



FORWARD

Volume XXXIII

June 2013

Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Our Mission Is To Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

FROM THE CHAIR

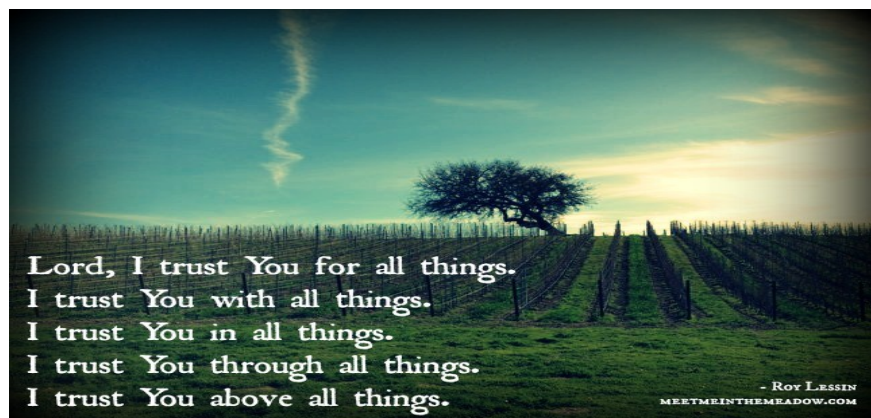
This month we joyfully welcome the 33 new cursillistas from weekend #133 into our ministry. May you come to find participation in the Cursillo movement as fulfilling as your actual weekend experience. I'm quite sure we will see several of you on the team in the fall, so this article isn't about you.

It's about the 1,410 other people in our Saints Roster. I know many of you are not in a position to serve, so this article isn't about you, either. But there are many more of you out there who have let the magic of the weekend fade to a distant memory. We'd like to get you back!

In a previous article I shared with you the Secretariat's vision to expand our "middle management." As already mentioned, we see a lot of brand new cursillistas and a lot of senior (in every sense) veterans on each team. Where we could use more help is in the middle – key rolls like kitchen team leader or Rollo Room Assistant Table Leaders. If you've only worked a weekend or two, that's you.

It doesn't matter how long you've been away, or where or when you did your Cursillo weekend, we will welcome you back with open arms. The next weekend is October 17-20. Fall is always beautiful at Camp Stevens. Please consider submitting a team application to the rector, Linda Rush, at lrush13@roadrunner.com. I did mine today!

Ultreya!
Glenn Parrish



The Forward is published bimonthly by Cursillos in Christianity, 2728 Sixth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92103



Pascal's Wager

You should know about Pascal's Wager, one of the greatest arguments in favor of belief in God, though it does not prove that God exists. Blaise Pascal (1623-1662) was an important French Christian philosopher, mathematician, physicist and inventor.

Pascal argues that we must wager for God or wager against God; there is no way to avoid wagering one way or another. You either bet your life that God exists or you bet your life that God does not exist. Pascal believed that the reach of reason is limited, that there is always an element of chance. Since you cannot prove that God exists, the better approach would be to focus on the cost/benefit analysis of belief in God. It should be noted that Pascal is not against reason, but believes that there is "infinite chaos" between us and God, and that reason cannot bridge this gap. Instead, we should use reason to think about the consequences of belief or non-belief in God. His wager is summed up by *Wikipedia* as follows:

1. "God is, or He is not.
2. A Game is being played... where heads or tails will turn up.
3. According to reason, you can defend neither of the propositions.
4. You must wager. (It's not optional.)
5. Let us weigh the gain and the loss in wagering that God is. Let us estimate these two chances. If you gain, you gain all; if you lose, you lose nothing.
6. Wager, then, without hesitation that He is. There is here an infinity of an infinitely happy life to gain, a chance of gain against a finite number of chances of loss, and what you stake is finite. And so our proposition is of infinite force, when there is the finite to stake in a game where there are equal risks of gain and of loss, and the infinite to gain.

The possibilities defined by Pascal's Wager can be thought of as a decision under uncertainty with the values of the following decision matrix.

	God exists (+G)	God does not exist (~G)
Belief (B)	+8 (infinite gain)	- 1 (finite loss)
Disbelief (~B)	8 (infinite loss)	+1 (finite gain)

Given these values, the option of living as if God exists (B) dominates the option of living as if God does not exist (~B), as long as one assumes a positive probability that God exists. In other words, the expected value gained by choosing B is greater than or equal to that of choosing ~B. (*Wikipedia*)

As the graph above shows, the benefit of not believing in God is at best, a finite gain in this life, at the expense of an infinite loss in the next life. But even this may be too optimistic an assessment of the non-belief benefit, because believing in God gives you benefits in this life as well as in the next one. The benefits in this life of believing in God may far out-weigh the benefits of not believing in God.

The benefits of believing in God are so overwhelmingly superior to not believing in God that we should choose belief.

What can we learn from Pascal's Wager? First, we learn that we should always choose to believe in God and live our life for God. Second, faith in God is important; it does not contradict reason; faith is a logical outcome of making a choice based on reason. Third, proponents of atheism who celebrate the benefits of non-belief are not honest about the consequences of atheism. There is almost nothing to gain from being an atheist and everything to lose. Fourth, people who imagine that they can believe intellectually that God exists but live their lives as if God does not exist, are deceiving themselves. There is no neutral territory between wagering for God and wagering against Him.

If you respond to Pascal's Wager by true belief in God, you will want to go beyond the wager and truly encounter God in His self-revelation. As Christians, we believe that we find God in His ultimate revelation in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Your friend in Christ, Father George

CALENDAR

JUNE 2013

June 1, 2013 Servant Community St. Dunstan's
9:00 AM ~ 12:00PM

June 1, 2013 Secretariat St. Dunstan's
12:30 PM

June 15, 2013 Brunch Ultreya St. Bart's
9:30. Speakers TBA.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						<u>1</u>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	<u>15</u>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

JULY 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	<u>25</u>	26	<u>27</u>
28	<u>29</u>	30	31			

July 25, 2013 Secretariat St. Dunstan's
6:00 PM Brown Bag 6:30 PM Meeting

July 27, 2013 Ultreya Good Shepherd Hemet
12 noon

July 29, 2013 FORWARD Deadline COB
jimsharon@cox.net

Cursillo #134. October 17-20, 2013

Save The Date!

Congratulations to Linda Rush, from Good Shepherd, Hemet, who will serve as Rector. Applications to be part of Linda's team can be found on the Cursillo Website: www.sdcursillo.org.

Please consider how you can be involved. Here are some ways:

Make Palanca for team and candidates

Be Palanca (prayer & sacrifice)

Sponsor someone from your parish

Support the new Cursillistas by attending Clausura on Sunday afternoon, October 20.

Work the weekend

Be a Saturday and/or Sunday Angel



2013 SECRETARIAT MEMBERS

Name	E-Mail	Function	Term Expired
Glenn Parrish	glenn.parrish@navy.mil	2013 Chair	'13
Judy Anderson	jmanderson38@sbcglobal.net	4th Day Chair	'14
Judy Brown	jbrown3944@aol.com	3 Day Weekend Chair	'13
		Secretary	
Ed Embick	sueanded@san.rr.com	Communications Chair	'14
Justin Jordan	JJordan2259@verizon.net	Communications Vice-Chair	'15
Susan Miller	miller.sv@sbcglobal.net	2014 Chair-Elect	
		Pre-Cursillo Chair	'14
Karen Rice	ktkrice@cox.net	Pre-Cursillo Vice-Chair	'15
Larry Salvadori	lasalvadori@yahoo.com	Servant Community Convener	'15
Mercedes Webber	858-277-4183	3 Day Weekend Vice-Chair	'13
Jamie Wood	jamiewood2@cox.net	Treasurer	
Bruce Wier	ruthandbruce02@att.net	Hispanic Community Lay Representative HC	Apnt'd '06
Rev. George Calvert	gcalvert@cox.net	Diocesan Spiritual Advisor	Apnt'd '05
Rev. Ed Busch, M.D.	edwbus@hotmail.com	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	'13
Rev. Babs Meairs	edwbus@hotmail.com	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	'14
Rev. Steve Wendfeldt	steve@ardellwendfeldt.com	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	'15
Rev. Carlos Garcia	carlangas1986@cs.com	Hispanic Community Spiritual Advisor	Apnt'd '06

Please let Ed Embick at sueanded@san.rr.com know if you have a change to your email or address. Please let Sharon know at jimsharon@cox.net 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 at lalvadori@yahoo.com

*Experience the first ever, in the history of our diocese,
(that's our story and we're sticking to it)*

BRUNCH ULTREYA on Saturday, June 15, 2013
beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Come to St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
16275 Pomerado Rd, in Poway for a

**Continental Breakfast of
bagels and cream cheese, donuts and danishes
with fruit, coffee, tea, and juice**

*Inspirational and Informational
Talks, Music and Fellowship*

*Children are welcome during the Ultreya, but if notified by
June 8, child care will be provided. Contact Larry Salvadori,
call (858) 485-5434 or email lasalvadori@yahoo.com*

A free-will offering will be taken to defray the cost of food



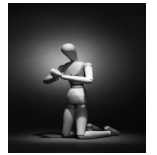
Wow.... What a weekend. We did it! I say we because the Lord provided me with many wonderful servants ready to serve on the TEAM. The Core Team was fantastic in every way. All team members were true servants throughout the weekend.

The weekend was full of the Holy Spirit and Prayer.

It was a truly wonderful experience for me to be Rector, and I will cherish the memories of the weekend forever. God is good all the time.

HIS,
Elery Gross

Rector #133



WELCOME NEW CURSILLISTAS



All Saint's, Vista ~~~~~Thomas Strait
Good Shepherd, Hemet ~~~~~Dorina Green
Good Shepherd, Hemet ~~~~~Terry Green
St. Andrew's, La Mesa ~~~~~Carol Platt
St. Andrew's, La Mesa ~~~~~Richard Platt
St. Andrew's, La Mesa ~~~~~Joseph Seraki
St. Bartholomew's, Poway ~~~~~Duane Chevalier
St. Bartholomew's, Poway ~~~~~Kit Chevalier
St. Bartholomew's, Poway ~~~~~Connie Cross
St. Bartholomew's, Poway ~~~~~Stephen Cross
St. Bartholomew's, Poway ~~~~~Patricia Johnston
St. Bartholomew's, Poway ~~~~~Carl Reinhart
St. Bartholomew's, Poway ~~~~~Carol Reinhart
St. Paul's, Yuma ~~~~~Richard Bardo
St. Paul's, Yuma ~~~~~Victoria Bardo
St. Paul's, Yuma ~~~~~Robert Little

St. Paul's, Yuma ~~~~~Carol Little
St. Peter's, Del Mar ~~~~~Eileen Ayers
St. Peter's, Del Mar ~~~~~Barbara McCardle
St. Peter's, Del Mar ~~~~~Pat McCardle
St. Peter's, Del Mar ~~~~~Beverly Roberts
St. Peter's, Del Mar ~~~~~William Roberts
St. Peter's, Del Mar ~~~~~April Trussell-Smith
St. Peter's, Del Mar ~~~~~Timothy Trussell-Smith
St. Phillip's, Lemon Grove ~~~~~Leslie Cosio
St. Phillip's, Lemon Grove ~~~~~Martha Cosio
St. Phillip's, Lemon Grove ~~~~~Carmen Cuevas
St. Phillip's, Lemon Grove ~~~~~Luis A Felix
St. Phillip's, Lemon Grove ~~~~~Isamar Garcia
St. Phillip's, Lemon Grove ~~~~~Carolina Gonzalez
St. Timothy's, Rancho Penasquitos ~~~~~Trudy Jenzer
Trinity, Escondido ~~~~~Adam Atamian
Trinity, Escondido ~~~~~Rachael Atamian

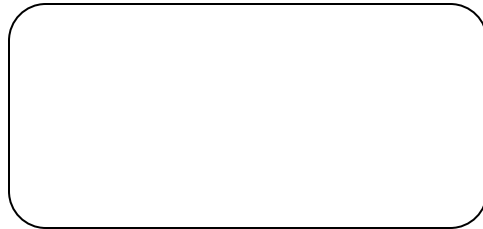
Cursillos in Christianity

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

2728 SIXTH AVENUE, SAN DIEGO, CA 2103-6397

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

SEND TO: SHARON VANDEN BOSCH, EDITOR
835 STANFORD AVE., CHULA VISTA, CA 91913-2717



Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
"Whom shall I send? And *who will go for us?*"
And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" ISA 6:8

