



FORWARD



FEBRUARY 2017

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



A MESSAGE FROM THE CURSILLO SECRETARIAT PRESIDENT

GRACE AND PEACE TO YOU AND BLESSINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR 2017:

Everyone who attended the Camp Stevens BTTM weekend, planned by Lynn Sarnecki, Jan Martin and their team, returned home refreshed. Guests (19) laughed, listened, talked, prayed, relaxed and had fun while learning and growing. Thank you Lynn and Jan; we look forward to your Holy Spirit inspired teamwork for April 20-23, 2017. (Cursillistas: please check the website, sdcursillo.org) for application deadlines!)

As I prepared for the retreat of the Secretariat for January 21, 2017, I was reminded through the Pastoral Plan of what the real meaning of Cursillo is: It is a proven method of building leaders to bring Jesus Christ to our environments, whether it be parishes, families, work places, community services, clubs, etc. Wherever we are is an opportunity to "make a friend, be a friend and bring a friend to Christ."

The theme for our retreat and for my year as President is from a saying by Frederick Buechner:

"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." The Secretariat members, who with the Bishop, constitute the governing body for the Cursillo Ministry in our diocese, met in small groups to pray, examine the Word and consider how they could use their individual spiritual gifts to support Cursillo. We re-dedicated our hearts and gifts to the purpose of Cursillo.

I ask that you pray this with me when you do your devotions this year:

Heavenly Father:

You have placed in my hands this precious gift.
Help me to use it confidently, knowing that it is Your Spirit that empowers me.
Help me to use it humbly, knowing that I receive it purely by grace.
Help me to use it lovingly, knowing that how I use it affects others and shapes
their understanding of You.
Here—now I return Your gift, but in a different form.
My feet, my hands, my voice, my mind, my all, I offer back to You.
Your gift in me. My gift in You. Amen

(see BCP p. 200 “Collect “Of the Holy Spirit”)

“May your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet,”
Jill McGrew, Secretariat President

CAMP STEVENS CURSILLO WEEKENDS 2017:

Please consider sponsoring a candidate for our weekends at Camp Stevens:

Spring: April 20-23, 2017 - Jan Martin, Rector
Fall: October 19-22, 2017 - Rector To Be Announced

FROM THE DIOCESAN CURSILLO SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Dear Friends,

I found Sam Shoemaker’s sermon to be so wonderful, I would like to use it this month instead of my meditation.

Sam Shoemaker was an Episcopal priest and a founder of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Your friend in Christ,

Father George

I Stand at the Door

By Sam Shoemaker (from the Oxford Group)

I stand by the door.
I neither go too far in, nor stay too far out.
The door is the most important door in the world -
It is the door through which men walk when they find God.
There is no use my going way inside and staying there,
When so many are still outside and they, as much as I,
Crave to know where the door is.
And all that so many ever find
Is only the wall where the door ought to be.

They creep along the wall like blind men,
With outstretched, groping hands,
Feeling for a door, knowing there must be a door,
Yet they never find it.
So I stand by the door.

The most tremendous thing in the world
Is for men to find that door - the door to God.
The most important thing that any man can do
Is to take hold of one of those blind, groping hands
And put it on the latch - the latch that only clicks
And opens to the man's own touch.

Men die outside the door, as starving beggars die
On cold nights in cruel cities in the dead of winter.
Die for want of what is within their grasp.
They live on the other side of it - live because they have not found it.

Nothing else matters compared to helping them find it,
And open it, and walk in, and find Him.
So I stand by the door.

Go in great saints; go all the way in -
Go way down into the cavernous cellars,
And way up into the spacious attics.
It is a vast, roomy house, this house where God is.
Go into the deepest of hidden casements,
Of withdrawal, of silence, of sainthood.
Some must inhabit those inner rooms
And know the depths and heights of God,
And call outside to the rest of us how wonderful it is.
Sometimes I take a deeper look in.
Sometimes venture in a little farther,
But my place seems closer to the opening.
So I stand by the door.

There is another reason why I stand there.
Some people get part way in and become afraid
Lest God and the zeal of His house devour them;
For God is so very great and asks all of us.
And these people feel a cosmic claustrophobia
And want to get out. 'Let me out!' they cry.
And the people way inside only terrify them more.
Somebody must be by the door to tell them that they are spoiled.
For the old life, they have seen too much:
One taste of God and nothing but God will do any more.
Somebody must be watching for the frightened
Who seek to sneak out just where they came in,
To tell them how much better it is inside.
The people too far in do not see how near these are

To leaving - preoccupied with the wonder of it all.
Somebody must watch for those who have entered the door
But would like to run away. So for them too,
I stand by the door.

I admire the people who go way in.
But I wish they would not forget how it was
Before they got in. Then they would be able to help
The people who have not yet even found the door.
Or the people who want to run away again from God.
You can go in too deeply and stay in too long
And forget the people outside the door.
As for me, I shall take my old accustomed place,
Near enough to God to hear Him and know He is there,
But not so far from men as not to hear them,
And remember they are there too.

Where? Outside the door -
Thousands of them. Millions of them.
But - more important for me -
One of them, two of them, ten of them.
Whose hands I am intended to put on the latch.
So I shall stand by the door and wait
For those who seek it.

'I had rather be a door-keeper
So I stand by the door

FROM THE CURSILLO SECRETARIAT PRESIDENT ELECT 2017

Greetings to the Cursillo Community. My name is Kit Chevalier and I am one of your new members to the Secretariat along with Rachel Ambasing and Craig Noble. I am humbled and blessed to be called to serve an organization that is so close to my heart.
As a child, I attended All Souls' in Point Loma, raised my family in Poway attending St. Bartholomew's, and am currently an active member of St. Timothy's in Rancho Penasquitos. I made my Cursillo in April, 2013, and have worked every weekend starting with spring 2015.
My work on the Secretariat will focus on Group Reunion and Publicity. I am also the 2017 President Elect. I will be encouraging all Cursillistas to participate in Grouping as a way to encourage, support and build up each other as we "Make a friend, Be a friend, and Bring a friend to Christ". Concerning Publicity, I will help to promote Cursillo through all publicity means as often as possible.
I look forward to a positive, energetic year ahead for our vital and active movement.
De Colores,

Kit

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CALENDER YEAR 2016 - 2017

FEBRUARY 18 – CURSILLO #140 TEAM MEETING, ST. DUNSTAN’S, 8:30-12:00 NOON
MARCH 4 – SERVANT COMM. MEETING, ST. DUNSTAN’S, 8:30-12:00 NOON
MARCH 4 – SECRETARIAT MEETING, ST. DUNSTAN’S, 12:00-2:30PM
MARCH 4 – ULTREYA, ST. PETERS, 5:00PM SERVICE, 6:00PM POT LUCK, 7:00PM
ULTREYA
MARCH 18 – CURSILLO #140 TEAM MEETING, ST. DUNSTAN’S, 8:30-12:00 NOON
MARCH 20, CURSILLO #140 APPLICATION DEADLINE
MARCH 31, FORWARD ARTICLE DEADLINE
APRIL 1, CURSILLO #140, ROLLO CRITIQUES, ST. BARTHOLOMEW’S
APRIL 1, APRIL FOOLS DAY
APRIL 6, SECRETARIAT MEETING, ST. DUNSTAN’S, 6:30 PM
APRIL 8, CURSILLO #140 TEAM MEETING, 8:30-12:00 NOON

CURSILLO SECRETARIAT THANK YOU



The Cursillo Secretariat extends its heartfelt thanks for your financial support in 2016. Your gifts and donations allow us to set up “scholarships” to help defray the cost of sponsoring new Cursillistas and workers, pay our bills, support ministries, and support the national Episcopal Cursillo Ministry. The Secretariat also totally appreciates the time and talent of all Cursillistas as expressed in Pre-Cursillo, weekends, 4th Day, Communications, prayers, sponsorships, angels, and all other Cursillo activities. Please remember that we graciously accept donations and gifts year-round. Please send your gifts and donations to:

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

Checks made out to: Cursillos in Christianity

CURSILLO NEWS/NOTES

FROM JUDY ANDERSON-4th DAY CHAIR

FOURTH DAY NEWS

St. Alban's was rocking at the January 14 Ultreya—eight musicians *directed* by Alex Tuttle led the 35 of us in lively singing. Sebastian Rice gave a witness talk on how the Lord has led him to different parts of the world and through his listening to the Lord he will be entering medical school in Hawaii. Ruben Rodriguez told of how he has seen Sebastian grow and has encouraged him to listen. Then Ruben gave an example how his listening to God led him to bringing a client closer to Jesus by meeting the client's immediate need for prayer. Fr. George gave the scriptural talk. As usual, Judy Brown's hospitality was great. A wonderful spiritual time was had by all. JOIN US NEXT TIME!

ECUMENICAL GRAND ULTREYA

On Saturday, Feb. 4 Four Cursillo-type Three Day weekend expressions came together to share Christian Community in Action with 98 spirit filled brothers and sisters. 49 Roman Catholics, 36 Episcopalians, 4 Walk to Emmaus and 9 Kairos representatives (many of whom signed in as Catholic) rocked the afternoon away to the music of 12 musicians (ranging from guitars to harmonica). Our Mother of Confidence Catholic Church was the scene of the great event, and it was the perfect site for the bountiful potluck and Ultreya. The church charged no fee for the event (it is Cursillo, I was told), and we opted for paper and plastic goods made from plant materials for which this "green" church charged 50 cents/person. The facilities manager, John Ohle, was generous with his time, meeting us to check out the facility beforehand and being on site at the setup for the potluck. In grouping we spread out into some of the many rooms available to us in the Serra Room. I don't want to mention many names, for fear of leaving out someone, but Jill McGrew decorated the tables beautifully with the help of some of my grouping sisters. Jake Kruger (Kairos) arranged for the room. Daniel Perwich (RC) joined the mostly Episcopalian musicians led by Susan Miller. Talks were given by Jake Kruger (Kairos) who also served as M.C., Daniel Perwich (RC), Darryl Peralta (Episcopal), and Teresa Vaca (Walk to Emmaus). The keynote speaker was Rev. Bill Brown, Protestant Chaplain Retired, R. J. Donovan Prison. Fr. Gil Gentile, Catholic Cursillo Spiritual Director, gave the opening prayer and Fr. George Calvert the closing prayer. A great time was had by all and if you didn't attend, you missed a great event, which far surpassed the Ecumenical Grand Ultreyas in the past. Here are a few of the pictures taken at the EGU by Teresa Vaca (Walk to Emmaus). More may be printed in the next Forward.

Judy Anderson, 4th Day Chair



2017 Secretariat Lay Members

Name	E-Mail	Function	Term Exp.
Jill McGrew	jmegrew2015@gmail.com	2017 President	'18
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
Kit Chevalier	kmsopsinger@yahoo.com	2017 President Elect, Publicity, Grouping	'19
Eileen Pierce	langelslight@mindspring.com	Vice-Chair Communications Historian/Kairos	'17
Jon Turley	turley.jonixxi@gmail.com	3-Day Weekend Chair	'18
Craig Noble	craignoble@cox.net	3 Day Weekend Vice-Chair	'19
Rachel Ambasing	rachel.ambasing@gmail.com	Palanca	'19

2017 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. Paul Gambling	edwbus@hotmail.com subject: Cursillo Secretariat Business	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	'19
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>EMS Liaison</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/ Ultreyas
Larry Salvadori	lasalvadori@yahoo.com	Forward Editor
Karen Rice	ktkrice@att.net	<u>Pre-Cursillo</u> Chair
Susan Miller	miller.sv@sbcglobal.net	Cursillo Music Coordinator
Susan Miller	miller.sv@sbcglobal.net	Secretary
Barbara Peralta	bperalta@yahoo.com	Rector Support Team
Ruben Rodriguez	Rodriguez_ruben@msn.com	Rector Support Team/ Outreach
Ed Embick	sueanded@san.rr.com	Webmaster
Shell Pierce	roaminchristian@mindspring.com	Alt. Webmaster

Palanca Events Around the Globe

As we pray and prepare for our Cursillo weekend #140, may we also offer our prayers of encouragement to the following diocese and their teams:

February

2/3 - 2/5	Cursillo Retreat	South Carolina
2/16-2/19	Cursillo #326	Dallas
2/23-2/26	Cursillo #251	Texas

March

3/8 - 3/12	Cursillo #158	Central Gulf Coast FL/AL
3/16 - 3/19	Men's Cursillo WE #137	Florida
3/16 - 3/19	Men's Cursillo #124	Central Florida
3/23 - 3/26	Women's Cursillo #124	Central Florida
3/23 - 3/26	Women's Cursillo WE #137	Florida
3/30 - 4/2	Cursillo #150	Western Louisiana
3/31 - 4/2	Spring Cursillo WE in English	Oklahoma

Joy and peace be with you all,
Rachel Ambasing

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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

Message from the President of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee

The Cursillo Movement began in August 1944, in Cala Figuera, on the island of Mallorca where a one-week course named Cursillo for Leaders of Pilgrims offered by the Catholic Action movement to those who were preparing a pilgrimage to the Shrine of St James at Compostela. Eduardo Bonnín and a group of his friends devised a method that made a profound change in the day to day life of the communities in which they lived, rather than just preparing for a pilgrimage.

This year marks the 60th Anniversary of Cursillo in the United States, although the first official Three-Day Weekend in the Episcopal Church was not held until 1970 in the Diocese of Iowa under sponsorship from the Roman Catholic Church.

Much has changed since then in the United States, worldwide, and in the Episcopal Church. Yet, the basic tenets of Cursillo remain the same: **“Make a friend, be a friend and bring a friend to Christ.”**

This is how Andrew, Peter, James and John became the first Disciples of Christ. Various versions of the story are told in all four Gospels. In John’s version when John the Baptist pointed to Jesus and said, “Look! the Lamb of God,” (John 1:36), Andrew believed his teacher. But before going to Jesus, he first went and got his bother Peter and said, “We have found the Messiah” (John 1:42).

Each of us is called to be a disciple of Christ and as a disciple we should want to also bring others into that loving relationship with Christ. When we make a discovery; be it a new restaurant, a vacation spot, an awesome new show, we like to share the experience with those we care for and so we tell them all about it and may even go to the extent of taking them along with us. So why not share our Christian experience the same way? Just as the disciples did?

As outlined in the new Pastoral Plan of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry, “The goal of the Cursillo Ministry is to change the world for Christ—to create ‘authentic disciples,’ Christians empowered by a vision for apostolic action and strengthened through prayer, sacraments, study and community. This goal links directly to Presiding Bishop Michael Curry’s invitation to all Episcopalians to become more and more Christ-centered followers of Jesus—that is, disciples who are deeply in love with and changed by Jesus—and then to welcome others into loving, liberating and life-giving relationship with God, with each other and with creation. This is the ‘Jesus Movement,’ and we are the Episcopal branch of that Movement.”

I encourage all of us to take up the challenge to become authentic disciples and then like Andrew, Peter, James and John, to welcome our friends into this relationship.

These are exciting times for us on the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee as we continue to perform those tasks that keep the Ministry vibrant. The Publications Subcommittee continues to research and update all of our publications and is soliciting responses to a survey that was recently circulated. The Communications Subcommittee ensures that information on the website is current and produces a monthly News Notes to keep you informed of what’s happening around the Cursillo Community. Cursillo Leadership Development Committee continues to monitor the health of the Ministry in each Diocese. All this can only be accomplished with cooperation from everyone so we ask that you stay in touch with your District Representatives and let us know of your concerns and issue; dates, etc.

Keep watching our website for information about this year’s Conference will be held at St. Paul’s Episcopal Cathedral in Oklahoma City, October 27 to 29.

DeColores
Veronica Hinkson

