

FEBRUARY 2021



Cursillo *forward*

Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Our Mission is to Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

Please visit our Cursillo website for more information at www.sdcursillo.org

A PRAYER REQUEST FROM OUR BISHOP

Can I ask to get a prayer request out to the Cursillo community? This is for a family I have known and loved for over 20 years in Arizona, and they are leaders in the Cursillo community there. My husband and I were friends with Jim and Joyce Graves (Cursillo leaders) before I became a priest, and we have known their son Aaron since he was 10 years old. The family joined Nativity when I was the priest there and were important members of the parish. Aaron (who is now in his early 30s) and his girlfriend Jillian became volunteer youth leaders, and on my last weekend at Nativity, I officiated at their marriage. They later had a son, and now Jillian is pregnant again. But Aaron and Jillian both have Covid, and while Aaron is recovering and able to care for their son, Jillian is in the hospital with Covid pneumonia, which has caused heart troubles, for which she needs surgery. Jillian and Aaron are Cursillistas, and also essential grocery workers who have lost a lot of income during their illness. Can you ask the Cursillo community to pray for this dear family, especially Jillian and Aaron and their unborn child? They mean a lot to me.

Blessings,

+Susan

The Rt. Rev. Susan Brown Snook
Bishop
Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

UPDATE

Aaron and Jillian's baby, Matthew, was born yesterday by C-section - 9 weeks early but a decent size at 4 lb 9 oz. They are going to let Jillian spend some time recuperating before doing the heart surgery. She is in ICU on oxygen but not on a ventilator. I so appreciate the prayers for this dear family, who are all Cursillistas in Arizona.

Blessings,

+Susan

A MESSAGE FROM THE CURSILLO PRESIDENT

Cursillo Classifieds

Help Wanted!

Your Secretariat is seeking Cursillistas to serve in several capacities to help our ministry continue to grow. We need Cursillo volunteers to run for the Secretariat to serve a 2.5 year term as detailed below: If you want to be on the inside of your Cursillo Secretariat, please apply for the Secretary position and start on March 6, 2021 at 12:30 PM. First one to apply, gets the job!

Thank you,
Susan Miller, SD Cursillo President

Beginning July 2021 (elections in May/June):

2 Lay persons for Secretariat (terms end 12/ 2023)

1 Clergy person for Secretariat (terms end 12/ 2023)

Beginning immediately:

***Cursillo Secretary**

*Parish Representative for your parish (1 or 2 per parish where needed) (See *PARISH REP NEWS*)

Where might you fit in? Find out more information at sdcursillo.org and look for a Cursillo News email coming in a few weeks. Please get in touch directly with a Secretariat member who will answer your questions.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN CURSILLO SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

“He must increase, but I must decrease” John the Baptist (*John 3:30*)

I have decided after many years of trying to figure out how the church works, that the church is a mystery that I cannot understand. God is always working in His church in strange and mysterious ways that no human theory of congregational development, sociology or psychology can ever explain. God’s activities cannot be reduced down to human categories and explained by our theories.

In our congregations, the young and the old, the strong and the weak, the rich and the poor come into this community of Christ, and experience new life. Exactly how people are transformed cannot be explained; it is part of the mystery. What is clear are the results of God’s work among us; broken relationships are healed; sick bodies become well; sick souls are cured; anguished people find peace; the sorrowful find joy.

In the midst of the mysterious workings of God, the one thing I do understand about how the Church works is that we must make room for God to work in our lives. Like John the Baptist said of

Jesus, “He must increase, but I must decrease.” We in the church make things happen by decreasing in our selfishness and self-centeredness so that Jesus Christ can increase his work in us and the church. We may not understand how Jesus Christ works, but this is not important. What is important is that we open ourselves to His working, so that His work can go forward of spreading God’s kingdom.

The Swiss protestant theologian, Karl Barth (1886-1968) said, “Jesus Christ must increase (John 3:30), and He does in fact increase. The Kingdom of God grows like the seed. It is for this reason that the community also grows - the fellowship of men who with open eyes and ears and hearts come from Jesus Christ, from the Kingdom of God, and move towards Him., It grows as it gives Him room to grow and to the extent that it ‘decreases’, as the Baptist said of himself. It lives because and as its Lord lives.”

While I may not understand how God makes wonderful things keep happening in the church, I do understand that the church will continue to move forward, thrive and grow as long as we make room for Jesus Christ to increase among us.

Your friend in Christ,

Fr. George

A MESSAGE FROM THE CURSILLO WEEKEND #146 Rectora

Some of you may remember a 1960’s radio station, in the San Diego area, that was: All News All The Time. (XTRA, I think.) Anytime, day or night, you could tune in and hear The News. Over and over again. And again. There were other stations: Classical, Pop, Oldies, Top Hits and a time allocated for Sports, and, briefly, Weather and News.

In 2020-21, instead of All News All The Time, in a way, we have Covid-19 Virus All The Time, or, rather, we have to think about protecting ourselves and others from the virus at all times. We’ve set up barriers: wearing masks, and staying well away from each other. We say things like, “I’m smiling under my mask!” and “It’s so good to see you in person!” and, when we meet someone new, “What do you look like without the mask?”

I think the lipstick manufacturers must be having a terrible year.

When Covid-19 settles into a more or less minor annoyance, we will have weeks of weddings and funerals and baptisms. We will go to indoor cafes at least once a day. We will hug each other! The airlines will be oversubscribed for years to come due to pent up demand for travel. Jewelers will specialize in long, dangly earrings.

In the mean Covid-19 time, I've been told that people have actually emptied their closets and drawers, and painted and repaired their homes. Perhaps it's just hearsay. Such organizing efforts haven't happened at my house.

There is still hope for my house and, more to the point, there is still hope that Cursillo #146 will be held at Pine Valley Bible and Conference Center on the last weekend of October 2021

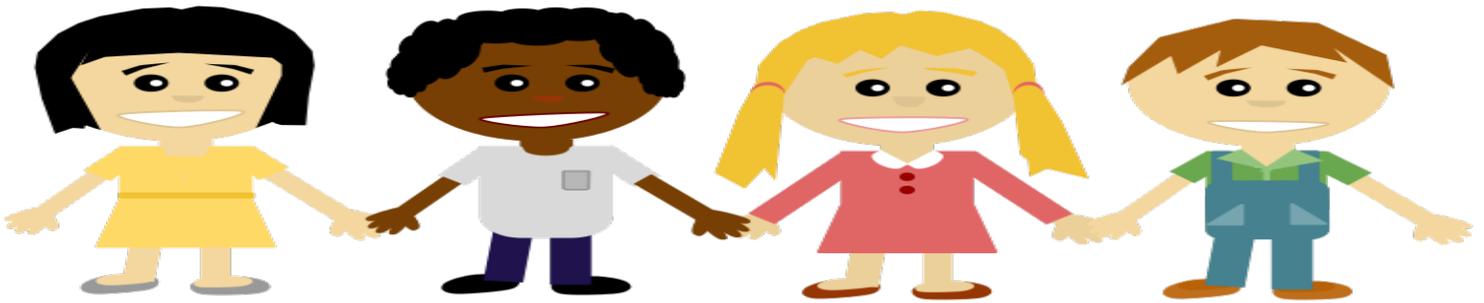
Please continue to pray with me for the healing of our country and our Cursillo Ministry.

May God bless each and every one of us.

Ginny Rodriguez, Rectora Cursillo #146

FOURTH DAY NEWS/ACTIVITIES

Make a Friend, Be a Friend – It's Easy!



VIRTUAL ULTREYAS — The New Normal

The elephant in the room is the Covid-19 Pandemic—there I said it—and it has inspired us (ok, forced us) to adapt the Cursillo Method in several ways: No actual hugs, just virtual imaginary hugs; no joyous smiles, unless hidden behind a mask and from a social distance; no grouping at Denny's every Saturday morning, but rather grouping via zoom; no singing up close and personal, just singing via zoom or YouTube; no Cursillo Weekend #146, as it is still pending until the "All Clear!"; and no in-person ultreyas, but rather virtual ultreyas on YouTube.

Actually, overall the ultreyas in 2020 have been a rousing success. The one and only in-person ultreya was held at St. Paul's, Yuma on January 18, 2020 and was a joyous event. It raised expectations for a promising year of spiritually inspiring witness talks, joyous singing and prayers. Alas, Covid-19 changed everything.

We cried out and the Holy Spirit answered: the first of six virtual ultreyas premiered on April 25, 2020 with talks from Rosie Tseng, Bryan Chan, and Rev. Babs Meairs, and the stirring music from Alex Tuttle. Instead of 40 to 60 Cursillistas participating the ultreyas from the San Diego Area, hundreds of viewers from all over the U.S. and abroad participated. I know because I personally emailed links to family and friends across and country and also to a friend in Germany. Many people including my friend in Germany replied with thanks. The Virtual Ultreya premiering in June has been viewed more than 275 times!

We are grateful that vaccines for Covid-19 have been developed and are available. There is hope that it will be safe to resume Cursillo activities in a more personally close fashion in the not-too-distant future. In the meantime, the first of several virtual ultreyas to premiere this year is in the works. It should premiere in mid-February. Check the Cursillo Calendar at sdcursillo.org. Blessings, and ULTREYA!
Ruben Rodriguez

PARISH REP NEWS

De Colores to all!

Most parishes in the San Diego Diocese have a parish representative for the Cursillo community. Parish Reps have the awesome job of maintaining contact with Cursillistas in their parish, passing along information about upcoming Ultreyas, and Cursillo weekends. Parish Reps are key to identifying potential candidates and assisting in creating grouping opportunities. They work closely with the clergy, and encourage sponsorship of new candidates.

If you don't know who your parish rep is, just go to **sdcursillo.org**, and look for Parish Representatives under contacts. If you have not heard from them, let me know and I will ensure you get connected.

Is a rep missing from your church? Perhaps you would like to volunteer for this fun position. If you have questions, please email me at kmsopsinger@yahoo.com, or call me at 858-382-8332.

We are also working on updating our database. If you have moved, changed phone numbers, or have an updated email, let me know. I check my email daily.

Be safe, and have a blessed Lent.

Blessings, Kit Chevalier

CURSILLO EVENTS CALENDAR

Feb. 2021	More Information Click Link	Directions Click Link	Click Link to e-mail POC	Return to top
DATE	Description	Location	POC	Time/Day
Feb-04-21	Secretariat Meeting	Meeting on Zoom	Susan Miller	6:30 - 8:30 PM
Feb-13-21	Virtual Ultreya [click for Flyer]	Coming Soon	Ultreya Committee	View Online
March 2021	More Information Click Link	Directions Click Link	Click Link to e-mail POC	Return to top
DATE	Description	Location	POC	Time/Day
Mar-06-21	Servant Community	St. Alban's	Larry Salvadori	12:30 PM
Mar-06-21	Secretariat Meeting	St. Alban's	Susan Miller	12:30 PM
Mar-31-21	Forward Deadline		News Letter Editor	All Day

PALANCA REQUESTS

February 18-21, Spanish Cursillo, Southwest Florida, willie19642@hotmail.com

March 11-14—Cursillo weekend, Upper South Carolina, info@edusccursillo.org

2021 SECRETARIAT LAY MEMBERS

Name	Email	Function	Term Exp.
Susan Miller	cursillo.biz@outlook.com	2021 President	2021
Ruben Rodriguez	rodriguez_ruben@msn.com	Rector Support Team, Outreach, Ultreyas	2021
Sunny Landry	ricanmama13@yahoo.com	President Elect, Palanca	2022
Humberto Garcia	ambrsunny2@aol.com	4 th Day Vice-Chair	2021 ext.
Mike Jewett	hdbg90@hotmail.com	Hospitality	2021
Judy Brown	Jbrown3944@aol.com	Treasurer, Pine Valley Liaison	2021
Isabel Lynne	ilynne1700@yahoo.com	Pre-Cursillo Vice Chair, Parish Reps.	2021 ext.
James Ambasing	cvista.ja@cox.net	4 th Day Chair	2022
Craig Noble	charc450@gmail.com	Grouping Co- ordinator, EMC Liaison	2022

2021 SECRETARIAT CLERGY MEMBERS

Name	Email	Function	Term Exp.
Rev. George Calvert	gcalvert@berkeley.edu	Diocesan Spiritual Advisor	Bishop Apnt'd
Rev. Carlos Garcia	carlangas1986@cs.com	Assistant Spiritual Advisor, ECMC Rep.	Bishop Apnt'd
Rev. Paul Gambling	gfrpaul@gmail.com	Assistant Spiritual Advisor	2022
open			
Rev. Peter Sickles	psickles@msn.com	Assistant Spiritual Advisor	2021 ext.

2021 SPECIAL CURSILLO SERVANTS

Name	Email	Function
Larry Salvadori	lasalvadori@yahoo.com	Servant Community Convener/ Forward Editor/ Publicity/Rollo Critiques
Rachel Ambasing	rachel.ambasing@gmail.com	Acting Secretary, Music Co-ord., Sponsorship
Kit Chevalier	kmsopsinger@yahoo.com	Data Base Co.Ord, Parish Rep. Co-Ord.
Debbie Kistler	dk.outoflove@cox.net	Historian, Social Media
Jon Turley	turley.jonixxi@gmail.com	3-Day Weekend, Vice Chair
Ed Embick	sueanded@san.rr.com	Communications Chair / Webmaster
Shell Pierce	roaminchristian@mindspring.com	Prayer Chain Requests
Rob Constantine	roon46@gmail.com , or 858-874-8196	SD Cursillo Photographer
Chris McKellar	chris@mckellarmcgowan.com	KAIROS Liaison

CURSILLO CORNER – LOVE DONATIONS

The Cursillo community accepts donations year-round. These donations allow us to set up “scholarships” to help defray the cost of sponsoring new Cursillistas and workers, pay our bills, support ministries, and the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry. If you’d like to make a small or large Gift to Cursillo, please sent it to:

Judy Brown – Treasurer
 51 Viejas Grade Road
 Alpine, Ca. 91901-1605
 Checks made out to: Cursillos in Christianity