

# Forward

## Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Volume VII

August 2002

Our Mission: To Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

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### FROM THE CHAIR

We live in what was once considered a “Christian” country. In my lifetime that concept has changed dramatically. Our world is now mainly dominated by the secular culture. Worse than that, there are serious dedicated movements in our country intent on erasing any vestige of religion (mainly Christianity) from the public arena. We only have to look at events that have occurred recently. The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals handed down a ruling which declared the phrase “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional. I’m sure that event didn’t escape your notice because of the public outcry that followed it. I can still see the picture of the entire House of Representatives standing on the steps of the Capitol building reciting the Pledge. What I found most interesting was that quite a number of the House members are openly hostile to any religious expression and certainly didn’t believe in what they were doing; it was just the politically expedient thing to do that day.

The first talk on Sunday morning of each Cursillo weekend is a Study and Evangelization of the Environments where the new Cursillistas are asked to:

Consider the situations they are in and to work to rebuild them on a Christian foundation.

Become aware of their environment and their need for help in conquering it for Christ.

Make definite plans to change their environments.

That’s a tall order. In light of the events mentioned above, the call to action is ever more important. A study of American history reveals our founding fathers came to create this nation to escape religious oppression. They truly were seeking freedom OF religion, not FROM religion as popular culture would have us

*(Continued on page 2)*

### THE 2002 SECRETARIAT

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Study Liaison:	Rev. Josh Acton	858-538-1267 josh@st-tims-church.org
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believe. The concept of a society without God was unthinkable to most of the founders. Yet that is where we find ourselves today. Those who do not know the Lord are shouting their misguided beliefs from the rooftops.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said: "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven". (Matt 5:14-16 NIV) As Cursillistas we must be at the forefront of proclaiming the truth of Christ in our environments and letting our lights shine. Acting when politically expedient should not be an option for the disciples of Christ.

Our prayers are needed for the team members of the upcoming Cursillo weekends that they may faithfully serve the Lord and do His work. Pray for those considering sponsorship that they may be led by the Spirit and faithfully guide the candidates to a new life in Christ. Pray also for the Servant Community which supports the Cursillo. The next Servant Community meeting is on Saturday, September 14 (9 AM to noon) at Church of the Good Samaritan, University City. See you there.

Ultreya,  
Mike Orcutt

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Look for the next Forward in mid-October  
with Candidate and Team lists.

Articles, calendar events and other materials are due  
*no later than September 23rd.*

Send to  
Harry Packard  
5336 Noah Way San Diego CA 92117-1330  
Phone: 858-274-1019 Fax: 858-274-5435  
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**New names, addresses and changes to Barbara Taylor,  
Phone 619-421-5612 e-mail: just4taylor@cox.net**

## SUMMER SCHOOL AND GROWING PAINS

Harry Packard has asked us to share any experiences this summer that may help us in our efforts to become more effective Cursillistas.

OK, here's how I am spending my summer. On 20 May I tripped over my own clumsy feet on a tennis court and fractured a lumbar vertebra. This has effectively removed me from all activities until about the first of September. During this time I have learned a few things about pain, prayer, and TLC. (Somewhere I hope this ties in to Cursillo).

The first funny thing I learned about pain is--- pain ain't funny. Pain HURTS---whether it is physical, emotional, spiritual, or mental pain. That's something many of you have known for a long time. Having been a priest for forty years and a hospital chaplain for three years, I, too, thought I knew something about pain. But, to paraphrase a love song from "Guys and Dolls": "I'd never been in pain before, I thought my bod was safe, I thought I knew the score".

Thanks now to God's "Pain Class 101 ". I know what five hours in a thin robe on a metal slab in a frozen meat locker euphemistically called an "ER" is like--what sleeping and waking with pain (if only for a few weeks) is like. I call it the "Beginners' Class" because it can't hold a candle to what many of you have experienced for months and years. Perhaps most important-it has given me a small inkling of what pain Jesus endured on the cross for all of us. It's made identification with His suffering more than just an intellectual exercise.

Another blessing has been the support of so many Christian brothers and sisters in this time by prayers, calls, visits, etc. It's so great to know that we really are a family---in Christ--in Cursillo (THERE'S the connection!). That's why it's so important to pray for those whom Fr. Ed Renner and others bring to our attention via e-mail because they need healing, employment, guidance, love. (By the way, please keep praying for Ed's healing).

And let's pray continually for Bishop Hughes whom God has raised up to be our Bishop and Pastor in this diocesan family.

Well, Harry, that's how I spent my summer vacation. I hope The Teacher's lesson plan worked.

Fr. Tom Bond †

## The Power of a Seed

*"Then he told them many things in parables, saying:  
"A farmer went out to sow his seed."*

*(Matthew 13:3)*

*"He also said: 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.' "*

*(Mark 4:26-27)*

I went to seminary in downtown New York City. During that time, I did a pastoral internship in a parish just outside the city. This particular parish was like many churches in that it did not have the level of commitment to Jesus that seemed to make much of a difference in the lives of the parishioners. Where was the fire, where was - at least - the spark?

It is the same problem endemic to many comfortable churches in this country. The church seemed to me to be not afire but simply simmering with a kind of lukewarm faith that the Lord threatens to spit out of his mouth in the book of Revelation (Revelations 3:1.6).

If only my faith was more attractive, my sermons more exciting, I thought- If only my own Christianity was more convincing, maybe I could arouse some commitment and passion in these people. I was under the illusion that if I could just say the right thing or minister in the right way, I could turn that church around. (I know this sounds a bit narcissistic, but hey, I was young!)

On my way to catch the bus in the Port Authority terminal, I carried on the same internal conversation I had been having many times before. I wondered if my ministry was really making any difference, or if it ever would. Was my own discipleship convincing enough to inspire anyone to follow Jesus? These were not the kinds of thoughts to inspire a could-be clergyman.

But walking along the loud and frantic streets of that amazing city, God had something to show me. Coming up through the cracked sidewalk, lifting up chunks of cement at its base was a beautiful, stately elm tree. Forget the jostling crowds, the bus exhaust

and dim sunlight; the elm was in its glory just as it would have been in a quiet, rural field surrounded by clear water and air. The impression I received from the Lord was this: "You forgot how powerful a seed is."

I realized then that my job was not to lift, by my own strength, the heavy blanket of spiritual lethargy off of that congregation. My job would never have to be that complicated.

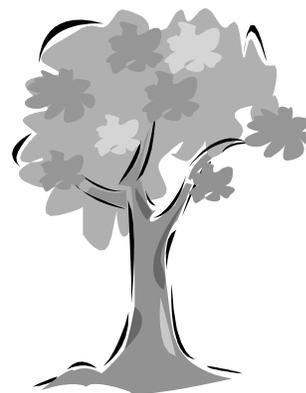
My job was to plant seeds. With the touch of a hand, a smile, a word of encouragement, a prayer or a teaching, I was simply sowing seeds. How they landed, if and when they took root, was not and never would be my responsibility. If only one seed took root, and by God's power broke through the cement of spiritual apathy or depression, then it was all worth it.

You may also be trying to plant a seed of faith in someone, and you wonder if it will ever amount to anything. Jesus tells us to be patient, to wait. The Holy Spirit will not force or rush anyone, anymore than you would force an infant to get a driver's license. Spirituality is developmental. Allow there to be space and time for the Spirit of God to work.

Your job is this: to wait on the Holy Spirit. He will come and inspire you to be a reliable witness to Jesus. As you learn to wait, you will receive power to become increasingly effective in your witness.

Plant the seeds, and leave the results up to God.

Fr. Josh Acton †



(Ed. Note: excerpt of "SpiritWalk" (River Press), by the Rev. Joseph K. Acton and Mary Curran-Downey. Copies will be available in the Cathedral Bookstore soon.)

## Cursillo #105

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee” is the theme for the Men’s Weekend, 17-20 October 2002 at Camp Stevens. Applications are still being accepted. We really need cocineros to complete the team. Musicians are especially welcome! If you cannot work the entire weekend, perhaps your ministry could be with the Sunday Angels. Alan Cornell (619) 472-2205 is the Head Angel. Please give him a call. There are only three team meetings planned. They will be on September 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and October 12<sup>th</sup>. A change since the last “Forward” is the location of the team training. We will meet at **St. Phillips in Lemon Grove** for all three meetings.

Meanwhile, please continue to pray for the team as it prepares for the Lord’s work in October. Pray for candidates. Pray for sponsors. Now is the time to get candidate applications in. May we have a problem of too many this time!

Ultreya!

Jerry Webb  
Rector, #105

## Cursillo #106

The planning for Cursillo #106 has officially begun! It is with considerable pleasure that I share with you the awesome core team that has said “yes” to this weekend. The Advising Rectora is Diana Linnabary, all the way from Chandler, Arizona, the Assistant Rectoras are Lauree Jordan and Jann Scheibel, Head Cook is Pat Sunda, Head Cook Kitchen is Jeanette Shelly, Head Cook Camp is Joan Perkins, and Head Musician is Shirley Wehrs. Our Spiritual Director for the weekend is the Rev. Maryanne Lacey, and her assisting clergy will be Fr. Tom Phillips, the Rev. Allisyn Thomas and Fr. Tony Baron. I cannot tell you how blessed I feel to have all of these talented people with such devoted servants hearts on this team. Our God is an awesome God!

I would like to thank not only these people for saying “yes”, but also to all who have sent applications to work on the team. We are at capacity, praise the Lord! However, not everyone will necessarily make it to the weekend. Typically a few drop off, so if you would like to be placed on a waiting list, please send in your application. There’s still a chance you might work. I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at the first team meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup>! Note the change in location: we will meet at **St. Phillips in Lemon Grove**.

Ultreya!

Petra Orta  
Rectora, #106

## PLAN (AND PRAY) AHEAD!!

It is certainly not too early to be planning Palanca for the October weekends. The most important Palanca is prayer. Pray for the candidates by name (when we have them) and pray for the teams, also by name. Prayer makes all the notes and little gifts far more meaningful. Telling someone that you are praying for them is a powerful gift. .

Just a few little reminders. Remember to alphabetize Palanca by LAST NAME, please. It helps if you can send your Palanca up to the mountain on Thursday afternoon so the Palanca People can sort early and spend some time with the candidates on Thursday evening. Please do not send Palanca to selected candidates. It is essential that each candidate receive the same degree of love. If you have Palanca for a candidate special to you, save it for Sunday following Clausura.

And most of all, pray.

Ultreya,

Judy Potter



## BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN

Cursillo has been blessed with a truly unique event held in January each year. This event, commonly called "Back to the Mountain," is the time for Cursillistas from the San Diego Diocese to start the new year by returning for a weekend at Camp Stevens. Started in 1985, attendance has generally grown each year with Cursillistas from Los Angeles, San Joaquin and Arizona who have learned of the program now also attending. The accolades received for Back to the Mountain are such that Larry and Jeanne Salvadori, the rector and rectora of this year's Back to the Mountain, have been asked to make a presentation at the National Cursillo Seminar in October as to how we conduct the program so that other Cursillo communities may start the same type of program.

People attend Back to the Mountain for a variety of reasons. Commonly, they have told me it is a time to be refreshed spiritually; others say it's a good way to start the year and set spiritual goals; others find it truly inspirational. At the last weekend event, John King was so inspired that he penned the words to what he thought was a poem of his experience. Others were equally inspired and set the poem to music, all within a matter of hours. The song is titled, appropriately, "Back to the Mountain."

As with the regular Cursillo weekends, the rector and rectora pick a theme for Back to the Mountain. Many have selected the theme from a popular Cursillo song. The Salvadoris picked "Sing A New Song" and the witness talks were from various stanzas of the music. This was so successful that Barbara and I, as the rector and rectora for 2003, will continue the tradition. We have selected our theme from one of the stanzas of the new "Back to the Mountain" song, "I Come to Refresh" as epitomizing why we both attend Back to the Mountain. The words to the song are as follows:

Back to the Mountain

I come back to the mountain  
Leave the world behind  
I lift up my hands to you  
I give you my heart, soul and mind.

I come to remember  
My covenant spoken  
To renew my convictions  
And mend what's been broken.

I come to refresh  
And strengthen my soul  
To reflect on the past  
And set future goals.

I come to give thanks  
For your mercy and grace  
Your joy and your peace  
That I find in this place.

I come back to the mountain  
A love to renew  
It's not with the mountain  
Dear Lord, it's with you.

I found what I asked for  
I've been given my fill  
I return to the world now  
Obeying your will.

We will ask the speakers on the weekend to select their talk from one of the above stanzas. Please mark your calendar now for January 3 - 5, 2003. Spaces will fill quickly so be sure to send in your application early when it comes out in the next issue of *The Forward*. Any Cursillista can attend, but space at Camp Stevens is limited. If you have any questions or cannot wait to register, please call Mike or Barbara McBride at (858) 292-5246.

Mike McBride

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

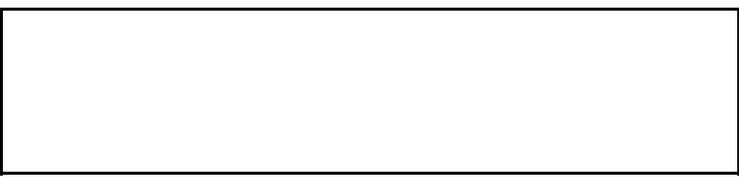
14th Servant Community and Secretariat  
Church of the Good Samaritan 9:00-12:00

21st Team Meeting, St. Phillips, Lemon Grove  
23rd October *Forward* Deadline  
24th Candidate and Sponsor Applications Due  
28th Team Meeting, St. Phillips, Lemon Grove

29th Area Ulireya at St. Anthony of the Desert  
19990 Mountain View, Desert Hot Springs  
5:00 Potluck 6:00 Ulireya  
For information, call 760-329-4135

### OCTOBER

12th Team Meeting, St. Phillips, Lemon Grove  
17-20 Men's Weekend #105  
24-27 Women's Weekend #106  
25-27 National Episcopal Cursillo Seminar, Seattle WA  
[www.geocities.com/seattlenecs/NECS2002.html](http://www.geocities.com/seattlenecs/NECS2002.html)



### SOME HARD FACTS MID-YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT July 15, 2002

Total 2002 Expenditures \$25,187  
2002 Shortfall to Date \$ 4,107

*Cursillos in Christianity*  
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