



FORWARD

Volume XXXV October 2013

Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Our Mission Is To Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

FROM THE CHAIR

Cursillistas,

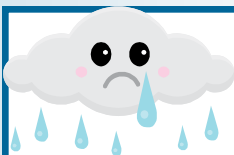
Most of you heard through the recent e-blast that we had to **cancel the fall weekend** due to a shortage of candidates. This was particularly ironic since we had so many candidates in the spring that we had to offer several rain-checks. But even from those, more than half said they couldn't attend in October, and for the same reasons that traditionally make fall weekends challenging to fill. But we had difficulty filling the team roster as well. Though we eventually mustered a full team, less than fifteen had committed by the time of the first team meeting. **Cursillistas - this is less than one percent of our roster!!**

The fall weekend is a recurring challenge (back-to-school; difficulty recruiting during summer vacation, etc.). We have cancelled three in recent memory. This has caused your Secretariat to reevaluate how we prepare for and conduct fall weekends, and your Servant Community is studying a couple of very promising initiatives. Your input is needed! All cursillistas are always invited to Servant Community meetings, the next of which will be held at 8:30 on the 7th of December at St Dunstan's. Please come and share your ideas on how to overcome this challenge.

Also, If you or your candidate's work or family situation is not affected by the back-to-school, post-vacation challenges, consider sponsoring or volunteering for the fall weekend. October at Camp Stevens is spectacular!

Utreya!

Glenn Parrish



Cursillo #134. October 17-20, 2013

CANCELED

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

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



A STORY OF STEWARDSHIP AND GRACE

By *Darryl Peralta*

Hello again, this is Darryl Peralta and I would like to tell you a story. Yes, I am still around although I now have less hair and have grown fat. My medical situation remains unchanged; the lung cancer is in check and the side effects of the oral chemotherapy pills I take remain manageable. The pros at the Naval Medical Center San Diego and, specifically, the Oncology, Dermatology, Pulmonary, and Radiology Departments are my heroes. They make me proud to say I am a “Navy Man.”

Recently, the pulmonary folks determined that I suffer from emphysema. This discovery makes me a “Triple Crown” winner. As a direct result of my smoking, I now suffer from heart disease, Lung Cancer, and Emphysema. I did not start smoking until around 1963, but I smoked heavily from then until I suffered a heart attack in October 2005. God was certainly with me that day. Prior to walking into the Emergency Room at the Naval Hospital, I had experienced 34 hours of chest pain that I thought was heartburn. The heartburn was quickly diagnosed as a heart attack and so began a 10-day hospital visit, which included quadruple bypass heart surgery. This episode scared the hell out of me since this the first time in my life when death was a distinct possibility. I was already a practicing Christian at that time and my faith and the support of so many of my brothers and sisters in Christ were key to me righting the ship just a few weeks after leaving the hospital. I had seen the pink elephant up close and personal and I was still around to talk about it. I thought I had ducked the big one!

In April 2010, I was playing golf with my son at a course in Sacramento, California. During the round, he mentioned that he noticed that I was coughing a lot. I told him I thought it was just another Asthma attack. Subsequently, despite taking numerous prescribed medications, the cough persisted. Finally, in late August, use of advanced diagnostic tools finally solved the riddle; I had Stage 3 Lung Cancer. I had now succeeded in really scaring myself. This time I had not only seen the pink elephant, he was sitting on my chest and trying to squeeze the life out my body. After numerous chemotherapy and radiation treatments, all kinds of meds to counter side effects, and numerous medical consults I can say good medicine and God’s grace are the reasons I am still around to write this. The recent emphysema diagnosis was indeed anticlimactic in view of what I had been through physically, mentally, and spiritually since 2005.

I am writing this not to regal you with my medical history nor is it my purpose to launch a persuasive attack on cigarette smoking. I felt compelled to write this because I think this is all about stewardship; taking care of what God has given you. He gave me a youthful body full of energy and vigor and I willfully abused it by smoking in spite of the concerns expressed by family and friends. I am proof that stewardship, both bad and good, has consequences. I am most certainly grieved that my family’s lifestyle must take into account my frail health, that the quality of life I now enjoy could have been better, and that all I have experienced could have been avoided had I not been so cocksure that nothing would happen. On the other hand, my lung cancer diagnosis has also allowed me to experience the very best in humankind. Medical professionals who really care about their patients, family members whose every action and word testify to the depth of love they have for me, and church family members who have given me the love, attention, and support that I needed to sustain my faith while facing two life threatening issues.

Most of all, the consequences of my bad stewardship with regard to my lungs, has fostered in me a growing understanding of the depth and breadth of God’s grace. God’s ability to forgive my past behavior and continue to bless me with life is astounding to me. He is, indeed, a just God in the sense that I do suffer consequences, yet feel only love, forgiveness, and peace in the end. Tough love I think is the hardest of all to give and my God excels in it. The words “stewardship and grace” have new meaning in my life and I hope this retelling of a small piece of my life will help you to focus on the roles these words play in your life. God bless!

Darryl Peralta

Father George was unavailable for this Forward’s Spiritual Advisor



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 lasalvadori@yahoo.com

Back to the Mountain
January 10-12, 2014



Experience the beauty of the mountain by attending Back to the Mountain at Camp Stevens, January 10-12, 2014. Anyone who has attended a 3-5 day retreat weekend is invited. It is a time to recapture your experience on this mini retreat, and spend time relaxing with your brothers and sisters in Christ. There will be some planned time with plenty of free time as well. Register now through December 13, 2013 for the lower price of \$135 per person; and \$145 after December 13, 2013. Last day to register will be December 24, 2013. Dinner will be offered on Friday evening for an additional \$7.50 per person. Applications are now available on the Cursillo website. Please contact Laurie Mumford for additional information.



THE JOURNEY

*No one travels the faith journey alone;
It's the encounters and experiences day to day,
With family, friends, neighbors and strangers,
That shape our lives and guide our way.*

*It's faith and belief that make all things possible,
Sharing God's love and the gift of His grace,
The support and encouragement
From journey companions,
That brings us together in His saving embrace.*

*We have journeyed together in many different ways,
as family, as neighbors, co-workers and friends,
At work or at play, through ministry and service,
But the journey is not over, the work will not end.*

*Let us continue our relationships in the spirit of love,
As we celebrate today, may we refresh and renew,
Strive for justice and peace,
Serve the needy and poor,
As we continue our journey for there is much to do.*

*May God give us hearts to listen, hearts to love,
Let us respond to God's call in Unity,
As journey companions, let's be of one heart and soul,
And we can extend the work of Christian community.*

Written by the Rev. Nancy Behm for the occasion of her ordination to the diaconate, November 29, 2003

Witnessing in a work environment:

By: Ruben Rodriguez

This article is adapted from the witness talk that Ruben Rodriguez gave at the Ultreya on August 10, 2013, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, La Mesa, California.

I have a law office where I practice in probate and trust matters. I have an office mate whom I have known for over 20 years who has her own paralegal/attorney support business and is also a private fiduciary. My office is in the back and hers in the front; it is a very busy office. On occasion my office mate and I have spoken about religious matters; she was raised an Anglican in England and considers herself a Christian, but it is fair to say that she really does not believe in the Divinity of Jesus nor does she like the Christian Church or particularly religious people. She tends to be judgmental. She is a very good person with a big heart. But she is no-nonsense and tends to be blunt. She feels that she must be loud and angry to be taken seriously, especially with bureaucrats whom she deals with on the phone. The office can be quite loud and stressful when she is dealing with such bureaucrats. She usually has two or three employees working for her. In contrast, I am a calm person and I tend to put people at ease. Usually I handle crises with calm. Though her employees are not my employees, I insist that they be honest, that there be no white lies of convenience such as: "She is out. She is unavailable. May she call you back or would you like to leave a message?"

One morning my office mate was on the phone as I came into the office and she was mad at some bureaucrat. She hung up the phone and said, "I could kill that idiot!" Later that morning she was commenting on a professed Christian who was addicted to drugs and asked how a professed Christian could out and out sin. Because I had thought and prayed about sin and wrote about it in my journal, I chimed in that the Christian merely forgets about God or suspends his belief in God. Everyone sins. It is part of the human condition: people cannot help it but sin in thought, word, or deed. My office mate says: "I haven't sinned today." I retorted, "Oh yeah, how many people have you threatened to kill today?" She says, oh, yeah. I think that got her thinking about sin a little differently.

For many years I represented people involved in divorce cases, somehow I always seem to have a love-hate relationship with these cases. Finally, a few years ago I stopped taking these cases for the last time and my office mate has helped keep me out of them. Anyway, there was this client whom I represented who had reconciled with his wife. That was what I called "Losing the divorce," which I joyfully accepted. However, it was just a few years before the parties separated and divorce proceedings were reinstated. By this time, they had spent all of their money and he lost the house that he inherited from his mother. It was sad. He was representing himself. But he called me for help from time to time and I willingly helped him. He was very stressed out by the whole process and he needed help. I agreed to take time to get him ready for the Settlement Conference. We spent a good deal of time together getting the various documents ready. When we were walking to the Hob Nob Restaurant for lunch, somehow the topic of heaven came up. He said that there was no way he could go to heaven. I protested that he could go to heaven; that we are all sinners, and that was what Jesus was about, saving us from our sins. He had grown up as a Catholic and our conversation was easy and natural. He called me right after the Settlement Conference greatly relieved that his case had settled. He paid me by cutting my hair. As he cut my hair over the ensuing months we shared about faith and church activities I was involved with. Last time he cut my hair he indicated he was thinking about going back to church. I invited him to come to ours and offered prayers.

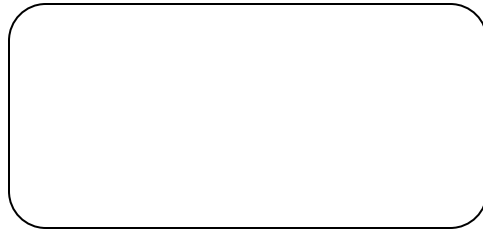
The last two weeks I tried something else to help change my work environment. During my devotion time I learned that I needed to trust God more, that by trusting God more, my faith would grow and my stress and worry would lessen. So, I wrote on a little sticky: "Help me to trust more." and stuck it on the right frame of my computer monitor. As the week went by I focused on trusting more and advised others to trust more. I felt less stress. This past week I wrote: "Let me be a channel of your peace." Right away I noticed that that day was quiet, that everyone was working diligently, efficiently and quietly. I had to make a comment about that at the end of the day. The rest of the week was much calmer than had been previously.

Dear Lord, purify my heart and guide my steps today so that I may be a faithful witness for you; that someone out in the world can see your light shining in me and be drawn to you. Amen.

Cursillos in Christianity

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15815 INDIAN VALLEY ROAD
JAMUL, CA 91935



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

