



Forward

Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Volume XIX

August 2010

Our Mission: To Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

From the Spiritual Director

Why It is Really Important that You Have a Soul

Today, our culture has several world views; one of these world views is materialism. The material world view is not necessarily about keeping up with Joneses, but believes that material reality is the only reality. For the materialist, what is material is real; what is non-material is non-real; so reality is one dimensional. For example, a materialist does not believe in the existence of God, life after death, or even a human soul. Their world view is incompatible with the Judeo-Christian view of the world.

Most Americans do not hold to a materialist world view, believing that non-material things such as God, life after death, and the soul are real, that they exist in non-material realm. But many people in the news media and universities are materialists. They are a small percentage of the population, but control a vast amount of information. Most of the time, they present their information from a materialist point of view, often without being too obvious about what they are doing. They seldom talk about the consequences of materialism.

One of the important consequences of materialism is the rejection of the idea of a soul, which has deep and far-reaching implications. If I do not have a soul, I do not exist as a subject, but I am merely an object, an organism, a chunk of living material, a cog in the machinery of the universe. If I do not have a soul, I am robbed of being a person and all the dignity and rights of being a person.

The *Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy* says of the soul,

“As the subject of thought, memory, emotion, desire and action, the soul has been supposed to be an entity that makes self-consciousness possible, that differentiates simultaneous experiences into experiences either of the same person or different persons.” (Page 866)

In other words, you are a soul, the self inside your body is a soul. All your thinking and experiences are yours because you are a soul. If your soul does not exist, you do not exist. It's really important that the materialists are wrong and that you do have a soul.

Another reason why it is important that you are a soul is that the immaterial soul makes free will possible. If you do not have a soul and exist only in the material world, you would be pushed and pulled by the physical forces and thus be completely determined by these forces. You would have no freedom of choice.

Calling all Cursillistas!

The theme for Cursillo #128 comes from Psalm 46: “**God is our refuge and strength**” something I need to remind myself of daily as I prepare for the Fall Weekend. I may be coordinating things as Rectora, but a successful Cursillo Weekend involves the whole community. With this in mind I ask for your help.

Have you considered?

1. **Attending Open Clausura on Sunday afternoon?** Plan to be at Camp Stevens around 4 pm on Sunday October 24 to welcome and support the new Cursillistas into our community. Better yet, take a car-load of Cursillistas with you!
2. **Sponsoring someone from your parish?** Applications for candidates and sponsors are found at the Cursillo website www.sdcursillo.org.
3. **Your Palanca for candidates and team?** We would like to have an abundance of Palanca (as an evidence of the abundance of God's love) for candidates.
4. **Volunteering your time to work the Weeknd?** Here are two ways of directly participating in the Fall Weekend (or any Weekend!)

Team Member--Turn in your application, attend the team meetings, and show up for duty on October 21. Team meetings will be held on Saturday mornings, August 28, September 11, October 2 and 9. Then the team meets around noon in Julian on Thursday, October 21, and it's off to Camp Stevens to prepare to welcome the candidates as they arrive with their sponsors. And the rest, as they say, is history!

Angel Duty--If you can spare only Saturday and/or Sunday, you can still be an Angel. You will work behind the scenes to help the team set up and clean up at crucial times during the weekend. You will be invisible to the candidates, but greatly appreciated by the team. Saturday Angels (something we are trying for the first time this weekend) will help with setting up for the Agape dinner, and be able to stay overnight at Camp Stevens.

Please prayerfully consider how you can be involved in the upcoming weekend.

In Christ,

Susan Miller

Spiritual Director, cont.

It is because you exist as immaterial soul, that you have freedom to make decisions and choices.

Still another reason why the soul is important because it gives "personal identity or a person's continued identity through time." (*Cambridge, page 866*) If we are only a series of objective material events, then with each new event, we would become a new individual. For example, without a soul, each new electrical firing in the brain would create a new individual. But with a soul, we are a subject with a continuing identity that holds all of our experiences of the objective material world together as one person. I believe that we need to see how important it is that each of us has a soul. The Judeo-Christian religious tradition supports the dignity, rights, freedom and personal identity of people by believing in the existence of souls.

Christianity also believes it important to have a body. We do believe in the resurrection of the body. Christianity wants to save all of us, both body and soul. However, a body without a soul is of little value. But because God has given us a soul, we are of great value. It is really important that you have a soul.

Your friend in Christ,

Fr George

From the Chair



I attended the noontime Ultreya at St. Andrews in La Mesa last weekend and had an absolutely grand time. The music, decor, fellowship, food, grouping, and talks were simply outstanding! If I had a hat, it would be off to all those who planned, participated, and came to this Ultreya.

In the meanwhile, we have committed to replace the Altar that was lost in the fire, in the new Bishop's Lodge. This will be a memorial gift to honor Mel Pierce who donated the original Altar. More to come... ..

Are we moving forward to sponsor our friends to attend the fall Cursillo Weekend? Now is the time to pray for heavenly guidance to discern those we know who will benefit from a Cursillo Weekend, and take the steps to make it so. Now is the time to get together at your Parishes, have a pot luck, get organized, talk to your Priests, confer with your peers, identify your friends, identify those who seek a closer relationship with God, and become a sponsor. You can do it!

Let's fill up Blum, and rock Camp Stevens!

Larry Salvadori
Cursillo Secretariat Chair

1. Overview of Spiritual Direction

The Cursillo Movement's purpose is to convert Christians to a deeper relationship with God and to help them to understand their individual callings to be Christian servant leaders. "To accomplish that purpose Cursillo has a strategy and a method. The method of Cursillo is basically one of perseverance. The method is used in the post-Cursillo (Fourth Day) phase and is a means for lay and clergy apostles to meet, share, and plan their apostolic work together in small groups (group reunion) and larger groups (Ultreyas) where Cursillistas meet to give life and impetus to a community endeavor." (Spiritual Advisor's Workbook, National Episcopal Cursillo, 1991).

Part of the Fourth Day is to use a rule of life to continue to deepen one's spiritual life. One part of that rule of life is spiritual direction. Spiritual direction is a developing concern within the Church generally and in the Cursillo in particular.... Spiritual direction serves to ...guide the growing Christian into a deeper relationship with his or her Lord. (pp 6,10 The Fourth Day First, NEC 1987)

2. The Three Day Cursillo Weekend

Discussion of Spiritual Direction is part of the outline of four weekend talks: Obstacles to a Life of Grace, The Christian Life, Group Reunion, and Ultreya. Yet, no elaboration is possible on the weekend because of time constraints. Therefore, people may leave the weekend with a vague impression that everyone is supposed to be under spiritual direction. Or we may not have remembered hearing anything at all about it!

Questions and Answers

Many people have asked these questions.

What is spiritual direction?

Am I ready for spiritual direction?

What happens in a spiritual direction session?

How do I find a spiritual director?

Isn't there an easy way of understanding spiritual direction?

What is the process and what happens in spiritual direction?

Where do I learn more about spiritual direction?

What is the brief history of spiritual direction?

What is spiritual direction?

Spiritual direction is holy listening, guiding, and suggesting, from a person who is mature in his or her spiritual journey. Spiritual direction is not commanding, psychological counseling, confession, or psychotherapy. Some definitions state that spiritual direction is not direction at all. The Holy Spirit provides the direction through a spiritual director. Therefore, some other terms are used to emphasize the Holy Spirit directing us. Spiritual friend, soul friend, spiritual guide, and spiritual companion are some other terms used. Another way of differentiating the terms is that a spiritual director has formal training in the process, such as through a university or through lengthy study receiving a certificate or degree upon completion.

If you would like more information on Spiritual Direction please consult the website or contact Ted Parsons.

Is your Cursillo weekend in the far distant past? Have you neglected your Fourth Day? (No, it is not the event a week or two after your weekend which we now call Day of Deeper Understanding, it is the rest of your life!)

Perhaps it's time to re-energize yourself by attending Cursillo events. Perhaps your grouping has suffered lately; now is the time to think about restarting it or looking around for a new group. Perhaps your prayer life is a little flat lately; now might be the time to rededicate yourself to the three-legged stool of Prayer, Study and Action which was discussed on your weekend. Prayer--daily. Study--daily. Action--develop a plan and stick to it. We hold Ultreyas monthly in various churches in the diocese, isn't it time for you to attend one? A weekly group reunion and monthly Ultreya where the groups gather together could re-energize you to bigger and better things. The next weekend is scheduled for October 21-24. Why not pray about sponsoring someone for the weekend? Make a friend, be a friend and bring that friend to Christ.

The next Ultreyas will be held at Christ Church, Coronado, date to be arranged. We usually precede our Ultreyas by potlucks, but if you prefer to eat at home and come only for the Ultreya, that is fine. Food, music, prayer, witness and sharing are all components of the SD Episcopal Diocese Ultreyas. Ultreyas are open to everyone, so why not think about bringing your prospective candidates to one of the next ones?

Judy Anderson,
4th Day Co-chair

News from around the Diocese

Dick Mette a long time Cursillista died this month after a long hard fought battle with cancer. His smile and hands (Dick gave great backrubs to all who were exhausted on the weekend) will surely be missed by all who knew him. Please keep his wife, Leslie and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

This is a new column that will be included in subsequent issues. If you have some news that you think that other Cursillistas would be interested in knowing, please email me your items at lindalyns@aol.com.

THE 2010 SECRETARIAT

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 28 1st Team Meeting 8:00 am – Noon
St. Timothy's (Rancho Penasquitos)

SEPTEMBER

- 11 Servant Community Meeting, Good Samaritan, 8:30 am
Secretariat Meeting, Good Samaritan, 12:30 pm
First Time Worker Training
- 18 Ultreya – Christ Church, Coronado
6:00pm Potluck, 7:00 pm Ultreya
- 24 Deadline for September Forward Articles, e-mail to Linda Lyons
- 25 Rollo Critique Day

OCTOBER

- 2 2nd Team Meeting 8:00 am – Noon
St. Alban's (El Cajon)
- 7 Secretariat Meeting, Good Samaritan, 6:30 pm
- 9 Final Team Meeting 8:00 am – Noon
St. Timothy's (Rancho Penasquitos)
- 21-24 Cursillo #128 – Please do not bring candidates up to Camp Stevens before 6:00 pm on Thursday. Closures 3:00 p.m. Sunday

Please check the Cursillo website www.sd cursillo.org for updates and Directions to churches.