

We who are members of the National Episcopal Cursillo Committee (NECC) gathered on Tuesday, January 23, at the Cathedral of St. Paul in the Diocese of Los Angeles for our first quarterly meeting in 2007. We were guests the Cursillo Movement in that diocese and of the Very Rev. Ernesto R. Medina, who is Provost of the Cathedral. Fr. Ernesto graciously spent time with us on Wednesday as we continued discernment about how the Episcopal Cursillo Movement should grow. We spent the better part of that day working on this discernment both in subcommittees and as a whole, grappling with questions of what we've been missing from other cultures that are or could be in the Cursillo community and what to do about that. Fr. Ernesto also welcomed us when we arrived and gathered Tuesday evening and helped us during the Ultreya on Saturday evening. Then there was the Sunday morning worship on January 28. See the end of this piece about that.



Adela Gomez, who is the President of Secretariat in the Diocese of Los Angeles, marshaled a great team from the local community. They transported us to and from the airport when we arrived and departed. They housed us for that part of the time when we didn't stay at the Cathedral's Retreat Center. They fed us a variety of Latino foods and other fare. Between when we finished our work on Saturday morning and when we joined in the Ultreya on Saturday evening, they accompanied those of us who went to the Getty Museum and those of us who went to Hollywood Boulevard and Universal City Studios. The Rt. Rev. Jon Bruno, Bishop of Los Angeles, also welcomed us, greeting us Tuesday evening and celebrating and preaching at our Opening Eucharist on Wednesday morning.

Here's some of the work we did in Los Angeles.

1. We looked at ways to improve our communication to various groups.
2. We explored fundraising needs and possibilities.
3. We brainstormed ways to be of more help to movements that are having difficulty.
4. The Cursillo Leaders Development Subcommittee synthesized the reports from the representatives and identified strengths and weaknesses reflecting the health and well-being of the movement.
5. The Publications Subcommittee spent much of its time editing the Pastoral Plan booklet in the NEC Library and outlining its publication goals for the year.
6. The Seminar Subcommittee continued its work on NECS 2007 in Colorado Springs and future seminars.
7. The NECC members from Northeast, South-east and South Central Districts reported on plans for their District Meetings in 2007. The South Central District will meet in March, the Northeast District in April, and the Southeast in June.

We took the following action at our closing plenary session on Saturday morning.

1. Accepted with regret the resignation of the Rev. Kathleene McNellis, who had been elected in April, 2006, to complete the term as clergy representative from the South Central District to which the Rev. Robert McBride was regularly elected in October, 2004. Our present intention is to leave that position vacant until October, 2007, when a new clergy representative from the South Central District is due to be elected for a full three-year term at the Seminar in Colorado Springs.
2. Appointed the Rev. John Morrison from the Diocese of Long Island to serve as the new clergy representative from the Northeast District. No successor to the Rev. Denzil Hinds was elected for that position when we gathered at the Seminar and Annual Meeting held in Kansas City in October, 2006, although Fr. Hinds had served his full three-year term. Fr. Morrison is to serve in that position until the Annual Meeting of General Council in 2007. Then he may stand for election from the Northeast District for the two years remaining in that term.
3. Approved a schedule for the Seminar and Annual Meeting in Colorado Springs in October, 2007, which

promises to be downright exciting in several ways. Expect a larger variety of educational sessions, including an on-site ECLW, and a wow of a Saturday night. We are going to have a very good time. More to come.

4. Agreed to provide, without additional charge, copies of two NEC Library booklets, *The Fourth Day First* and *The Authentic Three-Day Weekend*, to those who purchased the NEC Library at the 2006 Seminar. These booklets were promised for the Seminar but were not printed until after the Seminar.
5. Authorized the Cursillo Leaders Development Subcommittee to add questions to the annual survey of diocesan movements in order to learn more about how we as a movement are working with and could better work with those of various ethnic and cultural backgrounds, so that we can enrich the movement.

This action from the plenary session on Saturday reflects only the work done that called for a vote of approval.

Not only did each of the subcommittees do plenty of other work in Los Angeles; plenty of work had also been done in preparation by e-mail and otherwise for the January meeting, so as to make the best use of the time we had together. We worked hard enough on these and other matters that most of us were exhausted and went to bed early on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, but that resulted in our getting nearly all of our work completed by Friday evening, so that we could avoid working through the night.



The Ultreya on Saturday evening was beautifully bilingual, so that those among us who spoke only English (primarily the NECC members) and those among us who spoke only Spanish (many from the host community, although many others were bilingual) could understand better what was being said. Judy Hood gave the lay talk, which Fr. Ernesto translated. Then, in a departure from the usual practice (which would have also had NECC members do the responses), Magui Lopez, a member of the Cathedral congregation, and Fr. Gary Bradley of Immanuel Church in El Monte both responded to Judy's talk. The lay talk and responses were about Judy's and Magui's roles in their respective families as part of what Fr. Gary confirmed was a version of the Parable of the Prodigal Son. We and our host community were united in tears and hope.

The Cathedral congregation offers three services of Holy Eucharist on Sunday morning, the first in Spanish, the second in English, and the third in Korean, with each followed by a festive breakfast. Most of us joined Latino members of the Cathedral congregation who worshiped in Spanish at the first Eucharist on Sunday morning, and Fr. Ernesto called us forward during worship and led the congregation in blessing and praying over us and the work which has thus begun this year. We were blessed indeed.

These NewsNotes are brought to you by the NECC, which takes this opportunity to remind you:

- [a] that you can download from www.episcopalcurso.org – a pre-registration form for the National Episcopal Cursillo Seminar 2007 – October 25-28, in scenic Colorado Springs – and send in your non-refundable \$10 deposit (only \$10!) to hold your space;
- [b] that an Episcopal Cursillo Leaders Workshop (ECLW) is an excellent way to strengthen your movement, and that you can watch the website (www.episcopalcurso.org) and *The 4th Day Magazine* for schedules or you can send requests for information to moorenjnc@yahoo.com;
- [c] that a subscription to *The 4th Day Magazine* is a wonderful way for sponsors to give to their candidates added help in living the fourth day; and
- [d] that contributions to Friends of Cursillo provide for the mission and work of the NEC, and that those contributions can be made as often as you like, either as occasional gifts or as annual pledges or just about any other way you'd like to do it.

Ultreya!