

## **Cursillo Ministry**

Cursillo is a spiritual journey and process designed to help Christians learn and live what is fundamental within our faith. Those who make their Cursillo (a.k.a Cursillistas) discover and live out their experience in a perpetual fourth day after the initial starting point weekend. As a ministry of the Episcopal Church under the authority of the Presiding and Diocesan Bishop, the goal of Cursillo is to bring the world to Christ by empowering adult Christian leaders with a specific method shown throughout the weekends. These teachings equip and encourage Christians to live out their Baptismal Covenant to serve Christ.

The Cursillo Ministry of the Diocese of East Carolina (DEC) traditionally holds two Cursillo weekends every year. The design of the weekend is to enrich and deepen an individual's faith journey and foster ministry among lay people. The weekend consists of talks and group discussions built on the Cursillo tripod of Piety, Study, and Action. The weekend is full of singing, prayer, meditation, great food, lifelong friendship building and being in community.

Upon returning from a Cursillo weekend, individuals are encouraged to follow in the footsteps of the Jesus Movement. The time after the weekend is known as the "Fourth Day" which extends for the rest of their lives. There are ongoing means to support Christian Ministries and living through the Cursillo Community. Small groups called "Reunions" and larger groups called "Ultreyas" are formed and meet regularly on a regional basis. We mature in our spirituality through these groups, and our shared Cursillo experience(s). Our Fourth Day makes that experience a lifetime process of spiritual growth and renewal following a "rule of life".

In 2022 Cursillo weekends returned in the spring and fall at Trinity Center. The return of the weekends was a huge success and our gathering together in fellowship as a community. Various precautions and safety measures were implemented due to Covid-19. However, the Spirit and enthusiasm was not lost as we gathered welcoming our first timers for the Cursillo weekend, known as "pilgrims" and our returning Cursillo members, known as "team." We wore stickers identifying our comfort levels in regards to social distancing, hugs, etc...based on our own comfort levels. It was a joyous occasion for all.

In the summer of 2022 the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry, Eastern North Carolina marked the 100<sup>th</sup> retreat weekend on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 at Trinity Center! In attendance for the celebration were leaders, clergy, Cursillistas from EC #1 through EC #100. EC #1 was held at Camp Leach, Beaufort County over 40 years ago. For those of us who have only been a part of this ministry since it moved to the Trinity Center, it was joyful to learn more about the history and good works across so many years.

The history of Cursillo goes back much further than 40 years as an international and national program. The goals and purpose of the ministry are very much in line with our current diocesan mission priorities, especially as God's Holy Spirit calls us to LEAD and LEARN. The celebration was a joyous time for all in attendance.

**Upcoming events:**

The ECMC (Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee) invites you to join us for our 2nd National Virtual Event on Saturday, January 28, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. (EST). This year's theme is "Jesus Is Just Alright With Me."

Website information: [www.episcopalcursilloministry.org](http://www.episcopalcursilloministry.org)

The Cursillo Ministry of the DEC invites you to attend an Upcoming Cursillo Weekend(s) at Trinity Center:

EC#102 April 27-30, 2023

EC#103 November 8-12, 2024

Website information: [www.cursillodec.org](http://www.cursillodec.org)

Respectfully submitted,

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Lay Director of Secretariat of the Diocese of East Carolina