

## **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 "Ultreya's" 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".

2023 we held two Cursillo weekends filled with new and excited pilgrims and many "cursillista's" serving from our Diocese. We brought in many new faces to serve on team as well as reconnecting with some of our more experienced cursillista's who have not recently served. Many of the new pilgrims shared how the weekend brought them closer to Christ and shared their experiences in group discussions. Our 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.

After much deliberation and thoughtful consideration, it has been decided by our Secretariat to cancel the upcoming spring 2024 Cursillo weekend. We are taking a necessary pause to evaluate our ministry in this new era and how it might be sustained for the generations to come. Much has changed since our first Cursillo weekend. There are now a variety of models for the formatting of a weekend as well as new ideas for the essential talks and meditations. Costs for us as well as for Trinity Center have grown in recent years, and we cannot implement changes in a beneficial and effective manner without some form of prayerful pause.

Though it was not an easy decision for anyone involved, please understand that this is being done to better who we are as a community and how we serve our pilgrims. When we return to our weekends with EC 104 in November 2024, trust that our ministry will be reinvigorated, renewed, and ready to begin its new and exciting chapter.

Our plans are to hold a retreat April 26-28, 2024 with the secretariat members and others from the DEC, and National Episcopal Cursillo Ministry. We will be reaching out to the members of the Secretariat and asking which committee(s) they would like to represent. If you have ideas of who should join us for the retreat please send me their names and contact information (think of upcoming leaders and also previous members who have been passionate about Cursillo).

**Make a friend, Be a friend, Bring a Friend to Christ!**

**Upcoming events:**

The Cursillo Ministry of the DEC invites you to attend an Upcoming Cursillo Weekend(s) at Trinity Center: EC#104 November 7-10, 2024.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Hatfield

Lay Director of Secretariat of the Diocese of East Carolina