



# Cursillos in Christianity National Newsletter

National Cursillo Center ♦ P.O. Box 799 ♦ Jarrell, TX 76537 ♦ 512-746-2020 ♦ [www.natl-cursillo.org](http://www.natl-cursillo.org)

The following article, The Foundational Charism of Cursillos in Christianity, is a summary of the Rollo presented by Juan Ruiz, National Hispanic Coordinator, at the 23rd National Encounter in New York. For the complete Rollo, visit the Cursillo Resource Center at <http://www.cursillo.org/resources/>

## **The Foundational Charism of Cursillos in Christianity**

In order to fully explain the Foundational Charism of Cursillos in Christianity, it is necessary to deepen our knowledge of its Mentality, Essence, Purpose, Strategy and Methodology. This is precisely what is intended in a Cursillo de Cursillos (CDC). Your Regional Coordinator can provide information about Cursillo de Cursillos.

The Charism of Cursillo is a gift of the Holy Spirit recognized by the Holy See. A Charism, the gift, is deposited on an individual or group. In our case, the Charism was given to the person of Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló. The Charism is for the good of the people of God. The Church recognizes the Charism of Cursillo. All movements within the Church recognized by the Holy See are gifts from the Holy Spirit.

### **Charism - Specific and Unique in the Universal Church**

The II World Congress of Ecclesiastical Movements and New Communities that met in Rome in 2006 included more than 105 different charisms recognized by the Holy See. All the Charisms are different, but with the same value. By studying the Charism, we can clearly see the elements it comprises:

- *A message:* God loves you!
- *A vision:* A true, new and dynamic vision. Knowing that God loves me is not the same as having to love God.
- *A focus:* a basic and complete emphasis that goes to the root of the Christian. And as we know, the root of a Christian is grace.
- *An awareness:* of the true reality in which we live and a study of our environments, our sphere of influence.
- *A proposal:* an attractive, possible and concrete proposal of a real possibility of living and sharing together what is fundamental to being Christian.
- *A response:* a convincing, simple and jubilant response of this possibility.
- *A proclamation:* a living proclamation that tends to awaken in the person the newly discovered reality of God's love.
- *A projection:* directed exclusively towards the person, man or woman, and their capacity of conviction, decision, and constancy. This way, it facilitates the vision, shapes and refines the reality in order to mature our convictions.

Cursillos in Christianity is a Movement from within the Church that, through a method of its own tries to, and through God's grace manages to enable the essential realities of the Christian to come to life in the uniqueness, originality, and creativity of each person. In becoming aware of their potential and while accepting their limitations, they exercise their freedom by their conviction; strengthen their will

with their decision to facilitate friendship in virtue of their constancy in both their personal and community life.

### **Purpose of the Foundational Charism**

The person, preferentially the far away, although not exclusively, will encounter the love and friendship of God in Jesus Christ through the three essential encounters of its methodology: with themselves, with God and with others. The far away are the people who live without knowledge of the truth of the Gospel and the love and friendship of God.

All environments will be leavened with the Gospel through the person's constant conversion and with the love and friendship of God, 24 hours a day.

The candle that God lit in the center of the person's heart continues to burn and illuminate their movable square meter that accompanies him each day. This movable square meter is the environment that the methodology of Cursillo refers to.

### **Special elements of the Foundational Charism**

- A facility or location where the group is isolated from the world, men with men and women with women – in order to focus and perfect the intention.
- A brief three-day course.
- A precise course, providing only what is essentially Christian in a concrete and concise manner.
- A simple course that is alive, immediate and kerygmatic.
- A course that attracts and meets the reality and needs of the person.
- An accessible course that is for all and within reach of all.
- A verifiable course that is based on the actual reality of life.
- A discovery of a great personal treasure – the *pearl* that everyone seeks, the spring of living water discovered and encountered by the Samaritan Woman.

### **The means or mentality for living the Foundational Charism**

In the words of Eduardo Bonnín: "The Cursillo Movement consists in proclaiming the best news of the best reality that God in Christ loves us. Communicated by the best means which is friendship and directed towards the best of everyone, that is, being a person with a capacity of conviction, decision, and constancy."

The mentality is applied throughout its methodology - Precursillo, Cursillo and especially in the Postcursillo. It is a constant testimonial growth throughout the three encounters, with oneself, with Christ and with others. This way, the Charism is always communicated through friendship by a living and personal witness that is infectious.

### **Methodology of the Foundational Charism**

The Foundational Charism is expressed through the Precursillo, Cursillo Weekend, Postcursillo, Group Reunion, Ultreya, School of leaders, and Secretariat.

### **Conclusion**

The Foundational Charism is an attitude characterized by its: optimism, joy, boldness, determination, constancy, decisiveness, conviction, and value since everything is accomplished through Christ, with Christ and in Christ.

The Foundational Charism is a gift from the Holy Spirit; therefore, no one can change it. Our responsibility, as leaders of the Cursillo Movement, is to study and live the Foundational Charism, to maintain ourselves updated with the reality in which we live, with the Gospel and our Faith, so that the message can always be current without having to remove or change any of the Ideas or Rollos.

In essence, we could make an outline consisting of three words that could basically summarize the essence, purpose and mentality of the Charism of Cursillos in Christianity:

1. Christ
2. Person
3. Friendship

### **A Note from Fr. Alex Waraksa, National Spiritual Advisor**

We have been entrusted with a stewardship, a charism, friendships, the gospel, the love of God, and other virtues and blessings from God. These are what we are to share with others.

We are to develop them through piety, allowing the graces of God to transform us. We are to study these gifts, learning how to better respond to God and use this grace of the Cursillo Movement. We are then to discern how and when to put them into action, with courage and discipline, as we respond to God's call to evangelize.

The Foundational Charism is a gift of the Holy Spirit upon which the Cursillo Movement is built.

Some scriptures are relevant to this short course in Christianity. "So, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in him, rooted in him and built upon him and established in the faith as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one captivate you with an empty, seductive philosophy according to human tradition, according to the elemental powers of the world and not according to Christ." (Colossians 2:6-8) Cursillo does not seek to present any new doctrine, but to share Christ and his teachings through friendship and the witness of what our relationship with Christ has done in our own lives.

"According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But each one must be careful how he builds upon it, for no one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely, Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 3:10-11) St. Paul, Patron of Cursillo, built upon the foundation of Christ and successive generations of Catholic scripture scholars and theologians have done the same. Eduardo Bonnín, with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and the help of others, has continued building on this foundation and has helped build the Kingdom of God and the mystical body of Christ in the Church.

"So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the capstone. Through him the whole structure is held together and grows into a temple sacred in the Lord; in him you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit." (Ephesians 2:19-22) All of the baptized are called to be God's holy ones, pursuing this noble ideal by their practice of authentic piety. Through our friendships, grown and renewed in our Group Reunions and Ultreyas, the Holy Spirit forms and preserves our unity so that we give witness to Christ living in us by our individual lives and by our living in Christian community.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) teaches us about charisms which come to us by God's grace. "Grace is first and foremost the gift of the Spirit who justifies and sanctifies us. But grace also includes the gifts that the Spirit grants us to associate us with his work, to enable us to collaborate in the salvation of others and in the growth of the Body of Christ, the Church." ". . . charisms are oriented toward sanctifying grace and are intended for the common good of the Church. They are at the service of charity which builds up the Church." (CCC 2003)

Whether extraordinary or simple and humble, charisms are graces of the Holy Spirit which directly or indirectly benefit the Church, ordered as they are to her building up, to the good of men, and to the needs of the world." (CCC 799)

"Charisms are to be accepted with gratitude by the person who receives them and by all members of the Church as well." (CCC 800) "It is in this sense that discernment of charisms is always necessary. No charism is exempt from being referred and submitted to the Church's shepherds. "Their office [is] not indeed to extinguish the Spirit, but to test all things and hold fast to what is good," (LG 12; cf. 30; 1 Thess 5:12, 19-21; John Paul II, *Christifideles Laici*, 24) so that all the diverse and complementary charisms work together "for the common good." (1 Cor 12:7), (CCC 894, 1905) (CCC 801). This is one of the verses referenced above: "We ask you, brothers, to respect those who are laboring among you and who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you." (1 Thessalonians 5:12)

There are many gifts and charisms needed for effective evangelization through the Cursillo Movement. It is good to recall the following verses as we reflect on our own role and how it may have changed from our first Cursillo Weekend until now and how it may change in the future. "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes." (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

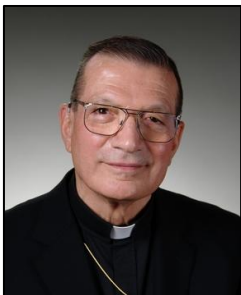
There is a Communion of charisms. "Within the communion of the Church, the Holy Spirit "distributes special graces among the faithful of every rank" for the building up of the Church. (LG 12 § 2) Now, "to each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Cor 12:7) (799) (CCC 951)

The foundation that is Christ and the charisms of the Holy Spirit may find their connection in the following verses from St. Peter: "like newborn infants, long for pure spiritual milk so that through it you may grow into salvation, for you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it says in scripture: "Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame." (1 Peter 2:2-6) The above reflects our call to piety and Palanca, offering spiritual sacrifices, acceptable for the conversion of others and for those who work in the Cursillo Movement. We are called to remember that grace is given, not earned; and that grace is given not just for ourselves, but to be shared with others.

Charisms are given by grace: For those who do not know Christ. For those who do not know Christ well or as well as they might by the gift of the Cursillo Movement. Charisms are given to sustain us in the growth that God has helped us to achieve. Charisms are given for the constant and progressive conversion of Cursillo leaders. Charisms are given for the fermenting of our environments.

The specific charism of Cursillo helps us to do God's will through friendship. Friendship with God, self and others based on the Great Commandment of Love. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." It is said that God is Love, and thus the Cursillo Movement is a charism to share that love with others.

### National Episcopal Advisor



Bishop Carlos A. Sevilla S. J.

Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, current National Episcopal Advisor, nominated Bishop Emeritus Carlos A. Sevilla S. J. from the Diocese of Yakima to serve as the next National Episcopal Advisor. Bishop Sevilla was approved by unanimous decision of the National Secretariat to the position of National Episcopal Advisor for the United States Cursillo Movement effective October 1, 2014. Bishop Sevilla will deliver the Keynote Address at the 2014 National Encounter at Chapman University in Orange, CA. Please join the National Secretariat and Staff in congratulating Bishop Carlos Sevilla for his willingness to accept the position!

### National Encounter

The 2014 National Encounter will be held from July 31 to August 3 at Chapman University which is located in the historic City of Orange, California. The registration fee is \$335 per person. The fee is **\$50 less than last year!** If a language group can register at least 150 Cursillistas by April 30, they will get the simultaneous translation during the event. There are only 950 seats available. It is expected to be a fully packed National Encounter. See you there – bring a friend!

The 2014 National Encounter registration form and Frequently Ask Questions (FAQ) are now available to download at:

<http://www.natl-cursillo.org/> (English)

<http://www.natl-cursillo.org/espanol/> (Spanish)

<http://www.natl-cursillo.org/viet/> (Vietnamese)

### \$3/YR Campaign Update

As of January 15, 2014, the National Cursillo Center has received a total donation amount of \$30,007. This amount is up 65% from November 2013! Congratulations, we have reached 10% of our \$300,000 goal for this fiscal year.

The National Cursillo Center is giving back a total of \$5,750 in the form of vouchers to the dioceses who donated \$200 or more. Congratulations to the Vietnamese Cursillo, Diocese of Orange in Region 11 who received the highest voucher value of \$900 to pay for the National Encounter registration! Their donation was \$3,647.

Please continue promoting the Campaign by all means of communication such as Friendship Group Reunion, Ultreya, School of Leaders, Regional Encounters, workshops, personal contact, group email etc. For more information about the \$3/YR Campaign, visit <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/donate/>  
Thank you so much for your continuous support and generosity!

### **Cursillo Resource Center (CRC)**

Cursillistas, please take time to visit the Cursillo Resource Center at <http://www.cursillo.org/resources/>  
The CRC offers video, MP3, and PDF documents on various topics of Cursillo. Workshop presentations from the National Encounter held at Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH and Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY are also available via the CRC. The information found at the CRC is offered for personal study and to compliment what is being studied in the School of Leaders. Feel free to copy the link and send to all your Cursillo friends. Help us promote the Cursillo Resource Center website.

### **New E-Mail Address**

Effective immediately, the new e-mail address for contacting the National Cursillo Center is [admin@natl-cursillo.org](mailto:admin@natl-cursillo.org). All Diocesan Secretariats are asked to communicate this change to the School of Leaders and Fourth Day Community. The previous e-mail address, [nationalcursillo.center@verizon.net](mailto:nationalcursillo.center@verizon.net) is no longer in service.

De Colores!

Hoang Tran – National Cursillo Service Administrator  
Ceferino Aguillon, Jr. – National English Coordinator  
Juan Ruiz – National Hispanic Coordinator  
Joachim Le – National Vietnamese Coordinator



**24<sup>th</sup> National Cursillo<sup>®</sup> Encounter  
Chapman University, Orange, CA  
July 31 – August 3, 2014**

Last Name:

First Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

E-Mail:

Phone:

Diocese:

Region #:

Language Group:

Male or Female:

Select one:  Bishop  Priest  Deacon  Vowed Religious  Laity

Select one:  Spiritual Advisor  Assist. Spiritual Advisor  Lay Director  Other:

If you wish to room with a specific person (spouse, friend, relative) then the other person's registration form must accompany this form.

Do you have a roommate preference? If yes, provide name:

Need assistance - physically challenged? Describe need:

Make checks payable to: National Cursillo Center. Only MasterCard and Visa credit cards are accepted.

**Registration Fee is \$335.00 per person.** Full payment and this form must be received by May 31, 2014. Registration fee increases to \$385.00 per person beginning June 1, 2014. **Unable to guarantee registration after June 30, 2014.**

Visa or MasterCard:

Card Number:

Name on Credit Card:

Expiration Date:

Voucher # (if any):

Discount:

Amount Submitted:

Please use a separate Registration Form for each person. Type or print legibly and fill in all spaces as applicable.

Send this form and payment to:

National Cursillo<sup>®</sup> Center

P.O. Box 799

Jarrell, TX 76537

512-746-2020

[admin@natl-cursillo.org](mailto:admin@natl-cursillo.org)

**There is a \$40.00 non-refundable fee for all cancellations through May 31, 2014. No refunds after May 31, 2014. The National Cursillo<sup>®</sup> Center is responsible for payment to Chapman University regardless of cancellations.**

For office use only – Registration Confirmation # \_\_\_\_\_