

# THE FOURTH DAY



## 3rd Quarter Supplement — In Preparation for Cursillo #102

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Diocese of NC.



GROWING  
CHRIST-CENTERED  
LEADERS

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### A Closer Look At A Cursillo Weekend

What do you mean “No one will tell me about Cursillo”? Or “Everything you always wanted to know about Cursillo but had no clue what to ask.”

Cursillo is an interactive, lively, and educational weekend. Some people describe it as a “retreat,” but except for the first night of the gathering, it is anything but a retreat. (There is an overnight retreat from the end of the first evening’s activities to the morning Eucharist of the next day, but the rest of the time is spent in an educational, workshop-type experience.)

Cursillo is designed to be a teaching tool for further educating us about what our call is as Christians in today’s world. I have heard someone describe it before as a “reteaching of our Catechism,” and when I read through that document at the back of our Book of Common Prayer, I am awestruck by how accurate a comment that is.



Let us explain a little bit about the process of what takes place at a Cursillo weekend:

**A.** One Talk in 15 Parts. This means that you will hear a total of 15 talks - 10 by laypersons, and five by clergy (these take place over the three days of the weekend - five on Friday, five on Saturday, and five on Sunday).

**B.** We also engage in table discussions after most of the talks. This allows for some interaction between you and other folks. You remain with the same table group for the entire weekend. We try to compose the table of people not from your own parish, not your spouse, etc. We do this because these are people you are regularly with and our desire is to teach about the broad-reaching community of Christians that exist beyond your own personal community.

**C.** We participate in a Daily Eucharist. Since we are a Eucharistic church and our teachings are based around the celebration of the Eucharist, this supports that practice.

**D.** At many points during the weekend, you become aware of the much larger community of Christians that support the cause of teaching more about our “Christian Calling” - people praying for you and the weekend, people offering food and other things that make the weekend run well, etc....

**E.** We also participate in a great deal of singing. **(Continued on Page 2)**

## A Closer Look At A Cursillo Weekend **(Continued from Page 1)**

**F.** We also participate in a great deal of frivolity - laughing, joking around, sometimes skits, sometimes artwork, eating a lot, and even celebrations. If you remember school, you remember how boring it can be to just sit and listen to the teachers – so we try to liven up the learning atmosphere some.

You may have heard some things about us in the past - that we are secretive, and that we spring things on the participants - things they didn't know about, and they are "caught unawares." These are some of the things that we would like to put you at ease about:

1. You may have heard that we "take your watches." Not so. We do say that you do not need to bring a watch, and usually ask you to put it away if you do bring one, but we do not take them away from you. This often worries people –probably because we are so tied to our issues of time. But in all honesty, the team for the weekend will be making sure about the time issues and you do not have to worry about them all weekend. Time is not a secret, and you are welcome to know what time it is, what the schedule looks like, etc... it's just a whole lot easier to do it this way. This is mostly a convenience for the participants, but it also works well for the team members putting on the workshop.

2. The living situation is that you will share a room with another person of the same sex - not your spouse if you go with your spouse. Why? The teachings of the weekend are very much based on the importance of building community to further God's kingdom on earth. The idea of placing you with someone to get to know is a part of that process - so pack separate bags if you are going with your spouse.

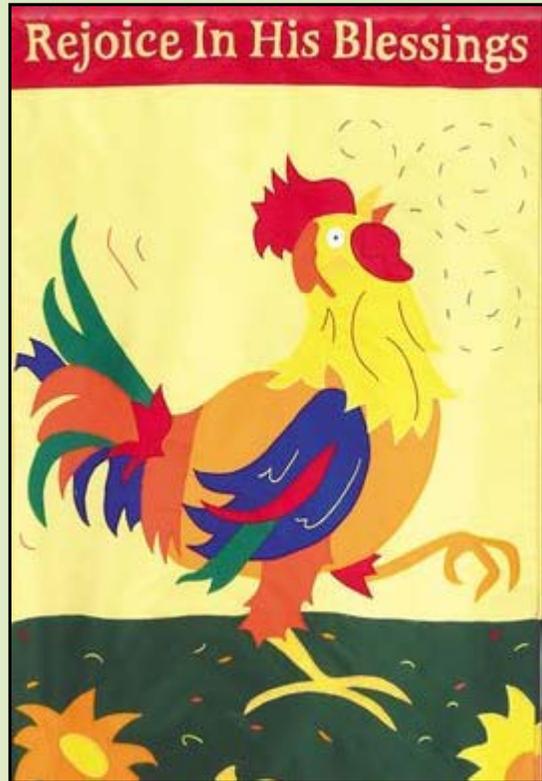
3. The weekend begins on Thursday evening - we have a few activities that take place on Thursday evening (introductory activities), then a couple of events that take place in the Chapel (meditations, Stations of the Cross). After that we begin a "Silent Retreat." We ask you to practice silence from the close of Thursday evening's activities until silence is broken with a Eucharist before breakfast on Friday morning.

4. Leaving Time on Sunday (after a Closing Eucharist) will be somewhere around 5 p.m. Your sponsors should be there to make sure you have a way home and are taken care of.

5. We have a motto on Cursillo weekends - "All may, some should, none must." You need to know that you will never be asked to do something you do not want to do. This is a participatory weekend, but we want you to want to participate. It is fine to say "No thanks - I don't wish to do that."

6. This can be a physically challenging experience. We try to make sure you are comfortable in the "Talk Room" and in the sleeping rooms, and in the Chapel, and the dining room - but it is basically a 7 a.m. in the morning day until 9 or 10 at night day. We do try to get some free time and "down time" for you in the afternoons, but the days are full.

7. You may have discerned an air of secrecy amongst folks who have attended prior weekends: This is not the aim of the weekend, and it is our aim that you should feel comfortable about knowing what you need to know about the weekend to feel more comfortable about attending. We ask folks who have participated on an earlier weekend to make sure that all your questions are answered. If that doesn't happen for you, the Secretariat (the governing body of Cursillo in WNC) invites you to contact them directly. **(Continued on Page 5)**



## A Note To Fellow Cursillistas

My *Forward Day-By Day* reading recently contained a reference to the Book of James, 2:26: "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

I draw much of my energy and visions of "what could be" from a life that seems to have been repeatedly rattled (and over time, weakened, and then renewed and strengthened) — while pursuing a path of assisting others and their ambitions and needs, as I've repeatedly found myself "off-the-path that was prepared for me."

Cursillo #102 is scheduled for October 13, 14, and 15. The first Team Meeting for Cursillo #102 was this past Saturday at St. Timothy's in Lexington. There are 21 Team Members. Before Cursillo #102 is fulfilled, we can expect that there are well over 100 hours contributed by many of the Team Members.

Does your Parish have a newsletter, and is there an entry in it for Cursillo #102?

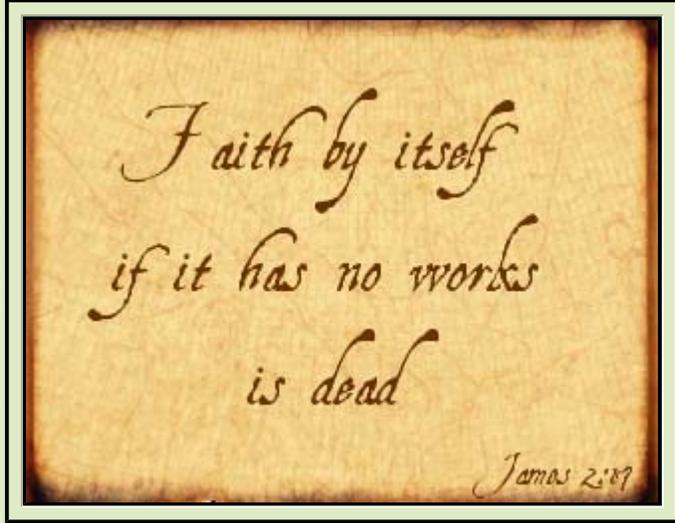
Have you drafted (we can edit anything you submit) an entry to *The Fourth Day Newsletter* on how you live — and contribute daily — to your *Fourth Day*, or is this being put-off, and "someone else's job?"

To paraphrase Steve Jobs, of Apple Computer, who certainly drew us much closer as a "world of humanity" — through new and enhanced communications, "If this is the last day of your life, are you doing today what you believe you want to be remembered contributing?"... and when this life is over, with all that we've each been given — what will each of us tell God we didn't have time to do, to contribute, or finish?

We need your thoughtful submissions for the next issue of *The Fourth Day* by September 15th, and we need your Parish's Cursillo #102 Applications by October 1st.

"Quite often we look but don't see." — Mother Teresa

Sid Chadwick — Cursillo 100, St. Peter's Table, St. Clement's, Clemmons, NC



## Cursillo #102 Team Members

<u>Member</u>	<u>Parish</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Parish</u>
Tom Ham	St. Thomas Episcopal, Reidsville	David Cole	Christ Episcopal, Martinsville, VA
Mary Ham	St. Thomas Episcopal, Reidsville	Mary Beth Masline	St. Mark's Episcopal, Huntersville
Betty Melchert	St. Thomas Episcopal, Reidsville	Richard Masline	St. Mark's Episcopal, Huntersville
Martha Balsley	St. Thomas Episcopal, Reidsville	Edna Otterbourg	St. Andrew's Episcopal, Charlotte
Laura Felts	St. Thomas Episcopal, Reidsville	Elizabeth Thompson	St. Andrew's Episcopal, Charlotte
Chris Hicks	St. Thomas Episcopal, Reidsville	Ruth Alden	St. Andrew's Episcopal, Charlotte
Jan Millar	All Saints' Episcopal, Concord	Ray Rogister	St. Michael's Episcopal, Tarboro
Dave Millar	All Saints' Episcopal, Concord	Sid Chadwick	St. Clement's Episcopal, Clemmons
Jeanne deWard	St. Paul's Episcopal, Cary	Robert Selby	St. Clement's Episcopal, Clemmons
Earl Barber	St. Paul's Episcopal, Cary	Deacon Jane Holmes	S. Regional Deacon, Diocesan Staff
Jeri Jeffries	St. Paul's Episcopal, Cary	Rev. Mary Stebbins	St. Timothy's Episcopal, Wilson
Genny Hinkle	Ascension Episcopal, Advance		

## The Cursillo Movement: What It Is, & What It Is Not

### A Sponsors Responsibility Workshop

The Following is a brief summary regarding our roles as a sponsor within the Cursillo Community. Now, let's start off with a simple quiz:

- Where do all the good people go? They go to Heaven.
- Where do all the bad people go? They go to Hell.
- Where do all the very, bad people go? They go to a Cursillo Weekend to get Zapped.

This can also be referred to as the "problem case approach." It is done with the belief that the Cursillo weekend can make a Christian out of someone that no one else has been able to convert. In addition, the Cursillo weekend is neither a cure-all for personal problems or a place to produce leaders for other movements or organizations. Pastors sometimes use Cursillo for recruiting workers for the parish. When we bring candidates to a weekend with this premise they still experience the mountain-top high. But, it quickly wains and the candidate either never becomes active in the community through 4th day and Ultreya, or they drop away quickly because they never had the support needed to make the success of the weekend carry over to the rest of their lives.

In order to be an effective disciple of God and bring candidates into the Cursillo movement that will continue to spread the Good News on earth, it is vital to the movement that we understand what Cursillo is. Depending on the literature you read, there are a number of definitions for the purpose of the Cursillo Movement. If we examine them all we can get a much richer meaning to the true purpose of Cursillo:

- In the Leaders' Manual (page 13) it states: "The purpose (or goal) of the movement is to make Christian community possible in the neighborhoods, parishes, work situations and other places where people live the greater part of their lives. It makes possible for anyone in the world to live a Christian life in a natural way."
- Again on page 65 of the Leaders' Manual, it lists the purpose of the Cursillo Movement as: "The leavening of environments with the Gospel."
- A definition given in "The fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement (page 51)" states: "Since it is a movement of the church, the Cursillo Movement has the same apostolic purpose as the church herself. And the Church, as Pope Paul VI told us, exists to evangelize."
- Again on page 53 it states: "The Cursillo movement is a movement of the church which by means of its own method, makes it possible for people to live what is fundamental for being a Christian, and to live it together; it helps people discover and fulfill their personal vocations, and promotes the creation of core groups of Christians who leaven their environments with the Gospel." These "core groups" are now referred to as "Environmental Groups."



Now if we discern these various definitions, their words may differ, but their ideas remain the same. The Cursillo Movement is focused to help each of us fulfill our baptismal responsibilities: to go forth, as apostles, and proclaim the Gospel. We cannot and must not sit passively by and hope the world will come to know Christ. We must make a continuous effort to tell the world about Christ. Knowing and understanding the purpose of Cursillo will enable us to more fully understand the purpose of sponsoring candidates. As we examine our world around us there are two additional items which we need to be aware of:

"We are a Communal People" if we examine the root of the word Religion, it means "Relationship." These relationships are the interaction of two or more people. Our lives are filled with relationships in school, family reunions, church, vocations, work, etc. Social, Civic and Political involvement's are areas of environments which depend on relationships.

"We are a teamwork People" as we grew up, we all learned the value of teamwork. Whether on a sports team, academic competition, or serving in the military, We soon began to realize that by working as a team the results were much greater than the sum of their components. Christ himself realized this and encouraged us to work as a team. From the Gospel of Matthew 18:19-20

"Amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them."

*Submitted by Rev. Bob Thomas - NC Episcopal Cursillo (NEC) Spiritual Advisor, from the National Cursillo Newsletter*

## A Closer Look At A Cursillo Weekend (Continued from Page 2)

8. There is a "Follow Up Program" called Group Reunions & Ultreya. These were developed by the founders of the movement to help Christians see that their calling as Christians is much more easily accomplished when "two or three are gathered" in the Lord's name.

Need more information?

Visit the North Carolina Episcopal Cursillo Website: [www.nccursillo.org](http://www.nccursillo.org)

Visit the National Episcopal Cursillo Website: [www.episcopalcursillo.org](http://www.episcopalcursillo.org)

*This article was originally published in "For the Highland Episcopalian" and written by Nina Jo Moore.*

For more information about NC Episcopal Cursillo, email the Lay Director, Calvin E. Hefner at [calvin@calvinehefner.com](mailto:calvin@calvinehefner.com).

## Sponsoring Is Recruiting, But Recruiting Is Not Sponsoring

What is the right way for a new Cursillo to go about bringing others to the Cursillo movement? I think most of us want to share the experience we have had with everyone we know and try to put applications in the hands of all. The Cursillo Movement has a concept of "sponsorship" that is much more than simply signing up folks and dumping them on the doorstep at St. John's on the Thursday of Cursillo. No, sponsorship is an extended, intimate process over time with important things to do before, during and after the Cursillo. Fruitful sponsorship brings to life the Cursillo phrase of "make a friend; be a friend; bring a friend to Christ" and depends on the small group reunion as a key factor in sponsorship.

Our phrase says to bring a friend to Christ, not bring a friend to Cursillo. The three day Cursillo is just one facet of a complete method of sponsorship. Fortunately, the Cursillo Movement has a great deal of experience in this area and has provided us with books and other materials to assist us. The Cursillo Movement, like the Catholic Church itself, provides us with much wisdom and sources of formation in the Cursillo Method. Instead of relying on our own instincts and "inspirations" we can depend on the Movement for sound Cursillo formation, just as we can depend on the Catholic Church for sound spiritual formation. The "official" Cursillo publication, a book entitled *Lower Your Nets*, is addressed to those, who in joy and fear, have heard the call of the Lord, and ask: "What must I do?" page 7. (Page references are to *Lower Your Nets*.)

The issue that we want to focus on in this article is sponsorship.

Some of the discussion below out of *Lower Your Nets* may sound like selection of candidates is the subject. It is not selection though, it is sponsorship. What we must do is consider the following Cursillo teaching from the perspective of what we as sponsors must do.

"Some believe that once a person is gotten to a Cursillo their responsibility ends, and now all depends on the Cursillo itself.... Only when the candidate has been successfully incorporated into the postcursillo community can the cycle of our concern be closed." page 7. Remember those simple slogan we all heard during the Evangelization Rollo at "our" Cursillo: "make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ" and "speak to God about the person before speaking to the person about God"? Well, that is the core of our precursillo and sponsorship efforts.

Sponsorship is way more than recruiting, just as the Cursillo Movement is much more than numbers of people. Cursillo is all about transforming environments, by providing the backbone for Christian life, right? page 20. Then it should make sense that the sponsorship of a candidate should tie in somehow to the conversion and transformation of some environment. Simple head counts or numbers are not part of that equation. (Continued on Page 6)

**"Fruitful sponsorship brings to life the Cursillo phrase of 'make a friend; be a friend; bring a friend to Christ' and depends on the small group reunion as a key factor in sponsorship."**

## Sponsoring Is Recruiting, But Recruiting Is Not Sponsoring (Continued from Page 5)

The Cursillo Sponsor's Booklet at pages 15 and 16 identifies types of potential candidates:

- "Those who cannot or should not go: individuals who have psychological or emotional disorders or who have a deep moral, drug or drinking problem.
- "Those who can go: simply anyone who is eligible to receive the Sacraments, the ordinary Catholic trying to live the Catholic life as best they know how.
- "Those who ought to go: individuals who are truly the backbone of their environments; have a deep personality and are able to make their own decisions and are interiorly motivated; and are mature, responsible, concerned about social conditions of our times and have the ability (and desire) to live in and for community (in short natural leaders)."

Once again, the quotes above may seem to be focused on the quality or suitability of candidates when in reality the focus is on the quality of sponsorship. "[T]he work of members of Group Reunions, who in their personal contact discover potential candidates and prepare them, until they too are situated in Group Reunions"? Page 2. Sponsors are to discover potential candidates and prepare them. But the job does not stop there. How long is the sponsor to prepare the candidate? "Until they too are situated in Group Reunions."

Just as this short article cannot provide all of the guidance that a Cursillista needs in order to properly sponsor a candidate, the books discussed in this article likewise cannot provide all that a sponsor needs. Where else should the sponsor turn for guidance, inspiration and help in the precursillo effort?

*Lower Your Nets* urges that the precursillo plan "... be formed in common, in the midst of a Group Reunion." Page 37. By "... acting in common in a Group Reunion... we take proper counsel." Page 38. When we look at the format for the Group Reunion, this concept of our sponsorship and evangelization efforts being grounded in that small Christian community makes all the more sense.

The Cursillo Movement provides us with tremendous support, guidance and know-how not only in the important area of precursillo but also in all other areas of the Movement. We do not have to go it alone or try to figure out things for ourselves. In fact if we do try to go it without turning to these resources we are ignoring the "formation leg" of the tripod of Christian life. If you do not have a Sponsor's Booklet ask about it at your Group Reunion, at an Ultreya or contact me or any Cursillista who attends the School of Leaders.

Every Cursillista who sponsors a candidate is sort of like a godparent to the person and has a responsibility to that candidate before, during and (especially) after the Cursillo. The Sponsors' Booklet will help you greatly. If you really want to do a great job in sponsorship, read *Lower Your Nets* too. It is a real eye opener.

*Jack Forsyth (Submitted by Rev. Bob Thomas - NC Episcopal Cursillo Spiritual Advisor)*

### The Cursillo Sponsor

The Cursillo Sponsor is a person who signs the application of a Cursillo candidate. Sometimes the Sponsor is like an early American trapper, who went out into the mountains to "bag" an animal. There are some cursillistas who are very proud of the number of people whose applications they have signed – as Sponsor. Their achievement is self-measured in the number. For many, being a Sponsor is a matter of completing the formal requirement of getting somebody to the weekend. The truth is that one does not need training for that!

The best parallel is to baptism. In the Episcopal baptismal service two titles are used for the same person(s): Sponsor, and Godparent.

The parallel is intentional! In the ancient church, a proper baptismal sponsor verified that the baptismal candidate was truly committed to the life and ministry of the church of Jesus Christ. In those days, Christianity was illegal, and new members might be police spies. A new person might be trying to arrest Christians and have them thrown to death in the Roman arenas. So, a sponsor had to make a judgment about the baptismal candidate and his/her faith.

**(Continued on Page 7)**

**"In the ancient church, a proper baptismal sponsor verified that the baptismal candidate was truly committed to the life and ministry of the church of Jesus Christ."**

## The Cursillo Sponsor *(Continued from Page 6)*

Was this person honest, and ready for baptism? That is the same spiritual judgment which the Cursillo movement hopes a sponsor will exercise – is this person spiritually ready? After baptism, the Godparent is expected to help the newly-baptised person grow spiritually; it is an on-going responsibility. Cursillo sponsors are expected to have the same type of on-going responsibility for the spiritual growth of the new Cursillista – in the style of Cursillo spirituality.

Cursillo spirituality is based on the practice of seeking to understand the Christian world view, apply it to the contemporary world, and share the insights and struggles of that practice with other people of faith. It is the practice of making faith active in the world of the believer. Why does our secretariat ask people to have "Sponsor Training" before being a Sponsor? Because we need to be reminded of the responsibilities of a sponsor, and talk about how to live as a sponsor over the extended time of a new cursillista's growth into Cursillo spirituality.

*John Rawlinson (Submitted by Rev. Bob Thomas - NC Episcopal Cursillo Spiritual Advisor)*

## "Live in the Sunshine" — The National Episcopal Cursillo Conference

The National Episcopal Cursillo Conference will be held October 27-30, 2011 in Phoenix, Arizona. This year's theme is "Live in the Sunshine." The Keynote Speaker is the Rt. Rev. Dorsey Henderson, retired Bishop of Upper South Carolina.

Four workshops will be held: Fourth Day First, Revitalizing/Restarting your Movement, Clergy-Recruitment of Clergy and the Role in both weekend and Fourth Day, and "What would Jesus Tweet?"

An ECLW, Episcopal Cursillo Leaders Workshop, will be held on October 27 and 28 at times so that no one misses any of the workshops. The ECLW is an important learning experience for anyone who is interested in becoming a leader in the Cursillo Movement.

At the Conference you will find the following: Community, Fellowship, Networking, Small Groups, Old Friends, New Friends, Business Sessions, Workshops, Worship, Music and Breaking Bread Together.

If you have not attended an NEC Conference, this may be your time. If you have any questions, contact Calvin E Hefner, NCEC Secretariat Lay Director and Southeast Region Layman Representative on the National Episcopal Cursillo Committee at 704-574-0545 or go online to the NEC website to register at: [www.episcopalcursillo.org](http://www.episcopalcursillo.org).



## North Carolina Episcopal Cursillo Secretariat Calendar 2011

**Secretariat meeting** - September 3, All Saints Episcopal, Greensboro

**Secretariat meeting** - October 1, All Saints Episcopal, Greensboro (Elect Secretariat Members)

**Cursillo #102** - October 13-16, 2011, Camp Walter Johnson

**Fourth Day Seminar & 35th Year Grand Ultreya Celebration** - November 12, 2011, All Saints Episcopal, Greensboro

**Secretariat meeting** - December 3, All Saints Episcopal, Greensboro (Welcome and Orientation of Secretariat Members)

## North Carolina Episcopal Cursillo – Secretariat 2011

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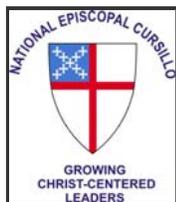
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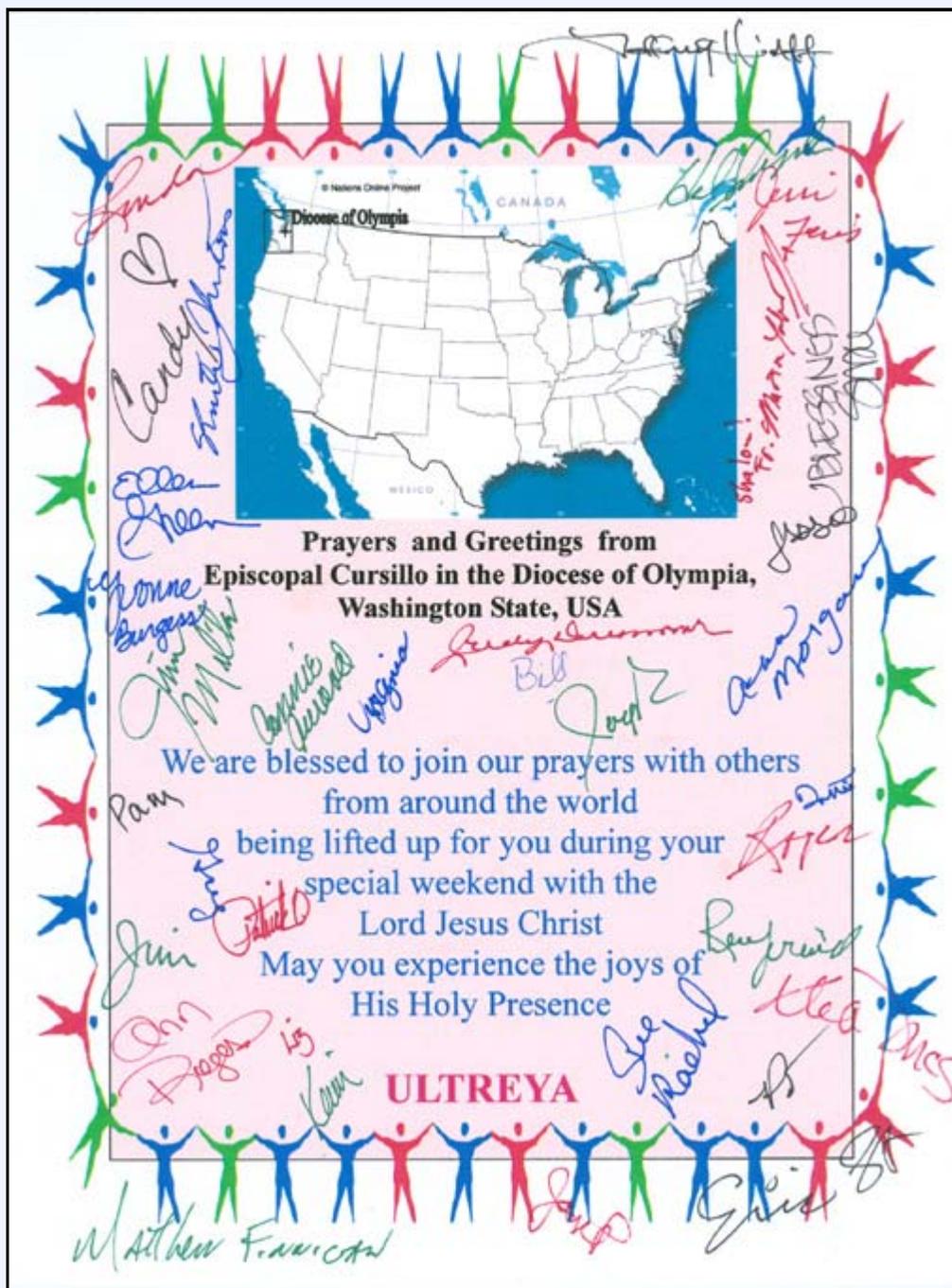
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Feel free to contact us with comments and/or suggestions for future newsletters. If you would like to add a name to this newsletter's mailing list or correct an address, please contact Sid Chadwick.

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NOTES FROM AFAR...



**NOTES FROM AFAR...***De Colores*

As your weekend unfolds there are many people upholding you with their prayers, presence, and palanca.

This is a very special time for each of you. Every one of you will experience Gods Grace in different ways as you encounter Christ this weekend.

Each and every one of you are unique in our Lords eyes and are truly blessed and surrounded by His the unconditional Love.

It is our prayer that you will experience our Lord Jesus Christ and His abundant Love as He wraps His arms around each of you this weekend.

May God's grace and Love enfold you, grow in you, and shine through you as you spread His Love to others around you.

*Cristo of Minnesota*

**NOTES FROM AFAR...**

Whalley Abbey, Lancashire, UK

*Greetings from the Diocese of Blackburn UK*

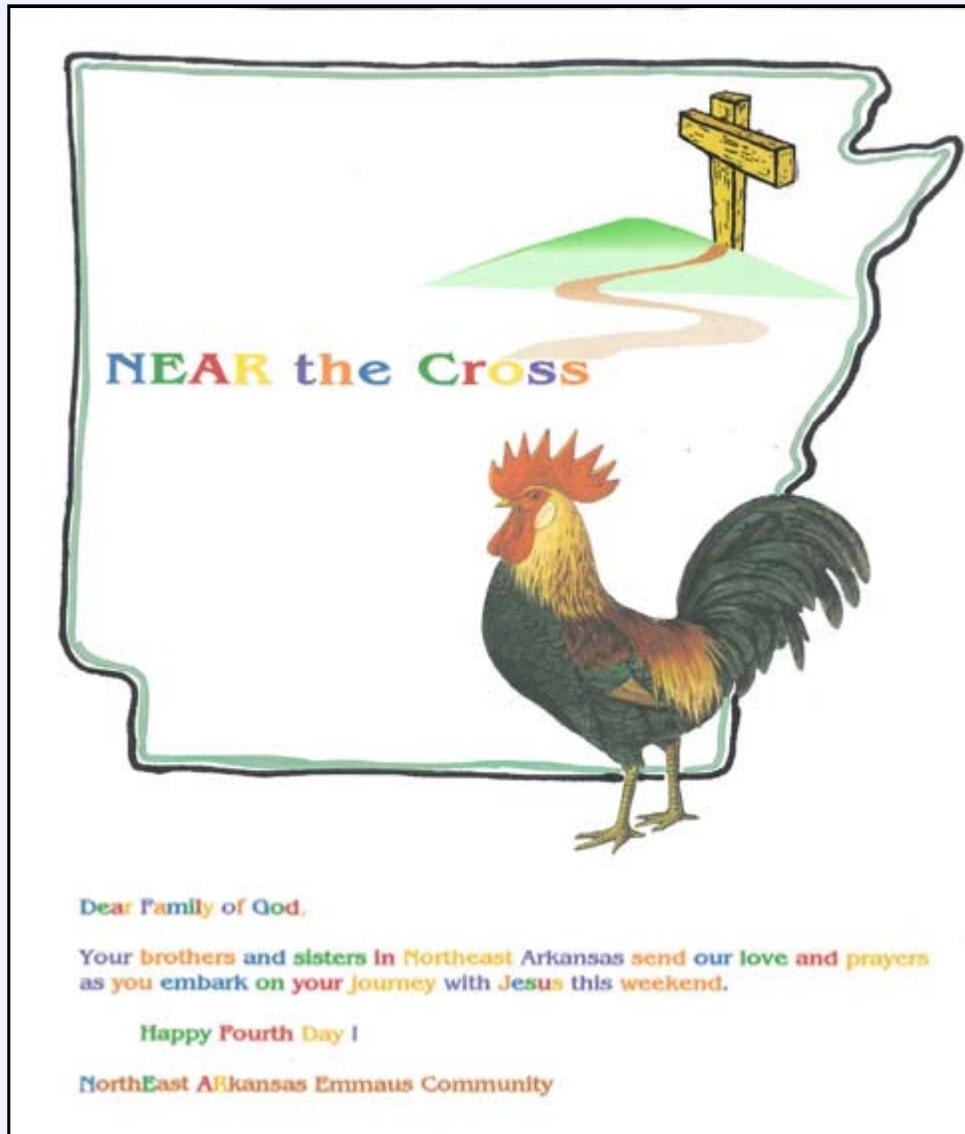
*Give thanks to the Lord  
Almighty, because he is good  
and his love is eternal.*

*Jeremiah 33 v11*

*De Colores,  
Our thoughts and prayers are with  
you all. From your Brothers and  
Sisters in Christ.*



## NOTES FROM AFAR...



**NOTES FROM AFAR...****GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES**

May your hearts be opened to the many gifts God has for you. May you be filled to overflowing with His love and grace.

**DE COLORES**

Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida