

FORWARD



What is Cursillo?
THIS is Cursillo!

- Cursillo—our story
- The Cursillo Path
- Build the Path
- Leading the Way
- Lay talks
- Clergy Talks
- Group Reunion
- Living the 4th Day
- Ultreya

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Save the Date*

From our Cursillo President

Jill Mora



The Cursillo Secretariat has good news for our Cursillo community. In May, the Secretariat organized a Venue Search Committee tasked with surveying facilities within a comfortable driving distance of San Diego that could accommodate our Cursillo weekends. The Committee explored several options with our primary concern being to preserve the integrity of the Cursillo Weekend experience, both practically and theologically. The Committee was successful. At the July 20, 2023 Secretariat meeting, we voted to approve a contact with the Whispering Winds Catholic Conference Center in Julian, CA. We have scheduled Cursillo #150 for February 22-25, 2024 at Whispering Winds. In addition, a Back to the Mountain retreat is scheduled for October 27-29, 2023 also at the Whispering Winds Camp (WWCCC).

As stated in the Whispering Winds Camp brochure, the WW conference center's mission is "... to provide a Christ-centered environment, apart for the everyday world, where all are welcome to increase their knowledge of

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commitment to Christ, and join as fellow pilgrims on their journey of faith with God.” This WWCCC mission statement is in keeping with our Episcopal Cursillo Ministry’s mission. We feel warmly welcomed by the Camp’s administrators and staff, who are very much in tune with the logistics, as well as the purpose, of the Weekend since their Catholic Cursillo Weekends are held there.

With the Camp and the dates for Cursillo #150 set, plans are underway for the upcoming Weekend. The Secretariat has selected Darryl Peralta and Barbara Peralta as a Rector/Rectora partnership for Cursillo #150. The Peraltas are parishioners of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Bonita. As is customary, the Rector/Rectora have chosen the Bible verse and theme for the #150 Cursillo: Psalm 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God." Their chosen song is "In Christ Alone." We are confident that with the Peraltas' leadership, and of course, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will make a smooth transition to our new facilities at Whispering Winds Camp. We will be surrounded with the beauty of nature and with beautiful symbolism while housed in Disciples Lodge and meeting in Shepherds Hall. We can walk the path of Mary's Grotto to Stations of the Cross and enjoy the Campfire Rings for fellowship to deepen our spiritual experiences for both the Team and Candidates on the Cursillo #150 Weekend.

The Secretariat thanks the members of the Venue Search Committee for their hard work and commitment to finding us a new home for these upcoming Cursillo events that raise up witnessing apostolic leaders and sharing of our journeys as pilgrims on the road with Christ. We ask for your prayers for the Cursillo #150 Team as we prepare for the upcoming Weekend and for the movement of the Holy Spirit for the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry in this time of revitalization and renewal.

...Jill Kerper Mora

For the Servant Community (that's us!)

(Cont. from front page)

Saturday, August 26, 9-12 at Good Shepherd, Bonita

With all the changes, stops, and starts of the last few years, the Secretariat has identified a need for a refresher course on the Cursillo Method in general, with the goal to strengthen pre-Cursillo, (recruitment and sponsorship,) Weekends (training new leaders and updating team resources,) and Fourth Day or post-Cursillo, (grouping, and integrating new Cursillistas into ministry and leadership.)

Do you want to help plan and/or be part of this endeavor? Mark your calendars and bring your ideas to the planning meeting this month. -Sunny Landry



We Need A Rule of Life

1) Why do we need a rule of life?

To make time for God to work in your life. This making time for God is called practicing the presence of God. Now we must be clear that God is always present. But to practice God's presence is to open your life to God through specific times for prayer, spiritual reading, and action. A rule of life keeps our relationship with God a priority in the midst of the many demands that are placed upon us every day.

2) Where did the idea of a rule of life come from?

Judaism back in the time of Jesus and the apostles had specific times for prayer. In Acts 3:1 "One day Peter and John were going up the temple at the hour of prayer at 3:00 in the afternoon." Several hundred years later in the church, monasteries and convents dedicated specific times for prayer and spiritual reading. The rule of life brings some of the structured prayer and reading of monasteries and convents out into the lives of parish clergy and lay people.

3) What are the dangers of having a rule of life?

The primary danger is if one begins to feel self-righteous by having kept their

rule of life. No one has ever been saved by their own righteousness. We are saved by being clothed by the righteousness of Christ and the righteousness of Christ is a gift of God's grace.

The secondary danger has one feeling guilty and condemning oneself because they have not perfectly kept their rule of life.

4) Salvation by the law or salvation by grace?

We have to make a decision: is our salvation by keeping a law or is our salvation by grace? Both St. Paul and Martin Luther discovered that a person cannot earn their salvation by keeping a law. We will always fall short of keeping God's Laws. Both Paul and Luther discovered that salvation is always an act of God's Grace. And remember that the prayer book describes God's Grace. "Grace is God's favor towards us unearned and undeserved; by grace God forgives our sins, enlightens our minds, stirs our hearts, and strengthens our wills." (BCP, page 858.) The rule of life must never be seen as a law that brings us our salvation. The rule of life merely sets time aside giving God's grace an opportunity to work in our lives. Some protestants have been suspicious of a rule of life because they thought of it as being

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incompatible with salvation by grace. But if we look at the rule of life as our willingness to open our life to God's grace then there is no conflict.

5) The importance of prioritizing specific relationships.

If we have a girlfriend or boyfriend and we love them, we prioritize that relationship over others. The rule of life is prioritizing our relationship with God over other relationships. We must give a few important relationships in our life adequate time if we are to lead a good life. We must not allow less important relationships to crowd out the most important relationships. Our relationship with God is our most important relationship so we keep our relationship with God intact through a rule of life. Our relationship with God is the relationship out of which all other relationships need to flow. Keeping our relationship with God as our top priority enables and empowers other relationships.

6) The power of patterns.

We are changed the most by patterns in our life. For example, the type of food we eat, day in and day out, is the pattern that can determine how healthy we are over a long period of time. Patterns are a powerful force that determine many of life's outcomes. The rule of life is a pattern of opening our life to God so that we can overtime become a more holy person.

The day-to-day prayer and reading may not seem to make much difference much of the time. But gradually, God changes us to become a more holy person. Think of a plant growing in a garden. You look at it one day and then you look at it the day after and it does not seem like it is growing, but over time as you water the plant, it grows, and you see a big difference.

7) Your rule of life is not just about prayer; it can be about study and action also. Many people have not noticed that Cursillo is a rule of life. Its three basic methods of piety, study and action are a rule of life. Cursillo is based on an encyclical by Pope Pius XI. His encyclical was to concentrate on prayer, study and action, the three things that are needed for a lay person to let God's grace work in their day-to-day life. Cursillo changed prayer into piety so that it includes worship. We often think the rule of life is just about piety and study, but it can include action too. All three methods of piety, study, and action are essential tools for spiritual growth. An interesting question: Which one of the three do you need to work on the most?

8) The rule of life should be simple and easy to do. Do not make it big and complicated.

The rule of life should be a minimal rule that you can do when you are under a lot of pressure. Sometimes it can be hard to

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find time to pray, but the rule of life keeps prayer in our life when it's hard to pray. When we are under pressure, we are often tempted to jettison our prayer time. The rule of life is intended to keep prayer in our life when it is hard to do so. If the rule of life is big and complicated, you will not do the rule of life when you need it the most. For example, in my rule of life I could include things such as preparing a sermon each week and celebrating Holy Communion twice a week. However, most of the things I do to serve the Lord I leave out of my rule of life.

My rule of life is very simple: I pray once every day at bedtime, most of the time through the Compline service. Why is my rule of life so simple? It's because I know I'm going to do all kinds of things each week to serve Christ. I don't need to include this in my rule of life. What I need to do is to keep prayer and Bible readings in my life every day. The rule of life, again, should be a minimum that you should always do.

9) Each person's rule of life should be personalized to their own situation. You create your rule of life.

Only you know what needs to be in your rule of life. If you have the spiritual gift of praying and you know that you will spend a large amount of your time praying, then prayer probably does not need to be in your rule of life.

However, if prayer is something that is easily crowded out of your life, then prayer needs to be in your rule of life. Your rule of life is to help you keep as a priority your relationship with God amid all your competing priorities.

10) What tools can I use to learn about a rule of life?

An excellent place to start is the Cursillo Grouping Card. The grouping card should not be used as a rule of life. It is too complicated. But it could be used as a starting point to think about what you might need in your rule of life.

You can also Google "rule of life." Even better, Google "Growing a rule of life – the society of Saint John the evangelist," which is an Episcopal, monastic community. In the SSJE material, they advocate that the rule of life should be about God, Self, Others, and Creation. They further advocate celebrating the parts of our lives that are thriving while exploring areas that need extra nourishment. What ever you do, make sure your rule of life is very simple and is exactly what you need to grow in your relationship with God.

Your rule of life should from time to time be revised, depending upon your particular needs.

Your friend in Christ,
Father George
Diocesan Cursillo Spiritual Advisor



Weekends around the world are ramping up, as the crisis of Covid is waning. Many diocese around the world are just having their first post-pandemic weekends. We know the Palanca of prayer begins months before the actual weekend. Keeping the rector and all the team in prayer is a vital part of the pre-weekend. Pray also, for the pilgrims attending “their” Cursillo weekend, that their hearts and minds be open and receptive to what God says to them.

Everyone in the Cursillo Community can participate and it can be incorporated into daily prayer time.

Kit Chevalier- Palanca Chair

Please keep the following weekends in prayer:.

- August 10 Texas #259
- August 17 Newcastle Anglican, Australia (Men’s)
- August 24 Redwood Empire, CA, Catholic
- August 31 Newcastle Anglican, Australia (Women’s)
- September 7 Georgia #127
- September 14 Central Gulf Coast #169
- September 14 Alabama #229
- September 19 Texas #260
- September 22 Bunbury Anglican, Australia
- September 28 Upper South Carolina #145
- September 28 Florida #146 (Men’s)
- September 29 Central Florida
- September 29 York (UK)
- October 5 Southern Virginia
- October 5 West Texas

Oye! Oye! ULTREYAS TO COME IN 2023

Ruben Rodriguez, 4th Day Chair



Many exciting things are happening in the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry of the Diocese of San Diego:

- Whispering Winds Camp on Harrison Park Road near Julian will be the new location for the upcoming Winter-Spring Cursillo Weekend to be held February 22-25, 2024. The Rectors for Cursillo #150 will be the dynamic team of Darryl and Barbara Peralta!
- Back To The Mountain 2023 will greet Cursillistas at Whispering Winds Camp on October 27-29, 2023. The hosts for BTTM 2023 will be Fr. George Calvert and Ruben Rodriguez.
- Ultreyas will be held in both the North and the South County of San Diego in September 2023! The date will soon be set for an Ultreya in the North at either St. Timothy's or St. Bart's: Stay tuned. The Ultreya in the South County will be held on Friday evening, September 22, 2023, at Good Shepherd, Bonita. Featured speakers will be the incomparable Ginny Rodriguez, and the professorial Eric Smith. Fr. George Calvert will give the Scriptural Response. Music will be led by the Cursillo Musical Saints.

Mark your calendars: November 18, 2023, will be the date of the Grand Ultreya! Watch for the upcoming details.

Blessings, Ruben Rodriguez

If you would like to host an Ultreya at your parish contact Ruben by email or send a message through sdcursillo.org - Contacts

Parish Reps...Report

CURSILLO APPRECIATION MONTH AT ST. BARTS, JULY 2023

Cursillo Appreciation Month was celebrated at St. Bart's on Saturday, July 22, and Sunday, July 23. Mike and Larry had made an appointment with our new Rector Rev. Nina Bacas, to explain Cursillo. She listened to our presentation and halfway through, made the commitment to attend the spring weekend. She is a blessing.

Of further interest, Rev. Brian Peterson has been charged with planting a church in Oceanside. Not only has he made the commitment to work the spring weekend, but he will sponsor at least one of his new flock to attend the weekend. WOW! Talk about getting a new parish off on the right foot.

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With our table set up at the Saturday and Sunday services and with Jill Henderson to hand out our best Cursillo literature, we signed up 4 more potential candidates. We stressed our Small Group Ministry literature that we call Grouping. It was well received.

After our initial meeting with Rev. Nina, she suggested that Mike Jewett give the Saturday night and Sunday morning sermons on the up-coming July 22-23 weekend, and make them all about Cursillo. Mike gave two of the most mind-bending, heart-warming Rollos we ever have heard about Cursillo and how it changed his life for Jesus. He shared his soul, through personal testimony, to all present. Talk about a blessing!

In closing, several people we talked to reminded us that February is still Winter, not Spring, prompting us to refer to the February 22-25 Weekend as the 2024 Winter-Spring Weekend. It has a nice ring to it, and is certainly a talking point.

De Colores,

Mike Jewett, Jill Henderson, Larry Salvadori
St. Bartholomew Parish Representatives

Cursillo Calendar

For the most current information - visit sdcursillo.org - Calendar

- 08/06/23** Group by Zoom 4:00 PM-5:15 PM
- 08/26/23** Cursillo Basics Workshop Planning at Good Shepherd 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
- 09/03/23** Group by Zoom 4:00 PM-5:15 PM
- 09/09/23** Quarterly Meeting of Servant Com. at St. Alban's 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
- 09/09/23** Secretariat Meeting at St. Alban's 12:30 PM-3:00 PM
- 09/22/23** Ultreya Pot Luck 6 pm, Ultreya 7 pm at Good Shepherd, Bonita
- 09/24/23** Forward Deadline

CURSILLO SECRETARIAT CONTACTS

Contact a Secretariat member by email - visit sd cursillo.org - [Contacts](#)

Officers

		Term
Jill Mora	President -2023	2024
Ginny Rodriguez	President Elect - 2024	2023
Judy Brown	Treasurer, Facilities	
Rhonda Muir	Secretary, Parish Rep Network	

Lay

Nancy Calvert	3-Day Weekends	2023
Kit Chevalier	Database, Palanca	2023
Miguel Cosio	Community Partners	2023
Bob Halleck	4th Day, Parish Rep Network	2025
Debbie Kistler	Pre-Cursillo, Sponsorship	2024
Susan Miller	Communications, Website	2025
Tim Storey	Music Coordinator, Sponsorship	2025
Jeanna Timan	Assoc. Webmaster, Lutheran Partners	2024

Clergy

Rev. George Calvert	Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Communications	Appt'd
Rev. Carlos Garcia	ECMC Representative, Community Partners	Appt'd
Rev. Canon Nancy Holland	Asst. Spiritual Advisor, 4th Day	2025
Rev. Roberto Maldonado	Asst. Spiritual Advisor, Pre-Cursillo	2023
Rev. Peter Sickels	Asst. Spiritual Advisor, 3-Day Weekends	2024

Servant Community

Susan Miller	Forward Editor	
Rob Constantine	Photographer	
Mike Jewett	Hospitality Coordinator, 3-Day Weekend	
Sunny Landry	Servant Community Convener, Parish Rep Network	
Chris McKellar	KAIROS Liaison	
Craig Noble	ECM Liaison, Grouping Central	
Ruben Rodriguez	Ultreya Coordinator	

A Tribute to Elery Gross



Elery and I made Cursillo #91 and #92. After his weekend when he came back he was a changed man. He was animated in a way I had never seen before. The following weekend was my Cursillo and when I was asked about being there I told them I was there to find my husband because the Elery I sent up to the mountain was not the Elery who came back! ¡De Colores!

-Gretchen Gross, Elery's Wife
Cursillo 92

I was 17 years old and my Dad came back a different man. It was the people from Cursillo who did that. My dad would always talk about Cursillo telling my family and I stories especially those in the kitchen. Then in April 2017 my husband and I made our first Cursillo. My dad worked that weekend and it was his last Cursillo. I remember it being on the Friday morning we all sang the Servant Song. I started crying and there was my dad joining me and we both were in tears. I remember feeling so close and connected not just to my dad but to Christ in that moment. It's a memory that I will have forever.

-Holly Coolman, Elery's Daughter
Cursillo 140

Dad, Holly and I were sitting in the dining hall as people came in, hugging and carrying on. He leaned over to us both and said; "You probably think these people are crazy, don't you?" Holly and I laughed and he said, "get used to it, it's like this all weekend."

-Chris Coolman, Elery's Son-In-Law
Cursillo 140

A Remembrance of Elery

Darryl Peralta

I first met Elery Gross at my Cursillo Weekend, Cursillo #93. He was in the kitchen and was just one of the members of a team filled with men who would later become my mentors and special brothers in Christ. I really do not remember meeting or talking to him at the time, but this picture shows that he signed my bible along with some of the other early Cursillo greats on that team.

I really got to know Elery when I served on my first team, Cursillo #95. Elery was my prayer partner, and we spent every team meeting getting to know each other better. We quickly formed a very close bond, which solidified even more during the weekend as I worked with him in the kitchen.



Elery owned a jewelry store business in Yuma, Az. and gave me a coffee cup as Palanca that I treasure to this day. Since that time, Elery and I have always greeted each other with "Prayer Partner" as a remembrance of the time when we formed this special friendship.

What followed was joint service on numerous Cursillo Weekends. I moved back and forth between the Rollo Room and the Kitchen but Elery was a "Kitchen Guy" and it was there that his legacy grew.

Whenever I think of Cursillo at Camp Stevens, I picture Elery outside the back of the kitchen barbecuing, or making and serving the hot salsa that brought tears to the eyes of so many, or at Kitchen Eucharist, devoutly worshipping the Lord he loved while quietly supervising the cooking of breakfast. Most special of all were the many late night and early morning discussions I had with him sitting next to the dining hall fireplace. Elery always slept and worked in the Dining Hall, so I always knew where to find him. The pinnacle of my memories of Elery, Camp Stevens, and Cursillo Weekends came when we were selected as Rectors. The pictured plaques were made by Elery to commemorate Cursillo # 119 (my weekend as rector) and Cursillo # 133 (his weekend as rector).

My friendship with Elery has weathered many changes. Personal health crisis, family problems, and modifications to the Cursillo Weekend that brought us together so many years ago. Camp Stevens, cooking meals during the weekend, and kitchen teams are now things of the past. Through it all we never lost that special affinity for each other although opportunities to see and talk to each other dwindled in recent years. Now he is gone, taken to be



with his Lord just a few days ago. I am sad because I will not be able to attend Elery's Memorial Service in Yuma. Nonetheless, as a Christian, I cannot remain sad for long. The Elery that I knew and loved is not gone, he just finished the race before I did. I believe in what God in Christ promises and so I know I will see Elery again. Till then, keep the fire going in the fireplace Prayer Partner, I will be there soon to talk with you again. God bless his soul!

Remembering Elery

Judy Brown

Elery was a man with a big heart for Cursillo. Elery is known for being the maker of our Cursillo crosses we receive when asked "Who will we send?" and we respond, "Here I am Lord, Send me".

But there was more to Elery. He was a friend to many. How many times did folks sit with him and pour out their hearts to him or sit and be there for him. I was blessed to have that opportunity more times than I can count. He had a generous heart and was someone who would give you the proverbial shirt off his back. He only required you to pay it forward.

He was a family man & loved his wife, Gretchen, his kids and grandkids. He opened his home to them and loved having them around. He was proud of them all.

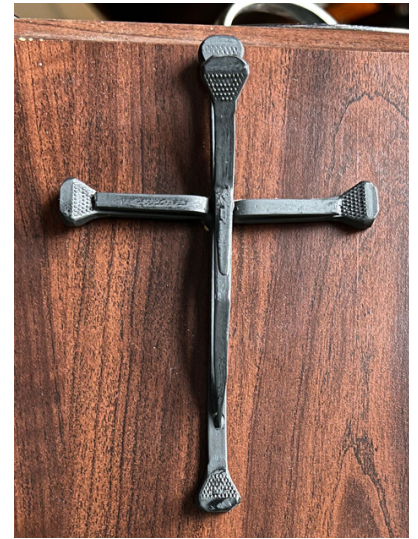
I was blessed he said yes to me when I was Rector for weekend #134 to serve as my Head Cook at Camp Stevens. He had a passion for working in the kitchen. He made the best salsa. He was a teacher to all who worked in the kitchen. It was never work, it was a labor of love for the Lord. He was so honored to be Rector for a weekend & asked me to be his Assistant Rector, which I was honored he asked me to serve side by side with him.

Elery will forever be a part of my life & everyone he came in contact with. I still hear his gruff voice & wonderful laugh. Our hearts break but know he is with our Lord. Several times, he told me, "I never expected to live this long." He figured he'd have gone home years ago. God just wasn't ready for him then.

Elery's work is not done, he is just doing it at home with the Lord. We will miss him dearly, but always remember his smile, love & energy.

Elery, Thank-you and well done, good and faithful servant.

Love you dearly, Judy Brown



De Colores!

MAKE A FRIEND, BE A FRIEND,.....



.....BRING A FRIEND TO CHRIST