

○ FEBRUARY | ○ 2020



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 MESSAGE FROM THE CURSILLO SECRETARIAT PRESIDENT

Greetings! May this find you well, and at peace with our Lord.

I had the honor to be elected President for Cursillo Secretariat for 2020. This position is bringing a lot of challenges and work, but I have the blessing of counting with an amazing group of people, that works very hard to follow the Pastoral Plan approved by our Bishop, The Rt. Reverend Susan Brown Snook, and the direction and Pastoral guidance of The Rev. George Calvert. We had a very productive retreat at the home of our gracious hostess Susan Miller, she made us feel so welcomed and we were able to accomplish a lot of work.

The scriptural theme for this year, will be one of my favorite verses of the Bible, "Go and teach them to obey everything that I have commanded you....And remember, I am with you always, to the end of age. Mathew 28:20

Our newly elected members: Sunny Landry, James Ambasing, and Craig Noble (whose term ended as President-elect) were present and gracefully accepted their new positions.

There was a lot of good energy and we have really good, and big ideas for this year. We are looking forward to work, and explore our vision for the Cursillo movement, working in several areas to renew



and attract more disciples to Christ. Please Pray to the Holy Spirit to be with us, and illuminate us when we gather to discern how we shall proceed to follow our Lord Jesus Christ teachings.

Please remember, the deadline to submit application for the candidates is February 26, The Spring Cursillo Weekend is fast approaching, and our Rector Ginny Rodriguez is working diligently to make this another successful weekend. Please, please submit the applications as soon as possible, we need to start praying for the candidates and working on our Palanca.

De Colores
Isabel Lynne

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN CURSILLO SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Four Points of Light

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." ' Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. Matthew 2:1-12

The wisemen were probably court advisors to the king of Persia, modern day Iran. They were a combination of astrologer, magician, and philosopher. They also served as government ambassadors. Their beliefs about astrology and magic are now known to be erroneous. They certainly were not wise because of what they believed. Their beliefs were foolish. However, the wisemen were wise because they followed the points of light that God gave them. They are examples for us to follow. They show us four points of God's light: **attention, guidance, humility, and stewardship.**

The first point of light is that they paid **attention**: They paid attention to God's divine revelation. They were able to see through their fog of paganistic religion, magic, and philosophy and were able to observe and see God's work. They tell King Herod that they have come to honor the newborn King of the Jews for they have "observed his star at its rising." God broke into their erroneous religion and was guiding them to himself because they were willing to pay attention to God's work. What does this tell us today? We need to let God break through our erroneous religious ideas, political ideologies, our desires for control, power, money, and pleasure. We need to be looking for God's work among us. We

need to be paying attention to God. God is always at work doing something new. The word epiphany means revealing what was hidden. Most of the time God hides himself and his work from us.

Karl Barth points out that “God is hidden in his infinity and his eternity.” But the God that is hidden from us bursts into our lives through moments of revelation. We need to pay attention to these epiphanies. These epiphanies can occur when reading the Bible, when worshiping in church, when praying, when taking a walk, talking to a friend, or reading a Christian book. They can happen many different ways to a person that is trying to pay attention to God. Are we paying attention to God?

God’s **guidance** is the second point of light. The wisemen go on a journey guided by God. They leave their country and travel all the way to Israel. They are led by a star, a symbol of light, as they go on the way that God has directed them. They are further guided by God in a dream to go home by another road so that Herod will not be able to harm Jesus or them. It’s important for us to understand that our Christian life is a journey. It involves both inward spiritual travel and outward physical travel. Inwardly God is always trying to move us to a new place of relationship and understanding. Outwardly God is always asking us to travel. It could mean journeying from our home to church. It could be getting up out of our pew and walking towards God’s presence at the altar rail. It could be going to a Bible Study at someone’s home. It could be going on a Cursillo weekend to renew our faith or help others. God is always guiding us on a journey. Are we willing to let him guide us?

The third point of light is **humility**. The wisemen humbled themselves before Jesus by kneeling before him. They pay him homage or worship him. They are willing to let go of their egos and offer themselves to him. What does this tell us? How is this light for us? The truth is that we have a hard time offering ourselves to Jesus. We do not want to let him be our savior. We want to keep our ego at the center of our lives and engineer our own salvation rather than let Him save us, but there is no other way to come to Jesus than through humility. Only a humble person will be able to accept Jesus as their savior. What about you? Have you thought about your inner desires for control and power that may get in the way of humbling yourself before Jesus? To be a true follower of Jesus, you must set aside your sin of pride and humbly submit yourself to Him. You have to trust Him to give you a better life than you can provide for yourself. Are you willing to trust Jesus enough to humble yourself before him? If you truly worship Jesus with a humble heart he will come into your life and help you.

The fourth point of this story is **stewardship**. The wise men offer to Jesus their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They are an example for us. Are we willing to offer to Jesus our time, talent, and treasure? A true follower of Jesus is someone who is a steward of Jesus. A steward in the ancient world was someone who managed their employer’s possessions for the benefit of the employer. Jesus has called us to be God’s stewards managing the gifts that God has given us. Jesus as the son of God has given us so many good things. If we love him, we will want to use what he has given us to spread his kingdom.

The wisemen are examples of how to be an effective follower of Jesus. They are model disciples. They show us the four points of light which we need to have in our lives in order to follow Jesus. We need to get beyond our modern paganistic religion, pantheism, political ideologies, astrology, magic, and philosophies. If these are what we use to guide

us, we will be more foolish in our beliefs than the wisemen were in their beliefs before they found Jesus!! In order to be wise, we need to encounter Jesus's presence and revelation through the four points of light today.

Your friend in Christ,

Father George

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR, CURSILLO WEEKEND #146

Cursillo #146 is right around the corner on March 26-29, 2020!

The Spring Weekend in March has a smaller planning window than the Fall Weekend in October. If you want to serve this Weekend or have a candidate to sponsor, please avoid the rush and submit your application as soon as possible. The deadline for Candidate Applications is February 26 (Ash Wednesday).

You can find the Applications for Cursillo Weekend #146 at sdcursillo.org.

The theme of the Weekend is John 10: 27-28. Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand."

In my experience, sheep don't 'talk' to just anybody. Our sheep always greeted us with baas and BAAAS as we drove down the driveway at our house. They remained silent, but watchful, when anyone else drove by or came to visit. They would call to us if we were late feeding them. The sheep recognized our voices and our car's voice. So, it is fitting that the songbook cover is a picture of the "Good Shepherd" stained glass window located at Good Shepherd, Bonita.

The theme song for the Weekend has nothing to do with sheep. The song is "One Bread, One Body; Un Pan, Un Cuerpo". When I heard this song, I thought: That is US! It is what we do in the Cursillo ministry and in the world. It is De Colores!

Check out the song at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xgebiXpGJnw>

There are only two more scheduled regular team meetings:

February 22, 2020 at Good Shepherd, Bonita at 8:30 a.m.

March 14, 2020 at St. Andrew's La Mesa at 8:30 a.m.

Please see the Cusillo website for the latest information: sdcursillo.org

De Colores!

Ginny Rodriguez

Rector # 146

FOURTH DAY ACTIVITIES

Ultreya in Yuma!

Yuma is absolutely lovely in January. It was also a lovely ultreya at St. Paul's, Yuma on January 18, 2020. A throng of 37 Cursillistas showed up for food, fellowship, music and enthusiastic praise to the Lord. A warm welcome was made to St. Paul's new Rector, Bob Lewis. Reverend Bob joyfully strummed his guitar with the group of musicians who trekked from San Diego and the crowd just couldn't get enough—the Holy Spirit presided.

The Rev. Pat Underkofler gave a moving witness talk showing how God's presence and guidance pulled her through her bout with breast cancer and made her a living witness of God's love. Yours truly gave the echo talk in which I shared how my health challenges of the last three years with a tumor in my spine and colon cancer led me to a new ministry. I help, coach, encourage and pray for my clients and other people who are facing similar health challenges.

Fr. Paul Gambling gave the Scriptural Response: **Ephesians 6:11** "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able stand against the schemes of the devil." **Isaiah 40:31** "but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

St. Paul's, Yuma is giving and has been giving strong support to the Cursillo Ministry in our Diocese: they deserve our encouragement and support no matter what part of the Diocese in which we reside. I encourage all Cursillistas to take part in future Cursillo events that will be held there. Also, support with your presence and participation the Diocesan Convention that will be held at St. Paul's Yuma in November 6-7, 2020.

Grand Ultreya April 25, 2020 at St. Andrew's, La Mesa: Save the Date.

The upcoming Grand Ultreya will feature long-time cursillistas, Rosie Tseng, who will give the Witness Talk, and Bryan Chan, who will give the Echo. The Rev. Babs Meirs will give the Scriptural Response. Rosie, who has limited mobility, will share her experiences in developing a ministry in the Mobile home Park in which she lives. It is a very inspirational story. Bring a friend.

Blessings and love,
Ruben Rodriguez

Back To The Mountain

January found 16 of us enjoying the beautiful scenery, crisp air, good food, LOTS of snacks, an entertaining movie, and most especially, good fellowship. PVBCC was, once again, the venue for Back to the Mountain. Each day started with Morning Prayer, or Eucharist (thank you Fr George), and ended with evening prayer. The theme of the weekend was Love, and through a series of three talks, we discovered how Jesus loved, a new way to love your neighbor, and a witness to unconditional love in a time of need. Humberto and Amber Garcia, along with myself, Kit Chevalier, created a fun, relaxing, enjoyable weekend. Saturday afternoon was free time, which included a musician jam session, arts and crafts, secretariat planning, and I think, a few naps. Something for everyone.

Thank you to all who participated and assisted in the planning. Consider this *After Christmas Refresh* for next year. January 8-10, 2021. You won't want to miss it.

Blessings, Kit

And now... a message to our sponsors from Susan Miller

- Quoting *Edwardo Bonnin*, one of the founders of Cursillo: “We do not have Group Reunions so that there will be people to attend a Cursillo Weekend; on the contrary, we have Cursillo Weekends so that there will be people to make Group Reunions.”
- The Cursillo Ministry provides opportunity for every Cursillista to be involved in a vital small group, where we can grow and help others grow; where we can reach a community for Christ, and help others do the same. Our small groups are where we find friendship, validation, exhortation, encouragement and are challenged to live every day for Christ. We can't get there without **Sponsorship**. To get the most out of the 4th Day experience, it is vital to have sponsors who know what their responsibilities are, and are willing to carry these out. This is where Palanca comes in.
- And as you already know, “Palanca = Sacrifice”. Sponsorship involves a lot of sacrifice. If you've raised children, and had to put aside your own interests in order to do what's best for them, then you know what I'm talking about. You set a good example, even if it means eating vegetables you don't like. I had almost forgotten that phase of my life until I got a puppy 3 years ago. Talk about sacrifice! The demands of feeding, training, visits to the vet, et all, were time consuming but well worth the effort. I learned that socialization in the first 16 weeks, that is, introducing him to as many new experiences as possible, was imperative if I wanted a well-adjusted dog. My puppy is now very sweet, very smart, (of course) and at 100 pounds, a very big dog! Learning to be comfortable early on in various situations--socialization--helped make him a calm and happy dog.
- Now I'm not going to put raising puppies on a par with sponsorship, but there is a thread of similarities. The first few weeks before and after the weekend are very important in a Cursillista's 4th Day experience. That is where Palanca in the form of Sponsorship is often overlooked.
- I want to acknowledge *my* sponsors, Barbara and Darryl Peralta, who “socialized” me in the Cursillo community. They invited me, even drove me to the Day of Deeper Understanding, the Grand Ultreya and local Ultreyas, until I became acquainted and felt at home in the Cursillo movement and with you all.
- I was invited to group with Barbara *before* I went on the weekend. The concepts of Piety, Study, and Action didn't make a lot of sense to me, but I tried my best to follow along as the other women talked, and was *deeply impressed* by their sincere and genuine friendship with one another. I continued with that group for years after I made my Cursillo.
- My sponsors continue to write me notes of encouragement from time to time. Those sacrificial gifts of time and attention solidified the things I learned on the weekend and moved me in the direction God was urging me to go.
- There is another Cursillo maxim you might remember from the Community in Action Rollo: **“you do not have to do it alone.”** For one thing, the cost of sponsoring a candidate or working a weekend has risen.
- **Co-sponsorship:** To share the cost of the weekend, friends within the Cursillo Community are teaming up to sponsor a candidate, sharing the cost and the driving responsibilities during the weekend with one or more people.
- **Parish Scholarships:** Our church has a Cursillo Fund for donations given by Cursillistas throughout the year. One church holds fundraisers to financially sponsor its candidates.
- **After-Weekend Sponsorship:** Remember, our job as a sponsor does not end at on Sunday afternoon, nor is parish financial support complete sponsorship. Effective sponsorship is personal rather than institutional. Sponsorship is hard! But the rewards are eternal.
- Our new Cursillistas need our help and encouragement at first. Help them to find a weekly group, drive them to the Day of Deeper Understanding and the Grand Ultreya. Then continue to encourage them so they feel connected to the wider Cursillo Community, are sponsoring others, and living out Piety, Study and Action!

Cursillo events calender

2020	More Information Click Link	Directions Click Link	Click Link to e-mail POC	Return to top
DATE	Description	Location	POC	Time/Day
Feb-22-20	<u>Cursillo #146 (Coed)</u> 2 nd Team Meeting	<u>Good Shepherd Bonita</u>	<u>Ginny Rodriguez</u>	8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Feb-26-20	Cursillo # 146 Applications Deadline	<u>Cursillo Applications</u>	<u>Pre-Cursillo Chair</u>	COB
Feb-29-20	<u>Cursillo #146 (Coed)</u> Rollo Critiques	<u>St. Bartholomew's</u>	<u>Larry Salvadori</u>	8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
March 2020	More Information Click Link	Directions Click Link	Click Link to e-mail POC	Return to top
DATE	Description	Location	POC	Time/Day
Mar-07-20	<u>Servant Community</u> Cursillo #146 Cocinero & Rollo Room Training	<u>St. Dunstan's</u>	<u>Larry Salvadori</u>	8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Mar-07-20	<u>Secretariat</u>	<u>St. Dunstan's</u>	<u>Isabel Lynne</u>	12:30 PM
Mar-14-20	<u>Cursillo #146 (Coed)</u> Final Team Meeting & Eucharist	<u>St. Alban's</u>	<u>Ginny Rodriguez</u>	8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Mar-26-20 thru Mar-29-20	<u>Cursillo #146 (Coed)</u> <i>Mananitas 2:15 PM (Flowers only)</i> <i>Open Clausura 2:30 PM Sunday</i>	<u>Pine Valley Bible Conference Center</u>	<u>Ginny Rodriguez</u>	7:00 PM Thursday through 5:00 PM Sunday
Mar-31-20	Forward Deadline		<u>News Letter Editor</u>	COB

Palanca

Greetings brothers and sisters:

Cursillo #146 is March 26 thru March 29th. Time to pray for the new candidates to say YES!!!. The deadline for submission of applications is February 26th. It is also time to start thinking about the many ways we support our candidates, and all the people serving during the weekend, by offering prayers and the gifts of Palanca; keeping in mind how very special each prayer is for us all, and the great support offered thru the gifts and prayers we gather in the bags.

Please pray, pray, pray as the weekend approaches, and keep in mind the dates for the following Cursillistas that are holding their weekend throughout our nation and the world.

De Colores

The Cursillo Secretariat

FEBRUARY

2/7-9, Weave Us Together retreat, Arizona, stcf456@aol.com

2/20-23, Cursillo #256, Texas, SRyder@JsrSys.com

2/20-23, Cursillo #221, Alabama, lipmonm@gmail.com

2/27-3/1, Women's Cursillo, San Francisco/San Mateo, jerilynn_coward@yahoo.com

MARCH

3/5-8, Cursillo #141, Upper South Carolina, jjendronjanet@gmail.com

3/19-22, Coed Cursillo, Florida, ftarheel13@gmail.com

3/26-29, Coed Cursillo, Massachusetts, Esummerfelt@gmail.com

2020 SECRETARIAT LAY MEMBERS

Name	Email	Function	Term Exp.
Isabel Lynne	llynn1700@yahoo.com	Presedent	2020
Ruben Rodriguez	rodriguez_ruben@msn.com	Rector Support Team, Outreach, Ultreyas	2021
Susan Miller	miller.sv@sbcglobal.net	Pre-Cursillo Chair, Assoc. Webmaster President Elect	2021
Humberto Garcia	ambrsunny2@aol.com	4 th Day Chair	2020
Mike Jewett	hdbg90@hotmail.com	3 Day Weekend, Vice Chair	2021
Craig Noble	craignoble@cox.net	Palanca, ECM Liaison	2022
Judy Brown	Jbrown3944@aol.com	Treasurer	2021
Sunny Landry	SunnyPRmama@aol.com	Secretary	2022
James Ambasing	cvista.ja@cox.net	TBD	2022

2020 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	Bishop Apnt'd
Rev. Paul Gambling	gfrpaul@gmail.com	Assistant Spiritual Advisor	2022
Rev. Pam Rieger	deaconpam@stdunstans.org	Assistant Spiritual Advisor	2021
Rev. Peter Sickles	psickles@msn.com	Assistant Spiritual Advisor	2021

SPECIAL CURSILLO SERVANTS

Name	Email	Function
Larry Salvadori	lasalvadori@yahoo.com	Servant Community Chair/ Forward Editor
Rachel Ambasing	rachel.ambasing@gmail.com	Music, Sponsorship
Debbie Kistler	dk.outoflove@cox.net	Historian, Social Media
Kit Chevalier	kmsopsinger@yahoo.com	Parish Reps, Publicity
Ed Embick	sueanded@san.rr.com	Communications Chair / Webmaster
Shell Pierce	roaminchristian@mindspring.com	Webmaster Emeritus

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, medium, 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