



# Rekindle

THE CURSILLO® MOVEMENT  
OF THE MONTEREY DIOCESE

FALL 2023

## MESSAGE FROM LAY DIRECTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

DeColores!!! I hope this Rekindle finds you and your family well.

I would like to begin with some long overdue thank yous to a few Cursillistas that served on the Secretariat for many years. Thank you to Anthony Cordova for serving as Lay Director, Dawn Scavo for serving as Secretary and Maria Villasenor for serving as Lay Director in 2022. Thank you all for sharing your time and your talents. Also, a big thank you to Mark Kite who helped us for over 20 plus years with palanca.....he is truly the palanca king!!!! Thank you Mark for all that you have done for Cursillo.

Our first Cursillo weekend since 2019, due to the pandemic, was held in 2022. Since then, we have held 2 weekend retreats, both weekends were wonderful, and spirit filled. Thank you to the women that said "yes" to serving, these weekends would not have been possible without all your prayer, hard work and unconditional love. Thank you to our 2022 Spiritual Directors Father Rudy Ruiz and Father Roberto Vera and our 2023 Spiritual Director Father Rudy Ruiz. Thank you for sharing your time, talents and faith with all of us. Thank you to the community that sent palanca, donated food, and donated funds to help with weekend expenses, we could not have done it without all of you. And let us not forget to say thank you to the women who answered the call and said "yes" to attending the Cursillo weekends.

Please welcome our new Cursillo sisters that made their Cursillo in 2022: Mary Finley, Gabby Lynn, Grace Munoz and Jackie Beato and those that made their Cursillo weekend in 2023: Leticia Avila, Grace Gomez, Martha Torres, Chantel Zabala, Lina Cabrera and Margie Hernandez. Thank you ladies for answering God's call and for sharing your faith with all of us.

Please keep an eye out for the dates of our 2024 Men's and Women's weekends, they will be posted soon on our website. If you are interested in working or attending the weekends, please contact Arcelia Coronel or Alicia Blanco, their email addresses can be found in this Rekindle. And don't forget, now is a good time to start talking to God about your friend that you are thinking of asking to go to Cursillo, remember the rollo from your weekend that said, "talk to God about your friend before you talk to your friend about Cursillo".

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ULTREYAS

3rd Thursday of the Month  
St. Joseph's Hall, Spreckles, CA  
6:00 p.m.

### SCHOOL OF LEADERS

1st Tuesday of the Month  
6:00 p.m. virtual  
Contact Maria Villasenor

### SECRETARIAT

1st Tuesday of the Month  
7:00 p.m. virtual  
Contact Cherry Marquez

## FUNDRAISERS

### Craft Fair

La Gloria Elementary School  
Gonzales, CA  
Saturday, December 2, 2023  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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

## NEW POST OFFICE

688 E. Boronda Rd.  
PMB #20  
Salinas, CA 93906

MERRY  
Christmas  
&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR



## Message from Lay Director, continued

As 2023 comes quickly to an end I would just like to say thank you to the following secretariat members for saying "YES" to serving on the board: Cherry Marquez (secretary), Lisa Gonzales (treasurer), Alicia Blanco (Pre-Cursillo Chair), Arcelia Coronel (Cursillo Chair), Maria Villasenor (School of Leaders) and Amelia Dorado (Palanca). It is truly a pleasure to work with each of you.

And lastly, as most of you know our beautiful sister Julia Mena went on to her 5th day this past July, please keep her family in your prayers. Julia was kindhearted, spirit filled and a wonderful friend. She served as a member of the Secretariat for many years and was very passionate about Cursillo, she will be truly missed.

I'd like to end my article with words that Julia would always remind me about....."Remember, Cursillo is about making a friend, being a friend, bringing your friend to Christ".

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas everyone.

Cindy Stefani, Lay Director

## SCHOOL OF LEADERS

By Maria Villasenor

The school of Leaders is an operational structure of the Cursillo Movement, it is a community of Christians who, united in the atmosphere of the Group Reunion, seek every day to become more centered, more committed and more united, so as to accelerate in themselves, in the Cursillo Movement, and in their environments the living out of what is fundamental for being a Christian. The School of Leaders is the gathering of ALL the Leaders in order to Study and grow the Cursillo Movement. It is a community in Service to the Cursillistas; The School of Leaders is set To help and facilitate the process of the PreCursillo toward the Post Cursillo through the 3 day Cursillo and to channel the restlessness of those who have lived the Cursillo to a progressive state of conversion. The School itself is meant to be one of spiritual formation and Christian community.

I lived my Cursillo in 2017 and I was on fire. When the weekend was over. I wanted to know more about Cursillo so I immediately joined School of Leaders. I was so thirsty that I read through the Leaders Manual on my own. I had and still have a passion for Cursillo as well as a passion for Learning so School of Leaders was where I felt I was in my element. I started attending Regional Cursillos in Fresno CA and learning from other Cursillo communities as well. It has been a great journey, I am still learning and growing. Metanoia is a life long journey and I am here for it.

I hope that you will join us for School of Leaders. We meet virtually via Zoom on the first Saturday of the month at 8:30 am. Meetings usually last about an hour. We start our Meeting with Prayer, we pray the Leaders Prayer. We have Group Reunion where we share about our piety, study and action. Then we proceed to discuss our Cursillo reading material. Go over announcements on next Ultreya, next Secretariat meeting and next School of Leaders. We close the Meeting in prayer.

## SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED: THE BLUE-PRINTS OF A DIVINE MANUAL

By Anthony R Cordova

Early at the turn of the 13th century, in a dilapidated church near Assisi, Italy, a little poor man prayed fervently, with his eyes fixed on the crucifix that hung before him. And as he did, he heard a voice that called him to "Go and rebuild my church." Little did he know at the time that he was being called to revive the fullness of Christ's Mystical Body here on earth, and not simply the place in which he prayed. Naturally, history tells us that this man, who had been called back from his involvement in the Crusades, would indeed bring life back to a dying and corrupted Church. That this "little poor man" who gave up wealth and status to follow the Lord, and much to the chagrin of the ecclesial authorities of his time, would go on to be remembered among the greatest of saints eight hundred years after his passing. He was St Francis of Assisi.

A similar story played out with God's chosen people over seventeen hundred years earlier, when King Cyrus of Persia ended the Babylonian captivity that had exiled the Israelites from their homeland. He decreed that they could go back after seventy years of being away and could again "rebuild" Jerusalem. By this time, however, there was not much to go back to, as what remained of God's Promised Land to Moses and those Israelites freed from Egypt centuries earlier had become merely a fraction of itself and a shadow of its former glory. An in-fighting among the twelve tribes of Israel had produced a divided kingdom that would lead to the siege of the Northern Kingdom by the Assyrians and the eventual evisceration of its inhabitant and their Jewish identity. To the south, the Babylonians would follow suit by expelling God's people from their home country of Judah, destroying their mighty temple, and stealing the kingdom's collective wealth. God's chosen people had 'chosen' to follow their own directives and their own impulses in turning away from Him, and clearly had only themselves to blame for all that contributed to their exile. And yet, even there, God stayed faithful.

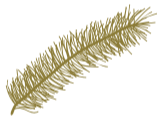
These examples share a common theme of rebirth and restoration. St Francis, as a layman, would revitalize the Church by injecting it with the Spirit of poverty, sorely lacking in recent centuries. By his life and example, he would go on to pave the way for the religious order that shares his name and is modeled by his work. And on their part, the Israelites of the 5th and 6th centuries would go on to rebuild their shattered homeland after returning from exile. Certainly, they'd come to face other threats to their identity with the arrival of the Greeks in the years that followed, but for a time, they were able to rebuild Jerusalem, restore temple worship, and bring God back as the center of their lives. In the end, God called both St Francis and the Israelites of ancient times back to rebuild. Similarly, Christian brethren, after five years away, the Cursillo Movement of the Monterey Bay is urging the return of its Men's Weekend. An unlikely feat at present time, given the dwindling numbers of participating men in our local apostolate. To this end, dear brothers, I strongly encourage you to bring these examples cited above to prayer tonight and in the days and weeks to follow.



### Some Assembly Required - continued

Let us be comforted in knowing that it is only through God's grace that the labors to which He calls us can ever produce what He wills. What He wills, He makes possible. We need only be docile enough to hear the promptings of the Holy Spirit leading us to what God calls us to do, and then having the faith and trust to let Him lead us.

For the men who have lived their Cursillo, we urge you to come back and rebuild. Before there were other three-day retreats and other church ministries competing for our attention, Eduardo Bonnin, a slave to Christ Jesus, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, gave life to a weekend encounter that shaped our views on our Risen Lord and the vital role fellowship plays in our Catholic faith. From the time we heard "De Colores" that first weekend all the way to the present day, we know how strongly the Spirit of God operates within our apostolate when it's in charge. Let it lead you, family. Let it lead you back home to Cursillo, where there is much to do and plenty to rebuild. Our sisters urge your participation at Ultreyas, School of Leaders, Secretariat, fundraisers, etc. And for those who wish to join the cause, we invite you to reach out to neighboring chapters in Fresno and San Jose and live your three-day there. We will support and facilitate your experience as best we can. And once received, please be sure to come back and help rebuild. Christ is counting on you!



### MY CURSILLO WEEKEND AND BEYOND

By Arcelia Coronel

I was invited to go to Cursillo in 2013. I went. At that time, I needed to believe again. That weekend was a blessing to me in so many ways. I attended a few Regional cursillo weekends in Fresno Ca. People from many regions was there, some spoke different languages, but when we went to adoration and Mass, the singing in other languages, other than Spanish or English, sounded like angels. I didn't understand what they said, but I felt the joy and happiness as a group with all, it was like we knew all of them already and loved them as brothers and sister. We had great workshops and good speakers. But last year in 2022 I had the opportunity to go to the National Cursillo gathering that took place in Orange County CA. I have no words for the excitement and renewal that was. So many moments where I fell goosebumps. On Thursday when there were probably like 20 Priest doing confession. How calming and beautiful to see people going to confession and then walking away with joyful tear eyes faces. Then the Mass with about 25 Priest, Bishops. At the time of the consecration, they all raised their hands and look up at the same time, it felt like we had died and were in a cloud. The music and all the voices were angelic. I stood still and looked around the room. So many faces fool of joy and love.

*"Romans 12:5. So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others".*

To share a weekend with other cursillistas from all over the US amazed me.

This year (2023) National Cursillo was in Omaha Nebraska in July. I went again, it was beautiful as expected, met more cursillistas from all over the US and got to see some of the ones I met last year. And who knows, going to the yearly National Cursillo reunion is on my bucket list, and why not, the world Cursillo reunion is in my bucket too. See you all soon. Keep praying, forgiving, grow in faith and don't stop loving.

### School of Leaders, continued

We are currently reading 100 Years Biography Mentality by the founder of Cursillo Eduardo Bonnin Aguilo. This book tells us of the birth and development of Cursillo from a Retreat in Mallorca Spain to a Worldwide movement. We read How each Rollo came about, how the Pilgrims guide and Leaders Manual came to be. The struggles Eduardo Bonnin had to face in his journey to spread the Spirit of Cursillo to the whole world.



## IMPORTANT WEBSITES

[www.facebook.com/cursillomontereydiocese/](http://www.facebook.com/cursillomontereydiocese/)  
Cursillo Movement of the Monterey Diocese

[www.montereycursillo.org](http://www.montereycursillo.org)

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

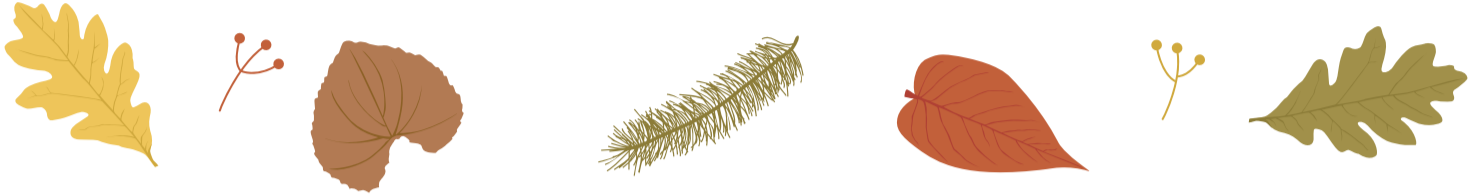
## IMPORTANT WEBSITES

[www.natl-cursillo.org](http://www.natl-cursillo.org)

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

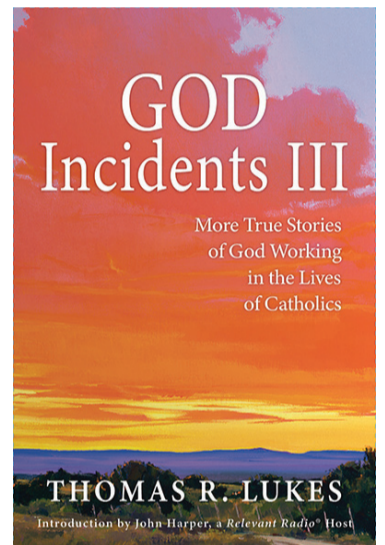
[www.orgmcc.org](http://www.orgmcc.org)

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



## God Incidents I, II, III – True Stories of God Working In the Lives of Catholics Author: Thomas R. Lukes

- **God Incidents I** Cost: \$18.95, **God Incidents II, III** Cost \$9.99 each
- 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.



All three books are available on Amazon.com and all three books are available in the Kindle format.

If you want a signed book for your family or friends, contact Tom Lukes at [ShareGodIncidents@gmail.com](mailto:ShareGodIncidents@gmail.com).

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