

## August 2003 – Part II

**To: National Mailing Recipients**  
**Fm: Office of the National Secretariat**  
**Re: National Mailing**

**This mailing contains several varying, but equally important topics. The topics addressed in this mailing include:**

- 1. Using the Expanded outlines of the 3-Day Manual**
- 2. Ultreya Magazine**
- 3. Pilgrimage to Spain**
- 4. Attention to the individual**
- 5. National Encounter statistics**
- 6. Website**
- 7. New American Bible**
- 8. Literature Prices**
- 9. Cursillo – What Is It?**
- 10. Cursillo Connection**
- 11. Regional Structuring**

### **1. USING THE EXPANDED OUTLINES OF THE 3-DAY MANUAL:**

**It is becoming quite evident that there is some confusion concerning the use of the Expanded Outlines within the 3-Day Manual. After looking at the Preface, and what I thought was a clear explanation of the process, I realized that the explanation needed some clarification.**

*In the Preface it states: In the past, presenters have asked for copies of other Cursillo leaders' presentations. Over a period of time, the essence of these presentations became distorted – similar to the concept of passing a secret from one person to another. By the time the secret makes it to the third, fourth or fifth person, it often becomes distorted. To prevent this from happening, "Expanded Outlines" have been provided for each of the lay presentations.*

**The Expanded Outlines were never intended to be "THE PRESENTATIONS." They were intended to be a sample that would not be distorted. If this were not the case then why would we have gone to such lengths to include a section entitled "Method of Writing the Talk" before each talk. It appears that this is entitled "Method of Preparing the Talk" before the Ideal, Laity and Holiness talks. This will be corrected in the subsequent revision of the 3-Day Manual that is currently being reviewed.**

**In a National Mailing, sent out April 2003, I addressed the issue of the difference between a presentation and a rollo. In the previous information I have deliberately used the word presentation in an effort to avoid confusion. However, part of the dynamics of the 3-Day Cursillo Weekend is the fact that we really should not give presentations. We should be giving rollos. This may be an unfamiliar term for many people, however, it is the best term to fully explain what must take place.**

For someone to merely stand before the candidates and “read” the expanded outline would be nothing more than presenting a talk. However, when someone stands before those same candidates and shares how he or she is living the various aspects contained in the message being presented, then that person is giving a rollo.

In that same mailing I stated that during the Ideal rollo we do not mention anything about Christianity, however, we do share living experiences on how we had a different ideal(s) (a nice car, house, bike, money, fame, etc.). A few cursillistas mistook this to mean that I am advocating including witnessing during the Ideal talk. Nothing could be further from the truth. If I were to tell you something personal about myself that in itself does not constitute a witness. For instance, when I was 10 my ideal was to get a 10-speed bike, however, when I was 16 my ideal had changed to wanting a Mustang convertible. There is no mention of God in this situation, however, there is evidence that I actually am living a life that includes and ideal that changes with age and situations.

To include a witness in a “talk” does not make it a rollo. What makes it a rollo is to include our actual living of the fundamentals of that “talk.” So to clarify properly, all 10 of the laity presentations should be given as rollos. The rollo entitled Ideal does not include any witnessing (about our personal involvement with God), however, all the other rollos should.

The Outlines and Expanded Outlines are in the 3-Day Manual to help each leader understand the concepts that need to be presented. It is only when we understand how we ourselves are living those concepts, and we are subsequently able to convey our living of those concepts to others, then we will be able to present a rollo.

As you can tell by the length of this topic, it is very important. I pray that I have not overstated this point and at the same time I pray that I have been able to properly clarify this concept.

## 2. ULTREYA MAGAZINE:

For nearly 15 years, Ultreya Magazine has seen a small but steady decline in the number of subscriptions. Many differing attempts have been made to try to improve both the quality of the magazine and the number of subscriptions. We were very successful in our attempts to improve the quality of the magazine; however, it seems that no matter what was tried, we continually declined in our number of subscriptions.

Two years ago the National Secretariat’s Finance Committee recommended cutting the Ultreya Magazine, however, before doing so they elected to follow the advice that Jesus prescribed in His parable found in Luke 13: 6-9. In that passage it states: *And he told them this parable: “There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, ‘For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. [So] cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil? He said to him in reply, ‘Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.’ ”*

**Not only was the Ultreya Magazine's ground cultivated for a year, it was cultivated for two years. Barbara Jones, Editor of the Ultreya Magazine, tried various promotions, awards programs and other incentives in her relentless effort to increase subscriptions to the magazine. In spite of all her valiant efforts the number of subscribers continued to dwindle.**

**With things such as magazines, there is a break-even point. For the Ultreya Magazine that break-even point is approximately 3500 subscriptions. In 1988 our subscription level was 5,700. Today it is 3,080. That represents a decline of nearly 175 subscriptions per year. It is also very obvious to see that we have been well below our break-even point for several years now.**

**During the May 2003 meeting of the National Secretariat's Finance Committee it was decided that we could no longer continue to print the Ultreya Magazine. We discussed the benefits of having the Ultreya Magazine, but we also discussed some factors which are beyond our control, and which may well have contributed to the decline in subscriptions.**

**Some of the problems that plague the Ultreya Magazine are:**

- 1. Printing costs have continually risen.**
- 2. Mailing costs have also steadily increased and the mailing procedures set forth by the United States Postal Service require additional time and money.**
- 3. Subscriptions have declined and do not support the costs.**

**Because of the tremendous value of the Ultreya Magazine we have researched other possible solutions to continue communication with the Cursillo community. We will be setting up a new element on our National Cursillo Movement website (<http://www.cursillo.org>). This new element will allow people to read and submit witness articles. We will be looking for volunteers to assist in perusing submitted articles before they are posted on our website. Furthermore, we will establish another link that will allow individuals to submit dates for Palanca requests (Cursillo Weekends, workshops, diocesan functions, regional functions, national functions and international functions).**

**The August/September 2004 will be the last issue of the Ultreya Magazine. This represents the close of the National Cursillo Movement's 2004 fiscal year. Furthermore, it provides us with one year to print the magazine for those who are current subscribers and to incorporate necessary adjustments to our National Website. Since there is one year remaining for the Ultreya Magazine you may choose to subscribe for this last remaining year (six issues) at the rate of \$12.00. This will include the Oct/Nov 2003 issue, the Dec/Jan 2004 issue, the Feb/Mar 2004 issue, the Apr/May 2004 issue, the Jun/Jul 2004 issue and the final Aug/Sep 2004 issue.**

**We regret that we must take this action. This has been a very painful decision for all of us, as we know that it will be for our Cursillo community.**

### **3. PILGRIMAGE TO SPAIN:**

As many of you are aware, 70 people took part in a Pilgrimage to Spain this past November (2002). It was intended to be a combination pilgrimage journey and fundraiser for the National Cursillo Center. As a pilgrimage journey it was a tremendous success, however, due to several economic factors it fell way short of being a fundraiser. We had initially planned to have a subsequent pilgrimage this upcoming October 2003, however, due to the continually inflating Euro Dollar we decided to postpone the trip until March 2004. Those who attended in November 2002 were able to do so at a rate of \$1450.00 per person (and that did not provide any profit to the National Office). Because of the continually inflating Euro, that same trip would cost nearly \$2000.00 per person if it were paid at today's Euro rate.

To make matters worse, we must guarantee at least 70 people in order to receive the price of \$2000.00 per person. We were barely able to get 70 people to attend when the rate was only \$1450.00 per person.

We would be inviting financial disaster if we were to proceed with a project of this magnitude with so many unresolved variables. Due to the instability with the Euro and the lack of confidence that 70 people would take part at a rate of \$2000.00 (at today's exchange rate) the Finance Committee has decided to forego the planning of any additional pilgrimages.

### **4. ATTENTION TO THE INDIVIDUAL:**

*Teach us to hear and to live the words we pray when we are gathered for worship.*

These words were a part of the Morning Prayer intercessions found in the Tuesday, June 3, 2003 issue of the Magnificat. As I read them I could not help to wonder if I truly take the time to "hear and live" the words that I say when I pray such things as Our Father, the Leaders' Prayer, the Prayer to the Holy Spirit, etc. Oh, there have been times, periodically, when I have taken the time to dissect the various parts of these prayers so that my mind can grasp their full intent. But, I do not know if I have ever truly focused on "hearing" what the prayers are saying. I like to think that I am "living" what the prayers are saying, but if I haven't fully "listened" then not only can my mind not absorb the words - my heart cannot absorb them either. To "live" the prayers means to have moved the words from my mind to my heart. Our mind helps us to rationalize the words, the heart provides us the opportunity to be what the words are encouraging each of us to be.

I propose that each diocesan Cursillo Movement make it a point to take some time to "hear" what our various prayers are saying and to see how we can "live" those words by merely being who God wants us to be. I encourage you to focus on our brothers and sisters in their spiritual journey.

In our attempt to be fully Christian, how can we encourage a greater emphasis on pious acts that will help respond to our call to Holiness? What can we encourage others to study that will assist in their ongoing Christian Formation? What are some various forms of Apostolic Action that will help to bring about the mission of the Church - Evangelization?

May we all continually strive to “hear and live” the words we pray when we are gathered for worship.

5. **13<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL ENCOUNTER FACTS:**

Below are some interesting statistics based on having 629 participants at our National Encounter:

<u>Language preference</u>	<u>Number of preferences</u>	<u>Percentage of total participants</u>
English	297 participants	47.22%
Spanish	258 participants	41.02%
Filipino	36 participants	5.72%
Vietnamese	23 participants	3.66%
Bi-lingual	8 participants	1.27%
Korean	5 participants	0.79%
Portuguese	2 participants	0.32%

<u>Region</u>	<u>Number of participants</u>	<u>Percentage of total participants</u>
1	50	7.95%
2	65	13.33%
3	23	3.66%
4	77	12.24%
5	65	10.33%
6	77	12.24%
7	62	9.86%
8	93	14.79%
9	18	2.86%
10	7	1.11%
11	60	9.54%
12	26	4.13%
Canada	4	0.64%
Mallorca, Spain	2	0.32%

**Gender:** There were a total of 311 females and 318 males. These 629 were listed as such:

1	Bishop	29	Priests
1	Vowed Religious Brother	276	Lay men
5	Vowed Religious Sisters	306	Lay women
11	Deacons		

**Age:** 5 of the 629 were not sure of their age.

Under 30–(23/3.66%), 30-45–(136/21.62%), 46-60–(280/44.52%), Over 60–(185/29.41%)

6. **WEB SITE:** If you haven't looked at our National Website recently, then I urge you to do so (<http://www.cursillo.org>). I would ask you to pay particular attention to the following aspects:

- a. *Palanca for Cursillo Events* - Our website administrators just recently finished setting up a Palanca site for Cursillo events. Be sure to check it out. Cursillo events would include (but not be limited to) 3-Day Cursillo Weekends, Diocesan events (workshops, annual picnics, leaders' retreats, etc.), regional events (spring and fall meetings, Regional Workshops, etc.), national events (National Encounters, National Workshops, etc.) and international events (World Encounters, World Ultreyas, OMCC meetings, etc.). Remember that Palanca is not just for 3-Day Cursillo Weekends.
- b. *National Newsletter* – This contains mailings such as this one and others as well. We are working to develop a listing, by subject matter, so that individuals could look at a given topic, click onto it and then read about that topic.
- c. *Cursillo Connection* – This is the only official location that can provide Cursillo related products. Other sites may be able to offer De Colores material or chickens, roosters and rainbows, but Cursillo Connection is the only business that is licensed to sell products that contain the Cursillo logo (the “C” with the cross in it).
- d. *Cursillo Literature* – This is a site where individual cursillistas can purchase Cursillo literature and crosses. The following books are not available on this site. They can only be purchased through the diocesan leadership or at regional and national functions.
  1. **Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement**
  2. **Leaders' Manual**
  3. **3-Day Manual**

7. **NEW AMERICAN BIBLES:**

After a great deal of effort, I was finally able to procure the New American Bible for a price fairly comparable to the New Testament that we currently have been offering. As you know, we currently sell the New Testament only, and this is the Contemporary English Version. We sell it for \$3.75 each. The New American Bible contains both the Old Testament and the New Testament and it is the official Bible for all the readings of the Roman Catholic Church. This New American Bible (paperback) will cost the National Office an addition \$1.50 per book, over the current cost being paid for the New Testament. Even though this Bible will cost the

National Office an additional \$1.50 we only plan to increase the cost to you by \$1.25 cents. The New American Bible will be available at a price of \$5.00 each.

8. **LITERATURE PRICES:**

As you may recall, we recently were forced to increase the prices of our literature due to increased printing costs. Due to the efforts of Joachim Thong Tinh Le (National Vietnamese-speaking Coordinator) we were able to contract our printing elsewhere at a substantial savings. Since we raised our prices when the printing costs increased, then it is only fitting that we lower our prices as the printing costs decrease. Be sure to keep your eyes open for the decrease in literature prices as we begin to obtain the literature from our new printing company.

Do not worry about the quality of the work. You will find most of our books have greatly improved on their “eye-appeal” and the overall quality has not been compromised.

9. **CURSILLO – WHAT IS IT?**

One of the first books available from our new printing company is a completely new book for everyone. Currently we have the book entitled *Cursillo – What Is It?* and it is available in three languages (English, Spanish and Vietnamese). Now we have this book available in all three languages in one book. This provides a perfect opportunity for those cursillistas who live and work in a multi-cultural atmosphere. One book can be offered to English-speaking, Spanish-speaking or Vietnamese-speaking friends or co-workers.

The cost of the single language book is \$1.00 and the cost of this trilingual book is only \$1.50. To further enhance the value of this book it contains a picture of the Mallorca Cathedral on the front cover and pictures of various places on Mallorca on the back cover. It truly is a masterpiece that helps to bring our three languages together.

10. **CURSILLO CONNECTION**

Many of you will be starting to plan for Fall Regional meetings. Each of our 12 regions hold these Regional Encounters or meetings. Most often these meetings are open for all cursillistas to attend, just as our National Encounters are open to all cursillistas.

I would like to remind you that Cursillo Connections could provide items for you to sell during your Regional Encounters and meetings. There are a couple of different ways that you can utilize their services.

1. You can call them [(913) 831-2936] and ask for either Teresa or Ken Sittenauer. Let them know the dates of your meeting (it is best to give them at least two months advance notice) and see if they would be able to bring, or ship, their items to your upcoming Fall meeting, or your future meetings.
2. Contact them and see if they could send you items on consignment. If you receive items on consignment then you need to take a good inventory of the products when you receive them to insure that everything is there. Teresa will send products that are most suitable for your area – best sellers/new products. They have a number of products in both Spanish and English. Also, if you receive items on consignment it is good business practice to return the money, along with any unsold items within two weeks following the meeting. Teresa has informed me that for those who send the money and unsold product back within 10 days, they will receive a 5% rebate of the total amount sold. Cursillo Connection pays for shipping both directions on consignment orders.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you that the National Cursillo Center receives a 10% royalty from Cursillo Connection. This royalty assists in the day-to-day operations of the National Cursillo Center and so we are very grateful to Cursillo Connection for the service they provide and we are very grateful to the cursillistas who purchase products from Cursillo Connection.

For those special gift needs, check out the wide variety of suitable gifts for those special occasions. Many are priced under \$10.00, most are under \$20.00, and most are boxed.

#### 11. REGIONAL STRUCTURING:

We continue to do our best to keep everyone informed as much as possible. Cursillistas rely upon their diocesan leaders to keep them properly informed. Diocesan leaders rely on their regional leaders to keep them properly informed. Regional leaders rely on their national leaders to keep them properly informed and the national leaders rely on the international leaders to keep them informed. This is how the Cursillo Movement should operate. It is not a pyramid. It is an upside down pyramid, however, in order for it to operate effectively it is imperative that coordination and communication is paramount at all levels.

In order for the national leaders to be kept properly informed by the international leaders, there must be a link for the national leaders to be a part of the international aspect of the Cursillo Movement. Every Cursillo-active country belongs to one of four International Groups. The United States Cursillo Movement belongs to the North American/Caribbean



**Group (NA/CG). The regional leaders are linked to the national through their various regional language coordinators, who make up the National Secretariat.**

**In the past, the diocesan leaders have not had a clearly defined linkage to their regional leaders. Recently the National Secretariat approved the new Regional Structuring that allows for the development of Regional Secretariats within each region. A copy of this new Regional Structuring is included with this mailing. The regional leaders took part in a one-day workshop to have a better understanding of this new structuring. Most regional leaders will be utilizing their Fall 2003 and Spring 2004 meetings to further explain the new regional structuring.**

**Now that we know how the national leader, the regional leaders and the diocesan leaders remain linked to other elements to ensure proper Cursillo information, the only step left is to see how the cursillistas are linked with their diocesan leaders. This is done in many ways. It is done through the Secretariat, through the School of Leaders, through the Ultreyas, possibly through the Group Reunions and through the diocesan newsletters.**

**May our Lord continue to bless each and every one of you, your loved ones and all that you do to further our Lord's Will.**

**Your Servants in Christ,**

**The National Staff**

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

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

**Victor Lugo – National English-speaking Coordinator**

**Tom Sarg – National Executive Director**

**Gail Terrana – National Administrative Assistant**