



The Abrazo

The newsletter of Maryland Episcopal Cursillo

Summer 2009

Fully Relying on God

Emerson Champion, Lay Director, Maryland Episcopal Cursillo

As a requirement of my job, I need to get my commercial driver's license. As I write this, I have completed the truck driver's school, but have not yet taken the MVA exam.

Learning how to drive a tractor-trailer has been very challenging and stressful for me. It is one thing to motor around in my relatively small car with its automatic transmission; it is quite another to safely drive a 50-plus foot long tractor-trailer. The truck is much wider than my car, and it has an 8 speed manual transmission, which requires double-clutching to keep from grinding the gears. There is much less margin for error. I have gained much greater respect for those who drive the big rigs for a living.

Going to the school has been one huge Piety walk. I believe God had two purposes in mind: The first was to get me to fully rely on Him and not on my own strength or understanding, and the second was to allow the instructors and other students to see me doing that. I expect there are other purposes that will be revealed in due time.

Going to the school was also another opportunity to let the Light of Christ shine through me. I wore a Christian ball cap every day, which I believe can be an effective yet gentle invitation to ask questions and engage in conversation. Those conversations occurred, and some seeds were planted.

There are three parts to the MVA exam: The pre-trip inspection, the skills test, and the road test. The pre-trip inspection is a list of 105 things, recalled from memory, that need to be inspected prior to driving the vehicle.

The skills test consists of 4 maneuvers on a test course: backing in a straight line for 100 feet, parallel parking on both the driver's side and passenger side, and backing into a simulated alley dock.

The road test is a 30-40 minute drive on public

roads. There are a number of things which are easy to do - for example, rolling backwards when stopped - and that will cause immediate failure.

I had the most trouble with driving on the public roads. My instructor was very good; he was a patient and effective trainer, but all the small details that need to be watched really ramped up my anxiety and stress levels. I wasn't sleeping well, and I approached each day with dread.

I knew I could not learn to drive the truck using my own strength, and that I needed to fully rely on God. I prayed often for God to be with all of us at the school, to watch over us, to protect us, to grant us the peace that passeth all understanding, to guide our hands, feet, mind, heart and soul, and to glorify His Holy Name in all of it. I also asked other people to pray. These prayers were powerful and effective. Even so, I still wasn't sleeping well, and I approached each school day with dread.

It was when I woke up on the last day of school that I realized I hadn't prayed for one very important thing - for God to increase my desire! That's why, even though I was relying on God to get me through, I was dreading going to school every day! Duh! So, I did pray for God to increase my desire, and that last day was my best one. I was much less anxious about driving the truck, we had a nice run out to Frederick and back, and now I am much less worried about the outcome of the MVA exam.

I am sure I have more to learn about fully relying on God. Even so, what I have learned has stayed with me. Recently at work, I had to go up about 80 feet in a bucket truck to work on a crane. Normally, I would be really nervous about that (going up in a bucket truck is much different than walking around on top of a crane), but I asked God to watch over me and give me peace, and He did. I pray that He will always remind me to fully rely on Him.

— *Ultreya!*



MARYLAND EPISCOPAL CURSILLO - WEEKEND 98

Walk Humbly With God □ *November 5 - 8, 2009* □ *Bishop Claggett Center*

De Colores everyone! What an amazing journey with God it has been so far for me since I have accepted the call as Rector for MD 98. I thank all of those who have been praying for me - please keep those prayers going.

After much prayer, the team formation for MD 98 is coming along very nicely. We have already had three core team meetings, and plans are being made for our team social in August which will kick-off our regular team meetings.

This is a good time to begin praying about and talking to someone to sponsor on MD 98 this fall. The sooner you identify a possible candidate, the sooner you can begin praying for them. Invite them to one of the Ultreyas this summer - that's a great way to introduce someone to Cursillo who may be interested.

This journey so far has been one piety moment after another for me. I am truly blessed and humbled to be serving as Rector for MD 98. Please keep MD 98 in your prayers everyday as "We Walk Humbly with God."

*Your Brother in Christ,
Alex Dzbinski MD 77
Rector MD 98*

Candidate Application Deadline

Candidate applications are due **October 5, 2009**, and should be mailed to:

The Maryland Episcopal Cursillo, 1011 Rockhill Ave., Baltimore, MD 21229

Attn: Tim Weldon, Assistant Lay Director

(Note - Candidate application and Sponsor forms can be found on pages 8 and 9 of this issue)

2009 NORTHEAST DISTRICT CURSILLO MEETING

On May 15th and 16th, the Maryland Episcopal Cursillo hosted the annual National Episcopal Cursillo Northeast District meeting at St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church, Severna Park. The Northeast District is made up of Episcopal Cursillo movements from the New England and Mid-Atlantic states. The Dioceses of Maryland, Western New York, Central New York, and Long Island were represented at this year's meeting.

The meeting got underway on Friday night with an Ultreya. There was joyful music, Pam Arey gave a wonderful Witness talk, and there was great fellowship afterwards with folks enjoying the opportunity to get to know each other better.

Saturday morning kicked off with a continental breakfast. There was music and worship, followed by presentations on candidate sponsorship, team membership, music licensing and copyright, the NEC library, and general discussions. The meeting ended with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by the Rev. Becki Neumann.

This year's event was a wonderful opportunity to meet folks from other movements, to celebrate those things we have in common, and to learn about how different movements implement weekends and other Cursillo events. Thanks to all who attended, and thanks to those who contributed their time, talent, and treasure to help make the meeting a resounding success!

*— Emerson Champion, Lay Director
Maryland Episcopal Cursillo*

NATIONAL EPISCOPAL CURSILLO CONFERENCE

San Antonio, Texas □ October 22-25, 2009

Once a year, the Cursillo community holds a gathering open to all fellow Cursillistas who come from across the United States as well as from England, New Zealand, Mexico, Belize, Canada, the Bahamas, Australia and many other countries. In addition to the talks, workshops, meditations, and daily Eucharist, there are opportunities to visit old friends, make new ones, share successes and learn new ideas about ways to improve on the movements everywhere.

This year's event will be held in San Antonio, Texas at the Hilton San Antonio Airport, October 22nd - 25th. The keynote speaker, the Rev. Stephanie Spellers, is the author of *Radical Welcome: Embracing God, the Other and the Spirit of Transformation*. She is also priest and founder of The Crossing at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Boston. The Crossings is an emerging church worship community that bridges Episcopal traditions with the voices and cultural expressions of young adults and people of color (www.thecrossingboston.org).

This exciting annual conference offers everyone who attends an opportunity to learn from one another and go home re-energized, refreshed, and renewed to do the work of growing Christ-centered leaders.

For more information about this year's conference or to register, please go to the National Episcopal Website at <http://www.episcopalcursillo.org/>



Emdoodles by Chris Hambrecht

PRAYER IS SIMPLE,

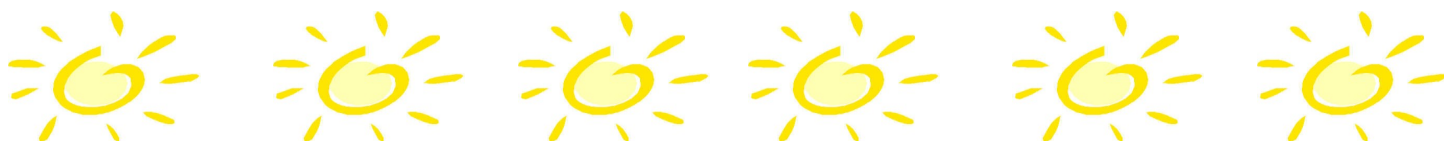
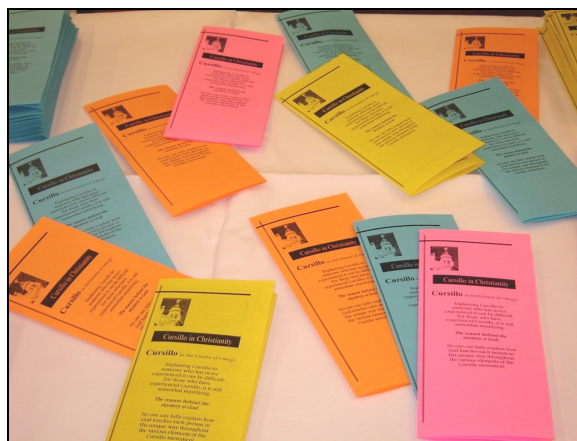


IT'S A CONVERSATION
WITH GOD!!

www.emdoodle.com

05/18/09

The Maryland Episcopal Cursillo (MEC) sponsored an information table at the annual Diocesan Convention held May 1st and 2nd in Hunt Valley, MD. Colorful brochures provided information about the activities of the MEC.



MARYLAND EPISCOPAL CURSILLO

% CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION • 23 N COURT ST • WESTMINSTER, MD 21157
WWW.CURSILLO.ANG-MD.ORG

May 2009

Dear fellow Cursillistas,

Times are difficult for many of us. Some folks have lost their job. Retirement savings accounts have collapsed. Investment income has been reduced. So for many we may not be as flexible with our charitable giving as in the past – we all appreciate that. But the work of sharing the Gospel of Jesus never ends, and Maryland Episcopal Cursillo continues in its mission, continues to offer three-day Weekends, publishes *The Abrazo*, maintains an active prayer ministry on the internet, and serves the people of the Diocese of Maryland. If you are able to assist in that ministry by means of a financial contribution, many thanks!

In 2008 the Secretariat of Maryland Episcopal Cursillo initiated a pledge program, asking Cursillistas to pledge \$100 per annum – or such amount as they might afford – toward the program and mission of MEC, and Maryland Cursillo responded generously, giving more than \$4000. As a result, we were able to expand our programs and support our mission with the increased financial support from the community.

We again appeal to the Cursillo Community to continue its financial support. We urge our brother and sister Cursillistas to donate \$100 in 2009 toward the program of Maryland Episcopal Cursillo, or such other amount as God may permit. You may submit a check at your local Ultreya gathering, or at a Clausura or Fourth Day Workshop, but the simplest means that most folks have found to is to write a check payable to Maryland Episcopal Cursillo, and send it to MEC, care of Church of the Ascension, 23 North Court St, Westminster, MD 21157.

We remind folks that we maintain donor records, that your donation is tax deductible for state and federal purposes, and that each January we sent out an annual statement to each donor of the previous year's gifts.

Again, we thank those Cursillistas who were able to support us in 2008, and hope that you can continue that support. If have not previously been part of our pledge program, please consider support in this year. And of course, if you are able to support Maryland Episcopal Cursillo financially, or if you are at this time unable to offer a pledge of financial support, we ask for your continued prayers for our mission and our ministry.

Ultreya!

Emerson Champion
Lay Director
Maryland Episcopal Cursillo

The purpose of Cursillo is to help those in the Church understand their individual callings to be Christian leaders.

MEC 2009 Pledge Program

In May, the Secretariat of Maryland Episcopal Cursillo once again sent a letter to all Cursillistas (see page 4) announcing the continuation of the annual pledge program and asking faithful Cursillistas to pledge \$100 per annum – or such amount as they might afford – toward the program and mission of MEC. Thanks to the 2008 response, we raised more than \$4,000 toward the support of our ministry and mission!

Maryland Episcopal Cursillo remains one of the few Cursillo programs in the Episcopal Church that does not request full payment of the cost of the Cursillo Weekend from incoming candidates. While \$50 of the weekend cost is re-recouped through fees, the balance is funded through gifts from the community. Faithful contributions are an important means of support of Cursillo. Our financial expenses are modest, but our investment in people and in the benefits of the Holy Spirit are open-ended.

If you choose to become part of our pledge program, you may submit a check at your local Ultreya gathering, at a Clausura or Fourth Day Workshop, or send it to the MEC, care of Church of the Ascension, 23 North Court, Westminster MD 21157. Please make checks payable to the Maryland Episcopal Cursillo and note that it is for your annual pledge.

Your donation is tax deductible for both state and federal returns, and you will receive an annual donor statement from the Maryland Episcopal Cursillo in January for your tax records.

Thanks to the many Cursillistas who were able to support us in 2008! We ask that you prayerfully consider continuing that support during 2009. If have not previously been part of our pledge program, please consider adding your support in this year. If you are unable to offer a pledge of financial support at this time, we ask for your continued prayers for our mission and our ministry.

— Dick Mitchell
Treasurer, Maryland Episcopal Cursillo

Our Life Together As Cursillistas

Palanca, on behalf of the Maryland Episcopal Cursillo, was sent to these recent weekends. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they go forth into their 4th Day.

— Liz Brodell, Palanca Coordinator

Journey in Faith Coed #1, Southeastern Pennsylvania
Tres Arroyos #1, Bethany Beach, Delaware
#77---Gulf Coast Women's Walk to Emmaus, Southwest Florida
#52 Men's Kairos Inside, Desoto Correctional Institution, SW Florida
#84---Far North Coast Women's Walk to Emmaus, Australia
#12---Tasmania Women's Walk to Emmaus, Tasmanian Island South of East Australia
#123---Golden Triangle Men's Walk to Emmaus Community, Southeast TX
Alberta Presbyterian Cursillo, Calgary Alberta, Canada
#500---Diocese of Orange, CA Vietnamese Women's Catholic Cursillo
#117---Birmingham, AL Women's Catholic Cursillo
#5---Sheffield Anglican Cursillo, South Yorkshire, England
#2---Mountain Top Boy's Chrysalis Flight, Western North Carolina
#17---Son Coast Girl's Chrysalis Flight, Eastern North Carolina

The Cursillo Method

Piety • Study • Action

Serving the Maryland Episcopal Cursillo

Hey everyone, NEC met back in May @ st. Martins Severna Prk. MEC really stepped up & was very hospitable. From tour guide/taxi, to housing, to meals, MEC really shined. (Yea GOD!) Thanx to everyone who attended, gave talks & provided the aforementioned (you know who you are.) It could have never happened w/out you. Before we know it, we'll be meeting in the pavilion for Las Mananitas (md.98) in Nov. Remember to keep the team & candidates in our prayers. Finally, Cursillo isn't the only event that happens @ the Bishop Claggett Cntr. Many of us attend Men's & Women's retreats there. Many of our kids attend summer camp there, too. Claggett & it's staff need our prayers also. See you in Oct. @ our annual Ultreya! Hoping your cup still runneth over !

Yur Bro.,
Tim Welden, Md. 83
Asst. Lay Dir.

Em doodles by Chris Hambrecht



Cursillistas on FaceBook !

Did you know? The Maryland Episcopal Cursillo has its own page on FaceBook, the popular internet social networking website. There are already several dozen "friends" on the page, and you're welcome to join us! The MEC FaceBook page helps you identify your brother and sister Cursillistas, and you can add photos, start discussions, or even post messages that can be read by the entire group.

Other Episcopal pages and groups on FaceBook include a Claggett Center group, a Bishop Sutton Official Fan Club, a group for the Maryland Episcopal Diocese, and the humorous "You Might Be an Episcopalian If...." page. Check it out at www.FaceBook.com

— Dick Mitchell

Episcopal Cyber Sources

The National Episcopal Cursillo
<http://www.episcopalcursillo.org/>
The Maryland Episcopal Cursillo Website
<http://www.cursillo.ang-md.org/>
Other Episcopal Cursillo Websites
<http://www.episcopalcursillo.org/episcopalwebsites>
The Book of Common Prayer
<http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/bcp.htm>
Maryland Chrysalis
<http://www.mdchrysalis.org/>

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
<http://www.ang-md.org/>
The Maryland Episcopal Church Locator
<http://www.ang-md.org/search.php>
The Episcopal Church
<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/>
The Bishop Claggett Center
<http://bishopclaggett.org/>
Online Bibles
<http://www.internetdynamics.com/pub/vc/bibles.html>



SPONSOR APPLICATION

Maryland Episcopal Cursillo

1. CONTACT INFORMATION

Primary Sponsor: _____

Address: _____

_____ Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____ @ _____

Candidate(s) being sponsored: _____

Secondary Sponsor (if applicable)

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____ @ _____

2. SPONSORSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

Date and location of your 4th Day workshop(s): _____

Are you a member of a permanent group reunion? YES _____ NO _____

What Ultreya(s) do you normally attend? _____

Your parish _____

3. SPONSOR'S COMMITMENT

As a sponsor, I/we will:

- Pray for my candidate(s) before, during, and after the Cursillo weekend.
- Discuss the weekend generally, including something about activities, the nature of the accommodations at Claggett, and how to resolve any physical, dietary, or medical accommodations.
- Provide or arrange for the candidate(s) transportation to and from the weekend, including a meal on Thursday night prior to arriving to the Cursillo.
- Discuss with my candidate the participation required on and after a Cursillo weekend.
 - Assist my candidate to find a permanent Group Reunion, or group myself with the new Cursillista(s).
 - Discuss with and accompany my candidates to the Reunion Ultreya
 - Discuss with and accompany my candidates to the 4th Day Workshop
- Send the appropriate fees with both signed applications to the Assistant Lay Director. The current fees may be found on the Cursillo website at www.cursillo.ang-md.org.

NOTE: Candidates not attending a parish in this diocese are expected to financially support Cursillo in their home diocese, not MEC; therefore, these candidates are required to pay the FULL weekend fee. ALL fees are NON-REFUNDABLE 30 days prior to the Cursillo weekend.

Sponsor(s) Signature(s) **Date**

For office use only

DATE REC'D: _____ FEE REC'D: _____ LETTER SENT: _____

CANDIDATE APPLICATION**Maryland Episcopal Cursillo 96 - Deadline October 5, 2009**

Preferred title (please circle): Mr. – Mrs. – Ms. – Dr. – The Rev. – The Right Rev.

Name _____

Address: _____

Street

City

State

Zip

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

@

Occupation: _____

Marital Status _____

Name to be used on button _____

Date of birth _____

Month/Day/Year

Home parish: _____

Clergy _____

Do you require accommodations to satisfy dietary, physical, or medical restrictions? No _____ Yes _____
Please detail if YES _____Has your sponsor(s) discussed your participation in the 4th Day in grouping, attending Ultreyas, and participating in a 4th Day workshop?

No _____

Yes _____

After prayerful consideration, please write a brief statement about why you want to attend a Cursillo weekend on the back of this form._____
Candidate's Signature / Date_____
Sponsor's Signature / Date**Clergy Endorsement:**

I know the above-named person and am aware that he/she is submitting an application to attend a Cursillo Weekend. I am not aware of any issues that would preclude this candidate's participation in Cursillo at this time.

Clergy Name (Signature)_____
Name of Parish_____
Clergy Name (Printed)**SEND THIS CANDIDATE APPLICATION
ALONG WITH THE SPONSOR APPLICATION AND FEES TO:****THE MARYLAND EPISCOPAL CURSILLO**

1011 Rockhill Ave., Baltimore, MD 21229

ATTENTION: Assistant Lay Director Tim Weldon



A Statement from the National Episcopal Cursillo Committee

Cursillo has always kept its eyes firmly focused on Jesus and on the Mission. One of the principles of the Cursillo movement is that:

We focus on Christ and His resurrection power in our lives, transforming us into the people He would have us be. Theological disputes and political issues have no part in our agenda.

The Cursillo Movement is a movement that brings together all people, whether they might consider themselves to have a liberal or conservative Christian philosophy or somewhere in between, for the common good of promoting Jesus Christ and God's Mission. It is Christ-centered and Christ-focused. The Policy of the National Episcopal Cursillo Committee is that it will not be an organization with a political or social agenda. National Episcopal Cursillo is a movement of the Episcopal Church.

We recognize, however, that a number of individuals with connections and interest in the Episcopal Cursillo Movement are no longer affiliated with the Episcopal Church. As a sign of reconciliation, we welcome those still able, as individuals, to be in communion with the local Episcopal Diocesan Bishop and fellow Cursillistas, whether lay or ordained, to participate in the activities of the Cursillo Movement. Furthermore, and always at the Diocesan Bishop's discretion, we encourage an openness to their continued participation and interest in the activities of the Episcopal Cursillo. It should be understood by all that as a part of their participation, they agree to do so fully for the advancement of Cursillo, be supportive of the mission of Episcopal Cursillo, and agree that they will not promote any political agenda.

What is clear is that National Episcopal Cursillo was created to serve the Episcopal Church in the United States, and we are licensed by the Roman Catholic Church to do that. Despite our personal theological and political views, we are focused on knowing Christ and making Him known to others. That is our call and in doing it lays our greatest joy. Ultreya! Ultreya!!

Let us get on with the day's apostolic action.

Let us all pray for the Church and one another every day.

— ***National Episcopal Cursillo Committee***
May 2008

Secretariat 2009

Lay Director	Emerson Champion
Assistant Lay Director	Tim Welden
Secretary	Carol Gooden
Treasurer	Dick Mitchell
Comptroller	Debbie Bargar
Servant Community Dir	Shelly Collinson
Spiritual Advisor	The Rev. Becki Neumann
Bishop of the Diocese of Maryland	The Rt. Rev Eugene Sutton
Northeast Area Rep	<i>[Open]</i>
Western Area Rep	Fran Nicholls
Metro North Area Rep	<i>[Open]</i>
Central Area Rep	Becky Fisher
Metro South Area Rep	Jim Stultz
Southern Area Rep	Earl Buffaloe

Servant Community 2009

Servant Community Dir.	Shelly Collinson
Pre-Cursillo Rep	Robin Mayfield
Weekend Rep	Lynn French
4th Day Coordinator	Anne Arey
Palanca Coordinator	Liz Brodell
Music Coordinator	Ruth Anne Champion
Spiritual Advisor	The Rev. Marshall Thompson
Communication Coord.	<i>[Open]</i>
Website Editor	Shannon Stultz
Abrazo Editor	Pamela Blyth
Communications	Emerson Champion

Are You on the Email List ?

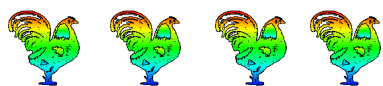
Maryland Episcopal Cursillo maintains an email list that is used to send out prayer requests, Ultreya and other event reminders, and notices of interest to the Cursillo Community. All messages are kept brief. If you are interested in receiving Cursillo emails, please send your name and email address to Emerson Champion, Cursillo Email List Coordinator, at echampio@gmail.com

Comptroller Address

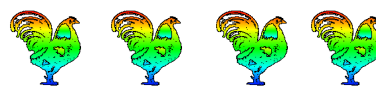
Green Palanca may be sent to:
Comptroller, Maryland Episcopal Cursillo
% Church of the Ascension
23 North Court St
Westminster, MD 21157
 Thanks!

Don't Miss Important Info!

Please send changes in your contact information to:
Cursillo Communications Coordinator
8068 Armiger Dr, Pasadena, MD 21122
 or
 send an email to echampio@gmail.com



Monthly Ultreyas



1st Sunday, 2:00 PM

St. John's Episcopal Church
 52 Broadway, Frostburg, MD
Contact: Daphne Gooding (301-689-5524)

1st Saturday, 7:00 PM

Christ the King Episcopal Church
 1930 Brookdale Road, Woodlawn, MD
Contact: Jim Stultz (410-636-7377)

2nd Sunday, 7:00 PM

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
 3695 Rogers Ave, Ellicott City, MD
Contact: Greg Fraser

2nd Friday, 7:30 PM

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
 1108 Providence Rd, Towson, MD
Contact: Alex & Kathie Dzbinski (410-252-7791)

3rd Sunday, Noon

Christ Episcopal Church
 3100 Broome's Island Rd, Port Republic, MD
Contact: Murray Cheston (410-326-3596)

3rd Sunday, 3 PM

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
 18313 Lappans Rd, Boonsboro, MD
Contact: Liz Brodell

3rd Friday, 7 PM

St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church
 375 Benfield Road, Severna Park, MD
Contact: Wadi Williams

4th Friday, 7:30 PM

St. James' Parish
 5757 Solomons Island Rd, Lothian, MD
Contact: Joe Carta



*The Diocese of Maryland
Maryland Episcopal Cursillo
c/o Church of the Ascension
23 North Court Street
Westminster, MD 21157*

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

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Mark Your Calendar

MD 98 Candidate Application Deadline _____	October 5, 2009
2009 Diocesan Ultreya, Annual Business Meeting, & Team Commissioning _____	October 10, 2009, 2:00 pm, <i>Bishop Claggett Center</i>
National Episcopal Cursillo Conference _____	October 22 - 25, 2009, San Antonio, Texas
MD 98 Cursillo Weekend _____	November 5 - 8, 2009, <i>Bishop Claggett Center</i>
<i>Sponsors' Service for MD 98</i> _____	<i>Nov 5, 2009, 7:30 pm</i>
<i>Las Mananitas for MD 98</i> _____	<i>Nov 8, 2009, 6:45 am</i>
<i>Clausura for MD 98</i> _____	<i>Nov 8, 2009, 3:45 pm</i>
MD 98 Reunion Ultreya _____	To Be Announced
4th Day Workshop _____	To Be Announced
MD 99 Cursillo Weekend _____	April 22 - 25, 2010 <i>Bishop Claggett Center</i>
MD 100 Cursillo Weekend _____	November 4 - 7, 2010, <i>Bishop Claggett Center</i>

Make A Friend, Be A Friend, Bring A Friend To Christ