

## **Cursillo, Fourth Day, and *The Jesus Movement***

**By The Rt. Rev. Martin S. Field**

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, has—for three years—been calling our Church to live into the reality that we are “the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement.” He and his key staff have articulated three key ministries that—when carried out—indicate that we are on the move with Jesus: evangelism, reconciliation (especially racial), and caring for creation. When these three facets of ministry happen—when we care for one another enough to share the good news and to heal our relationships and to protect and restore the planet where we and our children must live—the people of God are thereby building the Beloved Community. We are thereby moving closer to the world that was God’s dream and desire at creation.

Bishop Curry’s appeal is powerful, touches me, and makes me want to get onboard and to do my part faithfully. Maybe it’s the same for you. In fact, I hope it is.

But recently, I was asked, “What does Bishop Curry’s idea of the Jesus Movement mean to us in the Cursillo Movement?” I’ll ask that another way: How does Bishop Curry’s concept of the Jesus Movement intersect with the Cursillo Movement’s commitment to the Fourth Day, and what does it mean to those committed to following the Cursillo Method of study, piety, and action toward greater personal commitment and fidelity to Jesus the Christ?

Largely, these are questions about semantics and word choices. The language of Cursillo and Fourth Day and the language that Bishop Curry uses lead to the same end. They are, perhaps, different words for the same thing. Bishop Curry’s language and the language we use in the Cursillo Movement both express commitment, clarity of purpose, and fidelity to that purpose.

If I were to parse the language closely, I would say that the subtle differences are these: Bishop Curry’s vocabulary powerfully calls us to focus on the big picture, on God’s great goal, on the overarching mission of those who follow Jesus. Cursillo’s vocabulary is about what that means to an individual, about personal and intentional development or formation of and by individuals. It is about transformation and process. That’s what we hope happens in a person’s Fourth Day; we hope they get on and remain on a trajectory of continual, committed, disciplined, intentional growth in faith, hope, and love, and that their growth leads to action, which is itself formational and transformational.

We may use the language of “Fourth Day” or that of “Jesus Movement,” but it’s the same desired outcome: people who follow Christ taking their place in acting for the Gospel, acting as Jesus’ ambassadors, messengers, and apostles, acting to build and live together in the Beloved Community that is God’s dream for us. In the end, Fourth Day is the way Cursillistas build their personal corner of the Beloved Community.

And that is what the Cursillo Movement is all about.

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