



# Forward

## Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Volume XXIII

June 2011

Our Mission: To Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

### Message from the Chair



In Cursillo we often speak about “Palanca”, which is a Spanish word for lever. “Palanca” or lever, can be a powerful tool to help lift a person’s spirit. This blessing of support is often provided in the form of prayer or in notes of encouragement.

On my Cursillo Weekend, after the Palanca bags were distributed to the new Cursillistas, I remember setting out in search of a little bit of precious time alone. There in the quiet of the moment, I began to sort through my bag of treasures. Kind words of inspiration sent my spirits soaring while other offerings from the Cursillo Community touched my heart deeply. Though I had not met many of the people who gave so generously of their time and effort, I still felt their blessings in all that I had received.

It’s been quite sometime since I last attended a Weight Watchers meeting, but I continue to receive emails from Judy, a WW counselor. Each week, I have an opportunity to read her inspiring words. Even when I feel like I’m losing the battle of the bulge, Judy helps to keep me motivated and on track. She has become my personal source of ongoing Palanca. Judy may not know it, but her words of encouragement easily makes the transition from what choices I have to nourish my body to what choices I need to nourish my soul.

You too can be the source of Palanca for someone, not just during a Cursillo Weekend but each and everyday of the year as well. Pray for those who seek the truth, shower them with God’s abundant blessings and may the light of Christ shine brightly upon their path.

“...he who sows of the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” Gal 6:8

In His Service,

Barbara Peralta

### Cursillo #130 October 20-23, 2011

“...And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age”. Matthew 28:20

One of the first tasks that the new Rector/a has to do is to choose a theme for the weekend. I gave the Laity Rollo on the last weekend, Cursillo #129 and one of the Bible verses I quoted was Matthew 28: 19-20. (What has come to be known as the Great Commission). “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age.” I had inserted parenthetically after “and remember”, this is the best part! We’ve heard these words at our Baptisms and Confirmations and we reaffirm these words every Lent when we renew our Baptismal Covenant and maybe we have wondered if we could actually carry out this commandment. Well, God promises us that we can through His help and his presence in our lives. And of course, Cursillo gives us the tools we need to fulfill this promise that we have made to God through Piety, Study and Action. This knowing that God is with me always has given me great comfort, peace and strength to get through each day. My prayer is that you will experience these same blessings. I am excited to start building the team that will be Cursillo #130. Please prayerfully consider working on this weekend. For those of you who have never worked a weekend I can promise you that you will re-experience your own weekend--but on another level. The first team meeting will be on Saturday September 10, 2011 at Good Samaritan Church in University City. This team meeting is primarily for first time cocineros/as, table leaders and rollistas, but I would encourage everyone to come and be refreshed. The dates and times of the other team meetings will be announced at a later date. With God’s help and your prayers we can still change the world for Christ. Feel free to contact me at any time with your questions and/or comments. Team and Candidate applications on Cursillo website.

With God’s blessings, Your sister in Christ,

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## The Church and its Surrounding Culture

Many of us in Cursillo have grown up during the middle part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Back then, our culture was not necessarily better, but it was very different. The culture was deeply influenced by the philosophical world view of modernism. The basic idea of modernism is that each person is an autonomous, rational self who, through reason, can discover what is true or not true. The questions asked of the church often had to do with issues involving reason, like the possibility of proving the existence of God. Or another question, "How can a reasonable person believe in miracles?" Or, "What is the relationship between faith and reason?" These are all very interesting and good questions, but they are no longer the questions being asked by many people in our culture today.

We have moved beyond modernism and its focus on reason. Yes, reason is still a very valuable tool, but it is no longer the driving force in our culture. In the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a philosophical movement of post modernism emerged. It questioned whether there is any such thing as a rational, autonomous self. Post modern philosophers argue that the self exists only within a culture; it never exists autonomously. This a very powerful argument. If the self does not exist autonomously, any claim to truth must be from within a cultural perspective. For the post-modernist, truth must exist within a culture and is discovered through stories of that culture.

The focus of post-modernism is on personal experiences, as told through stories. People today are skeptical of claims of truth that can be proved by reason. They want to hear an authentic story, one that rings true. The cultural trend of reliance on stories and experience is a great opening for the church. The Bible is full of stories and experiences. In addition, the church is full of people who have stories and experiences to share with others. People in our culture, while skeptical of proving Gods existence by reason, are certainly willing to listen to a story of a person's experience of God. We, in Cursillo, have many people with rich experiences of God in their lives. There are people today who hunger for authentic spiritual experiences. We have what they are looking for.

While I believe that there are certain aspects of post-modernism that are incompatible with Christianity, I also believe that the church needs to make a better connection with its surrounding culture. The Cursillo community, while not the perfect model, is an authentic spiritual community. Let's reflect on ways we can take our experiences of God out into the world.

Your friend in Christ, Father George

## Two June Ultreyas

**Wednesday, June 15, 2011**

**St. Paul's Cathedral**

**Guild Room**

**5:00 PM Evening Prayer [Chapel]**

**5:30 Fellowship**

**6:00 PM Ultreya**

**7:00 PM Pot Luck Dinner**

**No Child Care**

**Saturday, June 18, 2011**

**St. Phillips, Lemon Grove**

**6:00 PM Pot Luck Dinner**

**7:00 PM Ultreya**

**Sign up for Child Care by June 13 by emailing  
[jmanderson38@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmanderson38@sbcglobal.net)**

At the Secretariat meeting on May 5, 2011 the following motion was put forth and carried.

**Diane Blaisdell Memorial Fund:** Glenn Parrish moved that we apply the Diane Blaisdell Memorial Fund monies toward matching contributions in support of new candidates for Cursillo weekends. Motion was seconded by Fr. Peter and carried.

In that regard, we all acknowledge that these are tough economic times. We hope that you do not hold back in sponsoring a new candidate because you do not have the monies to pay for the weekend. Trust God, and if you feel that someone is ready to go, ask them. Do not let finances restrain you. Many church Cursillo groups have set up a fund at their church to cover the cost of sponsoring a candidate so the burden does not fall on one persons shoulders. Sometimes a person cannot take the candidate up and down the hill but they have the finances to sponsor. Talk it over with you Cursillo church representative.

The Spring Cursillo was held at Camp Stevens during beautiful weather the last weekend in April. Our Diocese welcomed thirty-one new members into the joys of this ministry, one of whom was moved to compose the following poem:

"129"

A trip to the mountain for 129.  
They say for renewal, but I think to dine.  
More time at the tables here stuffing my face,  
Than my head's seen the pillow since hitting this place.

De colores y palanca, enchiladas con pollo,  
A Columbian priest & 14 more rollos.  
More Spanish than English I hear in these parts.  
Jesu Cristo is needed to transform our hearts.

But, of course, I do jest in speaking these words,  
For, up here in this wilderness of trees laced with birds,  
At a table of guys none before this I knew,  
I sense fire for our Jesu Cristo anew.

-John David (JD) Cowart  
Cursillo #129

## Beach Church in July

St. David's is leading a new kind of church - Beach Church! Join them on Sundays at 5:00pm in DeAnza Cove. All musicians and singers are welcome to take part in the band. Music possibilities include music of the "O Brother Where Art Thou" type and call and response. No books needed. There will be a four-part sermon series. Casual and child-friendly, this could be a great service to bring a friend who may not be part of a worshipping community. Bring folding chairs. Look for the St. David's banner.



For more information, contact the Rev. [Suzanne Watson](#), rector of St. David's.

Sundays, July 10, 17, 24 and 31  
De Anza Cove in Mission Bay, San Diego  
[Map](#)  
5:00pm  
Free and open to all

**Beach Church at De Anza Cove is  
open to everyone.**

## THE 2010 SECRETARIAT

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### JUNE

11 8:30 – 12:00 Servant Community Meeting, Good Sam's  
12:30 pm Secretariat Meeting Good Sam's – Open to All

15 5:00 pm St. Paul's Cathedral Chapel, Evening Prayer  
Ultreya, The Cathedral's Guild Room, San Diego  
5:30 Fellowship: 6:00 pm Ultreya: 7:00 pm Pot Luck

18 6:00 pm Ultreya, St. Phillips, Lemon Grove  
6:00 pm Pot Luck: 7:00 pm Ultreya

### JULY

25 Forward Submission Deadline

### AUGUST

4 6:30 pm Secretariat Meeting Good Sam's – Open to All

### SEPTEMBER

10 8:30 – 12:00 Servant Community Meeting, Good Sam's  
1st time worker training  
12:30 pm Secretariat Meeting Good Sam's – Open to All

23 Forward Submission Deadline

26 Cursillo #130 Application Deadline

### OCTOBER

6 6:30 pm Secretariat Meeting Good Sam's – Open to All

20-23 Cursillo #130, Camp Stevens

27-30 NEC Conference, Phoenix, Arizona

Please check the Cursillo website [www.sdcursillo.org](http://www.sdcursillo.org) for updates and Directions to churches.

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