

February 2006

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



Bishop James A. Tamayo

United States of America Becomes the Seat of the World Organization of the Cursillo Movement *Organismo Mundial de Cursillo de Cristiandad (OMCC)*

Dear Cursillistas:

I was privileged, honored and overjoyed to represent the National Secretariat along with Mr. Arnold Parungao, President of the National Secretariat at a liturgy presided by Auxiliary Bishop Oscar Solis, representing His Eminence Roger Cardinal Mahony, Archbishop of Los Angeles, at All Souls Church in Alhambra, California on

January 28, 2006. We were attending the ceremony for the transfer of the OMCC seat from the National Secretariat of Brazil to the National Secretariat of the United States. The church was filled with Cursillistas from various language groups to witness this transfer of responsibilities to the United States. As Episcopal Advisor for the National Secretariat, I received documents which symbolically transferred the seat from Brazil to the United States and Arnold Parungao presented the newly elected Executive Committee of OMCC for the next four years in the United States to the Cursillistas. The officers are Juan Ruiz, President, from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles; Fr. David Smith, Spiritual Advisor, from the Archdiocese of Miami; Gail Terrana, Vice President, from the Diocese of Buffalo; Maribel Gomez, Secretary, from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles; and James Wells, Treasurer, from the Diocese of Wichita.

For the United States, it is a privilege and a great honor, to receive the World Organization of the Cursillo Movement, the OMCC, and the opportunity to coordinate this World Organization. This privilege and honor, implies the responsibility to coordinate, during the next four years, the four International groups that form the OMCC; The GET (The European Working Group-now in Spain), The APG (Asian Pacific Working Group-now in Taiwan), The GLCC (The Latin American Working Group-now in Colombia), and the NACG (The North American and Caribbean Working Group – now in Canada.) The coordination includes, watching over and maintaining, the fidelity to the Statute of the OMCC, and the authenticity of the Foundational Charism that the Holy Spirit deposited on the person of Eduardo Bonnín, and those young people from

Catholic Action that assisted him, like Ferragut, Font, Rullan, Moncada y Riutort and with the spiritual guidance of clergy like Bishop Hervas and Frs. Juan Julia, Juan Capo, Sebastian Gaya, Cesario Gil and many others.

Speaking for the Executive Committee, Mr. Juan Ruiz spoke humbly in requesting the prayers and cooperation of every Cursillista in the United States so that the members of the Executive Committee of the OMCC could faithfully follow the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and fulfill their duties with genuine concern and dedication for the Cursillo Movement worldwide.

The OMCC seated in the United States provides an exceptional opportunity for Cursillistas in the United States, especially members of the National Secretariat, to show our unity and solidarity in providing a supportive hand to the OMCC Executive Committee as they work to achieve the tasks entrusted to them. Theirs is a very important and difficult task, but not an impossible one when the Cursillistas in the United States work together for the betterment of the Cursillo Movement in the United States and worldwide.

In this spirit of unity and support, we give positive witness to the meaning of *“Christ is Counting on You and I in Him.”*

Prayers and Blessings,
Most Reverend James A. Tamayo, D.D.
Bishop of Laredo
Episcopal Advisor for the National Cursillo Movement

FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

My dear brothers and sisters Cursillistas:

On behalf of the National Secretariat and Staff, I would like to extend our best wishes for this New Year, your continued good health, and the gift of God’s grace in all that you do.

I would also like to share with you some thoughts that may help us stay focused on the mission that we received at our baptism, which is to evangelize. We were commissioned at our baptism and for many of us this commission was rekindled or discovered upon our encounter with Christ, with oneself, and with others, in our 3-Day Cursillo Weekend. We are all called to be evangelizers through the witnesses of our daily conviction to our Lord, King, and Redeemer Jesus Christ, not only in our religious activities but everywhere we find ourselves; at home with our families, at our jobs with our co-workers, and those times set aside for recreation, etc.

The Cursillos in Christianity is only one of many Movements from the Holy Spirit which enables the person to enter into an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ; the One who heals and transforms the person to be an authentic transparency of God’s love for humanity. The Cursillo Movement with its own Foundational Charisma enables the person to embrace all realities in which we find ourselves irregardless of what the nature of our relationship and circumstances with Christ, oneself, and others may be. God continues to provide His grace to strengthen and encourage us to continue in our daily

conversion of mind and heart. The Cursillo Movement's method of living exemplifies and establishes what is fundamental for being a Christian, enabling us to embrace our realities in order to bring the good news that God loves us in all our circumstances even when the atmosphere is hostile. This mentality and method enables us to stay faithful to our convictions in order to live out the two great commandments that our Lord Jesus Christ was ready and willing to die for: i.e., to love God, our neighbor, and ourselves. Throughout our journey back to our Heavenly Father, maintained by His grace, we can discover the truth that was given to us at the time of creation: our likeness as image of God. As Cursillistas consciously and ever-growing in grace, we desire that others encounter Jesus Christ. However, we must have a profound respect for each person's situation in which they find themselves. We must constantly remind ourselves and each other through our Group Reunion and Ultreya that we do not save people, but that it is God who saves, and that at best we are to be God's instruments. It is God who chooses the time and place in which to encounter each person. Our task is to willingly and lovingly welcome those with whom God is working and to minister to them by sharing our personal experiences about our own encounter with Jesus Christ.

Mission means to generate something new within a reality which already exists. Our mission consists of recalling people's hearts from inside their situation to something that is happening among them – just as it happened, and continues to happen among us. If we do not live an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ in order to have something to share with others, we would be overwhelmed by the obstacles to grace and would have nothing to share with those who God has entrusted to us in our environments; i.e., at home, at work and at play, etc.

We should be keenly aware of the immense responsibility we have committed to as agents of change; a responsibility that we have received through our encounter and relationship with Christ, who is the One who answers our deepest longing. The more that this experience of relationship is alive within us, the more others will be able to understand and come to terms with the fact that God loves them. We must strive always to have the courage that will enable us to persevere even in the times of difficulties and to depend totally in God's providence as demonstrated by God's ever-present and everlasting love. We can do this because we have already learned that "love is patient", and that "love is kind", and because everything that we need is already present in the moment in which we live.

Jesus Christ has commissioned us to share the Good News with every person we encounter. In his writings, St. Augustine tells us that every person has a deep and heartfelt desire to know, love, and ultimately, serve God. Moreover, God has gently, carefully, and deliberately formed us for a vocation and we are all irreplaceable within the great plan of God's salvation. This awareness should therefore encourage us to be patient and to continue to carry out our mission of bringing others to experience for themselves an intimate relationship with God, self, and others; not only because we are Cursillistas but because we have been commissioned through our baptism, a graced undertaking which will make our journey of spreading the Good News ever more joyful and never-ending.

De Colores!
Victor Lugo

16th NATIONAL CURSILLO[®] ENCOUNTER

This year's National Encounter is being held at Villanova University in Villanova, Pennsylvania on July 20 – 23, 2006. The theme is ***“Speak, Lord, your servant is listening”***, and to prepare us for “listening” we will begin the encounter with Eucharistic Adoration. We will address the question, what are we doing with the gifts God has given the Cursillo Movement. And how are we being faithful disciples with what God has given us?

The university is approximately 45 minutes from Philadelphia International Airport. The registration cost is \$275.00 if you register by May 19, 2006. The registration includes: transportation to and from the Philadelphia Airport, three nights lodging and three meals a day, beginning with dinner Thursday evening and ending with breakfast Sunday morning. The encounter is open to all Cursillistas. A registration form is included with this mailing. You can download the encounter registration form or register on-line at www.natl-cursillo.org. Registration is limited to 600 participants based on maximum conference room seating capacity. Room will be assigned on a “first come, first served” basis. Make your plans now to attend this 16th National Cursillo[®] Encounter.

This year's Ultreya will be held again on Friday evening and the Fiesta on Saturday evening. The Fiesta will include time for the performance of a song or dance from the different cultures in the National Cursillo[®] Movement. Dioceses interested in participating in this event must contact the National Cursillo[®] Center at 214-339-6321 by June 20, 2006. There are a limited number of spaces available and we hope to accommodate all the cultures involved in Cursillo in the United States.

ACTION

The Action rollo is at the middle point of the series of rollos in the Cursillo. In a certain way it is the central rollo of the Cursillo because it is the rollo which describes the importance of apostolic action and its place in the life of a Christian leader. In order to explain apostolic action, the rollo has to show its relationship to the life of grace and also begin to describe an approach to apostolic action (to begin to show people what apostolic action is). The result of the rollo should be an increase in the desire of Cursillistas to bring others (friends) to Christ and to a life of holiness, and, as a result of that, an increase in the desire for their own growth in holiness in order to be able to help others.

The first day of the Cursillo lays the foundation for everything which is done in the second day. It describes the new life of union with God which Christ came to offer to men. And it describes the response – True Piety – which a Christian makes to that offer. The first day includes an emphasis on the importance of apostolic action in its description of the life of grace. In the Layperson in the Church rollo, the Cursillo describes the Church as a missionary Church, and it makes clear that the layperson, because he is a member of the Church, has an apostolic mission. He must work to bring the world to Christ and remake the world in Christ. Piety describes apostolic action as the natural consequence of fully living a life in grace. In the Piety rollo, apostolic action is sharing with others the best thing which we have – a knowledge and love of Christ.

The second day of the Cursillo begins to explain to the Cursillistas the kinds of things he can do to grow in effectiveness in the apostolic ideal described on the first day. During the whole second day, a picture is built up of the kinds of things which he has to do if he is going to become a formed Christian leader. The Action rollo explains an important part of his formation. If he is going to be a true Christian apostle, as a regular part of his life he is going to have to make a friend, be a friend so he can make them friends of Christ. He is going to have to become the kind of person who draws men to Christ.

The Action rollo, then, does not just talk about any kind of action. It is not, for instance, concerned with “doing good things” in themselves. To be a good father, worker, employer, etc. is not apostolic action. Non-Christians could do the same things. Rather, the Action rollo is concerned with apostolic action, action which brings the world to Christ and which makes the world new in Christ. Being a good father, for instance, could have an important role in apostolic action (a man could not Christianize his family if he were not a good father), but it is not automatically apostolic action. It must be part of an effort to bring the world to Christ and to make it new in Christ.

Also, although the Action rollo does lay out the different goals and approaches in apostolic action, it is mainly concerned with what is known as “personal contact” – making friends with other persons to make them friends of Christ. The concrete change that should come about in people’s lives as a result of the rollo is that they should begin to work personally with people to draw them to Christ. This is the basis of all the rest of their action. The Action rollo centers on personal contact, because it is preparing the Cursillista for what the rest of the Cursillo has to say.

The Cursillo describes an approach for the Christian renewal of the person. The strategy of the Cursillo approach is described on the third day of the Cursillo, especially in the rollo Study of the Environment and Christianity in Action. The Cursillo is meant to give birth to a movement of apostles, of strong Christian leaders, who are working to penetrate their environments by drawing the men around them to Christ and transforming the environments in Christ. Each leader is working in his own environment to draw men to Christ and to a fuller Christian life and in that way he is working to change the world, remaking it in the new life which Christ is offering.

The core or heart of this work of changing the environments is the work of drawing men to Christ. Each Cursillista in his environment should be drawing those around him to know and love Christ and so to follow him in all things. Not everything he does as an apostle will be direct personal contact of the kind described in the Action rollo. But his efforts to bring his friends to Christ should in some way be the heart of what he does as an apostle. All of his apostolic work should be based on a love for men, and it should be based on a realization of the overwhelming importance of Christ for human life and happiness. Therefore, all of his apostolic work should aim at bringing others to Christ, because the person who realizes how important and how valuable Christ is and who loves other men will naturally introduce others to Christ as the center of his apostolic action. He will work, therefore, by befriending others and making them friends of Christ.

The Action rollo describes an approach to action. It shows how the Cursillistas with his new love of others and his new desire to bring them to Christ can begin to approach them. It helps the Cursillistas to begin thinking about what he has to be and do in the world. The Action rollo is a rollo, then, in which the Cursillista’s attitude is changed. He

is told about a new kind of activity. He is given some idea of what it is like. And above all, he is given a desire to do it (to bring others to Christ) and a desire to increase his own life with Christ, because he knows his apostolic action is an overflow of his Christian life. In other words, the Cursillista discovers that he must give a “personal testimony” of his Christian life and in order for him to do that, he has to be living a Christian life.

It’s not enough to live consciously and ever-growing in grace; it must be shared through Apostolic Action!

E-ULTREYA WEB SITE

We have received several witnesses this past year at our e-Ultreya Website located on our website. This is also the site where palanca requests are handled. If you haven’t visited this site yet, we encourage you to go to www.natl-cursillo.org and click on “*e-Ultreya*”. Keep the witnesses coming; we are in need of more witness articles. We know many Cursillistas live the method and witness Christ in their daily life. Share the joy with others.

EVANGELIZATION WALK

We encourage all Cursillistas to participate in the 2006 Evangelization Walk. To coordinate the event throughout the United States, we planned the Evangelization Walk the day before Pentecost, which is Saturday, June 3rd this year. 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 still has “Evangelization Walk” T-shirts available for \$7.00 plus shipping. For more information, call us at (214) 339-6321 or email us at nationalcursillo.center@verizon.net.

APPEAL LETTER

Again we would like to thank everyone who continues to respond to the Appeal Letter sent out in 2005 September’s Mailing. If you are interested in sending a donation to the National Cursillo[®] Movement, we gratefully welcome your contributions. God continues to bless our Movement.

SHIPPING COST INCREASE

Due to increased shipping expenses, we have increased our minimum shipping charges for books and literature. Effective immediately, the shipping charge for books and literature will be \$8.50 for orders up to \$85.00. For orders over \$85.00 there will be a 10% shipping charge.

NATIONAL CURSILLO GIFT SHOP

The website for the National Cursillo[®] Gift Shop is now available!!! Thank you for your patience as we worked on developing this new on-line store. We encourage you to take a look and “browse” through the Cursillo[®] merchandise being offered. You can visit our on-line store by going to our new gift shop website www.nationalcursillogiftshop.com. The gift shop can also be accessed through a link on our National website.

PALANCA INTENTIONS

Mondays – all Secretariats

Tuesdays – all Schools of Leaders

Wednesdays – all Cursillistas in the United States

Thursdays – Cursillo Movement's Apostolic Actions

Fridays – all 3-Day Cursillo Weekends

Saturdays – OMCC Executive Committee

Thank you for joining the National Cursillo[®] Movement of the United States in offering *palanca* for these intentions.

We wish you and your family many blessings throughout this New Year.

Victor Lugo – National Executive Director

Ceferino Aguillón – National English-speaking Coordinator

Jorge Barceló – National Spanish-speaking Coordinator

Joachim Le – National Vietnamese-speaking Coordinator

Maria Cruz – Office Support

16th National Cursillo[®] Encounter Registration Form
Villanova University at Villanova, PA
July 20 – July 23, 2006

Cost for the 16th National Encounter is \$275.00
(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: _____ Preferred Language: _____

Diocese: _____ Region: _____

Gender (Circle one): Male Female Specify: Bishop, Priest, Deacon, Religious etc. _____

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.): _____

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:

National Cursillo[®] Center
P.O. Box 210226 - Dallas, TX 75211-0226
Telephone: (214) 339-6321, Fax: (214) 339-6322, e-mail: nationalcursillo.center@verizon.net

Full payment of \$275.00 per person and form must be received by May 19, 2006
Registration cost will be \$325.00 per person from May 20, 2006 – June 16, 2006
Registration cost will be \$350.00 per person from June 17, 2006 – July 7, 2006
Registration cost will be \$375.00 per person after July 7, 2006

There is a \$40.00 non-refundable fee for all cancellations up until June 30, 2006.

No refunds after June 30, 2006!