



FORWARD



February 2016

Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Our Mission Is To Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership



FROM THE SECRETARIAT PRESIDENT

Cursillo: The Face of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

The 2016 Pastoral Plan of the San Diego Episcopal Cursillo Ministry begins as follows:

“The purpose of Episcopal Cursillo in the United State of America is to bring Christ into our environments and thereby change the world for Christ, using the proven strategies and methods of Cursillo.”

I looked at the pictures that Fr. Carlos Garcia took during The Cursillo #137 Weekend, October 22-25, 2016, and was struck by what a wonderful group of people comprised the Candidates and the Team . It struck me that Cursillo is the face of the diocese: the love of Christ shines brightly in that face and cures all schisms and creates a Christian Community in Action. That face shows that together we can bring the love and power of Jesus out into our environments and bring the world to Christ.

The Secretariat members, who with the Bishop constitute the governing body for the Cursillo Ministry in our diocese, met for a day-long retreat on January 23, 2016. Through prayer, bible study, devotion, and discussion we rededicated ourselves, our hearts, our strengths, and our individual and joint efforts, to encourage the development of strong Christian leaders through the Cursillo Method and thereby expand God’s Kingdom here on earth, all for the glory of God.

Look for an improved sdcursillo.org website. Look for the 2016 Pastoral Plan to be posted on the website soon. Look for a better implementation of the Pastoral Plan during 2016. Look for more and better promotion of Cursillo and Cursillo Weekends and Ultreyas throughout the Diocese. Look for more participation in Cursillo throughout the Diocese. Cursillistas will continue to lead and support many ministries throughout the Diocese to proclaim by word and example the transforming love and power of Jesus Christ.

Blessings and Peace,

Ruben Rodriguez, Secretariat President





FROM THE DIOCESAN CURSILLO SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Clothed With Supernatural Power

In Cursillo, we often talk about our Cursillo methods and structures, which are great and wonderful tools. But the most important thing is the reality of God's power working in us and through us. There must be this supernatural actor at work for Cursillo to be effective. The way in which we open ourselves to the supernatural power of God is through faith. The little word *faith* is packed with many different dimensions. It is not just agreeing with the ideas of the Nicene Creed, as important as this may be. Peter Wagner, one of my professors at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, talks about the four different levels of faith and how each level releases God's power to work in us and to work through us.

The first level Wagner identifies is *Saving Faith*. Paul said to the Philippian jailer, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." Wagner points out that this is the first and necessary level of releasing the power of God in your life, the door through which you enter God's Kingdom. If a person is going to be a Christian, they at least need to have this level of faith.

The second level of faith is *Sanctifying Faith*. It is through this level of faith that we grow in our Christian experience and our lives exhibit more and more of the fruit of the spirit. The fruit of the spirit is found in Galatians 5:22-23. It is when the Holy Spirit comes into your life and changes you into a more loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, trustworthy, gentle, and self-controlled person. This miraculous, sanctifying level of faith gradually makes us into more holy people.

The third level of faith is a "*Possibility Thinking Faith*," says Wagner. He gets the idea of this level of faith from his friend Robert Schuller's book entitled, Move Ahead with Possibility Thinking. We do not have to agree with all of Schuller's theology to agree that possibility thinking is part of faith. This type of faith sees a better and bigger picture of the future than we normally see. I think an interesting example of Possibility Thinking Faith is the idea of planting missions in California over two hundred years ago. It would have seemed like an impossible dream to many people in Spain, but it was God's dream that allowed people on the other side of the world to come into His Kingdom.

The fourth level of faith is what Wagner calls "*Fourth Dimensional Faith*." This type of faith goes beyond the three dimensions in which we live and believes in a fourth dimension in which God's supernatural power comes into our three dimensional lives. This dimension of faith is the belief in miracles of the Holy Spirit. It is in this dimension of faith that we believe that Christ becomes present in bread and wine. It is in this dimension of faith that we believe that the twenty-seven gifts of the Holy Spirit listed in the New Testament are channels of God's miraculous power. The New Testament is clear; the church is to be a community filled with the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit. It is not just a community of structures and methods. It is a supernatural community that is calling people to live in a new dimension of reality, a dimension where God's supernatural power is transforming people into new persons in Christ. In 1 Corinthians 12 and 13, it's clear that the church is the body of Christ that is to be full of the supernatural working of the Holy Spirit. Each person uses the gifts of the Spirit to do ministry for the common good, for the building up of the Body of Christ. This supernatural work is always done in love as shown in Chapter 13. If it's not done in love, it is not the supernatural work of God.

In Cursillo, what makes what we do so wonderful is not our work as such, but it is the supernatural work of God through us. When we firmly believe in Jesus Christ and His miraculous work through the Holy Spirit among us the four levels of faith become evident: *Saving Faith* becomes real in us and happens to other people. *Sanctifying Faith* makes us holy. *Possibility Thinking Faith* helps us see a bigger picture of what God can do through us. *Fourth Dimensional Faith* is the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit as the actor working through us, filling the body of Christ with love. In this fourth dimensional faith we become supernatural ministers to others. I believe that Cursillo is not just about method and structure; it is not just a tool. It is a shining example of a community clothed in supernatural power.

Your friend in Christ,
Father George

CALENDER YEAR 2016



February 27, 2016, Ultreya, St. Bartholomew's, Poway, Timing TBD..

March 5, 2016, Cursillo #138 First team meeting, St. Alban's, El Cajon, 8:30 AM-12:30PM.

March 12, 2016, Servant Community, St. Dunstan's, 8:30AM-12:00Noon, first time Cocinero and Rollo Room training.

March 12, 2016, Secretariat Meeting, St. Dunstan's, 12:30 PM-2:30 PM.

March 19, 2016, Cursillo Second team meeting, St. Alban's, El Cajon, 8:30 AM-12:30 PM.

March 21, 2016, Cursillo #138 Application Deadline

April 2, 2016, Cursillo #138 Third team meeting, St. Albans, 8:30 AM-12:30 PM

ULTREYA !

CURSILLO CORNER

FEBRUARY

The Spring Cursillo weekend, April 21-24, is fast approaching. The deadline to submit applications for candidates is March 21. Please see your Parish Rep. as soon as you can to discuss and plan your sponsorships at your Parish. God is calling his chosen people to attend the Spring Weekend, and we have to find them and make straight, for them, the path to Camp Stevens. Spring at Camp Stevens is truly beautiful - a perfect place to have a joyful and loving spiritual renewal.

CURSILLO NEWS/NOTES

FROM JUDY ANDERSON-4th DAY CHAIR

Wow, what a turnout! 57 people attended the January 30 Ultreya at Good Shepherd Bonita, and here is a photo of happy faces at the potluck (courtesy of Bryan Chan). A first for an Ultreya was the translation of Debbie Kistler's witness by Rom Ituarte. When Debbie realized there were Spanish only speakers in the audience, she asked Rom to translate her talk. While the rest of the people grouped, Rom did an amazing job of translation and when she got to the part he hadn't time to translate, Rom carried on without notes. Our Hispanic Cursillistas are becoming more numerous. We translate rollos for the weekend, should we also do it for Ultreyas? In order to do that, we need speakers who are willing to write up their talks in advance and get them to the translators. Are you one of these Cursillistas? If so, please contact Judy Anderson, Ultreya Coordinator, jmanderson38@sbcglobal.net, 619-286-1208



What Every Priest Should Know About Cursillo

*By The Very Rev. Richard E. Simpson,
National Episcopal Cursillo Committee 2010 – 2012,
Rector of St Mark's Islip, NY, Dean of the Atlantic Deanery*

What is Cursillo?

Cursillo is a movement of the Holy Spirit within the Church. It has helped raise up and activate leaders for the Church at every level of ministry. The three-day weekend is a short course in Christian living. Cursillo is a National program that functions under the Presiding Bishop of the Church, and is overseen locally by our Diocesan Bishop and a local Secretariat. When Cursillo is healthy in a Diocese, it always involves the full ministry of the Church, Bishops, Priests, Deacons and Laity.

The origins of Cursillo are from the Roman Catholic Church in Spain. It was conceived as a method of reenergizing the participation of men in the Church. It is now co-ed in most dioceses. It experienced rapid growth in the Church from the '70s through the '80s, and in many dioceses continues to be a source of unity and evangelism for the Church.

The Theology of Cursillo

The theological underpinnings of the Cursillo movement are rooted in classic western spirituality of the Church. It teaches that we all must live our life rooted in Jesus. One maintains the active and growing connection and their continued conversion to Christ by living a balanced life of Piety, Study and Action. This classic balance is also the theological hallmark of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, and the Daughters of the King, and is historically Benedictine.

Our acts of Piety begin with active and regular worship in our local congregation, then flow toward a regular and personal life of prayer and devotion.

Our Study is a quest to more fully know the mind of Christ. We must study the Scriptures and strive to read the historic and contemporary theological works of the Church. As a Priest your direction and help in study is vital and we count upon you for direction.

Our Action is that we are to be like the apostles and be personally active in the Ministry of the Church. We are to be as Mary and bear the presence of Christ into our homes, our jobs, and our neighborhoods. As active Christians we are that leaven which transforms the world for Christ.

The Maintenance of our Ministry

The only unique aspect of Cursillo is that it encourages us to gather weekly in small groups for the expressed purpose of fellowship to help hold each other accountable in our Christian life and witness. This is called Group Reunion. Grouping is about keeping our connections to Christ and to the Church active, alive, and fruitful.

Cursillo also has regional monthly meetings called Ultreya (a shout of encouragement meaning onward and upward). These short gatherings give everyone a monthly chance to take a turn at giving a lay witness talk, which is a short 5- to 10-minute sharing about what you have been doing for Jesus. It is great practice in a safe location to speak aloud about our life and witness for Christ. It helps everyone see all that we do for Christ, be it big or small, as significant. Ultreya is also a time of small group sharing, and music. The Clergy job at Ultreya is to make a theological-biblical connection of the Witness talk to the Gospel.

As a Priest of the Church I have found that my Group Reunion is an important regular source of love and support throughout my ministry. Clergy need true support and a deepened connection to our faith community. Faithful friends you can talk to are a true blessing.



The Roll of Clergy in Cursillo

Cursillo always involves the full participation of the all the orders in the Church. Without the Bishop's support and approval, there is no Cursillo in a Diocese. Without the support of the local parish priest, your members cannot make a weekend. Without active lay ministry, the mission of Cursillo fails. Christ is counting upon us to complete his work in the world.

As a Parish Priest you play a specific role in the movement; as Teachers of the historic Faith, as Spiritual Guides, as Confessors, and to celebrate the word and sacraments. I love it when I work a weekend and get to witness the light of Christ shine in new ways in the life of a person. The Holy Spirit moves people right before your eyes.

The Effects of Cursillo on a Local Parish

Priests who are active in their support of the Cursillo movement will be blessed with more and more active lay leaders; leaders who are striving to be Christ centered and leaders who are attempting to bring others to Christ and into the life of the Church. Cursillo is a movement of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church. When the Spirit moves, people are moved into greater works for Jesus' sake, and to greater support and creativity in the mission of the local congregation.

What Are You Afraid Of?

Have you heard of or witnessed issues surrounding Cursillo? Do those issues match the present reality of Churches in our Diocese? Explore the contemporary reality of Cursillo in your Diocese, and do not rely upon hearsay. Talk to your Bishop about Cursillo. Talk to the active Clergy in your Diocese who are active in Cursillo. As the times have changed, so has Cursillo. The mission of Cursillo has not changed, for it is to inspire and create leaders for the Church.

Many of our Clergy think that Cursillo is only a renewal weekend.

No. Cursillo's prime teaching method is the three-day weekend, with its five meditations, 15 talks and daily Mass. Cursillo is more than a renewal weekend, it is a spiritual method that moves and maintains our members to stay connected to Christ and to the Church. Cursillo helps Episcopalians to talk about their faith and to share that story with others.

Many of our Laity believe that Clergy fear strong lay leadership.

Yes, this is true; some of our members think that some clergy are focused more upon themselves and not upon activating the full ministry of everyone in the Church. I have found consistently that my best parish evangelists are active in Cursillo. Their focus is upon Jesus, and how to bring their friends to Jesus and to Church. I have found that many of the most active Vestry members and program leaders have made a Cursillo Weekend. Cursillo is movement of the Holy Spirit for the Church, and it helps inspire and builds up the ministry of the whole Church.

How to Get Involved

Come and see firsthand so you will have a better understanding what Cursillo is all about. Attend a Three-Day Weekend, attend Ultreya; have lunch with a fellow cleric and talk about the fire and excitement that Cursillo can foster in a congregation. Read the Cursillo Library, which is a collection of booklets about Cursillo. Read your diocesan Weekend Manual, which will give you a detailed accounting of everything that is done on a weekend. Your Knowledge, skills and spirit are needed to move Cursillo forward.

2016 Secretariat Lay Members

Name	E-Mail	Function	Term Exp.
Ruben Rodriguez	rodriquez_ruben@msn.com	2016 President	'16
Miguel Cosio	miguelcosio1971@yahoo.com	Hispanic Partners Chair	'18
Katherine Gordon	ysemitesheir@yahoo.com	Pre-Cursillo Vice-Chair	'17
Debbie Kistler	dk.outoflove@cox.net	4th Day Vice-Chair	'17
Jill McGrew	jmcgrew2015@gmail.com	2016 President Elect	'15
Eileen Pierce	agelslight@mindspring.com	Servant Community Convener	'17
Jon Turley	turley.jonixxi@gmail.com	3-Day Weekend Vice-Chair	'18
Mercedes Webber	858-277-4183	3 Day Weekend Chair	'16
Pete Wolfinger	wolfinger@aol.com	Communications Vice-Chair	'18

2016 Secretariat Clergy Members

Name	E-Mail	Function	Term Exp.
Rev. George Calvert	gcalvert@cox.net subject: Cursillo Secretariat Business	Diocesan Spiritual Advisor	Bishop Apnt'd
Rev. Ed Busch, M.D.	edwbus@hotmail.com subject: Cursillo Secretariat Business	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	'16
Rev. Bob Nelson	bobnelson1@hotmail.com subject: Cursillo Secretariat Business	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	'16
Rev. Cristina Borges	<u>St. Matthew's Church,</u> <u>1-760-596-9821</u>	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	''17
Rev. Carlos Garcia	carlangas1986@cs.com subject: Cursillo Secretariat Business	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	Bishop Apnt'd



Special Servants

Name	E-Mail	Function
Judy Brown	<u>jbrown3944@aol.com</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
Jamie Wood	<u>jamiewood2@cox.net</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>
Eileen Pierce	<u>angelslight@mindspring.com</u>	<u>Servant Community Convener</u>
Judy Anderson	<u>jmanderson38@sbcglobal.net</u>	<u>Parish Reps / 4th Day Chair</u>
Larry Salvadori	<u>lasalvadori@yahoo.com</u>	<u>Forward Editor/ Servant Com.</u>
Barbara Peralta	<u>bperalta6@yahoo.com</u>	<u>Pre-Cursillo Chair</u>
Susan Miller	<u>miller.sv@sbcglobal.net</u>	<u>Cursillo Music Coordinator</u>
Jill McGrew	<u>jmcgrew2014@gmail.com</u>	<u>Palanca</u>
Rev. Carlos Garcia	<u>carlangas1986@cs.com</u>	<u>NECC Representative</u>
Eileen Pierce	<u>angelslight@mindspring.com</u>	<u>KAIROS Liaison</u>
Ed Embick	<u>sueanded@san.rr.com</u>	<u>Webmaster</u>
Shell Pierce	<u>roaminchristian@mindspring.com</u>	<u>Alt. Webmaster</u>

Palanca Events Around the Globe:

PALANCA EVENTS AROUND THE GLOBE:

We will be receiving Palanca greetings again and prayers of support from other diocese when our candidates meet April 21-24 at Camp Stevens for co-ed #138.

Likewise, we also wish to support other team and candidates with prayers of encouragement who will be participating in February, March and April as follows:

February:

2/18-2/21	Winter Men's Cursillo	San Francisco/Mateo
2/25-2/28	Men's Cursillo WE #135 Florida	

March:

3/3-3/6	Women's Cursillo WE #135	Florida
3/3-3/6	Winter's Women's Cursillo	San Francisco/San Mateo

April:

4/7-4/10	Cursillo WE	New York
4/7-4/10	Marin Men's Cursillo	San Francisco/San Mateo
4/21-4/24	Cursillo co-ed WE #138	San Diego
4/21-4/24	Marin Women's Cursillo	San Francisco/San Mateo
4/22-4/24	English co-ed Cursillo WE	Oklahoma
St. Crispin's Episcopal Conference		
4/28-5/1	Spring Men's Cursillo	San Francisco/San Mateo
4/28-5/1	East Bay Anglican Cursillo	San Francisco/San Mateo
4/29-5/1	Spring Cursillo WE/English	Oklahoma

Grace and Peace, Jill McGrew

PRESIDENTIAL NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

You may have noticed that we are now referring to the Chair of the Cursillo Secretariat as the Secretariat President. When I attended the national meeting in Seattle last October, I found out the majority of Diocesan Cursillo communities refer to their Secretariat leader as President. To be consistent with the Cursillo norm, our Secretariat voted unanimously to revise our bylaws to change our Secretariat leadership position from Chair to President. It then would be appropriate to address Ruben Rodriguez as follows:

“Mr. President, May we have a detailed report pertaining to the status of Cursillo?” or:

“ Hey Ruben, What’s happening? “ (preferred)

With love and humor,

Larry Salvadori, Forward Editor

