



# The Rooster Crows

## Cursillo Newsletter Winter 2022



### FROM BILL ANSPACH, LAY DIRECTOR

**Dear Brothers & Sisters,**

I would like to wish everyone a Happy 2022. Although we have not been able to have our normal Cursillo weekends, our Cursillo community has been able to do some things. We had a *Cursillo Regathering* at Chanco in September which allowed many of us to get together and renew the bonds that have been stretched due to our isolations. In October, we hosted an Episcopal Cursillo Leaders Workshop which was lead by members of our National Episcopal Cursillo Ministry. The goal of the workshop was not to instruct but rather to inspire us to brainstorm and explore fresh ideas for Southern Virginia.

We came away with what we hope will be exciting new ways to look at our Servant Community, new possibilities for weekend structure and options plus guidance about opening doors to allow more denominations to participate.

You'll be hearing more about

this and I hope you will contribute your skills and talents in support of our efforts.

The Secretariat has not been sitting idle through this time. We have rewritten and issued a new Rector's Manual which provides guidance to rectors and teams for assembling and running a weekend.

The Secretariat has also tried to assemble a written list of policies that are used for various things in our Cursillo organization. We have been and will continue to try to determine Covid policies that will allow us to have a weekend and keep everyone safe. One of our goals this year is to initiate a committee which will organize our Servant Community to help us during our 4<sup>th</sup> Day to continue learning about how to serve God and His church.

The Secretariat has also been forced to make a hard decision about our Spring Weekend. Due to the current up trend in Covid cases, the Secretariat has decided to can-

cel our Spring Weekend. It will be impossible to build a team if we can not have face-to-face meetings where we build Christian Community and team building. We are also concerned about the number of candidates we would be able to gather. The Secretariat would like to thank the rector of the weekend, *Travis Kennedy*, for all her efforts to try to form a team and then try to keep it together for a year and a half. Travis and the Secretariat have mutually decided to release Travis from her duties for the weekend. We look forward in the future to call Travis once again as a rector. When her call comes again, she will bring a depth of knowledge from her experience of calling and forming a team many times over. It is just unfortunate this thing called COVID has gotten in the way.

I would like to thank some individuals of the Secretariat who completed their terms (and then some)

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## A letter from our Spiritual Director “To Have a Weekend or Not?”



I am sure the Cursillo community in Southern Virginia hasn't been the only community that asked this question since early-2020. I am also sure every community that has answered this question has struggled with the answer they arrived at. On the one hand, this truth should be helpful for those who are wrestling with the impact of the Coronavirus on the life of Cursillo, no one is in the struggle alone. But on the surface, the answer may not be satisfying – we miss having weekends and the energy that comes from the introduction of new Cursillistas to the Cursillo ministry.

Yet, it is important to sit with the tension present in the question about conducting a weekend. “Is this the time to have a weekend?” While, on the surface, almost any functioning Cursillo community could “put on” a weekend, even in the middle of a Pandemic. But I think it is important to reflect on one of the principal functions of the weekend; and (I may sound heretical on my part) the most important thing achieved on the weekend is not the inclusion of new Cursillistas into our ministry.

The most important thing we can achieve by conducting a weekend has more to do with the existing community than it does with the potential community. As a community prepares for a weekend the principal goals are (1) the creation of a new, life-enriching community of believers, (2) reinforcement of the principals of Cursillo – make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ, and (3) to live a life that models a Christian Community in Action. The greatest benefit of a weekend can be seen as the enrichment of an already existing community which is intent on sharing a life-changing or life-enriching experience by including others in a focused body of Christ, seeking community and support for the long term.

My encouragement to you is simple, the Pandemic has caused our community to spend time in reflection about our relationship with God in community. We, as a Secretariat, have been challenged to not simply do things “the same old way” and hold weekends because we are “supposed to”. We have been praying that our community will be encouraged to work together in small groups, to search for places where God is calling us to be intentionally active in our community, to reach out to those who need encouragement, and to share from the heart. Once the time is “right” we will be able to build an effective community that is prepared to share the message of Cursillo among our current and incoming members.

My prayer is simple and part of our foundation as Cursillistas.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful and kindle in us the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit and we shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy Your consolations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



De Colores!

Les+

Rev. Les Ferguson, El Camino Real May 1991, *Petra*

## Cont. Lay Director's Letter

in December and are now off the Secretariat. *Susan Summerlin* served as the Weekend Coordinator and is leaving after 5 years of service. *Tammy Rogers* served as the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Coordinator and is leaving after 4 years of service. I would like to thank both of them Very, Very much for their service and willingness to do whatever was needed.

Finally, I am asking people in our Cursillo community to volunteer. We will be looking for people to be part of our Servant Community Committee and our Secretariat is already short one person. At the end of this year, 4 people will be rotating off the Secretariat and if we do not get some volunteers to fill in, I am fearful that the Secretariat will dissolve and so might our Cursillo movement.

Remember, while the Three-Day Weekend is typically a wonderful experience, the Cursillo Method involves much more than just putting on weekends. In the hands of committed clergy and lay Christians, Cursillo has emerged as a mature instrument to empower the ministry of the laity.



Cursillo has given us the tools needed to help us as Christ calls us, not just to have mountain top weekend experiences, but a daily life time of living our 4<sup>th</sup> Day walk with Christ.

Upon receiving your Cursillo cross you were asked "Can Christ Count on You?" and your response was...

Your Brother in Christ,

Bill

## CONGRATULATIONS TO TALLEY BANAZEK

On October 23, 2021 Bishop Susan Haynes and the Commission on Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia approved Talley as a postulant to become a priest in the Episcopal Church.



Please hold Talley in your prayers as she moves forward on this journey.

Talley, the Cursillo community is so happy for you! May God bless you, watch over you and your family as you move through the process. You have been an inspiration to many of us!



## De Colores



**The Secretariat is closely monitoring the COVID-19 and variants** during this time. We strive to meet or exceed all Diocese recommendations, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as well as state and local officials. We promise to continue in our planning Cursillo weekends by maintaining a safe and clean environment. Through prayer and faith, we can be confident to move forward!

## Cursillo Newsletter Winter 2022

# Servant Community

# Hope

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."  
Jeremiah 29:11

The last newsletter reported on the results of the Leader's Workshop which we sponsored in November. The goal of the National Team was not to tell us "how to" but to present us with basic principles in an inspiring way that would deepen our understanding and in turn spark our desire to build on our strengths.

During the Workshop we "brainstormed" the following list of key areas in our Cursillo ministry that are in need of attention. They are:

- ◆ **Ultreya:** revitalization of Servant Community: study the National Literature to determine best practices
- ◆ **Day of Deeper Understanding:** revitalize and redesign to reinforce and deepen community's understanding of the 4th Day.
- ◆ **Sponsor Activities:** investigate the possibility of sponsoring events such as gathering to Clean the Bay Shore or the Pony Pasture to strengthen our communities through mission.
- ◆ **Communications:** broaden and expand seek specialists in our community with passion and skill in this area.
- ◆ **The 4th Day:** look for every opportunity to reinforce its importance before, during and after the weekend.

We also formulated the following guides to help us accomplish progress in these areas. They were:

- ◆ Try and eliminate the superfluous
- ◆ Be willing to be creative in our planning
- ◆ Remember in all things, plan to the future not the past
- ◆ **The 4th Day is the backbone** of our ministry, make it foremost in all we do
- ◆ Keeping all this in mind, move forward one step at a time.



### **THE KEY POINT TO ALL THIS:**

The article closed with this statement followed by a plea:

"The responsibility for success *in these areas* cannot rest solely with the Secretariat. We are actively seeking help from the greater community.

**Let's be more direct: CURSILLO NEEDS YOUR HELP**

We received exactly ONE response to that plea. If our Servant Community remains this inactive, I can only add my voice to that of our Lay Director Bill, who made it clear in his letter in this issue, "*I am fearful that the Secretariat will dissolve and so might our Cursillo movement.*"

So let me ask again...if you have an **interest, skills, ideas or passion for any of these areas**, and you are willing to help revitalize Cursillo in Southern Virginia please contact me directly at 804-840-9991 or [ogr8red1@gmail.com](mailto:ogr8red1@gmail.com).

I am aware of the risk I take publishing this information, but the need is greater than the risk. I pray that each of you will come and see, exploring together, then we can make Cursillo live again in Southern Virginia.



Your sister in Christ,

· Carol Gibbs

Secretariate Servant Community

## *Cursillo Newsletter Winter 2022*

WELCOME OUR NEWEST SECRETARIAT MEMBER

### **STEPHANIE LONG**

Stephanie is a faithful long time Cursillista who has served on many teams. She made Cursillo # 133 in the Diocese of So. Va; she sat at the table of Grace, worships at Emmanuel, Virginia Beach. We praise God for her commitment and saying Yes, Christ you can count on me!



Lord Christ, You have no body on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours.

Ours are the eyes through which your compassion must look out on the world.

Ours are the feet by which you may still go about doing good.

### *2022 Secretariat Members*



Rev. Susan Grimm, Spiritual Director  
Rev. Les Ferguson, Spiritual Director Asst.  
Bill Anspach,  
Nancy Comfort  
Mike Gaydos  
Carol Gibbs  
Stephanie Long  
Ana Nowland  
Courtney Wheeler  
Fourth Day. vacant

We are on the web!  
[Cursillodiosova.org](http://Cursillodiosova.org)  
Cursillo in the Diocese  
of Southern Virginia  
[facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)