

A Year in Review

Welcome to our year in review of 2024, with all its events, highlights, milestones, and more! So much has happened in such a short time that we want to summarize in this cute little rhyme.

Join us on **Saturday, March 16, 2024**
 (8:30AM to 4:00PM) Santa Maria Parish Hall
 40 Santa Maria Way, Orinda, CA

ANNUAL LENT RETREAT & Stations Of The Cross

(Mark 1:15)

God's Call for Lent: *A Change of Attitude*
Retreat Master: Rev. Mars Cortez
 All Saints Catholic Church

To register, please contact:
 Sis Lolita Kintanar: 415-342-7009
 Sis Cora Pediglorio: 925-997-3158

\$25 registration fee (incl breakfast & lunch)
 Send to Sis Lynne Evans, Zelle 510-501-4894

Schedule of Activities:
 8:30 AM - Registration/Breakfast
 9:30 AM - Retreat
 12:00 PM - Lunch
 12:30 PM - Confession
 1:45 PM - Mass
 3:00 PM - Stations of the Cross

Registration Deadline: March 1, 2024
 Hosted by: Filipino Cursillo Community - Diocese of Oakland

In March, to Santa Maria Parish Hall we went for Stations of the Cross & annual retreat for Lent. Our retreat master was Reverend Mars Cortez, "A Change of Attitude," was the theme he said.

FILIPINO CURSILLO COMMUNITY
 DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

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ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP DANCE

SATURDAY JUNE 1, 2024
 6PM - 11PM
 REGISTRATION STARTS AT 5:00PM
 DINNER AT 7PM

DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON HOTEL
 PLEASANTON
 7050 JOHNSON DR., PLEASANTON CA 94588

DONATION: \$65.00
 ATTIRE: THE GREAT GATSBY
 HOST TEAMS: OLGC & HOLY FAMILY

PARTY LIKE GATSBY

contacts:
 Sis. Lynne Evans (510) 501-4894
 Sis. Josephine (925) 348-7134

Then, in June, we gathered in the city of Pleasanton for a night of friendship, food, fun and celebration. We got dressed up so we could "Party Like Gatsby" at our annual dance held at Hilton Double Tree.

The Mariposa

Issue 8, Vol IV, Year 2024

A few weeks later, for those of us who could, we had a picnic at Veterans Park in Brentwood.

Join us relax and enjoy the outdoors! A great time for our community to spend time together, have fun, and create beautiful memories together.

FCC Picnic in the Park

Sunday, June 23, 2024
 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 Veterans Park
 Area B and C
 3841 Balfour Road
 Brentwood, CA 94513

For information:
 Marie Centeno, 925-285-2425
 Evelyn Isidro, 925-308-3408

A highlight of the year was our 3-day weekends:

#105 for the ladies and #106 for the men.

The first was at St. Clare's Retreat Center in Soquel with Sis Edna Marr as the Rectora — it was done well!

The latter was in Cupertino at Camp Via West where Brother Art Salud was a Rector at his best!

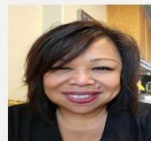
2024 Cursillo Weekends

Women's Cursillo #105

Aug 29th - Sept 1st, 2024



Rectora: Sis Edna Marr
 (Chosen Flock)



Asst. Rectora: Sis Gigi Enriquez
 (Agape)

Men's Cursillo #106

Sept 26th - 29th, 2024



Rector: Bro Art Salud
 (Our Mother of Perpetual Help)



Asst. Rector: Bro Bong Solis
 (Our Lady of Good Counsel)

Our advent retreat was at the parish of Santa Maria with a great retreat master, Father Ramon Urbina. "Removing Obstacles and Preparing a Way for the Coming of the Lord" on Christmas Day.

The Filipino Cursillo Community Diocese of Oakland invites you to its annual

Advent Retreat

Removing Obstacles and Preparing a Way for the Coming of the Lord

Saturday, November 23, 2024
 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
 Santa Maria Parish Hall
 40 Santa Maria Way, Orinda, CA

Retreat Master
 Fr. Ramon Urbina, Parochial Vicar
 St. Francis Church, Concord, CA

Registration Fee: \$25/pp
 (includes breakfast and lunch)
 Zelle to Lynne Evans: 510-501-4894
 RSVP by Nov 10th to: Lolit Kintanar, 415-342-7009

To close out the year, our FCC would go to Our Lady of Good Counsel in San Leandro for a Christmas celebration to kick off the season because Jesus' birthday is always a good reason. We ate & danced & had a contest for parol-making, but the best part for all was simply to be partaking.

FILIPINO CURSILLO COMMUNITY
 DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

Home for Christmas

December 7, 2024
 Our Lady of Good Counsel
 San Leandro, CA
 10:00am to 3pm

Host Teams - Fremont & Agape
 Reservation Deadline - Nov 25, 2024

Donation \$25 each
 Zelle to Sis Lynne Evans (510) 501-4894

For Reservations Please Contact
 Sis Lolit Kintanar (415) 342-7009
 Sis Lynne Evans (510) 501-4894

As you can see, our Cursillo continues to thrive, and we can't wait to see what awaits us in 2025



Filipino Cursillo Community
 Diocese of Oakland

LIVING THE LIVING CHARISM OF CURSILLO

(Unknown author)

During my 29 years as a Cursillista, the phrase “Charism of Cursillo” has intrigued, inspired, and sometimes, been a source of frustration. In the past, I have been frustrated upon hearing the phrase Charism of Cursillo spoken by well-intentioned Cursillo leaders who were unable to define it. In fact, I was a Cursillista for 15 years before I discovered a clear definition of Charism of Cursillo.

Before sharing that definition of the Charism of Cursillo, I will mention what keeps me inspired and intrigued by the Charism of Cursillo. The Charism of Cursillo can only be truly understood by living it. The Charism of Cursillo is itself living – as the action of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Cursillista, the Cursillo Community, and the environment. I will say more about living the living Charism of Cursillo toward the end of this article.

So, what is the Charism of Cursillo? Let’s start with the word “charism.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines charism as a specific gift or grace of the Holy Spirit which directly or indirectly benefits the Church, given in order to help a person live out the Christian life, or to serve the common good in building up the Church (799, 951).

The Glossary of Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement says that charism is a special grace, given by God, that enables and motivates a person to serve in the renewal and building of the Church.

Many movements of the Church, such as Cursillo, Charismatic Renewal, Couples for Christ, etc. share a common gift of the Holy Spirit given to build up the Church. That common gift, that charism is the kerygmatic proclamation of the gospel. In other words, proclaiming the basic message of salvation by the witness of life. Though this charism is common among many movements, each of those movements also has their own unique charism, typically dealing with the approach to the kerygmatic proclamation and the sustaining of their communities. This charism that is unique to a particular movement is sometimes called the foundational charism because it is a special grace given to the founders of the movement.

In 2009, I discovered what I consider an excellent, understandable, and practical definition for the Charism of Cursillo. I found it in *The Cursillo Movement—Study of the Charism OMCC Monthly Mailing—2008-2009* published by OMCC (Organismo Mundial de Cursillos de Christianidad).

Below is my summary of that definition:

The Charism of Cursillo consists of three interconnected elements: essence, purpose and method.

Essence: The Cursillos in Christianity is the best news that God loves us in Christ communicated by the best means possible – friendship. It is directed to the best in each man or woman, that is, his or her very being as a person – with a capacity to be convinced to make decision and to persevere.

Purpose: That the personal encounter with Christ reaches the most possible number of people, preferably, but not limited to, the far away. Using a concrete, well thought out, studied and prayed upon plan, the Pre-Cursillo, Cursillo, and Post-Cursillo use its strength and energy in an adequate and possible way (Group Reunion and Ultreya) so that those far away Christians and sometimes not yet Christians, whether because of lack of formation, misinformation, or no information, can be brought to the good news that God loves them in Christ. Note that the personal encounter with Christ is the focal point. The encounter with self is a means to encounter with Christ. The encounter with others is a consequence of the encounter with Christ.

Method: The three phases (Pre-Cursillo, Cursillo, Post-Cursillo) form one method. The three phases are structured in such a way that the essence and purpose can be fulfilled. The Pre-Cursillo generates the Cursillo Weekend, and the Cursillo Weekend generates the Post-Cursillo.



It is important to realize that this definition of the Charism of Cursillo is NOT the charism. Rather, the Charism of Cursillo can only be truly realized by living it. Imagine what it would be like for someone who had never lived a Cursillo Weekend or attended a Group Reunion or Ultreya to read this definition. That person would understand the words, but would have difficulty appreciating it as a gift of the Holy Spirit. Only we who have lived our Cursillo Weekend and have experienced the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives and our community through Group Reunion and Ultreya can begin to appreciate the gift of the Holy Spirit present in the Charism of Cursillo. This experience and appreciation grows as we continue living the living Charism of Cursillo.

As we live the living Charism of Cursillo, we can look through the lens of our experiences and see the Holy Spirit animating this charism in the flow of the Rollo, Meditations, and Weekend Activities and creating the ideal Christian community among the Cursillistas gathered to serve the weekend. We see similar movements of the Holy Spirit in the Pre-Cursillo and Post-Cursillo as we share our lives in friendship with one another. As we see these movements of the Holy Spirit, there is a tendency to document them as “the way it should be.” We need to be discerning in that as there is a real danger of quenching the life of the charism, Jesus Valls Flores in the foreword to Eduardo Bonnin’s “My Spiritual Testament” put it this way: “The legality, recognition, acceptance of this legacy, the reception of it, is not a question of adopting principles but of embodying a natural apostolate. It is such that he who acts in an ordinary way to the urgings of God’s love identifies more with the Charism of Cursillo than he who knows and tenaciously argues over the rules governing the method. Seen in this way, we can consider the rightful heir of Eduardo Bonnin’s spiritual testimony is whomsoever expresses their enthusiastic “yes” to to the invitation of the model or pattern that the Cursillos propose, rather than whomever observes the theory imposing it by seniority with a longing for themselves.”

Brothers and Sisters, may we continue to live the living Charism of Cursillo in its essence aligned with its purpose and following its method as a community moved and guided by the Holy Spirit.

From the Editor

The following is from my reflection in July 2014 on a daily meditation I had read. The first paragraph is my reflection, and the part that follows was the meditation. It seems appropriate as we increase the emphasis on our Pre-Cursillo mission.

Like Thomas, my greatest weakness (from a spiritual standpoint) is my strength, intelligence and independence. Over the years, I’ve realized that, during my moments of success and prosperity, I drifted from God. Then, during my moments of adversity and despair, I would fall to my knees and plead for God’s help. As much as this is a fact of human nature, I find it so selfish... it’s like saying, “God, I love you, but stay out of the way until I need you.” So now, I try to make God a part of EVERYTHING. When I need God, I pray (that part is easy)... but when I am doing fantastic, I now make a conscientious effort to give thanks, honor and praise. Have you talked to God lately? If you have no needs for which to pray, give thanks that you have been blessed!

CONVERTING THE STRONG AND INTELLIGENT

Jesus said to him, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me?” John 20:29

The conversion of Thomas may have been one of Jesus’ greatest miracles not because Thomas was so weak but because he was so strong. Weak people are almost forced to conclude that they need help even God’s help, while strong people are severely tempted to rely on themselves. In our weakness, God’s power can reach perfection (2Cor 12:9). In our strength, God’s power may seem unnecessary.

Thomas was probably a strong person. He was absent when the risen Jesus came to the other apostles, who were locked in a room because of fear (Jn 20:24, 19). This means Thomas was not locked up. Also, when



Jesus went to Bethany to raise Lazarus from the dead, Thomas boldly encouraged the other apostles: "Let us go along, to die with Him" (Jn 11:16). Thomas was probably more courageous, free, and fearless than the other apostles.

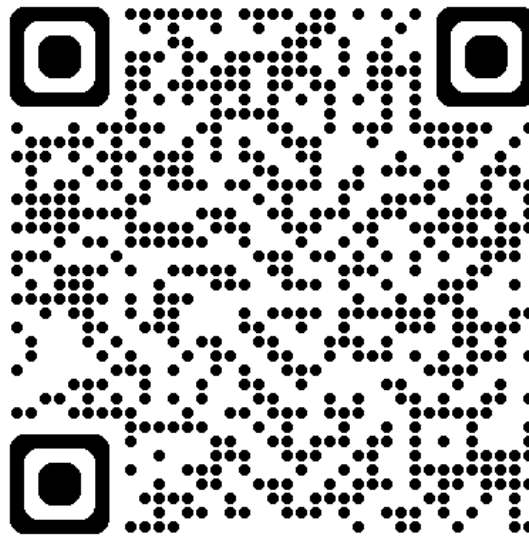
Thomas' conversion was a great miracle not because Thomas was so simple-minded but because he was so intelligent. Simple-minded people find it hard to keep up the pretense that they know what they're doing. Intelligent people may conclude that what they understand is sufficient. Thus, much of God's plan is "hidden from the learned and the clever" (Lk 10:21).

Thomas was probably an intelligent man. He had enough sense to ask the insightful question which elicited Jesus' claim to be "the Way, and the Truth, and the Life" (Jn 14:6). Even when Thomas spoke of probing Jesus' wounds (Jn 20:25), he was likely advocating what we call the "scientific method" of collecting data.

Jesus converted Thomas despite Thomas' proclivity to fall into temptations to self-reliance and intellectual pride. When Jesus converted Thomas, He showed He can convert anyone. There is hope for all to be saved (1 Tm 2:4).

Lord God, help me to trust in You with all my heart and not rely on my own intelligence (see Prv 3:5).

Brothers and Sisters, as we consider who we might invite into our Cursillo community, do not be afraid. Let's conquer our fear of rejection. Let's not shy away from a potential candidate because their personality is too strong or because they seem too smart or ask challenging questions. Let's find those Thomases.



Did you know?

What is a QR code? The "QR" in the QR code stands for "Quick Response." It is a two-dimensional matrix barcode that can be read and scanned with compatible devices such as a smartphone camera or an app.

The above QR code is for the internet home page of the website for the Filipino Cursillo Community of the Diocese of Oakland, CA. Try it out!

If you are printing brochures or flyers, and would like to direct your audience to our website, feel free to include this QR code in a conspicuous place.

Word of the Day

Kerygma (noun): a Greek word used in the New Testament for "proclamation." It refers to the preaching of the gospel of Christ. If something is kerygmatic, it expresses the message of Jesus' ministry.

Meet the Communications Committee

The Communications Committee was created to help connect and disseminate information within the Filipino Cursillo Community. The Communication Committee consists of the following: Communications Administrator, Zoom Technical Team, Website Team and Mariposa Team. It is the goal of the Communications Committee to always uphold the integrity and foundational Charism of the Cursillo movement.

Website Team

Bro Lino Centeno

Bro Joey Estrada

Sis Josephine Herrera

Sis Belle Caronongan

Zoom Tech Team

Bro Lino Centeno

Sis Belle Caronongan

Sis Alma Chew

Sis Bel Purificacion

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