

Forward

Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Volume VIII

August 2003

Our Mission: To Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

From the Chair – August 2003

As I write this, our Church is about to begin its triennial General Convention in Minneapolis. By the time you read this, the convention will probably be over and in the books. There is much concern about some of the resolutions that will be before the convention; mainly the proposed development of liturgies for same-sex blessings and the election of a practicing gay priest, Gene Robinson, as bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire. I bring these matters up because they are critical issues in the Episcopal Church. I also want to highlight the fact that they have absolutely nothing to do with the Cursillo movement.

The National Episcopal Cursillo Committee (NECC) library defines Cursillo as "...a movement of the Church, with its own method, [which] makes it possible to live what is fundamental for being a Christian, in order to create nuclei of Christians who engage in leavening their environments with the Gospel, helping to discover and achieve their personal vocation with respect to the same." Cursillo promotes basic Christianity in its fundamental form to enable people to grow in grace to become evangelists in the world. That's our mission, pure and simple.

When we work a Cursillo weekend or a related function, our focus should be on sharing the fundamentals of Christian living. Although there are many excellent ministries in the Church, they should be promoted elsewhere. Regardless of the decisions of General Convention, our mission remains the same.

I am sad to report that two of our Secretariat members, Ken Rice and Richard Wilkerson, have resigned due to personal reasons. Ken and Rich have both worked as leaders of the Fourth Day. I thank them for their service to the community. At the June meeting, the Secretariat appointed Ed Embick and Jane Schuler to fill their terms until the end of the year. Ed and Jane will be working together to continue strengthening the Fourth Day programs.

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THE 2003 SECRETARIAT

Secretariat Chair

Mike Orcutt 619-482-0294 msorcutt@cox.net

Secretariat Chair-Elect / Vocare Liaison

Patrick McBride 858-693-1302 pwmcbride@aol.com

Spiritual Advisor

Rev. George Calvert 619-216-7462 gcalvert@cox.net

Communications Chair

Dick Mette 760-726-8623 dickmette@cox.net

Communications Vice-Chair

Darryl Peralta 619-426-1387 darrylperalta@msn.com

Three-Day Weekend Chair / Palanca:

Judy Potter 760-329-4135 jpott18@juno.com

Three-Day Weekend Vice-Chair

Victoria Crofoot 760-776-4508 moctodclv@aol.com

Fourth Day Chair

Ed Embick 858-521-0553 sueanded@juno.com

Fourth Day Vice-Chair

Jane Schuler 760-732-1371 GiannaS@aol.com

Pre-Cursillo Chair

Barbara McBride 858-292-5246 barbm47@aol.com

Pre-Cursillo Vice-Chair

Jeanette Shelly 760-943-8922 jbshelly@adelphia.net

Pre-Cursillo Spiritual Advisor

Rev. Dee Renner 909-695-0466 edrenner@nctimes.net

Assistant Spiritual Director

Rev. Ed Renner 909-695-0466 edrenner@nctimes.net

Assistant Spiritual Director

Rev. Russell Martin 619-460-6442 rev-russ1@cox.net

Treasurer

JoAn Taylor 619-466-9147 songbird@cox.net

Secretary:

Barbara Peralta 619-426-1387 bperalta@hotmail.com

Hispanic Community Spiritual Advisor

Rev. Juan Acosta 619-475-1883 xuanma@aol.com

Hispanic Community Chair

Johnny Reus 858-277-7545

Servant Community

Stew Dadmun 619-298-9670 sedadmun@att.net

WEB SITE: www.sd cursillo.org

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One of the Fourth Day programs is the "Day of Deeper Understanding". Ann Packard led our first DODU in June at Good Samaritan with over 40 Cursillistas in attendance. It was a great success. The DODU provides an excellent forum to explain the fundamentals of the Cursillo movement. I'm sure this is just the first of many to come.

Every parish has (or should have) a Parish Representative. That person is a key to good communications between the parish and the Secretariat. Two more Parish Pep Workshops are scheduled this year: at St. Anne's Oceanside on August 16 and at St. Andrew's La Mesa on November 8. Both workshops are held in the afternoon and will be followed by an Ultreya. See the community calendar for details. Judy Anderson has done a superb job of coordinating these workshops and serves as an excellent example of the Servant Community at work. The workshops are intended for parish reps and clergy, but any interested Cursillistas may attend.

The next quarterly Servant Community meeting will be on Saturday, September 13, from 9:00 to 12:00 at Church of the Good Samaritan, University City. Hope you can make it.

Ultreya,
Mike Orcutt

Look for the next Forward in mid-October with the latest on the NECS and Back to the Mountain applications. Articles, calendar events and other materials are due **no later than** September 29th
Send to

Harry Packard
5336 Noah Way San Diego CA 92117-1330
Phone: 858-274-1019
e-mail: hapackard@earthlink.net

**New names, addresses and changes to
Barbara Taylor,**
Phone 619-421-5612 e-mail: just4taylor@cox.net

New email addresses to Dick Mette
Phone 760-726-8628 email: dickmette@cox.net

Your Temporary but Important Assignment

I have been reading The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren, an excellent book on Christian Spirituality. In one of the chapters he talks about "Life is a temporary assignment," that life on earth is just for a short time and is intended as a period of preparation for eternity.

Now days in the church we do not hear too much about the transient nature of our life on earth. The idea of living for eternity sounds sort of medieval, definitely not the way we think today. Perhaps we post-moderns do not want to think about finitude of life because it would force us to think about our own mortality. We would rather believe in the "unlimited possibilities" of this life than face the fact that our life is limited, that we are going to die. But facing up to the briefness of life and its temporary nature can help us think about what is really important, to help us step back and reflect on what should be our true priorities, to choose what God would want us to do rather than just be pulled along in the daily routines and trivia of life.

Seeing our lives from God's perspective, from eternity is very useful and necessary if we are to know the purpose of our life on earth. We will never discover the purpose of our life by simply looking inside of ourselves because purpose is always bigger than we are. By stepping back from the world about us, then we can see that life is more than just being constantly entertained, amused, and catered to, that we were created by God to fulfill God's purpose for our life on earth.

The temporary nature of life is a major theme in the Bible because we need to remember that our earthly life as Rick Warren says, is a "test, a trust, and a temporary assignment . . ." We were created to live for eternity, life on earth is an ever so brief preparatory stage for our real life with God in heaven. It is sort of like being in the womb getting ready to be born and to live in the world. In this life we are tested to see if we will choose the things that will bring us into eternity. We were created by God to implement the purposes of God on earth and so God trusts us. This life on earth is a very important temporary assignment, to say that we are living for eternity is to say how important our life is here on earth today.

The Bible makes our ultimate purpose of living for eternity clear in Psalm 119:19, David says "I am but a foreigner here on earth" and in I Peter 1:17 we are told "If you call God your Father, live your time as temporary residents on

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earth", and in 2 Cor. 4:18 Paul says "we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

I believe that Cursillo helps us see the transitional aspect of life on earth and to re-interpret our lives by focusing on God's eternal purposes rather than temporary things.

The disciplines of piety, study, and action should help us distinguish what is temporary and passing from what is eternally significant in God's plan and purpose. For example, the more we know about God and His will for our lives, the more we should see the difference between our future goals, such as building a dream home and the future achievements that God is calling us to do, such as building up his kingdom and church on earth. Cursillo is a great tool that God can use to reveal His eternal purpose for each person in the midst of a cluttered and confusing world. Piety can help us encounter the presence of God and experience His intuitive leading toward His eternal purposes. We can feel and be nudged by God towards doing what God wants us to when we are guided by His presence. Study helps us intellectually learn the thoughts of God to think His thoughts after Him and so think eternal thoughts and not just about temporary earthly things. Action helps us to implement the eternal purposes of God here on earth. Piety, study, and action help us know what God's assignment for each one of our lives is on earth. Cursillo helps us to step back and listen to God and then to look forward to what God wants us to do here and now that will bear fruit for eternity. Life on earth may be limited, temporary, and transitional but it should be lived for God and so is eternally significant. To live your life for eternity does not devalue our life on earth, it shows that it is ultimately important. God wants to show you how important and significant your life can be in this transitional and temporary world.

Your friend in Christ,
Fr. George

"The Big Event" Is Coming

Last November my wife Joan and I, along with our Rector, Fr Steve Wendfeldt, traveled to Camp Allen in Houston, Texas for a three-day conference, entitled "A Clear Vision Of One Church V."

Our diocese had a total of twenty-two attending and, not surprising, most of the group were Cursillistas. San Diego was one of the sponsoring dioceses. Over two hundred people attended the conference from all over the United States including over thirty bishops and many other members of the clergy. Members represented the international Anglican Church from Portugal, Panama and England

The primary goal of this program is to move our churches from a maintenance position to a missionary position. In other words, to help us learn how to energize our evangelism and lead others to Christ. The program started in the diocese of Texas and, in the five years it has been implemented throughout the country, many dioceses have experienced, not just normal growth, but have had the joy of needing to build more churches.

The former bishop of Texas, the Right Reverend Claude E. Payne and his staff, have put together a wonderful program. Our Bishop, Gethin Hughes, has attended the conference and has enthusiastically brought this program to the San Diego Diocese. Bishop Payne has authored a book titled "Reclaiming The Great Commission" and I can tell you, this book is second only to the Holy Bible in my spiritual life. While the Bible tells us what the Lord expects of us, Bishop Payne's book explains how to work towards these goals.

To better clarify the Clear Vision, our diocese will be sponsoring "The Great Event" on Saturday, September 27, 2003 at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Palm Desert. Your church will be receiving much more information in the future on what promises to be the largest gathering of Episcopalians in our diocese' history. There will be workshops and key speakers to add to the success of this day

To insure the success of this one-day event, we will need the enthusiastic support of all our Cursillo brothers and sisters. **Remember, you are the leaders and Christ is counting on you.**

Ultreya,

Jim Merriken



The National Episcopal Cursillo Seminar for 2003 is just around the corner and is coming to San Diego October 24-26, at The Handlery Hotel, San Diego, CA. Send in your application NOW to attend and help support your local Cursillo community as we host the National Seminar.

On Thursday, October 23rd you have the opportunity to attend three Pre-Seminar workshops. The topics for these workshops are Spirituality, Cursillo Speakers Workshop, and Cursillo Music. You can attend these workshops for just \$35.00. You can attend just the pre-seminar workshops if you are unable to attend the entire Seminar.

For an additional \$180.00, you can also attend three of the nine Educational Sessions, which are offered during the three-day seminar, and enjoy six delicious meals beginning with lunch on Friday and ending with breakfast on Sunday. Also included in the registration fee is your opportunity to hear Bishop Daniel Herzog of Albany, New York, deliver the keynote address on Friday evening. You will also be entertained on Saturday evening with a special musical presentation by local musicians from the San Diego Episcopal Cursillo Community followed by an opportunity for all to join in singing with this terrific ensemble. The seminar will include a Latino emphasis as the services will include bi-lingual readings and music. We will be entertained during dinner on Friday by Mariachis.

The topics covered by the nine Educational Sessions are: 1. Weekend Team Training, 2. 4th Day A Priority, 3. Sponsorship, 4. Cursillo and the Bible, 5. Restore and Revive Cursillo, 6. Witness Talk, 7. Cooking on the 3-Day Weekend, 8. Bringing the NEC Publications into the Electronic Age, and 9. Encendiendo la Llama – Lighting the Flame. (Numbers are needed for the registration form.)

The seminar officially begins Friday morning at 10:30 a.m. when The Rt. Rev. Gethin Hughes celebrates the Opening Eucharist. Lunch will be served following the Eucharist. The first Educational Session begins at 2:45 p.m. On Saturday, the day will begin with Morning Prayer followed with breakfast. The second Educational Session begins at 9:15 a.m. and the third Educational Session begins at 1:00 p.m. There will also be Open Sharing Sessions Sunday morning on a variety of topics: A. Ultreyas, B. District Servant Community, C. Parish Representatives, D. Preparing for an ECLW, E. Exporting Cursillo, F. Finances and Fund Raising; followed by the Closing Eucharist.

There is a special NECS rate at the Handlery Hotel of \$95.00 for one to two people and \$105.00 for three to four people.

This is a great opportunity to meet fellow Cursillistas from around the world and to learn more about the Cursillo movement. Send in your application NOW and let's have San Diego be the largest community represented at

**THE NATIONAL EPISCOPAL CURSILLO SEMINAR, SAN DIEGO.
ULTREYA!**

For additional information (registration forms, calendars, etc) and updates please see the NEC website: <http://www.episcopalcursillo.org> or our local website: <http://www.sdcursillo.org>. If you do not have web access please contact the NECS Registrar: Barbara Taylor, 1824 Loyola Court, Chula Vista, CA 91913-3021, just4taylor@cox.net, (619)421-5612 or your local Parish Cursillo Representative.

Forward

NECS 2003 Registration Form
October 24—26, 2003 — San Diego, California

Please Print

Name _____ Diocese _____
(as you would like it to appear on your name tag)

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

Please check all applicable boxes:

- Designated Voting Delegate (One per Diocese)
- NECC Member Clergy First Seminar NECCAR Presenter
- Medical Dietary Concerns (specify) _____
- Roommate Needed Driving — Map Needed

Arrival Date _____ Airline/Flight # _____ Arrival Time _____

Depart Date _____ Airline/Flight # _____ Depart Time _____

(Please provide this information to the Registrar no later than October 15, if not available to submit with the form)

Please make your selections:

Pre-Seminar Workshops: one (\$35.00 for an all day workshop including box lunch)

- 1. Spirituality
- 2. Cursillo Speakers Workshop
- 3. Cursillo Music — Offering Our Best

Educational Sessions by number: 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____ 3rd Choice _____ Alternate Choice _____

Open Sharing / Interest Groups by alphabet letter: 1st Choice _____ Alternate Choice _____

NECS 2003 Logo Items

T-Shirts \$15.00	S <input type="checkbox"/>	M <input type="checkbox"/>	L <input type="checkbox"/>	XL <input type="checkbox"/>	XXL <input type="checkbox"/>	
Polo Shirts \$18.00	S <input type="checkbox"/>	M <input type="checkbox"/>	L <input type="checkbox"/>	XL <input type="checkbox"/>	XXL <input type="checkbox"/>	
Sweatshirts \$25.00	S <input type="checkbox"/>	M <input type="checkbox"/>	L <input type="checkbox"/>	XL <input type="checkbox"/>	XXL <input type="checkbox"/>	

Tote Bags
\$15.00

PAYMENT SUMMARY:

Seminar Registration (\$180.00) _____

Pre-Seminar Registration (\$35.00 including box lunch) _____

Logo Merchandise Items _____

Total Enclosed _____

Make check payable to NECS 2003 and send with this form to:

Barbara Taylor, NECS Registrar

1824 Loyola Court, Chula Vista, CA 91913-3021

Phone: 619-421-5612 Fax: 619-482-0682 E-mail: just4taylor@cox.net

Registration Deadline is October 2, 2003 — Submit One Form for Each Attendee

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 15 Deadline for Dennis Fowle Scholarship application, see June *Forward*.
- 16 Parish Leaders Workshop, contact Judy Anderson, 619-286-1208

SEPTEMBER

- 13 Servant Community, Secretariat at Good Samaritan
- 22 Deadline for October issue of the *Forward*

OCTOBER

- 24-26 National Episcopal Cursillo Seminar (p. 4)

NOVEMBER

- 8 Parish Leaders Workshop, contact Judy Anderson, 619-286-1208
- 8 Grand Ultheya, St. Andrew's La Mesa

JANUARY

- 9-11 Back to the Mountain

ACTION ITEM #1

Airport greeters are needed for the busiest arrival times of NEC Seminar participants during the week of October 20-24. Greeters will NOT be required to provide transportation. Those interested should contact Stew Dadmun, 4319 Avalon Dr, San Diego, 92103-1307, or *sedadmun@worldnet.att.net* for signs and mutually agreed upon arrival times.

ACTION ITEM #2

Cursillistas of the last two weekends, #107 and #108. You have been receiving mailed copies of the *Forward*. If you would like to continue receiving hard copy, please notify Jo An Taylor, Cursillos in Christianity, 2728 Sixth Ave, San Diego, CA, 92103. (Suggested donation \$10.) Or, send Dick Mette, dickmette@cox.net, your email address and he will notify you when the *Forward* is available for download from the website: www.sd cursillo.org

