



Forward

Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Volume IX

August 2004

Our Mission: To Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

FROM THE CHAIR

Hello All,

I have a little secret. It's not a big one, but it's something that I figure I should share. I don't like surprises. I'm willing to put up with them on certain holidays. However, I figure that, as a privilege of adulthood, surprises should be constrained to those events that God has planned.



In that vein, this article will attempt to inform you of the changes that will be taking place over the next couple of months. To the best of my ability, I will also try and explain the motivations behind those changes.

First of all, the traditional 4th Day program will not be used this fall. Instead we will be using "A Day of Deeper Understanding" that we have been doing for the past year. There were several reasons for this. First, the traditional 4th Day program had become a rear view look at the recently completed weekend. We had an encore of the closed Closura with an opportunity for the new Cursillistas to say something to the group. We had a recap of the major talks that occurred on Sunday but had little time to digest them in any meaningful way. Conversely, "A Day of Deeper Understanding" attempts to look forward rather than back. Rather than having individual testimonials, the time is spent in small group discussions. Rather than encouraging the team to commit for one more weekend, only the new Cursillistas

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are expected to attend. (Any other Cursillista may attend as they desire.) Which brings up the final difference - cost. "A Day of Deeper Understanding" includes lunch and additional paper handouts which have not been included in the 4th Day. This is an additional cost of approximately \$10 per person. As the new Cursillistas are expected to attend, this cost has been added to the suggested donation to attend Cursillo. All others would pay with their application for the program.

Second, the questionnaire described in the April issue of the Forward is now available. It will be available as both a hand-out at major Cursillo events for the next several months (i.e. team meetings, Ultreyas, and other events as we become aware of them) and on the web. As we are not signing them, please do not fill out any more than one. We will try to keep you apprised of any trends that appear in the results.

In completely different news, Frank and Motty Durham have agreed to be the Rector/a for the Back to the Mountain in January. From my initial talks with them, it sounds like they are going to have a great program.

Ultreya, Patrick

Look for the next Forward in early October,
With Team and Candidate lists.
Articles, calendar events and other materials are due
no later than September 27th.

Send to
Harry Packard
5336 Noah Way San Diego CA 92117-1330
Phone: 858-274-1019
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New names, addresses and changes to Barbara Taylor,
Phone 619-421-5612 e-mail: just4taylor@cox.net

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What Is Your World View, and Where Does It Come From?

A world view is a set of presuppositions about the basic make up of the world. These presuppositions may be true or false, may be explicit or implicitly held beliefs through which you interpret your world. What do the words "your world" mean? It means the world around you and your place in it.

In a pluralistic culture like we have in the United States, there may be many different world views floating around. Each world view has its assumptions about what is true and not true. For example the secular materialistic world view, a world view often held in Universities, assumes that religious ideas are not true or can not be known to be true. Of course a Christian can not agree with this world view and we must challenge the notion that religious ideas can not be known to be true. The problem for Christians is that our ideas can be simply assumed not to be true by many people based on their world view, without ever actually examining what Christianity teaches. Even Christians can question certain aspects of their faith based on the hidden assumptions of a world view and not really know what the Bible teaches. First of all we need to be aware of what Scripture says and then ask a lot of questions about things that we and others assume to be true.

We also need to ask the deep philosophical questions that every world view tries to answer. James Sire in his book, The Universe Next Door: a Worldview Catalog, lists what he believes are the questions:

What is the prime reality—the really real?

What is the nature of external reality that is the world around us?

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What is a human being?

What happens to a person at death?

Why is it possible to know anything at all?

How do we know what is right and wrong?

What is the meaning of human history?

Sire writes "the fact is that we can not avoid assuming some answers to such questions. We will adopt either one stance or another . . ."

We as Christians need to ask ourselves what is the Christian answer to these questions? We also need to ask where am I currently finding the answers to these questions—the newspaper, MTV, poetry, novels, T.V. programs, what my parents taught me? We then need to go to the Bible and try to find and think about Biblical answers and compare them to the other answers. As we do this we will see differences between world views and we will become clearer about our Christian world view. An easy way to try to find Christian answers to these questions is to look at the Catechism in the Book of Common Prayer, starting on page 845. We need to be clearer about what our Christian world view is in our pluralistic culture. What's your world view and where does it come from?

Your friend in Christ,

Father George



School Days-Witness with a Plan

Recently, I planned to share my faith with my adult students. I teach writing classes in the Sweetwater School District. Just before Cursillo, I told them that they would have a substitute the next day because I was going on a Church retreat. "You are important to me, and I am going to miss you. However, Church comes first! I am part of a team of men sharing our faith with others."

Then before lunch, I explained to Pat, an office worker, that I would not be there to turn in my attendance on Friday. When I told her I would be at a Church retreat, she immediately shared that she was a Christian. Later, she and I talked about what was happening in her life.

After the weekend, I shared my experience briefly with my students on Monday. Francisco asked, "Are you a Christian?"

"Yes, I am, I replied."

A week or so later, another student shared with me that she had a home Church she attended and held Bible studies. I said how wonderful that was and that I studied the Bible. I was helping this same student last week and she shared that she was too old to learn, old like Abraham.

"You mean like Sara and Rebecca?"

And she laughed and said "Yes!" We were sharing our faith in front of two other students sitting with Martina.

Just yesterday, I was talking with a fellow teacher in the teachers' lounge. I mentioned that Phil was a good friend of mine.

Lisa said, "Phillip is a good Christian man."

So I said "Yes, so am I!" laughing. And Lisa smiled too.

So, I planned how to share my faith, briefly. Then others were led to share theirs. And we shared in front of others. Also, I took advantage of openings others gave me. I plan to continue planning simple apostolic action, as well as listening for opportunities to share when a moment arises.

Ted Parsons

My Cursillo

I have flowers in my kitchen.
I have flowers in my hair.
I have flowers in my bedroom.
I have flowers everywhere!

I've had people praying for me-
Some I know but most I don't.
My gratitude is endless.
Forget them? No, I won't!

I have Jesus in my heart.
His hand is on my shoulder.
I have prayers to last a lifetime-
Joy! as I grow older.

Our theme- it came from John-
About the vine and grapes-
All growing on the branches,
God's fruit- we now take shape.

Up in the hills of Julian-
The sun was shining bright.
The air was clear and crisp.
God shined on me His light.

Palanca- there's a new one-
I could not comprehend it.
That bag so full of greetings
It seemed they never ended.

Ambazo- it's a form of greeting.
It's really an embrace.
And everyone loves doing it-
And leaves a great big trace!

The Cocineras did their best
To keep me so well fed.
My plate was never empty.
I truly loved the bread!

They sang, they danced, cavorted.
Their mirth- it never ended.
Some were so very crazy, Lord,
Their minds You must have bend
(ed).

The table leaders worked so hard
To keep us all on course.
We had intense discussions.
I'm better now, not worse.

Our musicians- what a calling
To show God's love that way.
Their music was inspiring-
Kudos! to Lauree, Pat, Kathy!

Rollistas- what a name!
They imparted lots of wisdom,
And spoke with eloquence.
Now it's I who seek Your Kingdom.

Fathers Don and Tom and Ed-
Let's not leave out our Deacon Dee.
They surely led us wisely-
Opened my eyes so I can See!

I've never served Communion
To another soul.
My hands- they trembled gently.
A loving, awesome role!

Our Rectora and her cohorts-
A beautiful lot, no doubt,
Their leadership- strong-willed.
But, they led with gentle clout.

Judy's rule was so love-filled.
She did so very well.
She managed everything with ease-
With... or without, her bell!

And, then there's Sunday morning.
Good Lord! What a surprise!
To be awakened in that way-
The sand still in my eyes.

The singing, flowers and candy,
The love surrounding us all.
The Holy Spirit descending
As the Dove I love so well.

I prayed aloud for others
That You will show your grace,
That You will lead them upward
Into Your shining place.

I prayed aloud with others.
I found the words to say
That I have been a sinner
And I will mend my ways.

Right now I'm reading James.
I'm told it's all right there.
I've made a fresh beginning-
And this is my new prayer:

God, please help me realize
The future yet to be-
Envisioned by Your people
Who've shown Your love to me.

With all their prayers and
wishes
And them right by my side
I see where I am going
And know You'll be my guide.

Your love is all-enfolding,
I feel so very safe.
Please hold me in Your hand,
Lord,
Till I can see Your face.

And, soon there comes Ultreya-
I wonder what that means.
I think it means "Go Forward!"
As one of God's new team.

My sponsor, Barbara Britain,
I don't know what to say.
She'll be my inspiration,
My example in every way.

De Colores!

Ruthie Grell, Cursillo 110,
April, 2004

BON CAMINO!

You may recall hearing about a pilgrimage that the founders of Cursillo made to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela almost sixty years ago. They called "Ultreya" to each other as an encouragement to their footsore and tired friends on the steep hills.

Konnie and I had the privilege of experiencing some sore feet along the last 85 miles of Camino de Santiago de Compostela (Way of St. James) this last spring. As we passed through the northern Spanish countryside we noticed more parallels between the Camino and a Cursillo Weekend than "Ultreya!"

We became aware that many people along the way were being especially nice to us pilgrims (*peregrinos*). Over the centuries they had engineered the Camino to make it less steep, routed it through pretty country, built water fountains, planted groves of trees (in an area where wood is particularly valuable) to shade us from the hot sun, and had planted flowers, including beautiful roses, that we could enjoy even though they would not be able to see them from their homes. And then there were the road side *peregrino* high crosses and chapels that invited us to pray.

The evening of Pentecost we heard Cursillo type music and were invited to pray with a group of Roman Catholic young people from Birmingham England together with their priest and adult advisors. They made a point of including Konnie and me fully in their outdoor mass even though they knew we were Anglican. The Camino de Santiago, after all, had been among the most important pilgrimages in Europe for over five hundred years before there was any division of Western Christendom.

And then Santiago, what a joyous place! Narrow cobbled streets filled with thousands of people from all over the world, bagpipers, dancers in traditional costume, singing groups, even a brass choir with tympani and conductor all taking advantage of the fabulous acoustics of the city's passages and

archways. Masses are said all day long in the cathedral to packed crowds milling about. The *peregrino* mass each noon honors those who have made the pilgrimage, some walking from as far away as Germany. During mass, a two hundred pound incense pot suspended from the top of the crossing is swung, spewing smoke and flames, through an arc the length of the two transept aisles by eight men working a pulley. It is said that its original purpose was to mask the smell of us *peregrinos*.

Our fellow *peregrinos* never said "Ultreya!" though in our second to last day's walk Konnie and I enjoyed a Diet Coke in the differently spelled "Ultreia Bar." The constant call we *peregrinos* exchanged along the way was "Bon Camino!" That Spanish word, like its English counterpart "Way," means not only a walking path but also a manner of living. In the Spanish translation, Jesus says, "I am the *Camino*" (John 14:6) and the earliest followers of Jesus were called "The *Camino*" (Acts 9:2; 18:25,26; 19:9,23; 22:4; 24:14,22). One piece of literature we read before we left home said that "when you leave Santiago the real Camino begins." Like the Cursillo Fourth Day, that is what the Camino de Santiago is about.

Bon Camino!

Stew Dadmun



From the Rector, #111

It is hard to believe that the summer is nearly over and the fall weekends are just 2 months away. Have you been praying for Christ's direction on sponsoring your friends? Do you have interested friends that have previously told you they had "scheduling conflicts"? As Ambassadors for Christ it is our responsibility to discuss sponsorship with their parish priest, and then talk to our friends about joining us in Cursillo.

I am pleased to report that planning is well underway for the weekend. Our team meeting for Cursillistas working for the first time is scheduled for September 18th, with full team meetings starting a week later on Sept 25th. Rev. Tom Bond will be our Spiritual Advisor and Larry Salvadori will be our Experienced Rector. We still have lots of space left on our team and I urge you to prayerfully consider if you are called to work with us this weekend. Regardless of whether you have never worked a weekend or if you love working nearly every one, now is the time to submit your application.

Do you believe in the power of prayer? I do! I have seen it work so many times in my life and especially on these weekends. So if you are already over scheduled and can't join the team this time we need your prayers for our candidates and the team. I know that with your prayers these weekends will be filled with the power of the Spirit, providing the team and our new Cursillistas the spiritual support needed for their walk.

"Here am I! Send ME." Isaiah 6:8

Jim Macemon
jim.macemon@cox.net

From the Rectora, #112

Greetings and peace be with you all.

We have just had our 2nd core team meeting and things are progressing smoothly. We are putting final touches on menu planning and team assignments. I want to thank Lynda Gibson and Jim John for helping to make our meal planning easier.

The core team, that is, Barbara McBride, Joan Perkins, Desi Foster, Lauree Jordan, Joann Green, Karen Rice, Sam Spaulding, Mary Brown and Fr. Wayne Sanders, have been prayerfully considering team assignments. Those assignment letters should be going out in the mail the first week of August. **This letter will also have dates and locations of the team meetings.**

I also want to remind those of you who are unable to work the full weekend, you may want to consider being a Sunday Angel or Prayer Warrior. So, whether you come up for the day or keep us in prayer throughout the weekend from wherever you are, I want you to know, you are a great blessing to us all.

fhs

Victoria Crofoot

"...nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:39

**DEADLINE FOR
CANDIDATE/SPONSOR APPLICATIONS
IS *SEPTEMBER 24TH*
SEE SPONSORSHIP ARTICLE !
REVISED APPLICATIONS ARE ON THE WEBSITE**

Attention Potential Sponsors!

The fall Cursillo weekends are rapidly approaching. Have you been working on your sponsorship ministry? Are you ready and prepared to sponsor a candidate on this most auspicious spiritual journey? I'd like to take this opportunity to go over a few important aspects of sponsorship and also to alert you to several changes.

What did Jesus do when He wanted to bring His Gospel to the world? He went out to look for certain types of individuals. He was not being exclusive; he was being practical. He chose leaders, or potential leaders—people who had the potential to influence others. Cursillo works in the same way. Since the goal is to penetrate everyday living situations with Christian witness, it makes sense to try to find those individuals, already active members of their churches, who have the potential to be effective witnesses. The important criteria in identifying these people are willingness and an ability to engage in active Christian witness in the community and openness to God's leading through the Spirit.

According to the Leader's Manual, the candidate for Cursillo is a baptized Christian, reasonably stable and mature, with a desire for God's love, a longing to be set on fire with zeal to do His work in the Church and in the world. We should not invite someone to attend Cursillo just because they seem like a "great person". Before sponsoring a person for Cursillo, we should take a prayerful look at his or her Christian life. Is he or she searching for Christ? Do you see Christ in this person? Does he or she have the potential to see Christ in others? Will this person grow from the Cursillo experience? Cursillo is not intended to be a conversion experience; it is for persons who have a Christian commitment and are looking for a renewal and growth in that commitment. As a sponsor, we have responsibilities to potential candidates for Cursillo, as well as to the Cursillo community.

The first thing we should do when considering sponsoring a person for a Cursillo weekend is to pray and ask for God's guidance. Secondly, we should talk with our priest about the person. He or she may know some reasons why this might not be the right person or the right time. Given the priest's blessing, a good way to be able to answer these questions I just mentioned is to invite this person to our groupings. I truly believe that we should be identifying potential Cursillistas at least 3-6 months in advance of a Three-Day Weekend.

By doing so, we can get to know them better so to be able to answer these questions. They can see first-hand what it means to be living an active Christian life by participating in the grouping activities of piety, study and action. It is only through personal witness that we will make the Cursillo Method attractive to prospective candidates. Obviously this means that sponsors must be actively involved in grouping.

The sponsor should explain the weekend, assuring the candidate that they make ask any question they want to know about the weekend. We want candidates to be excited and looking forward to the weekend, not afraid and nervous as a result of little or misleading information.

Sponsoring a candidate and working on the team at the weekend one's candidate attends should be avoided if possible; but if unavoidable, a co-sponsor should be found.

Other items that the sponsor should ascertain are:

1. The candidate should be free of family stress, e.g. recent divorce or family deaths. Usually a period of one year from the occurrence of the trauma is suggested.
2. The candidate must be a Christian and, with very few exceptions, an Episcopalian.
3. The candidate should be strongly encouraged to make the Cursillo in the diocese of his or her Christian environment. While we realize this may not always be possible, we feel that the candidates Fourth Day life will be substantially aided by participation within his existing community. If it is not possible, the person's home Secretariat should be notified.

When the candidate is married, the sponsor should recommend highly that both husband and wife make a Cursillo because the Cursillo experience is intended to be shared.

As we know, the Cursillo weekend is just the beginning of the rest of the candidate's spiritual life. Everything that drives Cursillo is focused on the Fourth Day. Pre-Cursillo looks for persons who can spread the Gospel into their environments. The Three-days is a catalyst for awakening and equipping apostles. The Fourth Day is where the action is, and where the results of the previous efforts will show.

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Sponsors are responsible for affording their candidate(s) the opportunity for a Fourth Day life, aiding and encouraging him or her to belong to a permanent Group Reunion and Ultreya. Specifically, the sponsor needs to ensure that the new Cursillista joins an existing group, or if that is not possible, help in establishing a new group. If the sponsor is not willing to do this, they should **not** sponsor a candidate.

In summary, the sponsor has many responsibilities in all three areas of Cursillo. Sponsors should:

Know the goal of Cursillo,

Be familiar with who should and who should not attend a Three-Day Weekend,

Know the candidate well and support him or her at every stage,

Be an authentic witness to the Christian life and be active in the Fourth Day,

Take responsibility for incorporating the Cursillista into the Fourth Day community.

Finally of course, sponsors should pray about a candidate BEFORE inviting him or her to make Cursillo, and constantly before, during and after the Weekend.

Some changes you need to know about:

The "Fourth Day" program, traditionally held in conjunction with an Ultreya on the weekend following the Women's weekend, has changed. ***The "Fourth Day" program is now "A Day of Deeper Understanding". It will be held November 20, 2004 at St. Bartholomew's (see FROM THE CHAIR). While sponsors are welcome to attend, it is not required as it was with the "Fourth Day" program. Sponsors pay their candidate's fee for this program in the sponsorship fees. There will be a Grand Ultreya on November 6, 2004.***

Sponsorship fees have increased (to keep up with increased fees to put on the Three Day Weekends). ***The fees for the upcoming fall weekends are \$105.00 per candidate. This includes the fee for your candidate to attend "A Day of Deeper Understanding".***

If you have any questions about sponsorship or the changes mentioned above, I will be happy to talk with you. You can reach me at 858.943.8922 or jbshelly@adelphia.net.

Jeanette Shelly
Chair, Pre-Cursillo

The Fourth Day (the rest of your life) Has Arrived!

Many of your fellow Cursillistas are serving you through the Servant Community and the Secretariat.

Over the last few months, many activities and changes have occurred to assist you in your Fourth Day. You can obtain phone numbers and more information from your Parish Rep, from this newsletter, and from the Saints Roster. Call Ted Parsons if you have any other questions. 619-267-4760

Some improvements have been reported before. However, here is a short list. Training for new weekend team members is in place. Improved stewardship of food and donations is in place through advisors to kitchen team members. More supplies are available to you. More training and information is available about Cursillo. Spiritual directors are available to you from a list. Cursillo and Vocare are working closely together; Cursillo helps when asked or needed. An updated musicians' songbook has been developed and distributed. Efforts are in progress to improve and standardize baby-sitting for Cursillo events. Teams are available to help with your Ultreyas. The web site is continually being looked at for improvements. If you want to serve, we have a place for you!

Harry Packard is our newsletter editor. The **Forward** is published on the website. Hardcopy can be mailed to you by request. Suggested annual donation of \$10.

Dick Mette is our Cursillo web master. Log on to www.sdcursillo.org.

Fr. Ed Renner coordinates the Cursillo prayer chain through a web site. Contact him too! edrenner@dslextrême.com Isn't praying for others important?

Daniel Machemer is our liaison with Vocare. He is extremely knowledgeable about

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Vocare, their events, and people to contact. If you want to help or attend a weekend, he can help you. The next Vocare weekend is November 12-14 at St. Dunstan's. A key part of our Bishop's pastoral plan for Cursillo is to have us serve and support all the youth ministries.

Scott Brown is the Grouping Coordinator. If you want to register your group meeting time and place, he will add it to the referral data base. Call him if you want information about groups that meet at convenient times for you. We need Scott's service because the group reunion is a key part of our Cursillo method.

Ken Rice is the point of contact for ordering Cursillo supplies. He has some on hand. Just call him. Perhaps you need a grouping card and your Parish Rep does not have any left. The Parish Rep or you may get them from Ken. Maybe you need a song book. Call or email Ken. Naturally you can order directly from NEC for your supplies. However, Ken is making it convenient for our community members to get needed consumable paper supplies.

Parish Leaders' Workshops are provided through Judy Anderson and her team. The next one is September 18 at St. Anne's Ocean-side. 12:30 register, 5:30 finish (See following article) These workshops are NOT only for Parish Reps, but other leaders in your parish. Learn how to be a parish leader or Parish Rep. Get the Parish Leaders' Handbook! It is invaluable as a resource.

Clint Taylor-Anything you want to know about Ultreyas can be provided by Clint. He will help put one on for your parish or arrange for people to come to your Ultreyas. Just call. He also will help provide music. He sets up the Grand Ultreyas as well. The next one is November 6. Ultreyas are groupings of the groups, another key part of our Cursillo method. More details later.

Father Tony Baron and Ted Parsons can help with people wanting to know more about Spiri

tual Directors/Friends and finding a person to be a director. Remember this is also a key part of our Cursillo method. Not everyone has to have a spiritual friend. However, why not find out more about it! Call us. Thanks to Fr. Tony, we have a long list of clergy who are willing to serve you as a spiritual director. A lay person also may serve as your spiritual friend.

Ann Packard coordinates the ECLW's and A Day of Deeper Understanding (DDU). The ECLW's are scheduled for every three years here in San Diego. These three day workshops allow you to learn more about Cursillo from a national perspective. The teams come from outside our Diocese. We have had at least three over the last few years. The DDU is a one day workshop primarily for new Cursillistas to ask questions, talk to other Cursillistas, and learn what the basics of Cursillo are. If you want to know more about Cursillo and to serve, go to a DDU to learn how. The next DDU is on November 20 at St. Bartholomew's.

Mike Orcutt and Stew Dadmun coordinate us on the Servant Community. If you want to know what activities are being planned, attend a Servant Community meeting. There are lay and clergy talks from the National Episcopal Cursillo Library. The Library is a series of small booklets that explain everything about Cursillo. The Servant Community meets every three months on the second Saturday, followed by the Secretariat meeting in the early afternoon. The next one is at 8:45 on September 11 at Good Samaritan.

Patrick McBride is our Secretariat Chair. He oversees policy setting for you. The meetings are open to all of us. Come to the next one at 1:00 on September 11 at Good Samaritan.

Ted Parsons and Frank Durham
Fourth Day Co-chairs

Parish Leaders Workshop

The Parish Representative Committee announces this year's Parish Leaders Workshop at St. Anne's, Oceanside (701 West Street) on Saturday, Sept. 18. Registration will begin at 12:30 in the Parish Hall. The workshop will run from 1-5:30. We invite all Cursillistas to attend this Workshop. By virtue of making your Weekend, you are considered a leader.

To be an active leader you need the tools we will provide at this Workshop:

Handbook, short talks (not rollos), table discussions, questions and answers. If you want to increase the level of Cursillo activity in your parish, this Workshop can help. For further information, please call or write Judy Anderson-619-286-1208, imanderson@cnsurety.com, or Ted Parsons, 619-267-4760, tparsons@sdcoc.k12.ca.us

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

11 Servant Community at Good Samaritan, 9-12, followed by Secretariat at 1:00

11 ULTREYA!! 7:00, Good Shepherd,
3990 Bonita Rd, 619-479-0943

25 Team Meetings start

OCTOBER

21-24 Men's Weekend
28-31 Women's Weekend
28-31 National Episcopal Cursillo Seminar, Camp Allen TX

NOVEMBER

6 Grand Ultreya
20 A Day of Deeper Understanding