



Cursillo in South Africa

Highveld Cursillo W2

Cursillo is a movement inspired by the Holy Spirit. It began in the Roman Catholic Church and later spread to the Anglican Church. It is under the authority of the Diocesan Bishop and helps the Anglican Church to live out the Great Commission of Christ.

The Cursillo mission is to restore all people to unity with God and with each other. As a movement of the whole church, it involves all members – laypersons, deacons, priests and bishops. Cursillo works within the diocese to renew the faith of members of the various parishes which are involved. This breathes life into those parishes, so the whole church benefits.

In 2011, 16 people from the Diocese of the Highveld, led by Bishop David Bannerman, went to the Diocese of Bunbury in Western Australia to participate in their sixth Cursillo weekend (W6/M6). Then, in 2012, a team from Bunbury came to the Highveld to lead the Women's 1 and Men's 1 weekend, assisted by the Highveld team.

This year, in May, the W2 and M2 weekend was run entirely by a trained Highveld team. It was attended by parishioners from all over the Diocese. A report of the weekend follows.

HIGHVELD CURSILLO W2

The W2 weekend was attended by 20 participants from various parishes in the Diocese of the Highveld, led by 18 team members.

The lay director was Gill Andrews and the spiritual director was Revd Marlene Rodda, with Revds Lynne Coull and Audrey Andrews as the spiritual advisors. It was a wonderful weekend for everyone. The eMseni Retreat Centre outside Benoni was the ideal place to have this weekend.

The centre has lovely, extensive grounds, with two beautiful chapels, where we experienced times of exuberant worship





Highveld Cursillo M2

and inspiring meditations. We knew that God was present with us, calling us into a deeper and more personal relationship with Him and with each other.

There was a strong sense of community among us: we felt that we belonged together and we could share ourselves in an atmosphere of love and acceptance and growing trust. We gathered together in the community hall regularly, listening to talks given by team members on various aspects of their faith and life in Jesus.

We enjoyed discussions and sharing in small table communities after the talks; we had times of prayer together, sharing our needs and celebrating God's goodness. And we shared lots of laughter, great fun and excellent meals, provided by the wonderful and welcoming staff of eMseni, over the three days of the weekend. We joined the men for meals (women and men are separated for the talks and discussions, and most of the worship). Our final Eucharist, together, was presided over by Bishop David Bannerman.

As a movement of the whole church, it involves all members – laypersons, deacons, priests and bishops.

The Cursillo weekend, undoubtedly, is a special time of discovering more about the love of God and the love of his followers. We pray that God will establish this movement in the Anglican Church in our country, firmly, and use it to break down barriers, enabling increasing experience of oneness with Christ and his people.

CURSILLO M2

The second men's weekend was held in parallel with the ladies' one, from 9th to 12th May at eMseni Methodist Retreat Centre in Benoni. Thirteen men attended, as participants, with 17 team members. The theme was "God's love has flooded our hearts".

Bishop David Bannerman welcomed everyone and special mention was made of

Irene and Roger Webber, who had travelled all the way from Bunbury to be with us. We were very fortunate to have their guidance, encouragement and support. We value this ongoing relationship with Cursillo in Australia.

A highlight of the weekend was the good food, as eMseni went to great effort in catering for us.

The men's singing improved as the weekend progressed. The Cursillo songs are becoming more familiar now and, periodically, the room was brought to life with impromptu singing and harmonising.

There was chapel time, which included meaningful meditations, exuberant worship and times of silence. The beautiful small chapel, and the large one, with their thatched →

roofs, helped to create a warm atmosphere, where God's love could be shared.

The spiritual director was Father Nigel Andrews, and the spiritual advisors were Fathers John Rodda and Hubby Kekana. They led the services, gave spiritual guidance and directed the singing with enthusiasm. Father Nigel's bookstore was well received, and many people bought books to take home to read.

As Mother's Day happened to fall on the Sunday, the lay director, Errol Peace, arranged for the men to surprise the ladies by serenading them with the hymn "All Things Bright and Beautiful". The singing, and gifts of sweets were well received and, amidst great hilarity, Errol proceeded to serenade the ladies with a very distinctive rendition of the popular Perry Como song "Mother".

The next weekend is from 23 to 26 October. We hope that, this time, we will have a full house of 25 men and 25 women. We also hope and pray that the Cursillo movement will spread to all the dioceses in southern Africa. We are convinced that it is one of the ways God is wanting to use to bring life and hope and healing and growth to his church.



We are convinced that it is one of the ways God is wanting to use to bring life and hope and healing and growth to his church.

One of the great blessings of Cursillo is continued gatherings for worship, fellowship and sharing after the initial weekend, so relationships and growth continue: it is a way of life, a process, rather than an event. †

