



Forward

Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

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Our Mission: To Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership

From the Spiritual Director

Why I Believe in Both Fun and Fulfillment

Mark Pinsky, in his interesting book, *The Gospel According to Disney*, tells the story of Pinocchio. He points out that in the Disney movie the white haired woodcarver, Geppetto, knelt on his bed, folded his hands on the windowsill and turned his eyes to heaven. "Then in his soft Italian accent, he did not pray. Instead, Geppetto wished upon a star." The transformation of the wooden puppet into an animated boy-like puppet was by magic, not a miracle performed by God. We find the magic of Pinocchio to be fun, we are entertained by it. One of the most powerful ways we have fun is by pretending that something is true that is not true, what is called "make-believe." Walt Disney understood the powerful connection between make-believe and having fun. In make-believe we pretend that we can make a wish upon a star and what we wish will come true. We believe that through magic we have what we want, that we can control the world. When we watch the movie Pinocchio we pretend that magic can transform an inanimate wooden puppet into an animated puppet and then by the end of the movie into a real boy. When we enter into a make-believe world of a movie or a theme park like Disneyland, we have fun. And having fun is a very important part of life. People that can't have fun are often just existing and not living. Having fun by pretending is refreshing and uplifting, it is an important part of life. I strongly believe in having fun. But having fun is not the same thing as having a fulfilling life. If a person spent their life living to have fun, they would lead an empty, unfulfilled life. A life centered on "make-believe" and pleasure would destroy a person. Make-believe is unreal and to have unreality at the center of life is destructive. To live for pleasure leads to despair, it is fun at first, but quickly becomes an empty life. It is a big mistake many people make to think having fun will be a fulfilling life. Fun is not real accomplishment, it is not realizing potential, it is just fun, not fulfillment.

We need to have God lead us and empower us to have a fulfilling life. Jesus Christ, God come among us, said: "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly" (John 10:10). Abundant life, life that is full and meaningful is a gift that Jesus gives us when we let Jesus come inside of us. It is Jesus living inside of us that gives us a fulfilling life. He transforms us from the inside out. He leads us into God's plan for us. All these things give us a fulfilling life. We are called to have faith in Jesus, which is not the same thing as make-believe. In make-believe we pretend what is untrue is true, what is unreal is real. In faith, we don't believe in the untrue

A Message From Our Next Rectora

When my sponsors, Darryl and Barbara, suggested to me soon after my Cursillo Weekend, that I could someday be asked to give a Rollo, or in time, be Rectora, my immediate, internal reaction, was sadly NOT, "Here am I send me", but:

"NO WAY!" and "NO THANK YOU!"

But here I am today, just over six years later, beginning the planning for Cursillo 128, assembling the core team and deciding on the theme of our next 3 Day Weekend, surrounded by wonderfully supportive fellow Cursillistas. The weekend I first worked as a Cocinera was as foundational as my actual weekend. What joy to leave my shy, self-conscious persona at home for a few days and jump in to the fray--washing dishes, getting coffee, praying for candidates, cleaning, laughing, rearranging, singing in the Rollistas, getting to really know my fellow team members and intentionally acting out the love God has for us. Now I seize the opportunity to work every 3-day weekend I can and I hope you will too.

Consider the absolute joy (and privilege) of seeing candidates, so wary and cautious at first, go through the process of opening up to God's love and yielding themselves unreservedly to Him by Sunday afternoon.

Consider the "growing" experience of working Cursillo weekends. For a person who has avoided public speaking (even announcements at church) for decades, preparing to give my first Rollo was a nerve-wracking prospect. Once it was done, I was surprised that I quite enjoyed the experience of having people actually having to sit and listen for a few minutes to what I had to say. I've been able to begin reading lessons at church and have given short talks from time to time. And that's just an example of one area of growth.

Consider that the weekend allows us to step away from the way we are in our "regular" life and become for a few days what God wants us to be in that moment. For me, it is an opportunity to become a whole hearted servant to those around me on the team and to the candidates, both in prayer and service. Hopefully, when I return to my life off the mountain, I am more aware of God's presence and the needs of others around me, and less concerned about myself.

Spiritual Director, cont.

and the unreal, we believe in Jesus Christ the foundation of all truth and reality. Faith is not pretending it is trusting in the reality of Jesus. It is vitally important that our life is centered on the reality of Jesus Christ. I believe both fun and fulfillment are important. There is a child inside of us that needs to have fun, we need to pretend and enjoy make-believe worlds. Having fun refreshes us from the day-to-day grind of the world.

Letting Jesus Christ give us abundant life also lifts us out of the day-to-day grind of life and makes life full and meaningful. We should not forget that letting Christ give us a fulfilling life is far more important than having fun. But we should also remember that Jesus did not come to take away our having fun. Why not have both a fun and fulfilling life? Both are important.

Your friend in Christ, Father George

Rectora, Cont.

Working a weekend has become a small but tangible way to say "Thank you, Jesus, for all you've done in my life and the lives of others as a result of the Cursillo Movement." By God's grace through Cursillo, my "no way" has become "yes, with God's help" and my "no thank you" just "Thank You!"

Ultreya!

Susan Miller, Rectora
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PALANCA

It's never too early to start in on Palanca for a weekend. As Susan is working to put her team together, it would be wonderful for each of us to work to do Palanca - a little at a time - for the weekend. Spend a little time each day in prayer for Susan, the team and those who will be candidates and those who will be sponsors. Organize a Palanca party with your parish rep., plan a pot luck supper with your Cursillo community. Palanca is prayer and Palanca is love. Express your love and, if you are not going to be able to be in Julian for the weekend, someone will make sure your Palanca is there.



Judy Potter

Palanca Chair

From the Chair



All I can say about the Cursillo #127 Spring Weekend is: "WOW"! What a blast:

- Excellent Rollos
- Table discussions that never quit
- Good Food
- Lots of laughter
- Major sharing of lives and faith
- Lots of love
- 31 new Cursillistas ready to serve
- Really good Saturday night entertainment
- Palanca to warm the heart
- 31 fervent and enthusiastic responses: "Here am I, send me"

Thank you all, Rector Craig Nobel, the new Cursillistas, Team Members, Sponsors, Angels, Prayers, Parish Reps., Parish Clergy, and the wider Cursillo Community for making Cursillo #127 happen **LARGE**. Then, the Day of Deeper Understanding broke all attendance records with 64 attending. We downed 13 large Pizzas and three large salad pans. Everyone left totally fed in mind, spirit, and body.

Is this a time then to rest on our laurels? Heck no! We're moving onward and upward with Rectora Susan Miller leading the fall Cursillo Weekend #128. She needs Team Members to sign up **now**. She needs Sponsors to start Making a Friend, being a Friend, and bring their friend to Cursillo #128, Oct. 21 - 24.

Special Announcement: All new Cursillistas that Attended Cursillo #127 will be given first priority to join the #128 team as a Cocinero/a working in the kitchen. Hey, It doesn't get any better than that!

Carry thru thought for the Summer: With God, all things are possible. With God, all things are good. With God, our hearts can soar. With God, life is beautiful, and With God, our love is complete.

Larry Salvadori
Cursillo Secretariat Chair

If you haven't worked a weekend in awhile, I encourage you to fill out an application and come up to the mountain for renewal and refreshment. Yes, our weekends have changed, we are now coed but this just brings a new dimension to the weekend. The tables are gender specific but the Rollos are divided among both men and women. It is an interesting perspective to hear a Rollo given by the opposite gender. The kitchen teams are also coed, which makes for interesting conversation and lighter hands especially for the women. You can find an application at www.sdcursillo.org. Come and join us this fall.

Cursillo Team 127 Rector's Report

THE 2010 SECRETARIAT

The Spring Weekend (22-25 April 2010) started with a weather issue -- we had snow. The reports I was receiving as early as 7:30 AM was Julian had a few inches. Later from camp, only the main road in to the parking lot was passable. Bishops Lodge and the Yurts were not assessable by car. The snow fell until mid afternoon but we did get the weekend started. After the usual gathering at Rong Branch for lunch, the team headed to camp to setup and preparation for the candidate in the evening. The candidates numbering 31 all checked in. With a team of 41 that would give us, 72 combined for the weekend. Following introductions and meditations, the candidates were sent to bed in silence. Friday morning greeted us with slippery ice and snow. We got the weekend started with our first five Rollo's and instructed Eucharist. With the Palanca presentation and ending the night with Sin and Reconciliation and foot washing made for a full day. Saturday greeted us with warmer weather and clear skies. Our second set of five Rollo's were all hits. The evening events of Agape dinner followed by our fun time music sing-along went well. The highlight was the requested "Right Quick" skit by our clergy. Sunday arrived with mixed thoughts of how the weekend was going and that the end was near. Mananitas brought the expected surprise it always does. With so many candidates, the flowers and our love were overflowing. Finally, we came to our last five Rollo's and the closing of the weekend. The Closed Clausura was my highlight of the weekend as we could see just what impact the weekend meant to each candidate. Everyone gave had a comment when picking up their candle, then we introduced them to their silent prayer partner. After going up to the Open Clausura where we met the greater community, we celebrated the Eucharist and cross ceremony. After passing of the peace and tearful good-by's the candidates (new Cursillistas) departed with their sponsors. For the most part, what I saw was what the candidates saw. Both the Kitchen and Rollo Room teams were great. The weekend went better than I could have expected. The post weekend feedback was very positive. I know that the Holy Spirit was FULLY IN CHARGE of the weekend and that I was just along for the ride of a lifetime. I never thought I would be a rector for a Cursillo weekend. After all the time, planning, change is team members shuffling schedules and all, the weekend went smoothly. I would describe it as a swan moving gracefully in the shimmering waters of a pond. What I saw was above the water, but I know a lot of hard work by each team member in both physical labor and prayer is what made the swan look so graceful. For that I want to express my gratitude and love to the core team, the whole team, sponsors, prayer warriors everywhere and especially for the Holy Spirit for bringing forth great candidates. Respectfully submitted,

Craig Noble,
Rector, Cursillo Weekend #127

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JUNE

12 Servant Community Meeting, Good Samaritan, 8:30 am
Secretariat Meeting, Good Samaritan, 11:00 pm

26 Ultreya, Good Samaritan, 6:00pm Potluck, 7:00pm Ultreya

JULY

19 Candidate pledges due for Cursillo #128

26 Deadline for August Forward Articles, e-mail to Linda Lyons

AUGUST

28 1st Team Meeting

SEPTEMBER

11 Servant Community Meeting, Good Samaritan, 8:30 am
Secretariat Meeting, Good Samaritan, 12:30 pm
First Time Worker Training

18 Rollo Critique Day

24 Deadline for June Forward Articles, e-mail to Linda Lyons

OCTOBER

2 3rd Team Meeting

7 Secretariat Meeting, Good Samaritan, 6:30 pm

9 Final Team Meeting

21-24 Cursillo #128