

THE FOURTH DAY



Why we need 15 applications to schedule a Cursillo weekend

From Sid Chadwick, your lay director of the Secretariat:

There's much needing our attention as Cursillistas in – and for – our Diocese. And as I was organizing and drafting my thoughts – the awareness developed that perhaps a few (or more than a few...!) Cursillistas would like – or need – to attend a “renewal Cursillo weekend” – because that's much of what a Cursillo weekend team comes away with – a deep, spiritual renewal – and perhaps that's at least partly why we seldom have any problem developing a Cursillo weekend team.

Members of the Secretariat recently began asking for appointments with rectors, and then personally visiting parishes. Purpose of the visits are multiple, and include developing prayer and share or reunion groups – men's, women's and mixed.

And in that process of these visitations, we're learning a lot that we need to know and better

understand, including: (a) changing and sometimes surprising rector and parish needs; (b) rectors' opinions about Cursillo – sometimes based only on what they've heard, often from somewhere else, or early in their clerical journey; (c) some surprising parish conditions needing our (and your) support and attention; and (d) what Cursillistas are doing – and not doing – that's helpful, and sometimes not so helpful – in their parish.

Some priests have told us – sometimes through associate rectors and deacons – that they've had no contact from anyone about Cursillo, that they know very little about Cursillo. It's a mystery to them. We're committed to and are following up such reports, as they occur.

Other rectors have confided that their parish's Cursillistas have not been helpful. We're following up this condition, when it's revealed.

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To start a group: Ask, gather, pray, share

by Steve Hoar

The new prayer and share group at St. Martin's in Charlotte began months ago, when Angie Forde suggested it to Fran Huske, her friend and fellow Cursillista. But the group didn't form until other circumstances converged.

The Secretariat began calling for Cursillistas to invite parishioners across the diocese to form new groups or join existing ones. And Fran felt the need for more prayer in her life – and more accountability. Her own reunion group members had mutually decided to focus for a while on the Gospel of Mark. (continued on page 3)

Why we need 15 applications to schedule Weekend No. 105 (continued from page 1)

As a public confession, looking back, I recognize that sometimes I've spoken in a manner that was not helpful, though that was never my intent. It's also true that I've experienced pain and disappointment from what other parishioners, including my priest and members of our vestry, have and have not said and done. However, it's my own missteps that have caused me deep reflection (and pain), and – I hope – changes in how I listen, ask questions and relate to the life I've been given.

Some months back a dear Cursillista, with tears running down his cheeks, told me of the closing of his parish. They had a terrific priest, in his opinion. The central problem, in his view, was that the "old guard" wouldn't let newcomers have a chance to become active participants, and wouldn't let new ideas become integrated in the parish's life so the parish could grow as an inclusive community.

How we use our gifts

So how does all this relate, and why have I committed this space and personal observations and experiences – to you – about 15 participant applications being required before we commit to the next Cursillo weekend schedule?

I'm of the opinion that each of us will one day be required to account for what we've done with our time, and talents – on behalf of and in service to the Gospel – that Christ and the Holy Spirit gave us.

We will be asked if we forgave others, and ourselves – for missteps. Did we do our best to learn from our missteps, and to become a better person? I believe we will be asked if we invited and included those who were new. Did we issue invitations to a Cursillo weekend, and to our reunion group, or an invitation for a reunion group to be formed? Were we generous with what we had – with those who had no ability to give back, but still needed our assistance?

We're getting closer

From recent initiatives, I'm learning almost weekly of a new prayer and share group initiative in motion in one of our parishes – because a Cursillista, or a priest, stepped forward.

We now have about 10 Episcopalians who have

If you need aid

Scholarship funds are available for those wanting to attend Cursillo Weekend No. 105, and needing financial support. A participant application need only be submitted, signed by your rector, and forwarded with the request.

expressed a sincere interest in attending the next Cursillo weekend. All want to know, "When is the next Cursillo weekend, so I can make plans to attend?"

The good news is that we're gaining about one new participant for the Cursillo No. 105 Weekend – about every two-to-three weeks. I believe we can do better than that, but only if: (a) we extend a personal invitation to sponsor a friend, or (b) we place in our parish' Sunday service bulletin, or monthly newsletter an invitation to the next Cursillo weekend, or (c) we place an invitation to form a prayer and share group in a parish publication. For all the hours and miles and prayers your Secretariat has committed – for you, and to serve Christ's Gospel, which is always there to provide you and me with Grace, and hope – I recognize and acknowledge that we need clarity of objectives that serve our Cursillo ministry, and that includes standards (for example, getting at least 15 participant applications before committing to a schedule for Cursillo Weekend No. 105) for what we are to contribute, and accomplish.

Aside from applications

We also need three to four more Secretariat members, to expand the Secretariat's reach. We need more participant and sponsor applications filled out. And we need to create the prayer and share reunion groups our rectors and parishes need to serve our rectors' projects and our parish needs.

James: 2:26, "For as the body is dead without the spirit, so faith without action is dead also."

We are gearing-up with new initiatives, and we need your help.

Invitations, sponsors are the key

What: Invitations to fill out a Cursillo weekend application

Where: Your monthly parish newsletter
Your Sunday service bulletin
Your personal invitation to sponsor a parishioner

When to run notices, extend invitations:
April, May, June, July, August

Draft of sample notice: “Are you interested in a deeper spiritual life experience? Cursillistas at this parish are available to sponsor you to the next Cursillo weekend, No. 105. An application is

available at nccursillo.org. Fill it out, mail it to P.O. Box 859, Lewisville NC 27023, and you will be assigned a sponsor.”

The weekend schedule: Seventy to 90 days in advance, the schedule will be set when we have at least 15 participant applications filled out and mailed in with deposits.

What is Cursillo? Why Cursillo? Do you have an Application for Cursillo No. 105? Answers to these questions, and more, can be found at www.nccursillo.org.

To start a group: Ask, gather, pray, share

(continued from page 1)

A few weeks ago, an Ultreya was coming up and Fran had agreed to do the witness talk. At Holy Eucharist the morning before the Ultreya, Fran was inspired to act on Angie’s dormant idea. “Something moved me in a way that I’m not often moved,” Fran said. “It came to me that I needed to get the prayer group started because there were other people with the same need as mine.”

Right after the service, Fran and Angie talked to the interim rector, who blessed their proposal. After an invitation ran twice in the parish bulletin, two women came forward. Neither has attended a three-day weekend. Fran said the Cursillo question is likely to come up eventually, but it was not the main impetus for the group.

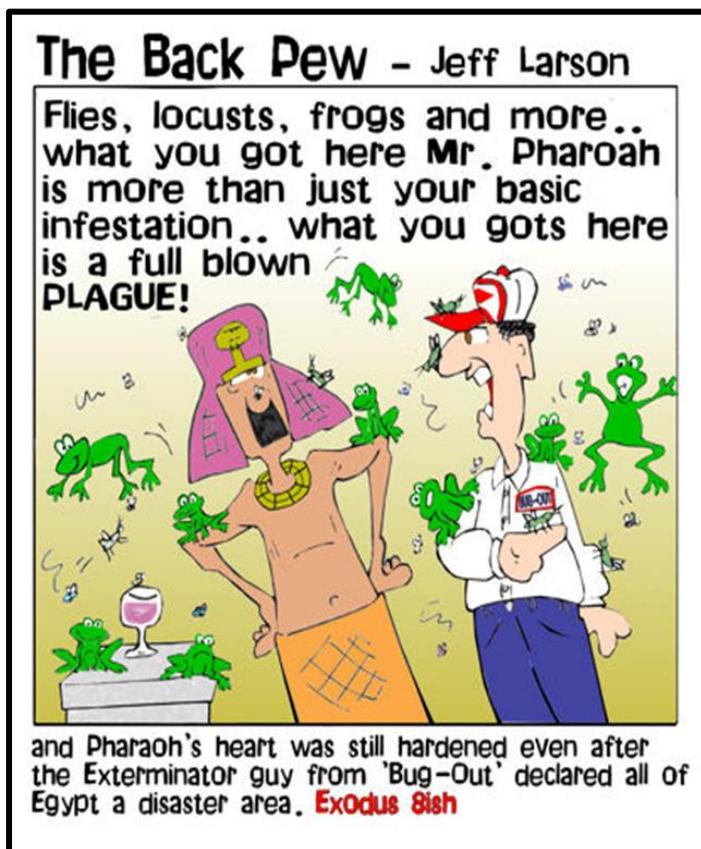
“It really is a prayer group,” Fran said. “Angie calls out the names, maybe 30 or so [on the parish prayer list], and we divide up the list and pray for them. We share what’s going on in our lives and what we each need prayer for.” Members may phone each other before the next meeting, either for support or for a little nudge – or both.

At St. Clement’s in Clemmons, Amy Selby started a group last year by running a similar invitation for group members. Several parishioners came forward the day the notice appeared.

The Secretariat thinks forming and sharing such groups will strengthen the Cursillo ministry, even though the initiative reverses the historical sequence. Instead of holding three-day weekends to form

groups, the goal is to form groups and in time get more applications for weekends.

Steve made Cursillo No. 52, sat at St. Joseph’s table and worships at Christ Church in Raleigh.



A new Cursillista recounts the wonder of her weekend

(Editor's note: Athena Hahn of the Church of the Nativity, Raleigh, was a participant at Cursillo No. 104 in August 2013. Recently she sent this letter to Sid Chadwick, lay director of N.C. Episcopal Cursillo.

February 26, 2014

I wanted to write to tell you how Cursillo No. 104 changed my life. As a youth, I went through Happening and encouraged my mother to go to Cursillo in the Diocese of Southern Virginia. When I moved to the Diocese of North Carolina in 2011, I was looking for more ways to get plugged into my church and diocese. I came upon the Cursillo booth at Annual Convention in 2013 and shortly after was contacted to be a participant at the weekend, which I automatically said yes to.

The weekend itself was very moving for me. My small group of ladies and the staff all made me feel welcome in the Cursillo community. My spiritual relationship with God had been on the back burner for quite a while before the weekend. I was in a job that made me extremely unhappy and I was angry with God for not leading me to a job that made me feel fulfilled. I graduated from college in 2008 and have been constantly applying for jobs ever since. I was sheltered as a child and sheltered through college, as I went to a small university. Life was not matching up to what I thought my life would be, and I wasn't adjusting very well.

Listening to the struggles of my small group and of the staff in their talks made me realize that disappointment and hard times are part of life and that reliance on God would get me through this rough patch in my own life. Even though I knew this, I was still so angry with God that I was not ready to let Him back in my life yet. However, now I had acknowledged that I was angry, something I had not been able to verbalize to this point. I was on the road to healing and a renewed relationship with God.

After a month or so things gradually returned to normal, and my faith continues to grow stronger today. I am praying to God on a daily basis, reading devotions, committing more time to Him than in the past. I have been consistently listening more closely to God's call on my life. I am now out of the previous job situation and am continuing to be led to different opportunities in the work force. My faith continues to be tested, but I know that

'This community accepted me right where I was on my faith journey with unconditional love. That love reminded me that God still loved me and that He could handle my anger toward Him. . . . God's love for me shone through your love for me and broke through my anger.'



Athena Hahn

everything is God's will and happens in His time. I am so incredibly thankful to the Cursillo community for allowing me to express my pain and anger without judgment. This community accepted me right where I was on my faith journey with unconditional love. That love reminded me that God still loved me and that he could handle my anger toward Him and that He would always be there and always has been. God's love for me shone through your love for me and broke through my anger, allowing for a renewed relationship with God. For that, I am eternally grateful.

Sincerely,
Athena Hahn

Re-imagine Cursillo! Take this survey

As Cursillo moves into the 21st Century, the NEC Cursillo Leadership Development Committee needs your input on how to keep our ministry dynamic and relevant.

The committee has developed an online survey for Cursillistas on "re-imagining Cursillo." Please complete the survey (click [here](#) to start) and hit the "submit" button (before April 18, 2014). Neither the contact information nor any of the other responses is mandatory.

To keep your cool, first accept God's grace

I seem to be on a lot of email lists in my role as an information technology director. One article I was reading recently was entitled "7 Ways Leaders Maintain Their Composure in Difficult Times."

Here's a quotation:

"In today's evolving business environment, it is clear that leadership is not only about elevating the performance, aptitude and development of people – but more so about the ability to make people feel safe and secure."

Isn't that what God and Christ have been telling us all along: "Don't be afraid. I'm with you. It'll all be OK." Isn't it interesting how many times crises result or increase when composure is missing? These days, many business leaders have started to see adversity through the lens of opportunity. What can we learn from this issue? How can we make this better for the future? Or better yet, how will God reconcile what has happened for the coming of his kingdom?

I believe that God reconciles the world for good. However, I also believe that the value of that

reconciliation comes from humankind's free-will acceptance of that "grace." That's the rub. How do you put your mind in the position to accept the grace that God is offering?

**Fourth
Day
Thoughts**
by Walt Joyce

Here are some suggestions from the article. Although they were aimed at business leaders, they really apply to all of us on that journey of faith:

- Don't let your emotions to get in the way.
- Don't take things personally.
- Keep a positive mental attitude.
- Remain fearless. (God has your back!)
- Respond decisively.
- Take accountability.
- Act as though you've been there before (because you have!).

[Credit to Glenn Llopis, "7 Ways Leaders Maintain Their Composure in Difficult Times," January 20, 2014, [Forbes.com](#)]

UNCC honors Cursillista for contributions in nursing

Elinor Caddell of Matthews, a longtime Cursillista, has received an "honorary alumna" award from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte for her pioneering work in developing the university's curriculum in nursing.

In 1965, UNC Charlotte founder Bonnie Cone asked Caddell to join the faculty at Charlotte College to develop a nursing program. This began her involvement with UNC Charlotte for the next several decades.

"Caddell's devotion, enthusiasm and involvement grew to match the continued growth of UNC Charlotte," the university alumni magazine said. "Through her outreach in the community, she became aware of the need for RNs to complete their MSN degree. Her name has become synonymous with the Pathway Program Completion at UNC Charlotte, which has produced thousands of UNC Charlotte alumni."

Caddell was a leader in developing the Master of Science in Nursing outreach program with UNC-

Chapel Hill. For 6 years, she took students to Chapel Hill by some very unusual modes of transportation, including a twin-engine plane. She also wrote the curriculum for the MSN program in the College of Nursing. In 1970, she received the Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence.

At 90, Caddell is very active. She uses her nursing skills as a volunteer at Plantation Estates, a retirement community in Matthews where she lives. Last year she served on the team for N.C. Cursillo No. 103.



Elinor Caddell

How Cursillo helps us share our faith In small groups, we pray and engage in 'holy listening'

by the Very Rev. Richard E. Simpson, spiritual advisor, Long Island Cursillo

All too often, the three-day Cursillo weekend becomes the focus of the movement. When this happens in a diocese, the Fourth Day starts to suffer simply because we center on the weekends and not on the Cursillo method that is taught on the weekends.

What is the method? To create small groups and hold regular meetings where we can share the depths of our faith with our close friends and spiritual companions. Cursillo calls this group reunion, or "grouping."

In these groups, we are engaged in holy listening, prayer, and the active sharing of our faith story, and not problem-solving. The group reunion card is our guide. Where have we been closest to Christ this week? How has our study moved us closer to the mind of Christ? What have we done for Christ this week? What are our successes? What are our disappointments? It is a regular rehearsal and conversation of our Piety, Study and Action. The more we can talk and be open about our following of Jesus, the easier it is to talk about our faith with others.

Another part of the Cursillo method is Ultreya. An Ultreya is a larger monthly gathering of group reunions. The prime focus of the Ultreya is to join in a floating group reunion. This is a group that is pulled together for 20 minutes of prayer and sharing. Think about it: We get very comfortable

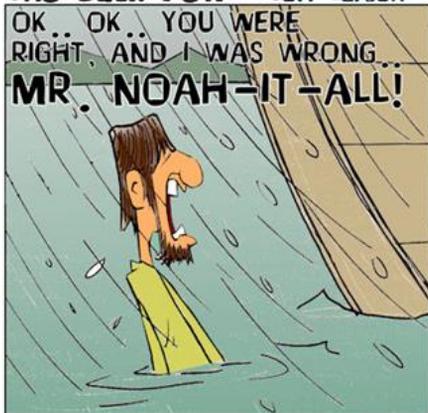
'Cursillo affords us an opportunity to deepen our personal faith, and to practice it in word and deed in a public way. Cursillo help us share our joys in knowing Jesus.'

sharing with our closest friends. What about sharing with people we do not know as well? Again, this is practicing our faithful conversation with others in a larger but safe setting.

The other major purpose of Ultreya is the lay witness talk. This is where we prepare a five-minute talk about what we have been doing for Christ, and share it with the whole Fourth Day community. Often the best witness talks are about those simple actions that we have done for Christ. In the sharing, the whole community is put in mind that when we are intentional about living out faith, God will make himself known through our efforts.

You see, this whole spiritual method affords us an opportunity to deepen our personal faith, and to practice it in word and deed in a public way. Cursillo helps us share our joys in knowing Jesus. This, of course, is the reason we have Cursillo weekends in the first place. It is this active, intentional living into Christ that transforms us, our parishes, and our world for Christ.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



It was not until the water was waist deep that Willie Nordblat admitted he was in trouble. **Genesis 7**

Help complete our list of all reunion groups

As part of our Fourth Day ministry we want to help Cursillistas, both new and old, find reunion groups (prayer and share groups) to join. Help us compile a list. Please tell us the day and time your group meets, the place, and a contact name, phone number and e-mail address. Send the information to Cameron Cooke, the Secretariat member in charge of Fourth Day activities, at rcaamcooke@yahoo.com, or by fax at 336-389-0060. Thank you.

NEC seeks donations; funds 'critically low'

'If each Cursillista reading this would give \$10, we could restore treasury.'

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Cursillo in the Episcopal Church is entering its 44th year since the first official three-day weekend was held in the Diocese of Iowa in 1970. The National Episcopal Cursillo Committee (NECC) was formed in 1979 to tailor the movement to the needs of the Episcopal Church.

NECC has invested in developing a better appreciation for Cursillo and for a clearer understanding of how to apply the Cursillo Method. Cursillo is emerging as a mature instrument in the hands of committed clergy and lay Christians to empower the "ministry of the laity."

The three-day Cursillo weekend and Fourth Day groups and activities have enriched the lives of many Episcopalians across the country and drawn them closer in their walk with Christ. We may never know the impact of the weekend on many Cursillistas who are bearing fruit quietly and unobtrusively. This would have been impossible without the gifts of time, talent and treasure from so many.

Your diocese depends on NECC to help keep the Cursillo Ministry vibrant in your community. The NECC Library provides the benchmarks for all aspects of the Cursillo weekend and The Fourth Day, providing a universal Cursillo experience for all. Episcopal Cursillo Leaders Workshops (ECLW) offered by NECC help every local diocese strengthen its lay leadership in Cursillo.

Materials and supplies help each diocese hold Cursillo weekends and engage its Fourth Day community. The National Fourth Day newsletter helps keep us all connected.

Friends, our financial resources are critically low, and NECC's continued ability to support Cursillo in the US is in jeopardy. If each Cursillista reading this would contribute \$10, we could restore our treasury. That's only \$20 per couple. Whatever you can contribute will multiply in ways we may never imagine.

Your donation will be used to strengthen the Cursillo ministry as a way to inspire Christians.

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I urge you to donate whatever you can; every dollar received goes directly to support this important ministry. Whatever you can contribute will multiply in ways we may never imagine.

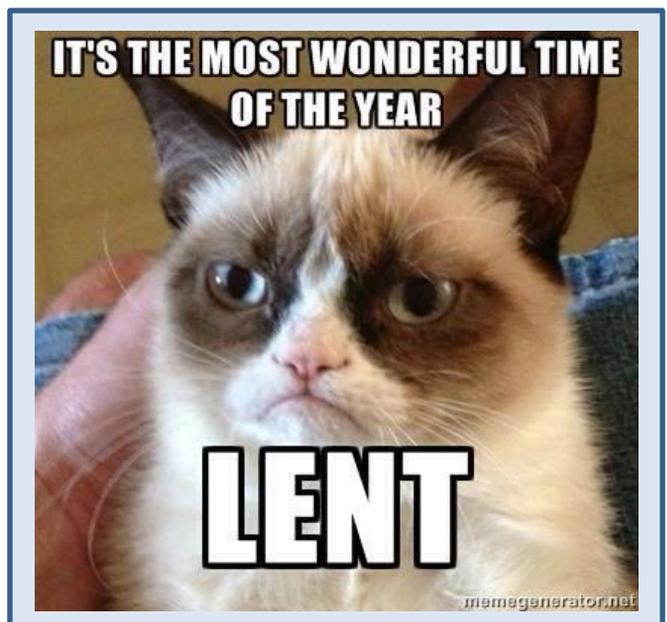
Please make your check payable to NEC and mail to the office at PO Box 70657, Myrtle Beach SC 25972, or donate through Pay Pal on our website, nationalepiscopalcursillo.org.

Remember, Christ is still counting on us!

Grace, peace, joy, and love in His name,



Chairman, NECC Finance Committee

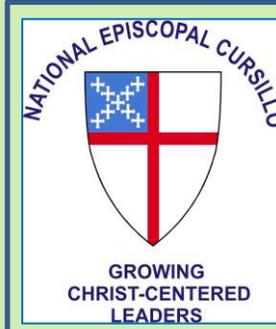


North Carolina Episcopal Cursillo Secretariat Calendar 2014

Meeting Schedule:

May 17, July 19, September 20, November 15

Meetings are held at All Saints Episcopal Church, 4211 Wayne Road in Greensboro. They run from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and are open to the public. Cursillistas are encouraged to attend.



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North Carolina Episcopal Cursillo — Secretariat 2014

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