

AUGUST 2021  
FEATURING BTM



# 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.”*

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**THIS EDITION OF THE CURSILLO FORWARD IS DEDICATED TO THE  
BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN (BTM) MINISTRY**

The Back to the Mountain (BTM) weekend that we attend and enjoy is a very unique ministry. The ministry has prevailed from 1987 to current, 34 years. There are not too many annual weekend ministries that can claim this duration. Attendance to the weekend usually falls between 12 – 25. The weekends are usually held in January as a way to start the new year in community, prayer, reflection, meditation, and love. Many people make the weekend an annual pilgrimage, now to Pine Valley, for the opportunity for renewal, and reconnecting to the larger community with lifelong friends. This presentation is divided into sections of information including historical events, testimonies, laughter, and love. Please enjoy the readings and the heritage of our beloved ministry, Back to the Mountain.

## **BTTM – AN HISTORICAL EVENT**

### **SAN DIEGO CURSILLO, BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN, RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION**

The annual National Cursillo Convention was held in 2005 in Seattle, Washington. Many Cursillo Secretariats had heard about our BTTM Weekend, and indicated that they would like to attend a BTTM workshop to find out how we have had this ministry for 18 years running. National Cursillo contacted the San Diego Secretariat for interest in leading a BTTM Workshop in Seattle, and Jeanne and I volunteered.

Seattle was a hoot, including people throwing fish at each other on the docks. But, back to the subject. I was getting estimates from National on the potential number of people that would attend the Workshop. They kept upping the number for us to bring enough handout materials. When we arrived, we were shown the room where we would give the Workshop. It was the second largest room available.

The next day, as we were setting up the Workshop, Convention organizers told us they were moving the Workshop to the big room due to the response of the attending Cursillistas. We packed up, moved, and found out they were going to tape the Workshop and make it available for sale. They took our handouts and copied a bunch more. It was getting out of hand.

The time came to start and the big room was almost filled. We started our presentation and asked to delay questions until we were done. Well, that didn't last long as we were peppered with questions all during the presentation. Based on the questions asked, it became clear to me why there were so many people interested in the workshop.

While everyone there was interested in the BTTM details, many there wanted the answer to: How do you keep people coming back year after year to the same event over 18 years? (now 34 years). We will answer that question later in the presentation.

Some of the other questions that were asked and comments during the presentation were:

- We hold our weekends in our Parish Hall, not a mountain. Can we still call it BTTM?
- January doesn't work for us. Can we hold it some other time and still call it BTTM?
- We started a New Year's Retreat Weekend, but it lasted for only 2-years. What did we do wrong?
- We have a small Cursillo group. Is there a minimum number of people required to hold a BTTM?
- What's the Maximum number of people that can attend?
- You have 3-talks during the weekend. Does it have to be only 3?
- Can we use the BTTM as a logo? Is there any charge?
- Do you have a copyright for BTTM? You should get one.

The presentation, questions and answers lasted way past the workshop time. We were exhausted. We were very popular for the rest of the Convention. People asked more about BTTM and the details of how we hold our weekends. There was much to learn, and much to

teach. It was a wonder experience, and I learned that BTTM was not only a San Diego Cursillo event, but had great value to others beyond our county shores in many ways.

We have attended all BTTM Weekends since 1992, except the 2021 BTTM this June, due to a broken ankle and foot. **We cannot wait to attend the 2022 BTTM Weekend on January 21-23, 2022, at Pine Valley.**

Larry Salvadori –Made Cursillo #65, Rector Cursillo #85

Jeanne Salvadori – Made Cursillo #66, Rectora Cursillo # 100

## **BTTM 2021 TESTIMONY**

Back to the Mountain Cursillo Retreat

June 25-27, 2021

Friends in Christ,

When I returned to my church home at Good Shepherd after a long absence, an item in the church bulletin caught my eye. It was an invitation to participate in the Back to the Mountain Cursillo retreat at the Pine Valley Convention Center. Since I had recently lost a loved one and grieving, I was a bit apprehensive, but the theme of the weekend was “Do not fear, just believe.” So I signed up, hearing God’s call to my soul, and am very glad I did. The retreat was the **perfect balance** of worship, group activities and free time for fellowship, reflection and prayer in a beautiful natural environment. It was wonderful to feel the love and support of old and new friends as we shared what we had learned about the power of faith from the hardships and trials of the pandemic. Father George’s sermons helped us to focus on God’s love for us and how faith overcomes fear.

One of the very special treats of the weekend was having Ginny Rodriguez as my roommate. We talked late into the night about our lives like college roomies, but with much more life experiences to share. I have the sense that it was not just coincidental that Ginny and I were thrown together. Something or someone had a hand in arranging this new friendship. I also connected with my fellow Cursillistas who are engaged in healing ministries who offered prayers and support to me in my grieving process that continues beyond the weekend itself.

On the Cursillos in Christianity website, I read this when I signed up for the Back to the Mountain retreat: “The Cursillo experience is fundamentally mysterious because it deals with the most fundamental of all mysteries, which is God.” The Cursillo experience ... can be described ...but must be lived to be appreciated...” This is certainly true for me. The BTTM weekend was truly a timely blessing. I hope and pray that many others will experience this blessing and the mysteries of God’s love for us through this fellowship.

Jill Kerper Mora

## **HOW BTTM HAS SURVIVED FOR 34 YEARS RUNNING** **WHAT'S THE SECRET?**

Following are some of the thoughts and facts presented at the 2005 National Cursillo Convention's workshop on BTTM, attempting to write down the answer to the question:

### **What's the secret?**

The original BTTM 1987, started at noon on Saturday, and ended after lunch on Sunday. This was quickly changed to include Friday evening and end late Sunday morning after Eucharist. Either three or four talks were given, with three becoming the standard. Over the early years the weekend agenda was standardized with each Rector and Rector creating activities to complement their Theme for the weekend (See Appendix #1 to view a standard weekend format with Theme.)

I was going to detail the agenda items as I did in Seattle, but my bottom line summary in Seattle said it all. I was astounded when I first read the article in this Forward from Jill Kerper Mora, who attended her first BTTM, and virtually nailed my Workshop Summary:

*“ BTTM is a gift from God, to be with His people through the Holy Spirit, during the New Year. He inspired us to develop, and practice, the **perfect balance** of worship, group and individual activities, free time for fellowship and meditation, with reflection and prayer, all in the environment of His beautiful outdoor creation.*

**Each BTTM Weekend has the same format and balance, but each BTTM weekend is based on a new Theme, making each weekend totally unique, and to be cherished.”**

This is the secret of our God given everlasting ministry we call,

**“Back to the Mountain.”**

## **HISTORICAL BTTM LAY LEADERS**

1987	Harry & Ann Packard	2006	Amy Drivas & Ed Embick
1988	Chuck & Katie Haddock	2007	Judy Potter & Bruce Wier
1989	Creighton & Barbara Lilly	2008	Not Held
1990	Bud & Marcia Shallcross	2009	Steve & Sally Nichols
1991	Ralph & Marti Van Houten	2010	Tim & Linda Lyons
1992	Mike & Ginny Orcutt	2011	Lynn Nicholson & Eileen Pierce
1993	Phil & Carol Powers	2012	Craig Noble & Susan Miller
1994	Jerry & Serena Miller	2013	Susan Miller & Bryan Chan
1995	Ted & K-Ellen Cleary	2014	Laurie Mumford & Eileen Pierce
1996	Bob & Janet Shaw	2015	Judy Brown & Jeanne Salvadori
1997	Bill & Sandy Leonard	2016	Rochelle Thompson & Ruben Rodriguez
1998	Doug & Lani Woods	2017	Lynn Sarnecki & Jan Martin
1999	John & Anne Wiser	2018	Lynn Sarknecki, Jan Martin, Debbie Kistler
2000	Frank & Petra Orta	2019	Ruben Rodriguez, Larry Salvadori, Jon Turley
2001	Pat Camm & Denny Walters	2020	Kit Chevalier, Amber & Humberto Garcia
2002	Larry & Jeanne Salvadori	2021	Ruben Rodriguez & Fr. George Calvert
2003	Mike & Barbara McBride		
2004	Ken & Karen Rice		
2005	Frank & Mottie Durham		

## **HISTORICAL AND HYSTERICAL**

During the BTTM 2021 Saturday afternoon, Debbie joined her best friends Jan and Lynn. They had a lot of fun, and pictured themselves as the “Three Musketeers.” Epees away!

Are these Three Musketeers happy , or what? They are obviously hungry to rescue somebody, or something .....



Previously to that, the three leaders for BTTM 2019 revealed their true identities as the “The Three Amigos” complete with Sombreros and horses. Yeah, Right!  
Yup, They is really us! LET’S RIDE!

## Back to the Mountain

January 11 –13, 2019

HOSTED BY THE THREE AMIGOS:

*JOHN TURLEY RUBEN RODRIGUEZ LARRY SALVADORI*



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### ***BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN - 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 Weekend.**

Larry Salvadori – Forward Editor, and frequent BTTM attender.



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, JAN 23, 2022

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

Saturday Night Movie: Funny, classic movie

**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!*



**PICS FROM BTTM 2021- JAMES**



***PICS FROM BTTM 2021- GINNY***



RUBEN, JAMES

EILEEN, LAURIE, RUBEN

FR. GEORGE, NANCY, JAN, JILL

# PICS FROM BTTM 2021 - JAMES



# APPENDIX #1

## Back to the Mountain

HOSTED BY THE THREE AMIGOS:

*JOHN TURLEY RUBEN RODRIGUEZ LARRY SALVADORI*



Weekend Theme: *Friends of Jesus love one another, just as He loves us.*

*(John 15: 12-13, 17)*

Weekend Theme Song: *What a Friend we have in Jesus*

*Friday-Jan. 11, 2019*

4:00 pm	Core Team Arrives to Set Up	7:30	Singing & Fellowship
5-6:00	Check-in / Stow Gear- Larry	9:30	Evening prayer- K/P
<b>6:00</b>	<b>Dinner</b>	10:00	Quiet Time & Bed
7:00	Ice Breaker in Main Room- Jill		

**Saturday- Jan.12**

7:30 am	Morning Prayer- Kit/Peter	12pm	Lunch
<b>8:00</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>	1:00	Free Time – Amber
9:00	Gather and Sing	<b>5:00</b>	<b>Dinner</b>
9:15	Talk #1 – Ruben	6:00	Gather and Sing
9:30	Table Discussion	6:15	Talk # 3 - Jon
10:00	Gather and Sing	6:30	Table Discussion
10:15	Talk # 2 – Larry	7:00	Social Time- Movie
10:30	Table Discussion	9:30	Evening Prayer- K/P
11:00	Break	10:00	Quiet Time & Bed

**Sunday- Jan. 13**

<b>8:00am</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>	10:30	Clean Up & Pack- All
9:30	Eucharist Service- Fr. George	11:00	Depart

