



Forward

Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Volume X

October 2005

Our Mission: To Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

From the Chair

In the April issue of the Church Times was an article written by Larry Salvadori, which presented his perspective on the question - What is Cursillo? It was a thoughtful and enlightening presentation and I highly recommend that you take the time to read it if you haven't already. You can get a copy of the article on the diocesan website by clicking on *Diocesan News* and then *April 2005 Church Times*, or on the Cursillo website under the *Forward* tab (click on *April 2005*). For this issue, I'd like to share with you some of my thoughts on what Cursillo is to me.

To make a long story short, Cursillo for me is breakfast at Denny's on Saturday morning at 7:00 AM. At that time each week I meet with some of my brothers from Good Shepherd-Bonita and, during the ensuing hour, we share our experiences over the past week in the areas of piety, study, and action. Yes, you've got the picture, Cursillo to me is "Group Reunion" and here are just some of the reasons why:

A time to share my greatest joys and deepest hurts: I suspect that my life isn't really much different than anyone else's. That certainly seems to be true in the case of my grouping brothers. My life is like a roller coaster. Sometimes I'm in a flat period when things just roll along on their own, no sweat and no pain. Other times I'm way up and full of joy and sometimes its just real tough to get up and face another day. Whatever state of mind I am in on Saturday, it has been such a blessing to be able to fully share my deepest feelings about what has happened with folks who I have learned to explicitly trust with such information. The birth of a new grandchild, a sudden death in the family, a prayer answered, trouble at work, a relative coming to Christ, and job layoff. These are just a few of the things I have shared and, in each instance, my grouping brothers have been there to put an arm around my shoulder and let me know they are walking the path with me. One of the life changing events of my Cursillo weekend was the realization that I am not alone, and grouping serves to remind me of that fact every week.

An opportunity to recharge the spiritual battery: Sometimes I feel like God is right there with me and sometimes it seems as if He is far away in another universe. For me those dry times are a test of faith. Grouping has made these times less trying because over the years it has given me memories of events shared by my grouping brothers that can only be characterized as "God Things." An unexplainable coincidence, the Holy Spirit doing the impossible or implausible, or an instant answer to a prayer; call it what you like. Recharging your spiritual battery through the recalling of

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those times in life when God was up close and personal is not specifically talked about in the Grouping literature, but it has been a factor in me being able to sustain my faith regardless of where I am on the emotional roller coaster. Mentally playing back my grouping tapes is a spiritual aid to rediscovering the truth behind what one Cursillista has often said to me, "God is good all of the time."

A chance to learn from the walk of others: If you are a fan of reality TV, you'll love what happens in grouping. My intent here is not to suggest that some parity exists between grouping and reality TV, but rather to convey to you my opinion that the depth and breadth of the situations shared in grouping go far beyond anything you'll see in these programs. Grouping is about real people experiencing real things in a world turned away from God. It is grounded in the reality that you and I live in everyday, not a TV executive created world filled with inane situations and Type "A" people. Because of this heightened sense of reality, everything that is shared in grouping is relevant and directly applicable to my life. Some of the things that I have learned from my grouping brothers include where to get resources to help me better study His word, setting aside a quiet time each day to deepen my relationship with Christ, new ways to glorify Him in everyday situations, and drawing upon a whole library of "lessons learned" gleaned from their experiences so I don't make the same mistakes. During my Navy career I received over three years of formal training, but I really learned how to be a sailor through on-the-job training (OJT). Similarly, my Cursillo weekend was formal instruction on Cursillo; grouping is the OJT that serves to sustain and mature me as a Christian as I live out the Fourth Day.

As you can see, the adage "Grouping is the heart of Cursillo" is much more than a slogan to me. We have all heard about and read the official literature on grouping, so I won't recount it here. I think it is just sufficient to say that Cursillo is a gift from God and grouping is a vital part of that gift. The real question then becomes - Have you fully received and opened the gift that was given you during your 3-Day Weekend?

Ultreya, Darryl

What is the Servant Community?

This group of current or potential Cursillo leaders meets quarterly under the auspices of the Diocesan Secretariat. It is not intended to be either an "elite clique" or a group of "Cursillo martyrs." Its members are willing to make Cursillo their primary apostolate for at least a pre-specified period of time. Any Cursillista may attend and participate.

This group includes members of the Secretariat, but doesn't supplant the Secretariat. The Servant Community is the "heart and hands of the local movement," and the Secretariat functions as the "head of the local movement." The Servant Community "brainstorms ideas" but it is the Secretariat's responsibility and authority to make all decisions regarding the local movement.

The "servant" responsibility of this community is to carry out the actions and implement the policies as directed by the Secretariat. The "community" side of this group allows those tasked with running the operations of the local Cursillo Movement to meet and work together as a body once every quarter just before a Secretariat meeting. It also serves as a training place for possible future Secretariat members.

A Typical Servant Community Agenda

(on a Saturday morning, from 9 until noon)

Community Building (Piety) Phase:

- * Opening Prayer, Morning Prayer, or some other devotion
- * Grouping (Using the Leaders Grouping Card)

School (Study) Phase

- * Study of Scripture or theology (as applicable to the assigned tasks at hand)
- * Study of the Cursillo Literature (as applicable to the assigned tasks at hand)

Work (Action) Phase

- * "Brainstorming" about the needs and resources of the Community (in relation to the [Pastoral Plan](#))
- * Committee Meetings to organize and do the work of the Community as needed to carry out the [Pastoral Plan](#)
- * Report back to the full Meeting as needed

Final Prayer

The Secretariat normally meets in the afternoon following the Servant Community meeting to act on Servant Community recommendations. Non-Secretariat members are not required to attend this meeting.

Look for the next Forward in early December.

Articles, calendar events and other materials are due **no later than** *November 28th*

Send to (preferably in electronic format):

Petra Orta
4454 S Avenue 19E, Yuma, AZ, 85365
Phone: 928-785-9689
e-mail: petra_orta@yahoo.com

COME BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN

Begin 2006 with a refresher course and a very special time of retreat - for spiritual renewal, prayer, singing, walks, and fireside chats. Relax, read, or journal and have fun! See old friends and meet new ones. You are again encouraged to also bring good books for another book exchange this year.

Theme for the weekend....

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you...”

What is “Back To The Mountain”?

A spiritual retreat at Camp Stevens which will include talks, discussion, music, and plenty of free time. It is a great time to regroup one’s self after the Holiday Season, and focus on where our Lord is calling us to serve. Food will be provided by Camp Stevens staff, so bring yourself, a sleeping bag, your Bible, and Song Book. Casual, layered, warm clothing is needed - - it can get pretty warm inside, but be very cold outside - - rain or snow, even!!!!

Who may attend?

Any adult who has been on a three day weekend that models the Fourth Day concept like Cursillo or Walk To Emmaus.

When is it?

7:00 p.m. Friday, January 6th, 2006, thru noon on Sunday, January 8th.

Want more information?

Call or e-mail Ed Embick 858.521.0553 (sueanded@juno.com) or Amy Drivas 760.741.0398 (crusinamy@hotmail.com).

What does it cost?

\$105 if paid by 12/30/05; \$115 after 12/30/05. The cut off date for registration is 1/2/06. Reservations fill up early each year, so don’t wait till the last minute to register. A non-refundable \$50.00 deposit is due by 12/18/05. Some scholarships are available on a confidential basis. Friday Night dinner (6:00 PM) is available for an extra \$7.50.

Applications and payment (or deposit) should be sent to:

Ed Embick
11509 Poblado Road
San Diego, CA 92127

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Checks should be made out to:

Cursillos in Christianity with “Back To The Mountain” on the memo line.

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City State Zip Code _____
Phone/e-mail _____
Parish _____
Number of Reservations: ___ (M) ___ (F) Number of Friday Dinners _____
Amount enclosed: \$ _____
Special dietary needs: _____
Could you offer a ride? ___ Do you need a ride? ___
Do you NEED a lower bunk? ___

A Day of Deeper Understanding
Application for Sponsors and Other Cursillistas
Saturday, November 19, 2005 – 8:30 AM TO 3:00 PM
Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan
4321 Eastgate Mall, San Diego

Because Sunday's message of the Cursillo weekend focuses on providing us with the knowledge and tools to live out our Fourth Day, it is essential that we really understand those Sunday teachings. A lack of understanding of Sunday's message can result in failure to join reunion groups, failure to develop a Rule of Life or to establish a relationship with a Spiritual Director and poor attendance at Ultreyas.

It is easy to be distracted by the time Sunday rolls around—the intense mental and emotional activity of the weekend, the busy schedule, the anticipation of going home to loved ones. According to the NEC Library, "the purpose of **A Day of Deeper Understanding** is to take us away from the attitude that Cursillo is only a wonderful weekend experience and toward the understanding of how the gift of the Cursillo Method provides a structure for a lifetime experience of Christian love and service."

The cost of **A Day of Deeper Understanding** is included in the sponsorship fees paid by the candidates' sponsors for attendees of Cursillo #113 and following. For all others, the cost is \$10.00 per person for materials and lunch. If you have recently attended a Cursillo weekend or are not as active in your Fourth Day life as you would like to be, please fill out the application form and send it, along with your \$10.00, to Barbara Peralta, **A Day of Deeper Understanding** Coordinator, 522 Beacon Place, San Diego CA 91910.

A Day of Deeper Understanding Application
Saturday, November 19, 2005
The Church of the Good Samaritan
8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Date: _____ Name: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____
Last First

E-Mail: _____

Address: _____
Street/PO Box City State Zip code

Church: _____
Parish City

When did you attend Cursillo? _____

Do you need childcare? Yes _____ No _____ Child/rens Age/s _____
Date Location

\$10.00 Check enclosed: _____

Please mail to:

Barbara Peralta

522 Beacon Place

San Diego, CA 91910

Payable To: Cursillos in Christianity



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 8 Team Training, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., St. Andrews, La Mesa
- 14 New Beginnings, Green Oak Ranch
- 15 Team Training, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., St. Alban's, El Cajon
- 20 Walk to Emmaus 83 (Men's), La Quinta
- 22 Team Training, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., St. Alban's, El Cajon
- 27 Cursillo #115/116 (Coed), Camp Stevens
- 27 Walk to Emmaus 84 (Women's), La Quinta

NOVEMBER

- 3 Secretariat Meeting, 6:30, Good Samaritan
- 4 Happening, Green Oak Ranch
- 5 Grand Ultreya, 5:30 p.m., St. David's
- 19 Day of Deeper Understanding, application in this issue

- 28 Deadline for December Forward articles
(e-mail to petra_ortga@yahoo.com)

DECEMBER

- 10 Servant Community Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Good Samaritan

Don't Forget!!

Servant Community Meeting
Saturday, December 10
8:30 a.m.



Church of the Good Samaritan