



Forward

Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Volume XII

October 2007

Our Mission: To Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

From the Chair

This weekend I went to a diocesan program called Telling Your Faith Stories, thinking it might be about evangelism, and it was. What better subject is there for a cursillista? After all, Cursillo was founded specifically to reach more people, to teach a group of young men how to talk about God and bring their age group back into the church.

In Cursillo today in San Diego, there is a lot of talk about evangelism, but I find myself telling not about what I did to evangelize but how other people have moved me along in my own spiritual journey. I always feel that I fall short, so I attended this conference with some trepidation! But I came away feeling that listening to others and telling people about God can happen in an ordinary conversation. One of the speakers, Rev. Dr. David Gortner, talked about listening to another person's stories, cares and concerns and trying to find the holy and give it a name, such as gratitude, and to try to connect it to a bible story. To read the bible and look for the holy. Both speakers stressed that it is not helpful to run up to someone and say, "Hi, I'm an Episcopalian, can I tell you about my church?" We already know how that feels, most of us have had someone do that to us. But developing our awareness of the pivotal times in our lives and where we were with God, and then learning to do the same in our daily lives gives us an awareness of how other people are feeling, and that may, one day, give us the opportunity to recognize our story when listening to someone else. Then we can tell them something from a place of authenticity, from deep within ourselves. The Rev. Charles Fulton said, "You can't become an evangelist if you don't have a story."

Where is God in your life? We lose track of that all important question sometimes, but there are situations for gratitude and joy all around us. If we can keep our eyes on things above, the earthly things will come into focus.

Peace of the Lord, Jane Schuler

*Let us all remember to continue to pray for those affected by the fires.

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GRAND ULTREYA & SECRETARIAT ELECTIONS

Saturday, November 3rd

6:00 P.M.—Potluck

7:00 P.M.—Ultreya

St. Paul's Cathedral

2728 Sixth Avenue, San Diego

Secretariat Candidate Profiles:

Judy Anderson

I made my Cursillo 26 years ago in the LA Diocese and worked many weekends there and in San Diego. At St. Dunstan's I am Cursillo Parish Rep (for 14 years), lector and Daughter of the King. For several year I have been a member of the Servant Community and have the responsibility of Parish Rep Coordinator. I have served on the Secretariat for the last year as 4th Day Co Chair and have arranged a schedule of one ultreya per month at various churches. If I am elected to the Secretariat I will continue to focus on the 4th day--the rest of my life!!

Bill Blakeslee

Where I go to Church: St. Paul's Cathedral

My Cursillo history: I made Cursillo #57 in October 1990 while as a member of St. David's.

My family moved to San Diego in 1956. We joined St. David's Episcopal Church around 1958 or 1959. We continued to go until my mother got sick in 1966. We stopped going as there was no way I could get to St. David's.

Since I have always been Episcopalian, somehow I visited a Baptist church close to home, but I was never comfortable there.

So one day in 1987, I was just frustrated and rather lonely, seeking help from somewhere. As I am single, I took myself back to St. David's in September. There, I met Richard Lief, who was the rector at St. David's.

I immediately went into action and served as an acolyte, reader, and directed the Men's Fellowship group.

Father Lief sponsored me to Cursillo three years later.

The time that I went to my first Cursillo was a time of trouble emotionally for me. My father had emergency surgery the night before. I was afraid that he would not make it through the night. He did, but still I worried whether he would make it through the weekend because a stroke was imminent.

When I arrived at Camp Stevens, I remembered asking the men there to pray for my dad and me. I was just on an emotional roller coaster that night.

The following morning, I felt I had to put my worries aside and concentrate on His word, through the words of the Rollistas and the activities throughout the weekend. That was a marvelous time for me.

When I got back down the mountain, God took care of my dad. I was able to see him for a few minutes when I got back into San Diego after Closura and dinner with my sponsor.

Since my first Cursillo, I have served on more than a dozen teams.

My faith is renewed each time I go to Cursillo as it is a good time to get out of town and take even more closer walks with the Lord. My faith is also renewed that on game days with the Padres, I can still be at the Cathedral in time, ready to serve if needed. I usually take public transportation to get to the Cathedral on game days. Other times, I just drive.

I now serve as Cursillo Parish Representative for St. Paul's Cathedral.



Look for the next Forward in early December. Articles, calendar events and other materials are due (preferably in electronic format) **no later than November 23**. Send to:

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**New names, addresses and changes for
Saint's Roster to Barbara Taylor**

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Who remembers the Little Red Hen? Briefly, she decided to grow some crops. So she asked the other barnyard animals many times if they would help plant some seeds. Oh, no! they said. They were too busy. They did not have time. So, she did all the work. What is the moral? My parable is that you and I as Christians are not supposed to do everything ourselves. We need help. We need to ask others for help. Everyone is charged with harvesting others for Christ.

My talk is about my efforts for Christ in my work environment. Many women are single mothers. At least one has been kicked out of her home with no place to go. Still other young women have a serious attitude problem - no smiles and are rarely at my workplace. Two have contemplated suicide. Some men are ex-cons. One in particular removed his shirt so he could show his tattoos to the women. At least two are probably gang members. Yet another was killed in a gang incident. Still another man was a counselor at a community shelter for HIV/AIDS infected men.

I am a teacher. I shall share my plan and results to help my students in adult school. My work environment includes many teachers and support staff. After each weekend, we normally share what we did. I make it a point to say that I attended church, gave a children's sermon, or other church activities, like Cursillo retreats. Numerous other teachers and staff are Christians. I know that because they have responded to my comments. And now we pray for each other. Also, these teachers share information and concern about mutual students in our classes. When I need help, I ask another teacher or the counselors. Sometimes I need to ask for discipline help.

In early May, I was approached by a student who stated several men were speaking quite inappropriate remarks in Spanish. She was about to walk out. So I said, "Wait". Then I immediately moved the three people involved without explanation. I was furious. The rules state only speak in English and to respect others. Generally, my students do speak English unless a student is helping another not as fluent in English. In addition, I virtually always have a respectful class.

Should I take drastic action and write them up and eject them from the class? Should I show my anger to them? I prayed about it. The next day, I spoke individually with two. Then I sent them to the counselor's office. Without going into all the details, I explained to both classes that I expected English and respect to each other. Later, I spoke to the men calmly and gave them a choice to behave or leave the class. The 18 year old said this was his last chance. Two of them are probably gang affiliated. Nevertheless, I told the 25 year old that I did not think of him that way. In fact, I said that up until that week, he had a 100%. So, I dealt calmly and respectfully with them, not their behavior. I have had no problems at all since this incident.

Last Friday, a long-time student came up to me and wanted to talk. She had a handout on managing stress that I had given her that morning. Then she began to cry. Overwhelmed with her personal problems and situation, she shared what was tearing her apart. She is a single mom with a four year old, no car, and no job. And her school work seemed to lack progress. I quietly explained out of earshot from the other classmates that I too had severe stresses from my job, family, and even church related activities. She knows I am a Christian, and she is too. Yet, I reminded her that her strong faith can help her deal with problems. Then I called the counselor and sent my student over. Fortunately, the counselor was also able to listen and refer her to another resource as well.

My point clearly is that I did what I could in these situations, then asked for immediate help. I shared my faith with her. I explain what I do each weekend with the class as well, sharing that I went to church or other activities. I share my life with them. Tomorrow is Monday. Another day to love my students. Ted Parsons



CURSILLO CHRISTMAS PARTY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Come one, come all, to our Christmas party at Good Samaritan, 4321 Eastgate Mall, San Diego. Bring your favorite potluck dish, your musical instruments and song books. We wanted to include Christmas gifts for the needy, so the Secretariat decided to ask attendees to bring unwrapped gifts for the adult clients of the ECS Transitional Homeless Program. Homeless children receive so many gifts that the staff of ECS put some of them aside for later gifting. The adults receive virtually no gifts. The clients of the Transitional Homeless Program are mentally ill homeless and victims of domestic violence. Needed are hygiene items, bus tokens, gift cards (in \$5 and \$10 increments) for grocery stores, Target, WalMart, etc. The director of the program, Alyssa Osian, will be joining us to take a group photo for their website and/or newsletter. For questions contact Diane Blaisdell, 858-453-1996, dmblaisd@ucsd.edu or Judy Anderson, 619-286-1208, jmanderson38@peoplepc.com



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 1 Secretariat Meeting, Good Samaritan, 6:30 p.m.
- 3 Grand Ultreya, St Paul's Cathedral, 6:00 p.m. — Potluck 6 PM, Ultreya 7 PM
- 23 Forward articles due (see p. 2)

DECEMBER

- 8 Servant Community, Good Samaritan, 8:30 a.m.
Secretariat Meeting, Good Samaritan, 12:30 p.m.
- 8 Cursillo Christmas Party, Good Samaritan, 6:00 PM
- 25 A Savior is born