

## ***What is 4th Day?***

***(The Rev. John Spicer, Christ Church Wakulla's Senior Pastor, wrote this piece as an explanation of Anglican 4<sup>th</sup> Day to his congregation after two parish members returned from a weekend. John was a spiritual advisor on men's AD4 #5.)***

Song, laughter, spirited fellowship, and what hundreds of people have described as the most important three days of their lives. It's called 4th Day (aka "Cursillo" in the old paradigm). A large number of Christ Church parishioners have "made" their 4th Day, and some of you have heard about it. I've been involved with 4th Day now for nearly 30 years, most recently as Spiritual Director for the Diocese of Pittsburgh. In my opinion, and it's an opinion shared by many bishops and clergy, it is possibly the most exciting and the most effective means of bringing people into the fullness of their Christian faith.

4th Day is a "short course in Christianity", which began as a renewal movement in the Roman Catholic Church in Spain (some of the Spanish terminology has been retained out of deference to the origins of 4th Day in the Catholic Church in Spain.) has now become a growing movement in the Anglican Church.

4th Day itself is a three-day weekend which takes a New Testament look at Christianity as a way of living. It is highly structured and designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people, and through them, their families, congregations, and the environment in which they live, work and play. Its ultimate purpose is "the Christianization of the world through the action of Christian leaders in all areas of human activity." 4th Day offers answers to such questions as: In today's world, can Christianity really penetrate all the areas of our secular lives? Can it live there? Can it grow there? 4th Day is "simply a method of preparing and continually supporting Christians as they live out their commitments in their homes, parishes, and places of work".

4th Day is a combined effort of laity and clergy working to bring renewal to the Church. A series of talks, given mostly by lay people, cover a variety of topics, both theological and practical, all pertaining to living the Christian life. Each day there is worship, sharing with other Christians from all over the Diocese, song, lots of laughter and fun, and some delightful surprises. But at no time is anyone asked to do anything even slightly embarrassing or threatening. There is nothing "crazy". Everything about the weekend is thoroughly "Anglican", and done in good order.

I really do encourage you to consider being a candidate. If you have questions about 4th Day, please ask me, or anyone who has made a weekend. Along with hundreds of other people, you too may find those three days to be the most important of your life.

And, please, give Bruce and Don a warm "welcome home" (or, in 4th Day terms, a "Happy 4th [the day after the weekend] Day!").

- Fr. John