



FORWARD

JUNE 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

Jan Martin, Rector, chose as her scripture theme for #140 weekend April 20-23, 2017, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." She indeed proved that to be true as she led her team and the candidates to success from the team meetings to the open closure. The Holy Spirit provided love and cooperation despite some challenges from uninvited guests (bees and swarming ants). Everyone belly laughed at the Open Closure when Father Paul Gambling started quoting Genesis and God created, even our uninvited guests! Congratulations to all who served on #140.

Many gifts were shared to make #140 and every weekend successful. The Secretariat prayerfully make decisions as to leadership and provide guidance. Churches and Cursillistas sponsor and nurture new candidates, before and after the weekend. Prior to the weekend, the Rector meets with the core team to begin the process of preparing, and choosing a full team. Meanwhile some are hand making, purchasing and restocking the items needed from weekend to weekend. Each person has a special gift or gifts from God to share which might be music, cooking, wisdom, strength, leadership, or making a hand crafted gift, etc., Each is equally important when sacrificially shared from love, and Frederick Buechner, says: "To sacrifice something is to make it holy by giving it away for love."

The Day of Deeper Understanding, while disappointing in attendance of new Cursillistas, was a blessing for those who attended. However, we recognize that as a community we have to emphasize and encourage better attendance of new Cursillistas. DODU builds on the foundation to continuing practice in Piety, Study and Action and continuing spiritual growth.

Those who attended the Grand Ultreya at St. David's, enjoyed wonderful music, food, grouping and inspiring witness talks. Father George announced the Rector for #141 October 19-22, 2017. Pete Casalegno, from St. Mary's Ramona. Pete will begin choosing his team so please consider sending in an application to serve on the team or sponsor a candidate. See www.sdcursillo.org for applications.

Please publicize Cursillo weekend #141 at your churches on July 16, 2017 –Cursillo Awareness Month.

Can't get away for a weekend but want to serve??? Larry Salvadori is organizing our Cursillo community to serve the Diocese in November at the Convention. Please ask him about it.

Come, share your gifts with love....God will make them holy,
Jill McGrew, Secretariat President

FROM THE DIOCESAN CURSILLO SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

The Existential Vacuum

Victor Frankl (1905-1997) was one of the great psychiatrists of the Twentieth Century. He made an interesting discovery while an inmate in a concentration camp during World War II. Physically stronger people were dying while less strong people were having a higher chance of surviving. Why? He discovered that the physically weaker people who were religious and therefore believed that God had a purpose and meaning for their lives survived. Those who were able to hang on to meaning in their lives through inner-spiritual riches were given strength that helped them. But of the people who were quickly dying in the concentration camp, they did not believe there was any meaning to life. Under the extreme conditions of the concentration camp, only one out of twenty-eight people survived; under this tremendous stress, it became clear that meaning was as important to life as oxygen. Almost everything about the concentration camp was working to rob people of meaning; in other words, the camp became a dehumanizing force. An inmate felt like they were an animal or a cog in the cruel Nazi machine. If life feels like it has no meaning, why continue living? Frankl came up with a formula that can be summed up in one sentence: "Despair is suffering, minus meaning."

Frankl came up with another interesting insight while in the concentration camp. The concentration camp did not begin with government bureaucrats in Berlin. It began with a world view that was advocated by philosophers and scientists that formed a cultural background that made it possible for the concentration camp to exist. A philosophical view emerged of human beings as being merely a machine or an animal and not a spiritual person seeking to fulfill the meaning of their lives. This philosophy can be summed up in one word: nihilism. To be nihilistic is to reject all religious and moral principles in the belief that life is meaningless. Hidden within the culture was a nihilistic view of human beings. For example, psychiatrists tended to view their patients as animal or machine prescribing medications to fix a physical malfunction in the brain without addressing their need for meaning. The psychiatrist may think that physiology is important and that spirituality is unimportant. There may be a reductionistic, materialist philosophy at work in the psychiatrist's thinking. The psychiatrist may subtly hold a nihilistic view of his or her patient, inadvertently pushing moral and spiritual issues away. In doing so, they are denying the essential role that meaning plays in their patient's life. It's ironic that a psychiatrist wound up in a concentration camp suffering from having the meaning sucked out of his life, but it was under these conditions that he discovered the importance of meaning.

What do Frankl's insights have to do with us today? We live in an increasingly secular culture that is driving out religious and moral principles that give meaning to life. We have philosophers and scientists that can tend towards reducing human beings down to the machine and animal level. Many people today overlook the importance of seeing a human as a spiritual being who must find meaning in his or her life. The nihilism in our culture is hidden and subtle; it is not explicitly proclaimed with neon lights. We are spiritual beings who seek meaning; we need to transcend ourselves to find meaning. We are self-transcendent beings. We must transcend the self into a larger world of meaning if we are to live.

As Christians, we transcend ourselves by giving ourselves to God. But for the person living a secular life, the hidden nihilism gets in the way of this process of self-transcendence into a larger meaning. The nihilism in our lives creates what Victor Frankl calls the existential vacuum, an inner emptiness. At the center of a person's being is a vacuum, a hole that the person is longing to fill. The person feels bored without meaning. They may feel anxious or depressed and not understand why they feel this way. Frankl calls this feeling of depression from the existential vacuum "the Sunday neurosis." This neurosis happens on Sunday when a person is sitting at home or some other place with the busy activities of the week done; they have free time to think about their life, but they do not know what to think or do. They just feel depressed. They are longing to fill the vacuum so they will feel better. They may think that what they need is "stuff" to fill the hole.

They may submerge themselves in passive entertainment or an addiction may rush in to fill the vacuum or even an inappropriate seeking of pleasure or a deep psychological problem may surface. We will seek to fill the vacuum with something.

Long before Victor Frankl's insights, Blaise Pascal (1623-1662) called this vacuum a God-shaped hole. He said, "... this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words, by God himself." *Pensées* 7 (425). As Christians, we know that God's presence is what we need to fill this vacuum. God's presence and grace need to be at the center of our lives.

Jesus said, "I came that they might have life and they might have it abundantly." What Jesus is saying is that he brings God's presence into our life so that our life may be full and meaningful. When our life is full of God's presence and meaning, we experience abundant life. No longer are we trying to do a hopeless task of filling an existential vacuum, but Jesus tells us what we need to do: "If anyone is thirsty, let him come and drink who believes in me." Jesus promises that he will give us living water. Jesus pours the living water, which is the Holy Spirit, inside of us. This living water of the Holy Spirit supernaturally, miraculously, guides us into meaning and understanding of our lives. We are being lifted by Jesus into a larger and more wonderful life than anything we can try to come up with by ourselves. We no longer need to feel despair over living a meaningless life. Instead, we are experiencing the loving presence and work of God's living water inside of us. Hallelujah! We don't live a life of empty existential nothingness; we live the abundant life filled with the living water of the Holy Spirit! Come, Holy Spirit! Come, and fill your lamb! Come, fill me with your living water.

Your friend in Christ,

Father George

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PLEASE SAVE THE NEXT PAGE. THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL FORWARD PUBLISHED IN ABOUT A MONTH HIGHLIGHTING OUR CONVENTION HOSPITALITY COMMITMENTS, WITH SIGN UP SHEETS AND OPPORTUNITIES GALOUR TO SERVE.

CURSILLO IS COMING TO CONVENTION

CURSILLO HAS BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE HOSPITALITY SERVICES AT THE DIOCESAN ANNUAL CONVENTION AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S ON NOVEMBER 10-11, 2017. WE HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH THE DIOCESAN AND ST. BART'S CONVENTION TEAMS AND FOLLOWING IS THE GAME PLAN FOR CURSILLO. WE INVITE YOUR INPUTS FOR ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES CURSILLO CAN PROVIDE TO MAKE THE 2017 CONVENTION AN EXPERIENCE TO REMEMBER.

Cursillo Core Team: Larry Salvadori- St. Barts; Debbie Kistler-St. Philips; Judy Anderson-St. Dunstons; Jill McGrew-St. Peters; Kit Chevalier-St. Tims; Tim Lyons-St. Andrews; Bryan Chan-Good Shepherd: Rachel Ambasing – St. Matthews: Mike Jewett - St. Barts; plus a few more.

Hospitality offerings and responsibilities:

1. Beverage Bars – Coffee (regular; iced; latte; mocha; etc.), Tea, Water – Start Friday and Saturday @7:30 AM.
2. Comfort/Necessities Stations : Start 10:00AM Friday- through Saturday
 - a. Create several Comfort Stations at strategic locations
 - b. Snack Bags (protein, energy) with inspirational message(Palanca)
 - c. Telephone Charging Areas
 - d. Face Wipes, personal items, etc.
 - e. Note Writing, Passing (encouraging, love, engaging, etc)
3. Std. Box Lunch for Friday lunch. Serve 400: (crew of 8)
 - a. Box Lunch (sub sand, chips, pickle. cookie, palanca) \$6.00 ea.
4. Continental Breakfast (fruit, muffins, etc.) for Saturday Morning – start @7:30 AM.(crew of 4)
5. Chili (make for 400 = 35 gallons)(crew of 8) for Saturday Lunch with all the fixings: small baked potato; butter; onions; sour crème; cheese; cilantro; jalapenos; chili powder; hot pepper sauce; Brownies. \$5.00 ea.
6. Provide entertainment and music for Saturday night dinner: Cursillo Musicians.(sing-a-long)
7. Provide serving people for Sat. Night meal as necessary (crew of 8).
8. Provide drivers for St. Bart's Carts to/from remote parking as necessary(crew of 6)
 - a. Rent (Friday) an extra 6-passenger for service project.
9. Cursillo will organize a continuous prayer vigil for all Convention attendees from 7:00 AM Friday through 4:00PM Saturday. Prayer request boxes will be placed at strategic locations.
10. Cursillo will provide palanca for all attendees including brownies, muffins, and cookies.

WATCH FOR A SPECIAL CONVENTION ISSUE OF THE FORWARD. WE WILL IDENTIFY THE CURSILLO LEADERS FOR THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND WE WILL BE ASKING FOR SIGN-UPS, INDIVIDUAL, CREW, AND TEAM. CAN YOU BAKE COOKIES, SERVE COFFEE, DRIVE A GOLF CART, PRAY, MAKE SANDWICHES, PACK A LUNCH, PLUG IN A CELL PHONE? WE NEED YOU FOR CONVENTION !!!!!!!!!!!!!

LARERY SALVADORI

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CALENDER YEAR - 2017

JUNE 3, SECRETARIAT MEETING, ST. DUNSTAN'S, 12:30 NOON – 3:00 PM
JUNE 24, ULTREYA, ST. PHILIPS, 6:00PM PL, 7:00PM UL
JULY, CURSILLO AWARENESS MONTH – TELL YOUR CURSILLO STORY
SIGN-UPS FOR CONVENTION, FULL EMPLOYMENT FOR CURSILLO
JULY 20, SECRETARYIAT MEETING, ST. DUNSTANS, 6:30 PM
JULY 30-, FORWARD ARTICLE DEADLINE
AUGUST, START MAKING AND BEING FRIENDS WITH CANDIDATES FOR THE FALL
WEEKEND.

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

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GRAND ULTREYA, MAY 13

The Grand Ultreya was held at St. David's on May 13. The 40 attendees heard powerful witnesses on what it means to be a Christian and the power of prayer. Jim Weaver told of his prayerful response to his ex-wife's demands, which resulted in a resolution to their problem which was acceptable to both of them. Ruben Rodriguez told of a courtroom situation in which his client's visible prayers, along with his inward prayers, resulted in the jury's ruling for them. Thanks go to Bryan Chan who provided pictures of this event. Some are 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	4th 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	gfrpaul@gmail.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	haolam000@gmail.com	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	<u>EMS Liaison</u>
Jamie Wood	jamiewood2@cox.net	<u>Treasurer</u>
Larry Salvadori	lasalvadori@yahoo.com	Servant Community Convener
Judy Anderson	jmanderson38@sbcglobal.net	Parish Reps / 4 th Day Chair/ Ultreyas

Larry Salvadori	lasalvadori@yahoo.com	Forward Editor
Susan Miller	miller.sv@sbcglobal.net	<u>Pre-Cursillo</u> 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

Dear friends,

For the Cursillo #140 weekend, we were blessed to have received palanca from over 20 different diocese all over the world.

Please pray for the following diocese and their weekends, especially for the team and candidates of Cursillo #25 in Nebraska, who are preparing for their first weekend in 10 years.

June

6/8 - 6/11: Alabama, Cursillo #208

Contact: lipmonm@gmail.com

6/8 - 6/11: North Carolina, Cursillo #106

Contact: jdedward813@gmail.com

6/8 - 6/11: Nebraska, Cursillo #25

Contact: johnandnatalie321@hotmail.com

6/23 - 6/25: Texas, In Step

Contact: ellenpanchot@gmail.com

July

7/13 - 7/16: Upper S. Carolina, Cursillo #136

7/13 - 7/16: Chapel Rock, Prescott AZ, Cursillo #118

Contact: jckaiser@gmail.com

7/20 - 7/23: South Carolina, Cursillo #182

Contact: nellen41@sccoast.net

7/27 - 7/30: Oregon & SW Washington

Contact: xo4ster@gmail.com

With the warmest regards,
Rachel Ambasing

EPISCOPAL CURSILLO MINISTRY NEWS

GET READY FOR THE 2017 ECM GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

Nominations Open for Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee

Nominations will be open for several vacancies on the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee at the annual conference this October in Oklahoma City. Specifically, we will need Lay Man representatives for the Northeast and Northcentral districts, Lay Woman for Southeast and Southcentral, as well as Clergy representatives for Southeast, Southcentral and Northcentral. (See the Contact Us tab at <http://episcopalcursilloministry.org> for a complete listing of committee members.

To make a nomination, send a short biographical sketch of your candidate and letters of recommendation from your Secretariat and Diocese to the ECMC or your district representative.

Early-Bird Registration Opens for ECM Conference

The planning committee for the national conference in Oklahoma City, October 27-28, announced that early-bird discounts on registration are available at <http://www.cvent.com/d/q5q7zg>.

The online registration form will also allow you to select workshops you would like to attend. The topics and speakers include the following:

A Shortened Three Day Weekend
Panel Discussion
Jeannie Haas, Michael Canaday, Kristen Lees, & Rebecca Liehr

Technology and Social Media in the Fourth Day
The Rev. Everett Lees & Dion Crider

Micro Leadership in a Macro World
Blake Dutcher

The Jesus Movement, The Holy Spirit, and the Fourth Day
The Rev. Canon Dr. Bill Carroll

Faith and Images
The Rev. Kristina Maulden

A Combat Soldier's Story—A Pre- and Post-Cursillo Journey
LTC (r) Jamie Franco

Bridges out of Poverty
The Rev. Stephanie Swinnea

Cursillo, Eh? "Cursillo in Canada" and "Sharpening your Listening Skills"
Carol Summers

Improving Small Group Communication
Dr. Krystal Brue, Professor of Organizational Behavior

Cursillo Challenges in a Millennial World
Native American Ministries in Oklahoma

Reconciliation and the Fourth Day
The Very Rev. Dean Justin Lindstrom

Payment options include PayPal online or personal check via the regular postal service. Register soon to take advantage of the early-bird rate, which represents substantial savings. We look forward to seeing you in Oklahoma City!