



THE 4TH DAY MAGAZINE

THE PRAYER TABLE

Would you like to try an activity to expand your prayer ministry while learning to have your heart broken by what breaks the heart of God? I would suggest you try the Prayer Table. The Prayer Tables are tables set up at two locations in the vicinity of Christ Church in Schenectady, New York from 9:30—10:30 on Saturday mornings. It has been manned by Tore Bissell for more than ten years and has been an extraordinary source of blessings to both Torre and those in the neighborhood.

The method is simple. One asks whoever is walking or biking by if they would like prayer. If yes, we ask what their first name is and what they would like to pray about. We write down their names and prayer requests, pray for them, and tell them that a team of prayer warriors will continue to pray for them during the coming week. We also give them a small Cross to wear as a remembrance that they are cared about and that the Lord is walking with them. That is all there is to it!

Torre has handed out approximately 100 crosses per month by manning a table for only one hour per week! Imagine what could happen with two tables or more. Imagine how many souls would be reached if the tables were set up for more than one hour per week! Imagine what would

happen if the tables are set up at other locations!

When I first heard about the Table a year ago I said I didn't want to do it. I felt both too unspiritual and had too many fears of feeling foolish or being hurt in some way. In November, the Lord began giving me the impulse to grow and push against my boundaries of fear to grow spiritually. I have done the Prayer Table now for three months in addition to one week at a table at the City Mission of Schenectady. It was both easy and wonderful!

Believe it or not many, if not most, people who pass by respond favorably to our asking if they would like prayer. They seem genuinely happy to unburden themselves for a couple of minutes and have a friendly arm on their shoulder praying up their strength to advance in their walk with God while fighting the hard battle on the inner city streets. You will pray with many young people, many not fully dressed for the weather (we hand our gloves to many when available), who want to pray for their families, their mental health, their sobriety, their lives in general. You will get a bit of a feeling of what it is like to live in an inner city neighborhood and



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not in the suburbs. All have been courteous and polite, even those that refused prayer. And with minimal practice, it gets easier and the Lord will reward your efforts to help minister to the orphan, the widow, the lonely, the troubled; all those whom the Lord seeks as his special loved ones! You will be blessed way beyond the time and effort you expend.

From ALBANY EPISCOPAL CURSILLO NEWSLETTER by Mark Pasko

Unexpected Action



The motto of the Daughters of the King was the first thing to attract me to the Order, especially the part that says “I cannot do everything but I can do something.” I tend to think globally and think if I can't accomplish the whole thing, I shouldn't even start. But I recently got a good lesson about the fallacy in that way of thinking.

Not every dog is well suited to be a therapy dog, visiting hospitals and nursing homes. Echo doesn't seem to enjoy making the rounds to visit lots of residents at the nursing home where I go to see my friend Linda. She gets reserved after a short time and is reluctant to leave my side, so we just hang out in Linda's room.

A couple of months ago we visited and as we were leaving one of the aides asked if I'd go see a woman in the Alzheimer's unit. The woman reportedly used to raise Dobermans and had pictures of them all over her room.

I wasn't sure how Echo would react, but how could I refuse? We went to the activity room of the locked ward, where 3 or 4 residents were sitting and one woman sat in the corner with that vacant stare in her eyes.... until she spied Echo. Corky suddenly lit up, smiling and saying “My baby! What a pretty baby!” Echo ran directly to her and did a Dobie-version of a cuddle – standing as close as she could with her head on Corky's shoulder. Eventually Echo greeted the others in the room, came over and checked in with me, but then went back to the woman who needed her most.

After a bit we started to leave and with tears running down her cheeks Corky said we had made her day a happy one. That's when I got it. I can't cure dementia or make old people younger or even make my dog comfortable with visiting everyone in the nursing home. But I can make one lost little old lady's day better. That's something I can do...thank you God.

From THE LEVER newsletter of the Heartland Episcopal Cursillo by Margie Gray, St. Michael's Independence, MO

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FROM THE EDITOR

This issue reflects often on the Christian walk. We are reminded in Mother Pat's article that God's path is circuitous. The Cursillo method is one model of living our Christian Life and the path is circuitous. This walk is not for the faint hearted. Other articles point out that we need to walk with others on this Faith Journey as we learn to live a Christ centered life of Piety, Study, and Action. When we share with others about our Christian walk using the Cursillo method we can tell our authentic stories and take these stories out into the world. The concluding article by Fr. Rick Simpson highlights how we may be going astray in preparing our new Cursillistas for the walk with God – that walk which is not for the faint of heart. As you read these articles reflect on your own walk and the Cursillo movement in your diocese. Consider attending Conference where you can share concerns, blessings, and new ideas with other Cursillistas. Ultreya

**See you in Phoenix
October 27—30**



**PRESIDENT'S
LETTER**

Not for the Faint of Heart

Following where God leads us is not an easy task. God's path is often circuitous and filled with unexpected stops and starts. Yet, as disciples of Jesus Christ we are expected to take on the task of being faithful to God and God's purposes; and that is a path which many others decide not to take. Even in places where people often profess that they are Christians, we don't always see people living their faith openly and with conviction. But we are those who persist along the path even when others do not join us. We are Cursillistas -- we are those who have chosen a particular way to live out our discipleship. Cursillo is one model of living a faithful Christian life, however, it is not for the faint of heart.

Cursillo is about modeling a faithful life even when no one seems to walk with us on the journey. Some Cursillo communities have decreased in numbers and other Cursillo communities find themselves aging without young people in their midst, so what are we doing wrong? Perhaps we are not doing anything wrong.

Remember that God's path has lots of turns and stops and starts so we can't assume that the Cursillo model is not working in those places where the movement is declining in numbers. I believe that God continues to use the Cursillo model of life to equip disciples for ministry. I also believe that we are not always giving Cursillo our best efforts. For example, if you were to ask people who had attended a Cursillo weekend if they are in a group reunion, over half would say "no". If you were to ask if they attend Ultreya regularly, again most would say "no". So you see, we are not doing a very good job of

equipping those who attend a weekend to go out and live the 4th day!

The 4th day is not for the faint of heart. The 4th day is our faithful listening to God and doing what God asks us to do. The challenge before us is to help make disciples who have the stamina to live as Christ in the world. I wonder if we have somehow forgotten how to walk with others on a faith journey. So many times, people are sponsored to attend a weekend and they have no idea that they are committing to a lifelong pilgrimage which incorporates group reunion and Ultreyas, along with personal study, prayer and ministry in their home parish. We need to tell people that they are going to a Cursillo weekend

to be equipped for the rest of their life and that means a commitment to more than 3 days of rollos.

The 4th day is not for the faint of heart. The 4th day is our faithful listening to God and doing what God asks us to do.

Now is the time to show the Church that although the Cursillo 4th day is not for the faint of heart, that it is still one of the best ways to change lives and to enrich ministry in our parishes. The only way that the

Cursillo movement will work is if each of us take on the challenge of faithfully living the 4th day. When we participate in group reunion and attend Ultreyas, then we are spiritually equipped to help others into faithful group reunions and attending Ultreyas. When we are a friend, we get our friend into an active 4th day pattern. When we and our friend are active in the 4th day, that is the time to bring that person to a 3 day weekend. We have gotten the process backward for too long and it shows in how many people never find their 4th day disciplines.

Cursillo has much to offer the church and we are the only ones that Christ has to bring these particular gifts to the Church. Christ calls us to depend on Him and then to stay on the path of faithful discipleship living the 4th day model so that we are equipped to bring others to Christ.

Living a Christian life is not for the faint of heart, but it is what we do every day with God's help.

Yours in Christ's service,

The Rev. Pat Miller,
National Episcopal Cursillo President



Have you signed up yet to attend the National Episcopal Cursillo conference October 27 –30 and learn about “Revitalizing/Restarting Your Movement?”

MOVIES TODAY

I have been a movie buff almost all my life. For a kid like me, eating popcorn at a Saturday matinee was the best part of the whole week. Nowadays, as much as I like watching those old nostalgic movies on TV, I still look forward to watching a good action and suspense thriller on the big screen. I recently conducted research on a number of films where the main character experiences the awesome power of God. God skillfully uses the eye of a camera to bring us a glimpse into lives not only ravaged by hatred and rejection, but also lives transformed by the grace of God through faith. I was surprised to discover that the majority of these films, nearly two dozen, were produced during the 1940's and 50's. This was at a time in our history when faith in God and pride in our country was at its highest peak. “Family night” meant getting together to watch a good movie or to play games. Blockbusters such as the 1956 “The Ten Commandments” and the 1959 “Ben Hur” continue to be aired on television especially during the Lenten season. These are some lesser known but equally notable films such as the 1944 “The Keys to the Kingdom” and the 1953 “The Robe”. Films about the life of Christ have proven their worth at the box office and their ability to withstand the test of time. Beginning in the early 1950's however, there appears to be a noticeable decline in movies with religious themes. Only about a dozen or so films were brought to the silver screen during the next 50 years that followed. Scripts that proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, and qualities such as mercy, sacrifice, forgiveness and redemption all seem to have been relegated to the cutting room floor and replaced by the secular need to be politically correct.

“whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”

Galatians 6:7

Contributions Update

**Diocesan contribution
This fiscal Year to date
Diocesan Contributions
\$30994.19**

**Friends of Cursillo
This fiscal Year to date
\$15562.64**

Over time, our exposure to God's righteousness through films have become limited. Despite this trend, I believe that there are still a few brave souls in the industry who like to leave us clues of God's presence. For instance, in the action film "Mr and Mrs. Smith", the main actors are sitting in a restaurant wearing jackets with the words "Jesus Rocks" printed on the front. In "Masters and Commanders", "The Lord's Prayer" is said in its entirety, no fading-out or cutting away. And, in the recent version of "True Grit", the story teller boldly states, "Nothing in this world is free except for the Grace of God." This summer I hope you and your family will take the time to enjoy the sights and sounds of some of your favorite films. Look for the clues that have been left behind for us to find, and discover for yourself how God continues to make His presence known to all.

From THE FORWARD newsletter of Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego by Barbara Peralta, Secretariat Chair.

The Church and its Surrounding Culture

Many of us in Cursillo have grown up during the middle part of the 20th century. Back then, our culture was not necessarily better, but it was very different. The culture was deeply influenced by the philosophical world view of modernism. The basic idea of modernism is that each person is an autonomous, rational self who, through reason, can discover what is true or not true. The questions asked of the church often had to do with issues involving reason, like the possibility of proving the existence of God. Or another question, "How can a reasonable person believe in miracles?" Or, "What is the relationship between faith and reason?" These are all very interesting and good questions, but they are no longer the questions being asked by many people in our culture today.

We have moved beyond modernism and its focus on reason. Yes, reason is still a very valuable tool, but it is



no longer the driving force in our culture. In the latter part of the 20th century, a philosophical movement of post modernism emerged. It questioned whether there is any such thing as a rational, autonomous self. Post modern philosophers argue that the self exists only within a culture; it never exists autonomously. This is a very powerful argument. If the self does not exist autonomously, any claim to truth must be from within a cultural perspective. For the post-modernist, truth must exist within a culture and is discovered through stories of that culture.

The focus of post-modernism is on personal experiences, as told through stories. People today are skeptical of claims of truth that can be proved by reason. They want to hear an authentic story, one that rings true. The cultural trend of reliance on stories and experience is a great opening for the church. The Bible is full of stories and experiences. In addition, the church is full of people who have stories and experiences to share with others. People in our culture, while skeptical of proving God's existence by reason, are certainly willing to listen to a story of a person's experience of God. We, in Cursillo, have many people with rich experiences of God in their lives. There are people today who hunger for authentic spiritual experiences. We have what they are looking for.

While I believe that there are certain aspects of post-modernism that are incompatible with Christianity, I also believe that the church needs to make a better connection with its surrounding culture. The Cursillo community, while not the perfect model, is an authentic spiritual

community. Let's reflect on ways we can take our experiences of God out into the world. Your friend in Christ, Fr. George

From THE FORWARD Newsletter of the San Diego Cursillo movement by Spiritual Director Father George Calvert

REUNION GROUP REFLECTIONS



My reflections today are about my reunion group. Some few years ago I became curious about our "Men's Group" at St. Clement's. There was a relatively small group of men (everything is small at St. Clements) that met at the church on Saturday mornings. They did a few projects around the church from time to time and I was curious to find out more. What I did not know then was that the basis of this group was a weekly reunion of Cursillistas.

One Saturday morning I showed up. I was welcomed warmly and introduced to a little card that provides a structure to the sharing of the group. We

I treat my time with my close friends on Saturday morning as another part of my weekly worship

talked about Piety, Study and Action in the context of our own journey of faith in the previous week. One particular point was very interesting and moving to me—the "moment closest to Christ." Each man shared a moment in the previous week where he felt particularly close to Christ. What a blessing that was (and continues to be) to me!

Over time, the members of the group continued to share with me and with the others in the group

and ultimately I attended Cursillo 100 along with Sid Chadwick, another member of our little "Men's Group." I guess I kind of had the cart before the horse, attending a reunion group before I ever attended a Cursillo weekend, but it worked for me.

Now I treat my time with my close friends on Saturday morning as another part of my weekly worship. It is an important time to me, so important that my wife doesn't even schedule over it! She senses its importance too. The message in all of this is—your Fourth Day isn't just about you. It is about your continued journey with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. As C.S. Lewis reminds us, Christianity is a group effort! Ultreya!!

From THE FOURTH DAY a Cursillo publication of the Diocese of North Carolina by Walt Joyce, North Carolina #100, St. Clement's, Clemmons, North Carolina

Sponsorship

The key to a good weekend and having an effective Fourth Day is sponsorship. Sponsors are to identify people whom the sponsors believe will be potential leaders. Sponsors can identify the environment in which these potential leaders may be able to make that environment more Christian.

Remember, the Fourth Day is about being Christian leaders in our day- to-day environments. We study the environments and the people in them. We stay connected to Christ and his church through the practices of piety and studying Scripture and being part of the Christian community. We stay accountable and are encouraged in our actions by participating in Group Reunion and Ultreya. Because of our growing relationship with Christ, we desire to reach out to the environments we study as part of our burning desire to bring the world to Christ.

Cursillo's goal is to change the world for Christ. Our individual role is to make this change one environment at a time, one person at a time by being a friend and bringing the friend to Christ.

The sponsor is not just a person to bring a candidate to the weekend. The sponsor lives the life of a Cursillista, an apostle, and models that life to the candidate. Ideally, the sponsor brings the candidate into the life of the Fourth Day, before the candidate has ever been through the weekend, by getting the candidate involved in a Group Reunion and Ultreya. Accountability to each other is important. Life in community is necessary to live in the world and to change it.

The sponsor is not let off the hook at the end of the weekend. Encouraging the continuing growth of the apostolic life of the new Cursillista is necessary. The weekend is not all there is to Cursillo. The weekend gets us on the same page and describes a method by which we can live our lives as Christian apostles to the fullest. Cursillo IS living the Fourth Day to the glory of God and the Lord Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

As a sponsor you must follow at least these steps:

1. Select your candidate, who you think has a potential as a Christian leader.
2. Pray for the person
3. Contact the clergy of the potential candidate for the clergy's feedback. Things happen in a person's life that the clergy know but that others that we may know. Some of these things could be too distracting for a person to benefit right now from the weekend and a life in the Fourth Day.
4. Pray for the person.
5. If you get an OK from clergy, ask the person if they would like to participate in the weekend. Describe Cursillo, not just the weekend.
6. Pray for the person.
7. Bring the person to Ultreya and Group Reunion. This can happen at any time in the process, the earlier the better.
8. Pray for the person.
9. Help the person prepare for the weekend. Assist with cost if that is appropriate.
10. Transport the person to the weekend.
11. Ideally, do not work the weekend. Focus on prayer and being present at the closing and Fourth Day activities during the weekend.
12. Transport the new Cursillista home.
13. Encourage the new Cursillista to participate in Group Reunion and Ultreya. Help the new Cursillista get into a group. Carpool with them to Ultreya.

14. Continue praying and encouraging the new Cursillista in this new walk with Christ as an apostle.

It is only together as the body of Christ that we can be Christ in the troubled world in which we live. Ultreya.

From THE LEVER newsletter of the Heartland Episcopal Cursillo by Rachel Swaney, St. Michael's, Independence, MO



Sponsorship— A New Cursillista's Point-of-View

DeColores! Ask me about my sponsor, and you will see me smile! I did my Cursillo weekend July 2010. It was everything and more than she said it would be!

I was divorced after 30 years of marriage. My two teenage daughters were suffering deep emotional pain as their father abandoned them emotionally, physically, and financially. As I tried to teach them to trust in their heavenly Father to love them, my oldest asked me to not mention God to her. There was a spiritual war going on in my home. I needed and prayed for help. I listened for answers. I was given a sponsor!

She started taking me to Ultreya monthly meetings. She talked to me about attending Cursillo. I was ready for a spiritual retreat! I was excited about going and looked forward to the weekend.

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Sponsorship is a big commitment! For me it was, and is, a special gift, from a very special person. It was answered prayers! When my sponsor drove me home, I was renewed and energized, wearing the armor of God, ready to win the spiritual battle at home.

My sponsor has continued to be there in my "4th day"- and is still very close. We attend monthly Ultreya meetings together. We are each others small group. Through study, piety, and action I am learning to be a better spiritual leader at home, church, and in life.

The Baptismal Covenant has become my mission in life. I will, with God's help, "keep on keeping on- ward". When it gets tough my sponsor is a phone call away- reminding me of the next Ultreya, giving me hope, and praying for me and my daughters. I am, with God's help, slowly winning the spiritual war at home. I continue to talk about "Him" and his love. I share what I read and learn with my daughters. I pray and now others pray with me, and for me and my girls.

It works! The other night I heard the words I had not heard for a long time - words we once shared every day- " I love you all the way to God and back"! I thank God for his love and mercy. And I thank him for my sponsor. She is very special to me. She is my sister in Christ, my earthly sister, and my daughter's aunt. She is Tina Thornburg. She is a blessing in our lives, and I am eternally grateful for her gift of sponsorship. God's peace to all!

From THE LEVER by Cathy Ward, St. Peter's, Harrisonville, MO



Have you signed up yet to attend the National Episcopal Cursillo conference October 27 –30 and learn about "Clergy—Recruitment and Role" and elect new representatives?

LIVING THE FOURTH DAY

The first time Dotty and I heard about Cursillo, was when some good friends asked if they could sponsor us to go to a three day weekend. We inquired about the weekend and what it entailed and with some trepidation and not knowing what to expect decided to go. This decision was one of the best decisions we have made for our Christian growth; for it is written: "*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*" (Romans 15:13)

The three day weekend came and went before we knew it, and all the thoughts and experiences were lost in our minds and emotions. Our best understanding culminated with the Fourth Day, when all the workers, sponsors and new Cursillistas were gathered together to share in a climate of sincerity, trust, and sharing. It is written; "*Know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God*". (Ephesians 3:19) We experienced this love of Christ where all are able and have something to share, teach and learn by asking questions and giving suggestions.

With the three day weekend behind us, it's not surprising that we may have only a vague grasp on the importance of the concepts which were delivered on the third day. Of course these concepts were intended to prepare us for the Fourth Day, which is the beginning of the rest of our lives in service to our Lord and fellow Christians as leaders for Christ.

It has been said that Cursillo activities are not meant to be a substitution for active, committed weekly involvement in parish worship and ministry. This is a true statement, but it is also true that parish life and the ministry are enriched and enlivened by

Cursillistas at every level of service who are living out a life of piety, study and action while practicing it through group reunions and monthly Ultreyas. Remember, it is not what we have in our lives, but WHO we have in our lives! Do not ask the Lord to guide your footsteps if you are not willing to move your feet. Even though you can't see Him, GOD is there for you always, as it is written; "... I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matt. 28:20)

I encourage everyone to join a Group Reunion for their personal strengthening and Christian growth. Dotty and I have learned from our respective groups that it is a wonderful thing to meet with like minded Christians to share our lives, joys, sorrows, and prayers and to be strengthened by one another's experiences. As we think of the Fourth Day, remember, there are several things we can learn on the Fourth Day, looking ahead with trust in the Lord and having a prayerful heart and mind. I will leave you with these thoughts:

1. Have a more centered life, having Christ at the center with prayer, study and fellowship.
2. Have the mentality of apostolic action as leaders in the work of Christ wherever it may be.
3. Have more commitment and be involved with Christ in His Kingdom here on earth, united as leaders in one body of Christ.
4. Have the understanding of others, knowing each other's gifts and talents and work in coordination as one.
5. Be willing to make sacrifices, putting aside personal needs and directing the time, talent and treasure to the Lord's work.
6. Be willing to measure the pulse of the group at reunions and promote "friendship and love."

Remember the words of Christ when the scribe asked "*Which is the first commandment of all?*" (Mark 12:28) Jesus answered this; "*The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy*

mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment." (Mark 12:30) "*And the second is like, namely this, Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.*" (Mark 12:31)

Now remember when you attend the next Fourth Day, to develop and strengthen co-workers and to help serve the larger community of Cursillistas, supporting them in their work of transforming environments serving and showing forth the love of Christ.

In Christ's Love

From FORWARD newsletter of the Cursillo community of the Diocese of San Diego by Gary Baty.

Are We Sending Mixed Messages

Have you noticed that in the life of the Cursillo Movement some people are turned on and others get turned off? This is a discussion that can be far reaching, for we know that the Church is filled with all sorts and conditions of people, and the candidates that are sent to weekends are not always open to living a Christ Centered life of Piety, Study and Action. Sometimes Candidates are ill prepared by their sponsors concerning the Cursillo Movement or the weekend itself, so they come unprepared. As with any Christian endeavor, the Cursillo movement must do their own preparatory work, but we rely on the movement of the Holy Spirit for our success.

It is inadequate to simply think that the Cursillo Method and teachings are not for everybody and then place blame on a candidate who "does not get it." The core message of Cursillo is to live an active, Christ Centered, prayerful, informed, worshipping, servant based Christian Life. The Cursillo

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method is rooted in the classic expression of living a balanced Spiritual life and taught in an environment of self-sacrifice and love. Yes, some people are not ready to live into that message, but the hard reality is that sometimes our own Cursillo traditions and local customs play a large role in obscuring the core message. When that happens, the Good News of God in Christ is not proclaimed with authenticity and power, and the core message of living for Christ is lost because we have let our personal agenda get in the way of the Holy Spirit.

I remember going to my first Ultreya in 1977, and I ran away from the movement for seven years. Why? I was invited to an Ultreya and what I experienced was a local Parish based charismatic praise event. This Ultreya did not have a Lay Witness, or a Gospel response. There is nothing wrong with a prayer and praise meeting but don't call it an Ultreya, because this experience had little to do with Cursillo. With no Clergy presence the required Gospel response will always be missing. This happy charismatic prayer circle followed their own agenda and on that night, it did not follow or reflect the Cursillo method. Local customs can and do obscure and de-power the Cursillo Message and Method. Ultreya is an regular training ground for the sharing of our faith stories through a Witness talk. If we do not talk about what we are doing for Christ in the safe environment of the Cursillo Community how can we possibly do so in the world. Ultreya follows and reinforces those patterns that we learn on the Cursillo Weekend. We gather together in Prayer. We work in Small Groups where we can share our walk with Christ. We then hear a prepared short talk about one aspect of what we have been doing for Jesus. The community responds to the talk. A member of the Clergy offers a Gospel Response relating the witness to the scriptures and the theology of the Church. This pattern of the Ultreya will again and again reinforce the fundamental method of the Cursillo Movement.

I know others who felt that their Cursillo Weekend was a near cult-like brain washing event. They experienced what felt like a sleep deprived weekend, being kept up late and awoken early. They felt controlled and manipulated by the team at every turn so all the surprises could be more deeply felt. The Authentic Cursillo weekend model when

followed, allows meaningful time for breaks and personal reflection, thought and prayer. If your Weekend is always running behind schedule this means your local customs have gone beyond the outlines and you have added more and more local optional tradition to the weekend. A two hour Sacraments Rollo will derail the core message of the weekend. More is not always better, most often it is just more. Attempting to enhance a surprise is an attempt to shove the Dove. Let the extras go and give your candidates a break and let the Holy Spirit move in her own good time. Study the Authentic Outlines in the Cursillo Library and compare it to your local outline and manuals... Then simplify, simplify, simplify. Allow your weekends to be Grace- Filled, and natural, move away from the three day frenetic slog with more and more important things that have little to do with the core message. The Authentic Cursillo Weekend experience works because the Holy Spirit moves and God gives the growth, not because we have done more and more to convince candidates of our message.

When a team serves Christ and the candidates rather than their own agendas then the reality of love in action is present.

I had a parishioner once ask me "Why can't the Church be more like Cursillo?" This person discovered for the first time in their life, the reality of what a loving, caring Church feels like. When a team serves Christ and the candidates rather

than their own agendas then the reality of love in action is present. How do we do that you might ask, we have weekends so that we can help individuals incorporate into Group Reunions for their continuing growth in Christ. We have weekends so that we can help members of the Church sustain an active Christ Centered ministry in the Church and in their own environments. A Cursillo Weekend can be a foretaste of that heavenly banquet and joyful fellowship, but the real work begins in our 4th day. If we all prepared for our regular Sunday worship like we prepare for a Cursillo Weekend, with regular prayer, fasting, and the expectation of serving one another in Christ, the local Parish would feel more like a Cursillo Weekend. When the movement fails to

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Come to Phoenix for the Conference and worship, learn and share with other Cursillistas. Register at the website nationalepiscopalcurso.org

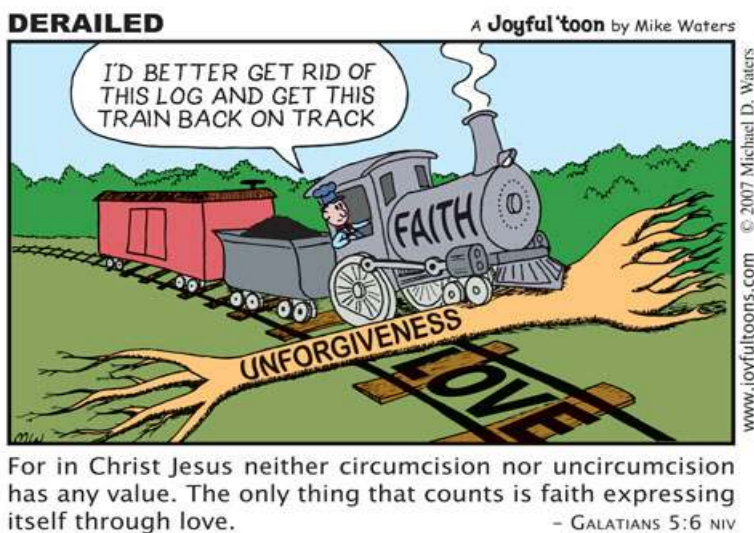
live into the core message, that message is lost and the movement dies and we end up offering a 3 day renewal event instead of the full Cursillo experience and spiritual support.

So is your local expression of Cursillo sending mixed messages?

Our good work for Christ can be graceful or it can be harmful to our Candidates and the Church. God will always do God's part, but do we? Start by reading from the Cursillo Library and compare your working outlines and manuals with the Authentic

Cursillo outlines. How many additions do you have? Ask Yourself... are they really important to the Good news of God in Jesus Christ? If not, leave them aside and make more room for God's Grace and the workings of the Holy Spirit. Make your prime message the presentation of Jesus Christ and how to live into the 4th day – the rest of our lives.

From THE FOURTH DAY, newsletter of the Long Island Cursillo by Fr. Rick Simpson, Spiritual Director and Northeast District Representative to the NEC.



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How about sending
someone from your
diocese to the ECLW at
Conference in Arizona

The purpose of the ECLW is fourfold:

1. To deepen the commitment to Christ and living of a life in Christ among the Cursillo leaders in the country.
2. To clarify the purpose and method of the Cursillo movement as it seeks to work within the Episcopal Church to fulfill the Great Commandment to love God and one another and the Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations.
3. To help grow new leaders for the Cursillo movement so that it may continue to be an effective instrument in the mission of the Episcopal Church to "restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." (BCP 855)
4. To help diocesan Cursillo communities assess how they live out the Cursillo method and encourage them to explore how to do it more effectively.

The ECLW is intended for any Cursillistas who are called to make Cursillo a major focus of their ministry in the Church. We encourage dioceses to identify future as well as current leaders and to send them to an ECLW even if it means helping to finance their participation. Some dioceses require attendance at an ECLW as a prerequisite for serving on their Secretariat. Investing in the work of growing leaders is the best investment a diocesan Cursillo community can make in its own future and in the growth of the Kingdom of God.

Would your Diocesan Cursillo Movement benefit from holding an ECLW?

Palanca Coordinators & Palanca Requests received by Sept. 1, 2011

See also our web site, www.nationalepiscopalcurso.org

Please note that we do not have dates for all weekends that may be scheduled. We can only print what we receive. Please send your palanca information to necoffice@nationalepiscopalcurso.org and to pebell@aol.com

Northeast District

2011

September 29 New York
October 20 Pennsylvania
27 Albany (women), Maryland
November 10 Massachusetts
17 Long Island
New Jersey

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kathynpete@comcast.net
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Vermont: Send to: Betty Packer, 1120 Village Grove,
Williston VT 05495

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September 15 Southeast Florida
29 Florida (men)
October 6 Central Florida
13 Southwest Florida
Mississippi., North Carolina
20 Alabama. South Carolina
Tennessee, Jamaica (women)
Florida (women)
27 Jamaica (men)
November 3 East Carolina
Central Florida (sp)
17 Western North Carolina

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29 Michigan
October 27 Chicago

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2011

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October 6 Kansas/West Missouri

13 Dallas/Fort Worth

West Texas

Arkansas

November 10 West Texas

17 Dallas Fort Worth

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2011

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, Los Angeles (sp) Men

October 27 Los Angeles (sp) Women

2012

February 23 Arizona (men)

March 8 Arizona (women)

Province 8

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Friends of Cursillo Pledge Card

Yes, I want to support the work of the National Episcopal Cursillo!

I (we) hereby pledge:

\$500.00 \$200.00 \$100.00 \$50.00 \$25.00 Other \$ _____

To be paid: annually quarterly monthly enclosed _____

to help fund the work of the National Episcopal Cursillo.

This pledge is for the fiscal year October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012

Name _____ Diocese _____

Address _____ Phone _____

_____ Email _____

Please complete this form and return it to:

The NEC Office
2683 Highway 701 N #4
Conway SC 29526-5124