



Forward

Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Volume XIV

December 2009

Our Mission: To Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

From the Spiritual Director

THE 2009 SECRETARIAT

Our Journey to Supreme Happiness

Last month I was teaching the Bible study on the book of Revelation when it dawned on me that the goal of the Christian life is often unknown by people in the church. The goal of being a Christian is found in Revelation 22:4 which says, "they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads." Seeing the face of God is the goal of all Christians. It is called the beatific vision. The beatific vision is the eternal and direct visual perception of God enjoyed by those in heaven, imparting supreme happiness or blessedness. When we see the face of God, God stamps his nature upon us, that is what is meant by "his name will be on their foreheads."

While humans are on earth we have an indirect vision of God. It is mediated by things on earth such as the Bible, sacraments, or sermons, as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13:12, "we see now in a glass darkly but then face to face." Or as 1 Timothy 6:16 tells us, "God dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see." On earth we humans cannot see God because our sin prevents us from seeing God directly. Our sin always separates us from God in some way. If we were to look upon God in our sinful earthly state, we would die. But once we have been completely redeemed from our sin, we can look upon God in heaven and see him face to face, that is to see him directly. To see God directly is to exist in a state of complete happiness and blessedness. On earth it is our job to journey towards this state of existing in the beatific vision. On earth it is our job to see through faith God's presence and plan through the things of this world. Often we are unhappy in this world when we fail to see the presence of God through the things around us. The more of the presence of God on earth we can see, the happier we are, until finally we are with God in heaven, we can see him directly and we are supremely happy.

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Spiritual Director, cont.

Someday when we are caught up in the beatific vision we will no longer need the Bible, sacraments, priests, faith, reason, the church, or anything else to mediate the presence of God. We will be totally caught up in the direct experience of God which will be so wonderful that it will be unlike anything here on earth. I hope that you will remember that we are called upon to be moving towards the state of beatific vision. The ultimate goal in life is to see God face to face, the beatific vision.

Your friend in Christ, Fr. George



From the Chair

Everyone seems to have busy lives now. I don't know if it is just me or if our collective lives are just becoming overly involved. We who are working to encourage others to become part of the Cursillo Community are finding that people just do not seem to have the time while others just don't really understand what Cursillo is. So how do we get people excited about attending Cursillo? Many times this has been a topic of discussion at the Servant Community and Secretariat meetings. We decided that we as a community need to be more visible in our diocese and churches. So in that regard, we will be having a booth at Convention and we will be helping serve at the refreshment booth in our Cursillo aprons. Stop by and say hello.

My second thought was, how about a day devoted to Cursillo? So a few months ago, Fr. George and I met with Bishop Mathes to propose having a diocesan wide Cursillo Sunday. It was then proposed to the Diocesan Council who approved the measure. On October 1st, the Secretariat met with Bishop Mathes to discuss how and when we would implement Cursillo Sunday. It was decided that February 14, 2010 (Transfiguration Day) would be declared as Cursillo Sunday. We are hoping that this will be a way to bring Cursillo to the forefront of evangelism in our churches. As we get closer to that date you will be

receiving more information. Bishop Mathes will be sending letters to every rector in the diocese informing them of Cursillo Sunday and asking them to participate in spreading the word about Cursillo. I hope to have buttons which say, "Ask me about Cursillo", for all our parish reps and anyone who would like one. If you have any idea about what you would like to see that day or what we can do to spread the message, please do not hesitate to email me at lindalyns@aol.com.

Tim and I have been chosen to lead the next Back to the Mountain which will be held January 8th through the 10th. Our theme is "Try to Remember". We chose this theme in an attempt to give everyone a nostalgic moment. Remember back to that special feeling you had on your Cursillo weekend when the love of God and friend became so evident. We invite you now to relive that experience in a fun filled, spiritual way. Rev. Amanda May has agreed to be our clergy for the weekend. If you have never been to a Back to the Mountain weekend, this may be the year for some renewal of friendships made on your weekend or friends made when you worked a weekend. There is an application on the website or you can email me lindalyns@aol.com and I will send you one.

Don't forget our Christmas Party on December 5th at St. Andrew's in Encinitas.

Lastly but not at all the least important, I would like to thank Petra Orta for her outstanding work as Forward Editor. She feels that it is time for her to step down. If your editorial juices are flowing, please let us know. We could sure use your help. We are open to suggested changes and ideas.

May God keep you and bless you this holiday season.

Linda Lyons

Look for the next Forward in early February
Articles, calendar events and other materials are due
(preferably in Word format)

no later than January 29. Send to:

Petra Orta

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DIOCESAN-WIDE CHRISTMAS PARTY Dec. 5, 6:00 PM - St. Andrew's Encinitas, 890 Balour Drive, Encinitas

Come one, come all to the Diocesan-Wide Christmas Party sponsored by the Cursillo Community.

This event will benefit the adult clients of Episcopal Community Service's Safe Haven transitional programs. 45 mentally ill and chronically homeless men and women currently reside in two program locations in San Diego and our gifts will again brighten their holiday. Everyone is invited to attend this Christmas Potluck and Party at St. Andrew's, 890 Balour Drive, Encinitas. Bring a dish to share and one or more unwrapped gifts from the list below:

- Adult socks, men's and women's underwear
- Shampoo, conditioner, hair spray and/or hair gel
- Hair brushes and combs
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Bath towels
- Wash cloths
- Soap and/or shower gel
- Deodorant
- Shower shoes (flip-flops)
- Gift cards in any denomination to Wal-Mart, Target, etc.

Invite your friends to join us in celebrating Our Savior's birth. Attendance at a Cursillo weekend is not a requirement to participate. We'll eat, drink, sing Christmas carols and know that our gifts will make a difference in the lives of many less fortunate men and women.

IF YOU CANNOT MAKE THE PARTY AND WANT TO DONATE GIFTS, JUST GIVE THEM TO ANY SECRETARIAT MEMBER.

If you are bringing children, please call Judy Anderson, 619-286-1208, jmanmderson38@sbcglobal.net for childcare before Dec. 1.



San Diego Cursillo Communities Ecumenical Grand Ultreya Catholic - Episcopal - Methodist - Kairos - Anglican

Date: Saturday February 20, 2010 - 11:30 AM Catered Lunch; 1 PM Grand Ultreya
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church - Maloney Center, 2766 Navajo Rd., El Cajon CA

12:45	Music to Gather
1:00	Opening Comments: Ted Parsons Opening Prayer - Episcopal - Bishop Mathes
1:15	Introduce Episcopal Secretariat Lay Director: Larry Salvadori
	Introduce Secretariat Roman Catholic Lay Director:
	Introduce Kairos Director: Introduce Walk to Emmaus Lay Director: Introduce Anglican 4 th Day Director
1:30	Grouping: Ted Parsons
2:30	Music :
2:45	Witness:
2:50	Echo
2:45	Echo
2:55	Music
3:05	Closing Comments - Closing Prayer- Roman Catholic -
3:10	Music

Emcee: Ted Parsons
Music: Pat Parson
(619-267-4760) & ?
Catered Meal: Episcopal



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 5 Diocesan-wide Christmas Party, St. Andrews Encinitas, 6:00 PM
- 12 Servant Community Meeting, Good Samaritan, 9:00 AM
- 12 Secretariat Meeting, Good Samaritan, 12:30 PM
- 25 *“And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father. Prince of Peace...”*

JANUARY

- 7 Secretariat Meeting, Good Samaritan, 6:30 PM
- 8-10 Back to the Mountain, Camp Stevens, Tim & Linda Lyons
- 28 Ultreya, Good Shepherd Bonita, Potluck 6:00 PM
- 29 February Forward Articles Due (see p. 2)
- 30 Secretariat Retreat, TBA

FEBRUARY

- 12-13 San Diego Episcopal Diocesan Convention
- 20 Ecumenical Grand Ultreya, Our Lady of Grace, lunch at 11:30