



EPISCOPAL  
CURSILLO  
MINISTRY

4<sup>TH</sup> DAY  
MAGAZINE

GROWING CHRIST-CENTERED LEADERS

Winter 2018

MEETING JESUS FOR THE  
FIRST TIME

.When did you first meet Jesus? This is a question that is asked at the Global Christian Forum which meets in various parts of the world every few years. The purpose is to encourage Christians of very different backgrounds to come together and share what they have in common. What do we have in common? Jesus, of course.

Jesus, the Son of God and son of Mary, was born in a stable, in an obscure part of the Roman Empire. His parents were a bit dodgy as Mary conceived and was pregnant before being married to Joseph, her betrothed. Probably fearing for her reputation, and possibly even her life, she rushed to spend time with her cousin Elizabeth who, while older, was also expecting.

The two men in the story, Joseph and Zachariah, are sometimes overlooked but they also have roles in the drama of salvation. Zachariah was a priest, serving in the Temple, when he received a visit from Gabriel, the Archangel, who delivered a message telling him that he and Elizabeth would have a child called John. Indeed, that is what came to pass but not before Zachariah was chastened for his doubt (Luke 1:20). Joseph for his part could have insisted that Mary be dismissed quietly, but he also had an angelic visitation and was assured that the child to be born was of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1: 20 -21).

Amongst the first people on earth to meet Jesus were his parents, some shepherds, and eventually some wise men. Each had their own response but all knew this child was of God and destined to change the World. Since then millions upon millions have come to know and worship Jesus. But that neither diminishes the worth of Jesus the Christ, nor

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does it lessen the importance of the encounter of Jesus with each person. So, again I ask, "When did you first meet Jesus?" How were you blessed and how has your own life been shaped by this Child of Bethlehem who grew up to teach, preach, and heal countless people, and then who was arrested, crucified, and buried? How has his resurrection from the dead transformed your earthly life?

When did you first meet Jesus, and have you helped others to also meet the Savior of the world?

*From KIWI CURSILLO The magazine for the New Zealand Anglican Cursillo by Bishop Victoria Matthew of Christchurch, New Zealand*



## WHAT'S CURSILLO?

*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have...(1 Peter 3:15)*

Since retiring from full-time work people keep asking me "what are you doing now?" Generally, there is a follow-up question: "What's Cursillo?" Someone has probably asked you the same

### From the Editor

2018 - Another year of opportunities to meet Jesus through relationships, to reflect His light to all people we meet, and to bring reconciliation to the world through the people we meet. This first issue of 2018 will reflect many of these points starting with the president's article highlighting changes and the new slogan of Relationships, Evangelism, and Reconciliation. You will see threads of this slogan in many of the articles. Other articles reflect the strength of the Cursillo movement through the eyes of a new Cursillista and also through the eyes of those who have been at it for quite a while. Enjoy this issue and experience, through pictures, the Conference in Oklahoma City. Conferences are meetings filled with love and joy so I look forward to seeing you in Houston in October 2018!

question. I'd be interested to hear your response.

For what it is worth, here are the key points in my current response to a church-based inquirer:

Cursillo is a Spanish word. It means "a short course" – like in a cross-country race. The heart of Cursillo is a 3-day live in workshop weekend that presents a specific method for deepening and living out our faith. Cursillo also plugs us into a strong follow-up and support network. Most participants find themselves encouraged, enthused, and re-energized in their Christian walk.

To a parish priest, I'd also say that many participants gain the confidence to become far more active in their parish and in Christian witness than they would previously have thought possible. The business of Cursillo is to **grow disciples** of Christ, to help them **discover their vocation**, and to make them **effective in mission and ministry**.

*From KIWI CURSILLO The magazine for the New Zealand Anglican Cursillo by David Prosser, National Lay Co-Director of the New Zealand Cursillo.*



*From the president*

## ***Moving into the Future through Relationships, Evangelism, and Reconciliation***

Change has always been part of our lives and God's world. It weaves itself into everything in obvious, abrupt ways and in subtle, almost invisible shifts. Whether we accept it, fight it, or ignore it — change is still there. And, our individual and collective position in the ever moving world will be directly impacted by how we choose to react.

In the five years since I first joined the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee (ECMC) in 2012, change in the Ministry has also been continual. During these years some have included: changing the Ministry's official name, switching to all-volunteer management and operations, offering free and updated publications, developing a new slogan, providing a ministry support fund for dioceses, and supporting both traditional and alternate Weekend formats.

A few years ago, the ECMC participated in an intensive retreat to assess the status of Cursillo as a viable ministry. It quickly became clear that everyone on the Committee was deeply concerned about the lack of growth, energy and effectiveness that we saw in many dioceses. We came to a decision point when it became obvious that we had two choices. We could maintain the Cursillo Ministry in the same way and risk continued decline. It was put bluntly to us that we might simply be overseeing "an orderly death" of Cursillo. Or, we could recommit and fight. We could accept the need to bring a spirit that fits the Church and society of today and tomorrow. We needed to look around at what continued to work and also accept innovation. Thus, we went to the dioceses to see what was working and what was needed. We listened and are trying to respond. We strive to build a stronger Cursillo in the Episcopal Church.

Additionally, the Episcopal Cursillo has accepted that the times and church that first created the Cursillo movement have also changed. We have specifically confirmed that, as Episcopalians, we are free to develop the Ministry in ways separate from its beginning. Today, our relationship with the Roman church is friendly and supportive. But, we have been freed to move forward as we see fit.

Commonly, change can result in additional change. Thus, it became clear that the structure of the Committee as outlined in the Cursillo Ministry Bylaws had some gaps. The Committee structure reflected an outdated view related to identifying representatives by gender. Also, we had valuable representatives from each region, but that did not mean that we always had all the skills needed to maintain modern-day communications, support a national conference, or develop new programs. A few Committee members were scrambling to fulfill operations needs, but it was not always the most effective or efficient

way. There was also no guarantee that future members would possess the needed skills to continue the work.

So, at the Conference last October, your delegates approved two motions to change the Bylaws. The first was to eliminate gender specific representatives so that there would be five clergy and five lay representatives. Keeping the Committee numbers at the same fifteen, the second motion was to fill the remaining five slots with At-Large Representatives selected for their specific technical or administrative skills. Voting under this process will begin next fall when we gather for the Conference in Houston.

In the meantime, consider whether you have specific skills to contribute to the Ministry. Watch for “want ads” in the monthly NewsNotes for more information. Also, if you cannot serve on the Committee, consider joining a Servant Community that meets online with each of the ECMC subcommittees. If you are interested in contributing to the work of Publications, Communications, or Leadership Development, that may be the spot for you. Whether you are a “veteran” or new Cursillista, we welcome your input.

Having watched and participated in the process, I can testify that all of the changes in the recent years were made with prayers and concern for the long-term health of the Cursillo Ministry. However, I also know that some shifts have also caused anxiety among a few long-term Cursillistas. We continue to reach out and hope that with time it will be shown that Cursillo today is on a better track. It also continues to welcome and encourage all Cursillistas to be part of this journey. I look forward to one more year moving ahead with you all on this “adventure”.

In this day, we enthusiastically embrace Cursillo’s role in the Jesus Movement. As our new slogan says, we encourage “Relationship, Evangelism, Reconciliation.” Cursillo will continue and grow as each of us lives into our Fourth Day and brings Christ’s message to the world. We stress that it is not about the Weekends, It’s about our supporting each other in our ministry within our parishes and community. it’s about the message of love that we strive to share.

Harriet Duff, President  
2018 Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee

## REIMAGING CURSILLO – PILGRIMAGE AND JOURNEY

Q. When is a course not a course?

A. When it's a course, of course!

No, its not a bad joke - but it is a bit of a riddle. Let me explain. You've probably been told that *Cursillo* is the Spanish word for "a short course". If, like me, you've attended various "training courses" over the years, your mind will probably jump, as mine did, to that type of "Course". And the fact that a Cursillo weekend has numerous talks and activities tends to reinforce that notion.

It, therefore, came a quite a surprise, while studying some "official" *cursillo* documentation recently that I discovered Cursillo actually translates as "a course, such as one would run in a race".



For me, that was a quantum change of perspective. Instead of being an intellectual self-improvement program, Cursillo is actually a whole-of-self experience – with hurdles, other participants, challenges, direction, and an ultimate objective towards which one moves with vigour and determination

Not that I didn't have an inkling of all that before, but the "training course" metaphor just didn't sit well. It was too passive for what I have experienced. Now, however, with the image of a cross county race in my mind, the idea of Cursillo being both a pilgrimage and a purposeful journey makes so much more sense!

Speaking of journeys, Glenda and I spent most of October travelling in Brendan (our motor home) on a "pastoral" tour of the 3 North Island Cursillo dioceses. A full-on programme was

organized for us in Waiapu diocese – both in Bay of Plenty and Hawkes Bay areas. Highlights for us were preaching and sharing lunch with Cursillistas in Taradale, participating in group reunions, meals, and other gatherings, and sharing with key leaders. There were also some very enjoyable and educational personal guided tours.

Wellington diocese highlights were a Friday night mini-Ultreya, lunch with past and present Secretariat members, a well-attended gathering of Wairarapa Cursillistas, and some quality time with key leaders. In Waikato we gathered with Cursillistas in Morrinsville, including the *Kiwi Editorial Team*.

Everywhere we went we were warmly welcomed and encouraged by the joy and enthusiasm of those we met. It was inspiring to see the positive way that the Cursillo Method is empowering and supporting you in your many and varied ministries.

We hope to make this an annual pilgrimage, aiming to also spend some time in Taranaki in 2018. We also intend to make a similar journey around the South Island – especially to South Canterbury and parts of Dunedin diocese.

As we travelled around, we have shared this same message with each group we spent time with:

Cursillo is an outward-looking discipleship movement (not a cozy club), a movement of the whole church – lay and ordained working together in partnership.

The importance of the Cursillo Method, and, in particular, being strategic and intentional about who we are trying to reach (and

consequently who we invite to a Cursillo Weekend)

The centrality of the Fourth Day, which involves Spiritual Direction, 4<sup>th</sup> Day Group Reunions, and Ultreyas.

The Cursillo Movement is alive and well! Its expressions vary from place to place around the country, but they are no less “authentic”. The challenges vary too but there are common themes which we hope to pick up on in future articles.

We acknowledge and thank Rev. Sue Hogan, our outgoing National Spiritual Advisor. We hope to be able to announce her successor soon. We also welcome Paul Weaver, DLD-elect for Wellington, to the national leadership team, and look forward to working with him in the New Year. Please continue to pray for us all and for the strengthening and growth of the Cursillo Movement in New Zealand. Advent and Christmas blessings to you all! Ultreya, David and Glenda – Co-NLDs

*From KIWI CURSILLO The magazine for New Zealand Anglican Cursillo  
By David and Glenda Prosser, co-National Lay Directors of the New Zealand Cursillo movement.*

**SERVANT  
COMMUNITY**



Dear friends in Christ,

“Those of you who want to be a leader must be a servant – I did not come to be served, but to serve and to give my life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20: 26-27.

**KEEP LISTENING - KEEP LEARNING -  
KEEP SHARING - KEEP SERVING**

I just learned today that the word “SERVE” shows up over 300 times in the Bible! As Cursillistas, we have been magically handed the perfect opportunity to perform all these directives in the most humble, joyful and meaningful way – through our love for one another, remembering that Christ is counting on each of us to do His work, and we have been given the perfect vehicle – our 4th Day!

We have another Cursillo Weekend coming up in May. We can sponsor, we can participate in many hands-on and/or prayerful ways. As a member of our Servant Community, I hope that you consider serving Christ and our Servant Community at the same time. After we attend our Weekend we usually have a stirring desire, to want more of the wonderful experience we have just had for the last three days. I know I did, and thank you, thank you Jesus I jumped in with both feet – and guess what? It has been a joyful, spirit-filled growth in my Christian life that has been a constant love in my heart since my blessed Cursillo Weekend in May 1980. The lives that have been touched, the opportunities and experiences that have opened for me to listen, learn, share and serve have planted wondrous gifts in my heart. These happy things can be yours, too. All you have to do is to reach out and allow yourself to grow and flourish in your 4th Day. We have to take the first step – reach out and embrace each opportunity that seems right for you. Try coming to a Servant Community Reunion/Meeting and give it a try; there is no obligation, just an opportunity.

We meet the first Saturday morning of September and February (weather

permitting) at 9:45 A.M. at Trinity Church library in Canton until noon. We enjoy snacks before opening prayer, teaching, sharing and planning our 4<sup>th</sup> Day activities. We work closely with the Secretariat and together we enjoy the unfolding blessings of Cursillo. Please think about taking advantage of joining Servant community and having a rewarding experience in your ongoing 4<sup>th</sup> day. Thank you, Thank you Jesus

*From THE TRIPOD newsletter of the Massachusetts Cursillo Community by Bikini Wright, Servant Community Coordinator*

## REFLECTIONS ON THE CURSILLO WEEKEND

*Editor's note: The diocese of Southeast Florida in their newsletter COUNTING ON YOU very often includes reflections by candidates and team of a recent Cursillo. I hope to share these with you on a regular basis because it helps us remember how the Cursillo experience unfolded in the hearts of all those attending.*

Dear Fellow Cursillistas,

My name is Rachel Baker Blackwell. I am a parishioner at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Delray Beach and I sat at the table of St. Martha at Cursillo #112.

Several months ago before attending Cursillo, I was invited to apply and I did though a bit apprehensive. After all, I had never heard of Cursillo. When I asked others in the church about Cursillo, no one seemed to share anything concrete. Since I trusted my

priest, I completed the application not once but twice, because my first application was misplaced. Not quite aware of the opportunity that lay ahead, I just jumped right in. So, it all started with an opportunity to attend which ended up being an invitation to life.

The weekend, though quite profound, started out very slow for me. I felt as if I was attending an adult bible camp where I was going to spend the weekend praying, confessing and having nighttime periods with vows of silence. I thought to myself, I hope this gets better.

As the weekend progressed, I engaged in many activities which were the building blocks of sisterly relationships filled with laughter, encouragement and love. On the morning of the second day, I found myself sitting in the chapel intently listening to what was being said as my eyes gazed out the top window of the chapel's sanctuary. I noticed the sun rising and this red bird sitting on a branch. It appeared as though the bird was looking in at me. We watched each other as if exchanging some deep spiritual passion. My eyes became teary and my heart heavy as I attempted to understand the simple, but intense interaction.

The weekend continued unfolding with each layer going deeper and becoming more intentional with each activity, interaction and burst of meaningful exchanges.

As the weekend was winding up, this once slow moving experience developed into this powerful cocoon of comfort and protection that was getting ready to end. I thought to myself, now I must move forward in all this glory; I wondered if I could keep the feeling going. As I moved forward into my fourth day, I can say that I

have been blessed with the ability to move my glory forward.

My Rule of Life has me focused on Matthew 22: 37-40 acknowledging my love for Christ and my neighbor. Most of all I get it. Our Lord our God comes first. I continue to maintain my daily prayer ritual, readings and meditation practice, attend weekly bible study with increased participation, be present at church services and offer more of myself in all of my interactions.

I continue to do my best as I attempt to be mindful by slowing down and learning from my missteps. I look forward to sharing this powerful gift of love and transformation with the women of Cursillo #113.

De Colores,

*From COUNTING ON YOU Newsletter of the diocese of Southeast Florida by Rachel Baker Blackwell*

## HOW IS YOUR TENACITY TODAY?



In September Kathye and I had a three-day mini-vacation at a guest house on the coast of Maine. One morning a man at the next breakfast table was wearing a tee shirt with the word **RENACITY** scrawled across the front. I was intrigued, and asked him what the word meant, so he told me this story.

Recently their six year old granddaughter

was being taught some new words to expand her vocabulary. Two of the words her parents were teaching her were **tenacity** and **resilience**. Later, when they asked her to repeat the words, **all she could remember was renacity**. She had combined tenacity, which you might call stick-to-it-iveness, and resilience, the ability to bounce back. All she could remember was a combination of the two words. He was so tickled by her response that he had the tee shirt made.

Hmmm . . . tenacity and resilience. These two attitudes are **helpful in our fourth day faith walk**. We want to be tenacious in our faith and actions, no matter what difficulties arise. And yet we have down times when we feel away from our Lord, and need resilience to bounce back. We want again to experience **the joy of worship, the insight of study, and the adventure of action**.

As fourth day Cursillistas, our plan is to be steady in our piety, study, and apostolic action. But sometimes something gets in the way, and throws us off the track. It might be a temptation, a perceived insult, a setback in work or family, or even a happy event. It can be anything that directs our attention to this world and the issues we face in it, and takes our eyes off our Lord. A book on prayer I recently read gave this example: "But what about those times that feel decidedly unspiritual – when we have a confrontation with the children or a disagreement with our spouse, for instance?"

In any case, something distracts us, and we fall away. We slack off in that time of prayer, or omit that Bible reading, or don't make that call to

someone who needs to hear from us.

What do we do? Just ride out the storm, and hope the days get better? This is where resilience comes in. It's the ability to recover and return to our fourth day practices. God recognizes we're off the track and guides us back. Our Lord can use many things to recapture our attention. Maybe help will come through the kindness of a friend, a Bible passage that speaks to us, a chance to show the Lord's love to someone else.

Whatever it is, the resilience in our faith guides us, giving us the ability to return to the actions and practices that keep us close to our Lord.

So, to have **tenacity is to stick to our plan or beliefs or course of action**. And to have **resilience is to bounce back to them when we go off track**. My hope for you and for myself is that our Lord will guide us in continuing Renacity as we walk with him day by day.

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

## REFLECTIONS ON CONFERENCE

De colores, Several folks from our Diocese recently attended the annual Episcopal Cursillo Ministry conference in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The theme of the conference was Take Up Your Cross and Go!



The stone cross mounted on the front exterior wall of the Cathedral was severely damaged when the Oklahoma City bombing occurred

over twenty years ago. This cross, in its broken pieces, currently hangs over a memorial gate erected in memory of the lives lost. Despite our human brokenness, God redeems us by the cross. The cross is a reminder of Who We are – all of us, Children of God; Whose We are as followers of Jesus and What We Are Called to do in the world. Once again, I was convicted to love all people more deeply and joyfully.

Next year's conference is in Houston. I highly recommend participating in a conference. Not only is it spirited filled, but there are great opportunities to see what others in our church are doing to spread the Gospel and serve God's people.

This will be my final article as your Lay Director. I have enjoyed the journey and working with all of you in this special ministry. I am thankful for the opportunity given and our time together. My heartfelt thanks to each of you for the work done and the joy of serving.

In His service,

*From COUNTING ON YOU Newsletter of the Diocese of Southeast Florida Cursillo movement by Pam Anderson, Outgoing Lay Director*





**EPISCOPAL  
CURSILLO MINISTRY  
CONFERENCE 2017  
IN OKLAHOMA CITY**

**An Oklahoma welcome and Fiesta Breakfast**



**MEDITATION**



**The Holy Eucharist**

**See  
You  
In  
Houston**

**October 19-20  
2018**



**Recessional**

**Commissioning of Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee**

