



# The Cursillo® Movement

National Cursillo® Center • P.O. Box 799 • Jarrell, TX 76537 • 512-746-2020 • Fax 512-746-2030 • [www.natl-cursillo.org](http://www.natl-cursillo.org)

August 2012

To: National Mailing Recipients

Fm: National Cursillo® Center

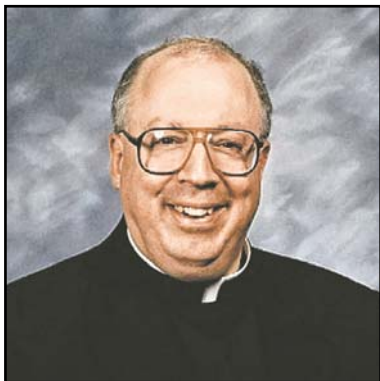
Re: August National Mailing

## NATIONAL CURSILLO® ENCOUNTER

The 22<sup>nd</sup> National Cursillo® Encounter at Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH, was a huge success of sharing God's gifts of person and friendship. The Encounter was attended by one Cursillista from Alberta, Canada, and over 400 Cursillistas from six languages and numerous dioceses in the United States. Dr. John Cuddeback, gave the keynote address, "*Being Present With Those We Love, The Joy and the Challenge*". The hope and the love communicated through his principle of "presence" with persons as the heart of friendship and of encounter with self, God, and others, rang true with the Charism of the Cursillo Movement, that God loves us! Subsequent talks by lay persons and clergy focused on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conversations of Cala Figuera. We were also introduced, or re-introduced as the case may be, to Spiritual Exercises based on St. Ignatius. The entire Encounter was uplifting and enlightening. As is tradition, a spirit-filled and joyful fiesta celebration completed the Encounter with several cultural groups performing songs that brought to mind the joy of diversity that is our Church.

We were honored by Most Rev. Joseph R. Binzer, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati presiding Mass on Friday and his sharing. See below.

## MY FAITH JOURNEY



**Most Rev. Joseph R. Binzer**

I hope you don't mind if I share a bit of my faith journey with you today, and how making the Cursillo weekend in 1981 when I was 26 years old changed my life even more. I say even more because my mom and dad made the Cursillo weekend in the 1960's when I was a young teenager, and my life was changed and the lives of my brothers and sisters were changed because the lives of my mom and dad were changed. My dad, for example, began getting up an hour earlier on Saturdays of Cursillo weekends to help cook breakfast at St Anthony Shrine here in Cincinnati where the Cursillo was taking place. When I was in high school, he asked me to come along. I would help crack more eggs than I ever dreamed a group of people could eat, and then I was in charge of stirring those eggs until they became scrambled eggs, more or less. I



never ate them. I snacked on the coffee cake while I was stirring. Living as cursillistas, my mom and dad would go to their friendship groups, to these meetings called Ultreya, and then on Sunday afternoons about every month to Cursillo closings. By the way, I learned how to pronounce the words, Ultreya, Cursillo, palanca, and cursillistas, before I learned to spell them. Being the second oldest, I was left to baby-sit too often when mom and dad went to Cursillo events and my older sister was “busy” with her active social life. I grumbled, complained, moaned, crabbed (never to my parents, though because they would not have had pity on me), felt taken advantage of, destined to a life of misery, so I thought. When I was courageous enough to object out loud, the response of my mom and dad with smiles on their faces, surely something they learned at their Cursillo experiences, “Offer it up; you can make your efforts into palanca for those on the weekend. Do it with a spirit of Christian charity.”

And then when I made the weekend, I heard men (not just priests...real ordinary men!) talk about how Jesus loved them (I didn't think men talked about that) and realizing that the Lord loved me too. I began my fourth day seeking a personal relationship with Jesus in the context of the Christian community. Those words, “Christ is counting on you” and the response, “And I on Him” said 31 years ago this November are still words of truth. But the great thing with our relationship with the Lord is he always takes the first step. He loved us before we could love him. He redeemed us. He leads us in the only direction we need to go because he loves us.

And we need direction. We need a shepherd. I don't know about you, but I would suspect that many of us don't see real sheep and real shepherds all the time. I've only seen one when I had a chance to visit the country of Turkey in the spring of 1999. On that day, the shepherd was leading sheep to a new spot to graze. Even though many of us have not seen a shepherd, we hear a job description of a good shepherd in the Scriptures. A good shepherd:

- seeks out his flock when some of his sheep have been scattered;
- rescues sheep from all places where they have been scattered;
- brings the sheep into their own land;
- feeds the sheep, by the fountains, feeds them with good pasture (like five star dining for the sheep);
- brings back the strayed;
- binds up the crippled;
- strengthens the weak;
- watches the sheep;
- lays down his life for the sheep;
- knows his sheep and his sheep know him;
- invites other sheep to be in the fold;
- does all this freely, willingly.

This image of the shepherd is one of the most comforting in the Bible. And if this shepherd is good, the sheep have nothing to fear and they will want for nothing. The words of the 23rd psalm, words that are so familiar, fall from our lips, “The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want...Even though I walk in the dark valley, I fear no evil for you are at my side.”



But if we had the opportunity to interview a present day shepherd and asked him if he had 100 sheep and one of them was lost, would you leave the 99 and go looking for the lost sheep? The odds are the present day shepherd would say no. If I leave the 99 and go looking for the one that is lost, I'll probably lose more of the flock. Or if you asked present day shepherd, if one of your sheep was in a life-threatening situation or trapped by some wild animal that could kill you, would you lay down your life for that sheep? The odds are that the present day shepherd would say no.

But Our Lord, the good shepherd who leads us, not only loves, feeds, and guards his sheep; he gives us life at the cost of his own. For our Lord himself "bore our sins in his body upon the cross so that free from sin, we might live for justice."

Sometimes it isn't easy to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd who calls to all of us, the Good Shepherd who always seeks to protect his sheep, who always seeks to heal his sheep. If God is to be our shepherd, and protector, we listen for God's voice, and move in God's direction. Still, sometimes following Jesus involves risks, maybe even the cost of reputation or life. According to tradition, St. Peter sent St. Apollinaris, whose feast we celebrate today, to Ravenna, Italy, as its first bishop. His preaching of the Good News, his evangelizing, his apostolic action was so successful that he was beaten and driven from the city three times. He later died from wounds received during another savage beating. Martyrs are people who would rather accept the risk of death than deny their faith in Jesus Christ, following the Good Shepherd. And we believe that the Good Shepherd enters into our lives today because God does care. The only Son of God could have left humanity in hell-bent sinfulness, but did not. He came to redeem us. He came to give us life in abundance, as Jesus told us. Our faith tells us that Jesus, our Good Shepherd wants to lead us to heaven because that is where he is, that is where our eternal home is, and that is why he came to us. And we follow because his message makes all the difference in the world as is the reason we are here today.

### **FUNDRAISERS**

On March 19, 2012, the National Cursillo® Center introduced a **CONTEST** to the dioceses based on the number of registrations to the 22<sup>nd</sup> National Cursillo® Encounter. The National Cursillo® Center is happy to announce the diocese with the most registrations by May 31, 2012, was the DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN, Spanish language. The Diocese of Brooklyn received one free registration to the Encounter. The next two highest numbers of registrations came from the ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK and the ARCHDIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY, KS. These two Archdioceses will receive \$100 of Cursillo literature. CONGRATULATIONS!!! Thanks to God for your "presence" and that of all our brother and sister Cursillistas who attended the Encounter!

The National Cursillo® Center is also happy to announce the collection which took place at Mass on Saturday afternoon totaled \$6,208. Thank you, Cursillistas, for your generosity!

Lastly, with regards to fundraisers, is the result of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual \$1 Campaign. The majority of the funds received by the National Cursillo® Center came from Diocesan Cursillo Movements. However, some Cursillistas chose to send checks or credit cards individually, instead of routing the donation through the Diocesan Cursillo Movement. This was totally acceptable and greatly



welcomed! Without further ado, the National Cursillo® Center happily announces the campaign raised **\$16,393!** THANK YOU, THANK YOU! We are extremely grateful to you! The National Cursillo® Center considers this campaign as one of fantastic results and knows it was possible because of the Diocesan Lay Directors getting the message to the Cursillo Community and the community's response to the call. Please see attached \$1 Campaign Listing, as the National Cursillo® Center recognizes each specific Diocese and Cursillista for their donation.

### **DONATIONS**

The National Cursillo® Movement gratefully welcomes your donations. Your financial support advances the evangelization function of the Movement and as a 501(c) 3 entity, is eligible for tax deduction purposes. Donations also are accepted through the website, [www.natl-cursillo.org](http://www.natl-cursillo.org).

### **NATIONAL CURSILLO® CENTER**

The National Cursillo® Center will be closed on Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> for Labor Day. It will re-open Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM CST. Please plan your book orders accordingly.

### **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 and Cursillo Workshops

Saturdays – OMCC and NACG Executive Committee

Let's continue to pray and offer palanca for each other and the National Cursillo® Movement.

Your brothers in Christ,

Victor Lugo – National Executive Director

Ceferino Aguillón, Jr. – National English Language Coordinator

Juan Ruiz – National Spanish Language Coordinator

Joachim Le – National Vietnamese Language Coordinator



Thank you to the CURSILLISTAS  
1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL \$1 CAMPAIGN  
March 1, 2012 - July 31, 2012  
\$16,393  
DE COLORES!

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Alfred Johnson, Diocese of Rockford, \$50  
Allentown Cursillo English, \$300  
Atlanta Cursillo Spanish, \$272  
Baltimore Cursillo English, \$27  
Camden (So. Jersey) Cursillo English, \$100  
Carlo and Kathleen Chinici, Diocese of  
Springfield, \$15  
Charleston Cursillo English, \$41  
Chicago Cursillo Spanish, \$318  
Cincinnati Cursillo Vietnamese, \$20  
Corpus Christi Cursillo Spanish, \$100  
Crookston Cursillo English, \$100  
Dallas Cursillo Spanish, \$407  
Fela Alfaro, Diocese of Dallas, Spanish, \$50  
Dennis J Hupp, Diocese of Arlington, \$125  
Denver Cursillo Spanish, \$120  
Detroit Cursillo Vietnamese, \$100  
Fort Worth Cursillo English, \$103  
Fort Worth Cursillo Spanish, \$94  
Francis and Karen Lynch, Diocese of  
Springfield, \$45  
Gayle and Greg Hohman, Diocese of Mobile,  
\$182  
Grand Rapids Cursillo Vietnamese, \$220  
Julia and Roberto Garza, Diocese of  
Brownsville, \$100  
Kansas City, KS, Spanish, \$180  
Knoxville Cursillo English, \$36  
Knoxville Cursillo Spanish, \$32  
Lansing Cursillo English, \$500  
Louisville Cursillo English, \$27  
Mary and David Casselman, Diocese of Fort  
Worth, \$100  
Manchester Cursillo English, \$838  
Metuchen Cursillo English, \$425  
Miami Cursillo English, \$100

Mobile Cursillo English, \$255  
Most Reverend Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S.,  
Archdiocese of Seattle, \$5,000  
Mrs. Dorothy I Ladegast, Archdiocese of  
Louisville, \$10  
Nelba and Jose Fermin, Diocese of  
Providence, \$50  
Oakland Cursillo Filipino, \$200  
Oklahoma City Cursillo English, \$240  
Oklahoma City Cursillo Spanish, \$267  
Onofre and Ylonka Jimenez, Diocese of  
Providence, \$20  
Orange Cursillo Spanish, \$361  
Orlando Cursillo Vietnamese, \$145  
Owensboro Cursillo English, \$79  
Providence Cursillo Spanish, \$175  
Region 11 Cursillo, \$213  
Region 2 Cursillo English and Spanish,  
\$1,000  
Richard Kohl, Diocese of Joliet, \$50  
Richard Stratford, \$1  
Ronald L. Jandernoa, \$10  
San Bernardino Cursillo English, \$407  
San Bernardino Cursillo Spanish, \$140  
San Francisco Cursillo Filipino, \$250  
San Francisco Cursillo Spanish, \$150  
San Juan Diego Catholic Church, Diocese of  
Brownsville, \$200  
Savannah Cursillo English, \$100  
Scranton Cursillo English, \$400  
Toledo Cursillo English, \$691  
Trenton Cursillo English, \$200  
Venice Cursillo Spanish, \$356  
Washington, D.C. Vietnamese, \$100  
Wichita Cursillo English, \$45  
Yakima Cursillo English, \$151

