

# FORWARD



In this picture: Cursillistas from St. Philip's, including Rosie Medina, Cursillo 149 Rectora

## *The Theology of the Cursillo Weekend by our Cursillo President*

The Cursillo Team is working under the leadership of Rectora Rosaura (Rosie) Medina to prepare for the upcoming Cursillo Weekend #149 at the Pine Valley Bible Conference Center on April 27-30. As each team member prayerfully fulfills the role and responsibilities to which we have committed to bring the message of Christ's love and redemption, we reflect on the theology that guides the flow and structure of the Cursillo Weekend. The Episcopal Cursillo Ministry provides the team with many valuable resources to facilitate our tasks so that each component of the Weekend reflects the deeper meaning and purpose of Cursillo. A guide titled "The CursilloPath" tells us that the Cursillo Method may be summed up with these words: "Cursillo seeks to enable us to live out our Baptismal Covenant." The Cursillo literature emphasizes the reason for our commitment to the Ministry is that "... by virtue of our baptism, we share a call to be witnesses of new life in Christ."

The heart of the Cursillo Weekend is fifteen talks (rollos), five meditations, and daily Eucharist. Ten team members are called to prepare the lay talks for the Weekend. Each rollo follows the outline given in the Talk Workbooks to ensure that its content adheres to the theological integrity of the Weekend through the personal witnessing of the team member about his or her walk with Christ. Selected team members critique the rollos support the Rollista to provide a presentation of Scripture and witnessing to share our responses to Christ's call to each one of us.

Each Rollo has a message that contributes to the grand narrative of the Weekend in such a way as to retain the traditions of Cursillo, as well as to prompt table discussions that lead the Candidates to share and experience Christ's love and healing grace. The talks, meditations, and liturgy challenge each of the team members and, in turn, help the Candidates to find new ways to relate to the Gospel in their everyday lives. The Cursillo Weekend then inspires the new Cursillistas to live in the Fourth Day through Group Reunion and Ultreya, where witnessing continues to bring Christ's light into our communities of faith.

The Cursillo Path bulletin articulates the fundamental elements of the Cursillo Weekend that include "... encountering God, which entails encountering ourselves; developing a relationship with Christ; taking our place in a mutually-supportive community of brothers and sisters; and taking Apostolic responsibility for the world." The Cursillo #149 Team affirms that prayer is the foundation of our Weekend as we pray for one another and for our Candidates. We ask for prayers from the greater Cursillo community for the Holy Spirit to uplift us on the Weekend as we strive to be apostles for Jesus Christ.

Your Friend in Christ,

*Jill Kerper Mora*

Secretariat President 2023

*From Our Spiritual Director*

The Rev. George Calvert



## **Christian Essentials for a Successful Life:**

### **The Three Conversions: to Christ, to the Church, to Christ's Work**

#### **(1) Commitment to Christ, Individual Conversion**

In order to do the will of God and allow God to work in our lives, we must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This involves being willing to let Jesus be Lord over our lives. In other words, are you willing to give your life to Jesus? Many people are not willing to do this, and would like simply to have a little bit of spirituality or religion in their life, but they really don't want to commit themselves to Jesus. Without committing our lives to Jesus there is no individual nor inward

conversion and therefore no personal relationship with Jesus. One must surrender one's life to Christ. When we have a personal relationship with Jesus, Jesus is working in our thoughts and in our emotions, and most importantly, in our will. Jesus working in our will gives us the strength to overcome negative and destructive emotions. We therefore are not held captive by our emotions. We now have freedom to say "no" to negative emotions and an ability to appreciate more deeply our positive emotions. Emotions are an important part of life, but

-serving Jesus is more important. A person who accepts Jesus as Lord will do what Jesus tells them to do most of the time, rather than what their emotions tell them to do. Jesus Christ in us is the inward key to having a successful life on earth and eternal life ever after.

## **(2) Commitment to Christ's Church, Corporate Conversion.**

To be a Christian, we need not only experience an inward conversion to Jesus, but we also need to outwardly convert to being in Christ's community on earth—the church. Despite the church's flawed aspects—and there are many—Jesus Christ is present and working in His church. The church has channels of grace within it. Grace is God's active favor—unearned and undeserved—poured out upon us. In the church we experience God's grace through the sacraments, through the reading and preaching of God's word, and through the gifts of the Holy Spirit that are present and are working in the individuals in the church. All these are channels of God's grace that pour God's active favor into our lives helping to make us successful. To separate ourselves from the church is to separate ourselves from these channels of grace. A person unwilling to attend church believes that they can lead a better life on their own rather than by receiving God's grace. A true Christian is someone who wants to live their life by the grace of God and therefore wants to be in the church. The people in the church become channels of God's grace to guide us, to lift us up when we fall, to heal us, to show us Jesus' vision for our future. It is

essential that a Christian be both converted to Jesus and be in His church. You must experience both individual and corporate conversion to truly be a Christian.

## **(3) Commitment to Christ's Work, Becoming Christ-like by Doing the Work of Christ**

The third and last conversion is when we no longer want to only receive Grace from Jesus and His church, but we want to be used by Jesus to be a channel of Grace to others by doing the work of Jesus Christ. This work may be small or big, but it is life changing for those whom we are helping. As we are used by Jesus, we become like Jesus. As we build up others, we are also built up. This process of building up is called edification—like building an edifice. Many people want the Lord to build them up but are so selfish they do not want to do the work of the Lord. We must realize that it's only in giving that we receive.

In summary, to be a true Christian we need three conversions: to Jesus, to His church, and to His work. When we have all three conversions the rest of our lives come together; there is a spiritual harmony that develops—because we are living God's plan for us. In other words, our conversion to Christ is real and not just an idea or emotion that can fade away. When we are true followers of Jesus through the three conversions: individually, in the community of Christ, and Christ's ministries, we succeed in becoming true Christians.

Your friend in Christ,  
Father George

# Palanca List

Weekend #149 Apr 27, 2023

## Candidates

## Team

Martin Ayala (S)	Lourdes Alard	Mike Jewett
Alejandra Benitez (S)	Roberto Araujo	Debbie Kistler
Iviy Castellanos (S)	Judy Brown	Sunny Landry
Neenie Castner (E)	Colleen Chapin	Yazmin Lozano
Daniel Flores (S)	Stephanie Chavez	Fiona Maguire
Dee Garner (E)	Duane Chevalier	Fr. Roberto Maldonado
Luis Ituarte (E)	Kit Chevalier	Beau Malsbary
Luis Marquez (S)	America Cosio	Jen Malsbary
Cynthia McClelland (E)	Leslie Cosio	Rosaura Medina
Yanira Nuñez (S)	Martha Cosio	Rev.Lilia Mendoza
Diana Ochoa (E)	Miguel Cosío	Jill Mora
Johana Ochoa (E)	Ernesto Duarte	Bart Newsom
Rick Peters (E)	Luis Antonio Felix	Craig Noble
Brian Petersen (E)	Dora Gamboa	Giovanni Núñez
Lety Ramirez-Figueroa (S)	Jose Gamboa	Maria Luisa Núñez
Joshua Reyes (E)	Fr. Carlos García	Ginny Rodríguez
Danna Rodriguez (S)	Christine García	Ruben Rodríguez
Jorge Rodriguez (S)	Yahaira García	Tim Storey
Allysson Sanchez (E)	Carolina González	Andrew Trofka
	Bethann Hiller	Alex Tuttle
(8 Men, 11 Women)	Rómulo Ituarte	

Note: Please separate team and candidate Palanca and arrange your Palanca alphabetically by last name. It's helpful to send a couple of extras with no names, if possible, for last minute corrections and changes.

## My First Cursillo Weekend

Debbie Kistler



I remember my Cursillo weekend, well sort of anyway. I remember someone taking my things, taking a deep breath and the feeling like I was right where I was supposed to be. I remember people everywhere, words being spoken, and laughter. I remember being grateful for silence that first night, that I'd brought a journal and a special pen to write with.

I wrote in that journal a lot. I climbed into the tree house several times. I sat in the outdoor chapel and prayed. I listened to Rollos, took notes, and mostly listened to those at my table. I mostly listened again at the meals, laughed, and observed. I also observed the birds outside the window during some of those Rollos, I remember the smells of the plants and the clouds that formed the cross in the sky.

I remember the two clergy who listened to me when I shared thoughts from my journal and were supportive of those 'off the wall' beliefs of mine. I will always hold close to my heart that piece of paper I entrusted into our Lord's loving hands. What will always bring a smile to my face and joy to my soul is the early morning that I stood alone on the grass as snowflakes started to fall...then I stretched out my arms and slowly circled as that gentle snow fell for only a few minutes all over me and melted as soon as it touched the ground. You see, God answered a simple little prayer of mine...please let it snow this weekend—just a little.

Yes, I'm sure there were things in the Rollos that helped to trigger ideas, questions, and even encouragement for me to share. That the foot washing was heart felt and lovingly

done or the Palanca bags were beyond words are also among my memories of that weekend. The eye contact, genuine inquiring of how I was doing, and the gentle hugs were amazing ice breakers for me.

I left the weekend knowing that 'my' God is real, that the Holy Spirit is 100% present in ways I am able to take notice of again, and that the love which I knew as a child for them had been restored. I received support and freedom to explore the me that God created. I was reminded that we all have unique gifts, talents, and ways of understanding. We are all beloved children of God.

This was only the first weekend...wait till you hear what the second weekend had in store for me.

Debbie Kistler #134

## From the Palanca Coordinator

Kit Chevalier



### Please keep the following weekends in prayer:

- February 16-19,  
Cursillo #117, Southwest Florida
- February 16-19,  
Cursillo #259, Texas
- March 10-12,  
Womens Weekend, Central Florida
- March 16-19,  
Cursillo weekend #288, West Texas
- March 16-19,  
Cursillo weekend, Upper South Carolina
- March 31-April 2,  
Mens weekend, Central Florida
- April 20-23,  
Cursillo weekend #116, Maryland
- April 20-23,  
Cursillo weekend #113, New York
- April 20-23,  
Cursillo weekend #110, North Carolina

*Witness Talks at Ultreya  
Brought by the Holy Spirit!*

by Ruben Rodriguez, 4th Day Chair



St. Philip The Apostle, Lemon Grove, was the site of a very special ultreya on the evening of February 18, 2023.

The presence of the Holy Spirit was apparent among the twenty-five cursillistas who came for fantastic food and fellowship, music, prayer and praise, inspiration, and encouragement.

Spanish and English, as well as the universal language of music united everyone to praise the Lord. *Busca Primero* (Seek ye First), *Levantere tu Nombre* (Lord I lift your Name on High), *Abre mis Ojos* (Open the Eyes of My Heart) were sung along with the pre-Lenten favorites, *Alleluia*, *Halleluia*, *He is Coming*, and *Allelu*.

But what made the evening especially holy were the spoken-from-the-heart Witness and Echo Talks given by the blessed couple, Rom Ituarte and Rosie Medina, respectively. Rom and Rosie shared that though they brought up their children in the Church with faithful church attendance, prayer and a Christian Home, over the ensuing years their children fell away from the Church. Some even became atheists. This fact became evident when their son, Carlos, and his girlfriend became parents with a premature baby who was medically induced to be born after only 29 weeks of gestation. The baby suffered some dangerous health issues. Rosie and Ron immediately travelled to Phoenix to visit and support their son, the mother and the baby as best they could.

The parents of the baby were concerned and especially resisted the presence of the maternal grandmother as they were afraid that she would have the baby baptized clandestinely. Rosie and Rom made it clear to the parents that the matter of baptism was totally up to them, the parents. Nevertheless, Rosie and Rom were praying for the well-being of the baby and the mother.

The good news is that the baby's health improved, he was released from ICU, and the prognosis is good. Further, the baby's father, Carlos, admitted that even he was praying in the Chapel at the Hospital.

Rosie's echo proffered her faith that with God, nothing is impossible. She recited the various serious challenges that Rom and she experienced over the years of their life together, and that with God, each and every challenge that seemed impossible to overcome was overcome.

Fr. Ed Busch related how when he just became a Christian some 50 or so years ago, it was at a gathering much like this Ultreya with similar music and praise, and with an expectation of divine intervention and salvation. The sharing from the heart by Rom and Rosie reminded him why we come to these gatherings. And, yes, we are also reminded that with God nothing is impossible. Amen. Ultreya!

--Ruben Rodriguez

*From our Servant Community Convener*

Sunny Landry



Hello again my brothers and sisters in Christ. Have you ever wondered just

Who is the Servant Community? The short answer is you are! Cursillistas who support the work of the Cursillo ministry in San Diego in any way, those with leadership or specific responsibilities, and all who attend the quarterly working meetings, are the Servant Community.

The "Community" side of this group allows those involved in the operations of the local Cursillo Ministry to meet and work together in an unhurried, creative, and productive setting, rather than within the constraints of a business meeting. The "Servant" aspect of this quarterly meeting is to work out the details of projects, to present their recommendations to the board, and to carry out actions as directed by the Secretariat.

Come and help Cursillo grow and flourish in our diocese. We face new challenges in our environments, economically, culturally, and demographically, and are working to come up with solutions while maintaining the integrity and authenticity of the mission of Cursillo. Please attend and participate. We need your ideas and input!

The Servant Community meets quarterly in March, June, September, and December, usually on Saturday morning before the 12:30 pm meeting of the Secretariat. As Convener, I report our progress and our recommendations to the Secretariat for approval and find out about new projects where our help is needed.

Currently, the Servant Community is working on reorganizing and simplifying the way we communicate with Parish Representatives who in turn communicate with their parishes. Parish Reps play the vital role of liaison between the Cursillo Ministry as a whole and Cursillistas in each Parish. Knowing who the Cursillistas are in your church and encouraging them by keeping them informed of upcoming Weekends, Ultreyas, and other events takes a few hours a month if that. If your parish does not have representation, if you are a people person or want to become one, is this something you can see yourself doing? You will receive all the support you need from here. If you enjoy visiting parishes, we need another person or two as regional representatives to support Parish Reps in designated areas of the diocese.

Well, it's time to wrap this up. I want to thank the many people it takes to continue the work of Cursillo. I look forward to seeing you at the next Ultreya, on a Cursillo weekend, and especially the next time the Servant Community meets.

De Colores! -- Sunny Landry

# Cursillo Calendar

Date	Event	Place	Contact	Time
Apr 15	#149 Team Training Meeting #3	St. Philip's	Rosie Medina	5:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Apr 27	Cursillo Weekend #149	PVBCC	Rosie Medina	7 PM Thurs-Sun
Apr 27	Mananitas & Open Clausura	PVBCC	Rosie Medina	2:00 PM - 3:45 PM
May 07	Group by Zoom	Online	Craig Noble	4:00 PM
May 04	Secretariat Meeting	St. Alban's	Jill Mora	6:30 PM
May 13	Day of Deeper Understanding	St. Philip's	TBA	8:30 AM to 2:30 PM
May 20	Grand Ultreya	TBA	TBA	
May 24	Forward Deadline		Rachel Ambasing	ALL DAY
Jun 03	Quartlerly Meeting of Servant Community	St. Alban's	Sunny Landry	10 AM - 12 PM
Jun 03	Secretariat Meeting	St. Alban's	Jill Mora	12:30 PM
Jun 04	Group by Zoom	Online	Jill Mora	4:00 PM

All events are subject to change. For the most recent updates, check out the event calendar on [sdcursillo.org](http://sdcursillo.org)





# CURSILLO SECRETARIAT CONTACTS

## Officers

		Term
Jill Mora	President	2024
Judy Brown	Treasurer, Facilities	
Rhonda Muir	Secretary, Parish Rep Network	

## Lay

Nancy Calvert	3-Day Weekends	2023
Kit Chevalier	Database, Palanca	2023
Miguel Cosio	Community Partners	2023
Bob Halleck	4th Day, Parish Rep Network	2025
Debbie Kistler	Pre-Cursillo, Sponsorship	2024
Susan Miller	Communications, Website	2025
Ginny Rodriguez	Member At Large	2024
Tim Storey	Music Coordinator, Sponsorship	2025
Jeanna Timan	Assoc. Webmaster, Lutheran Partners	2024

## Clergy

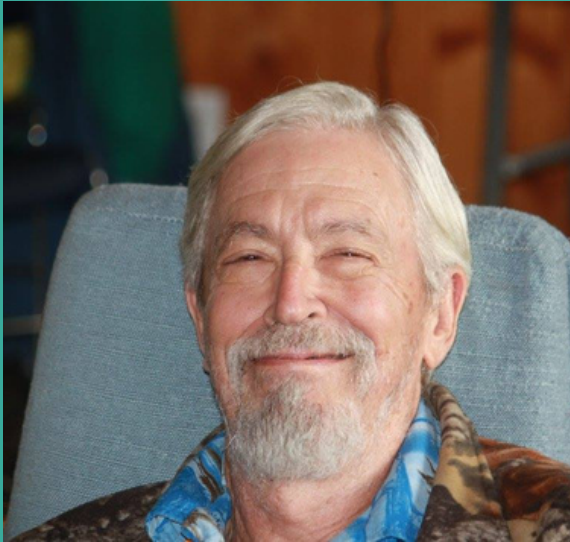
Rev. George Calvert	Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Communications	Appt'd
Rev. Carlos Garcia	ECMC Representative, Community Partners	Appt'd
Rev. Canon Nancy Holland	Asst. Spiritual Advisor, 4th Day	2025
Rev. Roberto Maldonado	Asst. Spiritual Advisor, Pre-Cursillo	2023
Rev. Peter Sickels	Asst. Spiritual Advisor, 3-Day Weekends	2024

## Servant Community

Rachel Ambasing	Forward Editor	
Rob Constantine	Photographer	
Mike Jewett	Hospitality Coordinator, 3-Day Weekend	
Sunny Landry	Servant Community Convener, Parish Rep Network	
Chris McKellar	KAIROS Liaison	
Craig Noble	ECM Liaison, Grouping Central	
Ruben Rodriguez	Ultreya Coordinator	

# We Remember...

*A Friend of All  
A Friend of Cursillo and  
A Friend of Jesus*



*Elery Gross  
Yuma, Arizona  
1947-2023*

## De Colores!

Alleluia! He is Risen!

MAKE A FRIEND, BE A FRIEND,.....



.....BRING A FRIEND TO CHRIST