



MID-SUMMER 2021
JUNE-JULY



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

“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.”

A MESSAGE FROM THE CURSILLO PRESIDENT

Dear Cursillistas,

It is appropriate at the halfway mark of 2021, to look back and thank a number of people who have encouraged, supported, and just plain worked their tails off on behalf of Cursillo in San Diego. It is also appropriate to reflect on the possibilities and plans for the second half of the year.

A Job Well Done

Our outgoing secretariat members have not only finished up their 3-year terms, but served an extra 6 months until we could hold elections again. Thank you, Isabel Lynne and Humberto Garcia, for spending your time and talent on behalf of Cursillo and Cursillistas. Isabel served as president in 2020, and is a promoter of Cursillo in her parish. Humberto serves with me on the Pre-Cursillo Committee and has wonderful insights and a real heart for those who will be attending the weekend. Humberto and Amber are wonderful hosts of the Ultreyas held at St. Andrews, La Mesa.

I also want to thank Ed Embick, who has headed up the Communications Committee with all its moving parts, maintained the Cursillo calendar, and the sdcursillo.org website—making sure the information was correct and up to date—since before my time on Secretariat. Thank you, Ed, for your faithfulness, your expertise, and your invaluable experience, and knowledge of the Cursillo method.

Some New Faces

The next round of applause goes to 3 people, 2 of whom are brand new to the Secretariat. Rhonda Muir has volunteered to be Secretary. She attended her first meeting in June and we already know she is going to be a great addition. Thank you, Rhonda, and thank you, Lord, for a secretary!

Nancy Calvert and Kit Chevalier were elected to the Secretariat at the Grand Ultreya on June 5. Kit is a veteran, having been a past president, and is currently Parish Rep Coordinator. She has also been busy updating contact

information in the Cursillo database. I'm really pleased to have Nancy as a first-time member and the enthusiasm and fresh perspective that goes with not knowing "how it's always been done." Welcome to the Secretariat, Nancy.

Plans for the Second Half

Cursillo #146 is going to happen in October at Pine Valley. There is room for more so get the applications in soon, before the September deadline.

We are working on our new website, through FaithNetwork, which will be both friendly to the curious visitor and have loads of information available for those who want it. Once set up it can be easily updated using their tools and the company will provide training whenever we need it. It will have a lot of great features, like the Serving Hub and Prayer Wall, a place to tell what Cursillo has meant in your life, videos to watch, and more. And it looks great on your phone!

We will use our July 22 meeting to formulate our path for the rest of the year. If you have ideas, we would love to know them. Feel free to attend a meeting or send us an email or make a phone call. We need your input.

De Colores,
Susan Miller

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN CURSILLO SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

The Book of Wisdom, True Wisdom, and the Prophecy

The Book of Wisdom (aka the Wisdom of Solomon) is part of the Apocrypha of the Old Testament. It was written circa 50 BC in Alexandria, Egypt by a Jew that was concerned that his fellow Jews in Alexandria were falling away from God. Alexandria was a great intellectual and commercial hub of the ancient world. People were very much into Greek philosophy. The author's fellow Jews were being seduced away from God by the philosophy and wealth of Alexandria. His fellow Jews were saying that we no longer need God, that they can have wisdom without faith in God, but just through knowledge of Greek philosophy. The philosophy that so enthralled the "godless" in Alexandria was epicureanism, from the Greek philosopher Epicurus. Epicurus was a materialist in metaphysics and a hedonist in ethics. The "godless" Jews of Alexandria believed in a materialist world view and therefore a future without God and without hope. The Book of Wisdom describes the philosophy of the unbelieving Jews as this: short and sorrowful is our life and there is no remedy when life comes to an end, and no one has been known to return from Hades. For we have been born by mere chance and hereafter we shall be as though we had never been. (Wisdom 2:1-2a) We could say, they said to themselves, "Why not live for the pleasure of the moment?" and therefore they were hedonists. The Book of Wisdom further tells us of their philosophy: "Come then, let us enjoy what good things there are. Use this creation with the zest of youth: take our fill of the dearest wines and perfumes. Let not one flower of springtime pass us by before they wither, crown ourselves with roses. Let none of us forgo his part in our orgy. Let us leave the signs of our revelry everywhere. This is our portion. This is the lot assigned to us." (Wisdom 2:6-9.)

For the "godless" Jews they believed that they had found wisdom through their philosophy. The word philosophy means love of wisdom. The godless believed that wisdom could be discovered through reasoning, the use of reason by philosophy. But the foolish lives of the godless showed that they were not wise. The use of reason did not make them wise, in reality. For the author of the book of wisdom, true wisdom comes from the knowledge of God's righteousness. Both wisdom and righteousness are things God gives us. This Godly wisdom can only be known through God's revelation. For the author, wisdom is letting God's righteousness come into our souls and applying God's righteousness to our lives. The author uses the word "she" to refer to wisdom. "She is a breath of the power of God, pure emanation of the glory of the almighty; hence nothing impure can find a way into her. She is a reflection of the eternal light, untarnished mirror of God's active power, image of his goodness." (7:25-26)

The Book of Wisdom's discussion about true and false wisdom is relevant for our lives today. Many people in our secular society believe themselves to be wise because of their reasoning. They believe their philosophy makes them a wise person. But the same problem that existed over two thousand years ago exists today. Our reasoning is not sufficient to enable us to lead a wise life. We can think that we are wise philosophers while, in reality, we are leading a hedonistic life. We can easily deceive ourselves or allow the philosophies of the day to deceive us.

The last thing I want to talk about from the Book of Wisdom is how it prepared the way for the New Testament. New Testament authors such as Paul paraphrased a number of ideas that come out of the Book of Wisdom. For example, the idea of wisdom being a gift of the Holy Spirit found in 1 Corinthians 12:8. Also, in Jude 1:14, the Book of Wisdom is actually quoted. However, the most important preparation for the New Testament is the text that functions as a prophecy about Jesus. Notice the similarities between "the man of righteousness" and Jesus. Remember that the Book of Wisdom was written about fifty years before Jesus was born. The author could not know anything about Jesus, but nonetheless says the following prophecy found in Chapter 2, verses 12 through 20.

'Let us lie in wait for the righteous man,
because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions;
he reproaches us for sins against the law,
and accuses us of sins against our training.
He professes to have knowledge of God,
and calls himself a child of the Lord.
He became to us a reproof of our thoughts;
the very sight of him is a burden to us,
because his manner of life is unlike that of others,
and his ways are strange.
We are considered by him as something base,
and he avoids our ways as unclean;
he calls the last end of the righteous happy,
and boasts that God is his father.
Let us see if his words are true,
and let us test what will happen at the end of his life;
for if the righteous man is God's child, he will help him,
and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries.
Let us test him with insult and torture,
so that we may find out how gentle he is,
and make trial of his forbearance.
Let us condemn him to a shameful death,
for, according to what he says, he will be protected.'

Your friend in Christ,
Father George

A MESSAGE FROM GROUPING CENTRAL

The Heart of Cursillo is Small Group Ministry, or 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.

Grouping Central is led by Secretariat member Craig Noble with a team members Ruben and Ginny Rodriguez, and Larry and Jeanne Salvadori. The GC team is using this time to support, upgrade, and maximize the opportunities to provide the new #146 Cursillistas (and beyond) with grouping options. The GC will work with the sponsors with the goal of providing a grouping option to 100% of the new Curillistas who want to group. (See Appendix 1 for our upgrade work and developing options to group).

A MESSAGE FROM THE CURSILLO #146 RECTOR

Imagine Pine Valley Bible Camp without a fire in Fireside Room. Many of us recall Spring and Fall at Camp, but never summer. Back to the Mountain during this past weekend, reminded us how wonderful Pine Valley is and how much we missed being at Camp.

I am so excited we will be going back to Pine Valley Camp for Cursillo Weekend #146 on October 28, 2021 through October 31! Life returns rapidly to Normal. If you were a servador on a previous iteration of Cursillo #146, please let me know your current status regarding serving this Fall. My email is ginnykrodriguez@gmail.com

Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27

Ruben and I kept Romney sheep for 16 years. Our sheep knew our voices and the “voice” of our cars; the sheep had no use for other car’s, or other people’s voices.

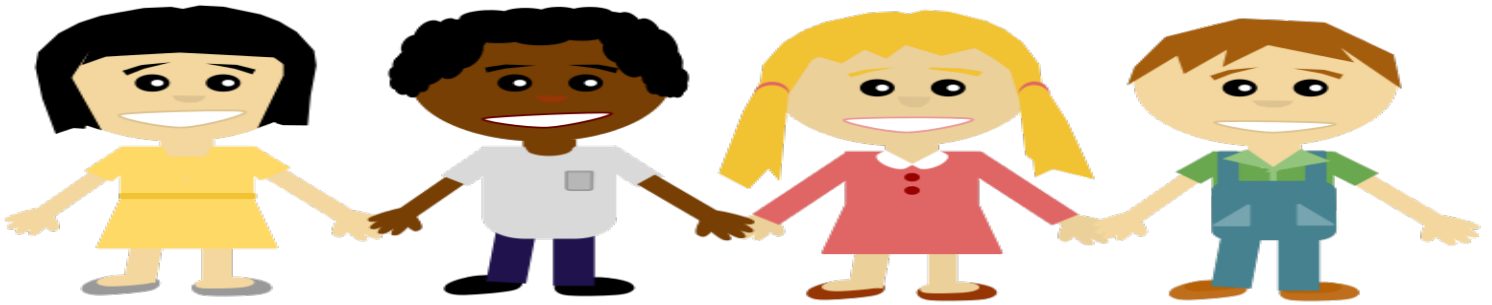
The sheep were most interested in eating the alfalfa we brought them, but not particularly interested in conversing with us. They were dedicated eaters.

Once, I wore my handspun, hand knit, wool sweater out to the corral. I can wear wool, too. What would my sheep think?

My cursory understanding of sheep-think yielded this sheep response: So, your point is... Jesus knows the individuals in His flock; they know and trust Him to lead them where the good alfalfa grows.

Ginny Rodriguez
Cursillo #146 Rectora

FOURTH DAY NEWS/ACTIVITIES **Make a Friend, Be a Friend – It’s Easy!**



THE GRAND ULTREYA...IT’S ALIVE!

It was a glorious Saturday Afternoon on June 5, 2021, at St. Alban’s in El Cajon. Twenty-two Cursillistas gathered outside at 3 PM to praise the Lord in song, prayers, grouping and witness and echo talks. The business of electing two new lay members to the Secretariat was executed flawlessly. Nancy Calvert and Kit Chevalier answered the call and were welcomed to the Secretariat by acclamation!

After more than a year of Covid lockdowns and other governmental restrictions everyone was eager to group with others face to face. People shared their piety, study, and action generously and did not want their experience end. Alas, Yours Truly, the emcee, had to reluctantly round up the groupers for more song and the witness talks parts of the Ultreya.

Yours Truly’s talk was about my grouping experience since making my Cursillo Weekend some nine years ago. Grouping has nourished and deepened by relationship with Jesus. Grouping has encouraged me to share the love of Christ with other people as well as my grouping buddies. It helped transform my vocation and vocations into ministries

for the Lord. Ginny Rodriguez shared how she and Susan Miller came to group on a regular but flexible schedule via the phone.

Fr. George gave a wonderful scriptural response based on John 3:16. Loving God and loving others is facilitated in a small group setting such as a Cursillo grouping experience. The result is not only the growth in Christian faith in the grouping Cursillistas but the spreading of God's Kingdom, evangelism, among whom the Cursillistas come in contact with and befriend.

The next opportunity for a live Ultreya experience will take place on Friday evening, September 17, 2021, at Good Shepherd, Bonita. The Pot Luck begins at 6 PM with the Ultreya following at 7 PM. Come join in the fellowship, food, song, spiritual enrichment, and fun. You will see friends and people who will become your friends, too.

Blessings, and

ULTREYA!

Ruben Rodriguez

COMING UP - EPISCOPAL CURSILLO MINISTRY ULTREYA

SAVE THE DATE: 21 AUG. 2021

(ZOOM LINK will be coming out shortly)

SEE THE PROMOTIONAL VIDEO FEATURING PRESIDING BISHOP MICHAEL CURRY

episcopalcursilloministry.org

PARISH REP NEWS

It's Here! July is Cursillo Awareness Month

Shout it out! Cursillo is ready to roll, and we want to let everyone know. July is when we ask all parish representatives, or whomever wants to, talk about Cursillo at their church. Ask your priest what Sunday would be best to make an announcement during church, and then have a table with information at coffee afterward. (Treats are always an attraction for people.)

All churches should have received new Cursillo booklets but the best information comes from YOU. Tell about your weekend and how it has made a difference in your life. If you have not received new Cursillo literature, let me know.

Ask all of the congregation to visit you at the table to ask questions and get information. As we are still updating the data base, make sure you have *current* information for all members of your congregation who have attended Cursillo (Anglican, Episcopal, Catholic, Lutheran) or Walk to Emmaus. You may have new church members you aren't even aware of that are part of this wonderful ministry.

Cursillo 146 is coming fast! It is the last weekend of October, and there is still room for both candidates and servants. This is a great opportunity to welcome people to the weekend.

If you have questions or need literature, let me know. The Cursillo Secretariat even has people willing to come talk at your church.

De Colores!

Kit Chevalier
 858-382-8332
 kmsopsinger@yahoo.com

CURSILLO EVENTS CALENDAR

July 2021	More Information Click Link	Directions Click Link	Click Link to e-mail POC	Return to top
DATE	Description	Location	POC	Time/Day
Cursillo Awareness Month	<i>Tell Your Story About Cursillo</i>	All Churches	Cursillistas	All Services
Jul-22-21	Secretariat Meeting	St. Alban's	Susan Miller	6:00 PM Brn Bag 6:30 PM Meeting
Jul-25-21	Forward Deadline		News Letter Editor	All Day
August 2021	More Information Click Link	Directions Click Link	Click Link to e-mail POC	Return to top
DATE	Description	Location	POC	Time/Day
Aug-21-21	Cursillo National Ultreya Intro Video	ZOOM	Episcopal Cursillo Ministry	

PALANCA REQUESTS

Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Calendar of Events

July 10, Ultreya, St. Thomas, Overland Park, KS, Roberta Coons, rcoons9@hotmail.com

July 24-25, Weekend Reunion, Camp McDowell, Alabama Jenelle Marsh, jenellemarsh@gmail.com.

August 5, Cursillo Weekend, Texas, SRyder@JsrSys.com

August 13, Ultreya, St. Peter's and All Saints, Kansas City, Roberta Coons, rcoons9@hotmail.com

August 14-15, Weekend Reunion, Camp McDowell, Alabama Jenelle Marsh, jenellemarsh@gmail.com.

August 19, Co-ed Cursillo, Arizona, [pam white111@yahoo.com](mailto:pamwhite111@yahoo.com)

September 9-12, Cursillo weekend, Oregon Christian Convention Center, Turner (just outside Salem), Ellen Onstad, oregoncursillo@gmail.com.

September 11, Ultreya, St. Michaels, Independence, MO, Roberta Coons, rcoons9@hotmail.com

September 20, Cursillo #285, Mustang Island, West Texas, Curt Mowen, ccmowen@att.net.

September 23, Cursillo weekend, Florida, psstef@hotmail.com

September 30-October 3, Women's Cursillo (Spanish), Los Angeles, Colin Stewart, colin48stewart@gmail.com

October 1-3, Cursillo weekend, Central Florida, grammiefor4@gmail.com

October 1-3, Cursillo #142, Upper South Carolina, Bill Lee, leeresourcesinc@gmail.com.

October 7, Men's Cursillo (one in English, one in Spanish), Los Angeles, Colin Stewart, colin48stewart@gmail.com

October 7, Coed Cursillo #168, Southern Virginia, cursillopalanca.so.va@gmail.com

October 14-17, Women's Cursillo (English), Los Angeles, Colin Stewart, colin48stewart@gmail.com

October 16-17, Weekend Reunion, Camp McDowell, Alabama Jenelle Marsh, jenellemarsh@gmail.com.

October 21-24, Cursillo127, Georgia, rosewilson50@gmail.com

October 21-24, Cursillo #997, San Francisco, Ruby Pleasure, rbypleasure@gmail.com.

October 21-24, Cursillo #145, Southwest Florida, Kristina Hodge, hodgeak@hotmail.com

October 28-31, Cursillo #146, San Diego, Sunny Landry, ricanmama13@yahoo.com

EDITORS NOTE

Following is a list of the candidates who will be attending the fall #146 Cursillo Weekend. These men and women of God have been patiently waiting through three postponements and I think we owe them a lot of love. One way to show that love is Palanca. So, let's get an early start on our Palanca for Cursillo #146 Candidates (Team member Palanca to follow). Let's remember the time when Cursillo was fresh in our lives, and we supported the Cursillo Secretariat, the Cursillo Weekends, and the Cursillo Forth day activities on a priority basis.

Let's **fill** those **Palanca bags**, starting now, to **overflowing**. Let's sacrifice something for these dear folks and show them what we're made of. Let's turn our backs on the doldrums, get up and go into the sunlight of God, and shine again. Let's unleash the power of Palanca to move minds and hearts to love God and our neighbors, especially the Cursillo #146 Candidates. Let's make it happen!!!!

Palanca for our Cursillo #146 Candidates

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	cursillo.biz@outlook.com	2021 President	2021
Ruben Rodriguez	rodriguez_ruben@msn.com	Rector Support Team, Outreach, Ultreyas	2021
Sunny Landry	ricanmama13@yahoo.com	President Elect, Palanca	2022
Nancy Calvert	nancycalvert@ymail.com	TBD	2023
Mike Jewett	hdbg90@hotmail.com	Hospitality	2021
Judy Brown	Jbrown3944@aol.com	Treasurer, Pine Valley Liaison	2021
Kit Chevalier	kmsopsinger@yahoo.com	Data Base and Parish Rep. Co-ord.	2023
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
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	roon46@gmail.com , or 858-874-8196	SD Cursillo Photographer
Chris McKellar	chris@mckellarmcgowan.com	KAIROS Liaison



CURSILLO CORNER – SUMMER DONATIONS

The Cursillo community humbly accepts your Summer donation. The Summer 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 Summer 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

BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN - 2022

The folks who just attended the BTTM – 2021 in June (postponed 6 months) are telling us about the **fabulous** time they had at Pine Vally. The stories and photographs taken were so compelling that the Secretariat decided to share the experience with you in the August publication of the Forward. **YOU DON'T REALLY WANT TO MISS THIS!**

Following is tickler publicity for the next BTTM Weekend in January, 2022.

When is the last time you attended a BTTM Weekend? At Pine Valley? Question. Did you like chocolate milk when you were a kid? Or even now? Imagine yourself at Pine Valley, and it's lunch time (or breakfast or dinner.) You see the milk dispensing machine with two spigots, and you see that one is low-fat white, and to your amazement, the other is chocolate. Chocolate milk for all three meals, and as much as you want. OMG, how could you not want to go to Pine Valley and enjoy the next BTTM Weeekend.

Larry Salvadori – Forward Editor



Where: Pine Valley Bible Conference Center, 8668 Pine Creek Road, Pine Valley, CA

Jan 21–23, 2022
Pine Valley, California

Back to the Mountain 2022

When: 4:00 pm Friday, Jan 21, 11:30 am – Sunday morning, Jan 23, 2022

Who: All Cursillistas (and adults who have been on an equivalent three-day weekend)

Saturday Night Movie: a happy, funny, classic

There will be singing, activities, talks, laughter, and tons of free time to enjoy the beautiful camp and each other.

We hope you'll join us!

APPENDIX # 1

MAX GROUPING IDEAS

1. ON WEEKEND

- A. Add a Grouping Central presence to the weekend
- B. Team member, Rector, Exes, Grouping Rollista, or Grouping Central.
- C. Gives introduction to Grouping as a Small Group Ministry (SGM) Saturday pm before break.
- D. Hands out new SGM Trifold and SGM Book Mark.
- E. Advises that there will be a Rollo on Sunday to learn more, and a chance to Group with your table mates.

2. AT DODU

- A. Add new Grouping Rollo to DODU- Grouping Central Team
 - a. Inspirational, Personal, Best Grouping experience
 - b. Split Testimonies, 3 or 4, 15-20 minutes max total.
 - c. Invitation to the G.C.Table.
- B. Grouping Table set-up - Grouping Central Team.

3. At GU /U

- A. Grouping Table set-up - Grouping Central Team.
- B. Short Talk, target non-groupers - Grouping Central Team.

GENERAL

- a. Every Forward include a Grouping article- Forward Editor.
- b. Add a Secretariat “GROUPING CENTRAL” Job to the org. chart. Develop new Job Description replacing “GROUPING COORDINATOR”, number of members- Servant Community.
- c. Make available the ECM Group Reunion Rollo for all- Grouping Central.
- d. Enhance Grouping messaging to Sponsors- Pre-Cursillo.
- e. Grouping/SGM Ultreya Video – Ruben
- f. Develop new Grouping formats- Grouping Central Team.
 - i. Virtual- Weekly, Leader, Zoom, Time.
 - ii. Open – Weekly, Leader, Place, Time.