

APRIL 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



Presiding Bishop Curry: 'Cursillo Was A
Significant Part of My Own Faith Journey'

***Watch for the Special Forward Edition in June for:
"The Rest of the Story"***

A MESSAGE FROM THE CURSILLO SECRETARIAT PRESIDENT

Hello,
Dearest brothers and sisters in Christ, I pray that you and your loved ones are well, healthy and safe.

I don't think I need to mention that we are living unprecedented times: Pandemic, Injustice, Violence, Poverty, Depression, Loneliness.....etc. etc.

Personally, I have encounter all sorts of feelings watching the "new normal" taking effect so we can see our brothers and sisters going back to work to earn a salary to pay rent, bills, food and essentials as well as fulfilling their personal needs, and the ones that depend directly on them.

I am blessed to be a part of the Essential workers team in my office, serving the very vulnerable population of our city. Taking all kinds of precautions of course. Serving, working hard and thriving, it has been specially emotionally hard for me to watch offices and cubicles with no workers, since they are teleworking I know they are fine but I miss them. Their absence brings a reminder of the sad time we are living, and that we need to stick to the rules, being in quarantine, safe and responsible. I pray for their welfare and their loved ones. As well as the victims of the pandemic and violence.

We have just celebrated Pentecost!! what a great lesson from the Holy Spirit about Strength, justice, and peace. It brings such a powerful message to participate in God's mission to bind us together, sounds familiar?.

The Holy spirit will lead the way, and we will fill the the breeze full of good news from the risen Christ.

Please join me to pray to the Holy Spirit, I am sure this will remind you of our beloved Cursillo:

Come Holy spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of **Y**our love. Send forth your spirit and we shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth. Oh God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever enjoy **HIS** consolation. Through Christ **Our lord**. Amen.

De Colores!!
Isabel Lynne

A Prayer in a Time of Distress

Almighty and everlasting God, You are strength to those who suffer and comfort to those who grieve. Let the prayers of your children who are in trouble rise to you. Hear our prayer. We claim your promises of wholeness as we pray for those who are ill or are suffering loss and long for your healing touch.

Hear our prayer.

Make the weak strong, the sick healthy, the broken whole, and confirm those who serve them as agents of your love.

Hear our prayer.

To everyone in distress, grant mercy, grant relief, grant refreshment.

Hear our prayer.

As we begin to rebuild, we commend our neighborhoods to your care. Give us strength of purpose and concern for others, that we may create a community where your will may be done.

Hear our prayer.

God of compassion, you watch our ways, and weave out of terrible happenings wonders of goodness and grace.

Hear our prayer.

Surround those who have been shaken by tragedy with a sense of your present love, and hold them in faith. Though they are lost in grief, may they find you and be comforted; Through Jesus Christ who was dead, but lives and rules this world with you. Amen.

(The Rev. John G. Hamilton, FPC, Rochelle, III.)

Prayer For A Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between
preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for
our children when their schools close,
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,
Let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically
wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace
of God to our neighbors.

Amen.



Prayer: Historic Saint Paul Catholic Church, Lexington, KY

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN CURSILLO SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Why You Need Justification and Sanctification, and *Then* a Vocation

Some people consider themselves naturally *spiritual*. They believe that they are automatically right before God and have no need to be justified and sanctified before God. It is easy to deceive ourselves by thinking we are pretty good people and therefore not sinners. But such a spirituality is an illusion. It is not a real relationship with God. We can live our own lives our own ways and never have to submit ourselves and our lives to God. This is the self-righteous sin of pride. We are all sinners and we all need to be purified and reconciled to God through justification and sanctification.

First of all, what is justification? Justification is what makes us righteous before God. Are we justified by our good works? Or are we justified by God's grace we receive by faith? We are justified by God's grace because we never can do enough good works to offset our sins. Justification is a gift from God. Yet, we have a desire inside of ourselves to try to justify ourselves before God, we want to try to come before God through our own self-righteousness rather than through the righteousness of Christ. But it is Christ's righteousness offered to us by his sacrifice on the cross and in His resurrection that is true justification. It is a gift of grace. In the New Testament book of Ephesians, we read "By grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works that no one should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9.

What is sanctification? Sanctification is the other side of justification; it is the inward appropriation of justification. The righteousness that Christ has won for us on the cross and in His triumphant resurrection is poured into us by the Holy Spirit. Sanctification is the Holy Spirit working inside of us to make us holy. To be holy is to be Godly—to be filled with the presence of God and to live into the purposes of God. Justification by Christ leads to being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. Justification must come first before sanctification can happen.

Martin Luther believed that justification is the central dogma of Christianity. In his commentary, he writes on Galatians 1:3, "If the article of justification goes, everything goes. It is therefore necessary that we daily stress...and strongly urge this article. We can never say that we think about it or hold to it enough or too much." page 6, Kung.

How we are justified before God is key. Jesus speaks in Matthew 7:13-14 of the narrow gate, "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction. And there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life and there are few that find it." The road that leads to life must begin with justification and then lead to sanctification. The gate is Jesus. We must pass through his crucifixion and his resurrection, but in order to pass through His gate we must be convinced that He is the one that justifies us before God and not ourselves. As Luther says, "We can never say that we think about it or hold to it enough or too much." Christ's justification is the key to entering into sanctification and vocation. If we bypass the doctrine of justification and try to live a Christian life, we are living a false religion and we will fail to have a relationship with God.

Now what does the word *vocation* mean? Vocation is often used to refer to the job that you have in society. For example, a vocation might be that of a nurse, a priest, a schoolteacher, a lawyer, or a plumber. But there is another use of the word vocation. Every person on earth has been given a vocation to serve God and become one of His saints. Every person is called by God to be a saint, to lead a Holy life, that glorifies God. A saint can be a lay person, a priest, or even a bishop. A saint can be married, or single, or poor, or rich, or something in between. The saints on the church calendar are there to inspire us, but they are not the only saints. Each person will lead his or her own life and will have to answer before God what they've done with the life God has given them. In order to lead the life that God has called you to lead, that is, your vocation, you have to have justification and sanctification. You have to hear God's voice, to discern his desires for you, to discover His purposes for you. We need God's help to realize the potential of our vocation. We need the justifying righteousness of Christ poured into us by the Holy Spirit. It is Christ's righteousness

in us that will sanctify us and empower us to fulfill our own unique vocation on earth. When we let Christ justify us we are transformed and transferred into God's kingdom. But if we try to bypass justification and sanctification, we miss out on this transformation and transfer and simply live in a sinful world, separated from God. If we try to attend church, without the reality of Christ's justification inside of us, we function only at a natural level, and we miss out on the mystical reality of the church. Most of all, we miss out on the wonderful vocation that God has planned for our life. We need the reality of Christ's justification and the sanctification of the Holy Spirit to realize our vocation. A vague statement of being a spiritual person is no substitute for justification, sanctification, and vocation.

Your friend in Christ,

Father George

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTORA, CURSILLO WEEKEND #146

FROM A LETTER TO CURSILLO #146 CANDIDATES:

For 16 years, Ruben and I kept a small flock of Romney sheep corralled in Jamul. We fed them twice a day, and hired a shearer once a year.

I had always wanted sheep as I was curious: did they really know their shepherd's voice as the Bible says?

Yes, they do know their shepherd's voice, and the "voice" of the shepherd's car. They would call to us, but not to our neighbors. Our sheep lived in a large corral, not in open pasture. Once they had their alfalfa, they ignored the shepherd.

The verse for Cursillo#146 is: Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27

Jesus did not say my people are like sheep: vulnerable to predators; having limited thoughts, and narrow activity. Removing the sheep metaphor, Jesus said, "My People hear my voice, and I know My People, and My People follow me." Jesus did not exclude people who did not hear his voice, because he also said, "I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also.... So there shall be one flock, one shepherd." John 10:16

In the spirit of the gathering of the clans, Jesus did not have the Us Versus Them attitude, but, rather the Us AND Them attitude that equals one, large flock with Jesus Christ, the shepherd.

The theme song for the October 29-November 1, 2020 Cursillo Weekend is : One Bread, One Body/ Un Pan, Un Cuerpo as adapted by Rachel Ambasing , St. Matthews, National City. Perhaps you might enjoy listening to different YouTube versions before the Cursillo Weekend. Life would be kind of boring if we all looked the same, sounded the same, thought alike, and worked similar jobs. Even with all our interesting, curious, and different points of view, we are Un Pan, Un Cuerpo in Our Lord Jesus. I look forward to seeing you in October!

Blessings,

Ginny Rodriguez, Rectora, Cursillo #146

FOURTH DAY ACTIVITIES

Virtual Ultreyas Have Become The Norm, for Now

The Covid-19 Pandemic and the ensuing preventive measures imposed a new reality that broke down the usual status-quo-resistance to change and inspired adaptations that had to be made else there would be no ultreyas “until further notice.” The tools for the solution were already available, the internet, YouTube, and smart phones. Now they just had to be used.

The First Global Virtual Grand Ultreya premiered on April 25, 2020 with a link to the YouTube video on the sdcursillo.org website. There was a pre-premiere email campaign that distributed the YouTube link directly to cursillistas, family and friends across the country and to Europe that preceded an eBlast to about 620 cursillistas on our saints’ roster. To date this ultreya has been viewed over 200 times! It will continue to be viewed in perpetuity. That is a far cry from prior live ultreyas which on a good night were normally attended by perhaps 40 people.

The witness by Rosie Tseng, echo by Bryan Chan, and scriptural response by The Reverend Babs Meairs are outstanding in content and sincere presentation. The music by Alex Tuttle is wonderful. You are encouraged to sing along with her. Our Songbook is available for free download on the sdcursillo.org website.

The Second Virtual Ultreya premiered on May 16, 2020. It features speakers from Good Shepherd, Bonita. Darryl and Barbara Peralta give the witness and echo talks, respectively, and Fr. George Calvert gives the scriptural response. The theme is servanthood. Michael Nichols ably gives his rendition of three songs from our Songbook. Once again, Alex Tuttle leads us in singing The Lord’s Prayer as we virtually hold hands with our friends to close the ultreya.

The Third Virtual Ultreya is in the work and will premiere on June 20, 2020. Speaking will be Rachel Ambasing and Debbie Kistler. The scriptural response will be given by the venerable and incomparable Fr. Carlos Garcia! Also, we will be treated to music by the young and talented Madison, Evan and Ryan Beck. It promises to be an inspirational and exciting experience.

Though Covid-19 preventive measures are easing, we plan for more virtual ultreyas for July and perhaps beyond. We will adapt to conditions as perceived. Hopefully, we will have live ultreyas again soon. In any event we will continue to record for YouTube whether our ultreyas be live or virtual. Live ultreyas will also include the availability of attending via zoom so that people located elsewhere may also participate in fellowship and grouping.

Blessings and love. Ultreya!

Ruben Rodriguez

And now... a message from Susan Miller

To all my fans...

Just kidding...but thank you everyone who responded to my first attempt at mass email. I didn't really intend to ask for a reply but so many of you very kindly did so. (I had neglected to change the subject line from the test email when I sent out the announcement for the April Forward.) It was a mistake, but a happy one—and the closest I've ever come to knowing what it's like to have a fan club.

I really enjoyed the response and hearing from all of you who replied, many whom I have not talked to in a while. I've recently taken on the responsibility of associate webmaster, and there is a lot to learn! Comments and suggestions are always welcome.

Thanks also to Larry Salvadori, who puts out a great newsletter every other month, and to Ruben Rodriguez, Alex Tuttle and others who are producing fantastic Virtual Ultreya's. Look for a few more changes in the future as we upgrade our online communications and thank you for your patience while that takes shape. Susan Miller

Cursillo events calender(Subject to postponement)

June 2020	More Information Click Link	Directions Click Link	Click Link to e-mail POC	Return to top
DATE	Description	Location	POC	Time/Day
Jun-06-20	Virtual Meeting Secretariat/Servant Community	Link Coming	Isabel Lynne Larry Salvadori	12:30 PM
Jun-20-20	Virtual Ultreya [click for Flyer]	Link Pending	Ultreya Committee	7:00 PM Ultreya
July 2020	More Information Click Link	Directions Click Link	Click Link to e-mail POC	Return to top
DATE	Description	Location	POC	Time/Day
Cursillo Awareness Month	<i>Tell Your Story About Cursillo</i>	All Churches	Cursillistas	All Services
Jul-23-20	Secretariat	St. Dunstan's	Isabel Lynne	6:00 PM Brn Bag 6:30 PM Meeting
Jul-26-20	Forward Deadline		News Letter Editor	COB

2020 SECRETARIAT LAY MEMBERS

Name	Email	Function	Term Exp.
Isabel Lynne	llynn1700@yahoo.com	President	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, 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	4 th Day, Vice Chair	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. 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	Prayer Chain

CURSILLO CORNER – LOVE DONATIONS – THE GREEN ROLLO

The Cursillo community accepts donations year-round, and especially now with ongoing cancellations, uncertainty, and upheavals. These donations allow us to set up “scholarships” to help defray the cost of sponsoring new Cursillistas and workers, paying our bills, supporting our ministries, and donating to the the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry. If you’d like to make a small, medium, or large gift to Cursillo, please sent it now to:

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

FOLLOWING ARE TWO PAGES OF PICTURES TAKEN BY ROB CONSTANTINE AT CURSILLO #145 MANANITAS AND OPEN CLAUSURA AT PINE VALLEY. THESE PICTURES ARE A REMINDER OF THE JOY EXPRESSED TO EACH OTHER AT THE END OF A SPIRIT FILLED WEEKEND. WE HAVE FAITH, WITH BLESSED ASSURANCE, THAT POSTPONED CURSILLO WEEKEND #146 WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 29-NOV. 1, 2020 AT PINE VALLEY.

Larry Salvadori - Editor



