



Forward

Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Volume XIII

April 2008

Our Mission: To Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

From the Chair

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your path." Proverbs 32:8

At some point in our lives, we have to make decisions that shape us forever. How can we be sure we are making a right choice? And not only a right choice, but one that suits who we are. Our choices, all added together, make us who we are today, for good or for bad, and we have to live with that result, although we will usually have another chance to change every so often.

I am giving the Ideal rollo at the spring Weekend, and I find myself thinking about all the things I am not allowed to say in that talk- no mention of God is the hardest for me, and it has made me realize that even when I am not feeling my most spiritually uplifted, God is always there in the back of my mind, patiently NOT tapping on my shoulders and saying, "Are you sure about that?" I gave my life to God a long time ago, and it was definitely a good decision. How did the the disciple Peter know that he was making a good decision when he abandoned his fishing nets and boat on the beach to follow Jesus?

Above all, in the past year and a half as Chairperson of Cursillo, I have tried to do the right things as many divisive events have taken place, especially by letting everyone tell me what they thought should be done. I am not sure I have always been a good listener, and I certainly have my own opinions. But all in all, I can look around at any Cursillo event, or at Secretariat meetings and Servant Community meetings, and we have people working well together who probably don't agree on the issues that have split our diocese so disastrously. We care about each other as a community and as individuals. To me, that is what is important right now.

"When I was a child, I spoke as a child. I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know, in part, but then I shall know just as I am known. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:11-13

The diocese will be holding a retreat on reconciliation, a subject every good Christian should know about. Reconciliation isn't just about resolving anger with another person; it can be about healing our own personal conflicts about our faith, understanding others better, or finding common ground with those with whom we may disagree. Certainly, we have suffered some separations in our Church and in Cursillo in the last few years, so I am sure that this retreat can help us with those issues as well. Jesus told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and as an apartment dweller, I can tell you there are days when loving the cigar smoker outside my open window isn't what I feel like doing, and I know I can use all the help I can get with these everyday issues.

Let's make this an event that is well-attended by the Cursillo community. See you there! Peace of the Lord, Jane Schuler

THE 2008 SECRETARIAT

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Many Hands Help Welcome NECC

On Thursday, May 1, when the National Episcopal Cursillo Committee (NECC) arrives in San Diego, transportation volunteers coordinated by Jamie Wood will greet them at the airport. Committee members will be transported to the host church, Good Shepherd in Bonita, where their meetings are to be held.

During their 3-day visit, many of the meals will be sponsored by various members of the San Diego Cursillo Community. Mealtime sponsors include: St. Alban's, Jamie Wood, Judy Anderson and St. Dunstan's, Tim and Linda Lyons, St. Bartholomew's and Good Shepherd, Bonita. Host families will have the opportunity to meet their houseguests at a special dinner planned for Thursday night.

Friday evening, May 2, will find Bishop Mathes celebrating the Eucharist with the NECC and the members of Good Shepherd. On Saturday, May 3, the San Diego Cursillo Community and members of the Diocese of San Diego are invited to the Grand Ultreya, which begins with a potluck starting at 6 p.m. With a rare opportunity to hear speakers provided by the NECC, the witness talks will surely fill your hearts with the Holy Spirit and rekindle the fire of the Weekend.

For more information about how you can help with the NECC's visit, please contact Barbara Peralta at bperalta@hotmail.com

AN EXCERPT FROM THE ECS NEWSLETTER:

A Festive Ministry

The Episcopal Cursillo of San Diego hosted its Annual Christmas celebration on December 8 at Good Samaritan Church. Guests were asked to bring new, unwrapped gifts for clients of ECS' Friend to Friend and Safe Haven. The group collected several gift cards, and essential items to be enjoyed by clients of ECS.

Sue Embick, a long time Cursilista, arrived at the party with a carload of gifts. "My family members don't give one another gifts anymore. We have everything we need. Instead, we give to charity each year in one another's name. There are people in our community who need these things," she said.

If your church or community group would like to participate in an outreach project to help clients of ECS, please contact Alyssa Osian, at (619)228-2800 or e-mail aosian@ecscaifornia.org.

From the Rectora

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want..." Psalm 23

With the Spring Cursillo quickly approaching, I would like to take this time to thank everyone for all the effort put forth in making this weekend become a reality. The devastating fires in the fall of 2007 have left the housing situation at Camp Stevens still in limbo as of this printing. However, the team has stepped up to the challenge and is being extremely flexible concerning the necessity for creative sleeping arrangements. The Lord has truly been with us from the beginning and I thank Him for His strength, His guidance and the abundance of His patience.

Since the February issue of the Forward, we have added three new Cocineros to the team. Please join me in welcoming Barbara King, Sean McShefferty, and Jane Sapper. Our kitchen teams are now complete and we appreciate the additional prayers they will bring to the weekend.

You are cordially invited to celebrate the newest members to our San Diego Cursillo Community at the Open Clausura on Sunday, April 20 at 4 p.m. We look forward to having Bishop Mathes with us for this joyous occasion and we hope see you on the mountain as well. De Colores!

Peace and Blessings from your Sister in Christ Jesus,

Barbara Peralta, Rectora
Cursillo 123 / 124



Witness Talk – February 16, 2008

When I was asked to deliver this witness talk I wanted to know the subject of the talk and I was told – what have you been doing for Jesus, what is your apostolic action? What have you done recently, what are you planning to do?

At work, with my family and in the world....

First off – the word apostolic really set me thinking.... I know I am a follower of Christ's but can I consider anything that I do apostolic?

I do believe that Christ has a central place in my life and I could not and will not be separated from the love of Christ. That is a basic tenet for me and I hope that it is for others at home and at work.

The connection to Christ and keeping Christ in our lives –

St. David's has a song that we created a few years ago... Christ at our Center – taking Christ to the World. I want to fulfill these words. A person cannot/should not separate their religious identity from their work/world identity. AND if you do it could lead to some serious therapy issues.

I bring God with me to work every day(my computer login is JCHMGM) I update this login to keep my actions and involvement with Christ intentional at work. Every time I come back to my computer I have to ask Jesus Christ to help me and guide me with whatever I am about to do. I take Christ with me when I travel and to every meeting I attend. (sometimes I bring God quietly with me and other times, I boldly declare God's presence). During the quiet times, I hold his hand as I walk down the hall to a stressful meeting. Or sing my reassuring songs of faith while traveling.

I have a friend who sings spirituals when really nervous... like when we took the wrong exit in St. Louis and were briefly in a not so safe part of town...I knew we were in trouble when he started singing ... *Go Down Moses.... Let my people go.*

My outward expression – besides my smile, is my DOK cross. I proudly wear it and will share my religion when asked about the cross telling folks that I am in a women's religious order the Daughters of the King...now that gets some weird looks. I quickly reassure them that I am not a nun. I describe the balanced cross and repeat the words inscribed, "with heart, mind and soul, uphold and bear the cross." We all have our crosses to bear and Jesus asks us to bear ours quietly and help others to bear theirs. 99.9% of the time my interactions are positive when I carry Christ with me.

My daughter put this saying on our refrigerator: "Be kinder than necessary, everyone is fighting some kind of personal battle."

Those words always give me pause to love others a little extra and pray for them rather than get upset, disappointed or angry with them. Now I know this will sound a silly or little like Pollyanna to many of you, but when someone cuts me off in traffic, I think, that poor person, someone must need them at the hospital. That may not be true but it helps turn my negative feelings at least into neutral feelings. When someone is just down right rude or mean to me, I think; wow, their feet must really hurt. Jesus would want my response to be with love and not return meanness with a mean spirited response.

I try to say a prayer prior to meeting with individuals. "Lord surround me with love and support. Allow me to look with love at this person, without judgment or prejudice. Help me adopt a calm and soothing attitude." "Lord you have given me many gifts and talents, please help me not to screw up." I have several prayers on display around my desk, in my day planner and knitted in my heart. Singing prayers in my head also helps.

Lord make my heart be good soil.....

How can I bring God into every action... by incorporating God into everything I say, do and with my responses to the world around me. I must make my decisions based on my Christian ethics. I cannot do something unjust and call myself a Christian. Fortunately I have never been asked to compromise my principles. I have had to tell people things they don't want to hear and give bad news. I hope that my Christian spirit always flows through and around every interaction. You can be firm and kind. Provide correction and support with a caring/supportive/loving attitude. I am not the Christian "weirdo" but rather the nice Christian lady that is reliable and trustworthy. I want to be someone that can be relied upon regardless of the circumstances. My love for others is not conditional. They do not have to be a Christian for me to care about them and their family as well as the entire world. I strive to be Joy, a person who has a kind word and look for everyone, not just the chosen few.

Do I go out and evangelize? YES, Every day and every minute.

I am a soldier for Jesus. I put on the armor of Christ because we never know when the opportunity to witness will occur. When, we might be able to reach across the chasm that separates us from another person. We never know who we will encounter or what their secret burden, trial, or personal misery might be. A smile can and does brighten a day but stopping to ask a question and then listen for the answer is even better. In our baptismal vows we are commanded to love and serve everyone. We must love everyone just as Christ loves everyone. The love doesn't have to be the same for all. Sometime what we can offer is our presence, our resources and our prayers on their behalf, our ability to listen, our compassion or our time. Our best response to this call to service and action on behalf of Christ is: I will with God's help.

"Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these my children you have done it unto me." I hope that I am blessed and guided to continue to love and serve in Christ's army.

Lord let me be your servant and a servant to others. As the DOK motto states, which I believe captures the apostolic spirit, and it is that I wish to share with the world.

For His Sake

I am but one

But I am one

I cannot do everything but I can do something.

What I can do I ought to do.

What I ought to do by the grace of God I will do.

Lord what will you have me do?

This I do with God's help...

Father, God bless all my friends in whatever it is that You know they may be needing this day! And may their life be full of your peace, prosperity and power as they seek to have a closer relationship with you

Group Reunion is Essential to Me!

I have met weekly with one group reunion since November 1986. Twenty-two years equals approximately 1100 groupings. Have I missed some? Yes, when I have been out of town or sick. So I have attended about 1080. Clearly, grouping is an essential part of my life. It is essential because I need someone to hold me accountable for my Christian piety, study, and action. I need a Christian community, in addition to my church, who loves me and does not judge me. I need to know I can depend on them for almost anything - and I have. I need prayer warriors who are praying for me every single day. And I need their help to stay focused on Jesus. I need to be able to share a few things that I cannot share with others, including my priest, or my family. We share what we have done for Jesus and what we have not done. We have two clergy in our group! We have people in special ministries such as prayer chains and Kairos. Despite differences in theology, we are deeply spiritual.

Small groups make things happen. Through the Holy Spirit, we have worked together to bring people to Christ. We have witnessed to our faith through praying, words, and actions in public restaurants for over 20 years. We have grouped with men and women. We have prayed for our servers. They have prayed for us, even if not Christian! We have served on Cur-sillo weekends together. We have provided Christian literature to employees in the restaurant. And we have been strengthened in our group to be witnesses for Jesus in the rest of the world.

In addition to that, I group with another Christian brother through email and have for a number of years. We share deeply about so many things. Yet we still maintain the discipline of piety, study, and action!

What about you? Are you grouping? If not, or if you are between groups, call Stew Dadmun or me. We can help get you into a group.

Ted Parsons
4th Day Co-chair, Secretariat

Grand Ultreya

Saturday, May 3, 2008

Good Shepherd, Bonita

Potluck 6:00 PM

Ultreya 7:00 PM

Child Care will be Available **IF**

Judy Anderson

jmanderson38@sbcglobal.net

or Ted Parsons

tparsons@sdcoe.k12.ca.us

is notified by April 30 that you will
be bringing children



Day of Deeper Understanding

WHERE? St. Timothy's

WHEN? Saturday, April 26

8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

CONTACT: Larry Salvadori

lasalvadori@excite.com

Diocesan Retreat Day
on
Reconciliation in the Church



*...God...through Christ reconciled us to himself
and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. 2 Cor. 5:18*

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church
6556 Park Ridge Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92120

May 3, 2008
8:30a.m. – 4:00 P.M.
Cost: \$30 per person includes lunch
Registration: www.edsd.org
Click on "events calendar"

Join others in our diocesan family
to forge a path toward reconciliation
within the body of Christ.
Each parish in the diocese is encouraged to send two
or more people to this retreat.

Open your heart and mind
to the transforming power
of the Spirit through silence, song,
creative engagement with Scripture,
and small group sharing.

*Differing opinions can be held within a group and differing actions
undertaken because the basis of unity is not conformity but love and
concern for one another. This is a much deeper sort of unity, harder to
achieve, but more lasting.*

— Quaker Resources for Learning



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL

- 3 Secretariat Meeting, Good Samaritan, 6:30 PM
- 5 Cursillo Team Meeting, St. Timothy's, 8:30 AM
- 17-20 Cursillo 123/134, Camp Stevens, Barbara Peralta - Rectora
- 26 Day of Deeper Understanding, St. Timothy's, 8:30 AM

MAY

- 1 Secretariat, Good Samaritan, 6L30 PM
- 1-3 NECC Quarterly Meeting, Good Shepherd Bonita
- 3 Grand Ultheya, Good Shepherd Bonita, 6:00 PM
- 23 Forward articles due

JUNE

- 14 Servant Community, Good Samaritan, 8:30 AM
- 14 Secretariat, Good Samaritan, 12:30 PM