



The Cursillo® Movement

National Cursillo® Center • P.O. Box 799 • Jarrell, TX 76537 • 512-746-2020 • Fax 512-746-2030 • www.natl-cursillo.org

June 2011

To: National Mailing Recipients

Fm: National Cursillo® Center

Re: June National Mailing

Dear sisters and brothers Cursillistas:

As we continue our journey together, willing or unwilling, toward the New City of Jerusalem, it is too easy for us to treat the Pharisees of our time as embodying all that is worst in humankind when, in fact, they were probably the best men of their time; the most righteous, the most devoted to the will of God, the most eager to express their loyalty to Him in obedience to His every word, and the most determined never to compromise with the world around them. However, as our patron Saint Paul came to see it in retrospect, they (Pharisees) were exposed to a deadly flaw; namely, the trouble with their outstanding righteousness was that, all too easily, it could be viewed precisely as their *righteousness*. It was a righteousness that could be measured, so that, at a certain point, you could say that you had now achieved it. This meant that it could all too easily get loose from its original inspiration as devotion to God and become self-sufficient, an end in itself.

The Pharisees were probably quite prepared to acknowledge their dependence on God's grace; there are some early Rabbinic texts which express such dependence in the most emphatic terms. Of course there is always the risk that human beings will forget their dependence on God, but the far more essential criticism is that the Pharisaic concept of righteousness is such that it allows a man to be self-consciously righteous; to contemplate himself in his righteousness, to treat it as something he can possess as his own; whether or not he also thinks that he has achieved it on his own.

The basic form of complacency exists when a person is pleased with themselves; that is to say, when we are self-satisfied because we have given full credit for ourselves, to ourselves.

However, thanks to God for the Foundational Charism of the Cursillos of Christianity methodology of our Interior Tripod; Piety (Heart), Study (Intelligence), and Action (Will/Attitude), a methodology shared in Friendship Group Reunion, and at the Ultreya, we are enlightened through God's grace, of the reality that only Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and life for all humanity.

“Righteousness in the language of the Old Covenant is the term for fidelity to the Torah, to the Word of God...It is the observance of the right path shown by God, with the Ten Commandments at its center. The term that in the New Testament corresponds to the Old Testament concept of righteousness is faith...For faith is walking with Christ, in whom the whole Law is fulfilled; it



unites us with the righteousness of Christ himself. The people who are persecuted for righteousness' sake are those who live by God's righteousness – by faith. Because man constantly strives for emancipation from God's will in order to follow himself alone, faith will always appear as a contradiction to the "world" – to the ruling powers at any given time...The "I" of Jesus himself, fidelity to his person, becomes the criterion of righteousness and salvation...He himself is the reference point of the righteous life, its goal and center." Pope Benedict XVI

As agents of change, we must continue to strive to have confidence in God, in our God-given gifts, and in the gifts that God has given to our sisters and brothers, which enable us to evangelize our God-given environment. We accomplish this by continually surrendering ourselves to the Divine Will so that we may become faithful instruments of God and so that all our actions may be accomplished through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ.

Always De Colores!
Victor Lugo
National Executive Director

LIVING OUR FOURTH DAY WITH CONVICTION, DECISION, AND CONSTANCY

The title of this article is a reminder of what Eduardo Bonnín referred to when he spoke of the "Mentality of Cursillo."

Eduardo referred to the Mentality of Cursillo as the proclamation of:

"The best news of the best reality, that God in Christ loves us. This news is communicated by the best means, which is Friendship. It is directed towards the best of each one, their very person; their capacity for conviction, decision, and constancy."

This Mentality as expressed by Eduardo has its roots in the Precursillo. Most of the time we spend our time and efforts searching for the perfect candidate. However, if we concentrate more on the person who has the capacity for conviction, decision, and constancy, you can rest assured they will capture the message presented during the Cursillo Weekend, and therefore live out their Fourth Day helping others live their lives with conviction, decision, and constancy.

- Conviction (piety) – in directing our whole life to God, we establish an intimate relationship with Him, an open and personal friendship. It is absolutely necessary for us to have an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ in order for our piety to be genuine.
- Decision (study) – putting our minds at the service of the truth or applying our minds to learn the truth. In essence, it is the process of learning to love and respond in faith to reach our potential as persons; fully human and fully Christian. Only by fulfilling our potential can we begin to understand God's love for us, and begin to live in that love.
- Constancy (action) – is the perfection of piety, dedicating our very lives to God by aligning our will to His will, and then doing what we have been asked to do. Action is responding to the command of Jesus written in John 13:34-35. Simply stated, Action is exercising the power to love just as Jesus has loved us.

The Cursillo provides a call to be a Christian, to dedicate one's life to Christ and to live Christ fully and completely. As "Fundamentals Ideas" clearly states:

Christian life "stirs up every baptized person and requires each...to follow and imitate Jesus Christ, to embrace the Beatitudes, to listen to the Word of God and imitate it, to participate consciously and actively in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church, to engage in

personal, family, and community prayer, to have a hunger and thirst for justice, and to put into practice the commandment of love in all circumstances of life and in service to others, especially the least, the poor, and the suffering." (FI #424)

This is, in short, the "new way of life" of which Pope John Paul II has spoken so often: the civilization of "new people." (FI #425)

We have witnessed the spirit of generosity that fills the Cursillistas at the end of the Cursillo Weekend. In fact, many who have lived a Cursillo generally have a desire to serve Christ and His Church through the different parish ministries. This is a well known fact in the Church. However, this does not presuppose that, although this service is gladly offered to the church that the Cursillo has to be exclusively for such activities. Cursillo awakens our desire to serve, therefore Cursillistas commit to the different activities, groups, ministries, etc. of their local parish.

We can also acknowledge the many vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, religious, etc. come from the Cursillo Movement. This does not mean this is the objective of the Movement either. Nevertheless, we thank God for these blessings. However, let's not forget the primary purpose of the Cursillo Movement, that is, the goal we want to achieve if we want to realize the "why" and the "how" of the Movement.

As Bishop Hervás states in his Pastoral Letter, men should be asked for a great response: *"very lofty goals should be proposed to laymen, taking into account that we find ourselves in a moment in which the breathing of the Holy Spirit is calling many souls to heroism and to complete surrender. Let us be bold in a holy way, proposing goals of the most exalted sanctity. If men are not asked for much, they will not even give what they are asked for."*

Cursillo provides us with a method through which we learn to live the Gospel in the everyday circumstances of our lives. It is a roadmap for our lives as Christians – to live the Gospel as laity. It makes us Christians responding to the call of our baptism and the call of the Church. A Christian is a person who has accepted the call of Jesus to make the Father's love tangible and felt by others. Their primary mission is to feed others with the conviction of their value, dignity and importance in the Father's eyes. The life of every Christian and their personal conversion undergoes continual change as they realize that every person, every event, everything one does, is a vehicle of new and different possibilities for the Gospel.

"The Cursillo wants to accomplish, and by the Grace of our Lord it does, the Evangelical message – the Good News. Good for everybody and always new because it renews us. It reaches the greatest number, and above all reaches normal, everyday people. People who do not have time to relax, as they have to work to live and to survive. People, who have no other form of entertainment but to hurriedly read the newspaper, listen to the radio, and to wind up asleep in front of their Television without any of these activities resolving the vital problems of life. It is the man or woman who knows and recognizes God through Christ, a Christ who is alive, present, and human. Man then discovers that without going out of himself, it is possible to have Christ's friendship and nearness." (Eduardo Bonnín –History of a Charisma)

The whole essence of Cursillo is simply to help the person, not only to live the Good News, but to become the Good News for the other person within the normality of their lives where they are at the moment.

Being Christian/Being Church

There is a quote that says: *“I don’t count the seconds, I make the seconds count.”* This is a good analogy of what it means to have conviction as a Christian. It is not a matter of doing “an apostolate” in the evening after a day of work, or whenever we have some free time. What about the rest of our day? We are called to be apostles 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Structures of Ideas sums it up in a very simple way: *“Being a Christian consists in considerably more than doing “Christian things”, being Christian is to live Christ. Doing Christian things is to live for oneself in the name of Christ”. People can do Christian things, but they are not, therefore automatically Christians.*

Eduardo Bonnín has said that the Cursillo is not meant to satisfy the hunger for God, it is meant to create a hunger for Him. It is not meant to answer questions, it is more designed to provoke questions, the kind of questions that will send each one of us on our own journey of discovery, to go deeper and deeper into all that is Cursillo, not in order to be a better Cursillista but to be better and better Christians.

The beauty of the Cursillo Movement is that God sends us companions to journey with us, people whose paths would never have crossed ours had it not been for Cursillo, and yet they become so important to our journey that we wonder how we would make it without them.

We are community by the mere fact of being Christians, of being Church. In its internal life, the ecclesial community characterizes by the realization of those four ‘perseverance’s’ of the primitive Church, described on the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2, 44-47) – (FI #428).

Just as the Acts of the Apostles describes how the early Christians lived the message presented in the Gospels, so too Christianity in Action shows us how to be authentic Christians in the real World, which by the way, is how we penetrate our environments.

In Cursillo we learned that the primary focus for all our evangelizing efforts must begin with ourselves (Study of the Environment Rollo); we must be thoroughly convinced of God’s love for us before we can reach out and share that love and friendship with others.

Sometimes, in Cursillo terminology the word “evangelization” or “evangelizing” may sound somewhat strange for our vocabulary; however, Eduardo Bonnín helps clarify its meaning: *“When we speak of evangelization in the context of the Cursillo, we do not mean, or mostly mean it in the sense of simply passing on or spreading the Good News of the Gospel, but rather to succeed in making the person ‘become’ the Good News, that joyful Good News that Christ is alive in and amongst His people today, just as He was 2000 years ago.”*

We must begin with ourselves and become the Good News to those we encounter in our daily lives; in our moveable square meter. It is by becoming a living witness of the Gospel message that we can truly and effectively evangelize our respective environments. Our evangelical efforts in all phases of the Movement spring forth from a vibrant and living Christianity in Action.

It is in Christianity in Action, that is, in our Group Reunion and the Ultreya, that we live our Fourth Day, the rest of our lives. In our Group Reunion we journey together with a group of friends, sharing our lives and our experiences with each other; sharing with each other our successes and triumphs as well as our struggles. We all have different experiences, but share a

common bond with each other; we are united by our common love of the Lord and the sharing of our Christian journeys with each other. We are friends, although more like a family since we don't just see each other at our weekly meeting, but some of us share other mutual social and church activities during the week.

The life of each member of the group becomes a witness that attracts others to the truth of the Gospel. We are living examples of what Christ has taught. By our words and actions we will hopefully convert those that are far away from God. We do not need to stand on the street corner and proclaim the Word; our actions should speak louder than our words. This is how we can have a positive effect on those we meet every day, and as a consequence, transform our environments to be more Christian.

In conclusion, here is a quote from the book *Whom Shall I Send, Discerning the Will of God* by Fr. Frank Salmani: *"We all know how difficult and awesome the task is that Jesus has placed before us. It takes a lot of work and dedication. The harvest is plenty. There is plenty of work to do, but laborers are few. The apostolic mission is a big job and cannot be done by a few. The time comes when leaders, whether among the religious or the laity, must take a stand and cut through all the excuses. God's work has to be done, and if we do not rise to the occasion, the work will be left undone. Therefore, let us remember our commission from Jesus: 'Go and make disciples of all nations.'"*

Cursillo is not only about proclaiming the Good News, but of becoming the Good News for as many people as possible as we live our Fourth Day through a life of conviction, decision, and constancy.

Ultreya!

21st NATIONAL CURSILLO[®] ENCOUNTER

The 21st National Cursillo[®] Encounter which will be held Thursday, July 28 – Sunday, July 31, 2011, at St Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas is less than two months away. The keynote speaker will be Roberto S. Goizueta, Ph.D.



Roberto S. Goizueta is the Margaret O'Brien Flatley Professor of Catholic Theology at Boston College. Dr. Goizueta holds a B.A. from Yale University and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Marquette University. He has received honorary doctorates from the University of San Francisco and Elms College. Dr. Goizueta is a former President of both the Catholic Theological Society of America and the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States. The National Catholic Reporter has named him one of the ten most influential Hispanic-American educators, pastors, and theologians. His book, *Caminemos con Jesús: Toward a Hispanic/Latino Theology of Accompaniment*, received a Catholic Press Association Book Award. His most recent book, *Christ our Companion: Toward a Theological Aesthetics of Liberation* was published in 2009 by Orbis Books.

The Encounter registration fee is \$370, if you register by May 31, 2011. We encourage you to make your plans now to attend the 21st National Cursillo[®] Encounter by sending the attached registration form to the National Cursillo[®] Center. You may also register on-line at www.natl-cursillo.org. Maximum capacity at St Mary's University is 600 persons. Rooms are assigned on

a first come, first served basis. The registration fee includes three nights lodging, dinner on Thursday evening, 3 meals on Friday and Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday morning. Shuttle service from **San Antonio International Airport (SAT)** will be provided on Thursday, July 28, 2011. Departure shuttle will be Sunday, July 31, 2011.

The Encounter's Fiesta will be held on Saturday, July 30th and will include time for one brief performance (song or dance) from the different cultures and ethnic groups in the National Cursillo[®] Movement. A cultural group wishing to be included in this program must contact the National Cursillo[®] Center at 512-746-2020, or nationalcursillo.center@verizon.net.

CATHOLIC FAITH ENRICHMENT

The National Cursillo[®] Movement continues the partnership with Lighthouse Catholic Media, a division of Saint Joseph Communications. The details are posted on our website at: www.natl-cursillo.org.

DONATIONS

The National Cursillo[®] Movement gratefully welcomes your donations. Your financial support advances the evangelization function of the Movement and as a 501(c) 3 entity, is eligible for tax deduction purposes.

NATIONAL CURSILLO[®] CENTER

The National Cursillo[®] Center will be closed on Monday, July 4, 2011, for Independence Day. It will re-open Tuesday, July 5th at 9:00 AM. It will also close on Tuesday, July 26, thru Tuesday, August 2, 2011, for the 21st National Cursillo[®] Encounter. The National Cursillo[®] Center will re-open Wednesday, August 3rd at 9:00 AM. Please plan your book orders accordingly.

PALANCA INTENTIONS

Mondays – National, Regional, and Diocesan Secretariats

Tuesdays – Schools of Leaders

Wednesdays – Cursillistas in the United States

Thursdays – National Cursillo[®] Movement's Apostolic Actions

Fridays – Cursillo Weekends

Saturdays – OMCC and NACG Executive Committee

Let's continue to pray and offer palanca for each other, the 21st National Cursillo[®] Encounter and National Cursillo[®] Movement.

Your humble servants,

Victor Lugo – National Executive Director

Ceferino Aguillón, Jr. – National English-speaking Coordinator

Jorge Barceló – National Spanish-speaking Coordinator

Joachim Le – National Vietnamese-speaking Coordinator

21st National Cursillo[®] Encounter
St. Mary's University, San Antonio, TX
July 28 – 31, 2011

Thursday, July 28, 2011

2:00pm – 6:30pm

All participants check-in at *Greehy Arena*

5:00pm – 7:00pm

Dinner – *Cafeteria*

7:30pm – 8:00pm

Opening of the 21st National Cursillo[®] Encounter

All participants at *Greehy Arena*

- Opening Blessing: Most Reverend Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S.
National Episcopal Advisor
- Opening Prayer: Rev. Peter Jaramillo, S.S.A.
National Spiritual Advisor
- Welcome: Diocesan Lay Directors

8:00pm – 8:45pm

Keynote Address – Transformation – Roberto S. Goizueta, Ph.D.

All participants at *Greehy Arena*

8:45pm – 9:00pm Break

9:00pm – 10:00pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – Rev. Peter Jaramillo, S.S.A.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Benediction and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Reconciliation

All participants at *Greehy Arena*

Friday, July 29, 2011

6:00am – 8:00am

Breakfast – *Cafeteria*

8:00am – 8:15am Break

8:15am – 9:00am

Morning Prayers & Meditation – Rev. Peter Jaramillo, S.S.A.

All participants at *Greehy Arena*

9:00am – 9:15am Break

9:15am – 11:15am

Major Presentation: Discernment – Most Reverend Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S.
Restless Heart – Rev. Peter Jaramillo, S.S.A.

Greehy Arena (English) and Conference A (Spanish)

- Presentation – 30 minutes
- Group Discussion – 45 minutes
- Group Report – 45 minutes

11:15 – 11:30am

Prepare for Mass – Remember to Fast

11:30am – 12:30pm

Mass – Most Reverend Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S., National Episcopal Advisor
All participants at *Greehy Arena*

12:30pm – 2:30pm

Lunch – *Cafeteria 3 color-coded groups*

1:30pm – 2:45pm

Spiritual Advisors Meeting
Priests and Deacons meet in *Conference D*

2:45pm – 3:00pm Break

3:00pm – 5:00pm

Major Presentation: Discernment – Most Reverend Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S.
Restless Heart – Rev. Peter Jaramillo, S.S.A.

Greehy Arena (English) and Conference A (Spanish)

- Presentation – 30 minutes
- Group Discussion – 45 minutes
- Group Report – 45 minutes

5:00pm – 5:30pm Break

5:30pm – 7:30pm

Dinner – *Cafeteria 3 color coded groups*

7:30pm – 8:00pm Break

8:00pm – 9:30pm

Ultreya – All participants at *Greehy Arena*

9:30pm – 9:45pm

Night Prayers – Rev. Peter Jaramillo, S.S.A.
All participants at *Greehy Arena*

Saturday, July 30, 2010

6:00am – 8:00am

Breakfast – *Cafeteria*

8:00am – 8:15am Break

8:15am – 9:00am

Morning Prayers & Saturday Devotion to Mary – Rev. Peter Jaramillo, S.S.A.

All participants at *Greehy Arena*

9:00am – 9:30am Break

9:30am – 11:30am

Major Presentation: Evangelization through Conversion

Presented separately by language – Greehy Arena (English), Conference A (Spanish), Conference C (Vietnamese), Conference D (Korean)

- Presentation – 30 minutes
- Group Discussion – 45 minutes
- Group Report – 45 minutes

11:30am – 11:45am Break

11:45am – 1:45pm

Lunch – *Cafeteria 3 color coded groups*

1:45pm – 2:00pm Break

2:00pm – 4:00pm

Major Presentation: Study of the Environment

Presented separately by language – Greehy Arena (English), Conference A (Spanish), Conference C (Vietnamese), Conference D (Korean)

- Presentation – 30 minutes
- Group Discussion – 45 minutes
- Group Report – 45 minutes

4:00pm – 4:15pm Break

4:15pm – 5:30pm Regional Gatherings

5:30pm – 5:45pm Break and prepare for Mass

5:45pm – 6:45pm

Mass – Most Reverend Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S. – National Episcopal Advisor

All participants at *Greehy Arena*

7:00pm – 8:45pm

Dinner – *Greehy Arena*

8:45pm – 9:00pm Break

9:00pm – 11:00pm Fiesta

All participants at *Greehy Arena*

Sunday, July 31, 2011

6:00am – 8:30am

Breakfast – *Cafeteria*

10:00am

All participants need to be checked-out by this time.