



Cursillos in Christianity National Newsletter

National Cursillo Center ♦ P.O. Box 799 ♦ Jarrell, TX 76537 ♦ 512-746-2020 ♦ www.natl-cursillo.org

The Operational Structures of Cursillo: The Secretariat and School of Leaders

The organization should not eliminate the mysticism. (Eduardo Bonnín to Cardinal Pironio)

The Cursillos in Christianity are spirit and they move in a spiritual plane to produce a hunger for God. Things of the Spirit move at the level of unity in service.

The Cursillo Weekend is held in order to live the Fourth Day based on what is fundamental to being Christian, in a shared living that is loving and apostolic.

It has been determined that the three basic phases of the Cursillo Method include the Precursillo, Cursillo and Postcursillo. These 3 phases are like dimensions established in relationships of friendship between people that are intimately united as in a circular movement since the Precursillo generates the Cursillo Weekend, the Cursillo Weekend generates the Postcursillo, which, in turn, generates the Precursillo.

The purpose of the Postcursillo is to live and share what is fundamental to being Christian in each individual's moveable square meter. This is to attempt to keep the candle lit that Christ, by means of the Cursillo Weekend, placed in the center of our moveable square meter so that it gives light to illuminate the path for others, especially those who are considered far away from Christ and his Church.

In order to ensure the possibility of living in grace in the world during the Fourth Day, a Total Security of friendship is offered within two essential elements: the personal dimension and the social dimension that people have. The Group Reunion focuses on the personal dimension and the social dimension is attained through the Ultreya.

While Cursillo is spirit, its experience in the world needs an organizational structure because the development and growth of this spirit in the world requires some individuals working to preserve its essence and purpose in a spirit of service.

The essence and purpose of the organizational structure of the spirit of Cursillos, ultimately, translates into a single function: SERVICE. This function is developed through the movement's operational structures, the Secretariat and School of Leaders, both with an intimate connection and a common purpose to serve Cursillos in specific tasks.

While the instruments that compose the Secretariat and School of Leaders are human, we must keep in mind at all times, that Cursillo is not a commercial organization.

The Secretariat of Cursillo is a service organization when its activity is dedicated to simplify, facilitate and enable the living and sharing of what is fundamental to being Christian at any point and time in all the environments in which we live and are engaged in.

The essential structure of Cursillo is the Diocesan Secretariat. The National Secretariat was born because of the need for linking and collaboration among diocesan secretariats. The very foundation of linking and collaboration between the National Secretariats provides the opportunity for the existence of International groups and the World Organization of Cursillos in Christianity.

The School of Leaders develops the role of serving the Cursillistas, in close connection and common vision with the Secretariat, to simplify, facilitate and enable the living and sharing of what is fundamental to being Christian at any time and point in all the environments in which we live and are engaged in.

The School of Leaders focuses its purpose basically on four points:

To channel the restlessness and concerns of the Cursillistas.

To give meaning, content, effectiveness, and life to the Ultreya.

To facilitate the concepts and practices of Cursillo to those who attend the School.

To promote and increase the level of spiritual growth in its members.

The leaders that make-up a Secretariat and School of Leaders are not a board of directors or executives of a control tower. Their primary function is to provide service.

The Secretariat and School of Leaders should not act as a democratic parliament. The essence and purpose of the spiritual, as it relates to what is essential in Cursillo, is alive in the concern for all. The essence and purpose of the spiritual is not imposed, nor can it be left to the sum of a few votes. Voting can sometimes be viewed as a shelter for those who are seeking control and power.

The Secretariat and School of Leaders of Cursillo must be structures with minimal organization in order to exercise what is essential because *over-organization can choke the spirit*.

A defining characteristic of the Secretariat and School of Leaders is that the way they are designed to work is by placing themselves at the service of the authenticity of the Charism of Cursillos in Christianity, in other words, in the living and sharing of what is fundamental to being Christian.

Because the Secretariat and School of Leaders is made-up of friends,
because the Secretariat and School of Leaders is made-up of persons,
because the Secretariat and School of Leaders is made-up of witnesses,
therefore, there is no room for instructions, teachers, orders, or control . . . only SERVICE!

A Message from Fr. Alex Waraksa, National Spiritual Advisor **The Holy Spirit helps the Person, the Church, the Cursillo Movement.**

The Holy Spirit helps a person come to faith, helps the Church to continue the work of Christ, and helps the Cursillo serve both individuals and the Church.

The Holy Spirit helps the church maintain her unity and structure, but also helps her to be missionary,

reaching out to others. The Holy Spirit helps the Church to be a healer that ministers forgiveness. The Holy Spirit helps the Church be a source of inspiration, motivating and strengthening members for the work of ministry; “everything must be done properly and in order.” (1 Cor 14:40)

God has given order to creation. Remember the part of Night Prayer from the Pilgrim’s Guide that we pray: “Our Lord and God, You who are the creator of the universe, we praise and adore You. In Divine Wisdom, you have balanced all of creation, day and night, male and female, summer and winter, light and dark. We embrace that balance, and in this day that is closing we have attempted to balance the needs of body and spirit, the inner person and the public person.”

What motivates my love for the church? Is it because she was founded by Christ? Is it because she offers me the Sacraments? Is it because she had introduced to so many of my brothers and sisters in Christ? Is it because she helps me to pray and she has handed on to me some of the devotions that I love to practice? Hopefully it is for one of these reasons or another spiritual or theological reason.

Could the church exist without either its spiritual or structural component? Without the spiritual it is just a charitable or teaching organization, but not a sanctifying organization or a means to salvation. Without the structural, she might fall into error, accepting all opinions instead of being faithful to apostolic teaching and tradition. Without structure, there may be competition rather than collaboration; or an over-emphasis in some areas of ministry while neglecting others.

I think that the Cursillo, precisely, was founded as a movement, and not another type of organization, so that it would not be heavily structured and thus taking away from the emphasis on friendships and evangelization. This way the movement is keeping the emphasis on the spiritual and only existing with the minimal organization necessary to facilitate the growth of the spiritual.

The Cursillo movement seeks to keep the emphasis on the individual person, but always the person in context of relationships to self, God, and others. This may mean we can expect as a member of the church to receive the fruits of her ministries. As a servant leader in the Church we can expect to be prayerful, to listen to the call of Christ, and to accept our call with faith and trust. Leaders can also be reminded that they need to be prepared to evangelize and minister to others. Each of us is to be a living example of Christ, a living example of the Church, a living example of the Cursillo movement. Leaders are to serve, after the example of Christ, who washed the feet of his apostles. Leaders are to serve even in the most humble tasks, offering them with love and without a desire or need for recognition.

God gives us a mind to be able to plan our day or to be able to reflect on God’s plans and accept them as much better than our own. Personally, if I plan too much I may not leave room for the Holy Spirit to inspire me or guide me. I might plan to be very active and therefore not plan enough time for prayer. Over planning may lead me to separate myself from the time I need to listen to God, to be strengthened and inspired by God, to be taught by God. “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets: ‘They shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me.” (John 6:44-45)

Could I possibly miss the message of God and the opportunity to be aware of God’s presence due to the activity and noises of life? I recall the following passage from the Old Testament. “Then the

LORD said: Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD; the LORD will pass by. There was a strong and violent wind rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the LORD - but the LORD was not in the wind; after the wind, an earthquake - but the LORD was not in the earthquake; after the earthquake, fire - but the LORD was not in the fire; after the fire, a light silent sound.” (1Kings 19:11-12)

The Cursillo movement invites us to make commitments to the Lord in the areas of Piety, Study and Action. The Holy Spirit reminds us of God’s saving love for us and enkindles in us the desire to respond with our own love. “But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days - oracle of the LORD. I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. They will no longer teach their friends and relatives, “Know the LORD!” Everyone, from least to greatest, shall know me - oracle of the LORD - for I will forgive their iniquity and no longer remember their sin.” (Jeremiah 31:33-34)

The structures of Cursillo exist to help us be connected to God’s grace and those who desire to live in grace with us. It exists to inspire us to reach out to others to help them to know the possibility of friendship with Christ. In Group Reunion, Ultreya and the School of Leaders we share these spiritual truths and our friends who are with us help us to live them with their love, encouragement, support and prayer.

National Encounter Update

The 2014 National Encounter will be held from July 31st to August 3rd at Chapman University, which is located in the historic City of Orange, California. The registration fee will increase from \$335 per person to \$385 on June 1st. There are only 950 seats available. The 2014 National Encounter registration form and the flyer, which includes Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), and Agenda, are now available for 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 May 31, 2014, the National Cursillo Center has received a total donation of \$37,326 towards the campaign. This amount is up 10% from March 2014. We have reached 12% of our \$300,000 goal for this fiscal year.

The National Cursillo Center has issued 58 vouchers worth of \$6,800 to the dioceses that donated \$200 or more. Continue promoting the Campaign by all means of communication such as Friendship Group Reunion, Ultreya, School of Leaders, Regional Encounters, workshops, personal contact, group e-mail, etc. For more information about the \$3/YR Campaign, visit <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/donate/>. Thank you very much for your continued financial support and generosity.

Cursillo Resource Center (CRC) – What’s New?

What’s new at the Cursillo Resource Center? You can watch the videos **Benefits of Affiliation** and **Overview of the Purpose, Mentality, and Method of Cursillo**. These are talks given during the Region XI Encounter in Fresno, CA in April. You can access the videos by visiting the Cursillo Resource Center at <http://www.natl-cursillo.org/resources/>. Lay Directors are asked to share this information with the Secretariat, School of Leaders, and 4th Day Cursillo community.

The videos consist of Power Point files that include an audio file and then converted to video format. This is a new form of delivering Cursillo information to the 4th Day Cursillistas, Diocesan Secretariats, School of Leaders, Regional Service Teams, and National Secretariat.

The *Benefits of Affiliation* video includes information that all Cursillistas, Secretariats, and School of Leaders should have readily available. The annual affiliation fee provided by each diocese brings many benefits to the dioceses and the National Cursillo Center. Affiliation is one of the major revenues for National Cursillo, which helps maintain the daily operations of the National Cursillo Center. All financial support for National Cursillo is greatly appreciated!

The *Overview of the Purpose, Mentality, and Method of Cursillo* provides a simple layout and explanation of some basic ideas of Cursillo. This talk is intended to create hunger in the Cursillista to go deeper into the Charism of Cursillo. In order to go deeper into the Charism, Cursillistas are encouraged to purchase a copy of Structure of Ideas book, Study of the Charism book, Leaders' Manual, My Spiritual Testament, An Apprentice Christian, etc. Cursillistas can purchase these books on-line at <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/order1.html>.

There is also a wealth of information at the Cursillo Resource Center that all Cursillistas can access in different formats: text documents, MP3 files, and videos. Donations to continue the development of the CRC are greatly appreciated. Send donations to the National Cursillo Center, PO Box 799, Jarrell, TX 76537.

National Cursillo Website

A new article has been added to the National Cursillo website – WHAT IS CURSILLO DE CURSILLOS? This article provides an explanation of *The Opportunities and Benefits of a Cursillo de Cursillos*. A list of Cursillo de Cursillos that are scheduled for 2014-2015 is also included. Go to www.natl-cursillo.org and visit 'What is Cursillo de Cursillos?' and make sure to share the information (and this link) with all Cursillistas in your respective dioceses. The National Cursillo website hosts an archive of more than 75 National Newsletters and over 100 articles on every topic of Cursillo.

New Literature/Publications

The Vietnamese version of the *Spiritual Advisor's Manual*, item #809, is now available for purchase at \$10 per copy. This manual is now available at the National Cursillo Center bookstore and the on-line bookstore in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Purchase a copy as a gift for your Diocesan and Regional Spiritual Advisors and your local Bishop.

De Colores!

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



**24th National Cursillo[®] 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[®] Center

P.O. Box 799

Jarrell, TX 76537

512-746-2020

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[®] Center is responsible for payment to Chapman University regardless of cancellations.

For office use only – Registration Confirmation # _____



**24th National Cursillo Encounter
Chapman University – Orange, CA
July 31 – August 3, 2014**

Thursday, July 31, 2014

From	To	Activity	Location	Speaker
2:00pm	8:00pm	Registration and Check-in	Henley Hall	
5:00pm	7:00pm	Dinner	Randall Dining Commons	
7:30pm	8:00pm	24th National Cursillo Encounter Begins Welcome and Introductions Prayer and Blessing	Chapman Auditorium	Master of Ceremonies Rev. Alex Waraksa
8:00pm	8:45pm	Cursillo and the New Evangelization	Chapman Auditorium	Most Rev. Eusebio Elizondo, Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle
8:45pm	9:00pm	Break		
9:00pm	10:00pm	Holy Hour	Chapman Auditorium	Rev. Alex Waraksa, National Spiritual Advisor
9:00pm	10:00pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Chapman Auditorium	All priests available to hear confessions



**24th National Cursillo Encounter
Chapman University – Orange, CA
July 31 – August 3, 2014**

Friday, August 1, 2014

From	To	Activity	Location	Speaker
7:00am	8:30am	Breakfast	Randall Dining Commons	
8:30am	9:00am	Morning Prayers	Chapman Auditorium	Rev. Alex Waraksa, National Spiritual Advisor
9:00am	9:45am	History of Cursillo	Chapman Auditorium	Miguel Sureda, Mallorca, Spain
9:45am	10:15am	Group Sharing	Chapman Auditorium	
10:15am	10:45am	Break & Prepare for Mass	Chapman Auditorium	
11:00am	12:00pm	Mass	Chapman Auditorium	
12:00pm	1:30pm	Lunch	Randall Dining Commons	
1:30pm	2:00pm	Break		
2:00pm	2:45pm	Evangelization through Friendship	Chapman Auditorium	Jackie DeMesme-Gray, Region 2 Coordinator
2:45pm	3:15pm	Group Sharing	Chapman Auditorium	
3:15pm	3:45pm	Break		
3:45pm	4:30pm	The Joy of the Gospel	Chapman Auditorium	Fr. Alex Waraksa, National Spiritual Advisor
4:30pm	5:00pm	Group Sharing		
3:45pm	5:00pm	Workshop for RST and National Staff	Argyros Forum Rooms 206, 208, 209	Steve Krause, Diocese of Tulsa
5:00pm	6:30pm	Dinner	Randall Dining Commons	
6:30pm	7:00pm	Break		
7:00pm	8:30pm	Ultreya	Chapman Auditorium	
8:30pm	9:00pm	Night Prayers	Chapman Auditorium	Rev. Alex Waraksa, National Spiritual Advisor



**24th National Cursillo Encounter
Chapman University – Orange, CA
July 31 – August 3, 2014**

Saturday, August 2, 2014

From	To	Activity	Location	Speaker
7:00am	8:30am	Breakfast	Randall Dining Commons	
8:30am	9:00am	Morning Prayers	Chapman Auditorium	Rev. Alex Waraksa, National Spiritual Advisor
9:00am	9:45am	Servant Leaders' Call & Responsibility	Chapman Auditorium	Omar Baez, Region 7 Coordinator
9:45am	10:15am	Group Sharing	Chapman Auditorium	
10:15am	10:45am	Break		
9:00am	10:45am	Spiritual Advisor's Workshop - Clergy	Argyros Forum Room 201	Rev. Alex Waraksa, Deacon Gary Terrana
10:45am	11:30am	Growing in Holiness through Cursillo	Chapman Auditorium	Deacon Ben Agustin, Region 11 Spiritual Advisor
11:30am	1:00pm	Lunch	Randall Dining Commons	
1:00pm	1:30pm	Break		
1:30pm	2:30pm	Regional Reunions	MC will announce locations	
2:30pm	3:00pm	Break		
3:00pm	3:30pm	Stewardship in the Cursillo Movement	Chapman Auditorium	Hoang Tran, National Cursillo Serv. Administrator
3:30pm	4:00pm	Break & Prepare for Mass	Chapman Auditorium	
4:00pm	5:00pm	Mass	Chapman Auditorium	
5:00pm	6:30pm	Dinner	Randall Dining Commons	
6:30pm	7:00pm	Break		
7:00pm	10:00pm	Fiesta	Chapman Auditorium	



**24th National Cursillo Encounter
Chapman University – Orange, CA
July 31 – August 3, 2014**

Sunday, August 3, 2014

From	To	Activity	Location	
7:00am	8:30am	Breakfast	Randall Dining Commons	

All encounter participants must check out from Chapman University no later than 10:00 AM on Sunday, August 3, 2014.