

FEBRUARY 2025



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

Candidates / Team Members for Cursillo Weekend #151 (Subject to Change)

CANDIDATES (23)

Timur Akdemir
Ildiko Antal
Bella Araujo
Nina Bacas
Jonathan Cartford
Derek Dhillon
Janina Diez de Bonilla
Felissia Fry
Beatrix Gadzekpo
Fred Hlawatsch
Joshua Laskowski
Chris Lopez
MK Mason
Carolyn Mattern
Craig Mattern
CC Schroeder
Susan Brown Snook

TEAM MEMBERS (35)

Ambasing, James
Ambasing, Rachel
Blakeslee, Bill
Brown, Judy
Chevalier, Duane
Chevalier, Kit
Cosio, Miguel
Davidson, Carol
Garcia, Amber
Garcia, Fr. Carlos
Garcia, Humberto
Garcia, Yahaira
Hargreaves, Fr. Mark
Henderson, Jill
Holland, Dcn. Nancy
Hoot, Kathleen
Jewett, Mike



CANDIDATES (CONT.)

Jason Sticka
Daniel Timan
Micky Vaiele
Rebecca Wagener
Tamara Walker-Thode
Sabrina Zander

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Note: Please separate Candidate and Team Palanca and arrange your Palanca alphabetically by last name. If you submit Palanca for the weekend, please submit Palanca for all candidates and/or all Team Members. No singles. Personal gifts should be given to your new Cursillista, or Team Member after the weekend ends.

TEAM MEMBERS (CONT.)

Kistler, Debbie
Landry, Sunny
Malsbary, Beau
Malsbary, Jennifer
McEachern Alicia
Mendoza, Mthr. Lilia
Newsom, Bart
Noble, Craig
Petersen, Fr. Brian
Rice, Karen
Rice, Ken
Rodriguez, Ginny
Rodriguez, Ruben
Timan, Darrel
Timan, Jeanna
Tuttle, Alex
Varlotta, NB
Whaley, Jenifer

Cursillo #151 – It's almost here. We have 23 Candidates and 35 Team serving the weekend starting Feb. 20th through the 23rd. All we ask is to keep us all in your prayers, that God's will be done for the weekend.

Blessings, Jeanna Timan, Rectora

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's been almost 10 years since I was last President of the Secretariat. A lot has changed in the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry since then, and there is still a lot to look forward to. Cursillo has always received good support from the Bishop over the years and there is good reason. Cursillo and whoever was the Bishop had the same goals: To improve the laity's faith in Jesus Christ, and to help improve the Laity's heeding of its baptismal calling to proclaim by word and deed the gospel of Jesus out into the world.



Bishop Brown Snook adopted express goals to help the laity to become better disciples of Christ, to become better evangelists, and to become better leaders of their faith. Cursillo, through its method of piety, study, action, corporate worship, group reunion, and ultreyas, is consistent with, and effective in meeting the Bishop's stated goals. Further, Cursillistas are known for their willingness to participate in, and effective performance in, the lay ministries of the Diocese. Furthermore, the Bishop and Cursillo share the same goals as expressed in the Episcopal Cursillo Pastoral Plan adopted and signed every year by the Bishop, the Secretariat President, and the Bishop's appointed Cursillo Spiritual Advisor.

For almost 50 years, pursuant to the Cursillo Pastoral Plan adopted by the Bishop and the Cursillo Secretariat, the Bishop has encouraged the clergy of the Diocese to participate in and promote Cursillo Weekends to the Laity of the congregations.

The participation of the Bishop by her attendance in Cursillo Weekend #151 acknowledges the shared goals and purposes of the clergy and laity of the Diocese led by the Bishop. This action by the Bishop brings hope that the shared goals will be attained and the Kingdom of our Lord, Jesus Christ will grow indeed.

Blessings,

Ruben Rodriguez

FROM OUR SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

The Bible Becomes the Word of God for You

Imagine there is a family having dinner and talking about the day's events. Up in the attic is the family Bible encased in a protective box and covered with dust. Is that Bible the word of God or is that Bible just a book of leather, paper, and ink? Some theologians would say it's the word of God. Others would say it's a book like any other book. What we know for sure is this Bible is not functioning as the word of God. In order for the Bible to be the word of God it must come alive through the working of God. All of us would agree that the Bible must become the word of God to the person that is reading it or hearing it. The key word is "become." What is the process of how the words of the Bible become the Word of God for each one of us?

In the 1930's the Swiss Protestant Theologian Karl Barth explained how the Bible becomes the word of God. He pointed out that there is a three-fold word of God: The word of God incarnate, in Jesus Christ; the word of God in the Biblical



text; and the word of God in the proclamation of the church. All three of these words are the word of the one God. The word of God in the proclamation of the church and in the Biblical text are given to bear witness to the word of God incarnate in Christ. The word incarnate is the primary and ultimate word of God. Jesus Christ is the ultimate revelation of God on earth and the ruler from which we measure all other divine revelation events. All the events of the Old Testament, New Testament, and in the church are measured by Jesus Christ. The Bible affirms Jesus Christ as the word of God incarnate in John 1:14. And the word became flesh and lived among us, we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Barth's basic idea of a three-fold word of God is widely accepted by both twentieth century and twenty-first century theology and was affirmed by the Roman Catholic church at the Vatican II council as official doctrine in the 1960's. We need not agree with every aspect of Karl Barth's theology to see that the word of God must be greater than just the word that we encounter in the Biblical text. The word in Jesus was proclaimed by Jesus prior to the existence of the New Testament. God's word also must exist in the church through preaching and other forms of proclamation such as Sunday School and Bible Studies.

The Bible by itself without Jesus Christ and without the church does not function as the word of God in a person's life. A person needs to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ in order to make the text come alive and speak God's word to us. A person can pick up a Bible and look at it without a relationship with Jesus and just simply read the Bible as ancient history. But when we have Jesus in our lives, Jesus becomes the key that opens up the Bible to us so that we can see God's Good News. This Good News is the true and living word of God to us personally today.

God's word is alive, powerful, and inspiring.

The word of God needs to function in the church. The church is the people of God gathered together to hear God's word proclaimed in community. As the people hear and believe the word in the Biblical text, they are able to participate in the salvation story by doing the work of Christ for today. The word of God needs to be alive in the church and people come alive as we hear, believe, and obey God's true and living word among us. God's word comes alive in and through the church community.

The Bible needs to have Jesus Christ on one side of it and the church on the other.

When the Bible is being interpreted in the church that obeys Jesus, the Bible becomes the Word of God for us in a powerful, life-changing way. To simply talk about the Bible in an abstract way, as being the Word of God detached from Jesus



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and the church, is not really letting the Bible become the Word of God. An abstract and theoretical understanding of the Bible conducted from the standpoint of a detached interest, is a way of separating ourselves from the word of God. The word of God is effective and can transform a person's life. The Word of God effects change.

I believe it is important that we believe in the word of God incarnate, in the Biblical text, and in the proclamation of the church. Through the three-fold word of God, we let the Bible become the word of God for us.

*Your friend in Christ,
Father George*

ULTREYA REPORT

Ultreya at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Yuma Arizona. January 4, 2025:

The San Diego Episcopal Diocese is very large: There are 44 congregations including St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Yuma Arizona. The Cursillo Ministry of the Diocese tries to hold Ultreyas at all congregations in the Diocese that wants to have an Ultreya. We welcome all requests for Ultreyas. Please contact the Secretariat. Contact Information is available through our website: sdcursillo.org.

Though the drive from our house in Jamul to St. Paul's, Yuma, is 159 miles, it is a beautiful journey through the East San Diego County mountains and the Imperial County desert. The San Diego Mountain passes are over 4100 feet in elevation and the Imperial County Desert sink to below zero in elevation near El Centro. Before long after going through El Centro you reach the sand dunes about 20 miles from the Colorado River Bridge that takes you into Arizona. You will find that the January weather is quite comfortable. Make sure you buy gasoline in Yuma: it is at least a \$1.00 less a gallon there than in California.

Upon arriving at St. Paul's we were greeted by its street sign that announced the Ultreya that was about to take place. We were met by old friends and about become new friends who were happy to meet us. Delicious food was awaiting us at about noon Mountain Standard Time. Note: In



Arizona Standard Time is maintained year-round as there is no Daylight Saving Time observed.

A fair crowd of about 25 people came including 7 people from San Diego. The Cursillo Music Saints were joined by Fr. Paul Gambling who sang with us and played his tambourine.

Group Reunion:

As is our custom, a Group Reunion (Grouping), of about 30 minutes was held and enjoyed by all who attended.

Witness Talk:

Rochelle Thompson shared a wonderful witness talk about her participation on a board of advisors who oversaw and advised youth who had gotten in criminal trouble and were offered relief of mercy if they successfully performed in a diversion program.

The board required the youth to complete tasks that showed that they had become responsible people who would no longer perform criminal acts of violence.

She shared about the troubled youth who successfully completed the program and had their criminal charges dismissed as if they had not been charged.

She also shared about some troubled youth who chose poorly and failed.

Echo Talk:

Ruben Rodriguez gave an echo talk wherein he shared how his profession as an attorney became more of a ministry as he matured as a Christian. He represented fiduciaries who were Conservators of disabled and/or ill adults who were confined in elderly care homes and facilities.

He shared that it was important to visit the people who were confined in these facilities to make sure they were taken care of properly. He found that if people in these facilities were not visited regularly, they tended not to receive proper care. He would not only visit them but would also pray with and/ or for them. Also, he would visit with his client's roommate when there were one as was many times the case. A lot of time these people did not have regular visitors. They were happy to receive the visitation and to receive prayers.



Scriptural Response:

Fr. Paul Gambling gave a scriptural response to the witness talks. Fr. Paul noted that he too had participated on the civilian board of the Youth Diversion Program referred by Rochelle.

He noted that that ministry required judgment on the part of the Board Members and that the word “judgment” comes from the same Latin root as does the word “justice.” It also showed that justice does not necessarily mean no price of responsibility to obtain mercy. Fr. Paul also noted that both witness talks demonstrated that the Laity are called to show the love of Christ to the world as their vocation, their ministry of mercy in the world.

Blessings,
Ruben Rodriguez

FUNERAL NOTICE

It is with great sadness and loss to announce that our dear friend and colleague, Susan Miller, died at home on January 18, 2025. She served our San Diego Cursillo Ministry for decades in important leadership positions including the Music Chair, the Presidency, and finally as Webmaster. Of equal importance, whenever there was a problem that needed attention, she was there as a volunteer to help out and get it done. She was a prime example of 24/7 Servant Leadership to our ministry, never to be forgotten. Her Funeral Service with Eucharist will be held on Friday, March 21, 2025, at 11:00 am at Church of the Good Shepherd, 3990 Bonita Road, Bonita, Ca. 91902.

A Tribute Forward to Susan will be published after the Funeral.

From the Lay Members and Clergy
San Diego Cursillo Secretariat

Cursillo Events Calendar ***February / MARCH - 2025***

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LEADER</u>
2-6-25	SECRETARIAT MEETING	ST. ALBANS	6:30 – 8:30 PM	RUBAN
2-8-25	TEAM MEETING #151	CARLTON HILLS	8:30 AM - NOON	JEANNA



2-20-23, 25	CURSILLO #151	WHISPERING WINDS	6:30PM THURSDAY – 4:30 PM SUNDAY	JEANNA
3-2-2925	ZOOM GROUPING	INTERNET	4:00 – 5:00 PM	CRAIG NOBLE
3-6-25	SECRETARIAT MEETING	ST. ALBANS	6:00 – 8:30 PM	RUBAN
3-8-25	DAY OF DEEPER UNDERSTANDING	ST. DAVID'S	8:30AM – 3:00PM	RACHEL AMBASSING
3-21-25	Funeral, Susan Miller	Good Shepherd	11:00 AM	Fr. George

From the Palanca Chair

CALLING ALL PALANCA!!

Cursillo 151 is fast approaching. Many people have been praying for months for the team and the potential candidates. If you or the cursillo community at your parish wants to send palanca, now is the time to plan. The team and candidate names will be posted on the website, sdcursillo.org. Once posted, you can plan a palanca signing party at your church, or in your small groups.

If you are sending palanca to the mountain for candidates, please make sure there is one for each person. Personal palanca (for just one or two) should be given directly to the person after open closure.

If you need someone to take palanca to the mountain, let me know by Feb 15th and I can arrange to pick it up.

We are not the only diocese preparing for weekends. Please keep the following weekends, team and candidates in your prayers.

Diocese of Ely, UK	3/14
Diocese of Florida	3/20
Diocese of OR and SW Wash	3/20
Diocese of Christchurch, NZ	3/21
Diocese of St Albans's, UK	3/21
Diocese of Alabama	4/04

Kit Chevalier- Palanca Chair



The Sponsors Hangout

CURSILLO WEEKEND #151

Wow! What happened? We have 23 Candidates attending our Weekend #151. What a blessing to the 35 member team. It's always amazes me what happens when the Holy Spirit can be heard over the noise in our lives, to inspire us to Make a friend, Be a friend, and Sponsor your friend to attend a Cursillo Weekend. Let's take a lap, or better yet, let's pray the Sponsor's Prayer:

Dearest Heavenly Father,

I thank you for choosing me to sponsor for Weekend #151. Thank you for guiding me to be a mentor and friend for, to nurture the Cursillo seed that has been planted, and to provide the opportunities for the seed to bloom. Lord, guide me in fulfilling such joys as facilitating Grouping, being DODU/Ultreya partners, and encouraging to be an inspiration to others to further their own walk with you. I pray this through Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, who lives, and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

BUZZ WORDS FOR SPONSORS:

DODU; GRAND ULTREYA; GROUPING

OMG: What if all the new Cursillistas showed up at the DODU?

OMG: What if all the new Cursillistas showed up at the GU?

OMG: What if all the new Cursillistas joined a Group?

As Cursillistas, we know that miracles do occur. The above three questions could become miracles. With God's help, let's do our best make it happen.

What do you say?



Cursillo Secretariat Contacts – 2025 (Subject to Revision)

Officers

PRESIDENT 2025	RUBEN RODRIGUEZ	2026
PRESIDENT ELECT 2026	MIKE JEWETT	2026
SECTRTARIAT	JILL MORA	AT WILL
TREASURER, FACILITIES	JUDY BROWN	AT WILL

Lay

MIGUEL COSIO	COMMUNITY PARTNERS	2026
BOB HALLECK	4 TH DAY, PARISH REP. NETWORK	2025
AMBER GARCIA	SERVANT COMMUNITY CO-CONVENOR	2027
RHONDA MUIR	PARISH REP. NETWORK	2026
HUMBERTO GARCIA	SERVANT COMMUNITY CO-CONVENOR	2027
TIM STOREY	SPONSORSHIP	2025
NANCY CALVERT	FOURTH DAY COM.	2027

Clergy

REV. GEORGE CALVERT	DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL ADVISOR, COMMUN.	APPT'D
REV. CARLOS GARCIA	EMMC REPRESENTATIVE, COMMUN. PARTNERS	APPT'D
REV. CANON NANCY HOLLAND	ASST. SPIRITUAL ADVISOR, 4 TH DAY	2025
REV. ROBERTO MOLDANADO	ASST. SPIRITUAL ADVISOR, PRE-CURSILLO COM	2026

Servant Community

ROB CONSTANTINE	PHOTOGRAPHER	AT WILL
MIKE JEWETT	HOSPITALITY CO-ORDINATOR, 3-DAY WEEKENDS	AT WILL
SUNNY LANDRY	SERVANT COMMUNITY	AT WILL
CHRIS MCKELLER	KAIROS LIAISON	AT WILL
OPEN	WEBSITE MAINTENANCE AND E-MAILS	
BART NEWSOM	MUSIC COORDINATOR	AT WILL
CRAIG NOBLE	GROUPING CENTRAL, ECM LIAISON	AT WILL
LARRY SALVADORI	FORWARD EDITOR AT LARGE/PUBLICATIONS	RET.
KIT CHEVALIER	SERVANT COM., PALANCA CHAIR	AT WILL
JEANNA TIMAN	LUTHERAN PARTNERS	AT WILL
RUBEN RODRIGUEZ	ULTREYS, FOURTH DAY TBD	AT WILL
DEBBIE KISTLER	PRE-CURSILLO CHAIR, SOCIAL SMEDIA	AT WILL

To contact a Secretariat member by e-mail – visit: sdcursillo.org – Contacts



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Please Donate to Cursillo

We ask you to contribute to Cursillo to help sustain this wonderful ministry that we know changed your life for the better, and brought you closer to Jesus in your spiritual walk. Remember that He loves you just as you are.

Include your gift as part of your regular pledged giving to your church and ask them to forward the designated amount to the Cursillo funds held at the Diocese.

To donate online, go to edsd.org/cursillo and choose the Cursillo| Donation option.

*Or mail a check, payable to
"Episcopal Diocese of San Diego" or 'EDSD', Cursillo-Donation in memo to:
EDSD, 2083 Sunset Cliffs Blvd, San Diego, CA 92107*

Thank you,

The Cursillo Secretariat

