



FORWARD

APRIL 2017

Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego



Our Mission Is To Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

Please visit our Cursillo website for a ton of information at: www.sdcursillo.org



A MESSAGE FROM THE CURSILLO SECRETARIAT PRESIDENT

GRACE AND PEACE TO YOU DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST JESUS:

The Holy Spirit continues to bless our desire to bring our spiritual gifts of deep gladness in ministry to meet the world's deep hunger.

In February almost 100 people who hunger to serve ecumenical community in action gathered from Roman Catholic Cursillo, Episcopalian Cursillo, Kairos and Walk to Emmaus to share stories, food and music. In March, approximately 40 people attended the first Ultreya in some time at St. Peter's Del Mar, where Allan Dorsey gave the witness of their church service to the homeless and his efforts with others to offer showers a few times a month in North County, using the Showers of Blessings Episcopal equipment.

The Holy Spirit has called many people to support Rector Jan Martin as she assembles her team for #140, co-ed weekend April 20-23, 2017. They have many talents to bring to our candidates. Rachel Ambasing brings her graphic art talent to Cursillo by contacting other diocese all over the world, offering our Palanca and prayers and asking for their prayers. We are asking for your prayers as well for team and candidates that they may return home from the mountain as spirit-filled leaders in ministry wherever called. (You will find #140 team and candidates on our website www.sdcursillo.org.)

Special effort is being made by the leaders of Cursillo to develop grouping and sponsorship in our churches. Some Cursillistas meet at restaurants at different times of the day to group; some meet at homes; others at churches. The way you meet is not important. What is important is meeting to group. If you are not grouping, consider finding one or more people who want to group and start a new group.

Cursillo's mission is to develop strong Christian leaders who are growing in their faith. The more we can share our spiritual gifts to develop strong leaders, the better our communities, nation and world will be. Pray, Pray, Pray!

Heavenly Father:

You have placed in my hands this precious gift.

Help me to use it confidently, knowing that it is Your Spirit that empowers me.

Help me to use it humbly, knowing that I receive it purely by grace.

Help me to use it lovingly, knowing that how I use it affects others and shapes their understanding of You.

Here—now I return your gift, but in a different form.

My feet, my hands, my voice, my mind, my all, I offer back to You.

Your gift in me. My gift in You. Amen

(See BCP p. 200 "Collect of the Holy Spirit")

Jill McGrew, Secretariat President

FROM THE DIOCESAN CURSILLO SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Cursillo Forward April 2017 Resurrection of the Body, Near Death Experiences and World Views

The Apostles Creed says "I believe in...the resurrection of the body..." We as Christians believe that God will give us a resurrected body after we die because Jesus was resurrected from the dead. The resurrection of the body, which also includes the soul, is salvation. Salvation is to overcome all the problems of this world: sin and death; the resurrected body allows us to live with God in life everlasting." When we are with God in our resurrected body, we see God face to face and this is the goal of our whole life on Earth. See Revelation 22:4.

I've noticed that there's something philosophically and theologically interesting about the reports of people who claim to have had near death experiences. Many people in different cultures now say they have had a near death experience. Often in these cases, people have been on an operating table and their brain has been monitored for activity by highly sophisticated machines and scientists agree that the lack of brain activity or extremely low brain activity could not support the vivid and complex near-death experiences they describe. What is interesting is that these experiences are so consistent across all the different cultures and have many features in common. It is clear in these experiences that the person believes they leave their earthly body, that they receive a new body, and that this body is traveling out away from earthly reality towards a new realm of reality towards a divine light that radiates intense feelings of love. The person who is in this experience is still an individual human being and has a body. What is philosophically and theologically interesting about the near-death experience is that it is completely compatible with belief in the resurrection of the body. Furthermore, this experience is completely incompatible with other world views such as atheistic materialism and pantheistic monism. The key words are compatible and incompatible. We will explore this compatibility and incompatibility.

Atheistic materialism is the world view that there is no God and that all that is real is material. In other words, what is real is material and what is non-material is non-real. If something is non-material, it only exists in the imagination, not in reality. In other words, all reality can be reduced down to material reality. In this view, when a person dies, they cease to exist; there can be no experience outside of the human body because we are nothing more than a human body. When a person dies, they will experience absolutely nothing because they no longer exist. But the fact that many people claim to have experiences in another body looking down on their earthly material body as they float out of their body in an operating room, contradicts atheist materialistic claims. If there is something to the near death experience the whole claim of atheistic materialism could not be true. I think it's high time that atheistic materialists acknowledge that they could be wrong.

Now let us move to Pantheistic Monism, another world view that is incompatible with both near-death experiences and the resurrection of the body. Pantheistic Monism is the view that everything is God, i.e., God and the universe are one and the same thing. The word “pan” means “all,” so it’s stating that “all” is God. In Pantheism, the trees, the earth, the sky, the stars, are all part of God. You are God because you are part of the universe. Everything is part of God. There is only one reality. There is no distinction between God and his creation. The creation is God. There are many problems with Pantheism; chiefly, that we now know that the universe began with a big bang thirteen billion years ago, and therefore cannot be the ultimate reality. Pantheism also runs into problems with morality. Since Adolph Hitler is part of the universe, Adolph Hitler is God. Cancer cells are God. Pantheism contradicts both science and morality. But it is also incompatible with near-death experiences.

In the Pantheistic version of death, as articulated in eastern religions, the person that has overcome their moral failings is absorbed into the cosmos as a drop of water is absorbed into the ocean. There is no continuation of the individual person. The goal is to annihilate the self as it is absorbed into the pantheistic cosmos. In other words, the person is dissolved into the whole. In the near-death experience, the person who is dead is not dissolved or absorbed, but remains an individual subject distinct from external objects. The person, to use Christian terminology, has both a soul and a body and is aware of reality outside of themselves.

Now let us suppose that the near-death experience is some sort of hallucination. I’m not saying it is a hallucination or not a hallucination; I’m just exploring this possibility. What is interesting is that it is still incompatible with atheistic materialism and pantheistic monism. If atheistic materialism is true, there could not even be a hallucination of a near-death experience. The electrical chemical activity of the brain comes to a stop and there is no ability to generate even a hallucination. It is just like unplugging your computer; the brain runs on electricity and when you unplug the electricity there is no support for any experiences—real or unreal. If Pantheistic Monism is true, you cannot have a hallucination of a near-death experience because you’re being dissolved into the cosmos. There would be no individual subject to have the hallucination. A dissolving subject would not be having the near-death experience—real or unreal.

I want to make it clear that we believe in the resurrection of the body based on Jesus’ resurrection and not on near-death experiences. We believe in the resurrection because Jesus Christ is risen and present in us today. I am not arguing that near-death experiences are proof that the resurrection of the body is true. What I am arguing is that the resurrection of the body is compatible with near-death experiences. I am also arguing that the atheistic and pantheistic views of what happens after death are not viable options.

The reason the resurrection of the body makes sense is because it is the completion of the whole person. We believe that sin, death, all the problems of the world, are overcome in the resurrection. Inside of us, we morally and emotionally long for the perfection of a resurrected body. Near-death experiences fit within this paradigm. We believe in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting through Jesus Christ and as we do so, we experience today the joy of resurrection. We are an Easter people. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Your friend in Christ,

Father George



CALENDER YEAR - 2017

APRIL 6, SECRETARIAT MEETING, ST. DUNSTAN'S, 6:30 PM

APRIL 7, CURSILLO #140 MAKE-UP TEAM MEETING, ST. PHILIPS, 6:00PM – 9:00PM

APRIL 8, CURSILLO #140 TEAM MEETING, ST. DUNSTAN'S, 8:30-12:00 NOON

APRIL 20-23, CURSILLO #140, CAMP STEVENS

MAY 4, SECRETARIAT MEETING, ST. DUNSTAN'S, 6:30PM – 8:30PM

MAY 6, DAY OF DEEPER UNDERSTANDING, ST. DUNSTAN'S, 8:30AM – 3:00PM

MAY 20, GRAND ULTREYA, ST. DAVIDS, 6:00PM POTLUCK, 7:00PM ULTREYA

JUNE 3, SERVANT COMM. MEETING, ST. DUNSTAN'S, 8:30AM – 12:00 NOON

JUNE 3, SECRETARIAT MEETING, ST. DUNSTAN'S, 12:30 NOON – 3:00 PM

CURSILLO NEWS/NOTES
FROM JUDY ANDERSON-4th DAY CHAIR

A Grand Ultreya will be held at St. David's on May 20. Potluck at 6, Ultreya at 7. At press time Jim Weaver has agreed to do the witness talk; echo and musicians yet to be arranged. Check sdcursillo.org for details or ask your parish representative.

**2017 ECUMENICAL ULTREYA
PICTURES BELOW**



2017 Secretariat Lay Members

Name	E-Mail	Function	Term Exp.
Jill McGrew	jmegrew2015@gmail.com	2017 President	'18
Miguel Cosio	gmiguelcosio1971@yahoo.com	Hispanic Partners Chair	'18
Katherine Gordon	yosemiteshair@yahoo.com	Pre-Cursillo Vice-Chair	'17
Debbie Kistler	dk.outoflove@cox.net	4 th Day Vice-Chair	'17
Kit Chevalier	kmsopsinger@yahoo.com	2017 President Elect, Publicity, Grouping	'19
Eileen Pierce	langelight@mindspring.com	Vice-Chair Communications Historian/Kairos	'17
Jon Turley	turley.jonixxi@gmail.com	3-Day Weekend Chair	'18
Craig Noble	craignoble@cox.net	3 Day Weekend Vice-Chair	'19
Rachel Ambasing	rachel.ambasing@gmail.com	Palanca	'19

2017 Secretariat Clergy Members

Name	E-Mail	Function	Term Exp.
Rev. George Calvert	calvert@calalum.org subject: Cursillo Secretariat Business	Diocesan Spiritual Advisor	Bishop Apnt'd
Rev. Paul Gambling	edwbus@hotmail.com subject: Cursillo Secretariat Business	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	'19
Rev. Bob Nelson	bobnelson1@hotmail.com subject: Cursillo Secretariat Business	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	'17
Rev. Cristina Borges	St. Matthew's Church, 1-760-596-9821	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	'17
Rev. Carlos Garcia	carlangas1986@cs.com subject: Cursillo Secretariat Business	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	Bishop Apnt'd

SPECIAL CURSILLO SERVANTS

Name	E-Mail	Function
Judy Brown	jbrown3944@aol.com	EMS Liaison
Jamie Wood	jamiewood2@cox.net	Treasurer
Larry Salvadori	lasalvadori@yahoo.com	Servant Community Convener
Judy Anderson	jmanderson38@sbcglobal.net	Parish Reps / 4th Day Chair/ Ultreyas
Larry Salvadori	lasalvadori@yahoo.com	Forward Editor
Karen Rice	ktkrice@att.net	Pre-Cursillo Chair
Susan Miller	miller.sv@sbcglobal.net	Cursillo Music Coordinator
Susan Miller	miller.sv@sbcglobal.net	Secretary
Barbara Peralta	bperalta@yahoo.com	Rector Support Team
Ruben Rodriguez	Rodriguez_ruben@msn.com	Rector Support Team/ Outreach
Ed Embick	sueanded@san.rr.com	Webmaster
Shell Pierce	roaminchristian@mindspring.com	Alt. Webmaster

Palanca Events Around the Globe

As we pray and prepare for our Cursillo weekend #140, may we also offer our prayers of encouragement to the following diocese and their teams

April

4/6-4/9—Cursillo #207, rholiday@russellands.com, Alabama
 4/8-4/9—Staff training, stafftraining@cursilloalabama.org, Alabama
 4/20-4/23—Co-ed Cursillo, totheskies@msn.com, Maryland
 4/20-4/23, Cursillo #181, nellen41@scoast.net, South Carolina
 4/26-4/30, Cursillo #95, Corgiblue@aol.com, East Carolina
 4/27-4/30, Cursillo #47, panda8005@gmail.com, East Tennessee
 4/27-4/30—Cursillo #104, ann.mayfield@aol.com, New York
 4/27-4/30—Cursillo #81, [jane@roadsendretreat.org](http://roadsendretreat.org), Western North Carolina

May

5/4-5/7—Cursillo weekend, shirleygignac@hotmail.com, Central Newfoundland
 5/4-5/7—Cursillo #73, laydirector@monarchcursillo.org, Fond du Lac
 5/4-5/7—Cursillo #275, <http://www.dwtx.org/calendar-events/cursillo/>, West Texas

Joy and peace be with you all,

Rachel Ambasing

CANDIDATES FOR CURSILLO #140

Alliyalamangalam, Barath
Barrientos, Franky
Blain, San San
Coolman, Holly
Coolman, Christopher
Espinoza, Teresa
Flores, Maria
Hout, Greg
Jewett, Mike
Liggett, Margaret
Loera, Benny
Long, Belinda
Marquez, Penny
Maxey, Pamela
Mejia, Ana
Messer, Judy
Nunez, Maria Luisa
Ochoa, Cynthia
Page, Cary
Perkins, Cathy
Pina, Maria
Ponce de Leon, Marisa
Ramirez, Jorge
Ramirez, Melissa
Romero, Anabel
Romero, Rafael
Rosique, Teresita
Shao, Daniel
Smith, Margaret
Sedano, Octavio
Solis, Andrea
Stewart, Sheila
Urias, Javier
Urias, Leticia
Wymer, Barbara

EPISCOPAL CURSILLO MINISTRY NEWS

GET READY FOR THE 2017 ECM GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

Each year we enjoy gathering for our annual ECM Conference to share worship, fellowship, and study. However, the key element of each conference is the General Council meeting during which we conduct the business of the Ministry. In Oklahoma City this year, we will be considering two motions to change the ECM Bylaws. The rationale for the change, the motions themselves, and the Bylaw sections to be changed appear below. (The text to be deleted is in **red** and the text to be added is underlined.) Please study them carefully, discuss, and send your delegates prepared to vote. If you have questions about this proposed change, please contact your District Representative.

MOTIONS

**2017 Cursillo General Council Meeting October 28, 2017^[SEP]
St. Paul's Cathedral, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

Background and Rationale

- The Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee has valued the balance provided by its current member election schedule that rotated positions so that laywomen, laymen, and clergy are included equally. It also allowed each region to be represented equally. As representatives of their regions, District Representative members have served the Ministry with dedication and commitment while they have seen their responsibilities grow. ^[SEP]
- In relation to gifts and skills, our communities now recognize that gender should not be selection criteria for providing valuable representation of Cursillo dioceses. Retaining the gender-based selection has become a vestige of another era. ^[SEP]
- In recent years, it has become difficult to maintain this balance because many committee positions have been vacant. This is due to: a) Changes in diocesan participation in some regions which has limited the availability of member candidates; b) The election schedule has not always corresponded with the availability of potential members (i.e., a laywoman is willing to serve, but that position is not open that particular year); c) Elected members have not completed their terms; d) Parish demands upon clergy have

made those positions more difficult to fill.

- Committee vacancies have made it difficult to maintain a level of efficiency and continuity from year to year. Up until a few years ago, the Committee met face-to-face three to five times a year. At that time, the Committee was also supported by part-time staff. Financial demands then required that the Committee shift to an all volunteer model to handle all functions of the Ministry. Finances also limited the amount of travel and face-to-face meetings.
- With only two face-to-face meetings annually and cross country distances, it takes time to fully understand the role of the District Representative in order to fully build regional connections and move the Ministry forward. Vacancies also increase the workload of current members and diminish their ability to be responsive to the large number of dioceses they have been assigned.
- Elections based upon regions and member type produce committed representatives who can support Cursillo Dioceses, but they do not guarantee that skills specific to the programming functions of the Ministry are included. Having these skills represented on the Committee is more by chance than by design.
- Over time, methods of communication have changed and become more complex — especially with the use of electronic media. Many Cursillo resources have been in place for years and need revision or refocusing to meet current Cursillo needs and experience. Thus, in addition to its governance and representative duties, the Committee is now also responsible for:
 - Maintaining written, online, and media communications that require knowledge of social media, web site development, writing, etc.
 - Assisting in the development of the Annual Conference and other trainings in a manner that requires previous experience and the ability to use computer registration programs.
- Providing curriculum, leadership and programming development support and experience that would be a boon for growing the Ministry.
- The purpose of the At Large Representative position is to augment the work of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee by providing specific skills. At the time of nomination, candidates for election will be asked to identify skills that can assist some portion of the Committee's responsibilities.
- The primary role of the At Large Representative will be to serve on at least one of the Committee sub-committees — Cursillo Leadership Development, Communications, Publications, Annual Conference, and Executive. If there is a District Representative vacancy within a region, the At Large Representative may be asked to cover the position until such time that the vacancy is filled. The Representative may also be assigned special projects or responsibilities by the President. The Representative has an equal vote on all Committee decisions and may hold all positions on the Committee.
- To conduct a General Council-wide election that considers the same ballot in each region, the election for the At Large Representative position will use printed ballots with identical slates for each diocese. After agreement is reached by each diocese within the caucus, the ballot is then completed by each delegate and delivered to the General Council meeting for tabulation.

MOTION ONE:

Motion to change the Bylaws of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministries, as published in full context on the ECM Website, to reduce the number of Lay District Representatives to one (1) for each region and eliminate gender requirements for these positions. This will not change related procedural and functional matters in the Bylaws related to the election and terms of the Lay District Representatives. The provisions for Clergy District Representatives will remain the same.

MOTION TWO:

Motion to change the Bylaws of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministries, as published in full context on the ECM Website, to add five (5) At Large Representative positions to the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee and to change related procedural and functional matters in the Bylaws related to the election and terms of such members. The At Large Representative will include a specific request for skills related to the programming functions of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry. Initial elections related to this addition will begin at the October, 2018 General Council as outlined in the amendment. The addition of At Large Representatives will not change related procedural and functional matters in the Bylaws related to the election and terms of the Clergy and Lay District Representatives.

BYLAWS SECTION WITH PROPOSED CHANGES:

ARTICLE IV

Section 2. Members.

There shall be sixteen (16) members of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee **elected by District Caucus.** of which ten (10) will be District Representatives and five (5) will be At Large Representatives.

Those known as the District Representative members will be elected by District Caucus. The ten (10) District Representative members shall be five (5) clergy and (5) lay. Those known as the At Large Representatives will be elected at the annual General Council meeting. **The first fifteen (15) shall be: five (5) members of clergy, five (5) laymen, and five (5) laywomen. These fifteen (15) persons shall be known as District Representatives.**

The sixteenth (16th) member will be the President who may be lay or clergy and who has served as **either President or President Elect** for no more than one year immediately prior to becoming President.

Unless specified otherwise, all reference to Members applies to both District Representative members and At Large Representative members of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee. Items referring to only one sector of the Committee will be so identified.

The President, in consultation with the members of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee, will advise the Presiding Bishop of those bishops recommended to be Bishop Liaison to the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee. The Presiding Bishop will then appoint a Bishop Liaison to serve at his discretion **for a term of two (2) or more years.** The Bishop Liaison will be a full member of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee.

A. 1. All elected District Representative members shall be elected by Districts as follows: The member dioceses of this organization shall be divided by General Council into five (5) geographic Districts. Each such District shall elect to serve on the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee for a term of three years in each case, one (1) member of the clergy and one (1) layperson, **one (1) layman, and one (1) laywoman**, each of whom must be a communicant member in good standing of the Episcopal Church, canonically resident and actually residing in a member diocese of the General Council in that District from which elected at the time of his or her election, who shall have been endorsed in writing by action of his or her diocesan secretariat, and who shall provide a brief biography that includes active participation and actively participating in the Fourth Day. When the President Elect becomes President, he or she will serve one (1) additional year but will not be a District Representative.

2. The Districts of the General Council shall be composed out of the Provinces of the Episcopal Church, and shall be established as follows: [{]_{SEP}

a) Northeast District composed of Provinces 1, 2, 3;

b) Southeast District composed of Province 4;[{]_{SEP}

c) Northcentral District composed of Provinces 5, 6;

d) Southcentral District composed of Provinces 7, 9;

e) Western District composed of Province 8. [{]_{SEP}

3. The District Representative Member sector of the Episcopal Cursillo [{]_{SEP} Ministry Committee shall be constituted as follows: [{]_{SEP}

a) In the years wholly divisible by three (e.g. 1992): The **Northeast [{]_{SEP} and Northcentral Districts shall elect for a three year term their laywomen members of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee, the** Southeast and Southcentral Districts shall elect for a three year term, their clergy members of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee, and the Western District shall elect its lay person layman member of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee. [{]_{SEP}

b) In years one greater than those wholly divisible by three (e.g. 1993): The Northeast and Northcentral Districts shall elect for a three year term their lay person laymen members of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee, the Southeast and Southcentral Districts shall elect for a three year term their laywomen members of the National Episcopal Cursillo Committee, and the Western District shall elect for a three year term its clergy member of the National Episcopal Cursillo Committee. [{]_{SEP}

c) In years two greater than those wholly divisible by three (e.g. 1994): the Northeast and Northcentral Districts shall elect for a three year term their clergy members of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee, the Southeast and Southcentral Districts shall elect for a three year term their lay person laymen members of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee, and the Western District shall elect its laywoman member to the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee.

4. No person shall be elected for two consecutive full terms as a District Representative member. These Committee members' terms shall run until their successors are elected or duly appointed.

5. Elections of District Representative members of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee shall take place in caucuses held by District, at the scheduled conference of the General Council. Each member diocese shall have one vote in such elections for each position and shall cast its vote through its designated representative. No fractional votes shall be cast or counted. The other provisions of Article III, Section 3 applying to voting shall also apply to votes cast in District elections.

6. In the event there are more than two nominees for any one District Representative position, a member diocese shall cast a vote for one of the nominees. If no nominees shall receive a majority vote of the member dioceses present and voting, the two nominees with the highest number of votes shall continue in a run off election and the nominee who shall receive a majority vote shall be elected.

B. 1. All At Large Representatives of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee shall be elected by the General Council as follows: Each member diocese of this organization shall cast a single ballot to elect an At Large Member to serve for a term of three (3) years. Each nominee must be a communicant member in good standing of the Episcopal Church, canonically resident and actually residing in a member diocese of the General Council, who shall have been endorsed in writing by action of his or her diocesan secretariat, and who shall provide a brief biography that includes active participation in the Fourth Day and cites experience useful to leadership development, written and online communications, conference development, or other skills that would support the functions of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee. A nominee may be a layperson or clergy from any Member Diocese of the General Council.

2. The At Large Representative sector of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee shall be constituted as follows:

a) In the years wholly divisible by three (e.g. 2019): Two (2) At Large Representatives may be elected for a three year term at the General Council Meeting of that year.

b) In years one greater than those wholly divisible by three (e.g. 2017): Up to two (2) At Large Representatives may be elected for a three year term at the General Council Meeting of that year.

c) In years two greater than those wholly divisible by three (e.g. 2018):

Up to one (1) At Large Representative may be elected for a three year term at the General Council Meeting of that year.

3. An elected At Large Representative may have served previously as a District Representative Member as long as the total time served on the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee is not more than six (6) consecutive years. The At Large Member may serve on all subcommittees and may provide support to Districts as requested. These Committee members' terms shall run until their successors are elected or duly appointed. ^[SEP]

Elections of At Large Representatives of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee shall discussed in caucuses held by District, at the scheduled conference of the General Council. Each region will consider the same nominee slate on printed ballots