

Counting On You

The Official Publication for the Episcopal Cursillo® Movement
of the Diocese of Southeast Florida. Published Bi-monthly.

Calling all future Cursillo leaders!

From September 28 to 30, 2012, the Secretariat is hosting an Episcopal Cursillo Leadership Workshop at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Stuart, Florida. The workshop is led by a team from the National Cursillo Committee and is held to provide leadership training to the next generation of leaders. The cost will be approximately \$200 provided we have at least 25 participants and includes a hotel for two nights, food, and all of the supplies and training. The training topics include Orientation to the ECLW, The Church, Ultreya, Fourth Day First, Group Reunion, The Authentic Three Days, The Pre-Cursillo, Personal Contact Techniques, Rule of Life, Sent into the World, and The Job Ahead.



**May 2009 Cursillo Leaders Workshop
at the Duncan Center.**

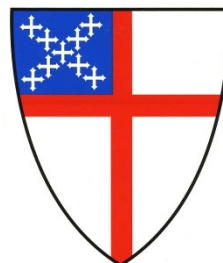
Cursillo is a Lay- and Clergy-led organization within the church whose purpose is to support the mission of the church. To support that mission on both the Diocesan and National levels, we need to train members to be leaders in the movement. This is the course that will help begin the process.

If you have any interest in this opportunity, please e-mail Chuck Pierce at cap128154@yahoo.com or call him at 772-220-1289.

Mission Statement



The Episcopal Cursillo® of Southeast Florida, holds weekends that support the diocese in realizing its mission, by raising up leaders for the parishes, missions, diocese and the Wider Church.



NECC's Ultreya

On January 21 at St. Gregory's in Boca Raton, the National Episcopal Cursillo District Committee Members, in town for their annual meeting, demonstrated how to run an Ultreya. There was great food and wonderful leadership!



Above: Holly Walker, NECC President showed us a "model Ultreya" in action.



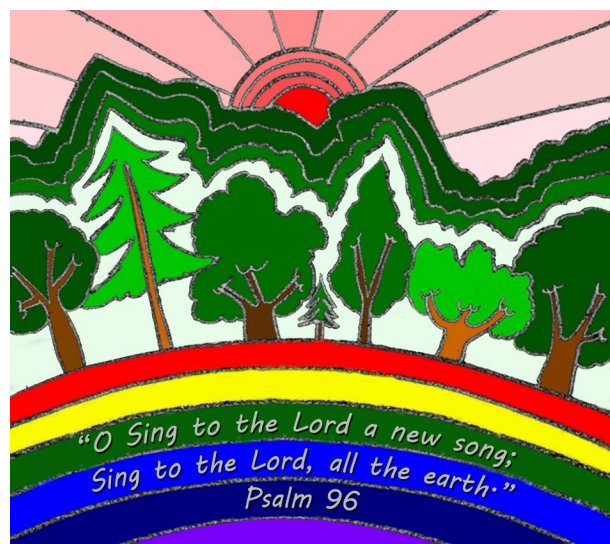
Two upcoming Cursillo Weekends!



**Fran Hunt,
Rectora
EWC #107
May 3 to 6,
2012**



**Jeff Lewis,
Rector
EMC #89
May 17 to
20, 2012**



**See the Cursillo website for information updates and contact persons . . .
www.sef-cursillo.org**

More candidates needed for the men's weekend!

Please consider sponsoring one or more lucky men to be on the next men's weekend to be held May 17-20. Remember to pray for guidance, talk with the parish rector, talk with the candidate and then send in the application. Applications are available online at www.sef-cursillo.org under Forms.



“Do American Rabbits Lay Eggs?”



During one of my pilgrimages to help the Episcopal Church in Cuba, a little boy asked me if American rabbits lay eggs. When I asked why he was saying that, he said that one of the videos that his uncle had

brought from Miami showed a rabbit going around hiding eggs.

He was convinced that our rabbits laid eggs--and colored eggs, at that. This young lad had not been exposed to any religion, as his parents were just beginning to attend one of our churches after many years of discrimination by the Cuban government against the church. For him there was no connection between the Easter Bunny and the Resurrection. Actually his first exposure with the story of the resurrection came from a rabbit that was able to produce eggs at will—something that would surely seem miraculous in Cuba because of food rationing.

I wonder what our children think about the Easter Bunny in our diocese. Amazingly, secular society has been able to hijack both Christmas and Easter. Jesus' birth has been eclipsed by the image of Santa Claus—devoid of any connection to St. Nicholas of Myra—and our Lord's Resurrection must compete with the Easter Bunny.

Now don't get me wrong. I am not campaigning against Santa Claus, or for that matter, against colored Easter eggs. Both of those images are fine if kept within context, but they should never replace the reason why they exist.

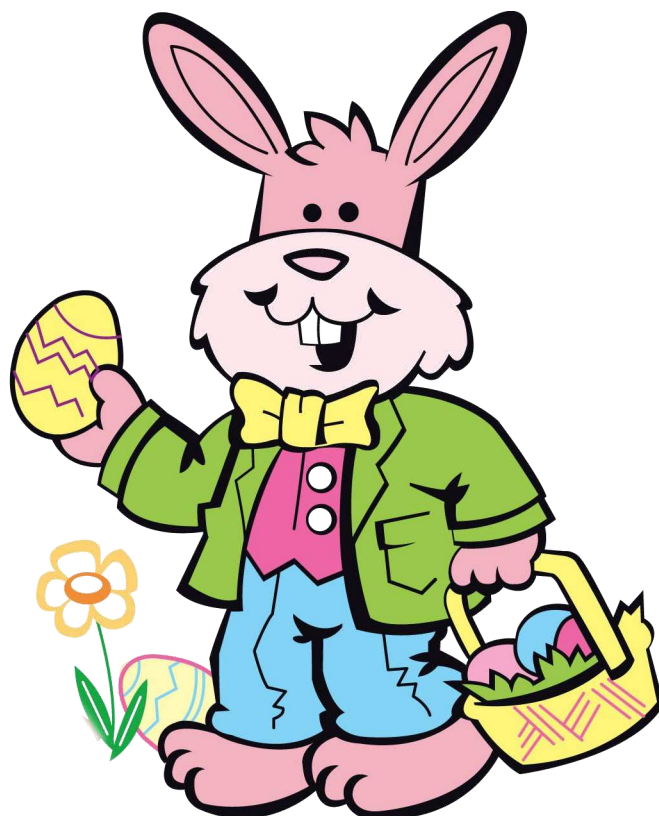
Easter Sunday is much more than Easter eggs or showing off a new outfit. Easter is the Queen of all the church feasts, because without it as St. Paul says: “If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.”

Christians must rescue Easter from the secularization that keeps it prisoner at the stores and away from church. The reality is that Easter is like a monarch reigning over any other event in world history, and indeed it reigns supreme over every other feast of the Christian year.

I invite all Cursillistas to make this coming Lent, Holy Week and Easter Day an opportunity to grow spiritually and to strengthen your faith in Christ.

+ Leo Frade

*Bishop of Southeast Florida
Men's Cursillo #7*



From Spiritual Director Mother Mary Ellen



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Time and time again in the Gospels, Jesus emphasizes the essential part relationships play in a holy life.

“Here O Israel the

Lord our God is one; you should love the Lord with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind. The second is like unto it, Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mark 12:28-34).

Every person lives in a community and has exchanges with others. How people relate to others defines the quality of their lives. Through our relationships, humans are able to seek the divine.

God is revealed to people in a variety of unique ways. I believe that by encountering Jesus in the Gospels in relationship with people of other backgrounds and faiths, people witness his inclusive ministry. Cursillo also is a gathering of diverse Christians committed to sharing the “Good News” of Christ.

Through the Gospels, we learn how to discern ways to support each other during the challenges and obstacles in life. Searching for their own experience of transcendence and self-actualization, Jesus shows people who he comes in

contact with during his life, the way to connect with the divine. People in scripture take risks to be vulnerable with Jesus. Their risks move them into the holy.

Today in our Cursillo community, God calls us to take risks in moving more deeply into relationship with Christ to enrich each other’s lives. By following Jesus we find our true identity as a precious child of God, loved and cherished by the Creator. We are able to recognize Jesus’ holiness and respond to his divinity with a deep expression of faith.

Grounded in an unshakable faith in his “Abba”, Jesus confidently invites us to partake in the kingdom of God. Teaching counter-intuitive lessons, Jesus expresses that following the sacred is often dangerous and unpopular. By following Jesus we are transformed into women

and men of substance, willing to embrace new lives.

Jesus invites us to be inquisitive, bold, fearless, and caretakers in our communities. With faith and persistence, our Cursillo community is strengthened and moved towards the divine. Through our trials and tribulations and especially through times of joy and abundance, searching for the Divine evokes the transcendence of our lives.

Being true to one’s self in a community is diffi-



cult. To recognize the holy in one's daily routine and respond with love and enthusiasm is a model to follow to reach the goal of wholeness and holiness. In the community a person's identity is often distorted. Finding the authentic self amidst serving others is a journey that lasts a lifetime.

For Christians, Jesus' presence is palpable through our relationships with others and the sacraments. Let us find and encounter the sacred in the midst of the ordinary. We are to turn over our lives to Christ without thinking about the consequences. Our act of giving of self is scary unless we are living in faith, a faith that defies all logic. This faith is grounded in relationships. Our lives are woven with the fabric of relationship with God, neighbor and self at all times of our lives

especially within the life of the sacramental.

Through our love for Christ and others, and most importantly his love for us, we are transformed by life in God.

Hebrews 10: 23-25

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Blessings and Peace,
Mother Mary Ellen+



Church of the Advent Ultreya

*...was held on Sunday,
February 12th...*



From the Desk of our Lay Director



As promised, we did get off to a very busy start for 2012. The members of the NECC (National Episcopal Cursillo Committee) visited us in January for their first meeting of the year. With a great and effective

planning committee led by Ginny Foot and a large serving of hospitality, the committee members enjoyed their time with us. They all said that the hospitality was outstanding and they felt the warmth of our community. Thank you to everyone involved. The Ultreya at St. Gregory's was also a great success with a wonderful turnout and a great example of how an Ultreya is to be done. Everyone enjoyed and also learned.

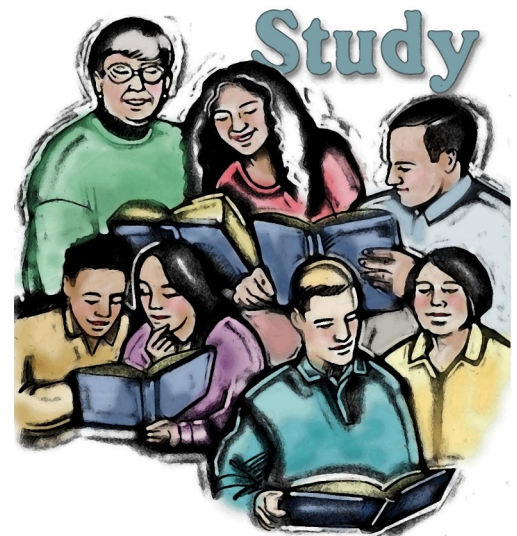
Going forward, we have many events planned for the year. Coming up soon are the two weekends – EWC # 107 from May 3-6 with Fran Hunt as Rector and EMC # 89 from May 17-20 with Jeff Lewis as Rector. What a busy and exciting time May will be. We still need applications for the Men's Weekend and I ask you to look in your parish for pilgrims, discuss with the parish Rector and then – speak to the potential pilgrims and submit applications.

In September, we are holding an ECLW (Episcopal Cursillo Leaders Workshop). For all of you who are interested in serving in a position of leadership within the Movement, this workshop is informative and will provide you with many useful tools. I encourage you to send your registration to Chuck Pierce as soon as possible. This will also help us with the planning to know early who is attending.

Here we are at the beginning of Lent: the time of preparation, self-examination and spiritual growth. There are many opportunities in parishes for study, prayer and learning opportunities. As part of our Cursillo Rule of Life, I encourage you to participate in Lenten study activities as you prepare for the glorious and wondrous resurrection of our Lord Jesus at Easter. I also ask you to pray for the Cursillo Movement in our Diocese as we move forward in our mission to develop Christian leaders.

Blessing to you and DeColores!

Barbara MacKenzie



“I encourage you to participate in Lenten study activities”

Diocese of SE Florida **Cursillo Calendar 2012**

- May 3 - 6 **EWC #107 (Fran Hunt)**
- May 17 - 20 **EMC #89 (Jeff Lewis)**
- Sept. 28 - 30 **Episcopal Cursillo
Leaders Workshop
Duncan Center**

PRAYER FOR OUR CURSILLO MOVEMENT

Dear heavenly Father, we come before you seeking guidance and wisdom as we strive to strengthen our Cursillo Movement. We ask you to bless our diversity, to bind us together by your love in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to guide our hearts in our Fourth Day and to empower us to be faithful to this ministry of servanthood.

Guide our thoughts, inhabit our hearts, give us discernment, and open our eyes to your presence Lord. We pray that in a rainbow of unity, we can use our gifts to your honor and glory. We give you thanks for all our blessings and the opportunity given to us to share in your name with love and joy. Amen.

ADDRESS CORRECTION NOTIFICATION

Let us know if someone you know has an address or name change. This database is kept current for mailing.

Send corrections to: vascovac@bellsouth.net

Last Name _____ Old Last Name _____

First Name _____ Spouse _____

Old Address _____

New Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____



