



Forward

Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Volume XI

February 2006

Our Mission: To Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

From the Chair

THE 2006 SECRETARIAT

Greetings to all in the San Diego Diocese and beyond. I had wanted to start this by telling you a bit about myself, to the many who may not know me, but I was pressed by prayer to write about something that is much more important and has become very close to my heart, in a very short time.

Last November I was invited to the Kairos 14 closing at Ironwood Prison. I was not really looking forward to going as it had been a very busy couple of weeks before that Sunday, and I just needed some catch up time, but I had made a promise and I was going to keep it.

At 1:30 in the afternoon the many parishioners from St. Margaret's and other churches boarded a bus, bound for the prison, which was an hour and a half away. There was an air of excitement mixed with nervousness. What was going to happen, what would it be like, what do I do if...? These questions were just running through the heads of many of us.

As the bus rolled along, our host, among others, told us about Ironwood Prison, located near Blythe. This is a class three facility, a class four is maximum security, and most of the 4,700 inmates are there for life.

When we arrived, we were told to show our ID, sign in and then we received a pass. We were told what we could do, which was stand in line and what we couldn't do, which was anything else. There would be no contact with the prisoners except verbal, and we would be divided by a 3 foot taped off area, no man's land. I was asked to sit up front because I had my name bologna on and the prisoners would have the same. Our host thought that would be good for the men to see.

When the men arrived they were not expecting us, they all thought that they were going to a graduation party with cookies and cupcakes, items we take for granted, but very special to these men.

We all greeted them with song and clapping of hands. As the realization of what was happening sunk in, their faces lit up with smiles. We were an example of what these men had heard about, a Christian community in action. This was, for me, my closest moment to Christ. He was in that room, and we all knew it.

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The program was short, but very meaningful to us all. When the men spoke of the weekend it was evident that they did feel the love of God. They shared of new friendships in a segregated prison. Their words were clear, something special had happened to each of them.



3rd Annual Women's Ecumenical Retreat "Our Daily Bread: Finding God in the Everyday."

Now, weeks later, I find I still reflect back to that Sunday where 42 men filed in to a room and shed Christ's light on to me, and I will not forget the words these men used in their closing remarks -

God love us all, and there's nothing we can do about it.

Victoria Crofoot



From the Spiritual Director

Why You Should be in a Small Group Bible Study

When I was at Fuller Seminary, Peter Wagner once pointed out that a healthy church has three types of groups in it. The Sunday worship services, large, non-worship group meetings, and small groups, especially small group Bible studies. Almost everyone in the church knows of the importance of going to worship services, and many people attend an occasional large group meeting for fellowship or some other purpose, but many people fail to see the need for small groups, and small group Bible studies. They do not know what they are missing.

Cursillo has long believed in small groups to further piety, study and action. A small group Bible study is also a means of furthering piety, study and action. There is no better way to grow spiritually, really to let the Holy Spirit develop your relationship with God and transform you, then in a small group Bible study. In a small group, friends can be made so that a person be open enough to share experiences of how the Gospel story is intersecting their story. In a small group the Spirit can help us encounter God's true and living word of the Biblical text and so the word becomes a word for us and therefore becomes our personal good news.

The small group is a friendly and intimate setting where people can interact with the Bible and each other so that spiritual growth can happen.

Many people find that a small group experience gives them something they cannot get out of a Sunday morning worship service. In fact, the small group can pour the things of God into a person that can be poured out in a worship service, making worship much more meaningful.

I hope that if you are currently not in a small group Bible study or a Cursillo grouping will find a small group that you can join.

If you want to grow spiritually, there is no better place to be than a small group Bible study, or some other Christian small group.

Your friend in Christ,

Father George

February 24-26 at Camp Stevens

Cost: \$130 (\$5 late fee after Feb 11)

In addition to the program, there will be:
bread making, hiking, yoga, tour of organic gardening
knitting lessons (bring material) and silk-screen (bring t-shirt)

Contact Alicia at Camp Stevens
for registration (760)765-0028



Special Delivery!

We would like to know if you prefer to receive the Forward newsletter by mail or online.

If you have previously requested to receive the Forward by mail, and would like to continue doing so, you do not need to respond.

If you have not made a request to receive the Forward by mail, and wish to do so, please contact:

Barbara Taylor
1824 Loyola Ct
Chula Vista, CA 91913-3021
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If you wish to view the Forward online, instead of receiving a copy by mail, go to:
www.sdcursillo.org

Also, if you know of any changes of address for members of our community, please contact Barbara Taylor, as listed above. We appreciate your help!



Look for the next Forward in early April.
Articles, calendar events and other materials are due
(preferably in electronic format)
no later than March 28th. Send to:

Petra Orta
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928-785-9689 petra_orta@yahoo.com

New names, addresses and changes for
Saint's Roster to Barbara Taylor,
Phone 619-421-5612 e-mail: just4taylor@cox.net

New email addresses to Dick Mette
Phone 760-726-8628 email: dickmette@cox.net

From the Rector

Cursillo #117 - What is in your Hands?

What has God placed in your hands? Everyone has talents given by God. These can either remain grasped in our hands like Moses' wooden staff or by faith we can let go of them and allow God to breathe life into them, to become alive for everyone and become the power of the 'Rod of God'.

Since rhetorical questions are very biblical, I have chosen this question as the theme of the Men's Cursillo Weekend # 117 which is based on Exodus 4: 2-4. It is also a Fourth Day'message to be Jesus' Hands in the world.

Having been involved in the healing ministry for some time, I am always amazed by the power of the 'laying on of hands' and all the other positive actions that either individually or collectively can Love, Pray, Soothe, Carry and Build in the name of Jesus.

I am passionate about living the Gospel and not just studying it, therefore I would like to invite you to consider joining the Men's Team if you haven't already done so. The work application form can be found on the San Diego Cursillo website at <http://www.sdcursillo.org/> or by contacting me directly (see below).

For those of you that are unable to work the 3-day weekend, please consider being a **Sunday Angel**. I don't think I need to remind you how appreciative the Team will be of your assistance on Sunday 23 April.

There will be three team meetings and a training session for first-time team members, which will be held at the same time and venue as the Servant Community meeting:

11 March 2006 - Training and Servant Community @ Good Samaritan Church

18 March 2006 – Team Meeting @ St. Timothy's Church

25 March 2006 – Team Meeting @ TBA

1 April 2006 – Team Meeting @ St. Timothy's Church

There will be a break for Easter and the Men's Cursillo Weekend #117 will be held at Camp Stevens from 20 – 23 April 2006. Please pray for the team even now before all the names and duties become known.

The success of any weekend also depends on NEW Cursillistas (Candidates). I urge you to identify possible candidates now so that the Pre-Cursillo Team has time to process the Candidate

application and Sponsorship information. Candidate application forms as well as Sponsorship forms can also be found on the San Diego Cursillo website. Ultreya!

Your brother in Christ,
Laurent Perkins (Rector #117)
E-mail: lperkin3@san.rr.com
Tel: (858) 834-0060



Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you

I am sure that you all know the reason for my being called to serve you all as Rectora for Cursillo #118. When Fr. George asked me a couple of days ago I was quite stunned, but God has a plan and who am I to argue! Things will have to happen very quickly as I do not have too much time to ponder on details. I have asked a few people to be on my core Team and as I write this I am praying for the others to come to mind.

My theme is John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (NIV)

Would you prayerfully consider putting your applications in for this weekend? I would love to see some of you "oldies" again and at the same time I encourage all you new Cursillistas to join us on the mountain, to serve God by serving others for the weekend.

A word to our wonderful Sponsors..... Please consider prayerfully those people in your parish whom you think would benefit from the weekend. Make a friend, be a friend and bring a friend to Christ. Don't forget to discuss this with your Rector and make sure the Candidates (Pilgrims) are well informed about the flow of the weekend. The Pre-Cursillo team will prayerfully consider each application as they come in.

I look forward to serving with you in April.

God Bless.
In His Service
Joan Perkins

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E-mail: lperkin3@san.rr.com



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

10-11 San Diego Diocesan Convention, St. Dunstan's

MARCH

3-5 New Beginnings, Green Oak Ranch

11 Servant Community/**Team Training**, Good Sam's, 8:30 a.m.

11 Secretariat, Good Sam's, 12:30 p.m.

18 Team Meeting, St. Timothy's, 8:00 a.m.

25 Team Meeting, venue to be announced, 8:00 a.m.

28 Deadline for April Forward (p. 2)

APRIL

1 Team Meeting, St. Timothy's, 8:00 a.m.

6 Secretariat, Good Sam's, 6:30 p.m.

20-23 Cursillo #117 Men's Weekend, Camp Stevens

27-30 Cursillo #118 Women's Weekend, Camp Stevens

Don't Forget!!

Servant Community / Secretariat

Saturday, March 11

8:30 am to ??

Church of the Good Samaritan