

Forward

Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Volume VIII

February 2003

Our Mission: To Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

FROM THE CHAIR

I recently had a reunion with four shipmates with whom I served over 30 years ago. It was a wonderful time of reminiscing and renewing old friendships. What struck me was that 34 years ago none of us knew the Lord, but now four of the five are committed Christians. I am encouraged by that trend. After all, as Cursillistas we are responsible for changing our environments for Christ. So that leads me to the obvious question: what are you doing to make your environment more acceptable for Christ? I think most people believe that is too large a task and give up before starting. I think about large challenges like eating an elephant, you do it one bite at a time.

How do you start? The first step is always with prayer. We should always be in prayer for the people who surround us because it empowers us with the Holy Spirit. Do the people in your environment know of your deep commitment to the Lord? Well, if they don't, the next step is to make that fact known. Usually, actions speak much louder than words. Sometimes all it takes is to state your objection about an off-color comment or stating a Christian perspective during a discussion. Once people know you are a Christian, watch how things begin to change.

Your next step will certainly vary depending on your particular situation. That's where grouping can be a tremendous help. Your grouping partners are extremely valuable in keeping your walk with the Lord on track; your action plan is just one of the areas they can help.

Another source of strength is the Ultreya. Ultreya is a Spanish word of encouragement. Its purpose is to encourage you by giving personal examples of successes in sharing the Lord. Check the Cursillo Calendar on our website (www.sdcursillo.org) for Ultreyas and other activities around the Diocese. If there hasn't been an Ultreya in your area in a while, contact your parish representative and ask to get one started. Let us know when one is planned, we'll put it on the calendar. If you are not in a grouping, an area Ultreya is an excellent place to find

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a grouping partner.

Core teams are now busy getting ready for the Spring Three-Day Weekends. Remember, there will not be any Weekends in the fall due to the National Episcopal Cursillo Seminar taking place here in October. If you are considering sponsoring someone, please get your application in as early as possible.

If the Cursillo movement is part of your ministry, you should be a regular attendee at the Servant Community meetings. Our next meeting is Saturday, March 8, from 9:00 to 12:00 at Church of the Good Samaritan, University City. Hope to see you there.

Ultreya,
Mike Orcutt

Look for the next Forward in mid-April with weekend team and candidate lists.

Articles, calendar events and other materials are due *no later than* May 27th.

Send to

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New names, addresses and changes to Barbara Taylor,

Phone 619-421-5612 e-mail: just4taylor@cox.net



AND REMEMBER

Send Barbara your email address with a request to receive the *Forward* electronically, saving us big bucks printing and snail mailing.

MOVING THE SIGNS

I remember reading about a group of pranksters in some small town who wanted to have a little fun by moving a stop sign from one intersection to another a few miles down the road. The next morning after the prank, a car loaded with teenagers was headed down that same country highway from a church youth retreat. As they headed through the stop sign-less intersection they smashed into a woman and her small children. Several people died in the accident and one child was left paralyzed.



I use this painful illustration because I believe God has given us some pretty clear stop signs along the road, areas where it is not safe to go. He has done so in the Bible and one need not be a fundamentalist to believe it. One also does not need to be a particularly enlightened parent to know that limits are set for a child's behaviors not to prohibit freedom, health and enjoyment of life, but to ensure it. God has set such limits on us. As the Prayer Book collect says, it is in the service of God, not our own impulses, that we find "perfect freedom."

We live in a time when the cultural pressures upon Christians are so fierce. It is the opinion of many that the signs, the moral directives the Lord provides on life's road, need to be moved. There is intense pressure on the Christian to renegotiate "the old truths" of Scripture, to reinterpret these truths in such a way as to make sense of contemporary behavior. These pressures are just as fierce within the church as they are outside it. Unlike the pranksters in the illustration, this "movement of the signs" is not malicious. It is a sincere attempt to widen the circle to include those who have felt pushed out of the fellowship of the Church. There are many truly good and loving people, many are dear friends of mine, who are seeking to move the stop signs. They do so believing it is "what Christ would have done."

Most of us realize our own inadequacy in living out the high calling of a disciple. Jesus is ready to embrace us and heal us, even in the midst of our spiritual sickness and moral failures. However, not to identify a particular area of spiritual sick-

ness or moral error as sin, is to lead people into it. It is in the painful conviction and subsequent forgiveness of sin, that a person is given the supernatural grace to overcome it.

And no matter how pure the motivation, will we not be responsible for the spiritual death of persons we as a church failed to warn, just as those pranksters are responsible for the death of that mother and all those who died on the road? Do we not insure moral collision when we rearrange God's signs, even for the best of intentions? Each of us, as members of this Church has to make a choice as we careen down that particular road. When people are headed down a wrong road clearly at odds with God's Word is it not the greatest, most compassionate response of the Church to say clearly and lovingly, "Stop!" to avoid certain collision?

Fr. Josh Acton
Spiritual Advisor



The National Episcopal Cursillo Seminar for 2003 is coming to San Diego October 24-26, 2003 at the Handlery Hotel, San Diego, CA. Mark your calendars now and plan on attending and supporting your local Cursillo community as we host the National Seminar. This is a terrific opportunity to learn more about the Cursillo method. There will be workshops covering everything from grouping to music to Palanca. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet other Cursillistas from around the United States. The cost of the seminar is about \$180.00 for registration. If you are interested in staying in the hotel the cost is about \$115.00 per night per room. So starting saving your nickels, dimes and quarters now. It would be wonderful if San Diego were the largest community represented.

FLASH !!



For my first article ever in the *Forward*, I was asked to write a short piece describing our policy towards taking pictures during the weekend. Of course, being a relatively new member of the community, I only knew that it wasn't done. I had no idea how the practice came into being or whether it was just one of those nebulous traditions that we develop naturally when confirmed as an Episcopalian. So I started asking around and found to my relative surprise that the tradition actually existed for a reason.

Apparently, there was a time when a group picture was actually an event that took place during the weekend. However, over time, this fell out of favor for a number of reasons. First, it was just one more event that had to be scheduled. Second, it broke the continuity of the weekend by encouraging people to stop thinking about God for awhile and start thinking about how they looked at that moment. Finally, it encouraged people to make comparisons between weekends instead of letting each weekend be a unique experience unto itself.

So after discovering the history of photography on the weekends, it seems pretty apparent that it shouldn't happen during any part of the weekend. Although spontaneous photography does not need to be scheduled, it is not fair to those going through the weekend to catch them by surprise and capture their emotional state on film. Of course, after the Peace has been passed at the *end* of the closing service on Sunday, feel free to take as many photos as you wish. Thank you for your understanding.

Patrick McBride,
Secretariat Chair-Elect



BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN – 2003

The sixty people attending Back to the Mountain 2003 were blessed by a Spirit filled weekend. It was a time of renewing old friendships and meeting new friends. The theme of the Weekend was "We Come to Refresh" and those attending have started the New Year refreshed and focused on the Lord. The format this year was changed slightly to accommodate a large number of talks by the team and sharing by those attending. We heard talks on how different members of the Cursillo Community become refreshed in prayer, and various ministries in which the speakers find great joy including Vocare, Altar Guild, Bible Study, Chaplaincy programs, Daughters of the King, International Missions, praying for others for healing. The attendees came from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Florida, Nevada, Arizona, and California. The Florida representative was a Deacon who has hopes of starting a similar program in her diocese.

One of the shortest talks was by Fr. Wayne Sanders and is worth incorporation into our lives. He talked on assessing our spiritual gifts to lead us into ministries where we can become refreshed and renewed in God's love. Like so many great truths, the formula is very short to state but hard to follow in real life. We have probably all taken Spiritual Gift Assessments. This is his method of evaluating spiritual gifts is much more introspective and requires a great deal of thought and prayer. Fr. Sanders stated that we should assess our lives by matching them against four standards: Integrity, are we being honest with God and ourselves? Accountability, is there someone in our life, a spiritual director or someone else to whom we are accountable? Morality, is what we are doing in accordance with God's laws starting with the 10 Commandments? And finally, humility, are we doing it for God's glory, not our own glory. He ended by saying "Be ye humble as Christ is humble."

For those of you who missed the weekend, it is a glorious way to start the New Year. Prayerfully consider attending next year's Back to the Mountain.

Mike and Barbara McBride

LENT 2003

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Very shortly, Christ Jesus, through His church, will call us to renew our discipleship. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, we are called to set aside the things that block or limit Christ's work in our lives. We are invited to set aside even good things that consume our time and attention and desires.

Lent is not a season to become morose. It is the time to "make the main thing, the main thing." Even some of our church life can lead us into areas that are of little long-term consequence. Ashes remind us of the shortness of our own lives and the importance of living them fruitfully.

I encourage every disciple in this Diocese to carve out daily time for the Lord: to read the Bible, to pray and to listen for God's voice. How? See what has a grip on your life: alcohol, television, eating, overworking, or sloth. Let go of them and create space for Christ in your daily life, and time to reach out to others.

In union with our fellow Christians around the world, we are invited to common prayer in our churches and common fasting in our lives. The Prayer Book specifies Ash Wednesday and Good Friday as Fast Days, generally meaning little food and commonly no meat. Likewise the weekdays of Lent are designated as days of "special devotion" which means limiting our intake, customarily abstinence from meat on Friday as a reminder of our Lord's passion and death.

The fruit of repentance is freedom and Christ has come to set us free from our sins, and sometimes from ourselves. By Holy Week all of us can have reviewed our life, and this Lent be encouraged to use the Reconciliation of a Penitent as outlined in the Prayer Book.

The world stands in need of holy men and women who are unashamed disciples of Jesus and who have been renewed by the Holy Spirit. This Lent may the Lord bring all of us to the joy of repentance and to a discipleship that makes a difference.

In Christ Jesus,
+Daniel W. Herzog
Bishop of Albany

From The 4th Day Magazine.
Bishop Herzog is the Keynote Speaker for the 2003 National Episcopal Cursillo Seminar in San Diego.

Forward

The Diocese of San Diego
Presents

**Fire in the Night:
Freeing Men to Live the Gospel**

Where: Camp Stevens, Julian California

When: March 21-23, 2003

How Much: \$100.00 (Scholarships Available)

Online Registration: <http://www.edsd.org/menonline.html>

(See note at end of article.)

Retreat Leader: **Rev. Dr. David C. James**

Vicar of St. Marks Episcopal Church, Tracy, California.



What the Weekend is all about:

- **The Gospel of Jesus**
Why we don't get it.
- **Sin, Seduction and Satan**
Why we give in.
- **Breaking down barriers to God.**
- **Healing the Man's Soul.**
- **Free to Live, Free to Serve**

The Rev. Dr. David James is the author of the following Books:

Sacred Vision: A Man's Legacy

Sacred Vision: A Man's Legacy is a book of fifty-two reflections on daily living for fathers who want to leave a legacy of wisdom, strength and power to their sons. Drawn from the Christian tradition, yet open to the wisdom of world spirituality, this work challenges men to live with spiritual purpose as they introduce their sons to life, with all its joys, sorrows and challenges.

and

What Are They Saying about Masculine Spirituality?

This summary of the major writings on male spirituality from the last ten years helps men experience integration and revitalize the way they experience God, themselves, and others.

This retreat should be a time of education for the intellect and the soul. Please prayerfully consider the opportunity for fun, fellowship and spiritual growth.

The applications and up-to-date information are on the World Wide Web at <http://www.sdcursillo.org> Look under San Diego Men's Diocesan Retreat (March 21-23, 2003) .

If you have any questions please call **Dick Mette at (760) 726-8623**, e-mail him at dickmette@cox.net, or send him a snail mail at 1713 Panorama Road, Vista, CA, 92083-1918.

Make Checks payable to:

Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
Memo: 2003 Mens' Conference

Mail to: Dick Mette

1713 Panorama Road
Vista, CA 92083-1918

This year the retreat will be held at Camp Stevens in Julian, CA. The retreat will offer fellowship and personal time for meditation, as well as beautiful surroundings.

Check out Camp Stevens at: <http://www.campstevens.org/>

To find out more about our Retreat Leader, check out: <http://www.stmarks-tracy.org>

Note:

We are also working to have on-line registration, but it is not available at the time of this printing.
(1/29/03)

THE 'PERU CREW' NEEDS YOUR HELP

As many of you know, Becky and I had the privilege to go on a week-long medical and evangelical mission to the Amazon River in Peru last August. It was an experience that I will never forget. I found myself falling in love with the jungle villagers and falling deeper in love with Christ. It is my hope that I will soon get to tell you more details of the wonderful things I witnessed. Until such time, let me simply tell you that the team I was with treated over 1000 patients, ministered to far more, and witnessed over 100 people accept Christ as their savior. I saw such a hunger for the Bible - people stood in line for glasses, then sat on the grass reading their Bible for hours!

During my trip, I became filled with a desire to return in 2003 - this time with a team from San Diego. God has been faithful to that dream and we currently have 15 people committed to serving our brothers and sisters in Peru both in action and by proclaiming the Gospel. This team includes 11 Cursillistas (plus 4 family members): John, Marji, and Becky King; Robin and Jeannie Fowler; Barbara McBride; Fr. Ed and Deacon Dee Renner; Wayne, Lynnae and Robin Hiebert; Russ, Nancy and Shelly Bogue; and Cindy Rose (Marji's sister in Atlanta).

There are several ways you can help us. The "usual" way is money. It costs each team member approximately \$2000 to go on this trip. While for some of us that is not a problem, for others on the team it is. If you would like to make a donation - either for a specific team member, or for the team as a whole - please write a check to Good Samaritan Church with "Peru Mission" and the person / people you wish to sponsor on the note.

We also need money to purchase supplies for the trip. Many drug companies offer programs for medical missions, which are a great deal. Johnson and Johnson offers a medicine "package" that is worth \$7,000 to \$10,000 free. Free, that is, except for a service fee of \$400. If you would like to help fund this medicine,

please write a check to Good Samaritan Church with "Peru Mission - Medicine" on the note.

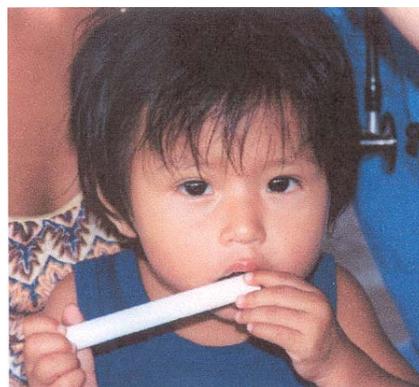
There will be many ways we will serve villagers besides medicine. There will be a "happy feet" program, where we will wash the feet of the villagers and give them new shoes. There will be an eyeglass station. There will be a station for putting ribbons and bows in girls' hair. There will be a toy station. All of these stations (with the exception of the eyeglass station) need supplies - either bought or given through donations. Over the next eight months we will be conducting:

Shoe drives - preferably sandals or slip-ons, wide widths.

Toy drives - small toys like beach balls, stickers, colored pencils, crayons, stamps, etc.

"Beauty" drives - hair bows, ribbons, berets, fingernail polish.

However you feel moved to help would be greatly appreciated. Checks can be mailed to John King at 10717 Elderwood Ln, San Diego CA 92131. They should be made out to Church of the Good Samaritan, with "Peru fund" written in the note section. The most precious gift you can give would be your prayers before and during the trip. This ministry will allow the Episcopal Diocese and Cursillo to touch many Peruvian lives, like this one:



Thank you,
John King
and the whole "Peru Crew"

FROM THE RECTOR #107

Keep walking!

It's hard to believe that Cursillo 107 is less than three months away! The number of applications for working the weekend has been wonderful! This family is such a blessing. We still have room for more workers, so if you haven't yet sent in your application, please do so. [Available on the website] I'm particularly excited that we have quite a few "first time" workers this year. If you have sent me an application and have NOT received an e-mail in reply, that means I did not receive your application - please contact me at jcking@cnonline.net so I can get you on the team roster.

As we get closer to the end of February, please begin praying earnestly about who from your parish is ready for a Cursillo weekend. Talk with your clergy, your parish rep, and with God. Then, if things seem right, talk to the person you have in mind. Remember there is no fall weekend, so let's have a really big turn out this spring for both men and women's weekends!

The team meetings are scheduled for March 15, 29, and April 12th at St. Andrews La Mesa. Schedules will be sent out separately, but count on a full day of fellowship, team-building, and learning.

Once again let me say how blessed I feel to have an incredible team walking alongside of me. It's going to be an AWESOME weekend.

In Christ's Love,

John King



FROM THE RECTORA #108

[At this time, Caryl Temple is out of town. She will soon return, "refreshed and raring to go!"
jimandcaryl@aol.com]



Just a reminder that it is never too early to start Palanca, and your prayers for the Spring Weekends are the most important Palanca of all. As for the "stuff" Palanca, just remember the KISS principle – **Keep It Simple, Sweeties**. A handwritten note is so very effective.

Judy Potter

Three-Day Weekend Chair

ACTION ITEM FOR PARISH LEADERS

The Parish Representative Committee of the Servant Community announces the second in the new series of Parish Leaders' Workshops which will be held at St Margaret's, Palm Desert on Saturday March 1. Registration will be at 12:30 pm and the workshop will begin promptly at 1 pm.

The purpose of this Workshop is to provide tools for Cursillo Leaders to help grow the movement in their individual parishes and the world. Topics will include Parish Rep Responsibilities, Grouping, Spiritual Direction, and Ultreyas. Speakers will include Mike Orcutt, Stew Dadmun, Ted Parsons, and Clint Taylor, with plenty of time for questions and answers. Parish Reps will be asked to bring at least one Cursilista from his/her parish who might be interested in becoming a parish rep. Parish Priests will be extremely welcome.

This is a must attend workshop for all Parish Leaders who want to learn how to be more effective in their ministries. For further information, please contact Judy Anderson, jmanderson@cnsurety.com or at 619-286-1208.

N

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MARCH

- 1 Parish Leaders' Workshop (p. 7)
- 5 "Create and make in us new and contrite hearts..."
- 8 Servant Community (p. 2)
- 15 Men's & Women's Team Meetings (p. 7)
- 21-23 Diocesan Men's Retreat (p. 5)
- 24 Spring Weekend Application Deadline
Sponsor and Candidate
(Note: No Fall Weekends in 2003)
- 24 Deadline for April issue of Forward
- 29 Men's & Women's Team Meetings (p. 7)

APRIL

- 12 Men's & Women's Team Meetings (p. 7)
- 20 "Alleluia! Christ is Risen; He is risen indeed."
- 24-27 Men's Weekend #107

MAY

- 1-4 Women's Weekend #108

OCTOBER

- 24-26 National Episcopal Cursillo Seminar (p. 3)



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