



Forward

Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Volume XI

December 2006

Our Mission: To Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

From the Chair

Wow, what a year! That is the first thing that comes to mind as I start this, my last message, to you as Chairperson of the San Diego Cursillo Secretariat. We have been through a lot this past year and have been witness to many changes. But through it all God and all His mercies has been with us, carrying us through the sad times and rejoicing with us through the happy times. For those of you who were not at the Grand Ultreya I gave my thanks for your prayers. I know that God heard them because I felt Him holding me up, I am most thankful to you all. God does listen!

I would also like to give special thanks to those who served with me on the board this past year. All of you have been there for God and his Church and for me. I've learned a lot from each of you. Thank you.

But remember that He has much for us to do. Many challenges are still ahead and much work is still needed. Be of good courage and face those challenges head on with God in front of you. Listen to His word so you can continue to do His work.

Be active in this community. Make a friend, be a friend and bring that friend to Christ. Cursillo is an opportunity for many, so don't pass up the chance to spread the word. Bring a friend to a Servant Community meeting, someone you know may just need a door opened for them. Group weekly, and challenge your group to continue the work. This is your 4th day, make good use of it. Sponsor someone to attend a Cursillo Weekend. Send palanca to other communities, we all can use prayer. Participate in some way with New Beginnings, Happenings and Vocare. Remember they are a big part of this community also. I attended the New Beginnings closing and was just blown away by these kids. They need us as much as we need them.

God bless you all and thank you.

Ultreya, Victoria

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From the Spiritual Advisor

Why Kids Need to Attend Sunday School

In the 1950's a very high percentage of kids in the United States attended Sunday school or received some form of Biblical education in catholic schools or in synagogue classes. In the 1960's Sunday school attendance started to decline, a decline that has continued to ever lower levels to the present day.

As Sunday school attendance has declined over the last several decades so has the knowledge of the Bible. Many of today's adults who were children after the 1960's seldom if ever attended Sunday school and know almost nothing about the Bible. This lack of Biblical knowledge is a huge development in American society yet it is one of the best kept secrets. No one wants to talk about it. For adults both inside and outside of the church it's embarrassing to admit they do not know about the Bible.

But to know about the Bible is essential if you want to know about God because the Bible is our primary source of knowledge about God. Or to put it another way, it is hard to know about God and His will for your life if you do not know about the Bible because God reveals Himself to us through the words of the Bible.

If a child never goes to Sunday school he or she probably won't learn about the Bible and therefore will not learn about God. The most important thing a child can learn about is God; it is a disaster that so few kids are learning about God. These children are locked into a secular materialist world view without seeing the other dimensions of reality that God wants to show us through the Bible. A child that does not know about the God of the Bible may find him or herself living in the shallow world of materialism and be dominated by popular culture, but missing out on the great spiritual and moral purposes for which God placed us on this earth.

Let's look at some concrete examples, some real life situations. A child's grandparent dies. At a time like this a child starts to wonder if there is more to life than just this material world. Wouldn't it be better that the child was in Sunday school and had learned about heaven and how to get there? If the parent tells a child the grandparent is in heaven and the child has never been in Sunday school the word "heaven" will not have much meaning because they will not have seen how this word is used in the Bible. The word "heaven" will function as a word of emotional comfort, not a bad thing, but convey almost nothing more. But isn't it vitally important that they know more about heaven?

A teenager who has never gone to Sunday school goes to the movie theater with his friends. They watch a very exciting story that glorifies stealing, lying and immoral sexual activity. On the big screen it looks so cool, so sophisticated and like so much fun. The teenager who has never been to Sunday

school may have a vague intuitive idea that some of the behavior is wrong, but not a clear idea of what is wrong. In fact, he might start rationalizing, if it's fun and sophisticated perhaps it's not really wrong after all. On the other hand the teenager with a Sunday school education will clearly see what is wrong and why it is wrong. This Biblically grounded teenager will also see the movie as an entertaining story but will have the tools to think about what is wrong with the movie and not take home with him some erroneous ideas.

A person with Biblical knowledge has God's word, which has stood the test of time, with which to compare the fads and erroneous ideas of popular culture. Without this foundation it is all too easy for both teenagers and adults to buy into erroneous thinking that is broadcast over and over again by the news media and the entertainment industry.

Another reason kids should be in Sunday school is that you have to learn about basic Biblical ideas in order to think about God, ideas such as the creation, the fall, the law, the incarnation, atonement, the resurrection, the second coming, and heaven. We need to have knowledge of these ideas if we are going to think theologically. We should not simply believe that God exists; we should be able to think about God for ourselves, and to think about what God is doing in the world and in our lives. But in order to think theologically a person has to have at least a Sunday school level knowledge of the Bible. A person needs to be able to think theologically for him or herself and not just let the clergy do it for them.

I have saved the most important reason kids need to be in Sunday school to last. Learning about the Bible helps give a person what they need to know to make a decision to let Jesus Christ come into their life. A person must hear, really hear, the word of Christ before they can come to faith in Christ.

Paul says in Romans chapter 10, "But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim Him? And how are they to proclaim Him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" But not all have obeyed the good news; for Isaiah says "Lord who has believed our message? So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ."

Kids as well as adults need to hear the "word of Christ" before they will be able to have faith in Christ and to follow Christ. Sunday school lets kids hear the "word of Christ" at their level, so that faith can start developing, giving them an opportunity to later accept Jesus as their savior.

I believe that kids need to be in Sunday school and I also believe adults should be in Christian education classes and small group Bible studies. We always must be hearing the "word of Christ" if we are going to be followers of Jesus.

Your friend in Christ,
Father George

From the Rectora

Women's Weekend
Spring 2007 – April 26-27-29

Genesis 9:13 I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth

Forgetfulness is a problem for us as humans. Because God knows our tendency not to remember his faithfulness and constancy, he has provided a variety of ways to tie a string around our finger. When we see a rainbow, he intends for us to remember his promise never again to wreak massive destruction on the human race or on earth's creatures. In addition, God assures us in Genesis 9:14-16 that the rainbow will serve to remind *Him* of His promise to *us*. He is much like a mother who comforts her child by plugging in a night-light, saying it will remind her to come and check on her little one. In actuality, the mother isn't likely to forget her promise. Nor is God. But the night-light and the rainbow serve as a comfort and a reminder to all the parties involved.

God keeps His promises. Come and see just how as we offer rollos, meditations, and many other special events to new Cursillistas next Spring. We will need a team of many colors and I'm sure there's a special place for you. Send in your application and be a part of this rainbow. And start thinking about who you plan to sponsor. Without candidates we have no reason to build a team!!

DeColores,

Pat Sunda
Rectora, Cursillo #122

Look for the next Forward in early February.
Articles, calendar events and other materials are due
(preferably in electronic format)
no later than January 27. Send to:
Petra Orta
4454 S AVENUE 19E
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928-785-9689 petra_orta@yahoo.com

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

BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN January 5—7, 2007

Begin the new year, 2007, with a very special weekend of renewal, prayer, reflection, singing, fellowship, socializing and focusing on Christ and your neighbors at beautiful Camp Stevens.

The theme for the weekend is from Psalm 51, "*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*"

We plan to have time to worship together, time for personal reflection, time to renew old friendships, and time to make new ones. If you have been on a three day weekend that models the Fourth Day concept like Cursillo or Walk to Emmaus, you are more than welcome.

The cost for the weekend is \$115 if paid by 12/30/06 and \$125 until the cut-off date of 1/2/07. Please don't wait until the last minute as reservations fill up early.

The application is included in this issue of the Forward. It can also be downloaded from <http://-www.sdcursillo.org>

We hope to see you there.

Bruce Weir, Rector
Judy Potter, Rectora

Secretariat Election Results:

Elected for 3-year terms - Sue Embick, Craig Noble and Lani Woods.

Elected for clergy 3-year term - Rev. Tom Bond.

Elected for clergy 1-year term - Rev. Brent Cary.

Congratulations to All!

COME BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN

Begin 2007 with a refresher course and a very special time of retreat - for spiritual renewal, prayer, singing, walks, and fireside chats. Relax, read, or journal and have fun! See old friends and meet new ones. You are again encouraged to also bring good books for another book exchange this year.

Theme for the weekend....

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:11

What is "Back To The Mountain"?

A spiritual retreat at Camp Stevens which will include talks, discussion, music, and plenty of free time. It is a great time to regroup one's self after the Holiday Season, and focus on where our Lord is calling us to serve.

Food will be provided by Camp Stevens staff, so bring yourself, a sleeping bag, your Bible, and Song Book. Casual, layered, warm clothing is needed - - it can get pretty warm inside, but be very cold outside - - rain or snow, even!!!!

Who may attend?

Any adult who has been on a three day weekend that models the Fourth Day concept like Cursillo or Walk To Emmaus.

When is it?

7:00 p.m. Friday, January 5, 2007, thru noon on Sunday, January 7th.

Want more information?

Contact Judy Potter (760) 329-4135 or judithdhs@aol.com or Bruce Wier at (760) 580-4203 (cell). Also check <http://www.sdcursillo.org> for details.

What does it cost?

\$115 if paid by 12/30/06; \$125 after 12/30/06. The cut off date for registration is 1/2/07. Reservations fill up early each year, so don't wait till the last minute to register. A non-refundable \$50.00 deposit is due by 12/17/06. Some scholarships are available on a confidential basis. Friday Night dinner (6:00 PM) is available for an extra \$7.50.

Applications and payment (or deposit) should be sent to:

Judy Potter
19430 Paint Brush Trail
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92241

----- Cut here -----

Checks should be made out to:

Cursillos in Christianity with "Back To The Mountain" on the memo line.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City State Zip Code _____

Phone/e-mail _____

Parish _____

Number of Reservations: ___ (M) ___ (F) Number of Friday Dinners _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Special dietary needs: _____

Could you offer a ride? ___ Do you need a ride? ___

Do you NEED a lower bunk? ___



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 9) Servant Community, 8:30 a.m., Good Sam's
- 9) Secretariat, 12:30 p.m., Good Sam's
- 25) *And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace...*

JANUARY 2007

- 4) Secretariat, 6:30 p.m., Good Sam's
- 5-7) Back to the Mountain, Camp Steven's

Don't Forget!!

Servant Community Meeting
Saturday, December 9
8:30 am to Noon