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® Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

February 2005

To: National Mailing Recipients
Fm: National Cursillo® Center
Re: February National Mailing

We wish you and your family grace and peace from our heavenly Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit, and a blessed 2005. We must continue to give thanks and praise to God for His abundant love, mercy and compassion. We have been richly blessed by the method of Cursillos in Christianity which helps us live more deeply our baptismal commitment on a daily basis. We thank God for His blessings on the Cursillos in Christianity and the National Cursillo® Movement.

YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II has proclaimed this year as the “Year of the Eucharist”. In his new Apostolic Letter “Mane Nobiscum Domine” addressed to Bishops, Clergy and the Faithful, our Holy Father outlines the details of this proclamation. This year is a culmination of the Church’s preparations during his pontificate, referencing other Encyclicals and Apostolic Letters that prepared us for the Jubilee and the new Millennium. He refers to last year’s “Year of the Rosary” and tells us how this “Year of the Eucharist” takes place against the background of our previous years of study. He states, “In a certain sense, it is meant to be a year of synthesis, the high-point of a journey in progress.”

He explains how the Eucharist is the mystery of the “real” presence, as He quotes, “Christ becomes substantially present, whole and entire, in the reality of his body and blood. Faith demands that we approach the Eucharist fully aware that we are approaching Christ himself”. This is an excellent time for Cursillistas to study and contemplate the Eucharist. We can reflect on whether we truly believe in the Real presence of Jesus Christ – body, blood, soul and divinity in the Eucharist. If we answer yes, do we approach the Eucharist reverently? Do we fast an hour before receiving the Eucharist? Do we prepare ourselves through the Sacrament of Reconciliation to receive the Eucharist? How often do we receive the Eucharist? How often do we spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament? These questions may be ways we can grow more closely to God during the Holy season of Lent.

Our Holy Father’s words are powerful and bold. He started his pontificate with the words “Do not be afraid.” Here is another quote from this Apostolic Letter which reiterates those words. “In the Year of the Eucharist Christians ought to be committed to bearing more forceful witness to God’s presence in the world. We should not be afraid to speak about

God and to bear proud witness to our faith. The “culture of the Eucharist” promotes a culture of dialogue, which here finds strength and nourishment. It is a mistake to think that any public reference to faith will somehow undermine the rightful autonomy of the State and civil institutions, or that it can even encourage attitudes of intolerance. One who learns to say “thank you” in the manner of the crucified Christ might end up as a martyr, but never as a persecutor.”

Our Holy Father refers to his Encyclical on the Eucharist – “Ecclesia de Eucharistia”. He restates from this Encyclical, “The Church is the Body of Christ: we walk “with Christ” to the extent that we are in relationship ‘with his body’.” To study more in depth on the Eucharist, you can read this Apostolic Letter or the Encyclical, on the Vatican’s website at www.vatican.va. It is also available at EWTN’s Global Catholic Website at www.ewtn.com His Encyclicals are also published in a booklet form and may be purchased at Catholic bookstores.

We leave you with our Holy Father’s words from the conclusion of this Apostolic Letter, “May the Year of the Eucharist be for everyone a precious opportunity to grow in awareness of the incomparable treasure which Christ has entrusted to his Church. May it encourage a more lively and fervent celebration of the Eucharist, leading to a Christian life transformed by love.”

Ultreya!

PERSEVERANCE IN THE POST CURSILLO

As Cursillistas we walk with Christ, the true Light transparent through each one of us. In our journey, the Cursillo Movement continues to bring about the Good News - that God loves us. The reality that God loves us gives us life, heals, and liberates. When we live what is fundamental for being a Christian, our baptism, through the means of the Cursillo method of piety, study, and action, Christ incarnates Himself in us. Our life in Christ enables us to liberate and heal others by our authentic witness of friendship to all persons. We exemplify our conviction to our Lord by helping our brothers and sisters in their journey toward a conviction which brings about the decision to move from where they are, to where they ought to be in their relationship with self, God and others. Jesus Christ befriended His disciples and every person He encountered in His daily life. It is through friendship that Jesus fosters the discovery of the true image of self, which in reality is the image of God that further enhances our discovery of a true relationship with self, God, and others.

Postcursillo provides all Cursillistas the means to persevere in their progressive conversion, in the state of consciously ever-growing in grace. This progressive conversion is best lived out and shared in a Group Reunion. Group Reunion, a gathering of friends willing to share their Life in Christ and their relationship with self, God, and others, leavening the natural reunion to the supernatural. True friendship transcends the group reunion into the Communion of Saints.

As members of the Body of Christ, we must surrender our will to God who transforms us through Jesus Christ – body, blood, soul and divinity in the Eucharist. This transformation makes God’s love “transparent” through personal contact in our environments where we are called to bear much fruit. *“My Father has been glorified in your bearing much fruit and becoming My disciples.”* Saint John 15:8. To bear fruit is to bring life to the person God has placed in our life.

15th NATIONAL ENCOUNTER

The theme for this year’s National Encounter is, *“Be Messengers of Joy”*. The Encounter will be held at the St. Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, July 28 – July 31, 2005. The Encounter will include Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Rite of Benediction and a Spiritual Talk on the “Year of the Eucharist”. Workshops will center on “friendship” and its relationship to Precursillo, Cursillo and Postcursillo. What does the phrase, “Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ” mean to us as Cursillistas? How is friendship the key to Group Reunion, Ultreya and the School of Leaders? Please make plans to attend the 15th National Encounter. Several dormitories are available for our use, however the maximum lodging capacity is 650. A Registration Form is included with this mailing and we encourage early registration. Room assignments will be given on a “first come, first serve” basis.

EVANGELIZATION WALK

We encourage all Cursillistas to participate in the 2005 Evangelization Walk. We initially planned our Evangelization Walk the day before Pentecost, which is Saturday, May 14th. However, feel free to plan your Walk anytime it is convenient for your Diocese. If you are interested in starting an Evangelization Walk in your area, you may contact the National Cursillo® Center for information and pledge forms. The National Cursillo® Center is selling T-shirts (\$7 + shipping and handling) to the dioceses. The shirts are discounted in price to provide the diocese the option of selling them within the diocese for the recommended price of \$10. To obtain more information, call us at (214) 339-6321 or email us at nationalcursillo.center@verizon.net.

E-ULTREYA WEBSITE

Visit the *e-Ultreya Website* to read the most recent witness publications. To submit your 4th Day witness, go to the National Cursillo® Website at www.natl-cursillo.org and click on “*e-Ultreya Magazine*”. By clicking on “submit an article” you can type your witness article and submit it to the editors. After being reviewed, your article may be posted to subsequent editions. This allows all Cursillistas, in the United States and the world, the opportunity to read your witness on what is fundamental for being a Christian.

PALANCA INTENTIONS

Thank you for joining the National Cursillo® Movement of the United States in offering *palanca* for the following intentions: Mondays for all Secretariats – national, regional and diocesan; Tuesdays for all School of Leaders; Wednesdays for all Cursillistas in the United States; Thursdays for the Cursillo Movement’s Apostolic actions; Fridays for all 3-Day Cursillo Weekends; Saturdays for the VI World Encounter.

Your Servants in Christ,

Victor Lugo – National Executive Director

Ceferino Aguillon – National English-speaking Coordinator

Jorge Barceló – National Spanish-speaking Coordinator

Joachim Le – National Vietnamese-speaking Coordinator

Cursillo® Movement 15th National Encounter
Benedictine College at Atchison, KS
July 28 – July 31, 2005

Registration Form
Cost for the 15th National Encounter is \$255.00
(Please use a separate Registration Form for each registrant)

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY – THANK YOU – PLEASE FILL IN ALL THE BLANKS)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Preferred Complete Name for Name Tag: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Work # _____ Fax # _____

E-mail Address: _____ Diocese: _____

Preferred Language: _____ Specify: Priest, Deacon, Religious etc. _____

Gender (Circle one): Male Female If married, is your spouse attending? Yes _____ No _____

If you desire to room with a specific individual (**spouse, friend, relative**) then that other individual's Registration Form must accompany this form. We will not be able to guarantee any particular roommate if the forms do not accompany one another. **2 persons per room.**

Roommate preference? (Circle One): Yes No If Yes, Name: _____

Special needs (dietary/handicap/walking or problems with steps/etc.): _____

Date you attended Cursillo and where: _____

Make all checks payable to: National Cursillo® Center

Credit Card payment:

Circle one: Master Card or Visa

Credit Card Number _____ **expiration date** _____

Name on credit card _____

Send form and payment to:

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Full payment of \$255.00 per person and form must be received by May 20, 2005

Registration cost will be \$305.00 per person from May 21, 2005 – June 17, 2005

Registration cost will be \$330.00 per person from June 18, 2005 – July 26, 2005

Registration cost will be \$355.00 per person after July 26, 2005

There is a \$40.00 non-refundable fee for all cancellations

No refunds after June 30, 2005