

Come and See...Go and Tell the Cursillo expression in the Diocese of Olympia has been struggling. In 2018 I was active as the database manager trying to put together a cohesive picture of the folks in the ministry. Four sources with over 2000 people was whittled down to some 900+ non-duplicating entries. I was also looking for candidates for Spiritual Director and spoke to a priest with whom I was working. He did not say "No" but spoke of wondering if this was still an active "thing". He knew there were reunion groups in his church but otherwise was not aware of much activity. Now this was someone who had a current Weekend leader in his parish. Hmm... My initial reaction was to be a bit bristly but I took pause for thought. What was wrong with this picture? Was he right? We had gone from two weekends a year with an average of 20 candidates to one weekend a year with not more than 20 candidates. Secretariat had gone from 10 active members - 8 lay and 2 ordained to 1 ordained and vacancies in the 8 lay but I was not ready to consider his comment seriously. In 2020 I was asked to consider being president of Secretariat. I accepted with great hopes for the future and the COVID pandemic hit.

Now it would be easy to blame COVID for the continuing issues... A scheduled Weekend with 20 guests was "postponed" then "postponed" again and finally with only 4 guests left it was cancelled. Along the way someone asked me why they were not getting The Colors newsletter. I responded that there was no one to write it but the real reason was because there was no news. We did continue to have the occasional Prayer & Share and Secretariat meetings but that was it.

With Secretariat down to 1 clergy and 6 lay members we continued to struggle on but there comes a time to admit we cannot continue like this and now are down to 1 clergy, soon to retire, and 3 lay members. We had to create an addendum to the bylaws changing the quorum from 5 to 3 as no business can be done with only 4 active members. Our final act is to declare Come and See...Go and Tell to be Dormant. We have resisted the idea of calling it "dead".

There are funds in our bank account. These are to be held by the diocese in hopes of revival but if no revival comes by 2027 the funds are to be used to foster the personal growth of the people of the diocese as they seek to live into the promises of their baptism which is the idea behind Come and

See...Go and Tell. We wish you all well on your continuing journey in Christ.

Go in Peace,
Becca DeShaw
President Secretariat