



Rekindle

THE CURSILLO® MOVEMENT
OF THE MONTEREY DIOCESE

SUMMER 2019

MESSAGE FROM LAY DIRECTOR

Dear Cursillo Family:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that this latest edition of our Rekindle newsletter finds each of you in good health and great spirits. As new lay director of our local Cursillo chapter, I am grateful for the opportunity to address you directly and update you on recent developments around our apostolate since we last checked in.

First and foremost, I wish to take a moment to thank and salute Cindy Stefani for her many years of service and dedication to our Movement here in the diocese. For over 15 years, she has played an active leadership role in our organization whether that be chairing multiple positions on Secretariat, leading our School, serving as Rectora at past Weekends, or just being an overall good friend to all. As outgoing lay director, she leaves a strong legacy behind her and an indelible mark on the Movement's 57-year history here in the Monterey Bay.

Similarly, I toast Gerald Ward for all of his support, hard work and commitment to all things Cursillo, as he, too, has decided to transition away from an active leadership role with the end of his term as Weekend Chair. Choosing to step away from the game and cheer the team on from the bleachers, with over 20 years of service dedicated to our work, Gerald has certainly earned the right to gracefully fade into the background and afford new Cursillistas the chance to lead if that be his wish. To him, Cindy, and all who have preceded us and have helped write Cursillo's story in the Monterey Bay, I thank you. It is because of you and your arduous efforts that the lights remain on and new candidates can continue to live their Weekend every year.

As for the work, the past few years since our last edition have given us much of which to speak. The organization has staffed the artichoke sausage sandwich booth at the Artichoke Festival at the Monterey Fairgrounds for the past 3 years as part of our fundraising activities in early June. The summer months have also brought about our BBQ chicken fundraiser, spearheaded and organized by Julia and Leonard Mena, a tradition we will continue in 2019. And, in the fall, we hold our casino bus trip to Table Mountain and Chukchansi casinos in late October. Thanks to Arcelia Coronel for her work in having made this trip possible in the past, and for putting it all together for us again this time around. God willing, we hope to have another 60 people join us for our day-long getaway this year as we had back in 2017. And, of course to you, the broader community, my gratitude to all of you, as our Cursillo family, for your continued support of our work through the giving of your time, talents and treasure to aid our fundraising efforts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2019 ULTREYAS

2nd Saturday of the Month
7:00 p.m.

GRAND ULTREYA

October 12, 2019

Our Lady of Refuge, Castroville
7:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER ULTREYA

November 9, 2019

Sacred Heart - Salinas
7:00 p.m.

SECRETARIAT

3rd Tuesday of the Month
7:00 p.m. Sacred Heart

SCHOOL OF LEADERS

1st Wednesday of the Month
7:00 p.m. Madonna Del Sasso

WOMEN'S CURSILLO WEEKEND

September 12-15, 2019
Camp St. Francis

FUNDRAISERS

BBQ FUNDRAISER

Sunday, October 6, 2019
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Salinas Rodeo Grounds

CASINO TRIP

Saturday, October 26, 2019
6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Pick up at Kmart Parking Lot

*Please support the Cursillo Movement.
100% of the monies raised are applied to costs
associated with our non-profit organization.*

These activities alone have generated nearly \$6,000 and help cover the costs of putting on our yearly Weekends and keep our apostolate a functional entity. Beyond this, our fun times over the past three years have not been limited to fundraising but include plenty of other opportunities for the greater Cursillo community to come together and share in fellowship.

In early December 2017, we were blessed to have our late bishop, Richard Garcia, celebrate an anniversary Mass at Our Lady of Refuge Church in Castroville, to commemorate 55 years of Cursillo in the Monterey Bay. Unquestionably, an unforgettable evening for all in attendance, and thankful to God that we got to share with Bishop Garcia in these last moments. Many of us were also in attendance at Madonna del Sasso for the installation Mass for Bishop Daniel E. Garcia at the start of the year. In addition to these liturgical events, we've also been able to rely on our monthly Ultreyas as a source of strengthening friendships which affords us the chance to hear powerful witness talks as shared by you. We've also had Christmas socials and come together for summer bonfires. Thanks to the work of Julia Mena as our PostCursillo Chair, our monthly reunions have taken us all around the diocese from Carmel Mission and Salinas, to Soledad and Gonzales, among many other stops.

And, finally, since our last edition, our local chapter has put on two Women's and one Men's Cursillo Weekend, and we've welcomed the arrival of 26 new Cursillistas. Congratulations to them and a special thanks to all who worked these 3-day retreats, donated food or sent palanca. The work would not be possible without your continued support and prayers. Beyond this, the year has already seen a return of the Men's Weekend to Camp St Francis after a few years away, and it finds the women's team hard at work in preparation for the next Women's Weekend in mid-September.

On behalf of Secretariat, I'll simply say that as we set our sights on the months ahead and the opportunity to continue to grow our Movement by introducing the work started by Eduardo Bonnin to new generations of Christians, and as we anxiously await the chance to collaborate with Bishop Danny in future projects, we strongly urge you, the larger Cursillo community, to continue to participate and support our efforts in whatever way you feel the Holy Spirit calls you to serve.

Be sure to check back with us regularly on our web site at www.MontereyCursillo.org for event announcements and organization updates as they become available.

May God continue to bless each of us in the pursuit of our work to make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ...
!de colores!

Anthony R Córdova,
Lay Director

GRAND ULTREYA

SATURDAY, OCT. 12

**OUR LADY OF REFUGE
CASTROVILLE, CA**

A Weekend Review for the Men's 2019 Retreat: The Prodigal Son

This year's men's weekend -from February 7th to the 10th- was a complete success by any measure of the imagination. The retreat saw a pleasant return to Camp St. Francis after several years away for the men's team. The Weekend's theme was "The Prodigal Son"; with the "Prayer of Saint Francis" as the theme song; and our scriptural passage drawn from the gospel of Luke, "'for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And then the celebration began" (Lk 15:24).

The six participants came from parishes throughout the diocese. St Rose of Lima (Paso Robles), Our Lady of Solitude (Soledad), Madonna Del Sasso (Salinas), Saint Joseph's Church (Spreckels) and Our Lady of Refuge (Castroville). Each candidate brought a wealth of knowledge and came from varying backgrounds; all were eager to immerse themselves in the Cursillo experience and expand their horizons in becoming better Catholic men.

The weekend core team was comprised of five dedicated Cursillistas, including a one-manned kitchen team. The rollos were presented by the remaining four men, and the most impressive makeup of the group was the participation of two priests in leading our spiritual rollos. Thanks be to God for blessing us with the assistance of both Fr. Rudy Ruiz and Fr. Roberto Vera throughout the three-day experience, in presenting talks, celebrating daily Mass & hearing confessions.

In the beginning, as can naturally be expected, our candidates showed varying degrees of apprehension and anxiety, unsure as to what to expect from the experience. However; as the hours rolled by, the group began to ease up, and gradually began to open up about their lives, their faith, and their story. The team took time to join the candidates during breaks and plant the seeds of friendship, a friendship with Christ at its center.

In the end, the six candidates left with a sense of belonging and newfound internal peace. These men now knew they had forged lifetime friendships and came to understand Cursillo was there to help them in their lifelong journey to walk as Christ's disciples, living an authentic life. Over all, the weekend was a tremendous success. Five dedicated men, with the help of two priests, came to show that even in small numbers, a Cursillo team can make a great difference where the would-be candidates are properly disposed to becoming better Christians and open to new experiences and the graces of the Holy Spirit.

Juan R. Baltierra,
Weekend Rector

The Cursillo Movement of the Monterey Bay is Happy to Introduce Our Newest Cursillistas !!

2017 Women Candidates

JOVITA DOMINGUEZ
MONSERRAT GARCIA
ROSALINDA GASTELUM
DESIREE HERNANDEZ
STELLA MARQUEZ
MARIA ELENA MUÑOZ
HOPE PULIDO
MARIA VILLASEÑOR

2018 Women Candidates

CLAUDIA CALI BARRY
ANN E. BILSON
JACKIE CARRILLO
SOFIA CUAN
TERESA A. CORPUZ
MORELIA GALLARDO
DELIA GUTIERREZ
ANN HOANG
CLAUDIA MIRANDA
JULIE PERALES
ROXANNA SANCHEZ
SR PAULINE THOMAS

2019 Men Candidates

ANTHONY BRANDON
ADAM BUSTAMANTE
TOM HOLMES
JOSEPH HUYNH
ROBERT PANTOJA
JEFF WATSON

WHAT IS CURSILLO?

The actual word **Cursillo means short course**. The Cursillo Weekend is a 3-day retreat "a short course" in Christianity. It is a time to learn more about your Catholic Faith and to get to know Christ better. The Cursillo Movement of the Monterey Diocese will be holding its 2019 Cursillo Weekends on the following dates:

The Women's Weekend will be held September 12-15, 2019 at Camp St. Francis near La Selva Beach.

For more information about the Men and Women's Cursillo Weekend, please email us at cursillo.monterey@gmail.com.

For team & candidate applications, please visit us online at www.montereycursillo.org

FOR HE
Satisfies
THE
thirsty
AND FILLS THE
hungry
WITH THE GOOD
THINGS
- Psalm 107:9 -

FUND MY WEEKEND

We invite your participation in the 2019 Fund My Weekend campaign. In previous years, this program was referred to as the **Bakeless Bake Sale**, but its purpose remains the same.

Simply stated, the Cursillo Movement of the Monterey Bay invites our brothers and sisters to donate financially in whatever way you can help to build up our "Weekend Registration Relief" fund.

This fund's sole purpose is to offer financial relief to candidates who wish to live their Cursillo yet lack the means to cover the registration.

All contributions are welcome; no amount is too small. God bless!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE CURSILLISTAS WHO
HAVE GONE TO THEIR 5TH DAY IN 2018 & 2019

◇ Bishop Richard Garcia
◇ Allen Smith
◇ Pete Figueroa

◇ Hortencia Pinon

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well. I would first like to thank all of you for your help, support and prayers during my time as lay director; it was a very wonderful ride!

My last year in 2017 began with a day-long retreat at Our Lady of Refuge in Castroville. Our guest, host Nelson Gonzales, put on a wonderful spiritual retreat along with music, laughter and fellowship. It was a great day of getting to know ourselves and one another. A good time was had by all that attended.

Our fundraisers that year included a Super Bowl pool, a chicken Barbecue, a booth at the Castroville Artichoke Festival and our Casino Bus Trip. Thanks to all who helped organize these fundraisers and those that attended.

Ultreyas were held throughout the year on the 2nd Saturday of every month. Each Ultreya was held in a different parish around our diocese to make it easier for people to attend. I encourage each of you to attend these reunions as often as you can. It's a wonderful place to keep connected with our fellow Cursillistas.

And lastly I would like to thank everyone that has helped me during my 4 years of serving as lay director for this wonderful movement. If it wasn't for all of you serving on the Secretariat and attending School of Leaders there would be no Cursillo weekends. I encourage all Cursillistas to please pray about joining the School of Leaders and attend Secretariat meetings and learn more about the Cursillo movement. "Many hands make light work." Remember, School of Leaders meets at Madonna del Sasso on the 1st Wednesday of every month; Ultreyas are celebrated at varying locations on the 2nd Saturday of every month; and, Secretariat meetings are held at Sacred Heart Church (Salinas) on the 3rd Tuesday of the each month.

Many memories and many lifelong friendships have been made during my 15 years of attending School of Leaders and serving on the Secretariat and I look forward to many more. I am proud to say I have served on every Cursillo weekend since I made mine in 2001. Together with my fellow Cursillistas we have provided an environment for more than 200 brothers and sisters in Christ to have an encounter with Jesus, exactly what Cursillo is all about, "Make a friend, be a friend and bring a friend to Christ."

I ask that you please pray about how you can help bring others to Christ. I invite you to take a minute and think about the friends you have in your life ... think about how many are in your life because of Cursillo. Please pass that gift of Cursillo on to others.

De Colores,
Cindy Stefani

*God's
Love*
HAS BEEN POURED
INTO OUR HEARTS
through the
Holy Spirit
ROMANS 5.5

ADDRESS UPDATES

If you are moving please contact a member from the Cursillo Team, so we can keep your address up to date. Also, if you wish to receive Rekindle via e-mail or you no longer wish to receive the Rekindle newsletter, contact Anthony Cordova at (831) 272- 6500 or via e-mail at: rekindle@montereycursillo.org.

ARTICLES FOR REKINDLE

Please email prayer request, comments or if you have an article that you would like to publish or an idea for an article e-mail us at: rekindle@montereycursillo.org.

WOMEN'S CURSILLO

Palanca Drop Off
LOCATIONS

CARPENTER STORE
WESTRIDGE SHOPPING CENTER
SALINAS, CA
FRIDAY: 1:00 P.M.
SATURDAY: 2:00 P.M.

OUR LADY OF REFUGE
CASTROVILLE, CA
FRIDAY: 2:00 P.M.

WOMEN'S CURSILLO 2018

The 2018 Women's Cursillo was held the weekend of September 13-16, at Camp Saint Francis. The theme was "I am with you always". Matthew 28:20, and the song was "Be Not Afraid". The Rectora was Arcelia Coronel and the Co-Rectora was Dawn Scavo. Both Arcelia and Dawn are thankful for the opportunity to be a part of the wonderful weekend.

The Table Leaders and Dorm Moms, and first line of contact with the new Cursillistas were Renetta Parry, Cherry Marquez, Pauline Rodgers, and Maria Villaseñor. They did an awesome job of leading and directing the new chicks.

The Kitchen team included the following amazing people: Head Cook Alicia Blanco, Co-Cook Lisa Gonzales, Bronya Siguenza, Lupe Kinnear, Desiree Hernandez, Heidi Morgan DeCourcy, Hope Pulido, Maria Elena Muñoz, Maria Padilla, Norma Aguilar, Rosalinda Gastelum, and Stella Marquez.

The Spiritual Directors for the weekend were Father Rudy Ruiz, Deacon Patrick Conway helped on Thursday and Friday, and Father Roberto conducted the Saturday Mass. We are eternally thankful for the loving support of our spiritual community.

The Lay Spiritual Team included Julia Mena, Amelia Dorado, and Barbara Hughes. The Music Team was Cindy Stefani and Amber Souza. They did an awesome job providing beautiful spiritual music with such wonderful enthusiasm that really lifted our hearts to new levels.

Arcelia and Dawn welcomed into the Cursillo Movement the Women's Weekend Candidates and would like to thank their Sponsors: Thank You for Saying YES! The candidates are as follows: Ann E Bilson of Resurrection Parish sponsored by Renetta Parry, Ann Hoang of San Carlos sponsored by Amber Souza, Claudia Barry of St John Vianney sponsored by Dawn Scavo, Claudia Miranda of Our Lady of Refuge sponsored by Alicia Blanco, Delia Gutierrez of St Theodore sponsored by Harriet Huff, Jackie Carrillo of St Joseph sponsored by Evelia Carrillo, Julie Perales sponsored by Stella Marquez, Morelia (Lia) Gallardo of St Joseph sponsored by Evelia Carrillo, Roxsanna Sanchez of Madonna Del Sasso sponsored by Maria Padilla, Sofia Cuan of St Anthony's sponsored by Alicia Blanco, Sr. Pauline Thomas of St Theodore sponsored by Lisa Gonzales and Teresa Corpuz of St Theodore sponsored by Alicia Blanco.

It was a beautiful weekend to bring new Cursillistas into our movement. The workers of the Women's Weekend would like to especially thank the community for their palanca, prayers and ongoing loving support; you are the joy of the Cursillo Movement.

CURSILLO IN CHRISTIANITY
P.O. BOX 7314
SPRECKLES, CA 93962

*Let Us
Lift Our Hearts*



Cursillo in Christianity has afforded us the way to becoming better Christians, a beautiful and strong base to keep us focused on the path that we elected to follow in accepting to attend a three-day Cursillo weekend. We were provided with the map to keep us focused on the most important journey, *living our fourth day* and ultimately *reaching our fifth*.

True, we leave that beautiful experience of the three day weekend behind us, yet we know that *Christ is counting on us* to continue to participate in the group reunion in order to let our faith grow and lift our hearts to better be equipped to do what *God asks of us*. We follow the three steps of building our faith and allowing our hearts to be lifted in order to receive *all the love God gives us*. We in turn must *share that love with others*. How do we obtain the impetus to lift our heart other than by just doing everything we already do in our group reunion?

By far we spend hours in reading scripture, good books, listening to catholic radio and watching EWTN. However; perhaps a very important and entreaty way is by attending presentations by motivating speakers. Perhaps the sad part about this means of information and motivation may not be presented often enough or perhaps not scheduled at a convenient enough time or day of the week.

Sacrifice is a difficult thing to accept. After all, we do have our lives to live, families to support, and other obligations outside our parish, but I believe that we can accomplish our goal by searching deep within ourselves and with *God's grace* we can do this and we will be able to recharge our faith and have the strength needed to *lift our hearts and praise Our Lord* day in and day out.

Juan Battierra,
 School Chair

 **MARK
YOUR CALENDARS**



**CURSILLO IN
CHRISTIANITY
FUNDRAISER**
* SUNDAY *
OCTOBER 6, 2019
BBQ *Grill it!*
11:00 A.M. - 2 P.M.
HALF CHICKEN
BEANS, SALAD, ROLL
AND A COOKIE!
\$15 IN/OUT PICK UP
SALINAS RODEO
GROUNDS

Call Maria Villasenor
(831)206-8448
for tickets!

**CASINO TRIP FUNDRAISER
SATURDAY OCTOBER 26, 2019**



**CHUKCHANSI CASINO
TABLE MOUNTAIN
COST \$35**

Call Arcelia Coronado
(831)261-7130
for more information.

PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

CASTROVILLE	Our Lady of Refuge
Cindy Stefani	831.633.5012
GREENFIELD	Holy Trinity
Open	
GONZALES	St. Theodore
Lupe Kinnear	
PACIFIC GROVE	St. Angela Merici
Open	
PASO ROBLES	St. Rose of Lima
Open	
SALINAS	Sacred Heart
Anthony R. Cordova	831.272.6500
SANTA CRUZ	Holy Cross
Open	
SEASIDE	St. Francis Xavier
Open	
SOLEDAD	Our Lady of Solitude
Juan Baltierra	831.596.3043
TRES PINOS	Immaculate Conception
Open	
MISSION SAN MIGUEL	
Open	

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Representative, please email Julia Mena at postcrusillo@montereycursillo.org.

Be still
and know
that I am
God

PSALM 46:10

Palanca, More Than Just A Buzz Word

... So, what is it, anyway? This question is often on the minds of people who are working a Cursillo for the first time – as well as people who just haven't thought about it for quite a while. **Palanca is an important part of our piety, study and action, both as team members and as members of the Cursillo Movement at large.**

Our mission, as Cursillistas, is to evangelize the world. To do this we must pray, we must study and we must direct our efforts towards apostolic actions.

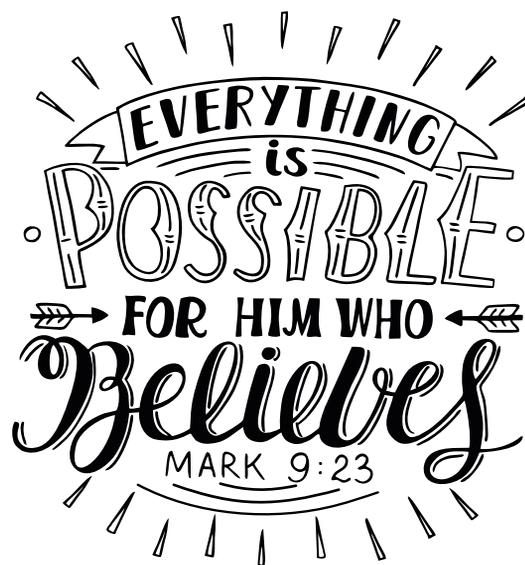
First, we must pray. There are many forms of prayer, one of which is sacrifice. Palanca – the witness we show that we truly love – is that prayer and sacrifice.

Recall there are three primary purposes for our use of palanca:

- *To make reparation for our own sins;*
- *To strengthen our will to answer the Lord's call;*
- *To intercede for others, as that intercession for our community, for candidates who will be called to the Weekends, and for those environments which we and our fellow Christians are trying to evangelize.*

Palanca should be a normal part of our lives, not something unusual. Our movement is countercultural. We are "in the world, but not of it." Our ideal is the whole human race living here and now in Jesus' kingdom. We set as the goal for all our actions this evangelization of all our environments. We want all of our work to be done in God's grace and by his will. The only way we can assure that this will be so is through palanca.

Forms of palanca can include: attending Mass, Receiving Communion, Praying the Rosaries, Praying the Stations of the Cross or the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Visits to the Blessed Sacrament, Personal Prayer, Corporal Works of Mercy; Personal Sacrifices, Abstinence or Fasting, and so much more.



A LETTER FROM DEACON MORTON

De Colores, my brothers and sisters in Cursillo in the Diocese of Monterey. Greetings from the Diocese of Honolulu and from Sacred Heart Church of Waianae, Hawaii.

The year of 2018 was a transition year and also a difficult year for both Carol and myself. For those of you who do not know, I have a cancer called Multiple Myeloma, a rare blood and marrow cancer. I started chemotherapy for my cancer in January, 2018 in Salinas, CA. We made the move to Hawaii in May-June, 2018 and the process was difficult because Carol had to do much of the physical aspects of the move by herself since I was too tired much of the time due to the side effects of chemotherapy. I was referred to an oncologist in Honolulu by my oncologist in Salinas. I continued to receive chemotherapy but a higher dosage and at a higher frequency.

It was decided by Carol, my oncologist, the Stanford Cancer team, and myself to do a stem cell transplant to put my cancer into remission. So, from the beginning of October, to mid-December, 2018, Carol and I lived near Stanford while I made almost daily visits to Stanford for the procedure. I am very thankful to God, that the procedure was successful and my cancer is in remission. I am also very thankful for Carol being my nursemaid, caregiver, and driver during this time period. She is a very supportive wife. I currently visit my oncologist in Honolulu every three months to monitor my condition. I am doing well.

I was assigned by Bishop Larry Silva of the Diocese of Honolulu on July 20, 2018 to assist as a Deacon at Sacred Heart Church, Waianae. Some of you may know that Carol and I served in various capacities at Sacred Heart Church, Salinas, CA for almost 40 years! We continue to serve the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The community and the pastor in Waianae have been very welcoming to Carol and me. They have gone out of their way to make us feel welcome. Carol and I are involved in various ministries at Sacred Heart, Waianae. I assist as Deacon at the Sunday Masses. I preach at all four Masses on the third Sunday of the month. I have also married a Micronesian couple, baptized a few children, buried a parishioner, and blessed a home. Carol and I, with the help of our pastor and a couple of parishioners, started a faith-based cancer support group that meets at our church on a regular basis. We are also in the process of forming a Marriage/Family Life Ministry. So, I continue to serve in my "retirement," thanks be to God.

My prayer is that all of you continue to be faithful disciples of Christ and serve God with your whole mind, whole heart, and whole soul.

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

www.facebook.com/cursillomontereydiocese/
Cursillo Movement of the Monterey Diocese

www.montereycursillo.org

You can find a calendar of events, candidates and team applications, Palanca submission, and other links related to Cursillo.

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

www.natl-cursillo.org

National website which has newsletter, literature, and informative links.

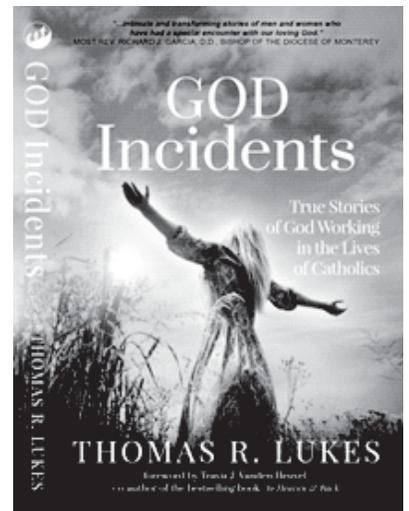
www.orgmcc.org

The World Body of Cursillo in Christianity contains the latest news and events.

God Incidents – 31 True Stories of God Working In the Lives of Catholics

Author: Thomas R. Lukes

- Cost: \$20/book (238 pages in length.)
- Money raised after taxes goes to support Catholic elementary schools.
- The storytellers in this book have related their experiences to the author.
- Storytellers include: Suzanne Stewart, Fr. Mike Miller, Will Souza, Tom Lukes, Paul Danielson, Cheryl Ward-Kaiser, Ray Souza, Fr. Tom Hall and many others.
- The stories tell of visions, miracles, angels, conversions, answered prayer, and people's experiences in Cursillo, Marriage Encounter, CIC, and the Charismatic Renewal.
- Stories of answered prayer can help us trust God when we pray.
- Reading about God's work in the lives of Catholics can encourage those who need encouragement.



God Incidents 2 – More True Stories of God Working in the Lives of Catholics is now being written for a Catholic publisher. So, if you have a story to share in Tom's upcoming book contact him – see below.

If you want a signed book for your family or friends, contact Tom Lukes at ShareGodIncidents@gmail.com or you can order the book at Amazon.com.

Cursillo in Christianity
P.O. Box 7314
Spreckles, CA 93962



CURSILLO REKINDLE
Monterey Diocese
Cursillo Newsletter

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