



Forward

Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Volume XXIX

August 2012

Our Mission: To Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

Message from the Chair

Summer is supposed to be halfway over but we know here in San Diego, we will more than likely have the summer like weather through October. We are truly blessed to live in this area. We get to see God working in nature in so many different ways.



As we start looking forward to fall & starting new projects, children and grandchildren going back to school, now is the time to start our planning for our Fall Cursillo Weekend. The weekend is scheduled for October 18 – 21, 2012. You all may or may not have heard that Laurie Mumford has accepted the call to be the Rectora for the weekend. She is putting together her Core team. She is actively in prayer and getting applications for people to work the weekend. She can't do it by herself. It takes a supportive team to conduct a weekend. Many hands make light work. Please prayerfully consider joining the team. Applications can be found on the website www.sdcursillo.org. Laurie will be setting the schedule for team training so keep watching the e-blasts and website for dates/locations.

In planning for the weekend, we also are all prayerfully listening to who God is guiding to participate in the weekend for the first time. Please consider who in your congregations or those you know in the diocese who would be likely candidates for the weekend. Applications for candidates can also be found on the website.

The Secretariat is working hard to keep you all informed of what is going on. We have an Ultreya almost every month. We try & spread them out so everyone can attend an Ultreya somewhere. Please keep checking the website for all dates of upcoming events and watch for the e-blasts Mr. Ed Embick sends out. If you ever have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the Webmaster and we will address your question & get back to you with an answer. As I mentioned in the last Forward, if you want to get involved in Cursillo, one good way is to attend the Quarterly Servant Community meetings. The next one is scheduled September 8 at St. James by the Sea. Anybody is welcome to attend these meetings.

September 8 at St. James by the Sea will also be the date and place for people in new positions on the weekend team to attend training. There will be training for those new to the kitchen, new to the Rollo room as either a Rollistas or a Table Leader. **(Continued pg 3)**

From the Spiritual Advisor

Overcoming Threats to my Existence



We have often thought about the question of what is the true religion. As a question about which one of the world's religions is the true religion. But, perhaps the more relevant question is a personal one: Is your religion true religion?

Each one of us, even if we are Christian and believe in all the statements of the Apostles Creed, still has our own personal religion, our own beliefs and experiences. Each of us has our own religious history, which helps define our personal religion, but our religion need not necessarily be a true religion. I think that Jesus defined true religion best when he said, "The pure in heart . . . shall see God." (*Matthew 5:8*) Impurities in our hearts prevent us from seeing God and help us to create false religion. Out of our impure hearts, we create false pictures of God: idols. It is when our hearts are pure before God that we can see God as He truly is, and therefore have true religion.

Over the last several months, I have been studying the great thinkers of the church for Good Shepherd's Rectors Forum. We have studied Paul, Origen, Augustine, Aquinas, Luther, Calvin, Schleiermacher and Barth. These thinkers have helped define the belief and life of the church we know today. I do not agree with everything that these thinkers have said, but they are brilliant paradigm-changing thinkers. Schleiermacher (1768-1834) has written about religion and I strongly disagree with a lot of what he says. But Schleiermacher is at least partially right in his definition of religion. We can learn something from his definition:

"Religion is the outcome neither of the fear of death, nor of the fear of God. It answers a deep need in man. It is neither a metaphysic, nor a morality, but above all and essentially an intuition and a feeling. ... Dogmas are not, properly speaking, part of religion: rather it is that they are derived from it. Religion is the miracle of direct relationship with the infinite; and dogmas are the reflection of this miracle. Similarly belief in God, and in personal immortality, are not necessarily a part of religion; one can conceive of a religion without God, and it would be pure contemplation of the universe; the desire for personal immortality seems rather to show a lack of religion, since religion assumes a desire to lose oneself in the infinite, rather than to preserve one's own finite self."

News from the NEC: I received a note from Judy Anderson regarding Ultreya talks on the NEC website. I went to see what was there, and found that I stayed on the website for quite a while. There is a plethora of information. I encourage you when you are on your computer and web browsing to go to the following website and search around. You will be pleasantly surprised: <http://www.nationalepiscopalcurso.org/>

The NEC Conference will be held in Orlando, FL this year. Here is the link for more information:

<http://www.nationalepiscopalcurso.org/NECNewsAug2012.pd>



“Let God Transform You”

It is in our baptismal vows to renounce all that draws us away from God and to turn to Jesus, putting our trust in Him. We made a promise to follow and obey Him as our Lord, and to seek and serve Him in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves.

I have chosen Romans 12:2 as my guide for the fall weekend. “Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God – what is good and pleasing to Him and is perfect.”

This scripture references the transformation we seek in our environments during our faith journey. Cursillo is a good time for us to remember our promises and vows, and to celebrate the joy of serving our Lord. It is a time for us to join our hearts and hands together in love for those seeking transformation.

I am looking forward to my faith journey for the fall weekend, and I pray that you will consider traveling up to the mountain as well; by either working as part of the team, working as a Sunday angel, being a prayer warrior, or by sending candidates from your parish. Whatever it may be, it will be a blessing to know you are there.

Seize the day!

Laurie Mumford, Rectora Cursillo #132

The fall weekend dates are October 18 – 21, 2012;

Application cut-off is September 24;

Day of Deeper Understanding is November 3;

Fall Grand Ultreya is November 17 at All Souls’ Pt. Loma.

Check the calendar on the back page for the team meeting schedule or on the website: www.sdcursillo.org

FROM THE SPIRITUAL ADVISOR (Cont’d page 1)

What do I see that is right about this definition of religion and how does it tie in to Jesus definition of the pure in heart shall see God? Schleiermacher’s definition is correct in that religion is not a metaphysic, nor a morality. A metaphysic is a philosophical speculation about ultimate reality. Philosophical speculation is not a religion; if your religion is merely some ideas that you have come up with about God and the universe, then you do not have a religion. If your religion is merely a moral code or vision, then you do not have a religion. True religion must exist in the heart; it must involve intuition and feeling. But it must be more than intuition and feeling. Religion must be the miracle of direct relationship with the infinite.

Schleiermacher’s definition of religion ties in to Jesus pure in heart definition by showing that religion must be more than ideas and morality; it must be an experience, an awareness of God’s presence. God must be in your heart and not just in your head. But, unfortunately, our hearts are full of impurities that block God’s presence and separate us from God. Our hearts are full of pride and lusts that pull us away from God. We cannot achieve a pure heart, and therefore, a true religion under our own power.

This brings me to our next great Christian thinker, Karl Barth, (1886-1968) who says, we can speak of true religion only in the sense in which we speak of a justified sinner. Karl Barth points out that all religion, even Christian religion, stands under the judgment of God’s revelation. Religion is not necessarily a good thing. God’s revelation shows us what is true and false in our religion and what is good and bad. When God’s revelation comes to us, that revelation becomes grace in our lives, and it is by grace that we are justified before God, not by our religion. We understand that we can only be justified before God by the grace of Jesus Christ dwelling in us. We need to hear the word of Christ, then make a decision of faith to let the grace of Christ give us the gift of justification. It is Christ in us that makes us justified before God, purifying our hearts, and therefore giving us true religion. Your religion is true only to the extent that the revelation and grace of Christ dwells within your heart.

Is your religion a true religion? Or, how much of your religion is true? Let Christ dwell within you and let Him purify your heart, so that you can see God.

Your friend in Christ,
Father George

FOURTH DAY

How are you living out your Fourth Day?

If you are not grouping and want to start, please contact Stew Dadmun, sedadmun@att.net, and he'll make suggestions if there is not an active group you can join in your parish.

If you're not attending Ultreyas, you're missing some really inspiring speakers. On July 16 at All Saints, San Diego, 40 of us heard Larry Salvadori's witness to the homeless in Escondido. On July 21 at St. John's Chula Vista we heard Elaine Williams' message on gaining the trust of a 92 year old woman. Darryl Peralta's echoed how he is trying to prove to a golf and gun acquaintance that he can be trusted. Both of these Ultreyas were held at churches which hadn't had Ultreyas in many years.

If your church would like to host an Ultreya, just contact me. We try to hold 9 Ultreyas per year (except for the months in which we hold the Cursillo Weekends) and would be happy to add your parish to our list.

Our next Ultreya is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 15 at St. Andrew's La Mesa. This will be a daytime Ultreya and we invite those Cursillistas who don't drive at night to attend. Potluck will be at 12 and Ultreya at 1.

Judy Anderson, Ultreya Coordinator,
jmanderson38@sbcglobal.net 619-286-1208

From the Chair Continued:

A lot of good information is given out at that training.

The National Episcopal Cursillo convention is also in October in Orlando, FL. Anyone is welcome to attend. Just check at the website www.nationalepiscopalcurssillo.org for more information. The Secretariat will be sending a representative to the convention as we do every year. It is an opportunity to meet others from around the country & learn from them. We also get the opportunity to share what we are doing also.

DeColores,

Judy Brown

Please let us Ed Embick, sueanded@san.rr.com know if you have a change to your email or address.

Please let me know, lindalyns@aol.com if you would like to have an article or news item inserted into the Forward.

If you would like to know more about the Servant Community work contact Larry, lavadori@yahoo.com or come to the next meeting on September 8th at St. James, La Jolla.

THE 2010 SECRETARIAT

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 8 8:30 am Servant Community Meeting, St James, La Jolla
1st time Rollo Room / Cocinera Training
12:30 pm Secretariat Meeting, Good Sam
- 15 8:00 am – Team Meeting, Good Shepherd, Hemet
3:00 pm
- 12:00 pm Potluck, St. Andrew’s, La Mesa
1:00 pm Ultreya
- 18 Cursillo #132 Application Deadline
- 28 Forward Deadline
- 29 8:30 am – Cursillo #132 Rollo Critiques
1:00 pm St. Bartholomew’s, Poway

OCTOBER

- 4 6:30 pm Secretariat Meeting, Good Sam
- 6 8:00 am – Final Team Meeting, St. Dunstan’s, San Diego
3:00 pm
- 18 7:00 pm – Cursillo #132 (Coed Weekend) Camp Stevens, Julian
21 5:00 pm Open Clausura – 3:00 pm
- 25 - 28 National Episcopal Conference, Orlando, FL

NOVEMBER

- 1 6:30 pm Secretariat Meeting, Good Sam
- 3 Day of Deeper Understanding, TBA

Please check the Cursillo website www.sd cursillo.org for updates and Directions to churches.