

The members of the National Episcopal Cursillo Committee (NECC) gathered on Thursday, July 24, at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Snellville, Georgia, which is just northeast of Atlanta, to attend the third quarterly meeting of the year. There is a large and active Cursillo community at St. Matthew's that served as wonderful hosts for committee members. We were transported, fed and housed in wonderful fashion by, and shared in the music ministry of, a group of Cursillistas from Snellville organized by Jack Denton, immediate past president of the Atlanta Secretariat.



Several of us met with the new executive director for the Happening National Committee – Randy Newton – from Newnan, Georgia – Thursday afternoon to begin in-person discussions as to how Cursillo, Happening and Vocare can begin to work together to further God's work. Vocare – through Rev. Rose Hassan and Cori Phillips, president of Vocare International - shared suggestions by e-mail. Randy is a wonderful new leader for the Happening movement and we were able to share several ideas about how the three groups can help each other. Look for significant cooperation in the next year.

After dinner we continued the process of ***Piety, Study and Action*** by sharing what had been happening in our lives following the May meeting and then discussing the book each of us had read in advance – *Premeditated Mercy* by Joseph Nassal. The book is a collection of stories about forgiveness and reconciliation and includes an analysis of reconciliation and forgiveness, with God's mercy being at the very center of both. As one of our members pointed out, it often seems easier to forgive than to reconcile.

The NECC spent all day Friday and Saturday morning and afternoon in meetings: district meetings, subcommittee meetings and business meetings, as well as a meeting with the Atlanta Secretariat led by President Holly Walker. We had a wonderful barbecue dinner Friday night at the home of Jack and Pam Denton.

At the business meetings there was a full discussion of finances, including the continued need for diocesan contributions to be kept current and the fact that a letter requesting contributions by individuals to Friends of Cursillo had been sent out without a significant response. While many dioceses are behind in contributions to the NECC, we very much appreciate those that are current and/or have increased contributions. In addition, many of the NECC members have donated one or more of their flights in an effort to cover expenses. **The net result is that the NECC is in a very precarious financial situation. If you can help we would very much appreciate it.** We also revisited an excellent NECC Financial Task Force report prepared by a task force chaired by Stu Simpson in 2004. While many of the recommendations had already been instituted we looked for ways to implement more of them. With the various changes made at the meeting it is believed that a budget can be submitted at the annual meeting in October.

We also received reports from many dioceses that had received thanks from their Bishops for palanca received by them before or during the Lambeth Conference. We prayed for the conference and the Bishops attending as part of each of our many services during the meeting.

The following **actions** were taken:

- Elections took place. Thom Neal, from Upper South Carolina, was elected president-elect and will take over the reins after Doug VanDemark in October 2009. Mother Pat Miller, from Western Missouri, was elected vice president. And, Denny Walters, from San Diego, was elected Secretary. They and Doug will assume their responsibilities in October at Daytona Beach.



- The committee voted to reduce the number of NECC meetings for 2008 from four to three and to increase the meeting times for the first two meetings by a day. The first two meetings will be in late January/early February and June with the third meeting continuing to be held just prior to the seminar. It is expected that the change will save approximately \$6000.
- A recommendation was made to have the 4th Day Magazine available on the web site beginning in 2009.
- Plans were made to maintain a prominent presence at the Episcopal Convention in Anaheim in 2009. We have adopted ways to reduce the costs of that presence.
- We passed motions from the **Seminar Servant Community** (1) to give initial approval to hotel arrangements for the seminar to be held in San Antonio, Texas October 22-25, 2009 and (2) to approve the promotion of materials on our web site by Tom Ehrich, the keynote speaker in 2008. We also authorized the SSC to investigate alternative dates and types of locations for future seminars.
- We approved a form of letter introducing the NEC prepared by the Communications Subcommittee that we will request be included in the packets received by candidates at the conclusion of their Cursillos.

Publications is completing manuscripts on A Day of Deeper Understanding and Ultreya that will be reviewed and voted upon in the next six months. They should be ready for publication in early 2009. The subcommittee has plans to complete additional manuscript revisions, including What is Cursillo, Role of Clergy and Cursillo Information Day – Clergy. **Cursillo Leaders Development** completed and had approved a questionnaire to be sent to all Bishops concerning the Cursillo Movement. It also reported that they had assembled schedules and other materials for “Back to the Mountain” programs that will be available on the web site to diocesan Cursillo Movements so they can see what other dioceses have done. CLD continues to monitor the health of the Movement throughout the country and encourages and monitors contacts by NECC representatives with their Diocesan Movements. **Communications** continued its work on updating and improving the new NECC web site. A motion was approved to add functionality to the website to collect Friends of Cursillo donations. The subcommittee is continuing to improve the web site by replacing stock pictures with NEC pictures and getting the calendar functional.

We met with the Atlanta Secretariat at 5:00 Saturday and had a good exchange of what is happening in the Atlanta diocese and at the national level. The Ultreya potluck and gathering took place on Saturday evening at St. Edward’s Episcopal Church in neighboring Lawrenceville, with lively music provided by musicians from St. Matthew’s and great food. Thom Neal gave the lay talk, focusing on sharing Christ in our environments. Judy Hood and The Rev. Wayne Sanders provided the lay and Gospel responses. We went to church Sunday morning and began our treks home. It was good to be in Snellville.



Seminar in Daytona Beach, Florida

“Come to the Waters” is the theme for Seminar 2008 in Daytona Beach, Florida, October 23-26. **Now is the time to make plans.** Information about the Seminar and registration forms are available on-line at www.episcopalcursillo.org, or from the NEC Office.

Essential Information

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Please contribute to the continuing work of the NECC by sending a tax-deductible check made out in whatever amount you can afford to FRIENDS OF CURSILLO at the address above.

Remember that an Episcopal Cursillo Leaders Workshop (ECLW) is an excellent way to strengthen your movement, and that you can watch the website (www.episcopalcursillo.org) and *The 4th Day Magazine* for schedules or you can send requests for information to moorenjnc@yahoo.com.