



Forward

Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Volume XI V

August 2009

Our Mission: To Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

From the Spiritual Director

THE 2009 SECRETARIAT

The Three Conversions

The Rev. Canon Steve Wendfeldt often likes to talk about the three conversions that are needed to be a Christian. It may come as a surprise to you that three conversions are needed. It seems reasonable to believe that if I am converted, I only need to be converted once. However, there are three major dimensions to being a Christian and so there are three conversions. The three conversions are:

First, I need to be converted to Jesus Christ. I need to move from a self-centered life to a Christ-centered life. It is my self-centeredness and selfishness that separated me from God. I need to surrender control of my life to Christ because I need to trust Jesus enough to let him be the one in charge. But will I really trust Jesus enough to let him be in charge? Perhaps I want to give Jesus only a part of my life, like Sunday morning, and keep the rest for myself. But Jesus wants to be at the center of my life seven days a week. Being converted to Christ means really letting Jesus be in charge of your life and then he pours in his life-changing Holy Spirit. It is when we really give ourselves to Christ that He works a miracle and gives us a new life.

The second Conversion is to the church. Many people admire Jesus, but find it hard to admire the church. They complain about all the failings of the church, and there is no doubt that the church is full of sin and other shortcomings. However, while the church, while full sinful human beings it is also full of Christ's presence among us. The sin of and shortcomings of the church should not be our focus and should not blind us to the presence and work of Christ in the church. Jesus Christ is risen and alive and doing a magnificent work through the church. The church is Christ's community on earth and those who want to have Christ work in lives must belong to Christ's community. Or, to put another way, to separate yourself from the church is to separate yourself from Christ. You can't claim to belong to Christ and at the same time reject the community in which Christ is working. To belong to Christ means that you belong to his church.

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Spiritual Director, cont.

True conversion to Christ must always be followed by conversion to his church in which the first conversion is nourished and deepened. Jesus doesn't invite you to come to him and then dump you. He invites you to come to him and then helps you grow in your relationship with him in the church. Anyone who wants to grow in his relationship with Christ will be able to look past the church's failings and see the wonderful opportunities that Christ has for him.

In the church we hear Christ speak to us through sermons, Rector's Forums and Bible studies. In the church, we receive Christ's grace, his active favor, through the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. In the church, we experience Christ's friendship, through *koninia*, the loving fellowship of the church. And in the church, we encounter people using their spiritual gifts for ministry, and through these gifts, we experience Christ's ministry to us.

Third - I need to be converted to the ministry of Christ.

There are many different ways to serve Christ, through both lay and ordained ministries. I am built up in my relationship with Jesus and with other people as I serve Jesus in some ministry. Many spirituality books in the bookstores are so self-centered that it appears that ministry is all about "me". Such self-centeredness is no way to come to God and experience personal growth. Serving Christ helps me to live for Christ, thus expanding myself into God's plans for my life.

Each of the three conversions is inter-connected and necessary if you want to experience the fullness of a Christ-centered life. I urge every person at Good Shepherd to experience all three conversions. The conversions to the Christ, church and ministry are so important that I ask that you talk to me at any time about this process of conversion.

Your friend in Christ, Father George



From the Chair

We all speak of forgiveness and the importance of forgiving not only ourselves but others. I decided to share this story with all of you because I think that it is important for us all to put our differences in perspective.

As many of you know, on June 18th my husband Tim had a heart attack. God was truly with him from the beginning. From the time of the paramedics' arrival to his being in ICU with two stents was

two hours and twenty minutes. And as a result, his cardiologist said that he is healthier now than two months ago with no heart damage at all. That truly is a miracle but it is not the only miracle that happened that day.

As they were preparing him in the Cath Lab, he was immobilized and could hear what was going on but could not see anyone. He called out to one of the EMT's, "Could you do me a favor." "Sure, no problem," was the reply. "What do you need?" Tim continued, "If you guys mess up and I don't make it will you tell my kids to forgive each other." "Ok, you want your kids to forgive you." "No," Tim said, "I want them to forgive each other." The other guy

chuckled and said, "Don't worry your going to be able to tell them yourself." "You don't understand, Tim continued, "I have been telling them and they haven't listened. Maybe, if you tell them they will." They haven't spoken in four years.

Later that afternoon in the ICU Tim, under the influence of morphine, told the story to his son and daughter. That was the end of the conversation. When Tim got home on Saturday, there was an email from his daughter that read,

"Dad, I knew it was important to you that Tim Jr. and I made amends, but I never realized it was so important that it might have been the last thing you said." Tim Jr. and I have extended an olive branch. We exchanged phone numbers and are working things out."

Is there someone in your life that you need to extend an olive branch to? Will it take a heart attack or worse for you to realize how short and precious life is? It is much too precious not to forgive. Pick up the phone, write a note. Make someone happy including you.

Ultreya, Linda

Look for the next Forward in early October
Articles, calendar events and other materials are due
(preferably in Word format)

no later than September 25. Send to:

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Forward

Ultreya



Saturday, August 22
St. Andrew's, La Mesa
11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Ultreya followed by potluck



**THIS IS A SPECIAL INVITATION
TO CURSILLISTAS FAR AWAY AND
THOSE WHO CAN'T DRIVE AT NIGHT:**

Our second annual Daytime Summer Ultreya will be held at St. Andrew's LaMesa on August 22. The Ultreya will be at 11, followed by a potluck lunch.

Beautiful music will be played by David and Karen Shine, backed up by anyone else who wants to bring a musical instrument.

The speakers are to be announced.

Babysitting, as usual, will be provided if you let Judy Anderson know by August 18.

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The parish hall is air conditioned, and we're looking forward to a great turnout! Bring a friend, or two, or three!

The bad news is...

On July 23, the Secretariat met and had to make its decision to go forward or not with the fall weekend. We had to meet a cancellation deadline at Camp Stevens, so we could not wait until later to see if we would have enough candidates. Unfortunately, we only had fourteen potential candidates. What is even more surprising is that these potential candidates were from only three congregations in the diocese, St. Paul's, Yuma, St. Alban's, El Cajon and Good Shepherd, Bonita. We need 24 candidates to break even and we really should have more than 24 candidates. We will now work towards having a spring weekend. Craig Noble will be the Rector for the spring weekend.

It is important that we use our time wisely and Parish Representatives actively invite people to attend Cursillo weekends. The Secretariat will be working on how to better invite people to attend Cursillo weekends. Also, on Thursday, October 1, the Secretariat will meet with Bishop Mathes to discuss how the Diocese will implement a Cursillo Sunday. We need more publicity and better contact in congregations, if Cursillo is to move forward in this Diocese.

Most importantly, we need an organized prayer effort to release the Holy Spirit so that what we do will be done in the will and power of God.

The Rev. George M. Calvert



The good news is...

We have 8 months until the spring weekend to energize and revitalize our community, let's make the most of that time!

- Editor



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 6 Secretariat Meeting, Good Samaritan, 6:30 PM
- 22 Ulteya, St. Andrew's La Mesa, 11:00 AM

SEPTEMBER

- 12 Servant Community, Good Samaritan, 8:30 AM
- 12 Secretariat Meeting, Good Samaritan, 12:30 PM
- 25 October Forward Articles Due (see p. 2)

OCTOBER

- 1 Secretariat Meeting, Good Samaritan, 6:30 PM