

THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT

By Ada Napier, St. Michael's in Independence

Who is a leader? A leader is anyone with the ability to influence others. So who influences others? All of us, with anyone we encounter either regularly or once in a lifetime. So, Christian leaders are followers of Christ who influence others in the daily environments of life – work, home or play. An effective Christian leader has a growing relationship with Christ so that he or she can be equipped to live in the world as Christ. That's what we vow to be every time we participate in reciting the Baptismal Covenant.

The Cursillo Movement is about providing a method by which we can live out our lives fulfilling the Baptismal Covenant vows we make. The Cursillo Movement is a movement of the Episcopal Church, not separate from the Church and not competing with the Church. It is under direct authority of the Presiding Bishop and the Diocesan Bishops. Clergy and laity have a role in Cursillo. The Cursillo Movement is about living a life of accountability within Christian community so we can go out into our daily environments and make a positive change in those places and people we encounter for Christ.

When we are in relationship with Christ, we can bring those around us to know Christ by how we live in the daily struggles of life. We can befriend them, warts and all. And finally we may, or someone else may, bring them to know Christ as we do. This is what Cursillo is about: building friendships to bring people to Christ.

The Cursillo weekend introduces, or more often reminds, us of ways to renew and deepen our relationship with Christ and to live out our Christian commitment in the Baptismal Covenant. It encourages and models Christian community and accountability so we can maintain

and grow as Christians when the world's daily struggles beat on us.

Our lives are a journey of faith, and Cursillo can be one leg of that journey. Consider joining the journey July 22 to 25. The lay rector for the weekend is Rachel Swaney from St. Michael's in Independence. The spiritual advisor is the Rev. Tom Wilson from St. Andrew's in Derby. For information, contact St. Michael's at 816-373-5333 or St. Andrew's at 316-788-2595.

Candidate applications are available at the Web site:

<http://stmichaelschurch.org/pages/cursillo.html>