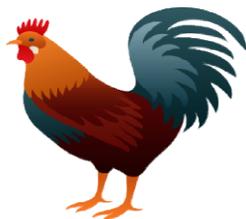


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The Secretariat of North Carolina Episcopal Cursillo has met virtually on a regular basis during the past year. During that time, we have concluded that planning for Weekend #109 must remain a 'wait and see' decision. With the surges in COVID-19 outbreaks throughout the world, we have listened to our Bishops and our health authorities at the local level. We are exploring Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 dates with Camp Walter Johnson as we continue to hope and pray for improvement in pandemic status. Leader of Weekend 109, Toni Routt, remains flexible with team formation and the unpredictable timing. Checking with Episcopal Cursillo Ministry on the national level reveals that no weekends have been held for more than a year, and the earliest possible events will be held in September or later. Nothing firm has been decided to their knowledge of weekends in the U.S. We covet your prayers and patience as we look forward to a time to meet safely.

## Ultreya ZOOM Meeting this month



Please come join in the Cursillo family reunion that we lovingly know as Ultreya. Look for further info on how to connect to the next meeting.

**When? June 13, 2021** **Where?** In front of your laptop, iPad, or cell phone. Please bring food and beverage of your choice, your physical self, and an open heart and an open mind. Look for a special invite to come and how to connect.

## Ultreya

*share the light*

Sunday – June 13, 2021

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5:30 PM - 8:00 PM    Agenda

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- 5:30 – welcome, introductions, Scripture meditation, prayer for the Holy Spirit
- 6:00 – break into zoom rooms for reunion groups
- 7:00 – witness talk
- 7:30 – clergy response to witness talk
- 7:50 – music postlude
- 7:55 – closing prayer

Guests are welcome. **Make a friend, Be a friend, Bring a friend to Christ.** If you would like to be added to the invitation list please contact Cameron Cooke at [Cameroncooke539@gmail.com](mailto:Cameroncooke539@gmail.com) for more info

## Announcements

### Secretariat Members Needed

Volunteers are needed to help lead our NC Cursillo movement. Contact the current secretariat to learn more. Contact Jan Millar [jmillar@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jmillar@carolina.rr.com) and Barbara Magee [barbmageee311@gmail.com](mailto:barbmageee311@gmail.com)

### Need More Information?

To find out more about attending a three-day weekend or sponsoring a participant, contact [NorthCarolinaCursillo@gmail.com](mailto:NorthCarolinaCursillo@gmail.com)

### Secretariat meetings

Abiding by pandemic restrictions, Secretariat The Fourth Day meetings have met via conference call and Zoom meetings. We currently met the second Tuesday of every month at 8:00 pm via zoom. Contact [NorthCarolinaCursillo@gmail.com](mailto:NorthCarolinaCursillo@gmail.com) for further information.

Perhaps you, the reader, may want to share our newsletter to other diocese that might benefit. Please feel welcomed to do so. In turn, we look forward to those diocese sharing their newsletters with us.



## Fourth Day and Pre-Cursillo in Today's Environment

by Blake Rinderle – Cincinnati Cursillo

2020 brought monumental changes throughout the world; darkness seemed to be prevalent for many reasons. Jesus said, "In me, you may have peace. In the world, you will have tribulation". Jesus has overcome the darkness of this world through His blood. We live in this world of tribulations but we are not of this world. Everyone who is born of God has overcome the world. We overcome through the power of Jesus. With Jesus in us, we are the light of the world. Through our will, freedom and intellect, we make choices. Cursillo's founding father, Eduardo Bonnin, focused on the "person", not the environment. He reminds us of converting ourselves and others, and consequently, the environments will be naturally transformed. You and I are the Fourth Day. What are the choices we make for ourselves and to bring others to Christ? Now, more than ever, we are called to reorient our lives in Christ to overcome darkness by the word of our testimony. By the way we live our lives, our testimony is revealed to a friend. They see Christ in us. Through "authentic" friendship, he/she will be attracted to the love of God in us. We seek to walk with our friend, cooperate in bringing an encounter with Christ, and continue to follow Christ with them.

Cursillo intends "to make possible living out together the love of God and love of neighbor". Pre-Cursillo is accomplished through the word and witness of those who have lived the Cursillo weekend, the Fourth Day.

We will always be confronted with choices. In today's environment, will we be passive and **hope** that the world comes to know Christ in a personal relationship? Or will we live the gospel becoming the good news bringing our friend to Christ?

Christ is counting on you!  
Blake Rinderle

## Democracy, Values, with Cursillo

By Father Skip – Toledo Cursillo

To My Sisters and Brothers: De Colores!

We seek the Lord in this hectic time -- trying to stay well in the pandemic and avoid passing virus to anyone else. Not being able to meet personally as is a precious gift of Cursillo, so we are learning how to communicate virtually with things like Zoom on top of the extremely useful cell phones we've had for decades! Maybe we're discovering more about divinity and afterlife in heaven: how God sees things all the time. I'm wondering how we will advance as a human race and especially as Christians! Not sure how long I'm going to be on earth, but I'm aware of the fact that we're so much more connected to the rest of humanity and have the chance to influence so many others than when I was a kid. It absolutely amazes me to use Google and get an answer to my question instantly for something that would take me hours, days, or weeks or more all by myself! And how fast a virus can spread now that we can fly. Sure, beats the horse and buggy days doesn't it???

And currently we're experiencing something we've had for centuries but seems more challenging now than usual, and that's our politics after an election year. There are several values at stake that address our faith and provide opportunities for teaching wisdom, right and wrong, far-reaching choices, values, and behavior. I really treasure our democracy as government. It causes us humans to grow through dialogue, discussion, cooperation, truth searching and friendship: standing up strong for what is right and strong against what is wrong. Then the value of forgiveness and reconciliation pretty regularly!!!! Punishment is a tool but must be used wisely -- and that's where our gift of faith can be so important. How do we figure this all out: pro-life, racism, detention, medical choices, etc.,etc.

That's where Cursillo comes in: learning, growing (individually and together), getting the Good News of the Gospel out to as many as we can, assisting and supporting one another (friends and enemies!) in doing this, turning the other cheek when necessary, respecting law enforcement well, and prison ministry. The lists go on. I'm seeking to congratulate and strongly encourage our efforts (especially as we learn to use Zoom!) and want to get together as much as possible -- wisely.

De Colores



Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July, y'all!

## Christ's Command for Unity Within Your Christian Fellowship

From TheWellbytheSea.org

Has a fellow churchgoer sinned against you, causing you to be angry, hurt, bitter, or distrustful? Are you concerned that a sin against you or others will damage the fellowship of your brothers and sisters at church? God doesn't want it that way, and Jesus was very clear in his commands of how to deal with sins (and we are all sinners) within the church:

Matthew 18: 15 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. 16 But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Luke 17 3 Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. 4 And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him."

## Summer Reading

From Goodreads top 10/cursillo

See what other cursistas are reading with these top ten



### **The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming (Paperback)**

by [Henri J.M. Nouwen](#)



### **The Rule of Saint Benedict (Paperback)**

by [Benedict of Nursia](#)



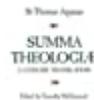
### **Living, Loving & Learning (Paperback)**

by [Leo F. Buscaglia](#)



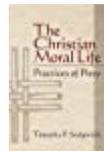
### **The Reckless Way of Love: Notes on Following Jesus (Paperback)**

by [Dorothy Day](#)



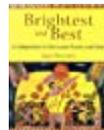
### **Summa Theologiae: A Concise Translation (Paperback)**

by [Thomas Aquinas](#)



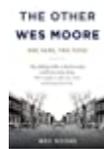
### **The Christian Moral Life: Practices of Piety (Kindle Edition)**

by [Timothy F. Sedgwick](#)



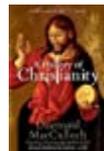
### **Brightest and Best: A Companion to the Lesser Feasts and Fasts (Paperback)**

by [Sam Portaro](#)



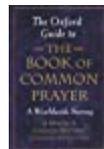
### **The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates (Hardcover)**

by [Wes Moore](#)



### **A History of Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years (Hardcover)**

by [Diarmaid MacCulloch](#)



### **The Oxford Guide to the Book of Common Prayer: A Worldwide Survey (Paperback)**

by [Charles Hefling](#)

## Participants credit Cursillo with life-changing ministry

By Kristen Hannum

'He's an old man, but when he begins talking about Cursillo, and the Lord he knows, you see 25 years shaved off,' says Noecker. When Father Maat first read about the Cursillo movement in 1958, he told himself, 'If that movement ever gets going in the United States, I want to become involved.'

He made his first Cursillo the summer of 1963. Today, Father Maat is spiritual director of the Region XII Cursillo Movement.

Cursillo was founded by layman Eduardo Bonnin in 1944 on the Spanish island of Mallorca. Since then, more than three million people around the world have participated in the movement. Bonnin believes that when people act as true Christ-like friends to one another, they form a positive cycle of energy that helps each of them to become more Christ-like.

In his talks, Bonnin, now 81, tells people that, 'You can't say to someone, 'You must go to church.' You say, 'You must be friends of mine.' When the bridge is built, then you can speak of Christ.' 'It tells you to make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ,' says Howell.

Bonnin studied the works of theologians such as Yves Congar and psychologists such as Carl Rogers, then organized the theology and psychology into the short talks.

The weekend retreats are for many a powerful conversion experience.

'I know that the Holy Spirit is there.'

When she leads Cursillos, Pat Noecker from Seattle, asks retreatants not to judge the Cursillo until Sunday. By then, she says, 'you're so open to your neighbor that the scales just fall from your eyes, and you see so clearly.'

Noecker says it's hard to describe a Cursillo. 'To change a life forever,' she muses. 'At least it changed my husband's and mine.'

The Noeckers made their first Cursillo 27 years ago, first him, then her a week later.

Noecker says that chance meetings with other Cursillistas have brought her delight when she travels. 'You start out at a different level of sharing,' she says. 'You already have something in common; his name is Jesus.'

Noecker shares the story of a friend of her family's, a stoic and unemotional man who, over years of summer camping trips, chose to read rather than interact with his wife and children.

When he made his Cursillo, says Noecker, he came away in tears, saying that he hadn't realized that other men felt this way.

After his Cursillo, Noecker says he put away his books (for some of the time) in favor of talking and enjoying time with his wife and children.

'There was an internal change,' Noecker says. 'Cursillo helps you discover your gifts, and then use them for Christ in the world.'

Noecker admits that the Cursillo movement may sometimes look a bit gray, despite its theme song of 'DeColores.'

She thinks it's because she and other Cursillistas often befriend and sponsor people who look like themselves. 'But everyone is encouraged to go,' she says.

Well, perhaps not everyone. People must have a sponsor to attend a Cursillo weekend, and their pastor must vouch that they are 'far enough along with their walk with Christ to understand the messages of the weekend,' says the San Diego Cursillo group.

About a month after the Cursillo, the participants regroup for a 'Fourth Day.'

'People become kind of high on the weekend,' says Noecker. 'We know they'll come down to reality, and that's the time to review the tools they learned over the Cursillo.'

Marge Howell attended the weekend's final day as a friend of the new Cursillistas. She and her husband Jack made their first Cursillos in 1992.

'It's so different than anything else I've ever attended,' says Howell. 'It's a chance to get your understanding of the Christian Church straight. It brings you to life.'

Howell says that one of the consequences of her Cursillo is that now she reads good books - not necessarily religious, but always thought-provoking and meaningful.

For Howell, the weekend, as meaningful as it is, was a means to lead her to her small group reunions.

Like other Cursillistas, she meets weekly with a small group of three to five persons - in her case composed of men and women of different faiths. They share their week and become good friends. Together, says Howell, they learn how to share their lives with friends. 'It changes the way you speak to one another,' she says. 'You see the truth.'

The weekly group reunions begin with a prayer. The members then discuss three topics: holiness, formation, and evangelization. They don't interrupt one another and they keep confidential what is discussed.

For the first topic, holiness, Howell says that they share what most helped them find holiness during the week, and the time that they felt most aware of Christ's presence. That might happen, says Howell, when someone is gardening or perhaps listening to beautiful music.

The second topic is formation. The members share what they have read or experienced during the week to help change their mentality to be more Christian. bring about a change in the world. 'Evangelization is love in action,' says Howell. 'It might be time spent with a sick neighbor.'

The group then closes with a prayer of thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer. 'Cursillo saved me,' says Howell. 'I've been a Catholic all my life, but I think that Cursillo has brought joy and clarity into my life and given me courage and assurance that God loves me. You're filled to bursting when you leave.'

## Covid Poem by Laura K. Fanucci

When this is over,  
may we never again  
take for granted  
A handshake with a stranger  
Full shelves at the store  
Conversations with neighbors  
A crowded theatre  
Friday night out  
The taste of communion  
A routine checkup  
The school rush each morning  
Coffee with a friend  
The stadium roaring  
Each deep breath  
A boring Tuesday  
Life itself.

When this ends

May we find

that we have become  
more like the people  
wanted to be  
we were called to be  
we hoped to be  
and may we stay  
that way--better  
for each other  
because of the worst.

## News from a Eastern Carolina Cursillio

Dear Cursillistas

This note to you is long overdue, and I must apologize for not communicating well with the team. Over the past several months, I have felt stuck, isolated, anxious, overwhelmed and scared of what has been happening in the world.

A quote I recently read by Ken Wapnick “We should be grateful for all the situations that make us the most uncomfortable, because without them we would not know there is something unhealed within us”. I have been hoping and waiting for my life to go back to “normal”. So what is normal? During this time, I have learned what is important to me. How I miss being in fellowship with each other. I miss being able to give and receive hugs, I miss my church family and community.

I have learned that it is ok and safe for me to be vulnerable: for in this time I have turned to Christ and have had some of the deepest conversations I have had in a long time, for Christ strengthens me and gives me comfort.

So why do I share this with you, I am sure many of us have felt like we are all in a sinking ship, bailing out the water, only to have more waves splashing into the boat; and yet during our most difficult times we have learned Christ will never leave us, He will never forsake us. Cursillo is something that offers me these relationships, deep discussions and reflection, fellowship and community. The daily rituals of Piety, Study and Action. Some days I have drifted away from my daily rituals, however I can pick it right back up...and the calm sets in and the waves begin to settle down and are no longer splashing into the boat. Cursillo grounds me, and deepens by Christian commitment.

The cancellation of the 2 spring Cursillos for our team has left me as if i am on a sail boat without any wind....but I am hopeful that the wind will come back and our sails will be full and robust! Donna is working on preparing for the fall Cursillo, and hopefully that will be able to happen. I pray that fall Cursillo will happen, and we will gather together for our Spring team and have a nice re-boot.

Your Friend in Christ  
DeColores  
Diane Hatfield

## Hooray for Pamela Haynes!

On a bright and sunny, Glorious, if a bit chilly, March 20, 2021 one of our active Cursistas was ordained as a Deacon along with 3 others at Canterbury School's Chapel in Greensboro. Pamela Haynes was presented by St Stevens Episcopal Church in Winston-Salem. Even the pandemic, and the limit of 2 family members for each ordinand could not dampen the joy of the day. I have been in that chapel on a number of occasions when the chapel was filled with standing room only, but the joy, and the delight in that space has never been greater than on that brisk day in March.

Deacons serve the church as assigned by the Bishop of the Diocese. Bishop Sam has placed Pam at St Anne's in Winston and she is very excited to be there.

**Rev. Frances Cox St. Matthews, Kernersville**

