

From the Desk of the Senior Warden

CURSILLO

In 1988, Janet and I were invited to attend retreat weekends called Cursillo and for me, as a young Christian, it was an eye-opening experience. On May 8-11, 2008 the Anglican community in Southern California is going to hold the first *United Anglican Communion Cursillo of Christianity* weekend and I would like to tell you a little about what Cursillo is.

Cursillo is a Spanish word that translates as "a little or short course", so Cursillo de Cristiandad translates as "a short course in Christianity". The Cursillo movement was founded in Majorca, Spain in 1944 by a group of laymen in the Roman Catholic Church. The purpose of the Cursillo renewal movement was to help those in the church to understand their individual callings to be leaders for Christ not only in their churches but also in their other environments such as home, work, and social life.

The Cursillo movement focuses on training laypeople to become effective leaders, who witness to the power of Christ. This training occurs on a three day weekend; which is filled with talks, group discussions, meditations, and worship. The Cursillo method emphasizes the doctrine of God's Grace, a balanced spiritual life through personal PIETY, STUDY, and ACTION, and witnessing to others of God's love through the process of "Make a Friend, Be a Friend, and Bring that Friend to Christ".

The three-day weekend is just the beginning of the Cursillo experience, the remainder of the method is known as the Fourth Day, which lasts the rest of your life. The main goal of the Cursillo fourth day is to encourage each person to join a group reunion. A group reunion usually consists of 3 to 5 people who get together weekly to support and hold each other accountable in their spiritual journey. For approximately the last 8 years I have been meeting with three or four other Christian brothers one evening a week from 7:00 to 8:30 where we share our Christian walks and prayer requests.

In the next few months some of you will be approached and asked if you would like to attend the Cursillo weekend scheduled for May 8-11, 2008 at the Green Oaks Ranch and Conference Center in Vista. If approached, I would ask you to prayerfully consider attending. If you have any questions please feel free to ask me or anyone who has attended a Cursillo weekend. Currently the Holy Trinity Cursillo community consists of: Chuck and Janet Merritt, John and Melissa Cochran, and Cassius Zedaker.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chuck Merritt