

AUGUST 2022

Cursillo *forward*



Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
Our Mission is to Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership
Please visit our Cursillo website for more information at www.sdcursillo.org

THE SAN DIEGO EPISCOPAL CURSILLO CELEBRATION JUNE 25, 2022

*CELEBRATING CASTING OUT THE DARKNESS OF COVID, AND MOVING
BACK INTO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST*



CELEBRATING 46 YEARS OF EPISCOPAL CURSILLO IN SAN DIEGO



Yazmin Lozano

Cursillo Celebration June 2022

James Ambasing

54 CURSILLISTAS ATTENDED AT GOOD SHEPHERD



Cursillo Celebration June 2022

James Ambasing

**WE PLANNED OUR GROWTH – AND FOUND THE WAYS TO SERVE,
AND
WE FOUND THE MANY WAYS OF LOVE – TO FOLLOW JESUS.**



Cursillo Celebration June 2022

Yazmin Lozano

Mike Jewett

James Ambasing

THE AGAPE LUNCH WAS GOURMET ITALIAN – SO GOOD!

A MESSAGE FROM THE CURSILLO PRESIDENT

Well, we have made it thru the half way mark of the year and are sailing into the summer sun. I am happy to report there are many things still to come in the last half of the year.

Our Cursillo Celebration in June at Good Shepherd in Bonita was a great success! I want to thank all who attended and especially the Servant Community for putting it all together. Lots of love, time and talent went into this event. It takes all of us working together to achieve great things. Larry Salvadori has been the driving force behind this event and we all want to thank you for your enthusiasm and efforts to make it a great success. From the speakers to the lunch to the message from the Bishops, it all came together nicely. Look for other comments about the celebration from others who attended the event in this edition. Thank you again for attending and or participating in our celebration. For future events please check our calendar for locations and times.

We can certainly look forward to this fall for our Cursillo #148 week end coming up in October. It will be an honor to serve as your Rectora for #148. If you have the availability in October to serve the community in Pine Valley, please apply early. Those dates again are October 27-30, 2022. There is plenty to prepare for our future Cursillistas. There are opportunities to build relationships at our meetings, a time to sing and pray and help each other. It is required to attend the meetings in order to serve on the week end. Every Cursillo is unique and yet the message remains the same. Remember, "make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ". My team is beginning to form and more than anything we need candidates! Candidates are everywhere! We need to step out in faith and ask those that are waiting to be asked. Get to know someone new in your congregation, Pray for those opportunities to arise and you will see them come to Christ. October is only three month away! The fall will be here before you know it.

TEAM #148	1 ST TEAM MEETING	AUGUST 27,2022	8:30 @ Good Shepherd, Bonita
	2 nd TEAM MEETING	SEPT. 17,2022	8:30 @ St. Timothy's Pensquitos
	3 rd TEAM MEETING	OCT. 15,2022	8:30 @ St. ALBAN'S EL CAJON
	CURSILLO WEEK END	OCTOBER 27-30,2022	PINE VALLEY CALIFORNIA

I WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE ALL CURSILLISTAS TO CARRY OUT YOUR COMMITMENT OF JOINING A GROUP. SINCE WE ALL NEED TO HELP EACH OTHER OUT, THIS WOULD BE ONE OF YOUR ACTIONS FOR THE WEEK. CONTACT GROUPING CENTRAL TO CONNECT TO OTHERS IN YOUR AREA

THERE ARE FUTURE EVENTS COMING THAT WE SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING. BISHOP CURRY WILL BE SPEAKING IN DECEMBER AT THE TOWN AND COUNTRY IN MISSION VALLEY. TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE. LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL. GOD BLESS AND ULTREYA!!!

SUNNY LANDRY- PRESIDENT

A MESSAGE FROM THE CURSILLO SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

The Existential Vacuum

Victor Frankl (1905-1997) was one of the great psychiatrists of the Twentieth Century. He made an interesting discovery while an inmate in a concentration camp during World War II. Physically stronger people were dying while less strong people were having a higher chance of surviving. Why? He discovered that the physically weaker people who were religious and therefore believed that God had a purpose and meaning for their lives survived. Those who were able to hang on to meaning in their lives through inner-spiritual riches were given strength that helped them. But of the people who were quickly dying in the concentration camp, they did not believe there was any meaning to life. Under the extreme conditions of the concentration camp, only one out of twenty-eight people survived; under this tremendous stress, it became clear that meaning was as important to life as oxygen. Almost everything about the concentration camp was working to rob people of meaning; in other words, the camp became a dehumanizing force. An inmate felt like they were an animal or a cog in the cruel Nazi machine. If life feels like it has no meaning, why continue living? Frankl came up with a formula that can be summed up in one sentence: “Despair is suffering, minus meaning.”

Frankl came up with another interesting insight while in the concentration camp. The concentration camp did not begin with government bureaucrats in Berlin. It began with a world view that was advocated by philosophers and scientists that formed a cultural background that made it possible for the concentration camp to exist. A philosophical view emerged of human beings as being merely a machine or an animal and not a spiritual person seeking to fulfill the meaning of their lives. This philosophy can be summed up in one word: nihilism. To be nihilistic is to reject all religious and moral principles in the belief that life is meaningless. Hidden within the culture was a nihilistic view of human beings. For example, psychiatrists tended to view their patients as animal or machine prescribing medications to fix a physical malfunction in the brain without addressing their need for meaning. The psychiatrist may think that physiology is important and that spirituality is unimportant. There may be a reductionistic, materialist philosophy at work in the psychiatrist’s thinking. The psychiatrist may subtly hold a nihilistic view of his or her patient, inadvertently pushing moral and spiritual issues away. In doing so, they are denying the essential role that meaning plays in their patient’s life. It’s ironic that a psychiatrist wound up in a concentration camp suffering from having the meaning sucked out of his life, but it was under these conditions that he discovered the importance of meaning.

What do Frankl’s insights have to do with us today? We live in an increasingly secular culture that is driving out religious and moral principles that give meaning to life. We have philosophers and scientists that can tend towards reducing human beings down to the machine and animal level. Many people today overlook the importance of seeing a human as a spiritual being who must find meaning in his or her life. The nihilism in our culture is hidden and subtle; it is not explicitly proclaimed with neon lights. We are spiritual beings who seek meaning; we need to transcend ourselves to find meaning. We are self-transcendent beings. We must transcend the self into a larger world of meaning if we are to live.

As Christians, we transcend ourselves by giving ourselves to God. But for the person living a secular life, the hidden nihilism gets in the way of this process of self-transcendence into a larger meaning. The nihilism in our lives creates what Victor Frankl calls the existential vacuum, an inner emptiness. At the

center of a person's being is a vacuum, a hole that the person is longing to fill. The person feels bored without meaning. They may feel anxious or depressed and not understand why they feel this way. Frankl calls this feeling of depression from the existential vacuum "the Sunday neurosis." This neurosis happens on Sunday when a person is sitting at home or some other place with the busy activities of the week done; they have free time to think about their life, but they do not know what to think or do. They just feel depressed. They are longing to fill the vacuum so they will feel better. They may think that what they need is "stuff" to fill the hole.

They may submerge themselves in passive entertainment or an addiction may rush in to fill the vacuum or even an inappropriate seeking of pleasure or a deep psychological problem may surface. We will seek to fill the vacuum with something.

Long before Victor Frankl's insights, Blaise Pascal (1623-1662) called this vacuum a God-shaped hole. He said, "... this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words, by God himself." *Pensées* 7 (425). As Christians, we know that God's presence is what we need to fill this vacuum. God's presence and grace need to be at the center of our lives.

Jesus said, "I came that they might have life and they might have it abundantly." What Jesus is saying is that he brings God's presence into our life so that our life may be full and meaningful. When our life is full of God's presence and meaning, we experience abundant life. No longer are we trying to do a hopeless task of filling an existential vacuum, but Jesus tells us what we need to do: "If anyone is thirsty, let him come and drink who believes in me." Jesus promises that he will give us living water. Jesus pours the living water, which is the Holy Spirit, inside of us. This living water of the Holy Spirit supernaturally, miraculously, guides us into meaning and understanding of our lives. We are being lifted by Jesus into a larger and more wonderful life than anything we can try to come up with by ourselves. We no longer need to feel despair over living a meaningless life. Instead, we are experiencing the loving presence and work of God's living water inside of us. Hallelujah! We don't live a life of empty existential nothingness; we live the abundant life filled with the living water of the Holy Spirit! Come, Holy Spirit! Come, and fill your lamb! Come, fill me with your living water.

Your friend in Christ,

Father George

NEWS FLASH

IF YOU'RE NOT CURRENTLY GROUPING, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO GROUPING CENTRAL, CRAIG NOBLE, WITH NAME, CHURCH, AND TELEPHONE NO. FOR ASSISTANCE, AND JOIN IN THE NEXT ZOOM GROUPING AUGUST 7, 2022.



craignoble@cox.net

PARISH REPRESENTATIVES SPOTLIGHT

From the Parish Rep Coordinator

So, what does a parish rep do??? Is it hard? Does it take time?

In this issue and the next, I will be giving an outline of what it means to be a parish rep. We will cover two of the four categories of responsibility this edition, and 2 more in the next edition of the Forward.

Remember, you don't have to do this alone!! It is wonderful to have 2 or more reps for a parish. That way, things can be divided up. Why doesn't your Fourth Day Group take it on for your parish?

The two topics for this edition are Communication and Encouraging other Cursillistas to Identify potential Candidates and Sponsors

Communicate with current Cursillistas in congregation

- Keep and maintain current email/phone list of Cursillistas in congregation
- Notify database keeper of changes and updates-
- Send information about all upcoming Cursillo events.
 - Weekends
 - Ultreyas
 - Quarterly Forward
 - Special Announcements
 - Promote Palanca for upcoming weekends
- Communicate needs/ideas with Parish Rep coordinator/secretariat
- Support and encourage Group Reunion, seeking opportunities for participation for everyone.

Encourage other Cursillistas to identify potential candidates and sponsors.

- Ask other Cursillistas for ideas and suggestions for potential candidates
- Pray about potential candidates in congregation/partner with Clergy
- Encourage sponsorship- financial, transportation, other needs
- Become familiar with both sponsor and candidate application process and assist others with it. If anyone has a question, or wants more information about how to accomplish these things, please call or email me.

Blessings,

Kit Chevalier

858-382-8332, kmsopsinger@yahoo.com

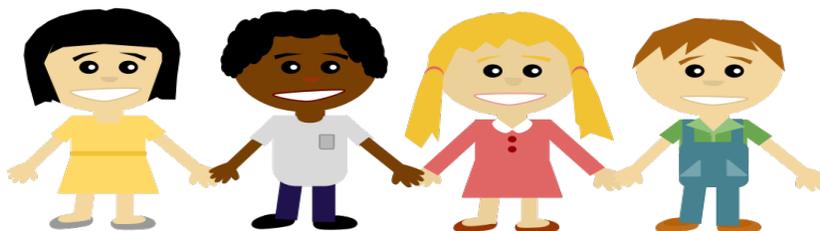
The SPONSOR'S HANGOUT

Co – Sponsor a Candidate – Cut the donation in half

Make a friend—Be a friend—Be a Sponsor!

- Sponsor your new, or old friend, or best friend, to the next Cursillo Weekend. If you haven't already started, **START NOW!**

Make a Friend, Be a Friend. It's Easy!



The Three-legged Stool of Sponsorship

By The Rev. Nancy Behm, President ECM

In Cursillo, we often hear about the Christian life being described as a tripod or three-legged stool. The legs are piety, study and action and all are equally important to grow spiritually and help change the world for Christ. I think it is important that we look at sponsorship in Cursillo as a three-legged stool of its own.

Sponsorship is often taken very lightly but it should not be that way. It is so much more than an invitation, transportation to and from the weekend, and a few notes of Palanca. It is a conscious responsibility to the candidate, their family, and even to the whole Cursillo community that goes beyond the three-day weekend. Those responsibilities of sponsorship look like a three-legged stool of pre-Cursillo, the weekend, and post-Cursillo.

LEG 1 – (Pre-Cursillo) It all starts with prayer in discerning if Cursillo is the right experience for the candidate. Cursillo is not intended to be a conversion experience and it is not for everybody; it is for committed Christians who are looking for growth and renewal. A good sponsor will pray about this. After identifying and praying for a suitable candidate, the sponsor has a responsibility to explain the weekend to them. Honesty is the best policy for this part. My sponsors did not reveal anything to me nor answer any of my questions about the weekend. In fact, they tried to be comical about it – told me I would have a waterbed to sleep on, time for naps, and they encouraged me to take a book and my needlepoint as I would have plenty of time for relaxation. That was back in 1982 and sponsorship has been cleaned up quite a bit since then.

LEG 2 – (The Weekend) When it comes to the weekend, sponsorship takes on a more active role. First, make sure the candidate has everything they might need for the weekend. Then it is important for sponsors to provide transportation and attend the Clausura and any other events during the diocesan Cursillo weekend that support your candidate and the Cursillo community as a whole. It is also

recommended that they check in with the candidate's family from time to time to see if there is anything that they might need help with during the candidate's absence. Then there is Palanca! It is essential that the sponsor not only send notes to their candidate but also be actively praying and/or fasting for them. These responsibilities require the sponsor to be very active during the weekend and therefore it is recommended that a sponsor not serve on that weekend's team.

LEG 3 – (Post-Cursillo) After the weekend is where the real work of sponsorship happens. To make sure the sponsorship stool sits firmly on the Cursillo community ground, sponsors must work at getting their candidates into a permanent group reunion and provide them with opportunities to attend Ultreyas. It is important for new Cursillistas to have continuing contact with their brothers and sisters in Christ. Diocesan fourth day communities will also be strengthened by fully participating Cursillistas. Take this part of a sponsor's responsibility very seriously. Getting a candidate to continue on to an active fourth day life is the biggest responsibility of a sponsor. This is where all of your previous work comes to fruition. A good three-legged approach to sponsorship will help a new Cursillista practice their three-legged stool of piety, study, and action to help change our world for Christ.

ULTREYA!

CURSILLO FOURTH DAY FIRST

(CURSILLO FOUR-EVER)

When we complete a Cursillo Weekend and are commissioned at the Open Clausura, we are called Cursillistas. What are people who complete a Walk to Emmaus Weekend called? I don't know, but they should be called Cursillo Methodists. I propose that we should also think of ourselves as "CURSILLO METHODISTS." THAT MEANS WE SHOULD CONDUCT OUR CHRISTIAN LIVING USING THE CURSILLO METHOD DURING THE FOURTH DAY, THAT IS, THE REST OF OUR LIFE.

"CURSILLO IS BUILT ON A STRATEGY OF STRUCTURING THE Christian life and provides a METHOD TO ASSIST CURSILLISTAS IN LIVING THEIR FOURTH DAY."

THE STRATEGY OFFERED BY THE CURSILLO METHOD PROVIDES A STRUCTURE FOR CHRISTIAN LIFE THAT CAN FIT EVERY ENVIRONMENT.

CURSILLO EXISTS TO PROVIDE CHRISTIAN APOSTLES WITH THE TOOLS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR CHRISTIAN LIFE AND WITNESS. IT IS THROUGH THE FOURTH DAY THAT THE CURSILLO METHOD IS LIVED AND EXPERIENCED. BRINGING CHRIST TO THE WORLD, USING THE METHODS OF CURSILLO, IS WHAT THE FOURTH DAY IS ALL ABOUT. IT IS THE FOURTH DAY THAT MAKES CURSILLO UNIQUE. THE FOURTH DAY IS WHERE CHRISTIANS PARTICIPATE IN THE JESUS MOVEMENT."

THE MISSION OF THE LAITY IN THE CHURCH IS TO BRING CHRIST IN TO THE WORLD;

THE FOURTH DAY IS SHORTHAND FOR:

- ACTIVE CHRISTIAN WITNESS;

- ENGAGEMENT FOR CHRISTIANS—BOTH INDIVIDUALLY, IN SMALL GROUPS, OR IN COMMUNITY WITH EACH OTHER—TO CONVEY THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST TO OTHERS;
- THE CURSILLO SLOGAN, “MAKE A FRIEND. BE A FRIEND. BRING A FRIEND TO CHRIST.”

THE PURPOSE OF CURSILLO IS TO MAKE CHRISTIANS BETTER DISCIPLES OF CHRIST AND TO DEVELOP STRONG CHRISTIAN LEADERS. This results in a very positive impact for the Parish Church and the Diocese.

THE CURSILLO WEEKEND EXPERIENCE TEACHES THE CURSILLO METHOD OF PIETY, STUDY, ACTION, THE RULE OF LIFE, GROUP REUNION, AND ULTREYA. BUT WITHOUT LIVING BY THAT METHOD IN THE FOURTH DAY, THE CURSILLO WEEKEND IS JUST AN ISOLATED EXPERIENCE—NOT A TRUE MINISTRY.

Ruben Rodriguez

CURSILLO MINISTRY - HELP WANTED

Just a few of the places you can help with the Cursillo Ministry:

Parish Representatives - Two for each parish that are currently without. Contact Kit Chevalier, Parish Rep Coordinator.

Clergy - Currently to fill a 2-year term on the Secretariat. Contact Sunny Landry, president, or Rev. George Calvert, Diocesan Spiritual Advisor.

Cursillo Music Coordinator – Leader manages and maintains official Cursillo songbook and music standards, helps recruit and train musicians in Cursillo music, and help organize team musicians available for Weekends, Ultreyas and events. Contact Sunny Landry, President.

Musicians Pool – Leaders and team musicians available for Weekends, Ultreyas and events. Contact Rachel Ambasing, Music Coordinator or Ruben Rodriguez, Ultreya Coordinator.

Prayer Team Leader - Receive prayer requests and distribute them to those who want to pray. Contact Craig Noble, Communications Chair.

Thank you to Tim Storey, our new Songbook Manager!

For more information on these and other areas of service, contact the person mentioned or visit [Find Your Niche](#) on the Cursillo Website.



Cursillo Events Calendar

Cursillo Calendar

Sunday Evening Zoom Group

Aug 7 - 4:00 PM to 5:15 PM

For those in the diocese who are geographically isolated, or for anyone who wants to join in, a monthly online meeting is held on the first Sunday of every month.

Request your first invitation by email the Friday before the meeting. After that, you will automatically receive the invitation link each month. Room opens 10-15 minutes before the meeting begins.

148 Team Training #1

Aug 27 - 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Training meeting for all team members.

Location: Church of the Good Shepherd, Bonita

Point of Contact: Sunny Landry, Rectora

Sunday Evening Zoom Group

Sep 4 - 4:00 PM to 5:15 PM

Quarterly Meeting of the Servant Community

Sep 10 - 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

A quarterly meeting of any and all interested in advancing the ministry of Cursillo in the area. Bring your ideas, enthusiasm, and skills and be ready to go to work.

Location: St. Alban's Episcopal Church, El Cajon

Point of Contact: Larry Salvadori, Servant Community Convener

Secretariat Meeting

Sep 10 - 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM

Monthly board meeting of the Secretariat.

Location: St. Alban's Episcopal Church, El Cajon

Point of Contact: Sunny Landry, President

[View Calendar Online](#)



Prayers to Support Cursillo Weekends

From the Palanca Coordinator—

Isn't it wonderful? Cursillo weekends are going in full swing! Here is a list of upcoming weekends going into the first part of October. Please pray for the teams and candidates. I have sent general Palanca from our diocese, however, please send your own if you feel so led.

Blessings,
Kit Chevalier

August 11-14, 2022, Cursillo #258, Texas, Piggity@JsrSystems.info or smith.at.michael@gmail.com

September 7-11, Anglican Women's Cursillo, Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, precursilloweekend@gmail.com.

September 8-11, Cursillo #224, Alabama, jenellemarsh@gmail.com

September 8-11, Oregon/SW Washington, oregoncursillo@gmail.com

September 22-25, Cursillo 144, Florida, gbond@floridadirtlawyer.com

September 23-25, 2022, Women's Cursillo, Albany, jHyde@primecaremed.com

September 29-October 2, Los Angeles, colin48stewart@gmail.com

September 30-October 2, Coed Cursillo, Central Florida, Grammiefor4@gmail.com.

October 5-9, Anglican Men's Cursillo, Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, precursilloweekend@gmail.com.

October 6-9, Cursillo 286, West Texas, wtxpalanca@gmail.com.

October 6-9—Cursillo #169, Southern Virginia, palanca@cursillodiosovamail.com

October 6-9, Los Angeles, colin48stewart@gmail.com

October 6-9, Cursillo 145, Southwest Florida, dtunnell@tampabay.rr.com

Secretariat Members (lay)

First	Last	Email	Title (responsibility)	Parish	Term Expires
Sunny	Landry	ricanmama13@yahoo.com	President	Good Shepherd	'22
Jill	Mora	jmora@sdsu.edu	President-Elect	Good Shepherd	'24
Judy	Brown	Jbrown3944@aol.com	Treasurer	St Albans	at will
Rhonda	Muir	muirini@att.net	Secretary	All Souls' Pt. Loma	at will
James	Ambasing	cvista.ja@cox.net	4th Day Chair	St. Matthew's	'22
Nancy	Calvert	nancycalvert@ymail.com	3 Day Weekend Vice Chair	Good Shepherd	'23
Kit	Chevalier	kmsopsinger@yahoo.com	Parish Rep Coordinator	St. Timothy's	'23
Miguel	Cosio	miguelcosio1971@yahoo.com	Community Partners	St. Phillip the Apostle	'23
Deborah	Kistler	dk.withgratitude@gmail.com	Pre-Cursillo Chair, Sponsorship	St. Mark's and St. Matthew's	'24
Craig	Noble	craignoble@cox.net	Communications Chair, ECM Liaison	Good Shepherd	'22
Ginny	Rodriguez	ginnykrodriguez@gmail.com	Member at Large	Good Shepherd	'24
Jeanna	Timan	jeannastime@gmail.com	Lutheran Partners, Assoc. Webmaster	Carleton Hills Lutheran, Santee	'24

Secretariat Members (clergy)

First	Last	Email	Title (responsibility)	Term Expires
Rev. George	Calvert	gcalvert@berkeley.edu	Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Communications	Bishop Apnt'd
Rev. Paul	Gambling	gfrpaul@gmail.com	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	'22
Rev. Carlos	Garcia	carlangasgarcia86@gmail.com	Asst. Spiritual Advisor, ECMC Representative	Bishop Apnt'd
Rev. Peter	Sickels	prsickels410@gmail.com	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	'24
		needed	Asst. Spiritual Advisor	'23

Servant Community Contacts

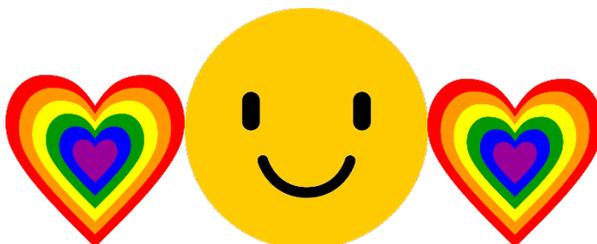
First	Last	Email	Title (responsibility)	Term Expires
Rob	Constantine	roon46@gmail.com	SD Cursillo Photographer	at will
Michael	Jewett	sexton@stbartschurch.org	Hospitality	at will
Chris	McKellar	chris@mckellarmcgowan.com	KAIROS Liaison	at will
Susan	Miller	miller.sv@mailbox.org	Webmaster, Pre-Cursillo Vice Chair	at will
Ruben	Rodriguez	rodriguez_ruben@msn.com	4th Day Vice Chair	at will
Larry	Salvadori	lasalvadori@yahoo.com	Forward Editor, Servant Community Convener, Publicity	at will
	needed		Cursillo Music Coordinator	at will

CURSILLO CORNER – COMMITMENT DONATIONS

The Cursillo community accepts donations year-round. These donations allow us to set up “scholarships” to help defray the cost of sponsoring new Cursillistas and workers, pay our bills, support ministries, and pledge to the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry. If you’d like to make a Blessed Commitment Gift to Cursillo, please sent it to:

Judy Brown – Treasurer
 51 Viejas Grade Road
 Alpine, Ca. 91901-1605

Checks made out to: Cursillos in Christianity



We accept donations in all denominations!