

# FORWARD



## CURSILLO 149 Important Dates

### Team Meeting #2

Feb. 25 8:30 AM - 1 PM  
@ St. Philip, Lemon Grove

### Rollo Critiques

Mar. 25 8:30 AM - 1 PM  
@ St. Philip, Lemon Grove

Last Day for  
Candidate Applications  
Mar. 27

### Team Meeting #3 & Newbie Training

Apr. 15 8:30 AM - 1 PM  
@ St. Philip, Lemon Grove

### Cursillo Weekend

Apr. 27 - 30  
@ Pine Valley Bible  
Conference Center

Team members are still  
needed! Scan this QR  
code for an application:



## *Introducing our NEW Cursillo President* **Jill Mora**

I am honored to serve as President of the Cursillo Secretariat in 2023. After my year as President/elect under the leadership of outgoing President Sunny Landry, I feel well prepared to hold the gavel, symbolically speaking. But most of all, I rely on Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am a life-long Episcopalian, born and raised in Cody, Wyoming, the daughter of two lawyers. My remarkable parents, Hazel and Wesley Kerper took my sister, Janeen, and me to live in Costa Rica when I was 12 years old. They told us that we needed to learn to speak a foreign language and learn about other cultures to prepare us to be leaders in the modern world. I was baptized and confirmed in La Iglesia Episcopal del Buen Pastor in San José, Costa Rica. So it should come as no surprise that I now worship at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Bonita. My bilingualism and biculturalism are a great gift that have given me an exciting career as a Spanish teacher, an elementary school teacher and teacher educator specialized in working with immigrant students learning English as a second language. I am now a retired professor of education from San Diego State University.

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On February 4, the Cursillo Secretariat met for our Retreat at the beautiful home of Susan and Victor Miller to launch our work for this blessed ministry. A vitally important item on the agenda is to finalize our Pastoral Plan to present to Bishop Susan Brown Snook. The Pastoral Plan describes our goals and objectives for the year. This includes team planning for our Cursillo Weekends for April 27-30 and October 27-29 at the Pine Valley Bible Conference Center. But the pastoral Plan is the statement of our vision for Cursillo as we fulfill our calling: John 8:12 "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Thanks to the generosity of the supporters of Cursillo, last year the Secretariat purchased a new set of translation equipment to enable us to overcome language barriers during our Cursillo Weekend. The equipment enables us to have simultaneous translation for our candidates who prefer Spanish for understanding the Rollos. We also have bilingual table leaders who can switch languages in discussions and interactions so that our candidates feel free to express themselves in their God-given native or second language. In addition, Rosaura (Rosie) Medina from St. Phillip's Spanish-speaking congregation is the Rectora for Cursillo #149, where she will use her bilingual skills to lead us in a truly multicultural Cursillo Weekend. Our San Diego Diocese Cursillo is blessed to have team members and supporters with the ability to reach across language and cultural boundaries to bring Jesus's light of life to the Hispanic community.

I ask your prayers for the work of the Cursillo Secretariat and for my service to the Lord as 2023 President as we begin this new year. Ultreya!

*Jill Kerper Mora*



## Why is the church's liturgical calendar important?

The Anglican (The Episcopal Church is an Anglican Church), the Lutheran, the Roman Catholic, and Eastern Orthodox Churches are the liturgical churches. These churches base their worship services on a calendar and written prayers that follow the events listed on the calendar.

Why is it important to worship God based on a liturgical calendar? Because the liturgical calendar presents the major events of the salvation story every year. We are able to relive these major events, ponder the meaning of these events, and worship God through these events. A non-liturgical church may not in a year's time have the fullness of the faith in its worship services.

Let us answer some major questions about the liturgical calendar.

### **What is the theology behind this calendar?**

One major idea is that we need to live in Kairos time (God's time) and not just the Chronos time of the physical world. When we worship God in a liturgical church, we are letting God's salvation actions come into us and letting us live into the time of God—his Kairos time, the time of his saving work. We are not just living in this material world; we are living in God's spiritual world on God's time. When we are worshipping God through the liturgy, we are being lifted into God's eternity.

Another important theological idea is the liturgy in the church calendar helps us to gaze into heaven. When you look toward the altar, the acolytes represent angels, the priest represents Christ, the altar represents the table where Jesus will hold his messianic banquet. As we participate in the liturgy, the liturgy becomes a window into heaven. As we celebrate the particular feast days and regular Sunday worship services, we are participating in the things that are important in heaven. A non-

liturgical church at its best focuses on the preaching of God's word here on earth. Its worship does not have a heavenly focus but may talk about heaven; its focus is earthly. I believe that having a heavenly mysterious and transcendent focus in worship is an important part of worship. Of course, through the sermon the treasures of heaven need to be applied to today's reality on earth.

### **What are the two big feast days?**

Both liturgical and non-liturgical churches have two big feast days: Christmas and Easter. Christmas is the feast day of God giving us his son in the person of Jesus Christ. It is the Feast of the Incarnation. Easter is the feast day of God the Father raising his son Jesus from the dead. It is the Feast Day of Resurrection. These two feast days of Incarnation and Resurrection are the central events of salvation. We must note that the resurrection includes within it the crucifixion, that anyone who is going to be saved has to pass through the gate of the crucifixion in order to get to the resurrection.

The non-liturgical churches celebrate the two big feast days but do not develop the significance of them throughout the year. The liturgical calendar builds both preparatory and consequential seasons around the two big feast days. The Advent Season prepares worshipers for Christmas and Epiphany is the consequence of Christmas. Advent prepares people by its themes of repentance and expectation and Epiphany through the three wisemen account shows that the revelation that God has given us in the incarnation is being spread throughout the world. Then the next cycle of preparation is Lent, which prepares us for the resurrection in Easter and the consequence of Easter, which is the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. The Holy Spirit spreads the power and presence of Christ's resurrection throughout the world.

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Then the next cycle of preparation is Lent, which prepares us for the resurrection in Easter and the consequence of Easter, which is the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. The Holy Spirit spreads the power and presence of Christ's resurrection throughout the world. The liturgical calendar shows the spread of Christ's risen presence and power throughout the world every year.

**Are there other major feast days besides Christmas and Easter?**

Yes: All Saints Day, November 1st; Epiphany, January 6th ; Ascension; Pentecost; and Trinity Sunday. Counting Christmas and Easter there are six major feast days. All of these are important and need to be celebrated.

**Why are saints on the calendar?**

Because some people have led such extraordinary holy lives that they show us how to live a Christian life. They show us the power of Christ's grace and the work of the Holy Spirit being lived out at various times and places. God's saving work did not end with the work of the apostles. It continues even today!

**Why do we use different colors to celebrate the church seasons?**

The colors we use were defined by the Roman Catholic Council of Trent in 1545-63. In the 19th Century the Oxford Movement revived Catholic practices in the Anglican churches. The Roman Catholic colors were universally adopted by all Anglicans of various theological points of view.

White and Gold represent joy and festive celebrations and so are used on Christmas and Easter.

Red represents the Holy Spirit and the blood of martyrs. Red is used on Pentecost and Palm Sunday.

Purple represents repentance and is used in the seasons of repentance, Advent and Lent.

Green is for Ordinary Time, and it represents ordinary life in this world. Green is used most of the year when no other season is specified. The use of colors helps us visually and emotionally enter into the themes of the liturgical seasons.

In conclusion, so why is the liturgical calendar important? It's important for us to pray, learn, and experience the major events of salvation history in our worship. We re-learn every year, we engage with these events every year, and we go deeper and deeper into these saving mysteries.

Your friend in Christ,

*Father George*

*From the Palanca Coordinator*  
Kit Chevalier



As I have become more involved in Cursillo, I realize the power of prayer Palanca. We know the Palanca of prayer begins months before the actual weekend. Keeping the rector, the team and the candidates in prayer is a vital part of the pre-weekend. Everyone in the Cursillo Community can participate and it can be incorporated into daily prayer time.

Please keep the following weekends in prayer:

- February 16-19, Cursillo #117, Southwest Florida
- February 16-19, Cursillo #259, Texas
- March 10-12, Womens Weekend, Central Florida
- March 16-19, Cursillo weekend #288, West Texas
- March 16-19, Cursillo weekend, Upper South Carolina
- March 31-April 2, Mens weekend, Central Florida
- April 20-23, Cursillo weekend #116, Maryland
- April 20-23, Cursillo weekend #113, New York
- April 20-23, Cursillo weekend #110, North Carolina

## *Great Witness Talks at the*

### *Ultreya in Yuma*

by Ruben Rodriguez, 4th Day Chair



Though the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego is geographically huge, Cursillo is a ministry for the whole Diocese, and indeed for the whole world. It was a 2 1/2 hour drive from our home in Jamul to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Yuma, but it didn't seem so long nor so far. The lush scenery viewed from Skyline Truck Trail, Lyons Valley Road and Japatul Road expressed gratitude for the plentiful rains we received this winter. The spectacular vistas from along I-8 through the mountains and down Carrizo Gorge highlighted by the gloriously colorful and freshly laundered rocks were a feast for the eyes. The sprint across Imperial Valley with its fresh green crops of alfalfa, lettuce and broccoli made the miles and time easy going. Before long the sand dunes welcomed us and told us that Yuma was near. It was a lovely drive that gave us a foretaste of the beautiful ultreya we were about to experience.

We arrived at St. Paul's and were greeted by both familiar and new friends. A crowd of about 25 Cursillistas shared a full potluck and lively fellowship. At the right time Alex Tuttle along with accompanying guitarist, Rev. Bob Lewis, and singers Ruben Rodriguez and Kit Chevalier, led the crowd in singing such songs as Agnus Dei, Come and See, and Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart.

Then the Group Reunion began with 7 groups. They met and shared their recent experiences with piety, study and action. People were pleased to share face to face. New friendships were created and older ones were renewed. All were inspired and encouraged to continue in their path of following Jesus.

But the best was yet to come: Kit Chevalier gave a witness talk that showed how small common life experiences of non-religious acts of love can have a big effect over time. She shared how her love of cooking led her to cook soup for her aged parents. She cooked soup every week and delivered containers of soup to her parents to be stored in the freezer and available for their meals. After her parents died, she continued her cooking ministry by providing soup for her elderly neighbors. As time went by, she and her husband began to care of their next-door neighbor, Bobbie. Kit became Bobbie's caregiver. Besides providing companionship, Kit made sure that Bobbie got to her doctors' appointments and took her medications. After Bobbie died Kit continued her ministry by taking care of Duane's sister when she had her medical issues.

Kit never felt that she was qualified to be a care-giver, but rather that she was chosen to do it. She kept the eyes of her heart open for the opportunity to simply serve and she answered the call with, "Yes!"

The Echo Talk was given by a brand new cursillista, Becca Paquette. Becca attended Cursillo #148 in the Fall of 2022! Becca is a registered nurse who works at a local hospital in Yuma. She spoke from the heart how she struggled with her faith and found it difficult in her job during the pandemic. Sometimes she found that she was complacent and unfocused in her faith. In 2021, she decided to get back to Church.

She openly expressed the debate she had with God in her mind and heart and the fear she felt when God seemed to ask her to express her faith in the open. In her debate with God she finally gave in and declared to God "I am ready for whatever comes." Then came the day when a patient who was about to have a medical procedure called out loud: "Will someone pray with me. I need someone to pray with me!" Becca heard the call and thought, "Now is the time to act. Am I or Aren't I going to do it?" She decided to do it and immediately went to the patient, held the patient's hand, and openly prayed out-loud with the patient. When this happened, all the other people in the room went completely silent. Becca continued to pray. After a while all the other people restarted what they had been doing. The patient was at peace. Becca felt elated: she felt that she could pray aloud for everyone in the room. Her faith was alive.

The ultreaya crowd applauded with approval.

The Reverend Paul Gambling gave the scriptural response. Besides commenting on the action expressed by both witness speakers, he cited the passage from James 2:14-17, which ends: "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

### **Announcements:**

Next Ultreyas:

February 18, 2023, in the evening at St. Philip, Lemon Grove.

March 25, 2023, at mid-day at St. Luke's, San Diego. [Hosted by Debbie Kistler]

*Ruben Rodriguez*

*From our NEW Servant Community Convener*

Sunny Landry



Hello!

My name is Sunny Landry. My service as your president concluded in December 2022, and the new year has given us all the opportunity to serve in other capacities. As rewarding as being your president has been, I will be stepping into another challenging position as your Servant Community Convener. I want to say thanks once again to Larry Salvadori for his dedication in serving the Cursillo community for many years as Servant Community Convener. I only pray I can fulfill the position to his capacity and serve the community as well as he did.

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With every challenge that we are presented or called to answer, the reply should always be “Here I am Lord, send me!” The challenge should be the drive to serve. I would like to ensure the projects of the Cursillo Community will be supported and successful as we begin a new year.

Our focus currently is to support the Spring Weekend, April 27-30, 2023. Our Cursillo #149 is in the stages of forming a team and supporting the Rectora, Rosie Medina from St. Philips in Lemon Grove. Candidates are the number one requirement for the weekend. Without candidates, our weekend would not exist. So whom will you be inviting to attend? Are you being called to serve? You can also sponsor through donations for candidates. Other ways to support the weekend are available by contacting your parish representative. Applications can be found on our website. Please support Rosie Medina on this journey to bring others to Christ.

Another way to support the Cursillo community is by attending Ultreyas and Grand Ultreyas. Coming together occasionally always refreshes the spirit within us. Singing, praising, and sharing how the Lord works in our daily lives is what we all need from time to time. Ruben Rodriguez is the Ultreya Coordinator.

Grouping is an important part of our commitment to action in the community. If in-person grouping is a challenge for you, there are other ways of grouping. Zoom is one option. Craig Noble has a monthly zoom grouping with folks across the country! You don't even have to be in the state to zoom. If you need a group in your area, Grouping Central is available to help you find one. There are many opportunities to reach out to others to share how Christ is working in your life thru Piety, Study and Action!

More details will follow on how to serve the Cursillo Community best. Thank you for your support in the upcoming events in 2023. Remember to share the light of the world. Don't hide it under a bushel! Let it shine! Let it shine! Let it shine!

De Colores,

# Overcoming Roadblocks

by Faith DeHart



In late October, I was given the gift of being sponsored to attend the #148 Cursillo, at Pine Valley. This was a 3-day weekend, being surrounded by MANY Church of the Good Shepherd members. After just joining the Episcopal Church 10 years ago, I had heard about Cursillo. I was intrigued, and yet frustrated, since Doug and I had other commitments every Spring and Fall, we always had to miss that opportunity. This year, we scheduled everything around the October Cursillo, determined NOT to miss this one.

What I wasn't prepared for were all the road blocks we would both encounter. I had a cornea transplant, struggling with huge vision loss. Secondly, I started having heart and "old age" problems that confirmed I was TOO OLD to sleep in a camp for 3 nights! Thirdly, Doug and I had just given away ALL our sleeping bags and other comfort items, to the Boy Scouts, so I had no provisions for the weekend!!!! My fourth road block was when my husband, Doug, had unexpected carcinoma removed from his back. His after-care was extensive, and only 1 week before the Weekend. THEN I received a call from Father George, my fifth road block - telling me it would be very desirable NOT to wear a watch. Now, I have an iWatch, that not only informs me the time of day and what day it is, but magically tells me of any heart issues. I RELY on that every moment of the day, and he is asking me NOT to bring it? I promptly told him there was no way I'd leave that behind! Amazingly, he did not argue with me. He let God do all the work!

I can tell you, that call from Father George was a turning-point for me, that actually prepared me for the Spiritual Encounter I was about to experience on the Weekend. I struggled that entire night, wanting to comply with this request, but wanting it "my way". That was when I received a STRONG message from the Holy Spirit, asking me, "am I ready to totally surrender to this Weekend, allowing God to work wonders in my walk with Him, and do it HIS WAY?" How could I argue that? Permanently placing my iWatch on my night stand, was unknowingly my first step for my Cursillo Weekend!

FIVE road blocks were cleverly used by the devil to keep me from going to Cursillo #148!

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FIVE road blocks were cleverly used by the devil to keep me from going to Cursillo #148!

Of course, GOD prevailed! What I brought back from the Cursillo is priceless. It was a renewal of my faith and walk with Jesus, and a connection with strong, powerful men and women who will continue to walk with me through Group Reunions and Ultreyas. Striving together in our commitment to witnessing our love for Christ in our daily lives, is obeying God's Great Commission; Matthew 28:19, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"



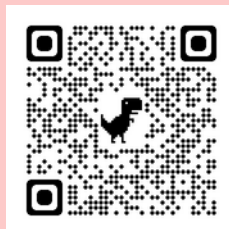
Consider helping another future-Cursillista on their journey by reaching out and encouraging a friend, and/or by sponsoring someone for

**CURSILLO #149**

**CURSILLO 149: April 27-30, 2023  
Pine Valley Bible Conference Center  
Rosie Medina, Rectora**

**Team, Candidate & Sponsor Applications are available NOW at  
[sdcursillo.org](http://sdcursillo.org)**

**or, scan the QR code below:**



## *Cursillo at the Good News Festival* by Kit Chevalier & Rachel Ambasing

The Cursillo Community of San Diego had their presence known at a table in the foyer at the Good News Festival.

The table, beautifully decorated by Debbie Kistler, offered a prayer box for prayer requests, literature about Cursillo, flowers, a rooster, and of course, candy.



Many people stopped by. Some were cursillistas, and some were unfamiliar with Cursillo ministry. It was a day of excitement and energy. Thank you Debbie Kistler, Mike Jewett, Joan Natoli, Jill Mora, Kit Chevalier and Craig Noble for being the smiling faces behind the table, ready to greet everyone, and offer information.

Beyond the table, our Cursillistas could be found just about everywhere: from members of the official Good News Festival Prayer Team, to Greeters, to Musicians at the Evenings Revival service, it was wonderful to be around so many friends and servant leaders.



Topmost photo courtesy of Debbie Kistler; Bottom 3 photos courtesy of EDSD

# Cursillo Calendar

Date	Event	Place	Contact	Time
Feb. 25	#149 Team Training Meeting #2	St. Philip's	Rosie Medina	8:30 AM to 1 PM
Mar. 02	Quarterly Meeting of Servant Community	St. Alban's	Sunny Landry	5:30 PM to 6:30 PM
Mar. 02	Secretariat Meeting (preceded by Brown Bag)	St. Alban's	Jill Mora	6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Mar. 05	Group by Zoom	Online	Craig Noble	4:00 PM
Mar. 24	Forward Deadline		Rachel Ambasing, Forward Editor	ALL DAY
Mar. 25	Rollo Critiques	St. Philip's	Rosie Media	8:30 AM to 1:00 PM
Mar. 25	Ultreya	St. Luke's, North Park	Debbie Kistler	NOON
Mar. 27	Candidate Application Deadline		Pre-Cursillo Chair	ALL DAY
Apr. 02	Group by Zoom	Online	Craig Noble	4:00 PM
Apr. 06	Secretariat Meeting (preceded by Brown Bag)	St. Alban's	Jill Mora	6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Contact a Secretariat member by email by visiting [sdcursillo.org](http://sdcursillo.org)

Stay up-to-date on Cursillo events by visiting [sdcursillo.org](http://sdcursillo.org)

*Introducing Señor Gallo*  
by Jill Mora



I will bet that Cursillistas can guess who this is! This is Señor Gallo. He is our Secretariat's new Cursillo Rooster. We prayed him in to bless him in his new job as mascot at the December 2022 Secretariat meeting. This handsome fellow replaces the old straw rooster who is now enjoying a well-earned retirement. Sr. Gallo is very special. He has a solar powered battery, so if he sits out in the sun for long enough, he glows at night, casting a beautiful feathery shadow on the table at our Secretariat meetings. Not only that, but Sr. Gallo is bilingual. When we sing ¡De Colores! in Spanish, he says "Quiquiriquí," but he also says "Cock-a-doodle-do" when we sing it in English. We pray for a long happy life for Sr. Gallo as he graces our Cursillo meetings and information booths at events for the Diocese with his bring colors. May he also provoke many an interesting conversation about his origin as a symbol of Cursillo from curious inquirers who want to know how a rooster represents our ministry.

## De Colores!

(and a sacred Lent to all)

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



.....BRING A FRIEND TO CHRIST