



The Cursillo® Movement

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

August 2006

To: National Mailing Recipients

Fm: National Cursillo® Center

Re: August National Mailing

MESSAGE FROM OUR NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ADVISOR



Fr. Einer R. Ochoa

DE COLORES! Grace and peace to all of you brothers and sisters in Christ! Full of joy I take the opportunity to address all of you after having renewed our Faith, Hope, and Love at our wonderful XVI National Cursillo Encounter in the cradle of Independence, the historical city of Philadelphia. The three days provided an extraordinary amount of holiness expressed in the sacredness of our liturgies, the spirituality of our bishops and priests, the guidance of our national leaders, the wisdom of the presenters about the truths of the Cursillo Movement, with joy and friendship emanating from all the participants.

The speakers provided us with a treasure of wisdom. Friendship is the mark of the true disciples. From the speakers we hear the journey is simple, from the Precursillo, seeking Christ, to the Cursillo, knowing Christ, and the Postcursillo, following Christ. Cursillo starts with friendship, continues with friendship, and ends with friendship. Friendship is a journey of holiness taking us from our external self to our inner self, which helps us to discover who we are in order to love God, love ourselves, and love others.

This journey also helps us to identify what keeps us from being good Christians. The true mark of the church is that unique holiness that spurs us to share with others the good news that God loves us and that friendship is the best means to convey it. As Cursillistas, we treasure the Word of God and follow the Gospel with common sense "...you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. This is what you are to say to the people of Israel", Exodus 19:6. Thus we understand this is the call of the Lord to us his people, to share with others what is fundamental to live the fullness of a Christian life.

We are the elect "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight", Ephesians 1:4. As the elect we are accountable to the Lord. With this election comes great responsibility. Holiness is a gift "...I am Yahweh your God. Take the way of holiness and be holy for I am holy." Leviticus 11:44. The Cursillo is the great instrument of that gift of God to us. Our holiness is the will of God. He sent his Son for us to live in holiness and justice. The Lord gave wholly of himself to us so we as his church would be holy. He left us the memorial of his body and blood, the sacrifice at Calvary, in the holy sacrament of the Mass. In this Sacrament we have the anticipation of the heavenly

banquet and the grace provided by all the sacraments to sanctify our souls as well. The promise of the resurrection spurs us to holiness. We take seriously the mission of the Cursillo, to share with as many brothers and sisters the good news that God loves us.

The ideal of true Christians is to consider that love is not about “me” or about “others” but about “us”. This is the mark of the true Agape in Christ, the true Church of Christ VS the rampant individualistic selfishness present in the world today. To the question “what is in it for me?” The response of the Cursillo is designed to do everything for the dignity of each individual. We strive to do all that is in our power to be good Christians. This is our response to God’s mercy; and in humility of heart we submit to his chastisements because he loves us and wants us to participate in his holiness. The lives of many saints witness the many ways their humanity caused them to fall and get up again. This is also true of us as Cursillistas. The difficulties in our Schools of Leaders, our Secretariats and our Movement in general are not that difficult to deal with if we realize our true call to be prophets of Jesus and not leaders or social organizers with a personal agenda of advancement in the ladder of power, knowledge, authority or self gratification. God is the one who makes holiness possible through the living of our own tripod of piety, study and action, group reunion, ultreya and spiritual direction; we do not do it alone. He wants us to grow in the Spirit, to be mature prophets of the Good News, representatives of His Son, messengers of love and forgiveness, shining with the light of Christ, and being also the salt of the earth. The emphasis is on being Christian and not in doing Christian things.

The final touch of the XVI National Encounter was given by all the language group representatives at the Ultreya and Fiesta. All groups, English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Filipino, Portuguese and Korean shine with their own brilliant richness. We could perceive as a golden wrap-up of the three days of the Encounter the spirit of Eduardo Bonnín and the Conversations at Cala Figuera, expressed in the foreword of the book on the conversations by Jesus Valls:

Jesus Christ is in every person,
Jesus is love,
Jesus gives the measure of freedom,
Jesus opens us up to friendship,
Jesus provides conviction,
Jesus gives us transparency to communicate with sincerity,
Jesus is criteria and life,
Jesus lives in our normality and Jesus is Joy!

DE COLORES!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 16th NATIONAL ENCOUNTER

This year’s National Encounter at Villanova University in Villanova, Pennsylvania was a blessing to all in attendance. Right from the beginning we knew we were in for a blessing when Bishop Eusebio Elizondo gave a keynote address on, “*Speak, Lord, your servant is listening*”. He gave us a powerful address reminding us to look within ourselves. One of his analogies was about how many times we look for our car keys and find out that they were right there in our own hand the whole time. Our Church is so blessed to have Bishop

Elizondo, and we too, share in the gift of his presence in our Cursillo community. This prepared us to spiritually come before the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration. And this was only the beginning!!

The encounter continued on Friday with the major presentation from Fr. Modesto Perez on “Faithful Stewards of the Cursillo Movement”. He told us of this real encounter with oneself, how it begins and ends with friendship. He challenged us to know what the Cursillo is and what it is not. That its purpose is that as many people as possible experience that which is fundamental to being a Christian. And he quoted Eduardo Bonnin saying this is NOT “a doctrine that must be learned.” Rather it is a “reality that must be lived.” And that reality is Christ loves us! The same day we heard from Deacon Joseph De Leon on the “Master/Disciple Relationship”. He talked about what it means to be servant and to be holy. Jesus is the root of all holiness and the key to holiness is obedience. He told us in Christ we become more than what we are and we need an encounter with Christ.

These presentations prepared the way for the excellent workshops that were given on the Dangers, Deviations and Remedies of: Precursillo, Cursillo, Post Cursillo, School of Leaders and Secretariat. The workshops were provided in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

There were 600 participants at this year’s encounter. Simultaneous translation equipment was available so we could share together in all the major presentations. The Fiesta was certainly one of the highlights of the encounter. Each of our language groups presented a song and/or dance that was very entertaining. We all felt one in the Spirit as we sang together, danced together and shared Christ’s love with one another. Truly the natural joy of being one in Christ was felt throughout the evening. One of the gifts of our Church is its multicultural aspect. We are different but the same, and together we are one in Christ. To those who attended the encounter, the grace of this gift was experienced a hundredfold.

CHRISTIANITY IN ACTION

Christianity In Action Vs. The Christian Community

The title of this rollo had been replaced in the Cursillo® literature by one called, Christian Community or Christian Community in Action. Several years ago, perhaps when the title was changed, the content was also changed, therefore, also changing its original focus. The content of this rollo, is to me as having found a loss or hidden treasure. As a consequence, here lies one reason about the weakness of the 4th day and of the Group Reunion.

The rollo commonly called "Christian Community" has very little in common with the original that came to us from Majorca (Christianity in Action), and focuses on the aspect of community. For the Hispanics in general, community means something very intimate, as in a family or in a group reunion. They don’t understand “groups of Christians” as a community because there is often little but superficial contact between the members. Renaming the rollo has taken the focus far from its original intent.

One of the keys to understanding the message of this rollo is understanding the intended meaning of the title. In Spanish it is called “Cristiandad en Acción” which literally translates, “Christendom in Action.” The word Christendom is not commonly used in English and the traditional meaning of Christendom only offers us a glimpse of the intended meaning. “Cristiandad” has the proper climate for everyone to grow in friendship and in grace. A community, normally, does not take into consideration the friendship of its members. In order to gain a clearer understanding of the original intent, let us review a statement that adds clarity to this translation by a leader from Majorca:

“When the persons who have understood the Cursillo® and the value of friendship have actualized the three encounters that have been initiated (The encounter with oneself, the encounter with Christ and the encounter with others) and understand how they are related to each other in order to share and coordinate their Christian life, they have generated a new environment that is “Christendom”. (Ramón Armengol Rodo, II Conversations of Cala Figuera)

What is a Christianity in Action?

In perennial dissatisfaction and continuous progression, is the fruit of some Christians devoted to the Lord by their own free will, who through their living together, admiring and understanding each other, create a climate in ordinary life, a conscious and growing realization where the promises of the Lord become reality, and in the one who, leaning totally on the wonder of their Baptism, lives with integrity and with a perennial freshness the infinite range of possibilities that the New Commandment offers.

The life of the rollista, fruit of the wakefulness of a “Christianity in Action”, like an instrument of the Father’s hope, is a living testimony of a layperson, that shows by itself that it is possible today, to live as a Christian, amazingly unrestrainedly in its effectiveness, truly victorious, bringing salvation, able to convert and to renew the face of the earth.

In conclusion of the difference between these two rollos, this rollo on Christianity in Action is a radical departure from what you are used to hearing on a Cursillo® weekend. The challenge here is to forget what you have heard in the past and look at this with fresh eyes. The effort will be worth it!

The Rollo Christianity In Action.

It is the third rollo of the third day. In the Cursillistas there is a climate of general euphoria, fruit of personal and common experiences, of overflowing Grace and they realize through the explanation of the Service Sheets, that there is a way to make every hope of holiness both possible and perennial when defining the real position that corresponds to each one. However, the heaviness of the hour should be overcome by the rollista.

Above all, it is sought to show in this rollo the incarnation of the theory of the “Study of the Environment” rollo, so that it will not just be a detached abstract truth of one’s life. In this rollo, the Cursillista enters into, and becomes familiar with, the world of Christian truths and realities joyfully lived, in which he should naturally penetrate. This rollo should also serve to dispel the fear that some may still have about becoming apostolic in their actions.

The message portrayed in this rollo is very clear that, in order to be effective in our efforts of spreading the message of the Gospel to the world, we need the support provided by continuing contact with like-minded individuals in “friendship groups”. This presentation should form a firm foundation for the message to come later in the final rollo of Total Security where the Group Reunion and Ultreya are finally presented in their entirety to the candidates. This rollo evokes the hunger for these tools.

This rollo is essentially a personal witness. The rollo is a testimony and it punctuates more of the rollista than the rollo itself. The life of the Cursillista that is translated into the rollo is the irrefutable proof of the constant mystery of the Grace of God and the living reality of “Christianity in Action”. Since this is a witnessing rollo, it is logical that it is also moving.

As is evident, no Cursillo[®] rollo can be “standardized” and it is renewed every time when adapted to the personality of the rollista, to the circumstance of his life, and to the mentality and the problems of those listening, without changing its essence. The “Christianity in Action” rollo has this characteristic hundredfold, because it is, at the heart of it, the joyful testimony of the life of the rollista who is a part of the nucleus of Christians, living in grace, who are friends that journey with each other, who come to know each other intimately, and humbly admire each other, therefore, creating a climate that makes it possible to spread the Gospel in the world. It is upon this in which the rollo develops.

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 *Cursillo, What is it?* book in English and Spanish is \$1.50.

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