

NEWSLETTER

Filipino Cursillo Movement of San Diego, CA | Volumn XLV, Issue 17 |
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The Decurias

Lets hear from Bro Carl Mascarenas

The recent Women's Cursillo Class #124, held at La Quinta de Guadalupe (938 18th Street, San Diego) from July 9–12, 2026, brought together sisters from across San Diego County for a powerful weekend of faith, fellowship, and renewal.

Sis Denise Mascarenas from St. Charles Parish / Resurrection Parish served faithfully as Rectora, supported by Sis Angie Sandoval from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish as

Vice Rectora. The class was spiritually guided by Fr. Cecilio Moraga as Class Spiritual Adviser.

The weekend overflowed with the warmth of our community. From the opening day, loved ones and fellow Cursillistas came together in prayer and song to lift up the candidates, and the joy of that welcome carried through every moment that followed.

We joyfully welcome our new sisters in the movement:

Decuria of St. Joan of Arc

- *Sis Winiflor Bassig* – Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish (**President**)
- *Sis Shirley Santiago* – St. Vincent Ferrer Parish, Menifee (**Secretary**)
- *Sis Edna Chan* – Good Shepherd Parish
- *Sis Purificacion Ladao* – St. Vincent Ferrer Parish, Menifee
- *Sis Luz Pascual* – St. Vincent Ferrer Parish, Menifee
- *Sis Arlyn Valenciano* – St. Vincent Ferrer Parish, Menifee

Decuria of St. Catherine

- *Sis Abegail Toledo* – St. Charles Parish, Imperial Beach (**President**)
- *Sis Mary Margaret Soriano* – St. Mary's Parish, National City (**Secretary**)
- *Sis Ester Buenaflor* – St. Rita Parish
- *Sis Olivia Javinal* – St. Mary's Parish, National City
- *Sis Minette Morales* – St. Mary's Parish, National City
- *Sis Leilani Panlilio* – St. Rita Parish

Decuria of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

- *Sis Mary Elena Gonzalez* – St. Michael Parish, San Diego (**President**)
- *Sis Mary Pialin Samaniego* – Immaculata Catholic Church (**Secretary**)
- *Sis Traci Gabriel* – St. Michael Parish, San Diego
- *Sis Jocelyn Houde* – St. Michael Parish, San Diego
- *Sis Josephine Lubanga* – St. Michael Parish, San Diego
- *Sis Presley Pham* – Southeast Christian Church



The recent Men's Cursillo Class #125, held at La Quinta de Guadalupe (938 18th Street, San Diego) from July 23–26, 2026, brought together brothers from across San Diego County for a powerful weekend of faith, fellowship, and renewal.

Bro Mark Villas from St. Mary's Parish, National City, served faithfully as Rector, supported by Bro Art Teodosio Jr from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish as Vice Rector. The class was spiritually guided by Fr. Cecilio Moraga as Class Spiritual Adviser.

From the very first day, the spirit of community was evident. Family members, friends, and fellow Cursillistas gathered to encourage and support the candidates. A group photo was taken, capturing this moment of unity and the joy of beginning the journey together.

The weekend was enriched by the presence and leadership of the following brothers:

Decuria of St. John

- *Bro Michael May* – St. Pius X Parish **(President)**
- *Bro Daniel Lomeli* – St. Therese Parish, Del Cerro **(Secretary)**
- *Bro Michael Avants* – St. Anne Parish
- *Bro Steve Franca* – St. Vincent de Paul Parish
- *Bro George Goodsaid* – St. Vincent Ferrer Parish, Meniffee

Decuria of St. Carlo Acutis

- *Bro Darwin Espejo* – St. Michael Parish **(President)**
- *Bro Jeriko Bautista* – St. Michael Parish **(Secretary)**
- *Bro Dwight Houde* – St. Michael Parish
- *Bro Neil Sotelo* – St. Michael Parish
- *Bro Jeric Toledo* – St. Charles Parish
- *Bro Brian Torreon* – St. Mary's Parish

Decuria of St. Andrew

- *Bro Pio Isidro* – Resurrection Parish, Escondido **(President)**
- *Bro Taurino (Bart) Bartolay* – Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish **(Secretary)**
- *Bro Alberto Aquino Jr* – St. Joseph Cathedral
- *Bro Sixto Brucelo Jr* – Resurrection Parish, Escondido
- *Bro Carlos Porcadas Jr* – Resurrection Parish, Escondido
- *Bro Alan Reyes* – Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish



We thank God for these new Cursillistas and the blessings they bring to our movement. May their renewed faith and zeal inspire others in our parishes and communities.

A Feast to Remember



If there's one thing the brothers of Class #125 won't soon forget, it's the food. From the very first meal to the last, the tables were filled with an abundance of delicious, home-cooked dishes that nourished both body and spirit. The kitchen buzzed with

love and generosity all weekend long, and the many compliments spoke for themselves — plate after plate, the food was simply outstanding.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to our refectorians, whose tireless service, early mornings, and joyful hearts made every meal a blessing. Your dedication behind the scenes fed our community in more ways than one, and we are deeply grateful. De Colores!

A Warm Welcome from St. Mary, St. Michael, Resurrection, and OLMC

Following the retreat weekends, the new candidates from Women's Class #124 and Men's Class #125 were joyfully welcomed home by their parish communities. St. Mary, St. Michael, Resurrection, and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (OLMC) each hosted a heartfelt welcoming gathering for the new Cursillistas.

These evenings brought the Fourth Day to life. Brothers and sisters gathered in prayer and shared their PSA — Piety, Study, and Action — within small groups, encouraging one another to keep living out their faith. The community then broke bread together over a generous shared feast.



A highlight of each gathering was the chance for candidates to “Jump” — standing before the group to share their name, class, and decuria, and to give witness to what they experienced and how God is calling them to serve in their Fourth Day.

A Witness of Grace and Our Reminder: Men's Cursillo Class #125

By Bro Art Teodosio Jr, Vice Rector — Class 103 (2009), Decuria of St. John

From the very first night of Class #125 Men's Cursillo, we witnessed God's grace at work. The first day of the retreat invited each man to listen more deeply.

Opportunities for confession were made available, which opened the door to renewal, healing, and a clearer awareness of God's presence. This set the stage for what we began to see as a grace-filled retreat!

As the weekend unfolded, the transformation became visible. Relationships began to form, camaraderie came alive, and the Christian spirit filled the room through music, shared conversation, the Decurias, and, of course, plenty of good food. The candidates were not only listening; they were witnessing to one another about their lives with openness and joy.

As this new class journeyed through the retreat, they reminded us of the joy we received from our own weekend. In that, we recognize that these men were called not only to experience a meaningful weekend with Christ, but also to grow in personal holiness and return to their environments as agents of change. Their witness reminds each of us to carry that same grace into our families, parishes, workplaces, and communities as we continue living our Fourth Day with courage, joy, and in the spirit of De Colores.

In this way, the mission of Cursillo continues beyond one weekend. As we make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ, we help carry the Gospel into environments where it is most needed.

De Colores!

Reflection on Serving Men's Cursillo Class #125

By Bro Jesse Trapse, Class #1

Our recent Men's Cursillo Class #125 weekend was a beautiful experience of faith, fellowship, and God's abundant grace. Throughout the weekend, candidates encountered Christ through our meditations, inspiring talks given by laypersons and clergy, prayers, the Sacraments, and the loving support of the Cursillo community. Having just two classes per year — one women's and one men's — is a way of recharging our Cursillo battery through service.

We are deeply grateful to our Spiritual Adviser, Father Cecilio Moraga from Peru, and to the team members, rollistas, musicians, staff, sponsors, and all who supported the weekend with prayers and palancas. Your dedication and generosity made this life-changing experience possible.

As our new Cursillistas begin their Fourth Day, we pray they continue to grow in Piety, Study, and Action, sharing Christ's love in their homes, parishes, workplaces, and communities.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this weekend a blessing. Please continue to keep our new Cursillistas in your prayers as they journey forward in faith.

De Colores!

*Yours in Christ,
Bro. Jesse Trapase*

This Is What the 4th Day Looks Like

By Bro Jonathan (JQ) & Sis Raechelle Manlapaz — Class 107, Decuria of St. Peter

To the Women's Class #124 and Men's Class #125,

Three weeks before the Men's Weekend, my wife and I were talking to a past student of hers. Let's call her Ashly. Ashly was telling us about how she is a straight-A student but doesn't study at all. She thought that we would be proud of her, but we weren't. I told her that she should push herself to do the best she can — request harder classes, read books beyond her curriculum, discover her actual potential, and so on. I continued to tell her that I would be more proud of her if she received a C in something difficult than an A in something easy.

JQ: "Which would you be more proud of? Me fighting and losing to Mike Tyson? Or me beating up a kindergartener?"

Ashly: "..."

JQ: "We're not here in this world to do the bare minimum... understand?"

Ashly: "Yeah, I understand."

A couple of weeks went by, and we saw Ashly again.

Ashly: "Hey, remember what we talked about? My dad said that he would rather I get straight-A's in something easy than get a low grade in something hard."

JQ: "Is that right?"

Ashly: "...that's exactly the opposite of what you said..."

JQ: "You're right... that's exactly the opposite. Listen to your dad."

It was very unsettling, to say the least... Also, who am I to say otherwise? I'm not her father. Plus, I only had a couple of days to prepare everything I needed to serve for the Men's Class. As you might know, there is a lot of preparation that has to happen beforehand. As I tried to focus on tying up loose ends at work and staff preparation, I kept thinking about our discussion with Ashly.

Cut to: The Men's Class.

The Men's Class was awesome! I think that was one of the best classes I've ever seen. The staff did a great job helping each other. We worked hard and laughed harder. Everyone was so busy, but had smiles on their faces the whole time. More importantly, the candidates felt the presence of God. Everything went great... thank God!

Cut to: Teaming.

Two weeks later, I was teaming with the guys. We usually pick a random restaurant, meet up there, and make sure to stay long enough to wear out our welcome. Before formally starting up our PSA, we usually order food, eat dinner, and catch up with each other.

Bro JQ: "Dang, man, something's been bugging me for real... know what happened?"

I proceeded to tell the guys about how my wife and I were talking to Ashly and how I was trying to push her to do her best. I told them how she didn't see the merit in challenging herself. As I was telling the story, I noticed the guys look down at the table and shake their heads in disappointment. After I went on a rant, there was a silence. None of the guys spoke a word. All you could hear was clanking from the chefs in the kitchen, the K-Pop song playing through the overhead speakers, and the other restaurant patrons chatting with each other at their tables.

Then, we realized something.

The Women's and Men's Weekend would have NEVER happened if everyone did the bare minimum. Everyone had to fully say "Yes" to God — even if it was inconvenient for them. Everyone pushed themselves hard. Everyone turned their work into a

prayer to God. The staff had to sacrifice their effort, time, and treasure to be there to serve. The candidates had to sacrifice a day of work, time with their families, their favorite TV shows, their cellphones, and their sleep.

Everyone sacrificed for the Kingdom.

This is what the 4th day looks like. We are here to fight for the Kingdom... even if it hurts.

As for Ashly, we will continue to evangelize... but this time, with God's graces, we will evangelize by doing our best to be an example of how to live a Christian life.

All of us have our own Ashlys in our lives. Don't be discouraged. God has a plan, and you are part of it. You just have to say "Yes" to God.

Brothers and Sisters, the way that God worked through the hands of the staff to reach you, I pray you let God work through your hands to reach the world.

God bless you on your 4th day.

De Colores!

Bro JQ — Class 107, Decuria of St. Peter