steaming tea to start the trip with. The Cursillo Community had gathered early in the day and shoveled out everyone's vehicle and made sure they were gassed up, and warm when we came out. I truly understood what palanca meant. I began to trust others for the first time in my life. I connected my faith in God to my faith in God to act in, and through God's people! That was only one learning from my weekend, but it is the most important and has had the most consistent presence in my life. That was Palanca lived out and it made a world of difference to me and to all the pilgrims and team. Those who did it had no idea the lasting nature that gift would have. We had two Pilgrims from St Matthew's in Kernersville on NC #108. They will tell their own stories in the days and years to come. Those stories will encourage others as they were encouraged. We are all pilgrims on a journey. As I welcomed our pilgrims home I was aware

of the smiles that came from a place deep within and the mixture of joy and perhaps a bit of hesitancy about the as yet unknown future that lies ahead. They have both continued the work that God began in them on the weekend. Each in her own way is praying and pondering the different things God has stirred up in them. If I have learned anything over the past 49 years it is that with the support of the community and of their families these ponderings and prayers will continue and lead to new, surprising and glorious adventures over the years to come.
DeColores!

~*~

I've spent the past several days reflecting on NC 108, July 18th, and what a blessing the experience was for me. From the time I accepted your invitation to serve as Weekend Leader I prayed that we would provide for the pilgrims coming to us with a powerful, spirit-filled weekend. Listening to all they had to share at closing... I believe that prayer was answered... along with many others that went into planning and carrying out the weekend.

With sincere gratitude,

Lee Stroud, Wilmington, NC

ULTREYAS

Greensboro / High Point / Winston-Salem Contact Cameron Cooke at rcamcooke@yahoo.com.

Charlotte / Concord Meeting date is 10/6.

All 2019 Ultreyas will take place in the Parish Hall of All Saints' in Concord, NC. A covered dish meal will begin at 5pm followed by the Ultreya at 6pm.

Raleigh / Apex / Cary / Durham / Chapel Hill / Smithfield

Meetings are held once per quarter. 2019 Meeting Date is 10/13. Location varies. Potluck at 5:30 PM followed by the Ultreya. Musicians are encouraged to bring their instruments.

St. Matthews 1110 Salisbury St., Kernersville Potluck 9/8th at 5:30 pm

Contact Dave Moon at williamdmoo@gmail.com for more information.

We want to hear from you! Please email us so we can send info regarding specific Ultreyas. Don't forget your church name, address with zip code.



Reunion Groups

Finding a Reunion Group or Starting Your Own
(From Arlington Cursillo)

Check in with your sponsor. Even if it's been a while since your Weekend and you've been grouping but would like to try something different, your sponsor may be able to provide some guidance.

Check in with the team members from your Weekend, especially the members who were at your table. Team members typically are active in Cursillo, and may know of groups in your area that are open to new members... or know how to get in contact with Cursillo leaders in your parish or a nearby parish.

Go to a diocesan Ultreya or your parish Ultreya or one nearby. You may find people in your own backyard whose groups are open to new members or who want to begin grouping.

Reach out to people at other Cursillo events... when candidates are being dropped off or picked up for a Weekend, for example.

Check in with the other "babe chicks" from your Weekend. Was there a man or woman with whom you particularly "clicked"? Even if you live at opposite ends of the diocese, get together for coffee or talk via e-mail or phone. He or she may know of people who are looking to group near you.

~*~

A man approaches God and says to Him, "You know, we really don't need You anymore. We've made huge scientific breakthroughs! Why, we can even clone animals, and soon we will be able to clone man, too". "I see," replies God. "But I love you, and I want to make sure can do without Me. Let's create life, okay?" "You're on!" says the man. "So we'll do it the way I did in the old days, with Adam and Eve". The man agrees and reaches down for a handful of dirt. "Woah, hold on there," God says. "You have to get your own dirt."

My Reunion Group

By

Sid Chadwick

I'm not a "cradle Episcopalian".....so I continue to have a lot to learn.....

For the better part of two decades, I've been part of our "Men's Reunion Group" at St. Clement's, in Clemmons, NC.(My editor wanted me to be sure and explain that Reunion Groups can be for women only, men only, and coed.)

We meet every Saturday morning at 8:00. Sessions tend to be attended by from 3 to eleven members; we average about 7 attendees. Our sessions tend to last two hours, but have on rare occasion gone on for almost three hours.

Our Reunion Group discussions have an ongoing impact on who we are, individually, and where each of us might be going with our lives.

We follow-the Reunion Card outline every Saturday: Piety, Study, Action.

Let me share an introduction with you about this Men's Reunion Group.

--- Our senior member was a pitcher for the New York Yankees. He and his wife live in an Assisted Living facility. We work to meet there --- once a month, on Saturday morning.

--- One member is a practicing Jew, whom we cherish. He served in the Israeli Army.

--- Another member taught physicsat universities, in the U.S. Army, and in China.

--- Another member is an immigrant from Japan, and a family psychologist, who worked in our local Social Services department, for well over 20 years, and also attends with me in my EfM class.

--- Another member is a CPA, and regularly plays the banjo, guitar, mandolin, and piano.

--- Another member is the IT Director for a regional, fast-growing bank.

--- Another member is a part-time substitute math and Special-Ed teacher. (He also has ambitions to become a "stand-up comic".)

--- Another member headed-up the "Special Events Department" for a major tobacco company, and now is one of our informal junior wardens --- at our parish.

--- Another member recently started-up a Child Psychology Clinic --- in a rural Western NC community --- he drives there several days a week.

--- Another member is a retired NC State Trooper, who recently became a Deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of NC. As this testimonial offers, Reunion Groups can include priests as well as lay people.

--- Another member is a lab technician in an oncology lab. He sometimes offers testimony to how his spiritual life was elevated by his Cursillo Weekend, and how the ongoing presence of God and the Holy Spirit elevate the quality of his work, and his unselfish contributions to his lab associates' work.

--- And I continue to work as a consultant to commercial printing and publishing companies --- mostly in the U.S. --- working to generate prosperity for individuals and organizations --- that serve to keep their many communities --- connected.

We recently had a new Cursillista attend our Saturday session, as she's working to start-up a Reunion Group --- at her parish in Kernersville. She wanted to see and experience how our process functioned.

Along with my final semester of EfM, my Saturday morning Reunion Group sessions ---are the two most important sessions of my week, every week.

Four of our group --- are members of our Vestry. When there's a dinner, or parish picnic, or project...this Men's Reunion Group represents part of the backbone for "getting things done".

Our parish priest does not oppose Cursillo. And though she does not yet seem to understand Cursillo, and what this Men's Reunion Group means to our parish, we keep softly working --- to invite her in.

If you're not in a Reunion Group, you're probably missing something that could be important.... and not just to you.

Members of this Reunion Group, and other Cursillistas --- throughout our diocese, are available to assist any Cursillista --- who wants to start-up a Reunion Group.

I'm Sid Chadwick, I made my Cursillo #100, and sat at St. Peter's Table.

