

Forward

Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Volume IX

February 2004

Our Mission: To Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

FROM THE CHAIR

Recently, while reading through the proposed resolutions to convention, it became apparent that we are truly a diocese in crisis. Even if I had chosen to ignore the refugees of sister parishes visiting my church, the stark contrast in the proposals drove it home. I mention this because I feel that this is an important time to reiterate that Cursillo is not an issue driven ministry. As written on the national Cursillo web site, "The goal of Cursillo is the goal of the Church: to bring all to Christ. This is done when informed, trained leaders set out with the support of others having a similar commitment." And, borrowing the words of David Rowe, the current president of the National Cursillo, speaking on the same topic in the December issue of the 4th Day Magazine, "This movement is neither liberal nor conservative. It is Christ-centered and Christ-focused." With this in mind, I pray that while working within a Cursillo context, we remain focused on the goals of Cursillo. That we continue the mission that we have done so well over the years; teaching Christians to deepen their relationship with Jesus, thus allowing them to share that love with their friends.

Having said that, this is an exciting time in our community. At the end of February, we are hosting our second ECLW in three years. This is a great opportunity for those who are new to the community to see how a Cursillo movement should be run. It is also a wonderful chance for those who have been a part of Cursillo for years to compare notes with those from other Dioceses. We have a first class team coming from national and it promises to be both very educational and spirit filled. After the last ECLW in San Diego, our servant community became massively revitalized and has gone on to do great things. Personally, I am looking forward to where God will point us as a community after this one. (See p. 5!)

Similarly, plans for the spring weekends are well under way. The core teams have already met several times and are looking forward to starting team meetings in March.

Ultreya,

Patrick McBride

THE 2004 SECRETARIAT

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Cursillo, Vision, and Lay Leadership

One of the chief purposes of Cursillo is to make lay leaders for the church. While not every lay person that goes through a Cursillo will actually become a lay leader, still the goal is to enable those with latent leadership ability to become leaders. But what is the key ingredient that makes a leader? It's having the God given vision for a specific group of people and being able to communicate it so that others will follow. A leader must see further than those whom he or she is leading, they must be able to see the future potential that others cannot see. As Konrad Adenaur says, "We all live under the same sky but we don't all have the same horizon." A leader sees a horizon that others do not see but need to see. In the church there are a number of horizons that leaders need to show other people. Leaders must see the vision for our parish, for our diocese, for Cursillo, for any ministry of a group of people. The leader must be convinced that the vision is very important and must be accomplished and communicate it with a contagious spirit to those whom they are leading.

Leadership is not the same thing as being a manager. A leader knows how to bring people into the future by casting a vision, while a manager simply knows how to make things work in the present. A manager does not cast a vision.

The great thing about Cursillo is that through piety and study it helps lay people to see God's vision for various ministries. By praying and studying the Bible and other Christian books, Cursillo helps lay people to see the future that God wants to have come into existence. Learning to see God's vision is what enables leadership in the church to happen. It is not trying to implement your personal vision for the church that will make the church work. A vision from an individual is not a vision from God and will not bring about the future that God intends for the church. The effective leader is the one who sees God's vision and is able to communicate it. The many public speaking opportunities in Cursillo help teach communication skills that are necessary to communicate a God given vision. Most talks that are given in Cursillo events are about casting a vision for other lay people to follow. For example, the Rollos on piety, study, and action are casting a vision of piety, a vision of study, and a vision of action. The speakers are not just speaking, they are leading.

We should remember that the primary vision caster for a parish is the rector, and it is important that lay leaders and the rector share the same vision in common. It does not mean that the lay people have to agree with the rector on every single point of how to implement the vision but it does mean that they have to share the same overall vision. Lay leaders need to cast the vision of the parish in their own particular area of leadership and not drift off into a personal vision.

Cursillo is a marvelous tool that enables lay people first to see God's vision, then to cast that vision for others to see so that lay people can become lay leaders in the church. Cursillo enables lay vision and leadership.

Your friend in Christ,

Father George Calvert



***All Cursillistas
are invited***

by Fr. Francis McGuire to celebrate with him the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, which took place at St. Patrick's Church, Belfast, N. Ireland on Palm Sunday, 1954. The Anniversary Eucharist is scheduled for Saturday, April 3rd, at St. Timothy's Church, Rancho Penasquitos (where Fr. McGuire is now honorary assistant)) at 10 AM, followed by a reception. While basic food items will be provided, some supplementary finger foods would be greatly appreciated. Please R.S.V.P. to St. Timothy's Church (858-538-1267) by March 15th to allow enough time to coordinate the different elements of the event.



SPONSORSHIP

What did Jesus do when He wanted to bring his gospel to the world? He went out to look for certain types of individuals. He was not being exclusive; he was being practical. He chose leaders, or potential leaders—people who had the potential to influence others. Cursillo works in the same way. Since the goal is to penetrate everyday living situations with Christian witness, it makes sense to try to find those individuals, already active members of their churches, who have the potential to be effective witnesses.

Such individuals will be found in every walk of life, of varying socioeconomic, educational and cultural backgrounds. The important criteria in identifying these people are a willingness and an ability to engage in active Christian witness in the community and openness to God's leading through the Spirit.

Once such persons are identified, they are invited to "make a Cursillo." The purpose of doing so is to provide these persons a common ground with others like themselves for plumbing the depths of their faith.

According to the Cursillo Leader's Manual, the candidate for Cursillo is a baptized Christian, reasonably stable and mature, with a desire for God's love, a longing to be set on fire with zeal to do His work in the church and in the world. We should not invite someone to attend Cursillo just because they seem like a "great person". Before sponsoring a person for Cursillo, we should take a prayerful look at his or her Christian life. Is he or she searching for Christ? Do you see Christ in this person? Does he or she have the potential to see Christ in others? Will this person grow from the Cursillo experience? Cursillo is not intended to be a conversion experience; it is for persons who have a Christian commitment and are looking for a renewal and growth in that commitment.

As sponsors, we have responsibilities to potential candidates for Cursillo, as well as to the Cursillo community. The first thing we should do when considering sponsoring a person for a Cursillo weekend is to pray and ask for God's guidance. Secondly, we should talk with our priest about the person. He or she may know some reasons why this might not be the right person or the right time. Given the priest's blessing, a good way to be able to answer the above questions is to invite this person to our groupings. I truly believe that we should be identifying potential Cursillistas at least 3-6 months in advance of a Three-Day Weekend. By doing so, we can get to

know them better so to be able to answer these questions. They can see first-hand what it means to be living an active Christian life by participating in the grouping activities of piety, study and action. It is only through personal witness that we will make the Cursillo Method attractive to prospective candidates. **Obviously this means that sponsors must be actively involved in grouping.**

The sponsor should explain the weekend, assuring the candidate that they make ask any question they want to know about the weekend. We want candidates to be excited and looking forward to the weekend, not afraid and nervous as a result of little or misleading information.

It is essential that the sponsor send Palanca to the person(s) they sponsor. The best and most appropriate Palanca is a letter telling the candidate of the prayer and selfless acts, such as fasting that are being done for them while they are at the Cursillo weekend. Remember that authentic Palanca is not a "thing", much less a bag of things. What is absolutely essential for the success of any weekend is prayer. This prayer should be deep, intentional and selfless. If it is offered truly for the purpose of the candidate (s), God will surely hear and answer that prayer. This is the best gift that could possibly be given to any Cursillo weekend.

Sponsoring a candidate and working on the team at the weekend one's candidate attends should be avoided if possible; but if unavoidable, a co-sponsor should be found.

Other items that the sponsor should ascertain are:

1. The candidate should be free of family stress, e.g. recent divorce or family deaths. Usually a period of one year from the occurrence of the trauma is suggested.
2. The candidate must be a Christian and, with very few exceptions, an Episcopalian.
3. The candidate should be strongly encouraged to make the Cursillo in the diocese of his or her Christian environment. While we realize this may not always be possible, we feel that the candidates Fourth Day life will be substantially aided by participation within his existing community. If it is not possible, the person's home Secretariat should be notified.
4. When the candidate is married, the sponsor should recommend highly that both husband and wife make a Cursillo because the Cursillo experience is intended to be shared.

The responsibilities of the sponsor during the Cursillo weekend are to:

1. Make sure the candidate packs everything he or she will need for the weekend.
2. Provide transportation to and from the location of the weekend.
3. Arrange to take care of any problems at home that may present themselves over the weekend.
4. Arrange for personal Palanca for the candidate; remember prayer and selfless acts of love are the authentic Cursillo Palanca.
5. Attend the closing and other events including both the candidate and the Cursillo community.

Sponsors are responsible for affording their candidate(s) the opportunity for a Fourth Day life, aiding and encouraging him or her to belong to a permanent Group Reunion and Ultreya. Specifically, the sponsor needs to ensure that the new Cursillista joins an existing group, or if that is not possible, help in establishing a new group. If the sponsor is not willing to do this, they should **not** sponsor a candidate.

In summary, sponsors should:

1. Know the goal of Cursillo
2. Be familiar with who should and who should not make a Cursillo
3. Know the candidate well and support him or her at every stage
4. Be an authentic witness to the Christian life and be active in the Fourth Day
5. Take responsibility for incorporating the Cursillista into the Fourth Day community

Finally of course, sponsors should pray about a candidate **before** inviting him or her to make Cursillo, and constantly before, during and after the Weekend.

Cut-off date for applications
to the Spring 2004 Weekends is

March 15, 2004

FROM THE RECTOR, #109

Brothers and Sisters:

The weekend is coming together, as we move toward our second team meeting. The team that the Spirit has put together for Weekend #109 is hard at work meeting all the challenges that come their way.

I ask prayers for the preparation of the weekend, and for new candidate applications to come in. We are building a strong team to spread the word, and many more are welcomed to join us in making this a weekend for our candidates to be overfilled with the Holy Spirit. Come join us in the Armor of God, and be lifted in His holy name.

In God's Service,

Cyrus Robbins <>{

FROM THE RECTORA, #110

Dear Friends in Christ,

Plans for the Women's weekend are moving right along. The Lord has called together a wonderful core team of Connie Fowle, Advising Rec.; Victoria Crofoot and Joan Perkins, Assist. Recs.; Jeanette Shelly, Head Cook; Lauree Jordan, Head Musician; Evelyn Putnam, Kitchen Cook; and Gail Duffey, Camp Cook; along with Spiritual Advisors, Fr. Ed Renner and Rev. Dee Renner have met with both support teams and each other. The team meetings will be held:

March 6th - Trinity, Escondido - 8:30AM to about 12:30PM

March 13th - Same as above except from 8:30AM - 3:30PM

March 27th - Same as above

April 3 - St. Peter's, Del Mar - 8:30AM - 3:30PM

The March 6th meeting is for new Cocineros, Cocineras, Rollistas, and Table Leaders.

The deadline for team work applications is **February 14th.**

In His Service,

Judy Potter, Rectora

Special Invitation

We know that you have heard about the exciting ECLW (**E**piscopal **C**ursillo **L**eaders **W**orkshop) coming to San Diego on Feb. 27-29, 2004. It will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Escondido in the Parish Hall. Please review the application form, and let us give you a few good reasons to prayerfully consider attending the workshop.

This special invitation is to all Cursillistas who not only enjoyed their Weekend, but are fulfilling (or trying to fulfill) the promise of the Fourth Day – that is to make Cursillo the main (or one of the main) ministries in your Christian walk.

To answer this calling in its fullest, you need to get connected to the mainline Cursillo ministry through Ultreyas, the Servant Community, and special national events such as the upcoming ECLW.

We have reserved a place at the table for a some additional leaders on Feb. 27-29, to meet our local and national Cursillo leaders, learn more about your favorite ministry, receive your Cursillo Library, and re-enjoy your mountain top experience with prayer, good music, good food and top of the line fellowship.

We hope to see you there. Please get your application in ASAP!

In Gods love,

Larry Salvadori and Pat Camm

The weekend will begin at 7:00 P.M. Friday evening, February 27th, continue on Saturday, and end with Holy Eucharist Sunday morning. A continental breakfast will be served Saturday and Sunday after Morning Prayer at 7:30 A.M. Lunch and dinner will be served Saturday. The cost for the weekend will be \$95. Overnight accommodations are not included, although assistance in locating local accommodations can be provided. An NEC Library is required for the weekend (it has all the answers). If you do not have a current library it will be provided for an additional \$20.

Direct questions to Larry Salvadori (858.485.5434) or Pat Camm (760.727.8531). Send in application and payment payable to *Cursillos in Christianity* with ECLW on the memo line to PAT CAMM, 3518 DE LEONE RD, SAN MARCOS, CA 92069-1210.

EPISCOPAL CURSILLO LEADERS WORKSHOP — — — — —

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PARISH _____ PHONE (DAY) _____ (EVE) _____

DINNER FRIDAY EVENING AT 6:00 p.m. IS OPTIONAL FOR \$6.00. WILL YOU ATTEND? YES ___ NO ___

Number of reservations: Male _____ Female _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

I NEED A NEC LIBRARY: circle YES NO

Applicant's Name: _____

Cursillos in Christianity

Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

To Christianize our environment and develop lay leaders for the Episcopal Church

Cursillo 109 April 15-18, 2004

Cursillo 110 April 22-25, 2004

CANDIDATE APPLICATION

CURSILLO is Spanish for short course in Christian living. The Cursillo uses a Three-Day Weekend and a separate "Fourth Day" (on a weekend shortly after the women's weekend). A team of laity and clergy will present the fundamental principles of Christian living through a series of talks and meditations.

Your sponsor believes you have leadership qualities and the potential to change your environments for Christ. The weekend is designed to provide leadership training while reaffirming your commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. After the weekend, there is a continuing program in which you are encouraged to participate.

Since both this weekend and the subsequent involvement are demanding, we ask you to pray seriously about your application before you submit it. Acceptance is not automatic for a specific weekend, but will be prayerfully considered. Once the Pre-Cursillo committee determines the candidate's participation in the upcoming weekend will be beneficial, the candidate will receive notice of acceptance. If your application is accepted, but you are unable to attend the designated weekend, your application will remain active for two upcoming weekends.

In order to gain the most from the weekend, you should be in the best possible spiritual, emotional and physical condition. Cursillo is held at Camp Stevens near Julian, which is at 4,400 ft, and is situated on hills. The dining hall is up the hill from the sleeping area. If this presents a problem to you, please explain and we will try to accommodate you.

Husband and wife should apply at the same time. The husband goes to his Three-Day Weekend first, and the wife will attend her weekend one week later. Husbands and wives should complete separate applications.

After completing the application, please give it to your sponsor who will submit it.

Cut-off date for applications is March 15, 2004.

Please remove and retain this page for your own information. If you have any questions, please ask your sponsor or contact:

**Jeanette Shelly
Pre-Cursillo Committee
1679 Glen Hollow Court
Encinitas, CA 92024
jbshelly@adelphia.net**

760.943.8922

Applicant's Name: _____

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CANDIDATE APPLICATION

Date: _____ Name: _____

Last

First

Name as you would like to see it on a name tag: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____

E-Mail: _____ Age _____

Address: _____
Street/PO City State Zip Code

Church: _____
Parish City

Have You Been Baptized? (Yes / No)

Marital Status-Circle One: (Single / Married / Separated / Divorced / Widowed / Widower)

Occupation: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Has your spouse attended Cursillo? (Yes / No) If Yes _____
Date Location

How many children do you have? _____ What are their ages? _____

If you answer yes to either or both of the next two questions please explain in sufficient detail to allow us to support you on your weekend.

1. Do you have any food allergies or special/medical dietary needs? (Yes / No)

2. Do you take regular medication; have chronic medical needs, or physical limitations? (Yes/No)

Details:

Applicant's Name: _____

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Give a personal statement of your reasons for desiring to attend a Cursillo Three-Day Weekend:

Has your sponsor explained the "Fourth Day Program" to you? (held on a weekend shortly following the women's weekend?) (Yes / No) If no, please ask him/her about it.

I will attend and participate in the "Fourth Day Program." (Yes / No)

Signature of Candidate

Applicant's Name: _____

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SPONSOR FORM

Before giving your potential candidate an application or filling out this sponsor form, it is important that you discuss, with the candidate's priest/pastor, the potential candidate's suitability for attending a Cursillo Three-day Weekend, with reference to his/her spiritual commitment and emotional stability. Also, please inform the Cursillo parish representative that you are sponsoring this person.

We also ask you to remember that the "purpose of Cursillo is to find, mold, and link leaders who have the potential to change their environments for Christ."

Fill out this form COMPLETELY, with care and frankness. All information is strictly confidential and will be used only by the Pre-Cursillo committee, Rector/Rectora, and the Spiritual Adviser of each weekend. This form MUST be submitted together with your candidate's application. It is IMPOSSIBLE to consider your candidate's application unless accompanied by this form. If this form or the candidate application is not filled out completely, it will be returned. **CUT-OFF DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 15, 2004**

Please mail this form, with the candidate's application, to:

Jeanette Shelly
Chair, Pre-Cursillo Committee
1679 Glen Hollow Court
Encinitas, CA 92024
760.943.8922.
jbshelly@adelphia.net

Date: ___ / ___ / ___

Candidate Name (print): _____
First Name Last Name

Church candidate attends: _____

I have known the candidate _____ years. Frequency of attending church: _____

Why do you want this person to attend Cursillo? Describe how well you know him/her.

Applicant's Name: _____

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Describe how this person is a leader in the church:

Describe the candidate's environment (other activities or special interests) and his/her leadership in these areas:

PLEASE CHECK, AND COMMENT ON ANY YES ANSWERS. Comment prayerfully on ANY problems the candidate may have which may be detrimental to receptiveness to the message and mechanisms of the weekend (moral, emotional, mental, drinking, narcotics, etc.) Also comment on the impact of any recent divorce, separation or other crisis. Provide additional comments to assist in meeting your candidate's needs, and to aid in table assignments (personality, etc.). Please attach additional pages if you need extra space for comments.

Yes No

- [] [] DIVORCED? (If yes, how recently?)
- [] [] SEPARATED? (If yes, how recently?)
- [] [] BEREAVED OR OTHER RECENT CRISIS? (If yes, how recently?).
- [] [] MEDICAL PROBLEMS? (Is bottom bunk necessary?).
- [] [] DIETARY PROBLEMS?

Applicant's Name: _____

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PLEASE ANSWER FULLY; COMMENT ON ANY NO ANSWERS.

Yes No

- [] [] Have you explained the nature of the weekend and the "Fourth Day Program"?
- [] [] Does your candidate understand that he/she is considered a leader and that you perceive him/her as capable of changing his/her environment?
- [] [] Have you attended the "Fourth Day Program"?
- [] [] Are you committed to take your candidate to the "Fourth Day Program" (on a weekend shortly following the women's weekend)?
- [] [] Has your candidate agreed to attend Fourth Day?
- [] [] Are you presently in Group Reunion? If not, please explain.
- [] [] Have you explained to your candidate about joining an ongoing group after the weekend?
- [] [] Will you see to it that your candidate has the opportunity to share in a Group Reunion?

Is there anything else about this person we should know?

Sponsor Name(s) (print): _____ Parish: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____

E-Mail: _____

Applicant's Name: _____

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To be completed by Priest/Pastor:

Unless the following information is provided, the application will be rejected:

1. The Cursillo weekend can be powerful and evoke strong emotions. From the beginning, it has been recommended that both husband and wife make their Cursillo weekends at the same time so that they can share the experience and support each other as they grow and develop in their spiritual journeys. If only one spouse is sponsored, please provide reasons why this will not create a problem in their marriage.

2. Are there any physical, psychological, emotional or spiritual problems of which the Pre-Cursillo committee needs to be aware? Please explain.

I, _____, know the applicant personally, and believe
Print Name of Priest/Pastor
 him/her to be an appropriate candidate for a Cursillo Three-Day Weekend.

Signature of Applicant's Priest/Pastor Priest/Pastor's Phone (____) _____

I _____ know the applicant personally, and believe
Print Name of Sponsor
 him/her to be an appropriate candidate for a Cursillo Three-Day Weekend.

Signature of Applicant's Sponsor Sponsor's Phone (____) _____

N MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 25 "Create and make in us new and contrite hearts..."
27-29 Episcopal Cursillo Leaders Workshop (p.5)

MARCH

- 5-9 New Beginnings, Contact Fr. Martin,
rmartin@stdunstans.org
6, 13, 27 Team Meetings, Trinity, Escondido (p.4)
13 Servant Community, Good Samaritan (8:45-12,
Parish Hall)

APRIL

- 3 Team Meeting St. Peter's, Del Mar
11 "Alleluia, the Lord is Risen!"
15-18 Men's Weekend
22-25 Women's Weekend
29-May 1 Happening, Contact Fr. Martin,
rmartin@stdunstans.org

Look for the next Forward in early April with Team and Candidate lists for the Spring Weekends. Articles, calendar events and other materials are due *no later than Mardi 29th.*

Send to

Harry Packard
5336 Noah Way San Diego CA 92117-1330
Phone: 858-274-1019 e-mail: hapackard@earthlink.net

New names, addresses and changes to Barbara Taylor,
Phone 619-421-5612 e-mail: just4taylor@cox.net

New email addresses to Dick Mette
Phone 760-726-8628 email: dickmette@cox.net