

DECEMBER | 2020



Cursillo *forward*



Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
Our Mission is to Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership
Please visit our Cursillo website for more information at www.sdcursillo.org

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EDITION



FROM THE SAN DIEGO CURSILLO SECRETARIAT

A MESSAGE FROM THE CURSILLO SECRETARIAT

2020 is almost over and what a year it was. No one knew what the year would bring to us, and the rest of the world. No one had 2020 vision. We have a new vocabulary, social rules, restrictions, and frustrations. We are now proficient in having, and participating in Grouping zoom meetings and beyond. We now know all about masks, and how to wear them to keep us safe - not to rob a bank. All this new stuff resulted in many activities being canceled or postponed including our 2020 spring and fall Cursillo Weekends. However, we learned that some of the most important activities of our lives, love, hope, and prayer were not canceled or postponed. As a matter of fact, it gave us new opportunities to serve each other in fellowship and purpose. Take our word for it, your Cursillo Secretariat and our community will come out of this pandemic stronger, and with more relevance, for our Parishes and Diocese.



At this time, we would like to acknowledge Isabel Lynne as our outgoing President, and Susan Miller as our incoming President. Thanks to Isabel for her servant leadership in 2020, and thanks to Susan for her upcoming 2021 servant leadership. With our inability to hold a normal new Secretariat member election, the outgoing members, the Humberto Garcia, Rev. Peter Sickels, and Isabel Lynne terms have been extended for 6-months. Susan Millers term as President has been extended for 12-months.

God Bless you all, and Merry Christmas,

The SanDiego Cursillo Secretariat

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN CURSILLO SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

How to Prepare for Christ's Second Coming

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Life on earth is a preparation for being with Jesus in Heaven. Our life on earth is a test of whether or not we will, of our own free will, accept God's gift of salvation to go to Heaven. God wants to give us not only the salvation of life forever in heaven, but he also wants to give us a foretaste of life in heaven on earth by giving us the gift of His presence and grace in Jesus Christ. As we go through life on earth, and yield ourselves more and more to God, we experience more and more of God's wonderful life for us, which is preparing us for our ultimate life in Heaven. It's important that we never lose sight of living our lives for Jesus Christ so that we are moving more and more into the bigger life that God is calling us. The collect for the First Sunday of Advent gives us an outline of what we need to do to prepare ourselves to meet Jesus in Heaven. As we prepare ourselves we are moving into the bigger and better life that Jesus gives us. Let's look at the various sections of this prayer:

1. ***Give us grace to cast away the works of darkness***

On Earth we are being tested by temptations that are powerful that can pull us away from God. These temptations can be deep within us, places of darkness in our souls that can be activated by things and people around us and even by demonic forces. Some of these places of darkness may be inside of us because we've been hurt by someone in the past. There may be anger or woundedness that can be turned on into an evil life-destroying force within us. We do not have the power of ourselves to overcome all the evil that can be welling inside of us. We need the grace of God to cast away the works of darkness. God's grace is God's active favor. It is the wonder of God working inside of us so that we can cast away the works of darkness. This Advent is a time to look at the dark places in our souls and ask for God's grace to help us.

2. ***Put on the armor of light.***

Why do I need the armor of light? There is a struggle going on in our souls and we are bombarded with things that can trigger things inside of us that will cause us to make the wrong decision. What is the armor of light? It's God's presence in us. In the Bible light is always the equivalent of God's presence. The presence of God in us protects us from the things that can sabotage us and take away our life. The presence of God in us is always essential for moving into a bigger and better life. If we push God out of our lives, he takes away the armor and we are left vulnerable to inward evil impulses and external temptations.

3. ***Jesus came to visit us in great humility.***

Jesus comes to us in great humility to show us the way we need to come to God. We come to God through being humble like Jesus. We have a tendency to want to separate ourselves from God because of our arrogant pride. We need to constantly come to Jesus and emulate His humility. When we do this, we let Jesus purify our hearts. By having our hearts purified, we see God. As Jesus says in Matthew 5:8, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." It's amazing how much more life we can have by being humble before Jesus. It's counterintuitive and counter to our culture to humble yourself, but it works. It moves us into the great things that God has planned for us.

4. ***He shall come again in his glorious majesty.***

I am certain that you are going to see Jesus face to face. You and I will see Jesus in His glorified, resurrected body when we die or when he comes again. Notice the words, "glorious majesty." Jesus is a glorious king, but we cannot see directly his glory here on earth. Jesus is hidden. But his works can be seen. But when we see Him in Heaven, we will see him in all of his glorious majesty. A Christian should look forward to seeing Jesus in all of His glory. And as we look forward to seeing Him in His glorified state, we are moved along in our life on earth. When we see Jesus in His humble life on earth, we look forward to seeing Him as the glorious king in Heaven. Knowing Jesus in His humility on earth and looking forward to His glory in Heaven, we have a living hope that moves us forward.

5. ***To judge both the living and the dead.***

As Christians, who know of Christ's forgiveness and grace, we should look forward to our being judged by Christ. We know that Jesus takes away our sins, so we will not be condemned. We know that He has given us His grace to accomplish His work on earth. Knowing these two things, we should look forward to being judged to see the true significance of our lives. We will see how our little lives on earth fit into God's bigger plan of salvation. Jesus's judgement should be an affirmation of our life on earth.

6. **We may rise to the life immortal.**

You were created by God to live in a resurrected body in a resurrected world for ever with him in Heaven. Your earthly body is merely for a short period of testing. Keeping in mind that we're moving toward a resurrected body and a resurrected world where everything will be perfect, helps us to overcome all the imperfections and sufferings here in our lives on earth.

In closing, I emphasize that the Collect for the First Sunday of Advent is a magnificent outline of what we need to do to move more and more into the gift of God's salvation.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Your friend in Christ,
Father George
Diocesan Cursillo Spiritual Advisor

Fourth Day News/Activies

Sorry – We Can't Yet Go Back To The Mountain!

We wished we could just go back to the mountains in January and relax with friends. No can do for 2021, unless we choose a later date in the year to go. Back to the Mountain is a time for community, laughter, fellowship, and time with God and Jesus. It was a great way to focus on the new year after Christmas.

Well, Pine Valley is still shut down, so BTTM on January 8-10 is not going to happen. However, your Secretariat will do everything possible to not cancel, but to postpone the event to later in the year, if and when things open up. Please bare with us.

Ultreyas held in 2020: When Virtual Reality Became Reality

Little did we know that the Ultreya held in January 18, 2020 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Yuma, Arizona was going to be the last in-person ultreya to be held this year.

It was a grand time as a healthy number of Cursillistas made the trek from San Diego to add heft to an already potent throng of Yuman Cursillistas. St. Paul's new Rector, Rev. Robert Lewis, a Cursillista, brought his guitar and joined the band who played and sang praise-worthy songs to the Lord. The atmosphere was electric as hearts were truly uplifted. Rev. Pat Underkofler gave the witness talk followed by the Echo given by Ruben Rodriguez. All seemed great but we were simply unaware that the environment was about to be totally changed by the onset of the Covid-19 worldwide pandemic.

The rest of the year was dominated by the pandemic and the government's restrictive measures that required that we could not gather as has been the case for our ultreyas. Innovative measures had to be utilized to produce ultreyas with the hope that Cursillistas could be fed spiritually in the manner that this important element of the Cursillo Method was designed to do.

Beginning with the first virtual ultreya, which premiered on April 20, 2020, smart phone cameras were used to produce videos that were put together for distribution on YouTube. A total of six Virtual Ultreyas were produced during the rest of the year and are still available on YouTube to be viewed from virtually anywhere in the world!

So, we were confronted by a pandemic that seemed ready to shut down the Cursillo Ultreya Ministry, but the Lord inspired us to produce virtual ultreyas that are freely available not only for our own Cursillo Community, but for the whole world, and for virtually in perpetuity.

IS THAT NOT A MIRACLE? I SAY, YES IT IS! PRAISE THE LORD! ULTREYA!

Ruben Rodriguez

PRE-CURSILLO

Make a friend—Be a friend

Date to Remember

- **January 17—Cursillo Sunday** at your parish. Take advantage of this day to promote the ministry, create interest and curiosity, and make a friend, and be a friend. And if you haven't already—**START NOW!**

Make a Friend, Be a Friend – It's Easy!



Cursillo Events Calendar

DATE	Description	Location	POC	Time/Day
Jan-17-21	Cursillo Sunday <i>(Tell About Cursillo)</i>	All Churches	Susan Miller	All Services
Jan-27-21	Forward Deadline		Larry Salvadori	COB

PALANCA REQUESTS

JANUARY- NONE

2021 SECRETARIAT LAY MEMBERS

Name	Email	Function	Term Exp.
Susan Miller	miller.sv@sbcglobal.net	President	2021 ext.
Ruben Rodriguez	rodriguez_ruben@msn.com	Rector Support Team, Outreach, Ultreyas	2021
Sunny Landry	ricanmama13@yahoo.com	President Elect	2022
Humberto Garcia	ambrsunny2@aol.com	4 th Day Chair	2021 ext.
Mike Jewett	hdbg90@hotmail.com	3 Day Weekend, Chair	2021
Judy Brown	Jbrown3944@aol.com	Treasurer	2021
Isabel Lynne	ilynne1700@yahoo.com	TBD	2021 ext.
James Ambasing	cvista.ja@cox.net	4 th Day, Vice Chair	2022
Craig Noble	craignoble@cox.net	Palanca, EMC Liaison	2022

2021 SECRETARIAT CLERGY MEMBERS

Name	Email	Function	Term Exp.
Rev. George Calvert	gcalvert@berkeley.edu	Diocesan Spiritual Advisor	Bishop Apnt'd
Rev. Carlos Garcia	carlangas1986@cs.com	Assistant Spiritual Advisor	Bishop Apnt'd
Rev. Paul Gambling	gfrpaul@gmail.com	Assistant Spiritual Advisor	2022
open			
Rev. Peter Sickles	psickles@msn.com	Assistant Spiritual Advisor	2021 ext.

2021 SPECIAL CURSILLO SERVANTS

Name	Email	Function
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Rachel Ambasing	Rachel.ambasing@gmail.com	Music, Sponsorship
Kit Chevalier	kmsopsinger@yahoo.com	Parish Reps, Publicity
Debbie Kistler	dk.outoflove@cox.net	Historian, Social Media
Jon Turley	turley.jonixxi@gmail.com	3-Day Weekend, Vice Chair
Ed Embick	sueanded@san.rr.com	Communications Chair / Webmaster
Shell Pierce	roaminchristian@mindspring.com	Prayer Chain

CURSILLO CORNER – LOVE DONATIONS

The Cursillo community accepts donations year-round. These donations allow us to set up “scholarships” to help defray the cost of sponsoring new Cursillistas and workers, pay our bills, support ministries, and the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry. If you’d like to make a Christmas Gift to Cursillo, please sent it to:

Judy Brown – Treasurer
51 Viejas Grade Road
Alpine, Ca. 91901-1605
Checks made out to: Cursillos in Christianity

**PLEASE CONSIDER CURSILLO AS A MEMBER OF YOUR
FAMILY WHEN PRAYING
ABOUT THE MAGNITUDE OF YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT
DONATION TO CURSLLO**

MERRY CHRISTMAS - 2021





***THE CURSILLO SECRETARIAT WISHES ALL OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS
A VERY BLESSED MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR***

FROM:

FR. GEORGE CALVERT; FR. PAUL GAMBLING; FR. CARLOS GARCIA; FR. PETER SICKLES, DEBBIE KISTLER; MIKE JEWETT, RUBEN RODRIGUEZ; GINNY RODRIGUEZ. LARRY SALVADORI; JUDY BROWN; ISABEL LYNNE; ED EMBICK; SUSAN MILLER; SHELL PIERCE; JON TURLEY; MIGUEL COSIO; KIT CHEVALIER; CRAIG NOBLE; RACHEL AMBASING; JAMES AMBASING, HUMBERTO GARCIA; AND MANY OTHER PRAYER WARRIORS; SUPPORTERS; DONATORS; AND FRIENDS.

