



Forward

Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Volume X

October 2005

Our Mission: To Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

From the Chair

In the April issue of the Church Times was an article written by Larry Salvadori, which presented his perspective on the question - What is Cursillo? It was a thoughtful and enlightening presentation and I highly recommend that you take the time to read it if you haven't already. You can get a copy of the article on the diocesan website by clicking on *Diocesan News* and then *April 2005 Church Times*, or on the Cursillo website under the *Forward* tab (click on *April 2005*). For this issue, I'd like to share with you some of my thoughts on what Cursillo is to me.

To make a long story short, Cursillo for me is breakfast at Denny's on Saturday morning at 7:00 AM. At that time each week I meet with some of my brothers from Good Shepherd-Bonita and, during the ensuing hour, we share our experiences over the past week in the areas of piety, study, and action. Yes, you've got the picture, Cursillo to me is "Group Reunion" and here are just some of the reasons why:

A time to share my greatest joys and deepest hurts: I suspect that my life isn't really much different than anyone else's. That certainly seems to be true in the case of my grouping brothers. My life is like a roller coaster. Sometimes I'm in a flat period when things just roll along on their own, no sweat and no pain. Other times I'm way up and full of joy and sometimes its just real tough to get up and face another day. Whatever state of mind I am in on Saturday, it has been such a blessing to be able to fully share my deepest feelings about what has happened with folks who I have learned to explicitly trust with such information. The birth of a new grandchild, a sudden death in the family, a prayer answered, trouble at work, a relative coming to Christ, and job layoff. These are just a few of the things I have shared and, in each instance, my grouping brothers have been there to put an arm around my shoulder and let me know they are walking the path with me. One of the life changing events of my Cursillo weekend was the realization that I am not alone, and grouping serves to remind me of that fact every week.

An opportunity to recharge the spiritual battery: Sometimes I feel like God is right there with me and sometimes it seems as if He is far away in another universe. For me those dry times are a test of faith. Grouping has made these times less trying because over the years it has given me memories of events shared by my grouping brothers that can only be characterized as "God Things." An unexplainable coincidence, the Holy Spirit doing the impossible or implausible, or an instant answer to a prayer; call it what you like. Recharging your spiritual battery through the recalling of

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those times in life when God was up close and personal is not specifically talked about in the Grouping literature, but it has been a factor in me being able to sustain my faith regardless of where I am on the emotional roller coaster. Mentally playing back my grouping tapes is a spiritual aid to rediscovering the truth behind what one Cursillista has often said to me, "God is good all of the time."

A chance to learn from the walk of others: If you are a fan of reality TV, you'll love what happens in grouping. My intent here is not to suggest that some parity exists between grouping and reality TV, but rather to convey to you my opinion that the depth and breadth of the situations shared in grouping go far beyond anything you'll see in these programs. Grouping is about real people experiencing real things in a world turned away from God. It is grounded in the reality that you and I live in everyday, not a TV executive created world filled with inane situations and Type "A" people. Because of this heightened sense of reality, everything that is shared in grouping is relevant and directly applicable to my life. Some of the things that I have learned from my grouping brothers include where to get resources to help me better study His word, setting aside a quiet time each day to deepen my relationship with Christ, new ways to glorify Him in everyday situations, and drawing upon a whole library of "lessons learned" gleaned from their experiences so I don't make the same mistakes. During my Navy career I received over three years of formal training, but I really learned how to be a sailor through on-the-job training (OJT). Similarly, my Cursillo weekend was formal instruction on Cursillo; grouping is the OJT that serves to sustain and mature me as a Christian as I live out the Fourth Day.

As you can see, the adage "Grouping is the heart of Cursillo" is much more than a slogan to me. We have all heard about and read the official literature on grouping, so I won't recount it here. I think it is just sufficient to say that Cursillo is a gift from God and grouping is a vital part of that gift. The real question then becomes - Have you fully received and opened the gift that was given you during your 3-Day Weekend?

Ultreya, Darryl

What is the Servant Community?

This group of current or potential Cursillo leaders meets quarterly under the auspices of the Diocesan Secretariat. It is not intended to be either an "elite clique" or a group of "Cursillo martyrs." Its members are willing to make Cursillo their primary apostolate for at least a pre-specified period of time. Any Cursillista may attend and participate.

This group includes members of the Secretariat, but doesn't supplant the Secretariat. The Servant Community is the "heart and hands of the local movement," and the Secretariat functions as the "head of the local movement." The Servant Community "brainstorms ideas" but it is the Secretariat's responsibility and authority to make all decisions regarding the local movement.

The "servant" responsibility of this community is to carry out the actions and implement the policies as directed by the Secretariat. The "community" side of this group allows those tasked with running the operations of the local Cursillo Movement to meet and work together as a body once every quarter just before a Secretariat meeting. It is also serves as a training place for possible future Secretariat members.

A Typical Servant Community Agenda (on a Saturday morning, from 9 until noon)

Community Building (Piety) Phase:

- * Opening Prayer, Morning Prayer, or some other devotion
- * Grouping (Using the Leaders Grouping Card)

School (Study) Phase

- * Study of Scripture or theology (as applicable to the assigned tasks at hand)
- * Study of the Cursillo Literature (as applicable to the assigned tasks at hand)

Work (Action) Phase

- * "Brainstorming" about the needs and resources of the Community (in relation to the [Pastoral Plan](#))
- * Committee Meetings to organize and do the work of the Community as needed to carry out the [Pastoral Plan](#)
- * Report back to the full Meeting as needed

Final Prayer

The Secretariat normally meets in the afternoon following the Servant Community meeting to act on Servant Community recommendations. Non-Secretariat members are not required to attend this meeting.

Look for the next Forward in early December.

Articles, calendar events and other materials are due
no later than November 28th

Send to (preferably in electronic format):

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4454 S Avenue 19E, Yuma, AZ, 85365
Phone: 928-785-9689
e-mail: petra_orta@yahoo.com

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From the Spiritual Director

C. S. Lewis Reconsidered

I am back from Sabbatical in England, where I went to two Oxford Summer Schools. At the first summer school, one of my classes was on C. S. Lewis. I haven't read a C. S. Lewis book in many years and the last time I read Mere Christianity was when I was 19 years old, some 30 years ago. Back then I thought it was a good book, but reading it today I think it is a great book, it's amazing how much the book has improved now that I am older.

Mere Christianity is not just a nice introduction to the faith; it is a deep philosophical and spiritual explanation of the contents of the faith. It's well worth spending some time pondering over the arguments in this book.

C. S. Lewis is an interesting apologist for Christianity because he uses both reason and imagination to persuade people to believe in Christ. While Mere Christianity is a book of reason, the children's story, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, is the Gospel told through imagination. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe will also be a movie, coming to theaters on December 9th. I think it is time to re-read C. S. Lewis.

Your friend in Christ,
Fr. George Calvert



From the Rectora #116

SHOUT FOR JOY TO THE LORD ALL THE EARTH!
Ps. 98

Greetings!

We are getting closer to our first team meeting, and I want you to know that you all continue to be in my thoughts and prayers. I am very impatient to see you all together, and feel that the Holy Spirit is blessing the upcoming weekend greatly by putting together such a great team. We have all wondered, and talked about how things will work this fall, but I feel that God is working, and the candidates will experience a spirit filled weekend. Keep in mind that none of the important things are changed, the message of the Rollo's, the ministry of the team, and the wonder of discovering anew the Grace and love of our Lord. Each weekend is special, and this one will be too.

We are currently on the lookout for anyone who is interested in coming up on Sunday to work as Sunday Angels. Any one who has worked a weekend knows how special the Angels are, their bright shining faces, and willing attitudes are a tremendous blessing to the weary team.

There have been a lot of you who could not work the weekend, and I ask now, if you can come up on Sunday the 30th and work in this capacity it would be gratefully appreciated.

In His Service,
Desi Foster

Men's Cursillo #115 Team

Duffey, Tom	Head Cook Dining Hall
Durham, Frank	Exp. Rector
Elder, Steven	
Embick, Ed	
Foster, Jim	
Gerhardt, Emery	
Hiebert, Wayne	Asst. Rector
Kircher, Alan	
Noble, Craig	
Norcott, Tim	Asst. Rector
Orcutt, Mike	
Parsons, Ted	
Perkins, Laurent	
Porter, Dave	
Rohland Mike	
Salvadori, Larry	
Schneider, Chip	
Strother, Andrew	Rector
Stubbs, Ed	Kitchen Musician
Taylor, Clint	Head Musician

Women's Cursillo #116 Team

Arroyoavila, Nancy	Head Cook Camp
Baron, Bobbi	Cocinera
Brown, Mary	Rollo Rm
Blaisdell, Diane	Cocinera
Bogue, Nancy	Palanca
Crofoot, Victoria	Exp Rectora
Drivas, Amy	Rollo Room
Eddingfield, Barbara	Kitchen Team Leader
Eddingfield, Rev.Larry	Clergy
Foster, Desi	Rectora
Gerhardt, Sue	Rollo Room
Goodwin, Allyson	Rollo Room
Green, Joann	Head Cook Kitchen
Hiebert, Lynnea	Asst. Rectora
Hiller, Mary Beth	Rollo Room
King, Marjorie	Sacristan/Medic
Lenti, Sarah	Kitchen Musician
McBride, Barbara	Head Musician
Norcott, Tami	Asst. Rectora
Parsons, Pat	Musician
Perkins, Joan	Rollo Room
Phillips,Rev.Tom	Spiritual Director
Potter, Judy	Cocinera
Risser, Sheila	Cocinera
Royle, Alison	Kitch Tm Leader
Salvadori, Jeannie	Mus. Helper
Stubbs, Cherie	Rollo Room
Underkoffler,Deacon Pat	Kitchen Clergy
Weatherwax, Marion	Rollo Room
Wood, Kathy	Musician
Madre Theresa	Clergy

COME BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN

Begin 2006 with a refresher course and a very special time of retreat - for spiritual renewal, prayer, singing, walks, and fireside chats. Relax, read, or journal and have fun! See old friends and meet new ones. You are again encouraged to also bring good books for another book exchange this year.

Theme for the weekend....

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you...”

What is “Back To The Mountain”?

A spiritual retreat at Camp Stevens which will include talks, discussion, music, and plenty of free time. It is a great time to regroup one's self after the Holiday Season, and focus on where our Lord is calling us to serve. Food will be provided by Camp Stevens staff, so bring yourself, a sleeping bag, your Bible, and Song Book. Casual, layered, warm clothing is needed -- it can get pretty warm inside, but be very cold outside -- rain or snow, even!!!!

Who may attend?

Any adult who has been on a three day weekend that models the Fourth Day concept like Cursillo or Walk To Emmaus.

When is it?

7:00 p.m. Friday, January 6th, 2006, thru noon on Sunday, January 8th.

Want more information?

Call or e-mail Ed Embick 858.521.0553 (sueanded@juno.com) or Amy Drivas 760.741.0398 (crusinamy@hotmail.com).

What does it cost?

\$105 if paid by 12/30/05; \$115 after 12/30/05. The cut off date for registration is 1/2/06. Reservations fill up early each year, so don't wait till the last minute to register. A non-refundable \$50.00 deposit is due by 12/18/05. Some scholarships are available on a confidential basis. Friday Night dinner (6:00 PM) is available for an extra \$7.50.

Applications and payment (or deposit) should be sent to:

Ed Embick
11509 Poblado Road
San Diego, CA 92127

----- Cut here -----

Checks should be made out to:

Cursillos in Christianity with “Back To The Mountain” on the memo line.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City State Zip Code _____

Phone/e-mail _____

Parish _____

Number of Reservations: ___ (M) ___ (F) Number of Friday Dinners ___

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Special dietary needs: _____

Could you offer a ride? ___ Do you need a ride? ___

Do you NEED a lower bunk? ___

A Day of Deeper Understanding
Application for Sponsors and Other Cursillistas
Saturday, November 19, 2005 – 8:30 AM TO 3:00 PM
Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan
4321 Eastgate Mall, San Diego

Because Sunday's message of the Cursillo weekend focuses on providing us with the knowledge and tools to live out our Fourth Day, it is essential that we really understand those Sunday teachings. A lack of understanding of Sunday's message can result in failure to join reunion groups, failure to develop a Rule of Life or to establish a relationship with a Spiritual Director and poor attendance at Ultreyas.

It is easy to be distracted by the time Sunday rolls around—the intense mental and emotional activity of the weekend, the busy schedule, the anticipation of going home to loved ones. According to the NEC Library, "the purpose of **A Day of Deeper Understanding** is to take us away from the attitude that Cursillo is only a wonderful weekend experience and toward the understanding of how the gift of the Cursillo Method provides a structure for a lifetime experience of Christian love and service."

The cost of **A Day of Deeper Understanding** is included in the sponsorship fees paid by the candidates' sponsors for attendees of Cursillo #113 and following. For all others, the cost is \$10.00 per person for materials and lunch. If you have recently attended a Cursillo weekend or are not as active in your Fourth Day life as you would like to be, please fill out the application form and send it, along with your \$10.00, to Barbara Peralta, **A Day of Deeper Understanding** Coordinator, 522 Beacon Place, San Diego CA 91910.

A Day of Deeper Understanding Application

Saturday, November 19, 2005
The Church of the Good Samaritan
8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Date: _____ Name: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ Last _____ Work Phone: (_____) _____ First _____

E-Mail: _____

Address: _____ Street/PO Box _____ City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Church: _____ Parish _____ City _____

When did you attend Cursillo? _____

Do you need childcare? Yes _____ No _____ Child/rens Age/s _____ Location _____

\$10.00 Check enclosed: _____

Please mail to:

Barbara Peralta

522 Beacon Place

San Diego, CA 91910

Payable To: Cursillos in Christianity



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 8 Team Training, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., St. Andrews, La Mesa
- 14 New Beginnings, Green Oak Ranch
- 15 Team Training, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., St. Alban's, El Cajon
- 20 Walk to Emmaus 83 (Men's), La Quinta
- 22 Team Training, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., St. Alban's, El Cajon
- 27 Cursillo #115/116 (Coed), Camp Stevens
- 27 Walk to Emmaus 84 (Women's), La Quinta

NOVEMBER

- 3 Secretariat Meeting, 6:30, Good Samaritan
- 4 Happening, Green Oak Ranch
- 5 Grand Ultreya, 5:30 p.m., St. David's
- 19 Day of Deeper Understanding, application in this issue
- 28 Deadline for December Forward articles
(e-mail to petra_orta@yahoo.com)

DECEMBER

- 10 Servant Community Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Good Samaritan

Don't Forget!!



Servant Community Meeting
Saturday, December 10
8:30 a.m.

Church of the Good Samaritan