



EPISCOPAL  
CURSILLO  
MINISTRY

# 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY MAGAZINE

GROWING CHRIST-CENTERED LEADERS

Summer 2018

## PAUSE FOR PRAYER



.Many years ago, while living in Phoenix, Arizona, I was the human mommy to a Golden Retriever, Tally, and a jet black Labrador, Shadow. There were both desperately loved, well trained, obedient, well mannered, a pleasure to be around, and a delight to take anywhere on or off leash. They were very special.

One Sunday morning, at my church, it came time in the service to invite corporate prayer. There were the normal requests seeking prayer for an aging grandmother, a family member facing surgery, someone needing help in job-hunting, and so on. One young lady tentatively spoke up, "My dog Kiley has valley fever and is seriously ill; please pray for his recovery," The prayer session continued and included a petition for Kiley's well being.

Later that same day when I was preparing the food bowl for Tally and Shadow, as usual they sat quietly until I placed the bowls on the floor and gave them the signal that, "It's yours." But this day something made me stop. I knelt down and took one paw from Tally and one paw from Shadow. Then I prayed – from their point of view - "Dear Lord, thank you for Momma Jas, thank you for all your animals, please heal Kiley, thank you for our food. Amen."

Tally and Shadow were not phased by this intercession. Their paws were returned to them and I said, "It's yours." Without fuss they proceeded to eat their dinner. Nice one.

Next morning, I prepared their bowls for breakfast. The bowls were placed on the floor, and the usual invitation given, "It's yours." Tally approached his bowl and ate. Shadow remained in situ and raised her paw. Literally, she invited me

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to pray!!! So, I took her paw, saying, "Thank you for my food. Amen." Then, Shadow was quite ready to eat.

*Paws for Prayer!*



*From KIWI CURSILLO The magazine for the New Zealand Anglican Cursillo by Jasmine, Registrar – Waikoto/Taranaki Combined Cursillo.*

## ***What are some of the things Cursillo has meant to me?***

*A closer walk with Christ*

*The assurance of God's unconditional love*

*Taking time to reflect and focus on WWJD*

*Time shared with others that want to praise and worship Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior*

*Learning what is really important*

*Taking time to enjoy what we have right now*

*Building a community*

*Witnessing a community being built*

*Deep long-lasting relationships that build with each, "Ultreya", each "Day of deeper*

*Understanding", each annual meeting, all the potlucks, breaking bread together, every*

*weekend, every team, every closing, every group reunion, every new experience*

*Learning to be grateful for the gift of forgiveness of myself and others*

*Using social media to build and share our connections with Christ and others*

*Feeling the satisfaction of giving freely and freely giving*

*Holding each other accountable for piety, study and action*

*Witnessing miracles and knowing who is responsible*

*Sharing our faith, prayers, hope and love with others*

*Trying to be a good example for our world*

*Seeing the angels God sends in difficult times and recognizing them.*

*Knowing that being in the Word is necessary for our growth*

*Knowing I don't have to be perfect*

*I COULD go on and on. Just remember the gifts you have received. Is there someone you know that deserves this renewal with Christ in their lives ? ULTREYA*

*From THE TRIPOD newsletter of the Massachusetts Cursillo by Karen Conley, Member of the Secretariat of the Massachusetts Cursillo community*

## **From the Editor**

I had the privilege of attending the Episcopal Revival at General Convention in Austin. Maybe some of you who are reading this did as well. What a special night with the Presiding Bishop Michael Curry preaching in his usual dynamic style about Jesus and love. Two points struck me. The person who was translating the sermon into Spanish was as dynamic in her movements and facial expression as he was. The two were a team working as one. It was a graphic illustration of how Christians spread the Good News better when working in teams. And doesn't Cursillo encourage us to team up in Group Reunions and Ultreyas and in group action. Together we grow better at sharing that wonderful news of the Gospel. The other highlight was his closing directive "Go from this place as people of Jesus. Go from this place as people of love! Go from this place and heal our lands! Go from this place and heal our world! Go from this place until justice rolls down! Go from this place until the nightmare is over! Go from this place until God's dream is realized! Go from this place and help us live!". What a perfect send off at the end of a Cursillo weekend. ULTREYA!!!



***From the president***

## ***A Call to Ministry***

Through our Baptismal Covenant, we are all called to ministry. Besides the obvious times at our worship services and in our adult formation classes, we have heard this many times in our Cursillo lives. It is part of the key element in the Cursillo method, Action. Thus, Cursillistas are widely known for their service within their parishes and communities.

The Cursillo Community — within parishes, through dioceses, and nationally from the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee (ECMC) — is also known for the support and encouragement it offers to those who are reaching out to serve and bring others to Christ. This forms a relationship that requires communication and interaction between all levels to be effective. We always pray for each other, but we also must meet with each other to form a stronger support system to make our Christian ministry more powerful. That's why we have Reunion Groups to encourage individual action, Ultreyas to enrich and challenge a local community, and the Episcopal Cursillo Conference to share ideas, worship, and mission.

Thus, we are pleased that the Diocese of Texas and the Houston Cursillo Community will be hosting us at the **2018 Episcopal Cursillo Conference on October 19-20**. The theme will be "Church Outside the Box." Workshops will present ministries of many types that bring the church out of "box" of its building to address the needs of the surrounding world. This will be our annual opportunity to meet face to face and get to know each other better. This will be our time to share the joys that we have found through Cursillo. Registration on-line will begin soon — watch for announcements.

The annual Conference is also when representatives from each region are elected and commissioned to serve on the ECMC. These representatives are the key link between all Cursillo Dioceses. They are the ones who try to maintain our national relationship with each other. They are also the ones who develop publications, communication tools, and education programs. And, as an all volunteer group, they cover all logistical and administrative functions that hold us together. Representatives are important to Cursillo and they have a big job.

At this time, one-third of the ECMC Representative slots are vacant. This leaves all the work of the Ministry to be done by only a few. Although we try to cover for the unfilled positions, we recognize that some diocese are not served like they need to be. We see the impact this has and yet can do little. **Representatives are recruited, nominated, and selected by Secretariats and their communities.** Without their support and local contacts, the amount we can do to fill positions will remain limited. **How long has it been since your region has nominated a candidate to serve on the ECMC?**

We're trying new ideas to be more helpful. At last year's Conference, At-Large Representative positions were approved. These were designed to allow people with specific skill sets — electronic and written communications, program development, etc. — to help the Committee complete its tasks effectively. Each region will still have a clergy and lay representative, but the At-Large Representative might come from anywhere. The five positions will be phased in over the next three years. Like the current Representatives, these new ECMC members will support their assigned diocese and — with their important skills — serve on a sub-committee.

But, you say, I'm not sure I am ready to take on that type of commitment. Yet, I still have skills and good ideas. I want to help Cursillo thrive. You might consider becoming part of a Sub-Committee Servant Community. These meet on-line about once a month along with ECMC members to work on the specific sub-committee projects. The ECMC Sub-Committees projects are:

- Communications — Support the website, develop and produce the email newsletter, support the Fourth Day Magazine, answer the phone and maintain the system, develop new ways to communicate.
- Publications — Update and revise current publications, develop new education and support materials.
- Cursillo Leadership Development — Track the health of each Cursillo Diocese, support and update the Episcopal Cursillo Leaders Workshop\*, support the Cursillo Leadership Development Fund\*\* and evaluate Fund applications, develop new leadership support programs.

If you want to hear more about becoming involved with the ECMC as a Representative or Sub-Committee Servant Community member, please contact your regional representative. Or, you may email me directly at [hfduff@gmail.com](mailto:hfduff@gmail.com). I will give you more information and guide you through the process of joining us. Please make your contacts before September 15 so that there is time to prepare for the election. It is recommended that you attend the Conference if at all possible.

There is also one more unique opportunity. For those who have helped present the Episcopal Cursillo Leaders Workshop in the past or those who have attended the ECLW and would like to become a presenter for your region, there will be a one time only **ECLW Train the Trainer Workshop on Thursday October 18 prior to the Conference in Houston. This one-day training lead by Nina-Jo Moore is free for those who attend.** For more information and the application, contact Judy Brown at [jbrown3944@aol.com](mailto:jbrown3944@aol.com). Spend an extra day at the Conference; help Cursillo communities and leaders grow in ministry!

Now is the time for a specific call to ministry — a call to strengthen the Cursillo Ministry so that all Cursillistas may continue their work and so that new generations may take their place in the Jesus Movement. This call is for us to work together. We need each other. The ECMC needs to hear from individuals, parishes, and dioceses. It needs for you to actively engage with us. As we build our Ministry relationship — our connectedness — with each other, we will be able to move forward to fulfill our call to ministry.

Harriet Duff  
2018 Episcopal Cursillo Ministry President

\* *Has your diocese or Secretariat hosted a Episcopal Cursillo Leaders Workshop (ECLW) lately? There are funds available to help underwrite this valuable resource.*

\*\* *Has your diocese or Secretariat applied for a grant from the Cursillo Leadership Development Fund? This fund uses annual diocesan contributions to support local ECLW's and local projects designed for community renewal.*

## A LOOK IN THE MIRROR



As we each attended our Cursillo Weekends, be it #1 or #142, most of us became acutely aware of the strong 'community' of Cursillo. It was a community open to hugs, laughter, tears of emotion, and available to each other for encouragement in our renewed walk with Christ. Greetings of 'De Colores' were heard anywhere two or more Cursillistas were gathered. 4<sup>th</sup> Day Groups were formed and many went on for years and are still going. Tight bonds, and lifelong friendships, were formed. As many of us attended Ultreyas, worked weekends, and attended Clausuras, it felt like coming home to family.

Many times, when people enter a close-knit family, they feel as an outsider would. They don't know everyone, the 'back-stories', the history that has gone on before. They are an outsider, and usually hope to become part of the established circle. Occasionally families can be so close, they seem unwelcome to newcomers. Not that they seek to exclude, but are perhaps unaware of behavior that does not welcome.

I have recently heard of a few stories that concern me. One story came from a couple that have not attended a weekend. Their impression was that Cursillo is an exclusive clique. 'Members' only talk to or sit with other 'members' on the church patio, or similar scenarios. If approached, the talk is only of Cursillo events, which they do not understand. Not that they were not invited to attend a weekend, but only if they did attend a weekend, would they be welcome to fellowship with other Cursillistas. They did not know if they wanted to be that cliquish.

Other experiences actually happened to newer Cursillistas at a Cursillo function, where those who have been around a long time did not seem to be welcoming to others trying to join a casual discussion. Discussion stopped when

approached, and no invitation to 'join us' came. In one situation, there was a language difference, but not the case in all.

My invitation to each of us is to 'look in the mirror' and ask ourselves if we have ever witnessed these behaviors, or even, unintentionally, been a participant. Have each of us been as loving, welcoming, and neighborly to everyone, whether part of the 'family' or not? Is our behavior such that encourages others to want to participate in Cursillo? Have we welcomed the newer Cursillistas to be active on weekends, Ultreyas, grouping, and just casual events? Have we treated them as an integral part of a weekend team, in whatever capacity God has called them to serve? Do we sit with only those from our own church at Ultreyas? Have we ever intentionally sat with those sisters and brothers whom we may not know? Have we invited those without a group to join your group, no matter how long you have been together, or the size of a group?

This message comes out of love for the Cursillo community, and the desire for it to be a witness of God's love. There is no *them* and *us*, *inner circle* and *outsiders*. Old timers give us experience, newbies bring the future and a fresh perspective to help us all share God's love. We are all children of God and he loves each of us equally. As a reflection of His love, should we do any less? Blessings, Kit

*From FORWARD newsletter of the Episcopal Cursillo of the Diocese of San Diego by Kit Chevalier, President of the Secretariat.*

# The BIC Pen Caper

By: Jack Foster

Many of you know how much I love BIC pens. You know, the four-color ones. Mostly I use black and blue, with a little green and red. When I run out of the two main colors, I save the green and red for Christmas and stuff like that. I particularly like BIC because I can add information to documents, and color it based on my interest or whose idea it was.

One day several months ago I bought a package of 2-3 new ones. When I got home I was upset that they were something new – BIC “shorties”, about 2/3 as long as the regular pens. I was really aggravated – less ink, and they didn’t feel good in my hand! You know, major issues! Because I’m cheap, I used them anyway.

A couple months later, when I went out to buy some more, I made sure they were the regular size. Much to my surprise, I didn’t like them anymore! They were too long, and didn’t fit well in my hand.



It was the same problem as before, but in reverse. As you can imagine, after a few weeks I was happy with them, but will always check when I buy more that they aren’t “shorties”.

Well, what’s the point of all this? Maybe it’s that sometimes it’s not easy to recognize the good or bad in change, especially when our emotions are involved. What’s comfortable to us may not always be right. And what’s uncomfortable at first can quickly feel okay. If we slip away into habits that are not pleasing to our Lord, we may not always see it. The age-old adage that you can’t rely on emotions may fit in too. Or that it’s easy to slip into something that’s not healthy, then keep

slipping step by step without realizing it. Hmmm, maybe that’s how I’ve gained 8 pounds since Thanksgiving!

And maybe it means that when the Lord is encouraging a change in our lives, it may not feel so good at first, but may be the best thing for us. I had a recent experience when I finally gave up watching a TV show I enjoyed but knew wasn’t helpful for me. I don’t miss it now, but did at first.

So, we need a standard to help set our ways, no matter how our emotions and circumstances change. As Christians we look to the Bible, the teachings of the church, and the fellowship of brothers and sisters in the Lord. And as Cursillistas, we sustain ourselves through our fourth day activities – piety, study, apostolic action, and the fellowship of reunion and ultreya

But there may be another point. Everything in our lives changes. If you like it, it changes. If you don’t like it, it changes. Everything changes. Our moods change, our circumstances change, our emotions change. Only our Lord’s love holds firm. In Jesus Christ, we see our past, our present, and our future as bathed in his unchanging love. He may not always be there the way we expect, but he will be there!

But wait a minute! Just as I was writing this article, things unexpectedly changed. My wife’s car was hit by a car leaving a parking area. No one was hurt, but the two doors on the passenger side of her car were badly damaged. Things have changed, and it doesn’t feel good! We’re now going through the strain of accident reports, repair estimates, responsibility, substitute transportation, and the like. Changes! Yuck!

Lord, thank you for being there as our

moods change, our circumstances change, and our lives go through their ups and downs. The Collect on March 18 speaks to this point:

“Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.”

Brothers and sisters – may we continue to live together in the joy of God’s unchanging love as we share our fourth days together. Ultreya.

*From THE TRIPOD Newsletter of the Massachusetts Cursillo Movement by Jack Foster*

## EXPLORING DOUBT

As a young woman I holidayed from time to time over on the West Coast with my fiancé’s extended family. They had the use of a large paddock from the beginning of summer through until Easter and would set up a tent city there. The workers went into town and returned each night and during the Christmas break the whole family would live there. There was a stream running through one corner of the paddock with a very deep swimming hole. Over the swimming hole there was a convenient branch on which they tied a rope so you could swing out, let go of the rope, fly through the air and drop right into the deepest part of the pool. I didn’t mind watching but there was no way I was going to have a go. I was petrified. I was not a strong swimmer and the thought of that leap was just too much.

What if I did not swing out far enough and landed in a shallow part of the hole or maybe I would swing too far and land on the other side amongst the manuka and or the rocky side of the stream so NO,NO,NO.



And even though I saw friends and relatives(to be) jump in one after another I couldn’t get rid of my doubt and fear.

I don’t regret not jumping. I made a safe decision! But I do regret not going into that deep water at the bottom, swimming down into the darkness where I could not see and exploring the dark myself. Just maybe if I explored my doubts and ventured to the bottom I would have the confidence to jump from the top.

Thinking about writing for this issue and the time it would be printed and distributed set me thinking about Easter, and about the coming Cursillo weekend in Christchurch. Many of the Pilgrims will have experienced doubt as they set out on that three-day weekend and I wondered not for the first time how Jesus might have felt in those last weeks as he travelled even closer to Jerusalem.

So, I began to think, do we explore doubt enough? As clergy (some of us) Cursillistas, leaders and people of influence do we encourage others to explore their uncertainty? Not just give people permission to doubt, not just accept their doubt but actually encourage it?

So often I think that many people believe that doubt is the opposite of faith. That when we doubt we are somehow failing

in our faith in our God. And I remember again that as that same young woman who would not jump I wrote in the margin of my Salvation Army Song Book a saying by HE Fosdick “without a certain amount of doubt there can be no faith!” And I remember that I have often thought that doubt means there is something lacking or something wrong with my character.

But the older I become and the more I read my Bible the more I see that it is full of people who doubted. A good third of the Psalms are unresolved doubt. Lamentations is an entire book letting us know of Israel’s questioning of God’s goodness in the midst of injustice and suffering. Jesus’ closest friends doubted him, even after He rose from the dead! The Bible doesn’t just tell us who God is. It lets us explore how ordinary people like you and I have tried and struggled to understand our God.

If we are honest we have all at sometime or other cried out to God perhaps calling out to him to prove his existence or even questioning His goodness. I think that God would like us to know that this doubt we feel, this uncertainty we have in dark times is incredibly human. I imagine some of us asking God to remove this doubt from our lives, when Jesus is really saying, *“head into that uncertainty ... and there you will find me even more”*.



As our faith matures we will learn not to ignore the doubt and begin to acknowledge its reality and even step into its uncertainty. It’s only when we go into the dark of the doubt ourselves and explore what is there that we begin to grow the courage and faith to make the jump.

I am afraid that doesn’t sound like a joyful Easter message. However, as we approach Easter and Holy Week I am reminded that often life seems scary, dark even

overwhelming and “too much” for us to handle. Again, I ask, how did Jesus feel in those last weeks as he drew near to Jerusalem? I am reminded that because of his determination to do the will of His Father we can be assured that our circumstances do not determine God’s presence.

God is not weakened by our weakness nor disappointed by our doubt. Instead, he is our stable place, a refuge from every storm, the strong shelter when all about is shaken and broken.

Here is a poem I found – not about jumping into a pool – even worse perhaps!

#### A CONVERSATION WITH JESUS THE JUMPMAS- TER

Skydiving?

Me?

You must be joking?

No?

You really expect me to jump out of a plane?

What do you mean, ‘Not alone?’

You would be here too?

So...

I’d be yoked within your harness

Strapped in really tightly

Enfolded in your strength

Dependent on your wisdom

Guided by your words

Relaxed by your warm laughter

empowered to take the risk

freed to soar and fly!

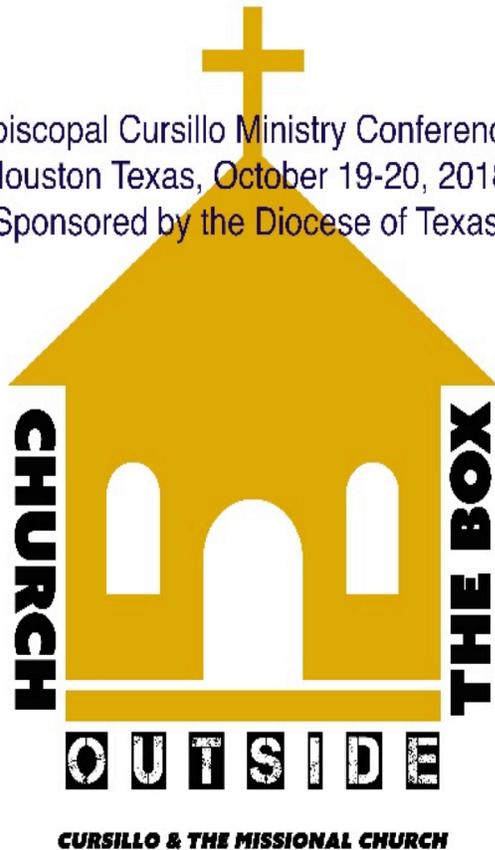
Promise you won’t drop me?

Okay, then. I’ll try!

De Colores

*From KIWI The Magazine for New Zealand Anglican Cursillo by Lynnette Lightfoot, Diocesan Spiritual Director Christchurch*

Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Conference  
Houston Texas, October 19-20, 2018  
Sponsored by the Diocese of Texas



Another exciting Cursillo conference will be held at the Christ Church Cathedral in Houston October 19 -20, 2018. Hotel space will be available at the Sam Houston Hotel.

Workshop titles include

Disney by the Rev. Genevieve Razim  
"What Disney Taught me about  
hospitality to strangers:

Tour of the Cathedral

Kairos

Share about prison ministry  
challenges

Alpha

Missional Church – Bishop's panel

Camp Allen – how it is used

Yoga Mass

Improvisational Comedy Ministry

Nested boxes

Learn how to explain and spread  
the Gospel one box at a time

Watch the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry  
website for registration forms. Conference  
is a great time to renew your energy and  
commitment and enjoy singing, study,  
workshops and friends! Plan on attending.

GOD  
PROVIDES

For I know the plans I have for you,  
declares the Lord, plans for welfare and  
not for evil, to give you a future and a  
hope. (Jeremiah 29: 11)

When you invite Jesus fully into your life,  
things start to change. Something happens  
and your heart opens and is more readily  
able to see God's grace all around, and  
soon that peace beyond all understanding  
has taken up residence in your heart.  
Deep within us, that light shines, growing  
stronger and brighter each day.

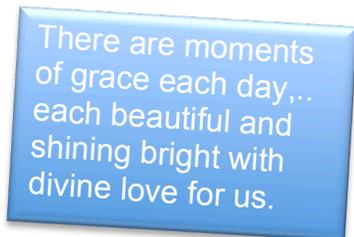
God does not promise us a life without  
strife and so each of us still experiences  
anxieties and troubles, the pain of loss,  
and the brokenness of this world. **Yet  
through it all, God Provides.** This  
provision from God is both things internal  
and things external. Internally, God

provides us the soft voice of wisdom, the call for compassion, the impulse to act in support of others. Externally God provides us the tools for life and the acting out of our mission, our purpose, in this life.

It plays out differently for everyone but here are some moments from my own journey. Have you ever had plans that just were not working out?

Years ago, Erik and I were scheduled to sing in a combined choir for Ascension Day. We had our babysitter for the kids and were on our way. One thing after another went wrong and when we paused to ask God where were supposed to be instead of that service the answer came. God put a name on our hearts and a quick phone call confirmed that we were needed at the hospital to sit with her. [God provides.](#)

Sometimes you have to provide something for your children and you are not sure how



it will be possible. It is her junior year in high school and our daughter wanted to go on a trip to Europe with her school. We wanted to send her but did not have the funds. Two days after a prayer for help, a retirement fund letter arrived and almost all of the money for that trip was there. [God provides.](#)

Employment at one place was ending; My husband, Eric, met with a friend to discuss possibilities and the next morning a perfect opportunity came up. [God provides.](#)

There are moments of grace each day, moments large and small, each beautiful and shining bright with divine love for us and for our belief in our earthly purpose. We are lovingly created by God to live, to learn, to love and to rest in the knowledge that God

Provides. So let each day be a celebration of that love, let each life be an expression of that love and let God provide for all your needs.

*From THE TRIPOD newsletter of the Massachusetts Cursillo community by Deb Fosberg, Secretariat member.*

## COUNTING ON CHRIST IN THE RACE OF LIFE

“‘Ronnie’, Christ is counting on you.”  
“You mean he’s counting on me after all the bad things I’ve done in my past?”

It was right after ‘Ronnie’ posed this question to me that it seemed time froze. Just who in the heck am I to respond to such a question. How did I end up here? This “here” is Elmore Correctional Facility in Elmore Alabama. The exchange between ‘Ronnie’ and myself took place on Sunday, August 28, 2016 and is a moment I will never forget as long as I live this life. You see, I was the weekend leader for Kairos#14 at Elmore and for those familiar with Kairos, you know it is essentially the Cursillo method-based weekend placed inside the walls and barbed wire fences of prisons all over the world. It was during the cross ceremony as the weekend was ending that ‘Ronnie’s’ wide eyes looked into mine in response to my “Christ is counting on you” statement. But before I could put the cross around his neck, he blindsided me with that question as I was anticipating the prescribed response laid out in the Kairos manual.

My Cursillo journey started with #176 when my wife Lee Anne and I were

pilgrims back in 2011. Well, actually it started years before that when members of our church who had already been through a Cursillo weekend kept badgering and peppering us with the question “So, when are you going to Cursillo?” To me, Cursillo was some sort of nifty retreat for adults at Camp McDowell that my grandmotherly aunt always talked about. She lived to be 101 and one of my proudest moments in life was letting her know I was going to Cursillo! We really had no problem at all making the decision to go. I love Camp McDowell! It holds a special place in my heart as I worked several summers there as a cabin counselor in lower camp under then directors Glen DeLong and Mark Johnson. A fun a spirit-filled weekend led by Lay Rector Sharon Benefield introduced me to this 4<sup>th</sup> Day thing. I honestly was enjoying the 3 ½ day mountain top experience and wasn’t so sure I wanted to venture out in the 4<sup>th</sup> Day quite yet.

It took a while for the meaning of it to really sink in. How can I make the world around me a better place? What could I contribute? Simple things like a smile to strangers and volunteering in different outreach programs around my church was certainly a good start but I was longing for something more. Staying involved in reunion group and Ultreya kept me close to Cursillo. I served on 2 staffs led by Lay Rectors who left quite an impression on me and their fingerprints touch the June Cursillo #213 today. My friend, Steven Hall, led #182 and emphatically stressed that the Cursillo weekend is about the pilgrims and nothing else. At #199 Andrea Peacock said we should not attempt to “fill in the pilgrim’s blanks” in a world where we find ease in making assumptions about people and, honestly, trying to “fill in the blanks”. We have no idea what our pilgrims are going through or what they are having to endure in their life. In 1 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul compares our Christian life with a race and, as such, the pilgrims, staff and you reading this are all running a spiritual marathon! He writes in verse 24 of Chapter 9, “Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize?” Paul’s message throughout this text is not saying that only one Christian will “win” salvation- just that we should

put in an much, if not more, commitment, training, temperance, endurance and self-discipline as athletes do, but do it in our own daily lives and throughout our



faith journey. I have run 5Ks, 10Ks, and marathons over the years and have wanted to quit in the middle of them. In my life marathon, I have wanted to throw my hands up and look for an

easier way out! The Apostle Paul is our Saint for the coming weekend and paraphrasing him in Hebrews he reminds us that “we must not draw back or quit!” He will also assure pilgrims and staff alike during the weekend that there is a great cloud of witnesses that surrounds us and will help us in our life event and we can thus run with perseverance the race that is set before us!

What I had longed for in my 4<sup>th</sup> Day led me to ‘Ronnie.’ So what about his question to me? ‘Ronnie’ endures a life very different from mine, a life incarcerated in the Alabama prison system. He has made some wrong decision and has hurt people in his past. But thanks to Cursillo, I got to meet ‘Ronnie’ in this 4<sup>th</sup> Day movement that inspires me to this day and going forward. My answer to his question was “Absolutely HE’s counting on you!” He responded, “Well then, I’m counting on HIM!”

Here’s to 4<sup>th</sup> Day inspiration for the pilgrims of Cursillo 213 and all Cursillos!

From VIVENCIA Newsletter of the Cursillo community in the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama by Charles McCalley, Lay Rector Cursillo 213

## Putting Jesus Up Front

Dear Cursillistas and Friends of the Cursillo Ministry,

Do you ever get the sense that God is calling you to accomplish something but you're not quite sure what that something is? Or, if you have an idea of what God may be calling you to do, you're not sure how you are going to get it done?

Well, if you have had such experiences... welcome to my world!

There has been a deep-seated need for me to better proclaim Jesus to my parish, our diocese and the greater Episcopal Church. Yet, I was uncertain how God was calling me to share this Good News. After all, Jesus was not at the tip of our tongues when it came to talking about our faith. We could easily articulate theology, liturgy and social action. Yet, when it came to naming Jesus as the reason for it all... we, as a denomination, had fallen short of putting Him up front.

That is ....until recently

Our Presiding Bishop has been heralding for our beloved Church. "The Jesus Movement." He is encouraging us all through our faith and in our action to put Jesus up front allowing Jesus to be the purpose for who we are and what we do

At our last diocesan convention, we joined with the Jesus Movement and unanimously affirmed, "We exist to make the transforming love of Jesus Christ come alive in our time and known to all people, everyone!"

I am now certain of the purposes of God for serving you in the capacity of Spiritual Director. In my humble estimation, there is no greater ministry of evangelism for putting Jesus up front than the Cursillo Ministry. By

its very nature Cursillo is all about the Fourth Day

The Fourth Day is all about changing our environments through Jesus, for Jesus and in Jesus. In short, putting Jesus up front! To this end, I endeavor to faithfully work with you.

In His Love and Service,

Father Bernie †

*From COUNTING ON YOU by Father Bernie Pecaro Spiritual Director of the Cursillo Community in Southeast Florida*

A special thanks goes out to the Cursillo communities that produce newsletters. Your articles are enriching to all who read them. Editor of the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Magazine

