For the program for the 2017 Convention of the Diocese of Oregon

Oregon and Southwest Washington Episcopal Cursillo

Cursillo (pronounced “cur see’ yoe”) is a ministry in the Episcopal Church that helps Christians deeply experience both God’s love for us and love for one another, in ways that empower them to share that love with the world. Cursillo has been active here since the 1970’s and continues to touch the lives of those involved.

A Cursillo weekend is designed to be a focused “short course” of Christian life, giving participants the opportunity to experience what is foundational as a Christian (prayer, worship, learning, fellowship) and to help these same followers of Jesus discover and live out deeply satisfying lives of love and service to God. Bishop Michael Hanley has praised the benefits of Cursillo, saying, “I made my Cursillo in 1981 in Oklahoma along with my wife, Marla. It was a powerful experience with the love of God in community. I recommend it to anyone interested in deepening their faith and commitment to Jesus Christ. Yes, God can be encountered in many places and in many ways, but God is often most powerfully experienced in community. Cursillo provides a wonderful experienced and the presence of God in community.”

Cursillo brings together a diverse group of participants and team members, from throughout the congregations of the Diocese of Oregon and from southwest Washington, for three days of listening, learning, singing, praying, sharing, eating, and laughing. What is experienced on the weekend then serves as a springboard to a life of ongoing spiritual development, in the company of others, and as an inspiration for a life of reaching out to the world with the love of Jesus Christ (known as the Fourth Day). Gatherings of Cursillo participants and friends are held around the Diocese, and are referred to as group reunions and ultreyas (a Spanish term of encouragement).

In July, 2017, a Cursillo weekend for all adults was held at a conference center in Turner, outside of Salem. Many who participated thought it to be one of the most spiritually dynamic weekends they could recall, as it was no doubt buoyed by the presence of a couple of recent college graduates, a dedicated team, and many who stepped forward to help where needed. As always, Cursillo encourages those who have been blessed in the past to continue to participate in the ministry. Clergy too are invited to “come away for a while” to attend Cursillo (we promise that you won’t have to collar up, and we might be able to find supply coverage). For more information, visit www.oregon-cursillo.org and find Oregon Episcopal Cursillo on Facebook. If you would like to attend a weekend or work on a team, contact your clergy for more information, or email oregoncursillo@gmail.com.

Sheryl Haase, Outgoing President
Kevin Mallon, Communications Chair