



The Cursillo® Movement

National Cursillo® Center • P.O. Box 210226 • Dallas, TX 75221 • 214-339-6321 • Fax 214-339-6322 • www.natl-cursillo.org

June 2006

To: National Mailing Recipients

Fm: National Cursillo® Center

Re: June National Mailing

Blessings to you and your loved ones as we move from the Season of Easter to Pentecost. May the Holy Spirit fill you with love and grace. We are blessed to begin our mailing with a letter from one of our cursillista Bishops in the United States. The following letter is from Bishop Kmiec from the Diocese of Buffalo, New York:



Bishop Edward U. Kmiec

Dear Cursillistas,

It is indeed a pleasure to write to you and thank you for your effective witness to Jesus Christ and the Cursillo Movement.

On December 9, 2005, I had the great privilege of celebrating Mass for the 40th Anniversary Reunion of the Buffalo Cursillo at Nativity of Our Lord Church, Orchard Park New York. I was installed as Bishop of Buffalo October 28, 2004 and this was my first opportunity to meet the Cursillistas of Buffalo as a group. I began by calling out “Cursillo #67” recalling the time I made Cursillo in Nashville in 1995. What a spirit-filled and memorable experience that continues to be with me to this day and was certainly rekindled when I gathered with the overflowing crowd of Buffalo Cursillistas who gathered to celebrate 40 years of Cursillo.

I was so pleased to reconnect with my Cursillo experience and to witness firsthand the richness of the Buffalo Cursillo Movement. Praise God, Cursillo is alive and well in the Diocese of Buffalo.

It is my personal experience that wherever I have been, Trenton, Nashville and now Buffalo, where the Cursillo Movement is present and active, there is a vibrant spirit of faith and a people who are actively involved in the efforts of evangelization. The Cursillo Movement allows people to get reconnected to their faith and to discover a deeper relationship with Our Jesus Christ. It is fundamental to our baptismal call that we bear witness to Christ in all that we say and in all we do and in all places we live, work and play. Cursillo enables people to live their faith in all the situations and places we find ourselves.

I am delighted that the World Organization of the Cursillo Movement is now in the United States and that one of the members of our diocesan family here in Buffalo has been appointed to serve as Vice-President, Gail Terrana. I pledge my support and my encouragement to continue to spread the Good News of Cursillo.

May the Lord continue to bless all Cursillistas and may more and more people have the opportunity to make a Cursillo and discover the incredible journey of faith that sustains us and enables us to share Christ's love with others.

May God bless you all. De Colores!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward U. Finner".

Bishop of Buffalo

16th NATIONAL CURSILLO[®] ENCOUNTER

This year's National Encounter is being held on the east coast of the United States 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 questions: 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 now \$325.00 if you register by June 16, 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 access the 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.

We will have simultaneous translation for the major presentations at this encounter. All Workshop Sessions will be presented separately per language. Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Seattle will give this year's keynote address. Bishop Elizondo was one of the first Bishops appointed by Pope Benedict XVI, in May 2005. Also, Bishop Robert Patrick Maginnis, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia will celebrate Mass for us on Friday. We still have room if you are interested in attending. Don't wait, register today!

The Ultreya will be held 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.

STUDY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The study of environments is the first rollo of the third day. In this phase of the Cursillo we give attention to the different areas where a person's activity should develop, so that they may be the ferment of a better world. The actions of a Christian are always carried out with the circumstances, the time, and place that the person already occupies. In other

words, where the person finds himself at that precise time and place. The Cursillo, at this time, is usually infused with a climate of overflowing Grace and an admiration for each other that will keep on growing until the Closing. The Cursillista is already concerned with how to communicate to the others in their environment what they have discovered, assimilated, and lived.

After the morning meditation on the Message of Christ to the Cursillista, a restlessness to do something is awakened in the candidate. With their heads full of ideas and their hearts filled with eagerness, they feel the call to respond to Christ and to reach out to their surroundings. This rollo invites and encourages us to transform our environments, stressing that we are not to detest and run from the world, but are called to bring a Christian influence to that world.

We are to begin with *ourselves* (the convinced will convince others) then reach out to the *others*, and thereby influence our *environments*. In this way, one will have an accurate view of the possibilities, and the most effective way to make it a reality, together with our brothers and sisters. This is the most practical, attainable and Christian way of giving backbone to Christianity.

The Study of the Environment rollo helps to explain the definition of environment and increases our understanding of its influence in one's life. Also, it explains how to influence our environments in order to make a difference.

Definition of Environment - The environment is the "combination of ideas and circumstances which are sustained by the persons who surround us". The environment is the result of people gathering together (working together, playing together, talking together). It is what results from their interaction. Therefore, the apostle has to think about more than the individual persons. He has to think about the situation which results from their interaction. Not only does he have to work with the individual persons, he also has to work on the situation as a whole.

This rollo proposes a practical method to win the environment (person) and bring them to Christ. There are three steps in the process that we have to concentrate on.

- First; *ourselves* (strengthen and convince ourselves that Christ is the answer).
- Second; *others* (acquaintances, associates, casual friends) and the process of getting to know them, treating them with dignity, respect and as persons.
- Third; the *environment* (those who surround us where we exist)

The first step – *Approaching Ourselves* - the effectiveness in the leavening of the environment is based on the depth of relationship each one has with oneself. First is our WILL, we must want to place our *will* to the highest degree in order to move from "I can" to "I will". Second is PRAYER, all our apostolic undertakings should have at their core, *prayer*. Our strength comes from this. Third is our MIND, it is necessary to use our God given *mind* and apply our intelligence in our evangelization efforts just as we do for everything else we do. And Fourth is HEART, our *heart* must be open to be all things to people in order to win them for Christ.

The second step – *Approaching Others* - the relationships with those who accompany us in life: family, neighbors, and friends. In this step, we basically use the reverse sequence as applied above to Ourselves. First, we must win the person’s heart, second their mind, third their will and lastly, introduce them to prayer. If we do not reach and influence the *heart* first, not much will happen. From the heart, then it moves to the *mind*. This is not as difficult as it may seem because as Christians, we have the seed of Grace that was planted in us at our Baptism. We must win the person’s *will* in order to bring our companions along with us. And lastly, Grace from the Father will lead the person to *prayer*.

The third step – the *Environment* – the relationships with those who surround us with their circumstances in a certain time and place. This step is a *natural consequence* of beginning the process with ourselves first and the others second. All those that take the Gospel seriously and are authentic about it will face the problem of having to overcome the obstacles, the prejudices, and the preconceived ideas, that hinder spiritual growth and the Christian vision.

This rollo helps the Cursillista understand that even before the Cursillo, their lives were made up of one or more groups of people who coexisted together and held similar ideas, likes and dislikes, and experienced a common restlessness and that when they return from the Weekend, nothing will have changed in their environments. The *consequence* of the Cursillistas’ response to Christ will be a *natural* reaching out to the person(s) to introduce them to Christ through a personal witness of *living* what is fundamental for being Christian.

E-ULTREYA WEB SITE

The National Secretariat continues to ask for your support for the e-Ultreya Internet version of the Ultreya Magazine, by both submitting a witness article and by encouraging all Cursillistas to submit witness articles to the e-Ultreya. It is located on our National Cursillo® Movement website www.natl-cursillo.org and then click on “e-Ultreya”. This is also the site where palanca requests are handled.

EVANGELIZATION WALK

We encourage all Cursillistas to participate in the 2006 Evangelization Walk. Many dioceses have planned their Evangelization Walk for the day before Pentecost, June 3rd however; feel free to plan your Walk anytime it is convenient for your Diocese. The National Secretariat would like to remind all Cursillistas that the purpose of the Evangelization Walk is not about selling T-shirts, but to promote the Cursillo® Movement in their dioceses. The National Cursillo® Center has “Evangelization Walk” T-shirts available for \$7.00 plus shipping. For more information, call 214.339.6321 or email us at nationalcursillo.center@verizon.net.

LITERATURE PRICE INCREASE

Due to increased printing expenses, the new price of the *Pilgrim’s Guide* book in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese is \$4.00 effective June 1, 2006.

NATIONAL CURSILLO GIFT SHOP

We encourage you to take a look and browse through the National Cursillo® Gift Shop merchandise. 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.

DONATIONS

The National Cursillo® Movement gratefully welcomes your donations. Any financial support will help us sustain the Movement. Your contributions are tax deductible.

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 Executive Committee

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

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

Maria Cruz – Office Support

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

(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

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!