

# Rekindle

THE CURSILLO® MOVEMENT  
OF THE MONTEREY DIOCESE

FALL 2024

## MESSAGE FROM LAY DIRECTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy Fall! I am so excited and I want to share the news with all of you.....**CURSILLO IS ALIVE IN THE DIOCESE OF MONTEREY** and our old traditions are back!!!!

Our annual women's weekend was held Sept. 5th-8th, it was a wonderful, spirit filled weekend. Thank you to the team who prepared for 9 weeks and shared their time, talents and treasures. Thank you to the women that said "yes" to attending the Cursillo. I would also like to thank Father Rudy and Deacon Rick for being our Spiritual Directors and thank you to those of you in our community that sent palanca, cooked meals, baked and prayed. Your prayers lifted all of us. God is Good!!!

I am happy to announce that Mañanitas and Agape are back!!! Thank you to everyone that attended Mañanitas. It was wonderful to see members of our community gathered around the fountain at Mission San Antonio as the sun rose over the mountain range praying and singing DeColores. I know the candidates loved it too.

I also wanted to share with you that we had 6 men from our diocese this year live their Cursillo with the San Jose Diocese at St. Clare's retreat center in Soquel. Because we did not have enough men in our community to help put on a men's Cursillo weekend, the San Jose Diocese was kind enough to allow our men to join their weekend. It has been a wonderful working relationship with our Cursillo brothers and sisters in San Jose. I can't thank them enough. Their lay director's words to me were, "whatever we can do to help you get back on your feet, we are here for you".

That being said, as we look forward to the upcoming new year, the secretariat will be meeting to plan the 2025 calendar. I am so excited to announce that not only are plans being made for the women's weekend there are also plans being made to have our first men's weekend in our Diocese since 2019. More information to follow.

Lastly, I would like to ask all of you for your help and continued prayers. Please pray about telling our brothers and sisters about Cursillo. Reach out to people in your community and share with them about our wonderful movement. Remember...-  
**Make A Friend, Be A Friend, Bring A Friend To Christ.**

DeColores,

**Cindy Stefani**  
Lay Director



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ULTREYAS

*3rd Saturday of the Month*

*Location: TBD*

*Time: 6:00 p.m.*

*Contact: [postcursillo@montereycursillo.org](mailto:postcursillo@montereycursillo.org)*

### SCHOOL OF LEADERS

*1st Tuesday of the Month*

*6:00 p.m. virtual*

*Contact: [chairoftheschool@montereycursillo.org](mailto:chairoftheschool@montereycursillo.org)*

### SECRETARIAT

*1st Tuesday of the Month*

*7:00 p.m. virtual*

*Contact: [laydirector@montereycursillo.org](mailto:laydirector@montereycursillo.org)*

## FUNDRAISERS

### December

#### **Craft Fair**

*La Gloria Elementary School*

*Gonzales, CA*

*Saturday, December 7, 2024*

*10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

### **2025 Events**

#### February - Date TBD

*Paint Night*

#### Spring - Dates TBD

*March - Casino Bus Trip*

*April - Chicken BBQ Lunch*

*May - Mother's Day Orchid Sales*



**Mailing address:**  
688 E. Boronda Rd.  
PMB #20  
Salinas, CA 93906



**A WORD FROM A FELLOW CURSILLISTA**

My name is Angel Gabriel Rivera, also known as "Rocky" to the Cursillo Community. I wanted to share the wonderful experience I've had working the Men's Cursillo weekends at the Diocese of San Jose.

When I first joined the team in the Diocese of San Jose, I was more than a little apprehensive, unsure, and somewhat afraid of what was going to be asked of me. I joined a group of men I didn't know (not one) to discuss my life & commitment to Christ in His community. After an evening of Meditation, Prayer, Reflection, at the beginning of the team meetings, I found myself again battling the very same feelings, desires, and challenges presented in the music I heard. At the team meetings, I was going to be asked to bear my soul and confused beliefs to my fellow brothers. As I look around the room, I noticed "the look" on the other team members' faces. The men exhibited anticipation, joy, and assurance, as they also displayed their decorated name tags; obviously the mark of the veteran Cursillistas. I pondered; *Do I open up? Do I keep silent? Do I say what they want to hear? Do I have faith? Do I expose my life with Christ?* Everything that has happened at each Cursillo meeting has changed my Love for Christ forever. My experience has been more than a spiritual experience because of the close-knit family. I was accepted and welcomed as part of their family.

I have since worked five Cursillo weekends in San Jose, one every year for the last five years; as they stress, we should only work one weekend per year. As normal, every weekend has a theme. This past Men's weekend theme was "God so Loved" which included a matching song. The weekend preparation has fifteen (15) team meetings which everyone is required to attend to form Community. Prior to the Cursillo weekend, the Team meets on a Saturday called "day away", to review the entire Cursillo weekend schedule which includes the whole team hearing the Rollos. I can honestly say once the weekend starts, the Rollistas and the Service (kitchen) team have their tasks complete and ready to serve.

All five Cursillo weekends that I've worked have been spirit-filled, full of Joy, Love, and Jesus. I was on the Service (kitchen) team this past Cursillo weekend. Every mealtime had a theme which was perfectly displayed by the members of the Service team. There were also extremely powerful skits throughout the weekend! From saying the Rosary to having the Agape service, everything was a spiritual journey, from beginning to end. Christ was truly present during the Cursillo weekend.


During the last Men's weekend in San Jose, there were four (4) candidates & five (5) team members from the Diocese of Monterey. It would be a blessing if we could bring back a Men's weekend in our Diocese. Matthew 18:20 says; For wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there am I, in their midst.

I am writing this message to remind all the Men Cursillistas in the Diocese of Monterey, Jesus is "Counting on Us" to gather & share this beautiful weekend with other men in our Diocese.

De Colores,  
**Angel Gabriel "Rocky" Rivera**



SUPPORT THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT



Cursillo in Christianity is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization\*.

- We accept monetary donations year-round.
- 100% monetary donations are tax deductible.
- All monies raised benefit the Men and Women's Cursillo Weekends.

If you would like to make a donation, please email: [treasurer@montereycursillo.org](mailto:treasurer@montereycursillo.org) or mail your donation to:  
**Cursillo in Christianity, 688 E. Boronda Rd.  
 PMB #20, Salinas, CA 93906**

\*Tax id 94-1658203

**MEN'S CURSILLO WEEKEND**

It has been over 5 years, since our Cursillo held a men's weekend. As you can see from this year's list, there is a need in our diocese to continue having a men's weekend.

We will need to start from the beginning and build the men's team.

If you are interested, please contact Norma Aguilar at [decolores1991@gmail.com](mailto:decolores1991@gmail.com).

GOD  
SAYS  
YOU  
ARE

UNIQUE   
*psalm 139:13*   
 SPECIAL   
*ephezians 2:10*   
 LOVELY   
*daniel 12:3*   
 PRECIOUS   
*1 corinthians 6:20*   
 STRONG   
*psalm 18:35*   
 CHOSEN   
*john 15:16*   
 FORGIVEN   
*psalm 103-12*

**WOMEN'S 2024 CURSILLO WEEKEND RECAP**

The 2024 Women's weekend was an awesome weekend in so many ways. The theme of the weekend was *Draw Near To God and He Draw Near To You*, James 4:8 .

This year, the women's weekend was held on the first weekend in September at Mission San Antonio de Padua in Fort Hunter Ligett. The weekend started with one of our team members 4th day group preparing the community dinner. The blessings kept coming, with our spiritual leaders Father Rudy Ruiz and Deacon Rick Gutierrez leading the weekend.

Although the hot weather caused a few challenges, it ended up being a wonderful weekend. Along with my two co-rectoras, Amelia Dorado and Maria Villaseñor, we had an awesome team of women doing God's work.

This year was exciting with the return of Sunday morning "mananitas". The Holy Spirit was present and guiding us the entire weekend. Thank you to everyone that contributed with prayers, palanca, donations, and food. A big "Thank You" to Simon Jimenez for being our photographer for countless years.

Thank you, Lord, and thank you to all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Arcelia Coronel**  
Rectora

**JESUS IS STILL COUNTING ON YOU!**

**WANTED**

**WE NEED YOU!**

- website designer
- event volunteers
- BBQ masters
- weekend palanca courier

Please contact  
**Norma Aguilar at:**  
**decolores1991@gmail.com**



Back Row: Cindy Stefani, Amber Souza, Ofelia Gonzales, Deacon Rick, Arcelia Coronel, Sylvia Rivera, Margie Hernandez, Maria Padilla, Norma Aguilar, Connie Katz, Alicia Blanco, Viridiana Domingez, Mary Finley, Cherry Marquez, Amelia Dorado, Lupe Kinnear, Bronya Siguenza. Middle Row: Mel Huff, Nica Caguioa, Martha Becerra, Emily Saldaña, Susie Saldaña, Valentina Amezcua, Patricia Martinez, Fr. Rudy Ruiz, Mary Lou Dominguez, Laurie Ross, Martina Suarez, Teresa Corpuz. Bottom row: Maria Villaseñor and Teresa Medina

## WHAT IS THE SCHOOL OF LEADERS?

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. We aim to accelerate in ourselves, in the Cursillo Movement, and bring it to our environments by 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 **PreCursillo** toward **Post Cursillo** through the **3-day Cursillo weekend** 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.**

In 2017, I lived my Cursillo weekend and I was on fire. I wanted to know more about Cursillo so I immediately joined School of Leaders to quench my thirst for knowledge about the movement.

In 2019, I was given the opportunity to lead the School of Leaders. During Covid, we were unable to meet in person and met virtually. Technology was difficult for some of us but slowly we adapted.

From School of Leaders, a Cursillo Bible Study group was born in 2021. What started as a New Year's resolution to read The New Testament has progressed to 2 years of weekly meetings into reading the Old Testament.

Although our School of Leaders group is small, we are mighty. We also has a Ministry for the Homeless. We support the children in the DV Shelter and the BACS Share Center in Salinas. We have been providing goodie bags for all the holidays and clothes to keep families warm during the winter. Thanks to all who help make this possible.

The School of Leaders meets virtually via Zoom on the first Tuesday of the month at 6 pm. Meetings usually last about an hour. I hope you can join us to learn more about the Cursillo Movement.

*De Colores!*  
**Maria Villasenor**



## FROM THE DESK OF DEACON RICK

On this beautiful day that we are gathered together with the help of God I can share my memories of a wonderful weekend. We were all gathered at Mission San Antonio for a weekend we will always hold on to for the rest of our lives.

The prayers, stories, singing, Holy Mass, wonderful team and candidates, gathered in the presence of our loving God. I will always be thankful for Fr. Rudy for all he has given to this movement on the weekend and the years to come.

Peace be With You,  
**Deacon Rick Gutierrez**



# ANNUAL Christmas SOCIAL

Join us  
for a festive evening  
to toast the  
Christmas season  
with friends and family

**Friday, December 6, 2024**  
**6:00 p.m.**

St. Joseph's Hall  
Spreckels, CA

Please bring a new unwrapped toy(s)  
to benefit children in local shelters.

**RSVP:**  
**treasurer@montereycursillo.org**

MERRY  
Christmas  
&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR



**2024 SECRETARIAT**

**LAY DIRECTOR**  
Cindy Stefani

**SECRETARY**  
Cherry Marquez

**TREASURER**  
Lisa Gonzales

**SCHOOL OF LEADERS**  
Maria Villasenor

**CURSILLO CHAIR**  
Arcelia Coronel

**PRECURSILLO CHAIR**  
Alicia M. Blanco

**POSTCURSILLO CHAIR**  
Norma Aguilar

**PALANCA CHAIR**  
Amelia Dorado

**FUNDRAISING CHAIR**  
Ofelia Gonzalez

**If you prefer  
to receive the  
Rekindle newsletter  
electronically,  
please email:**

**[postcursillo@montereycursillo.org](mailto:postcursillo@montereycursillo.org)**

**Welcome Cursillistas**

It's been a couple of years, since the Rekindle has graced our homes. Although, things were quiet for a few years, the work continued. Fellow cursillistas gathered planned and held Women and Men's weekend retreats.

Please join the Secretariat in welcoming our fellow cursillistas.

**2019  
Women's Cursillo Weekend**

- Paula Bonincontri
- Sonya Bustamante
- Viridiana Dominguez
- Brisy Dorado
- Ofelia Gonzalez
- Cornelia Gugale
- Teresa Muñoz
- Gricel Pacheco
- Lucy Pritt
- Sylvia Rivera
- Franca Rossi
- Alicia Sibaja
- Norma Tostado

**2022  
Women's Cursillo Weekend**

- Jackie Beato
- Mary Finley
- Gabriela Lynn
- Grace Muñoz

**2023  
Women's Cursillo Weekend**

- Leticia Avila
- Lina Cabrera
- Grace Gomez
- Margie Hernandez
- Martha Torres
- Chantel Zavala

**2024  
Women's Cursillo Weekend**

- Valentina Amezcua
- Martha Becerra
- Nica Caguioa
- Mary Lou Dominguez
- Patricia Martinez
- Teresa Medina
- Laurie Ross
- Emily Saldaña
- Susie Saldana
- Janice Spencer
- Martina Suarez

**Men's Cursillo Weekend**

- Martin Aguilar Bravo Sr.
- Martin Aguilar Cruz Jr.
- Edgar Aguilar Cruz
- Michael Evergreen
- Angelito Madlansacay
- Rob Ross

## IMPORTANT WEBSITES

[www.facebook.com/cursillomontereydiocese/](https://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.



**Cursillo in Christianity**  
688 E. Boronda Rd., PMB #20  
Salinas, CA 93906



**CURSILLO REKINDLE**  
Monterey Diocese  
Cursillo Newsletter

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**DATED MATERIAL**

### Coming in January

## God Incidents IV – More True Stories of God Working in the Lives of Catholics

Author: Thomas R. Lukes

- God Incidents IV includes a variety of 32 stories: a blind child is miraculously healed; a woman is healed at Lourdes; a dead man comes back to life at the touch of a priest; a mom is saved by St. Michael the Archangel; a statue of St. Joseph becomes animated, and many more.
- These stories will have you amazed over God's hand in people's lives.
- Based on true stories as told to the author, God Incidents IV shows that not everything is a coincidence; if you look closely, you may just see God's answer to prayer.
- In a world that has grown apart from God, the stories in God Incidents IV will help you to see God as a caring and loving father.

The book will be available at events in local parishes for \$19.95 with money after tax and printing costs going for Religious Formation in the parishes.

God Incidents IV will also be available at Amazon.com

