



# National Episcopal Cursillo Newsnotes



NECC Meeting

January, 2010

Diocese of Southwest Florida

The NECC convened for its January meeting at Dayspring Conference Center in the Diocese of Southwest Florida. The Finance Servant Community arrived early on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, to begin their work. The Executive Committee arrived on Wednesday at noon, with the new members of the Committee arriving at 3:00 p.m. to begin orientation to the Committee. The full Committee arrived on Thursday at noon.



We were hosted by the Diocese of Southwest Florida, and could not have received a warmer welcome. Our hosts met our every need, and Dayspring is an incredible facility. It is always helpful to have our January meeting at a conference center as it gives us more time to grow and develop as a community and incorporate our new members. During our meeting, we had the opportunity to meet with the local Secretariat, and shared celebrations and challenges in the Movement. During our stay, we also attended a Grand Ultreya. Over 100 people attended, and it was great to be able to see the energy in Southwest Florida. On behalf of the Committee, I thank the local community for helping to make our meeting a success.

When the entire committee gathered on Thursday, we immediately started our work, which also included stuffing and stamping 2700 envelopes for our annual fundraising mailer. It was mailed from Dayspring, and incredibly, we are already receiving responses. When you receive your letter, prayerfully consider a donation.



At each meeting, we, as a Committee, engage in a review of a book we have read in preparation for our meeting. For this meeting, we read *On a Wing and a Prayer*, by Brian Bouknight. It is a devotional book, and I commend it to your own study. The Committee's review seemed to hinge on whether each member enjoyed devotional books. This book is subtitled *Devotions for Busy Christians*, and contains a number of really good selections.

One question that has been posed is why the Committee studies a book at each meeting. We model the Cursillo method during our meetings by including worship (piety) and action in our committee work. Study is a vital component to this process. For our June meeting, we will be studying *What's So Amazing about Grace*, by Phillip Yancey. Please join us in this study. Also, if you have suggestions for books for the Committee to study, contact our Vice President, Holly Walker, giving her the name of the book and its author.

The Finance Servant Community was convened by the Rev. Pat Miller, our President Elect. They are chaired by our Treasurer, Dave Millar. The members of Finance are Missi Kern, Holly Walker, the Rev. Scott Jones, and Tom Welch. They are charged with reviewing the financial policies of the NEC, and developing clear guidelines for the stewardship of our funds. They will also prepare for a full audit of the NEC as a Church organization. Finally, they are to develop ongoing strategies to insure the continuing financial health of the Movement.

The Executive Committee develops policies for the national movement. We continued to discuss the financial health of the NECC. We have been blessed with the response from the national community to insure our ongoing work. We also addressed issues to protect the integrity and copyright of our publications. We developed (and the full Committee adopted) a policy that those purchasing NEC publications will certify that they will utilize the documents in accordance with the copyright, and in furtherance of the continuing support of National Episcopal Cursillo. Publications will also now include a watermark with the NEC logo.



The Communications Subcommittee continues to make improvements to the national website ([www.episcopalcursillo.org](http://www.episcopalcursillo.org)) and is looking to expand it further. Visit the site often for updates. The Subcommittee is currently working on updates of the brochures and marketing materials available on the website. If your Diocese has good brochures or other marketing information, share it with the Subcommittee. The 4<sup>th</sup> Day is also available for free download online. More and more individuals are taking advantage of this free service. If you wish to continue receiving a hard copy by mail, it continues to be available by subscription.

The Publications Subcommittee has also been hard at work continuing to update *The Library*. Updates to *What is Cursillo?*, *Publishing a Songbook*, and the Spanish version of the *Clergy Talk Book* will be available by this summer, and will be ready for the updated CD version of *The Library*, which will be released in time for the National Episcopal Cursillo Conference in October. Remember, if you purchased the first edition of the CD, you will be able to purchase the updated version for \$10.00 by turning in your old version. As always, for those who still like the paper publications, they will be available as well.

Cursillo Leaders Development is charged with monitoring the health of the movement. Each district representative regularly reports information to the Committee about each Diocesan movement. In October, we adopted specific criteria, including Bishop support, 4<sup>th</sup> Day activities, the functioning and structure of the Secretariat, and weekends. Before each meeting, your representative will be asking about these factors. Please respond promptly as it allows CLD to monitor trends around the country. CLD also oversees ECLW's around the country. Please remember that the strongest Dioceses regularly host ECLW's and encourage their leadership to attend ECLW's. If your Diocese has not hosted one recently, perhaps it is time to consider doing so. Contact your District ECLW coordinator, whose contact information is found at our website.

In addition to the Subcommittees, we have several Servant Communities to assist with our work. One important servant community is the Consultant Servant Community, led by Judy Hood of the Diocese of South Carolina. This Servant Community assists Dioceses with challenges and problems by providing a consultant to work with Diocesan leadership. We have several Dioceses which are currently either restarting or revitalizing their movements. The NECC is ready to assist in these efforts, and one excellent suggestion is to consider the use of a consultant. Contact Judy or the National Office for more information.



The Conference Servant Community has been hard at work, and preparations for the 2010 NEC Conference are well underway. The Conference will be held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The dates are October 28-31, 2010. I am pleased to announce that registration costs for this year will not be increased. Over the last several years, there have been concerns voiced about the lodging costs for the Conference. I am excited to announce that this year, we have a beach front resort for the Conference at an incredible cost.....less than \$75.00 per night! This

represents a significant decrease in the cost of lodging. I wish to thank our site planner, Barbara Eastwood for negotiating this incredible rate. Registration information will be available later this spring for Conference, and there is no reason, economic or otherwise, not to attend. We have great workshop offerings, and great worship opportunities. The local community has been hard at work to make the 2010 Conference a success. I would suggest registering as soon as the materials are available as we anticipate that the hotel rate alone will encourage early registration. Better yet, preregister online now through the website.

This is an exciting, albeit a challenging time for the Church and the Cursillo Community. Please keep the NECC in your prayers. We will next convene in the Diocese of Iowa in June.

Ultreya!

Thom Neal  
President