

APRIL 2021



# Cursillo forward

Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Our Mission is to Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

Please visit our Cursillo website for more information at [www.sdcursillo.org](http://www.sdcursillo.org)

*“OUR WORK GOES ON. OUR LABOR FOR LOVE CONTINUES,” EPISCOPAL CHURCH PRESIDING BISHOP AND PRIMATE MICHAEL B. CURRY SAID IN HIS EASTER 2021 MESSAGE, “WE WILL NOT CEASE, AND WE WILL NOT GIVE UP UNTIL THIS WORLD REFLECTS LESS OUR NIGHTMARE AND MORE GOD’S DREAM WHERE THERE’S PLENTY GOOD ROOM FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN. HALLELUJAH ANYHOW.”*

## ***The following is the text of the Presiding Bishop’s Easter 2021 Message:***

When I get to heaven — and I know it may sound presumptuous for me to say it, but I live by grace and believe in amazing grace — when I get to heaven, I certainly want to see the Lord. But I want to see dear members of family and friends, those who have gone on before, the many people I want to sit down and have some conversation with. Of all the biblical people, aside from the Lord himself, when I get to heaven, I want to meet Mary Magdalene. Mary Magdalene, who was one of the people, one of the women, who followed the way and teachings of Jesus and who probably provided much of the funding for his movement. Mary Magdalene, who with some of the other women and only one of the male disciples, stood with his mother, Mary, at the cross as he died. Mary Magdalene, who, even after he died, on that Easter morning, got up with some of the other women early in the morning, before the day had begun, in the dark, got up to perform the rituals of love to anoint the body of Jesus in his grave.

I want to ask her, “Mary, tell me what got you up that day. Tell me what got you to go to the tomb early in the morning when it was dark, and you could barely see. Why did you get up and go to anoint his body? Mark’s Gospel says that you and the other women said to each other, you knew that Jesus had been buried in that tomb that had been provided by Joseph of Arimathea, with Nicodemus’ help, but a large stone had been rolled in front of the doorway, into the tomb. And one of the women said to the other, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us?’

You knew the stone was there. You knew you couldn't move it. And yet you got up and you went anyway. Mary, tell me your secret."

I suspect she probably will say, "Well, we didn't know how we were going to roll away the stone, but we loved him, and we got up and went anyway. It was hard because it was dark, but we loved him, and we got up and we went anyway. Those roads could be dangerous at night, but we love Jesus, and we got up and we went anyway. Who will roll away the stone for us? We did not know, but we loved him, and we got up and we went anyway. And let me tell you what love can do for you. When we got to the tomb, the stone had already been rolled away. And we shouted our hallelujahs, and shouted our hallelujahs. He is risen."

Last year in March, on March 13th to be precise, another Mary Magdalene, her name, Barbara, Barbara Clementine Harris, bishop of the church, a voice of love, and justice, and compassion, a voice of deep and profound faith, first woman to be consecrated a bishop in Anglican Christianity, died and entered eternal life. This was early in the pandemic. Fortunately for us, Dean Kelly Brown Douglas had worked with Bishop Barbara to make sure that her memoir was completed, and they completed it. She gave it the title from the words of a gospel song that says, and I quote:

*Hallelujah anyhow  
Never let your troubles get you down  
Whenever troubles come your way  
Hold your hands up high and say  
Hallelujah anyhow!*

Those words characterize the life of Bishop Barbara: hallelujah anyhow. In spite of hardship and difficulty, hallelujah anyhow. In spite of injustice and bigotry, hallelujah anyhow. In spite of war and violence, hallelujah anyhow. And that, my friends, is the spirit of Mary Magdalene. That, my friends, is the tenacity of those who would follow in the footsteps of Jesus and his way of love. In spite of hardship and toil, hallelujah anyhow. In spite of the fact that this Easter is the anniversary of the assassination and the martyrdom of Martin Luther King, Jr., hallelujah anyhow. In spite of the fact that these are hard times, hallelujah anyhow.

Our work goes on. Our labor for love continues. We will not cease, and we will not give up until this world reflects less our nightmare and more God's dream where there's plenty good room for all God's children. Hallelujah anyhow.

When I get to heaven, I can't wait to hear Mary Magdalene and Bishop Barbara tell me he's risen. Hallelujah anyhow. Amen.

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

Aside from a few gaffes—like forgetting to write my “From the President” article for the last Forward, and being kindly rescued by a ghost writer—here I am at my first hundred days as the 2021 President of Cursillo. Every president has something that they would like to focus and work on for the year. My thoughts are running toward 3 things, which are interconnected in many aspects.

### **First—The Heart of Cursillo, Group Reunion**

Cursillo Group Reunion ties in directly with the current Diocesan objective of promoting small group ministry. As Cursillistas we know how important it is to meet regularly with others and we already have in place a format that works well. I want to encourage anyone who is not grouping to make 2021 the year to begin (or begin again as I have) to group. Accountability to others is a vital element in maintaining our walk with God and our commitment to influence our environment for Christ. Friendship is essential if we are to live a healthy life. Grouping provides both.

If we’ve learned anything by being kept from personal contact for over a year, it is to improvise. In my opinion, there is no substitute for in-person worship, eucharist, group singing, and after service fellowship, but a reunion group doesn’t necessarily have to meet in person to accomplish its purpose. Setting up a conference call with a smartphone at a regular time is easy to do, and there are other options if you prefer video conferencing. What’s important is to find something that works and do it! The Secretariat has produced a trifold brochure about grouping that reminds us why grouping is important, and to be used as a guide for yourself or to give to someone you know. You should see them in your church soon. In addition, the Secretariat has put a plan in place, called Grouping Central, to facilitate anyone who needs help finding others to group with or who would like to form a new group.

### **Second—Weekend #146 and Back to the Mountain**

The challenge is picking up where we left off and moving forward with our #146 weekend with renewed energy and enthusiasm. Please keep in mind, and especially in your prayers, the 21 candidates we know of, and the 12 or so we don’t—but still have room for. BTTM was moved from January to June 25, 2021. It will be held at Pine Valley and combined with a short Secretariat Retreat to welcome new members elected to the Secretariat at the Grand Ultreya on June 5. Which brings me to my last point of focus...

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## Third—New Faces

The Secretariat and the Servant Community are what keep San Diego Episcopal Cursillo rolling. The Secretariat is the formally organized and elected governing board. The Servant Community is a more loosely defined body that meets quarterly and includes those with leadership responsibilities, those who have special tasks, secretariat members, and the many volunteers advancing the work of Cursillo in San Diego. These are the people that plan and make things happen. It is rewarding, takes only a little time to accomplish a lot, and has eternal benefits. My goal is to be able to encourage more people who have made their Cursillo to be a member of the Servant Community and to serve on the Secretariat. There are many ways to participate, depending on the amount of time you want to spend, whether you prefer an on-going position or a special project, your interests, and your skills.

### How can you help? Here are a few ideas:

- Run for Secretariat in June—duties include attending meetings once a month, chairing a committee, participating in Cursillo functions. Lay and clergy positions are open. These are generally 3 year terms.
- Secretary for Cursillo—attend meetings, type up and distribute minutes, and on occasion, perform other tasks. This is a great way to dip your toe in the water. The Secretary is a non-voting, but fully participating member of the Secretariat.
- Be a Parish Representative—find and get to know the Cursillistas in your parish and keep them up to date with Cursillo news and events. Help identify potential candidates and sponsors. Kit Chevalier is Parish Rep Coordinator.
- Be a Sponsor—Take responsibility for getting a candidate to Cursillo and then seeing them well-grounded within the Cursillo Community after the weekend.
- Serve on a Weekend Team. Ginny Rodriguez is Rector of #146. Applications are on the website.
- Help with, or take responsibility for, special projects such as Convention hospitality.
- Help with the new website in the works—proof-readers, typists, and wordsmiths, especially. Contact person is Susan Miller.
- Be a group mentor—help get groups started. Craig Noble is Grouping Coordinator.
- Help with Communications—Website and calendar maintenance, Email News and Prayer Chain lists distribution, Database and/or IT consultant. Contact Susan Miller.
- Music team member for Weekends and Ultreyas. Rachel Ambasing is Music Coordinator.
- Provide financial support for team and candidates and Cursillo projects. Contact Judy Brown, treasurer.
- And more—Pre-Cursillo committee, Translation Team, Facilities, Palanca, Fourth Day activities, Ultreya Speakers, etc.

If anything above piques your interest and you want to find out more, or just have questions, call me or contact a Secretariat member. You can also find more information on our website at [What is Secretariat?](#) and [What is Servant Community?](#) Especially if you have never been involved in Cursillo at this level, I ask you to prayerfully consider if God is leading you in this direction. I have certainly been blessed by serving on the Secretariat/Servant Community and know you will be too.

Ultreya!

Susan Miller, President (ph)619-206-1741

<b>Cursillo Classifieds</b>
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### **Help Wanted!**

Your Secretariat is seeking Cursillistas to serve in several capacities to help our ministry continue to grow. We need Cursillo volunteers to run for the Secretariat to serve a 2.5 year term as detailed below: If being part of your Cursillo Secretariat interests you, please apply for the Secretary position and start on April 8, 2021 at 6:30 PM by ZOOM. First one to apply, gets the job!

Thank you,

Susan Miller, SD Cursillo President

### **Beginning July 2021** (elections in June):

2 Lay persons for Secretariat (terms end 12/ 2023)

1 Clergy person for Secretariat (terms end 12/ 2023)

### **Beginning immediately:**

\*Cursillo Secretary

\*Parish Representative for your parish (1 or 2 per parish where needed) (See *PARISH REP NEWS*)

**Where might you fit in?** Find out more information at [sdcursillo.org](http://sdcursillo.org) and look for a Cursillo News email coming in a few weeks. Please get in touch directly with a Secretariat member who will answer your questions.

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***A MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN CURSILLO SPIRITUAL ADVISOR*****“I Believe in...The Resurrection of the Body”—The Apostles Creed.**

Disney’s animated new movie “Soul” shows souls detached from their bodies after death in an intermediate state. But is having a detached soul from the body a desirable existence?

In Ancient Greek Philosophy, Socrates and Plato thought that the soul’s escape from the material world was a desirable state because the body was seen as a prison holding the soul back from freedom. It was necessary for the soul to leave the body and be free. A detached soul from the body was the goal. Again, is that really a desirable state of existence? A soul by itself would be a limited and horrible existence.

In the New Testament there is a clear teaching on the Resurrection of the body because of Jesus’ Resurrection. The resurrection of the body includes the continuity of the soul. The body is a new body, but the soul is the same; there is a continuity of identity.

Keith Ward, at the 2018 Oxford Theology Summer School, pointed out that a resurrected body implies a resurrected world. The resurrected body exists in a world that must exist. In Revelation 21:1 it says, “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. . .” The resurrected body is a new body that exists in a new world, a new creation. Our resurrected body is necessary to connect the soul to the resurrected world. Jesus’ resurrection that points to our resurrection and to a good and perfectly resurrected world is a desirable and satisfying life after death. I don’t see any desirable and satisfying outcome to life in philosophy or religion that rejects the resurrection of the body.

Any life after death that does not include a resurrected body and a resurrected world would be a horrible state of existence. Jesus’ resurrection points to our resurrection. We look forward to our resurrected bodies as well as a resurrected and perfect world. What a wonderful future! I believe in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

The Lord is Risen indeed!

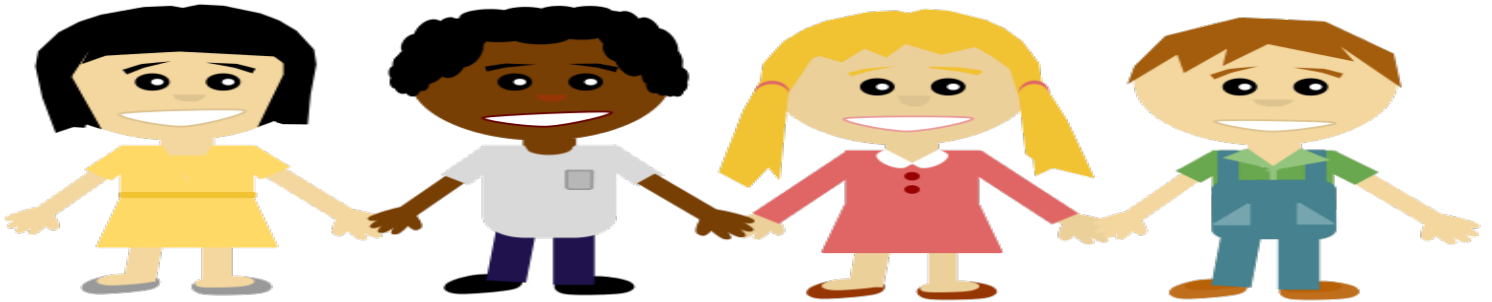
Your friend in Christ,

Father George

Diocesan Cursillo Spiritual Advisor

## ***FOURTH DAY NEWS/ACTIVITIES***

**Make a Friend, Be a Friend – It's Easy!**



### ***VIRTUAL ULTREYAS — The New Normal***

#### **EIGHTH VIRTUAL ULTREYA FEATURES KAIROS**

The 8<sup>th</sup> virtual ultreya produced by the Cursillo Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego will be premiering on April 10, 2021 on YouTube. It will feature speakers from Kairos Prison Ministries: Bill Brown, from Kairos Inside, will be giving the Witness Talk; Linda Lyons from Kairos Outside, will be giving the Echo; and Fr. Willie Crespo will be giving the Scriptural Response.

Kairos held its first Weekend in 1976 as “Cursillo in Prison.” It became known as “Kairos Inside” in 1979. The Kairos Outside ministry to serve the families of the prisoners was established in 1990. Kairos Torch ministry, serving incarcerated youth under 25 years of age was established in 1997. Kairos Prison Ministries hold Weekend Retreats and supporting activities for prisoners from over 100 prisons worldwide. The Kairos Prison Ministries’ mission is to share the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to impact the hearts of incarcerated men, women, and youth, and their families, to become loving and productive citizens of their communities.

Studies have shown that the Kairos Prison Ministries lessen the recidivism rate of their participants by more than 50%.

Matthew 25:36: *“I was in prison, and you visited me.”*

Ruben Rodriguez

## PARISH REP NEWS

De Colores to all!

Most parishes in the San Diego Diocese have a parish representative for the Cursillo community. Parish Reps have the awesome job of maintaining contact with Cursillistas in their parish, passing along information about upcoming Ultreyas, and Cursillo weekends. Parish Reps are key to identifying potential candidates and assisting in creating grouping opportunities. They work closely with the clergy, and encourage sponsorship of new candidates.

If you don't know who your parish rep is, just go to [sdcursillo.org](http://sdcursillo.org), and look for Parish Representatives under contacts. If you have not heard from them, let me know and I will ensure you get connected.

Is a rep missing from your church? Perhaps you would like to volunteer for this fun position. If you have questions, please email me at [kmsopsinger@yahoo.com](mailto:kmsopsinger@yahoo.com), or call me at 858-382-8332.

We are also working on updating our database. If you have moved, changed phone numbers, or have an updated email, let me know. I check my email daily.

Be safe, Stay safe,

Blessings, Kit Chevalier

## CURSILLO EVENTS CALENDAR

<b>April 2021</b>	More Information Click <a href="#">Link</a>	Directions Click <a href="#">Link</a>	Click <a href="#">Link</a> to e-mail POC	<a href="#">Return to top</a>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>POC</b>	<b>Time/Day</b>
Apr-8-21	<a href="#">Secretariat Meeting</a>	ZOOM	<a href="#">Susan Miller</a>	6:30 PM Meeting
<b>May 2021</b>	More Information Click <a href="#">Link</a>	Directions Click <a href="#">Link</a>	Click <a href="#">Link</a> to e-mail POC	<a href="#">Return to top</a>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>POC</b>	<b>Time/Day</b>
May-06-21	<a href="#">Secretariat Meeting</a>	TBA	<a href="#">Susan Miller</a>	6:30 PM
May-29-21	Forward Deadline		<a href="#">News Letter Editor</a>	All Day
<b>June 2021</b>	More Information Click <a href="#">Link</a>	Directions Click <a href="#">Link</a>	Click <a href="#">Link</a> to e-mail POC	<a href="#">Return to top</a>



<b>DATE</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>POC</b>	<b>Time/Day</b>
June-5-21	<a href="#">Servant Community</a>	<a href="#">St. Alban's</a>	<a href="#">Larry Salvadori</a>	8:30 AM - 12:00 PM (tent.)
June-5-21	<a href="#">Secretariat Meeting</a>	<a href="#">St. Alban's</a>	<a href="#">Susan Miller</a>	12:30 PM
June-5-21	Grand Ultreya <a href="#">[click for Flyer]</a>	<a href="#">St. Alban's</a>	<a href="#">Ultreya Committee</a>	3:00 PM Ultreya Secretariat Elections
June-25-21 to June-27-21	<a href="#">Back to the Mountain</a>	<a href="#">Pine Valley Bible Conference Center</a>	TBD	Friday Eve to Sunday Noon
June-26-21	Secretariat Retreat	<a href="#">Pine Valley Bible Conference Center</a>	<a href="#">Susan Miller</a>	Sat afternoon, TBD

### ***PALANCA REQUESTS***

April 15, Cursillo Weekend, Southwest Florida, [spoonwomanpc@hotmail.com](mailto:spoonwomanpc@hotmail.com)

April 15, Mens Cursillo Weekend, Central Florida., [grammiefor4@gmail.com](mailto:grammiefor4@gmail.com)

April 16, Womens Cursillo Weekend, Central Florida, [grammiefor4@gmail.com](mailto:grammiefor4@gmail.com)

April 22, Cursillo Weekend, Southern Virginia, [planca@cursillodiosva@gmail.com](mailto:planca@cursillodiosva@gmail.com)

## ***Some Extra Palanca for our Cursillo #146 Candidates***

This is usually the time of year we are greeting our new Cursillistas. Here are our candidates so far for the Fall Weekend. They have been “on hold” while we postponed #146 three times! I think they can use some extra prayer, don’t you? Please take some time soon to pray for each of them. We know God will reward their patience. ---- **Susan Miller, Pre-Cursillo Chair**

Harry Axcell	Joya Granbery Hoyt	Stephen Pletcher
Kim Blackwood	Della Janis	Susan Rigney
Mara Carillo	Yanlin Li	Mela Schlereth
Yahaira Garcia	Laura Nelson	Andrew Trofka
Christian Gillette	Giovanni Nuñez	Angelica Vasquez
Jeff Green	Diego Ochoa	Rene Vasquez
Bob Halleck	Jun Panganiban, Jr.	Dan Vazquez

## ***2021 SECRETARIAT LAY MEMBERS***

Name	Email	Function	Term Exp.
Susan Miller	<a href="mailto:cursillo.biz@outlook.com">cursillo.biz@outlook.com</a>	2021 President	2021
Ruben Rodriguez	rodriguez_ruben@msn.com	Rector Support Team, Outreach, Ultreyas	2021
Sunny Landry	ricanmama13@yahoo.com	President Elect, Palanca	2022
Humberto Garcia	ambrsunny2@aol.com	4 <sup>th</sup> Day Vice-Chair	2021 ext.
Mike Jewett	hdbg90@hotmail.com	Hospitality	2021
Judy Brown	Jbrown3944@aol.com	Treasurer, Pine Valley Liaison	2021
Isabel Lynne	<a href="mailto:ilynne1700@yahoo.com">ilynne1700@yahoo.com</a>	Pre-Cursillo Vice Chair, Parish Reps.	2021 ext.
James Ambasing	cvista.ja@cox.net	4 th Day Chair	2022
Craig Noble	charc450@gmail.com	Grouping Co-ordinator, EMC Liaison	2022

## ***2021 SECRETARIAT CLERGY MEMBERS***

Name	Email	Function	Term Exp.
Rev. George Calvert	gcalvert@berkeley.edu	Diocesan Spiritual Advisor	Bishop Apnt'd
Rev. Carlos Garcia	carlangas1986@cs.com	Assistant Spiritual Advisor, ECMC Rep.	Bishop Apnt'd
Rev. Paul Gambling	gfrpaul@gmail.com	Assistant Spiritual Advisor	2022
open			
Rev. Peter Sickles	psickles@msn.com	Assistant Spiritual Advisor	2021 ext.

## ***2021 SPECIAL CURSILLO SERVANTS***

Name	Email	Function
Larry Salvadori	lasalvadori@yahoo.com	Servant Community Convener/ Forward Editor/ Publicity/Rollo Critiques
Rachel Ambasing	rachel.ambasing@gmail.com	Acting Secretary, Music Co-ord., Sponsorship
Kit Chevalier	kmsopsinger@yahoo.com	Data Base Co.Ord, Parish Rep. Co-Ord.
Debbie Kistler	dk.outoflove@cox.net	Historian, Social Media
Jon Turley	turley.jonixxi@gmail.com	3-Day Weekend, Vice Chair
Ed Embick	sueanded@san.rr.com	Communications Chair / Webmaster
Shell Pierce	roaminchristian@mindspring.com	Prayer Chain Requests
Rob Constantine	<a href="mailto:roon46@gmail.com">roon46@gmail.com</a> , or 858-874-8196	SD Cursillo Photographer
Chris McKellar	chris@mckellarmcgowan.com	KAIROS Liaison



## ***CURSILLO CORNER – EASTER DONATIONS***

The Cursillo community humbly accepts your Easter donation. The Easter donations will allow us 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 small or large Easter Gift to Cursillo, please sent it to:

Judy Brown – Treasurer

51 Viejas Grade Road

Alpine, Ca. 91901-1605

Checks made out to: Cursillos in Christianity

