



FORWARD



DECEMBER 2016

Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Our Mission Is To Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

Please visit our Cursillo website for a ton of information at: www.sdcursillo.org



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS ADDITION

FROM THE CURSILLO SECRETARIAT



A WORD FROM THE SECRETARIAT PRESIDENT

Father, thank you for watching over your servants in the San Diego Episcopal Cursillo Ministry and empowering us to continue to expand Your Kingdom here on Earth, through the love and power of Your Son, Our Savior, Jesus Christ, all to your glory. Amen.

My term to serve on the Secretariat and as its president is coming to an end. Through the sustaining power of the Holy Spirit, I believe the Cursillo Ministry in this diocese has moved forward: we have met our goals for 2016 set forth in the Pastoral Plan entered into with Bishop Mathes.

“The purpose of Cursillo is to bring Christ into our environments and thereby change the world for Christ using the proven strategies and methods of Cursillo.” [2016 Pastoral Plan] The witness talks given at the Ultreyas held this year give ample evidence that we have been true to that purpose. Including the modified Ultreya given at our Christmas Party on December 3, 2016, we will have held at least 8 Ultreyas as prescribed in the Pastoral Plan. In addition, the Cursillo Communities of St. Phillip’s Lemon Grove, and St. Paul’s Yuma have held their own Ultreyas. These are good signs that our Cursillo ministry is growing. □

We held two successful Cursillo Weekends in 2016 which have sent forth about 45 new Cursillistas into the world as mature Christian Leaders. Our Weekends continue to evince the unifying love of Jesus across cultural and language divides. The Cursillo Teams continue to model as Christian Communities in Action and provide the environment for the Holy Spirit to do His transformative work during the Weekends. The new Cursillistas have been well-served.

I am excited about the future for the Cursillo Ministry in the Diocese as the potential for participation of new candidates by lay people as well as clergy is growing. We have suffered some growing pains in the development of lay Christian Leaders within the Ministry. This is a good sign. The challenges are being addressed. I am excited about the development of new Cursillistas who are and soon will be taking leadership roles within the Cursillo Ministry and beyond.

We have made a concerted effort to inform about and encourage participation in the Day of Deeper Understanding, Group Reunions and Ultreyas. There is more work to do, especially in encouraging participation in Group Reunions. After all, Grouping is paramount in the continued spiritual growth of cursillistas.

I am confident that the Cursillo Ministry will be well served by the new lay members to the Secretariat, Rachel Ambasing, Kit Chevalier, and Craig Noble, as well as the continuing members—you know who you are. I am also joyful that Fr. Paul Gambling will be serving on the Secretariat. He will be joining a very able and faithful Clergy Team. I also have the utmost confidence in the incoming President, Jill McGrew.

I will miss the meetings because of the people I got to work with. It was serious work, but there was room for fun and laughter. My term on the Secretariat, especially the year as President, was spiritually uplifting. Thank you, brothers and sisters, and, Thanks be to God!

God bless you all!

Ruben

FROM THE DIOCESAN CURSILLO SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Our Happiness Consists in having the Vision of the Divine Essence

The title of this article is the truth. It is how we will find happiness. Yet, we search in all the wrong places trying desperately to find happiness. We try to find happiness in wealth, in honors, in fame, or glory. We try to find happiness in acquiring more power, in bodily health, in pleasure, and all kinds of created goods. Every one of the above listed things is good in some way, but it is incomplete and inadequate goodness. These things always leave us longing for more. We realize that they do not satisfy or fulfill our desires. We have an appetite for happiness and we are left hungry for more happiness. We are wrong in trying to find happiness in these ways.

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) said “It is impossible for any created good to constitute man’s happiness. For happiness is the perfect good, which lulls the appetite altogether; else it would not

be the last end, if something yet remained to be desired. Now the object of the will, i.e. of man's appetite, is the universal good; just as the object of the intellect is the universal true. Hence it is evident that naught can lull man's will, save the universal good. This is to be found, not in any creature, but in God alone; because every creature has goodness by participation. Wherefore God alone can satisfy the will of man, according to the words of Ps. 10:5: "Who satisfieth thy desire with good things." Therefore God alone constitutes man's happiness. (Summa Theologiae I-II, Q.2). True happiness is to encounter the ultimate universal and uncreated good which is God. To see God as he really is, in his divine essence, is true happiness. St. Thomas says that true happiness is found in seeing God "as He is." He quotes the following verse of scripture:

1 John 3:2 **Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.**

The words "he is" probably refer to Jesus Christ, according to most commentators. But to see Jesus in his second coming is to see God in all of His glory and therefore to see his divine essence. To see God in His divine essence is to enter into the state of our completed salvation and perfect happiness. In this state, we will have perfect **obedience**, perfect **purity**, and perfect **love**. There will be no room for any sin that can mar our union with Jesus and deprive us of any amount of happiness.

You might ask, "But wait a minute! This ultimate state of happiness sounds great, but I am still living down here on earth in this sinful world. What does this have to do with me today?" I can't see the divine essence of God as we will know Him at the end of time. So it sounds like happiness is beyond my reach. In John 1:18, it says "No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart who has made him known." We cannot now see God directly, but we see something of the divine essence when we see God through the person and work of Jesus Christ. In Jesus, we see as much of the divine essence as we can possibly see in our current life. When we participate and experience the love of Jesus we are coming as close as we can to the divine essence in this life. And we must be clear what this love is and what it is showing us. Karl Barth (1886-1968) says "According to Holy Scripture the love of God has nothing to do with mere sentiment, opinion or feeling. On the contrary, it consists in definite being, relationship and action. God is love in Himself. Being loved by Him we can, as it were, look into His "heart". The fact that He loves us means that we can know Him as He is."(Church Dogmatics Volume I, Part 2, page 377).

When we are supernaturally, miraculously participating in the love of Jesus Christ, we are being filled with the essence of God and therefore filled with a happiness that is not of this world. Again, as Karl Barth says about God, "We can look into His "heart." and "The fact that He loves us means that we can know Him as He is."

Pray and think of ways that you can participate in the love of Jesus Christ and you will be moving toward perfect happiness. What the psalmist says will become true for you: "**Happy are the people whose God is the Lord.**" Psalm 144, verse 16

Your friend in Christ,
Father George

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CALENDER YEAR 2016 - 2017

DEC. 24 - BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN APPLICATIONS
DEADLINE – SEE FORM
JAN 6-8 – BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN WEEKEND. CAMP
STEVENS
JAN. 15 – CURSILLO SUNDAY AT ALL PARISHES.
JAN. 21 – CURSILLO SECRETARIAT RETREAT AT SUSAN
MILLERS HOUSE. – JILL MCGREW
JAN. 30 – FORWARD ARTICLE DEADLINE – LARRY
SALVADORI
FEB. 4 – CURSILLO JAM SESSION – ALEX TUTTLE - ST.
ANDREWS LA MESA
FEB. 4 – ECUMENICAL GRAND ULTREYA – ULTREYA
COMMITTEE

CURSILLO CORNER - CHRISTMAS



The Cursillo community accepts donations year-round. These donations allow us to set up “scholarships” to help defray the cost of sponsoring new Cursillistas and workers, pay our bills, support ministries, and the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry. If you’d like to make a Christmas Gift donation, please send it to:

Jamie Wood – Treasurer
4554 Point Loma Avenue
San Diego, Ca. 92107

Checks made out to: Cursillos in Christianity

PLEASE CONSIDER CURSILLO AS A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY WHEN PRAYING ABOUT THE MAGNITUDE OF YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT DONATION TO CURSILLO

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2017
ECUMENICAL GRAND ULTREYA**



SATURDAY, *FEBRUARY* 4, 2017

1 pm Trust in the Lord Potluck, 2 pm Ultreya

**OUR MOTHER OF CONFIDENCE CATHOLIC
CHURCH**

3131 Governor Dr., San Diego

**ALL CURSILLO EXPRESSIONS (ROMAN CATHOLIC, SPANISH, FILIPINO,
EPISCOPAL, *LUTHERAN*, WALK TO EMMAUS, ANGLICAN, KAIROS, *KAIROS
OUTSIDE*) ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**

**Bring your favorite potluck dish and join with other San Diego Cursillo expressions to hear of their
programs and how they witness for Christ.**



***REMEMBER THE REASON FOR THE SEASON.
COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS INCLUDING THE CURSILLO COMMUNITY***

***JESUS IS COMING, JESUS IS COMING, JESUS IS COMING,
OH YES I KNOW!***



2016 Secretariat Lay Members

Name	E-Mail	Function	Term Exp.
Ruben Rodriguez	rodriguez_ruben@msn.com	2016 President	'16
Miguel Cosio	gmiguelcosio1971@yahoo.com	Hispanic Partners Chair	'18
Katherine Gordon	yosemiteshair@yahoo.com	Pre-Cursillo Vice-Chair	'17
Debbie Kistler	dk.outoflove@cox.net	4 th Day Vice-Chair	'17
Jill McGrew	jmcgrew2015@gmail.com	2016 President Elect	'18
Eileen Pierce	langelslight@mindspring.com	Historian/Kairos	'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	hwolfinger@aol.com	Communications Vice-Chair	'16

2016 Secretariat Clergy Members

Name	E-Mail	Function	Term Exp.
Rev. George Calvert	calvert@calalum.org 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 (Honorary)	Retired inactive
Rev. Bob Nelson	bobnelson1@hotmail.com subject: Cursillo Secretariat Business	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	'17
Rev. Cristina Borges	St. Matthew's Church, 1-760-596-9821	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	'17
Rev. Carlos Garcia	carlangas1986@cs.com subject: Cursillo Secretariat Business	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	Bishop Apnt'd

SPECIAL CURSILLO SERVANTS

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

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

PLEASE REVIEW THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TAKEN FROM THE EPISCOPAL CURSILLO MINISTRY NEWS NOTES

Dare We Utter The 'E' Word?

Dallas Conference: Evangelism matters

By Mary Frances Schjonberg
Episcopal News Service

DALLAS—The slogan on the swag bag read: “Episcopal Evangelist. It’s not an oxymoron.”

While some people might think that an Episcopal evangelist is a rare breed, more than 400 evangelism veterans and fledgling practitioners spent Nov. 18-19 being inspired, finding camaraderie and learning new ways to live up to that slogan during the Evangelism Matters conference at [Church of the Transfiguration](#) here.

The Rev. Emily Schnabl, rector of [St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church](#), Midwest City, Oklahoma, said she was already convinced of the need for evangelism and came to the conference looking for practical ways to bring that idea alive in her parish. She told Episcopal News Service that she left feeling supported in some of what St. Christopher’s is already doing and with some “really achievable things that I’ve literally got in my bag to take back.”

The Episcopal Church is waking up to the need for evangelism, said Ron Braman, an enrolled member of the Eastern Shoshone tribe in Wyoming and music minister at the [Episcopal Mission of the Good Shepherd](#) in Fort Hall, Idaho. Braman said he was encouraged by the presence of lay evangelists because too many people assume that the work ought only to be done by the clergy. That expectation is self-destructive, he said, “because if we’re not doing our part, we’re just setting up our leaders to fail.”

Fighting the oxymoron perception begins with individuals, the Rev. Stephanie Spellers, the presiding bishop's canon for evangelism and reconciliation, said during the Nov. 19 plenary, asking "why do we need a conference to convince ourselves or to proclaim that evangelism matters?"

"I think you know why," she answered. "I think we know that, deep down, we've been ambivalent" about even the word "evangelism," much less being evangelists.

When she asked people to shout out why that is so, some of the answers were "fear of rejection," "fear of looking tacky," "hurtful things that have been done in the name of evangelism," "leave it to the clergy," "people have to be gifted to do evangelism" and "I'm not sure; what is the Good News?"

Curry: 'Evangelism is about going home and helping each other find the way.'

Evangelism Matters, which quickly sold out its 400 spaces and then made room for 14 more, was co-sponsored by [Forward Movement](#) and the Presiding Bishop's Office, and was hosted by the [Diocese of Dallas](#) and Church of the Transfiguration.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, during his keynote address and again during his sermon, set an ambitious agenda, gave a rousing call to action and explicated what Episcopal evangelism is and is not.

"Jesus did not go to the cross for a bigger church," Curry said during his address, adding that, likewise, evangelism doesn't have anything to do with making a bigger church; it has to do with a better world. It also has nothing to do with cultural or religious imperialism. "This is not about conquering the world for Christ," he said during his sermon. "It's about saturating the world with love."

Maybe, Curry suggested, the Episcopal Church is supposed to tell the world that Christianity's foundation is the love shown in Jesus.

And, he said, God is at work in this growing awareness. "I think we're in one of those cultural moments in which we very well may be participating in God's re-evangelization of the western world and a re-evangelization via a Christianity that resembles Jesus."

Curry said "evangelism is about going home and helping each other find the way" and it is about helping people find God and build a relationship with God, who made them for love and longs for them.

"Evangelism matters because God didn't make us for a nightmare," he said.

Curry described his dreams for the church. In what he called a fantasized possibility and not a proposed program or an official statement, he asked the conference to imagine what it would be like if the Episcopal Church adopted the model of Doctors Without Borders by marshaling its resources and going anywhere there is a need.

“What if the churchwide budget — General Convention — said to heck with some of this structure, let’s just use this money for evangelism wherever there is a need?” he asked, adding the question of what if dioceses purposefully contributed to evangelism going on anywhere in the church.

Curry asked what would happen if every time a church had to close somewhere and the property sold “some percentage of that money were taken and put in a ‘new generation fund’ to start new churches anywhere in the Church “so that the death of one leads to the resurrection of another?” The audience responded with loud and sustained applause.

The presiding bishop suggested some other possibilities for anchoring an evangelism ethic in the Episcopal Church. One suggestion was to require people preparing for ordination to get intense training in how to be evangelists just as they are now required to take a unit of [clinical pastoral education](#) to learn how to be spiritual caregivers. Another was finding ways to make social media in an authentic and positive way that could turn that media into “the new evangelism superhighway” similar to the way the efficiency of the Roman Empire, especially its highways and its postal system, enabled the swift spread of budding Christianity.

*'I got in touch with a way of speaking about it that I hadn't done before,' said
The Rev. Susan Snook.*

For two of the organizers, the conference was evidence of God at work. “We dreamed of something happening in the church and God did something more than we could have dreamed of,” the Rev. Frank Logue, Diocese of Georgia canon to the ordinary and Executive Council member, said of the size and mood of the conference.

But, he added, the conference has to be a beginning, not an accomplishment. It could be tempting to accept Curry’s self-declared role as “chief evangelism officer” and assume that is all that is needed.

“If we want to rely on our presiding bishop alone, as talented as he is, we will have made him into an idol and it would be better to ask him to step down,” he said. Instead, as Anglican Communion Secretary General Josiah Idowu-Fearon suggested during short remarks to the conference, if Episcopalians become chief evangelism officers in their diocese, their congregations and in their families, “then we will have really joined the movement.”

The Rev. Susan Snook, another Executive Council member and founding rector of [Church of the Nativity](#) in Scottsdale, Arizona, said when she sponsored [Resolution D005](#) at General Convention in 2015 to set up a church-planting network and when Logue convinced that same meeting of convention to [add \\$2.8 million to the 2016-2018 budget for evangelism work](#), “we thought we were pushing at a closed door.”

“Or maybe we’d crack it open a little bit and, oh my gosh, we have found that the spirit has blown that door wide open. We are ready for something new in the church.”

She told ENS she would like to see Episcopalians connect with the people from their diocese who attended the conference and who can show them how to spread the good news of Christ through their communities.

Snook, a veteran evangelist and church planter, said she found renewal and refinement of her ministry at the conference. She went to the “Elevator Evangelism” workshop, run by the Rev. Casey Shobe, Transfiguration’s rector, and learned how to hone the story of why she follows Jesus down to one minute. “I got in touch with a way of speaking about it that I hadn’t done before,” she said.

Conference details

Participants had their choice of 25 workshops offered during three time slots. Among the workshop titles were “Talking God Today,” “Compassionate Evangelism: A Non-Judgmental Approach to Sharing Your Faith,” “Social Media, Evangelism and Connecting with Emerging Cultures,” and “How To Make a Rocking Welcome Video on a Dime.” Many of the workshops offered handouts to participants and most of those can be found here.

Parts of the conference were streamed live and at one point more than 1,000 computers had connected to the broadcast. Those streamed events are now available for on-demand viewing here. (In each viewer labeled “Church” and “Performance Hall” click on the icon in the upper right corner to find individual sessions.)

Logue summarized the conference during its closing session. That summary is here.

Prior to the Evangelism Matters conference, leaders of new church plants or mission initiatives met Nov. 16-17 in the inaugural Genesis Gathering of the Episcopal Church at the Church of the Ascension, also in Dallas. The conference’s goal was to help establish a community of practice among such leaders in which they could encourage each other and learn from each other. The Episcopal Church’s Genesis Group (formally known as the Advisory Group on Church Planting) sponsored the event.

A third gathering, an invitation-only meeting called “the summit,” gathered some participants of each of the other meetings before and after Evangelism Matters to discuss the current and hoped-for future state of evangelism in the Episcopal Church, and what resources are needed.

The Rev. Mary Frances Schjonberg is an editor and reporter for the Episcopal News Service.

INFO - BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN

All Cursillistas (those having attended a Cursillo Weekend), and all who have attended a similar or equivalent weekend retreat are welcomed and encouraged to come

What is "Back To The Mountain"?

"Back To The Mountain" is a weekend retreat early in the new year where all Cursillistas have an opportunity to meet one another, renew old acquaintances, and establish new friends. The dates this coming year are January 6-8, 2017.

Why should I attend "Back To The Mountain"?

"Back To The Mountain" provides you an opportunity to learn and further grow in your faith, spirituality and closeness to Jesus/God/Holy Spirit. It is also a time for fun, relaxation where you have a chance to explore your mountain surroundings, view the local trees and fauna, while breathing the fresh mountain air.

Where is "Back To The Mountain"?

"Back To The Mountain" is held in the same location where we hold our Cursillo Weekends - Camp Stevens in Julian.

Do I have to work at "Back To The Mountain"?

The only work required is to talk, sing, pray and learn. Camp Stevens' staff are present and provide and prepare all our food.

How much does it cost to attend "Back To The Mountain"?

All the information about the cost and the application process is contained below, and is **available** on the sdcursillo.org website

Where: Camp Stephens, Julian CA (Food will be provided by the camp).

When: 7:00 pm Fri., January 6 - Noon Sun., January 8, 2017.

For an extra \$9.50, join us for dinner in the dining hall at 6:00 pm Fri.

Who: All Cursillistas (and adults who have been on an equivalent three day weekend, such as Walk to Emmaus).

Cost: \$145. per person when paid by 12/23/2016; and \$155. after 12/23/2016. Last day to register is December 30 (No refunds after Dec. 30 if you are unable to attend).

There will be planned activities and lots of free time to enjoy the beautiful surroundings and each other. We hope you'll join us!

Lynn Sarnecki 619-379-0610 - Jan Martin 619-857-6749

lynn11355@cox.net djmartin@cox.net

Applications and Payments should be sent to: Lynn Sarnecki, 10153 Marcella Ct, Santee, CA 92071

.....Detach Portion Below & Mail With Payment.....

NAME(S):

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone (preferred):

Phone (other):

Email:

Parish:

of Reservations: Male Female Fri. Dinner (+9.50 per person): No Yes

If Yes for Dinner, How Many

Total Amt. Enclosed:

Special Dietary or Accommodation Needs:



THE CURSILLO SECRETARIAT WISHES ALL OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS A VERY BLESSED MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION:

I SAW A STRANGER TODAY, I PUT FOOD FOR HIM IN THE EATING PLACE, AND DRINK IN THE IN THE DRINKING PLACE, AND MUSIC IN THR LISTENING PLACE. HE BLESSED ME AND MY FAMILY, AND THANKED ME FOR NOTICING HIM.

THE STRANGER WAS CHRIST.

FROM:

FR. GEORGE CALVERT; FR. ED BUSCH; FR. CARLOS GARCIA; KATHERINE GORDEN; DEBBIE KISTLER; JILL MCGREW; FR. BOB NELSON; EILEEN PIERCE; RUBEN RODRIGUEZ; LARRY SALVADORI; MERCEDES WEBBER; PETE WOLFINGER; JUDY BROWN; JAMIE WOOD; KAREN RICE; JUDY ANDERSON; ED EMBICK; REV. BABS MEAIRS; SUSAN MILLER; SHELL PIERCE; REV. CHRISTINA BORGES; JON TURLEY; MIGUEL COSIO; KIT CHEVALIER; CRAIG NOBLE; RACHEL AMBASING; FR. PAUL GAMBLING, AND MANY OTHER PRAYER WARRIORS; SUPPORTERS; DONATORS; AND FRIENDS.