

June 2005

To: National Mailing Recipients

Fm: National Cursillo® Center

Re: June National Mailing

15th NATIONAL ENCOUNTER

It is not too late to register for this year's National Encounter. It is being held at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, July 28-31, 2005. The college is approximately 45 minutes from the Kansas City International Airport (MCI). If you plan to travel by air be sure to fly into the Kansas City International Airport with the airport code of MCI. The Encounter begins Thursday evening and concludes Sunday morning. The registration cost includes transportation to and from the Kansas City Airport (MCI), 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.



The theme for this year's National Encounter is, *“Be Messengers of Joy”*. The Encounter will include Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and a Spiritual Presentation on the “Year of the Eucharist” by Most Reverend José H. Gomez, S.T.D., Archbishop of San Antonio. Archbishop Gomez was appointed to lead the Archdiocese of San Antonio on December 29, 2004 by Pope John Paul II. He had been serving as the auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Denver, moderator of the curia, vicar general and pastor of Mother of God Church in Denver. We are blessed to have him join our National Encounter this year.

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 essential to Group Reunion, Ultreya, and the School of Leaders?

Registration is limited to 650 participants based on maximum lodging capacity. Room assignments will be given on a “first come, first served” basis. Make your plans now to attend this National Encounter.

In reviewing evaluations from past Encounters we always receive many comments on how people enjoy the blending of cultures. We decided to add time to highlight the various cultures within The National Cursillo® Movement. This year's Ultreya will be held on Friday evening and the Fiesta on Saturday evening. The Fiesta will include time for the performance of songs or dances from the different cultures in the National Cursillo® Movement. Any group or diocese interested in participating in this event must contact the National Cursillo® Center at 214-339-6321 by June 20th. There are a limited number of spaces available and we hope to accommodate all the cultures involved in Cursillo in the United States. Again we thank you for your continued palanca offered for this National Encounter.

FRIENDSHIP

At this year's Encounter we will have on hand a book by Dr. John Cuddeback entitled: *Friendship: The Art of Happiness*. It captures the reason why friendship is the foundation of Cursillo, because true friends encourage us, to live a life of goodness and virtue. Furthermore, it clarifies why friendship is important in all parts of Cursillo, especially Friendship Group Reunion. As he comments, "to the extent that one succeeds in virtue, one succeeds in the ability to have true friendships." It is an excellent book to read and study to grow more deeply into an intimate friendship with your Friendship Group.

Friendship is essential to all phases of the Cursillos in Christianity. Actually, it is only in the climate of deep friendship that one can completely understand the finality and the essence of Cursillo. Those in a Friendship Group Reunion have experienced the graces and blessings that come from a friendship nurtured in the light of Christ. In Christ, the joy of being friends increases and our friendship reaches a deeper level for Christ guarantees and secures the friendship. "A friend is someone with whom you can think out loud."

We have heard the song, "And They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love." In the book "The 1st Conversations at Cala Figuera," one of the topics is *Friendship* and Eduardo Bonnín states, "When friendship is alive and active in the minds and hearts of the community, and all the friends feel united, then the word "we" or "us" has a special meaning because we share the joy of having the same future and our actions attempt to give witness to the ideal that unites us; this behavior is the most efficient way of spreading the truth which we believe."

Cursillo is about our daily encounters with oneself, God and others. To be a Christian means to accept who we are, to be a friend with self, Christ, and others. The most important thing to understand is that our friendship with Christ must be part of our friendship with others. It is this kind of friendship that has the creative power necessary to transform the world as Christian men and women acting as leaven in their environments. Eduardo tells us this is absolutely possible if we make the decision to begin with ourselves.

LAITY IN THE CHURCH

This is the third part of the proclamation of the message in the Cursillo: the life of grace is not lived in isolation, but in community. Laity in the Church is a call to be living and working members of the Church community into which we have been incorporated by grace in Baptism. In Scripture, the Church is described in images rather than in rational terms only – more as living than as rational. The Church as "Mystical Body" (1 Cor.

12:27) and as “People of God” (1 Pt. 2:9-10) are key ideas of the whole Cursillo. All the baptized – priests, vowed religious and laity are the Church; there is unity of mission though there is a diversity of functions. All have responsibilities springing from their Baptism.

This Rollo presents to the participants their apostolic ideal. It presents to them the mission of the Church in the world and their part in that mission. It should awaken in them an enthusiasm for Christian action. The “Laity in the Church” is the third Rollo of the Cursillo. The first talk, Ideal, explains the need to have an ideal, something to live for that is adequate for their life. The second Rollo, Grace, presents the only truly human ideal, the life of grace, a life of union with God. The Laity in the Church grows out of these first two Rollos, because it considers how this ideal, which has been presented, can be made effective in the world. The Christian ideal makes the person aware of the concerns of the world and its problems. It stimulates in the person a desire to share with all people the life of grace. The Rollo presents the vision of God’s plan for the world, and the necessary role of the person in that plan. It presents God’s call to the participants, explaining how the living out of the Christian ideal is meant to be part of the everyday experience of life. God has a place for each person in His plan of building His Kingdom, and expects all Christians to participate and do their own tasks He gives them.

The Laity in the Church is a Rollo on the lay apostolate. It is not primarily a Rollo on the Church or a Rollo on the Lay Person. It is easy to get the Rollo off-focus by giving too full a treatment of the Church or by giving too full a treatment of the layperson’s role. The Church should be mainly presented in its apostolic or missionary dimension so that the participant can see that being an apostle is part of living in the Church as a full member. The layperson’s role also should be presented mainly in its apostolic dimension. The point that needs to be made about the layperson’s role is that they must have an active part in the mission of the Church because they are members of the Church and, therefore, have an apostolic responsibility. Another key point that is presented in this Rollo is the wide scope of the lay apostolate. Most participants will mentally tend to restrict the apostolate to doing “Church” things, to the point of not even hearing the term “world” in its broad meaning. Lay Person, in other words, has a very particular function.

While at a meeting in Rome, Pope Paul VI addressed Cursillistas and sketched a four-part program that is valid for all of the laity: First, the permanent task of the layperson will ever be the insertion of the Gospel in life, by means of a personal encounter and friendship with God, and in communion with his/her brothers and sisters; Second, the layperson, in making himself/herself over into a Christian, reforms his/her attitudes. Being converted, he/she believes the Good News and makes it come alive; Third, the layperson transforms the temporal order in which he/she is immersed by taking his/her own responsibility seriously; Fourth, the layperson realizes his/her human and Christian ideal in the world and in the Church by conforming his/her life to the image of Christ and by bringing this life to his/her temporal commitments at all levels: personal, family, professional, civic, socio-economic, political, and so on.

Each person has the capacity to discover and accomplish the Truth and Goodness in the world. If a person does not discover it, he/she does not accomplish anything. Each person

through our daily living, depending on our personality and our circumstances, must share the Truth and Goodness with others in our respective environments.

It gives us an opportunity to make our life a living reflection of the Gospel in anything we say and do. To serve the Church in this way is transforming the world, living in Grace and being authentic Christians, as described by John XXIII: “The Christian is a joy, a joy to him/herself, to God and to his fellow men and women”.

EVANGELIZATION WALK

We continue to encourage all Cursillistas to participate in the 2005 Evangelization Walk. If you are interested in starting an Evangelization Walk in your area, you may contact the National Cursillo® Center for 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 with an option to sell them for the recommended price of \$10. To obtain more information, call us at (214) 339-6321 or email us at nationalcursillo.center@verizon.net

THE NATIONAL CURSILLO WEB SITE

Did you know you can request *palanca* through the National Cursillo® Website? Join affiliated dioceses around the United States in sending your prayers and sacrifices for the success of their Weekends and other Cursillo events. Our online e-Ultreya magazine can be found on the National Cursillo® web site. 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. It is easy to connect to other Catholic Cursillo® web sites from our Affiliated Links page. It “pays” to be affiliated.

PALANCA INTENTIONS

We have included an additional *palanca* intention on Saturdays for the VI World Encounter being held this year in Brazil. The intentions are as follows:

Mondays – for all Secretariats

Tuesdays – for all Schools 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

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

Your Servants in Christ,

Victor Lugo – National Executive Director

Ceferino Aguillón – 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
(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:

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

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

National Encounter Registration Form