

# THE FOURTH DAY



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GROWING  
CHRIST-CENTERED  
LEADERS

NC Episcopal Cursillo  
P.O. Box 221145  
Charlotte, NC 28222  
[www.nccursillo.org](http://www.nccursillo.org)

## First parish-based weekend set in August, will cost less

Dear Fellow Cursillistas:

Your Secretariat is embarking on an exciting journey: **development of a parish-based weekend — for participants**. Note: For more than three decades, the Diocese of Olympia, Washington, in the Seattle area has held its weekends in parishes.

In this format, new to our diocese, the cost for Cursillo No. 104 will be \$95 each for participants (formerly known as candidates) and team members — a significant reduction.

**St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in High Point — the Rev. Ken Kroohs, rector — is the host for our first parish-based weekend.** Local support is also expected from St. Mary's of High Point.



**The weekend is set for August 8 through August 11.** A summer weekend is designed to provide time for those needing flexibility in their schedules, especially teachers and students.

You may begin running announcements in your parish newsletter such as, **"Are you wanting to find a more meaningful spiritual experience? Cursillo Weekend No. 104, Aug. 8-11, St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, High Point. More information at [www.nccursillo.org](http://www.nccursillo.org)."**

If you want to serve on team, fill out an application and mail it to P.O. Box 221145, Charlotte, NC 28222.

If you want to attend as a participant, fill out an application and mail it to that same address.

If you don't have a sponsor, fill out an application, mail it in, and we'll find you a sponsor.

Your Servant in Christ,

Sid Chadwick, Lay Director  
Cursillo Secretariat

*Sid made Cursillo No. 100, sat at St. Peter's table and is a member of St. Clement's in Clemmons.*

## What every priest should know about Cursillo

By the Very Rev. Richard E. Simpson,  
Rector of St. Mark's Islip [Long Island], N.Y., dean of the Atlantic Deanery

**What is Cursillo?** Cursillo is a movement of the Holy Spirit within the church. It has helped raise up and activate leaders for the Church at every level of ministry. The three-day weekend is a short course in Christian living. Cursillo functions under the presiding bishop and is overseen locally by our bishop and a local Secretariat. When Cursillo is healthy in a diocese it always involves the full ministry: bishops, priests, deacons and laity.

The Cursillo movement started in the Roman Catholic Church in Spain as a way to re-energize men's participation. It is now co-ed in most dioceses. It experienced rapid growth in the Episcopal Church from the '70s through the '80s, and in many dioceses it continues to be a source of unity and evangelism.

**The theology of Cursillo** stems from classic western spirituality of the Church: To stay rooted in Jesus, we must live a balanced life of piety, study and action. **Piety** begins with active, regular worship, then flows toward regular and personal life of prayer and devotion. **Study** is a quest to know the mind of Christ more fully. We must study the Scriptures and strive to read the historic and contemporary theological works of the Church. **Action** is bearing the presence of Christ into our homes, jobs and neighborhoods. We are the leaven that transforms the world for Christ.

**Maintaining our ministry.** A unique feature of Cursillo is "group reunion" – gathering weekly in small groups for fellowship to help hold each other accountable in our Christian life and witness. Grouping is about keeping our connections to Christ and to the Church active, alive, and fruitful.

**' . . . [M]y best parish evangelists are active in Cursillo . . . focused on Jesus and on bringing their friends to Jesus and to Church.'**

Cursillo also has regional monthly meetings called ultreya (a shout of encouragement meaning "onward and upward"). These gatherings give everyone a chance to make a lay witness talk — five to 10 minutes sharing what you have been doing for Jesus. It is great practice to speak aloud in a safe location about our life and witness for Christ. It helps everyone see all that we do for Christ, large or small, as significant. Ultreya is also a time of small group sharing, and music. The clergy job at ultreya is to make a

theological-biblical connection between the witness talk and the Gospel.

As a priest I have found that my group reunion is an important, regular source of love and support throughout my ministry. Clergy need true support and a deep connection to our faith community. Faithful friends you can talk to are a true blessing.

**The roll of clergy in Cursillo:** All the orders in the church participate. Without the bishop's support and approval, there is no Cursillo in a diocese. Without the support of the local parish priest, members of your congregation cannot attend a three-day weekend. Without active lay ministry, the mission of Cursillo fails. Christ is counting upon us to complete his work in the world.

As a parish priest you play a specific role in Cursillo, as a teacher of the historic faith, as a spiritual guide, as a confessor, and as a celebrant of the word and sacraments. When I work a weekend, I witness the light of Christ shining in new ways. Before my eyes, the Holy Spirit moves people.

**'When I work a weekend, I witness the light of Christ shining in new ways. Before my eyes, the Holy Spirit moves people.'**

**How Cursillo affects a local parish:** Priests who actively support the movement will be blessed with more and more active lay leaders, leaders striving to be Christ-centered, trying to bring others to Christ and into the life of the Church. Through Cursillo, the Holy Spirit moves people to greater works for Jesus' sake, and to greater support and creativity in the congregation's mission. **(Continued on Page 3)**



### What every priest should know about Cursillo (Continued from Page 2)

**‘Cursillo... has helped raise up and activate leaders for the Church at every level of ministry.... When Cursillo is healthy in a diocese, it always involves the full ministry: bishops, priests, deacons and laity.’**

**What are you afraid of?** Have you heard of issues surrounding Cursillo? Do not rely on hearsay. Talk to your bishop about Cursillo. Talk to the clergy who are active in Cursillo. Its mission — to inspire and create leaders for the church — has *not* changed.

**Many clergy think Cursillo is only a renewal weekend.** No. Cursillo’s prime teaching method is the three-day weekend, with its five meditations, 15 talks and daily Eucharist. Cursillo is more than a renewal weekend, it is a spiritual method that moves and maintains our members to stay connected to Christ and to the church. Cursillo helps Episcopalians talk about their faith and share that story with others.

**Many lay persons believe that clergy fear strong lay leadership,** that some clergy are focused more upon themselves and not upon activating the full ministry of everyone in the Church. I have found consistently that my best parish evangelists are active in Cursillo. They are focused on Jesus and on bringing their friends to Jesus and to Church. I have found that many of the most active vestry members and program leaders have made a Cursillo weekend. Cursillo helps inspire and builds up the ministry of the whole Church.

**How to get involved:** Come and see firsthand what Cursillo is all about. Attend a three-day weekend; attend ultreya; have lunch with a fellow cleric and talk about the fire and excitement that Cursillo can foster in a congregation. Read the Cursillo Library, a collection of booklets about Cursillo. Read your diocesan Weekend Manual, a detailed accounting of everything that is done on a weekend. Your knowledge, skills and spirit are needed to move Cursillo forward.

**‘Cursillo helps Episcopalians talk about their faith and share that story with others.’**

*[Father Simpson serves on the National Episcopal Cursillo Committee 2010 – 2012. This article is condensed from an address he made to that committee.]*

### What it’s like for a priest to serve on a team

I have the interesting perspective of having been a lay team member many times before I was ordained, and now having been a spiritual advisor a few times. Those roles are very similar, and very different. They are similar in that all team members, lay and ordained, are to be servant leaders. Jesus told us we are to be servants of all, and that is the best description of a team member.

The differences between lay and ordained team members revolve around the roles each plays. I try to always remember that one of Cursillo’s strengths is that it is led by lay persons. Therefore, with the exception of worship services, the clergy’s role is supportive. We are to support and advise the lay weekend leader and all team members prior to the weekend. That includes reviewing all talks for theological concerns. Typically the issue is not a major theological difference as much as wording that suggests something the author did not actually intend. I cannot remember reviewing a talk where the author was blasphemous!

On the weekend the clergy’s role remains supportive. I believe there should always be a clergy person in the room during talks and especially during discussions. My personal pattern is to wander the room once or twice during the discussion periods to make it easier for the table advisor to suggest they throw a question my way. The table team person remains the lead team person in the discussion, but the clergy can support them by joining in the discussion when invited.

Of course the clergy team gives five talks and five meditations, so we are very visible in that way. The talks are similar to the lay talks in that we also have a workbook with an outline to follow. Those outlines are important because, as the material says, there is really just one talk in 15 parts. If someone varies too much from the outline, then the talks before and after it make less sense. **(Continued on Page 4)**



### What it's like for a priest to serve on a team (Continued from Page 3)

The meditations are intended more to set a tone than to convey information. Their outlines are also much 'tighter' leaving less room, and less time, for personal additions.

The worship services are largely planned by the team, usually the assistant weekend leaders, and approved by the clergy. The goal, as always, is to have a worship service including a sermon which blends with and builds upon the theme for the day. Music is a major part of this, so coordination with the music team is important.

After the last activity each day, we set aside a space for participants or team members to talk one on one with a spiritual advisor. Some weekends this is very busy, and other weekends no one comes forward!

My favorite part of the weekend is the less structured conversations during a break, over a meal, or in the evening. I find that is when we are most likely to discuss the specific issue most on the mind of the participant, or team member.

*The Rev. Kenneth Kroohs is the rector of St. Christopher's, High Point; he made N.C. Episcopal Cursillo No. 13 and sat at St. Paul's table.*

### A new Cursillista reflects on her weekend

Love in action.

That is what I will remember the most about Cursillo No. 103.

When I first arrived on that Friday evening, I could tell almost immediately that there was something different about the Cursillo team. As expected, they were pleasant and friendly, but not so expected was the feeling of authentic love they seemed to have for each other and for me. That authentic love, expressed in action over three full days, is what makes the Cursillo weekend so memorable for me.

**'I felt like I had stepped out of the real world and into a world where the love of Christ was pouring down on me. . . .'**

**— Shirley de la Canal**



The team's attention to every detail of the weekend and every possible need of mine was far greater than any expectation I could have arrived with. They intentionally lifted me and the other new Cursillistas up as high as they could, showering us with acts of kindness throughout. I felt like I had stepped out of the real world and into a world where the love of Christ was pouring down on me, nurturing and growing me in ways I hadn't received before.

And the best part of all was that, having received that love in such an intentional way, I now have additional tools I can use to express that love towards others, and that is where I see value in Cursillo.

God doesn't leave us wondering what love looks like or how to express it. He loved us before creation, and he sent his Son to teach us. Jesus tells his disciples "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you" and commands them to love each other as he loved them.

The Cursillo team was sent by God to me, to show me in practical ways how to express love. It is now my responsibility to love others as they loved me.

*Shirley de la Canal of St. John's, Charlotte, made Cursillo No. 103 and sat at the table of St. Hilda of Whitby.*

## Fourth Day Thoughts No. 6: Just being there . . .

One of our schnauzers became seriously ill recently and our son, whose dog it was, had to make the heart-wrenching decision to put him down. Of course we're all grieving over the loss of Colby, but my focus lately has been on our other schnauzer, a female named Karly. Unlike Colby, a strong "alpha male," Karly is smaller, afflicted with allergies and very dependent on love and affection.

She has always been quick to hop in someone's lap for a pat, licking your hand or arm, talking that schnauzer talk that means "Can't I have a treat, pleeeeeeaaasssse?????" She has to take a pill every day to control her allergies, which manifest in itching in dogs instead of sneezing, as in humans. She knows when I'm coming to give it to her and is very good about just sitting there with that resigned look on her face, as if to say, "OK, let's get it over with."

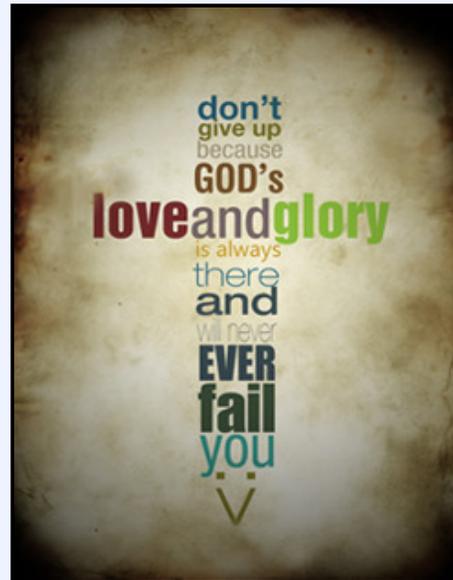
But with Colby's passing, Karly has really had a rough time. She was always following Colby . . . outside to play, to "do their business," downstairs to the kennel when we would go out. But now Colby is gone and Karly doesn't seem to know quite what to do. I know just how she feels.

When we lose someone we love, there is an emptiness that we don't know what to do with. We talk about it, cry about it, pout about it, get angry about it. But we never really know quite what to do with it.

Sooner or later, time seems to heal it, and I'm sure it will heal Karly too. But for now, I've taken to going outside with Karly in the morning for her morning "constitutional." She doesn't seem to know quite what to do out there all by herself. But with me just standing in the middle of the yard, she seems happy and content to wander around until the "spirit moves her."

Sometimes just being there is all that is needed. God knows that.

*Submitted by Walt Joyce, Cursillo No. 100, St. Clement's Episcopal, Clemmons, NC*



### **Wanted: computer savvy, video and reporting talent**

Calling all cursillistas with any of these skills:

- Designing and maintaining websites.
- Producing and filming videos to augment the website, such as a Cursillista talking about his or her experience on a three-day weekend.
- Reporting on parish activities and coming events for the newsletter.

**Rep needed for southern region**  
The Secretariat, the governing body of Cursillo in this diocese, has a vacant seat for a Cursillista from the southern region, the Charlotte-Sandhills area. If you are willing to serve, contact one of the members (see a list on page 7).

In short, *The Fourth Day* needs volunteers to make the website more interesting and to get stories in the newsletter about Cursillistas making friends, being friends, bringing friends to Christ. That might include book reviews, cartoons, and information about mission trips and other outreach.

If you have talent that will help us reach any of these goals, get in touch with me, a Secretariat member or an Ultreya leader (see page 7).

*Your Editor*

## Cursillo/newsletter Survey

The Secretariat needs your feedback and ideas in this short questionnaire. Please take a few minutes to study and reflect on these questions, answer them, print them out and e-mail the responses to Steve Hoar. The results will be reported to the Secretariat and included in the next newsletter.

Thank you in advance for your feedback.

**Steve Hoar**  
**Communications**  
**stephenwhoar@gmail.com**

**1. Is there anything about the 4th Day Newsletter that you particularly LIKE?**

(Please check one.)  Yes  No

If "Yes", please explain:

**2. Is there anything about the 4th Day Newsletter you particularly DON'T LIKE?**

(Please check one.)  Yes  No

If "Yes", please explain:

**3. Is there anything about Cursillo, or the 4th Day Newsletter, you'd like to change?**

(Please check one.)  Yes  No

If "Yes", please explain:

**4. Do you have an interest in serving on the Secretariat or as a "Reporter" for your parish?**

(Please check one.)  Yes  No

If "Yes", please explain your interest, and may we have your name and phone no. and email address to follow-up:

**5. If there is anything else you'd like to tell us, we'd like to know, and would you please put your thoughts in the space below.**

*Thank you for taking the time to fill-out this survey.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Signature and/or Name)

Email to [stephenwhoar@gmail.com](mailto:stephenwhoar@gmail.com).

## The fruit of our communal life

Our society encourages individualism. We are constantly made to believe that everything we think, say, or do is our personal accomplishment, deserving individual attention. But as people who belong to the communion of saints, we know that anything of spiritual value is not the result of individual accomplishment but the fruit of a communal life.

Whatever we know about God and God's love, whatever we know about Jesus's life, death, and resurrection, whatever we know about the Church and its ministry, is not the invention of our minds asking for an award. It is the knowledge that has come to us through the ages from the people of Israel and the prophets, from Jesus and the saints, and from all who have played roles in the formation of our hearts. True spiritual knowledge belongs to the communion of saints.

*Submitted by Bruce Nash, Cursillo No. 100, St. Clement's Episcopal, Clemmons, NC*

## North Carolina Episcopal Cursillo Secretariat Calendar 2013

### Meeting Schedule:

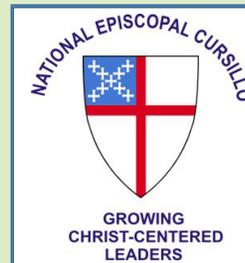
**April 27, 2013**

**May 18, 2013**

**July 20, 2013**

**September 14, 2013**

**November 16, 2013**



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*Note: All meetings are expected to start at 10:00A.M., and be concluded by 2:30P.M. Secretariat meetings are always open and Cursillistas are encouraged to attend.*

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Feel free to contact us with comments and/or suggestions for future newsletters. If you would like to add a name to this newsletter's mailing list or correct an address, please contact Steve Hoar.

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