



FORWARD



DECEMBER 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](http://www.sdcursillo.org)



***SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EDITION***



***FROM THE SAN DIEGO CURSILLO SECRETARIAT***

## ***A MESSAGE FROM THE CURSILLO SECRETARIAT PRESIDENT***

**PRAISE GOD!** Cursillo really met the challenge of a successful weekend #141 at Camp Stevens under the leadership of Pete Casalegno and 72 Cursillistas celebrated the reunion of the team and candidates at the Evening of Deeper Understanding at St. Philip's, Lemon Grove. Ruben and Ginny: Thank you for personal invitations to the candidates with a copy of the Forward! Fr Carlos personally made lasagna for all of us, and others brought favorite dishes to share. The festive decorations in the Parish Hall for celebration of the Saints were beautiful. Thank you always to our musicians.

Speaking of musicians and beautiful---Larry Salvadori had all of us organized with different tasks to serve at the Convention of the Diocese at St. Bart's. Some drove golf carts to bring guests to the main area, some served coffee and water, some offered hospitality and prayers. Our musicians, when they weren't cutting lettuce and making salad, sandwiches or serving, were stationed between the patio and the parish hall serenading the Convention as they enjoyed a delicious bar-b-que dinne.

**PERSONAL THANK YOU** everyone not only for supporting the work of the Cursillo community this year whether it be as a leader in the Secretariat or Servant Community, as a Rector, or "Experienced" Rector, or keeping us a presence on the Web, but also for your friendship. For me, it has been a year of gratitude for the opportunity to serve.

From the beginning of the year, I asked you to accept the call and the challenge of Frederick Buechner's words, "**The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.**"

**I think people at the Ecumenical dinner, at the camps, at the Ultreyas, at the Convention and hopefully through our gifts this Christmas season have seen and will see our deep gladness with each other and in serving our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Merry Christmas, Jill McGrew, President of the Secretariat**

## ***FROM THE DIOCESAN CURSILLO SPIRITUAL ADVISOR***

### **The Three Major Types of Spirituality in American Culture Today**

While on a recent vacation, in Sedona, Arizona, I did a lot of thinking about Spirituality and American Culture. It seems to me that our culture has divided into three major streams of spirituality. This process of division has been going on since the late 1960's. The three types of spirituality are as follows:

<b><u>Judeo-Christian Spirituality</u></b>	<b><u>Atheist Materialist Spirituality</u></b>	<b><u>New-Age Spirituality</u></b>
Belief in a transcendent and personal God who created Heaven and Earth. This creator God loves us and acts inside of His creation. This God has revealed Himself through special miraculous acts of revelation in the Bible and in the lives of people. Jews and Christians believe in worshiping the creator, not the creation.	The atheist believes in only the material world and non-material ideas exist only in the human imagination. Atheist-Materialists believe that spirituality is a fantasy. The atheist claims to know that God does not exist.	Belief in a conscious universe. This spirituality believes that because the universe is conscious, we live in an enchanted world where we can encounter spiritual powers or conscious energies in nature. This is a pantheistic spirituality. New-Agers reject both the transcendent and personal God of the Bible and the reductive materialism of atheism.

Nowadays, when we use the word spirituality, it's hard to tell which of the three types of spirituality we are talking about. We used to just assume that everyone was talking about Judeo-Christian spirituality, but each of the three categories above contain incompatible views of the world. The word "spirituality" is pulled in three and totally different directions. Judeo-Christian spirituality, Atheist spirituality, and New-Age spirituality have different world views and goals. In the Judeo-Christian tradition spirituality is being filled with God's spirit, living in God's spirit, and being guided by God's spirit. It is experiencing the work of Holy Spirit inside of us and through us. For the atheist materialist, if they even refer to spirituality, it is some construction of the human imagination that they find to bring feelings of pleasure. They get a feeling of satisfaction from some fantasy about themselves and the world. For the new age person, spirituality is getting in touch with cosmic consciousness. Because we are all conscious beings, the New Age people believe that consciousness of the cosmos is in them. For them, exploring consciousness, experiencing consciousness, is to experience "God" --which really is making themselves into god. When New Age people say "I am a spiritual person," they believe they are in harmony with cosmic consciousness. They believe that they are at one with the universe.

New-agers believe in Monism: the doctrine that *all is one*. They are also pantheists--pan--*All equals "God."* In monistic metaphysics "God" equals impersonal energy forces and cosmic consciousness and any material reality. Everything that exists is one and alive. The experience of "God" is to experience consciousness and energy that is part of the universe. New-agers are monists.

Atheists have strong monistic tendencies, but they try to reduce reality down to the material level. They are continually trying to explain consciousness as some material causation in the brain. Matter is the one reality to which they continually return. Not all atheists are material monists, but there is a strong tendency in this direction. If all reality is material, it does not leave room for purpose and meaning in life. Purpose and meaning become fantasy. Atheism leads to nihilism. Nihilism is the doctrine that there are no real religious or moral values. While atheism tries to find some spirituality, its spirituality is a fantasy, therefore atheism is incompatible with real spirituality.

Christian spirituality does not come from the material world or a supposed cosmic consciousness; as Pope John Paul II has said "Christian mysticism is born of the revelation of the living God." Christian Spirituality in general and Mysticism begin with the true and living God who exists prior to and outside of the universe.

For the new-ager, mysticism is the perception of the universe in all of its seemingly disparate entities existing in a unified whole of consciousness. For the Christian, mysticism is being lifted up in the power of the Holy Spirit into a super natural encounter with God, who is other than His creation. The Christian mystical experience appreciates the whole creation, but moves beyond creation to the creator. New-age mysticism and Christian mysticism are not the same thing.

In our culture today, we must be careful to distinguish what we mean by the words spirituality and mysticism. Because of the confusion caused by atheism and the new-age movement, we need to always be clear that we are talking about the one true and living God who created us and all that exists.

When we realize that the universe as a whole and in most of its parts is not conscious, the new-age alternative spirituality is not possible. Let me be clear: I strongly believe in the existence of consciousness in human beings and in higher forms of animals. I also believe that human consciousness has power over matter. Consciousness even has power over subatomic matter! I further believe that God as a conscious being has power over the entire universe and anything else that may exist. I strongly believe in the power of consciousness, but I do not see any convincing argument to show that consciousness exists in the matter of the entire universe. While some people may worship the stars and the moon, most of us do not believe that they are conscious entities. Christian theology and science both agree that to a large extent the universe operates according to the laws of nature and is not alive, not conscious, and not magical. The universe is not an enchanted world.

A human being needs to find meaning through spirituality to become a real person; we must find meaning and purpose. We call this spiritual development of the person. When we realize that atheism and new age philosophies cannot provide us with a real spirituality that will turn us into real persons, we are left with only one alternative--the Judeo-Christian religious tradition. I believe I have reduced the atheist and new age arguments to absurdity. I have exposed the absurdity in their arguments.

An encounter with the true and living God who has revealed Himself in the Bible as the creator of the entire universe and all that exists is the necessary starting point for spirituality. We do not worship an enchanted universe of the new-ager. Nor do we worship the material universe of the atheist. We worship the God who is the mystery beyond His creation, who is "hidden in His infinity and eternity" (Karl Barth). This God is the God we know

through the miracle of His revelation and this is the God who changes our lives for the better, who makes us into new creations in Christ. When we live our lives for Jesus Christ, the miracle of revelation and grace happens. We experience transformation. Being made new in Christ is the goal of true spirituality.

Your friend in Christ,

Father George

## ***THE ADVENT SEASON***

**What is the “Advent Season” and why is it important?** A piece by Russell Anderson in the “Lectionary Preaching Workbook” is one I find to be particularly helpful in understanding this first season of the Church Year. I ask that you meditate on the three comings of Christ in the Advent Season as Anderson explains below. “Since the ninth century in the western church, the season of Advent has been commemorated as a period of preparation for the birth of our Lord and the Beginning of the ecclesiastical year. It begins on the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Andrew (Nov. 30).

“In the early church the words Advent, Epiphany and Nativity were employed interchangeably to denote the feast of the Nativity. Advent liturgies first appear in the sixth century in the church of Gaul. Epiphany was observed as a baptismal festival and the period preceding it was utilized as a period of preparation for baptism, much like the season of Lent. Consequently, Advent originated as a type of little Lent. From France the observance spread to England in the seventh and eighth centuries. In the ninth century, Advent was finally incorporated into the Roman rite.

“The word ‘Advent’ means literally, ‘to come to.’ It is a special season when we celebrate the bold assertion that the Lord of the Universe has come among us in human form through Jesus of Nazareth. In Jesus, the Christ, we have Immanuel, God with us. Not only do we celebrate that God has come (past tense) to the world in the Man from Galilee, but also that God is come (present tense) as a spiritual reality and will come again (future tense) in triumph at the consummation of the ages. Because of the reality to which Advent points, we are not frightened children locked in an indifferent universe. God has, is, and will come to us in Jesus, the Christ.

“There is another sense to the definition of Advent, ‘to come to.’ Since God has, is, and will come to us, therefore *we need to come to*. Our task is to become fully awake not only to the significance of **the incarnation** but also to the many incarnations of Christ in our lives. The Apostle Paul expresses this thought well: ‘It is time for us to awake from sleep, for salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.’ (*Romans 13:11*) None of us is fully conscious of God’s presence; we need to come to, to wake up, and be vigilant for the visitation of God within history and at the end of time when the kingdom is fully realized.”

Your friend in Christ,

Father George

## *PALANCA*

Dear friends,

A huge thank you to everyone who prayed and gave palanca for Cursillo #141, and special thanks to Sandi Chan (St. Peter's, Del Mar) and Jill Casalegno (St. Mary's, Ramona), who did a fantastic job taking care of Palanca over the weekend.

Another giant thank you goes to everyone who gave palanca for the Diocesan Convention, and to Larry Salvadori for coordinating *e-v-e-r-y-t-h-i-n-g*.

As we all enter into the Advent season and prepare for Christmas, which, while being “the most wonderful time of the year,” is also the busiest time of the year, I find that, regarding my responsibilities as Palanca Chair, I don't have much to do -- the next weekend on my radar isn't until February! But, rather than just let my palanca muscles wither and waste, I am committed to doing the following:

For the duration of the Advent and Christmas seasons, whenever I find myself “stuck” waiting somewhere – stuck in line while Christmas shopping, at Costco, in traffic, at the movie theatre waiting to watch “Star Wars: the Last Jedi” – I will say a prayer for all of the Cursillistas of this diocese. I pray that the songs of joy, love, and peace resound within and through each of you, wherever you may find yourselves, this holiday season.

Please also join me in praying for everyone who will be attending Back to the Mountain from Jan. 5 – Jan. 7, 2018; for all those interested in participating in the Episcopal Cursillo Leaders Workshop at St. Andrew's, La Mesa, on Feb. 3, 2018; as well as for the following teams and candidates as they prepare for their weekends:

February 2018

2/8-2/11, Cursillo #137, South Carolina, PaulaEGreenway@gmail.com

2/8-2/11, #137, Upper South Carolina, jjendron@usit.net

2/22-2/25, Men's English Weekend, Los Angeles, NancyWiebenStock@outlook.com

2/22-2/25, Cursillo #211, Alabama, jpoole@pooleandcompany.com

2/22-2/25, Cursillo #253, Texas, Piggity@Jsrsystems.info

May you share goodwill with all whom you encounter!

Rachel Ambasing, Palanca Coordinator

**MUST ATTEND SPECIAL EVENTS OCCURING EARLY NEXT YEAR, 2018**

**BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN (BTTM) – JANUARY 5-7 AT PINE VALLEY**

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED FLIER FOR WEEKEND DETAILS. THIS WEEKEND WILL BE THE FIRST WEEKEND AT PINE VALLEY FOR CURSILLO. COME AND SEE OUR NEW FACILITIES: EXPLORE THE VAST PREMISES; EXPERIENCE THE PINE VALLEY CHEF'S FOOD; PARK CLOSE TO BUNK HOUSES; NO HILLS TO CLIMB; THICK MATTRESSES; ALTHOUGH IT'S A VALLEY, THE ALTITUDE IS 3,700 FEET, ALMOST LIKE JULIAN; PRAY IN THE CHAPEL; ENJOY-ENJOY-ENJOY. WORKING THE SPRING WEEKEND? HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO GET A HEAD START IN KNOWING ALL ABOUT OUR NEW WEEKEND FACILITIES.

**EPISCOPAL CURSILLO LEADERS WORKSHOP – FEBRUARY 3 AT ST. ANDREW'S LA MESA**

CAN'T ATTEND BTTM, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON? PLAN TO ATTEND THE ONE DAY, LOCAL ARRANGED ECLW, AND GET THE LATEST CURSILLO INFORMATION ON EVERYTHING FROM THE SECRETARIAT MEMBERS AND SPECIAL SERVANTS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: WELCOME TO PINE VALLEY; VIDEOS; BTTM TESTIMONIES; FACILITIES; PARKING; FOOD; AN AGAPE LUNCH INCLUDING PIZZA, WINGS, CAKE, AND MARTINELLI'S; AND "THE PATH TO BECOMING A CURSILLO RECTOR". YOU CAN HAVE ALL OF THIS, AND MORE, FOR A \$10 BILL. WHAT A DEAL!! WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ECLW, AND THE FLIER.

**17 Secretariat Lay Members**

Name	E-Mail	Function	Term Exp.
Jill McGrew	<a href="mailto:jmegrew2015@gmail.com">jmegrew2015@gmail.com</a>	2017 President	'18
Miguel Cosio	<a href="mailto:gmiguelcosio1971@yahoo.com">gmiguelcosio1971@yahoo.com</a>	Hispanic Partners Chair	'18
Katherine Gordon	<a href="mailto:yosemiteshair@yahoo.com">yosemiteshair@yahoo.com</a>	Pre-Cursillo Vice-Chair	'17
Debbie Kistler	<a href="mailto:dk.outoflove@cox.net">dk.outoflove@cox.net</a>	4 <sup>th</sup> Day Vice-Chair	'17
Kit Chevalier	<a href="mailto:kmsopsinger@yahoo.com">kmsopsinger@yahoo.com</a>	2017 President Elect, Publicity, Grouping	'19

Eileen Pierce	<a href="mailto:langelight@mindspring.com">langelight@mindspring.com</a>	Vice-Chair Communications Historian/Kairos	'17
Jon Turley	<a href="mailto:turley.jonixxi@gmail.com">turley.jonixxi@gmail.com</a>	3-Day Weekend Chair	'18
Craig Noble	<a href="mailto:craignoble@cox.net">craignoble@cox.net</a>	3 Day Weekend Vice-Chair	'19
Rachel Ambasing	<a href="mailto:rachel.ambasing@gmail.com">rachel.ambasing@gmail.com</a>	Palanca	'19

### 2017 Secretariat Clergy Members

Name	E-Mail	Function	Term Exp.
Rev. George Calvert	<a href="mailto:calvert@calalum.org">calvert@calalum.org</a> subject: <a href="#">Cursillo Secretariat Business</a>	Diocesan Spiritual Advisor	Bishop Apnt'd
Rev. Paul Gambling	<a href="mailto:gfrpaul@gmail.com">gfrpaul@gmail.com</a> subject: <a href="#">Cursillo Secretariat Business</a>	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	'19
Rev. Bob Nelson	<a href="mailto:bobnelson1@hotmail.com">bobnelson1@hotmail.com</a> subject: <a href="#">Cursillo Secretariat Business</a>	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	'17
Rev. Cristina Borges	<a href="mailto:haolam000@gmail.com">haolam000@gmail.com</a>	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	'17
Rev. Carlos Garcia	<a href="mailto:carlangas1986@cs.com">carlangas1986@cs.com</a> subject: <a href="#">Cursillo Secretariat Business</a>	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	Bishop Apnt'd

### SPECIAL CURSILLO SERVANTS

Name	E-Mail	Function
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Jamie Wood	<a href="mailto:jamiewood2@cox.net">jamiewood2@cox.net</a>	<b>Treasurer</b>
Larry Salvadori	<a href="mailto:lasalvadori@yahoo.com">lasalvadori@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Servant Community Convener</b>

Judy Anderson	<a href="mailto:jmanderson38@sbcglobal.net">jmanderson38@sbcglobal.net</a>	Parish Reps / 4 <sup>th</sup> Day Chair/ Ultreyas
Larry Salvadori	<a href="mailto:lasalvadori@yahoo.com">lasalvadori@yahoo.com</a>	Forward Editor
Susan Miller	<a href="mailto:miller.sv@sbcglobal.net">miller.sv@sbcglobal.net</a>	Pre-Cursillo Chair
Susan Miller	<a href="mailto:miller.sv@sbcglobal.net">miller.sv@sbcglobal.net</a>	Cursillo Music Coordinator
Susan Miller	<a href="mailto:miller.sv@sbcglobal.net">miller.sv@sbcglobal.net</a>	Secretary
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Ruben Rodriguez	<a href="mailto:Rodriguez_ruben@msn.com">Rodriguez_ruben@msn.com</a>	Rector Support Team/ Outreach
Ed Embick	<a href="mailto:sueanded@san.rr.com">sueanded@san.rr.com</a>	Webmaster
Shell Pierce	<a href="mailto:roaminchristian@mindspring.com">roaminchristian@mindspring.com</a>	Alt. Webmaster

## 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 to Cursillo, please sent 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 CURSLLOI**





***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 THE 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; JUDY BROWN; JAMIE WOOD; KAREN RICE; JUDY ANDERSON; ED EMBICK; 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.

## Back to the Mountain

January 5-7, 2017



- Where: Pine Valley Bible Conference Center, 8668 Pine Creek Road, Pine Valley, CA 91962  
When: 4:00 pm Fri., January 5 – 11:30 am Sun., January 7, 2018  
Who: All Cursillistas (and adults who have been on an equivalent three-day weekend)  
Cost: \$145. per person before 12/22/2017; and \$155. after 12/22/2017. Last day to register is December 29 (No refunds after Dec. 29 if you are unable to attend)

There will be singing, activities, talks, laughter, and lots of free time to enjoy the beautiful new camp and each other. We hope you'll join us!

**Mail Applications & Payments to: Jan Martin, 9937 Delia Ln, Santee, CA 92071**  
(619) 857-6749      djmartin@cox.net

..... Detach Portion Below & Mail with Payment (Checks to: Cursillos in Christianity) .....

Names(s):	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Phone:	# of Reservations: Male [ ] Female [ ]
Total Amt. Enclosed:	I (we) will attend Fri. Dinner: Yes [ ] No [ ]
List any Special Dietary or Accommodation Needs:	