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**July 2004**

**To: National Mailing Recipients**  
**Fm: National Cursillo Center**  
**Re: July National Mailing**

**My Dear Fellow Cursillistas:**

**As the National Cursillo Center and all its help from the Archdiocese of Seattle continues to prepare for the 2004 National Encounter in Seattle, Washington, I would like to share with you some thoughts on the “Structure of Ideas” text by Eduardo Bonnin. During our visit with Eduardo Bonnin in Mallorca in 2003, Eduardo advised that all School of Leaders should study the “Structure of Ideas” in order to obtain a better understanding of the Cursillo Movement. I believe the sign of times is now for all Cursillo leaders to assist the National Cursillo Movement to return to its roots and enter into a true relationship with the Foundational Charism of the Cursillos in Christianity, a gift from the Holy Spirit to a generous and humble man, Eduardo Bonnin.**

**At times we get caught up in “doing” Christian things and we forget that “being” Christian is the more authentic way to live like Christ. “Being” Christ consists of more than just “doing” Christian things. “Doing” Christian things is doing things in the name of Christ while “being” Christian is actualizing Christ so that Christ is transparent in us. “Doing” things without “being” is no longer a natural responsibility of “being” but rather senseless “doing”, which almost always becomes our “undoing”; a fireworks display that burns extremely bright but extremely brief and eventually fizzles out. Some “do” because they are, while some appear to “be” because they “do”. And because they only “do” to appear as Christ, the only thing that truly matters to them is not the “being” but only having “done” something!**

**Therefore, there are times when we may appear to be happy, than being so; appear to be saints, than being saints; appear to be wise, than being wise, etc. “Appearing” may not always be the semblance of a fool, but it is always a clear symptom of being one. Appearance will always displace the center of interest of “being” a Christian. When one “is” an authentic Christian, one does what is within one’s possibilities to do the right thing, which is the will of God. Thus, everything is possible with Christ. If something should concern us, it should be Christ’s point of view. As Christians, we are called to make concrete what Christ asks us to do. Ultimately, we are called to make concrete what Christ wants us to be.**

**In the Gospel of John, Jesus is called the anointed of God. It reads: “Jesus is life. Apart from Him no one can live. All those who oppose Him are in the way of death and are in reality dead already no matter how strong or powerful they appear to be. We must remind ourselves that, “Through Him all things came into being, and apart from Him nothing came to be.” (John 14:6; 15:4-6) Our faith in Jesus must be as absolute as this. Our faith in the will and the power of Jesus to triumph over all the destructive forces in the world (and in ourselves) must depend on nothing except our certainty of knowledge of who He is. It must not depend on signs, wonders, or any other evidence that He is in fact being victorious on earth.**

**We may at times be confused about what a Christian should do, or how a Christian should live. For example, how do we understand the meaning of the answer given by Jesus when asked why His disciples did not fast as did the disciples of John the Baptist (Matthew 9:14-17). John’s disciples presumed that becoming holy was essentially a matter of doing the right things. As religious people they prayed, they fasted, and they gave alms. These practices, and others like them, were part of the practice of being holy, as exercise is part of the regimen of being an athlete. How could the disciples of Jesus, then, be holy if they did not follow the “being holy” regime? The answer is that Christian holiness is not a matter of what we *do*; it is a matter of what we *become*. To be holy one is called to achieve *identification* with Christ.**

**It means becoming one with Him as the members of the body are one with the head. To “be” holy is to *share* the life of God, who alone is truly holy (Matthew 19:17), and this life is shared with us “in Christ”.**

**Holiness is not a matter of achieving a certain level of human behavior. It is a matter of union with God. This is a union of mind, heart and will with God, and it is the goal and the fruit of grace. Jesus uses the image of the bride and the bridegroom (Matthew 9:15), the union of the branches with the vine (John 15:1 ff.) to illustrate this point. St. Paul uses the image of the body and its members for the same purpose (Romans 12:4-5). There is only one path to holiness – it is the most pure of gifts, union with Christ. There are many things we can do to lessen our resistance to receiving this gift, to foster growth in union with Christ – but these are achievable only with the help and gift of God’s grace. Nothing that we ourselves do is automatically effective, and no particular exercise of devotion is the “one thing necessary.” God does not just sweep our human natures aside and make us holy by a one-sided act of power on His part.**

**We must accept that by dying and rising through our baptism, that God makes us the “new creation, new wineskins” for God to pour the “new wine” of His holiness, His life, into us, He simply has to make us anew.**

**The Cursillo Movement provides us with the method of the tripod in order for us to continue this progressive conversion; this being made anew, that in the 3-Day Cursillo is called “Metanoia”. The method of the tripod is the best method known to the Cursillo Movement to transport the human being - the person, to a new natural and supernatural**

level of consciousness. It is within this new level of consciousness that people can become aware of the presence of Christ, and the grace of God, in their life.

This tripod of the activities of Piety, Study and Action, instructs and guides us through the development of our intimate friendship with Christ, a relationship that leads to grace, in a conscious and ever growing manner. The tripod is internal in that it enables us to become and remain open to the graces from God. God's gift is Holiness. In order for us to put on the mind of His son Jesus Christ, our actions, and our relationships with every human being that God allows us to encounter, we must share our Christian life. Our attitude of love toward self and God enables us to help others to encounter Christ. Continuous study guides us into a relationship with oneself and it is essential for us to know who we are in order to know God. That is what is fundamental to being a Christian. It is also the Foundational Charism of the Cursillo Movement. It is thus essential to live out our baptism to the fullest in order to discover our vocation, and to have the conviction to fulfill that calling throughout our life, with joy and normalcy. Living what is fundamental for being a Christian is not something we do. It is how we live. We must stay focused on our tripod of activities rather than allow ourselves to be led or lead others to confusion about the true Foundational Charism of the Movement. The true Foundational Charism of the Movement is not a theory; it is not a way of life; it is life itself.

We are encouraged to be sincere in order to acknowledge which difficulties exist in our lives, which hinder us from being in a state of grace. We are continually required to acknowledge our shortcomings; to admit to the pitfalls that we see deep within ourselves; in our circumstances and in our journey. We are asked to identify the "excuses" that exist in each of these three categories and to consider what darkness resists the light of this truth. And we must study why we must do things, in order to discover how we must do them, in order to do them to the best of our abilities.

I call upon you, my sisters and brothers in the Lord, to be aware of your abilities: Christ and you, an overwhelming majority. Grace, ever growing, in you and through you, in your brothers and sisters, in your circumstances and in your journey. We must remember that Grace makes possible all our possibilities. Through the grace of God we will be able to love each other and build true friendship, which allows us to accept each other as the people that we are and to respect the freedom of the person. God gave us free will, which enables us to have the conviction to allow ourselves to be converted by His grace and to be sincere about who we are, and more importantly, whom we serve. Being conscious of these marvelous gifts, my brothers and sisters in Christ, makes us more aware of the people that we are. It begins to free us from our conditions and from other's conditions.

So, next time we ask or say, "What is fundamental for being a Christian?" Ask yourself: "Am I living what is fundamental for being a Christian?" "Am I allowing myself to be an authentic instrument of God?" "Is Christ transparent in me?" "Am I conveying God's grace in the environment in which God has placed me?" These questions establish a true and authentic Christian criterion for all the circumstances in our life. It is through Jesus, with Jesus, and in Jesus, that we will have true grace in our lives and live our lives in normalcy as joyful children of God!

**The goal of the Movement is to save souls and build Christian community. To save souls means to bring forth all humanity to be baptized and for all the baptized to live a life, which consciously practices what is fundamental for being a Christian, i.e., to be saints, apostles, men or women of their time. To build Christianity is to help our brothers and sisters to live more consciously their baptism of priest, prophet and king in the Mystical Body of Christ, always oriented by those whom the Holy Spirit has assigned to administer His Church.**

**I again call upon you, my sisters and brothers in the Lord, to encourage all Cursillistas to join the National Cursillo Movement of the United States in offering *palanca* for the following intentions: On Mondays for all Secretariats; national, regional and diocesan, Tuesdays for all School of Leaders, Wednesdays for all Cursillistas in the United States, Thursdays for Cursillo Movement's Apostolic actions, and Fridays for all 3-Day Cursillo Weekends.**

**The sign of times is now, for all Cursillistas to stay focused on the truth and not allow ourselves to be led or lead others away from what is fundamental for being a Christian.**

**De Colores and God Bless You!**

**Your brother in Christ,**

**Victor Lugo  
Executive Director**

**N.B.: Some of the material in this document comes from "*Structure of Ideas*" by Eduardo Bonnin, and "*Why Jesus?*" by Fr. David Knight.**

### **NATIONAL ENCOUNTER 2004**

**The 14th annual National Cursillo Encounter will be in Seattle, Washington, July 29 – August 1, on the campus of Seattle University. At the moment, we have reached our maximum attendance capacity (600) for the Encounter. To be placed on a waiting list, submit a registration form and appropriate fee. In the event there are no cancellations, your fee will be returned. We give thanks to our Heavenly Father for blessing the Cursillo Movement by having all 600 attendees registered this early before the event. Let's praise our Lord, King and Redeemer Jesus Christ.**

## **CURSILLO CANONICAL RECOGNIZED BY VATICAN**

The Cursillo Movement has been historically recognized by our Church. From its beginning, with an impulse through the wide door of the Church; it receives canonical recognition. Here are some quotations to the History of the Cursillos in Christianity:

### **Its Birth**

“The Cursillos in Christianity were born in Mallorca, the largest isle of Spain in the Mediterranean Sea, in the 1940’s.” (Historia y Memoria de Cursillos, by Francisco Forteza; Pag. 9).

“Cala Figuera is the place where, in August of 1944 the first Cursillo in Christianity was celebrated.” (Back cover of Historia de un Carisma, by Eduardo Bonnin).

“There is no doubt that the Cursillos started in August 1944, and were officially and numbered after the Cursillo in January 7, 1949.” Eduardo Bonnin, un aprendiz de Cristiano, by Eduardo Suarez del Real Aguilera.

### **Episcopal Impulse**

“I bless Cursillos; and I will bless them not with one hand but with both hands” (Bishop Juan Hervas in the annual gathering in 1949 - Mallorca).

“Cursillos de Cristiandad: that is the word, purified through experience, affirmed by its fruits, that today travels with citizenship papers throughout the world.” (Pope Paul VI “1st World Ultreya” May 28, 1966)

### **Patron Saint**

It was Pope Paul the VI who gave the Cursillo Movement its Patron Saint Paul. The designation of the Great Evangelist as the Cursillo Patron is one of the strongest recognition of the central goal of Cursillo-Evangelization of their environments by those supported by the Cursillo Method introduced in the short course that give Cursillo it’s name.

“The Cursillo method helps transform the environment by way of Christianity where the person lives and works through the commitment of men and women who have been convince through their encounter with Christ.” (Pope John Paul II “3rd World Ultreya” July 29, 2000).

The Cursillo Movement is now active in 60 countries worldwide with an estimated five million Cursillistas participating in the Movement’s goal of the evangelization of environments. It has come a long way from that first beginning on the island of Mallorca.

## **Canonical Recognition**

It was at a May 2002 meeting with Cursillo representatives that Pope John Paul II encouraged the process of discernment that led to the official decree on June 11, 2004.

## **Evangelization Walk**

Thank you to all cursillistas who participated in the Evangelization Walk in May and June. If your Diocese did not participate this year and you are interested in starting an Evangelization Walk in your area, please contact the National Cursillo Center for information on how to plan a walk. We also provide pledge forms and have T-shirts that can be ordered. To obtain more information, call us at (214) 339-6321 or email us at [nationalcursillo.center@verizon.net](mailto:nationalcursillo.center@verizon.net)

## **National Palanca Intentions**

Let's continue to join the National Cursillo Movement of the United States in offering *palanca* for the following intentions: Mondays for all Secretariats – national, regional and diocesan; Tuesdays for all School of Leaders; Wednesdays for all Cursillistas in the United States; Thursdays for the Cursillo Movement's Apostolic actions; and Fridays for all 3-Day Cursillo Weekends.

Your Servants in Christ,

**Victor Lugo – National Executive Director**

**Jorge Barceló – National Spanish-speaking Coordinator**

**Joachim Le – National Vietnamese-speaking Coordinator**