



FORWARD

Volume XXXIV

August 2013

Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Our Mission Is To Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings from the chair,

I just got back from a wonderful Ultreya put on by Good Shepherd Hemet. Yes, that's right - I went to Hemet in July, and so did 33 other people! The power of the Holy Spirit was with us, and so was the air conditioning.

Your Secretariat recently voted to provide financial support to our partner Diocese of El Salvador, which is holding a Cursillo weekend in August. Please add your prayers as palanca. Your presence is not expected at the open Clausura.

Meanwhile, we are working on some metrics to see if we're meeting the intent of our Pastoral plan with the Bishop. You might recall that among our goals for this year was reaching out to youth and to the Hispanic community. Anyone with ideas on how we can capture and demonstrate our progress in those directions is welcome to get in touch directly with me.

And remember that we received so many applications for the spring weekend that we had to offer some candidates rain checks. Don't wait till the final day for submitting (17 September). Get 'em in early! Also, please consider submitting a team application to the rector, Linda Rush, at lrush13@roadrunner.com.

Ultreya!
Glenn Parrish





Cursillo 2013

Jesus said, "Follow me. I am the way, the truth and the life. Without the way, there is no going; without the truth, there is no knowing; without the life, there is no living. I am the way you must follow; the truth that you must trust, the life for which you must hope." Thomas à Kempis, The Imitation of Christ, chapter 56.

The above exposition of Jesus' "I am the way, the truth and the life" by Thomas à Kempis (1380-1471) is a brilliant explanation of a most important passage of scripture. Let's look more closely at Kempis' explanation:

1. The Way - Kempis begins with Jesus' words, "Follow me." We need to have a change of heart; we need to make a decision, to give up living for ourselves and live for Jesus. If we are willing to live for Jesus, we will be willing to follow Jesus. We will answer His call to "follow me". Jesus as the way to God is not something that can be discovered by detached philosophical speculation. Jesus as the way to God is not just an idea that we think about. He is the means of having a relationship and an experience into which we enter.

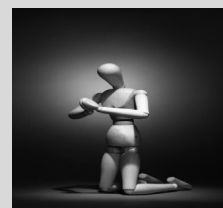
We make a decision of faith, submit ourselves to Jesus, and then follow Him. As we follow Him, we discover that we have a relationship with Him, and that He is our way to come to God. As Kempis says, "without the way, there is no going." What he is saying is that Jesus is our way of going to God. Not just thinking about God as an idea, but actually going to God, and experiencing God. As we follow Jesus, we experience going to God. Also, when Jesus becomes our way to God, the truth and the life follow; we cannot know the truth and the life without first entering into Jesus as the way.

2. The Truth - Jesus is not just one truth among many other truths; as God come among us, He is the truth, and the source of all truth. Kempis says that, "without the truth there is no knowing." We cannot know the true God if we are worshiping false gods invented by humans. "There is no knowing" of God apart from the truth. Fortunately, God has given us the truth about Himself in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the truth that you must trust. As you trust in Jesus, and follow Jesus as the way, you come to know of God, and therefore know God's truth, the truth.

3. The Life - Jesus is the life as God come among us; He is the life that God wants to give us. Kempis says, "without the life, there is no living." We were given life by God when we were born, but this is merely temporary, biological existence. Real living, really to live as a full human being, is to give Jesus (the life) give you life (His life), the abundant life He wants to give. Without the life of Jesus in us, we are, in some sense, dead. With Jesus in us, we are truly and fully living. Also, Kempis sees Jesus as the life which we hope for after we die. Because of Jesus' resurrection, He is the life after death for which we hope. If we do not have Jesus as the life in us, we do not have the sure and certain hope of life after death in us. But Jesus **is** the life in this world, and in the hereafter. He **is** the life.

Answer Jesus' call to "follow me"; enter into the way; know the truth; live the life.

Your friend in Christ, Father George



CALENDAR

August 2013

Ultreya

Ultreya Committee 9/10

St. Andrews La Mesa

5:00 PM Potluck [Hope you were](#)

6:00 PM Ultreya [able to make it.](#)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Servant Community 9am–12:30 9/14
 Larry Salvadori @ St. Dunstan's
 1st Time Cocinero & Rollo Room Training

Secretariat 12:30pm 9/14
 Glenn Parrish @ St. Dunstan's

Cursillo # 134 Applications Deadline COB
 on 9/17 Pre-Cursillo Chair

Forward Deadline COB 9/27
 Sharon Vanden Bosch jimsharon@cox.net

Cursillo #134. October 17-20, 2013

Save The Date!

Congratulations to Linda Rush, from Good Shepherd, Hemet, who will serve as Rector. Applications to be part of Linda's team can be found on the Cursillo Website: www.sdcursillo.org.



Please consider how you can be involved. Here are some ways:

Make Palanca for team and candidates

Be Palanca (prayer & sacrifice)

Sponsor someone from your parish

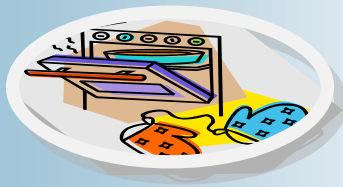
Support the new Cursillistas by attending Clausura on Sunday afternoon, October 20.

Work the weekend and/or Be a Saturday and/or Sunday Angel

2013 SECRETARIAT MEMBERS

Name	E-Mail	Function	Term Expired
Glenn Parrish	glenn.parrish@navy.mil	2013 Chair	'13
Judy Anderson	jmanderson38@sbcglobal.net	4th Day Chair	'14
Judy Brown	jbrown3944@aol.com	3 Day Weekend Chair Secretary	'13
Ed Embick	sueanded@san.rr.com	Communications Chair	'14
Justin Jordan	JJordan2259@verizon.net	Communications Vice-Chair	'15
Susan Miller	miller.sv@sbcglobal.net	2014 Chair-Elect Pre-Cursillo Chair	'14
Karen Rice	ktkrice@cox.net	Pre-Cursillo Vice-Chair	'15
Larry Salvadori	lasalvadori@yahoo.com	Servant Community Convener	'15
Mercedes Webber	858-277-4183	3 Day Weekend Vice-Chair	'13
Jamie Wood	jamiewood2@cox.net	Treasurer	
Bruce Wier	ruthandbruce02@att.net	Hispanic Community Lay Representative HC	Apnt'd '06
Rev. George Calvert	gcalvert@cox.net	Diocesan Spiritual Advisor	Apnt'd '05
Rev. Ed Busch, M.D.	edwbus@hotmail.com	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	'13
Rev. Babs Meairs	edwbus@hotmail.com	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	'14
Rev. Steve Wendfeldt	steve@ardellwendfeldt.com	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	'15
Rev. Carlos Garcia	carlangas1986@cs.com	Hispanic Community Spiritual Advisor	Apnt'd '06

Please let Ed Embick at sueanded@san.rr.com know if you have a change to your email or address. Please let Sharon know at jimsharon@cox.net if you would like to have an article or news item inserted into the Forward. If you would like to know more about the Servant Community work contact Larry at lalvadori@yahoo.com



Surprised by Joy; Reflections from the Kitchen

by Katherine Gordon #133

My initial reasons for signing up to work a Cursillo weekend were that it provided an opportunity to express my appreciation for all that was given to me as a candidate, and to pass on those same gifts to someone else. Also, I was asked! My perception, as a candidate, was that there was an amazing abundance of people who had made a commitment of service to Cursillo. The reality seemed to be that another set of hands would be appreciated, even my unproven ones. So... I signed up as a Cocinero.

We were told to expect to be tired. We were told to prepare for sudden changes in plans. We were asked to be flexible. But, no one warned us that precious friendships regularly developed over chopping vegetables, cutting fruit, and endlessly washing dishes. Who knew that *every* person present played an amazing role in the weekend—not because of what they did, but because of who they were. What a surprise that the presence of the Holy Spirit would be felt more joyously as a servant, than as one who was served.

We started out as four kitchen teams plus a band of angels. By the end, everyone dissolved into one tired, laughing team taking care of one another and handling whatever needed doing. If you haven't experienced the weekend from the kitchen, come and see.



Incredible News! As it turns out, there were three tablets with the commandments. We all know the story of Moses going to the mountaintop and returning with two of them. A little known fact, however, is that he didn't start the journey alone. Originally, he invited a Cursillista to assist him, but halfway up the mountain they heard a bell, and the Cursillista immediately ran back to the room he was previously in.

Fear not! During one of our short breaks, we found the last tablet. Similarly to how the first Ten Commandments were given to the help mankind navigate through a fallen world, the next five are to help us navigate a Cursillo weekend.

The eleventh commandment is... "Thou shalt not deny the free pack of ear-plugs offered at the check-in desk."

The twelfth commandment is... "Thou shalt not make a mattress more than two inches thick."

The thirteenth commandment is... "Thou shalt not find the correct page in the alphabetically organized hymnal until the song is half over."

The fourteenth commandment is... "Thou shalt not make a meal of few than 8,000 calories or weighing less than five pounds."

The fifteenth commandment is... "Well, we couldn't really decipher that one because we only had |-| that much time!"



Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful and kindle in us the fire of Your love. Send forth Your spirit and we shall be created, and You shall renew the faith of the earth.

Oh God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations through

Jesus Christ Our Lord. **Amen**

Group Reunion is Cursillo!

Cursillo — when you see or hear the word Cursillo what comes to mind? Is it a long, tiring, spirit-filled comfortable/uncomfortable, three day weekend of talks, banners, music, food, posters and sharing? Do you focus on that weekend and all that goes with it? If so, I suggest that perhaps the message of that weekend was lost.

Cursillo is NOT the Three-day weekend. Cursillo IS about those Group Reunions where two to five friends gather weekly to share and be accountable about how they are intentionally spending time with God, studying and planning individually and together how to be the hands, face, and mouths of God in our every day lives as we live out our Baptismal Covenant to serve Christ. The goal is to bring the world to Christ by empowering adult Christian leaders through the use of Group Reunions and Ultreyas to make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend closer to Christ.

Way too often we get caught up in the Three Day Weekend. Probably because it is fun; we may actually see lives transformed before our eyes and it is only for three days. We forget the true purpose of the Three day weekend..... the empowerment of Christians to go into the world, equipped to witness to the wonder of being the Church. It is an opportunity to experience a life of Grace, to be reminded of the basics we learned in Sunday School, and to learn a tool that has been proven to keep us focused as we live our Baptismal Covenant to serve Christ. Group Reunions and Ultreyas is the tool that sets Cursillo apart from other movements and methods. Jesus said, "...Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them (Matthew 18:20)". All of us have friends, but a Group Reunion is where we meet as friends to converse about Jesus and His place in our lives. It is where we share and are lovingly held accountable about our life of **Piety, Study, and Action**.

Group Reunion is where, through **Piety** that is, recognizing that without God I can do nothing, and that after making a commitment to God in the form of a Rule of Life, I share how I am doing, without risk of judgment, with an opportunity for encouragement, and affirmation. It is perhaps the one time during the week that I actually take the time to recognize a moment in which I was most aware of Christ. Sometimes it is the realization that I was so busy that I did not take time to see Christ in anything, and to recommit to be more aware in the coming week.

Group Reunion is where I am reminded that "thy word is a lamp unto my feet" and that regular **Study** to understand better the gift from God I am held accountable to strive toward Bible reading, Bible study, study groups and other methods of expanding my understanding. It is in Group Reunion that I am gently encouraged to study, offered opportunities to consider and given the opportunity to share what I have learned.

Group Reunion is about intentional **Action**. It is about being fishers of people. It is a time to share where I have been intentional in serving and witnessing for the Lord, to share where I followed my plan to serve and/or witness, to share where perhaps I have not seen what I had hoped to see, but reminded that we are about planting seeds and allowing time for the harvest. It is about sharing those unexpected opportunities that the Lord places in our daily lives and what we did about those opportunities. It is about stating aloud my plan for serving and witnessing in the coming week. Action can be intentional as a group also. Do we, as a group, have a specific plan to serve or to witness together? If so, how are we doing?

Group Reunion is a time for intercessory prayer. Praying together as a group, for each other, family members, friends is powerful and rewarding. The three day weekend prepares and teaches, Ultreya encourages, but Group Reunion—following and living out the guidelines set forth on the Group Reunion card is Cursillo. It just may be the best hour you spend each week!

From the newsletter of the Cursillo movement in the Diocese of Arizona by Jane Kaiser St. Stephen's Phoenix And provided by Judith Anderson

"...it just may be the best hour you spend each week!!!"



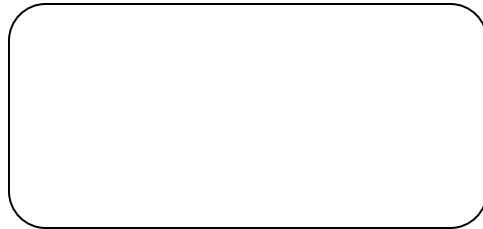
Cursillos in Christianity

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
"Whom shall I send? And *who will go for us?*"
And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" ISA 6:8

