



24th National Encounter Highlights

This year's National Encounter was held at the beautiful Chapman University campus located in Orange, CA. The University's staff helped make our stay an enjoyable experience. The encounter was a huge success and everyone enjoyed listening to the talks as well as meeting, sharing, and celebrating Eucharist with over 660 Cursillistas made up of lay people, clergy, and religious from the various cultures and languages that make up Cursillo in the United States.

The success of the encounter, first of all, is attributed to God's grace, and the great teamwork between the volunteer Cursillistas, several committee groups, Chapman University Staff, National Encounter Committee, and National Staff. Everyone's service, friendship, and contributions are greatly appreciated! THANK YOU!

Thursday, July 31st

The National Encounter opened on Thursday evening with a special prayer and blessing by Fr. Alex Waraksa, Cursillo National Spiritual Advisor. Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, Cursillo National Episcopal Advisor, provided the Keynote Address on Cursillo and the New Evangelization. Fr. Alex Waraksa led the Holy Hour. This year's encounter was blessed with the presence of Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle, Bishop Emeritus Carlos A. Sevilla S. J. from the Diocese of Yakima, and Bishop Dominic M. Luong, Auxiliary Bishop of Orange.

Friday, August 1st

Friday opened with a special guest, Miguel Sureda from Palma de Mallorca, Spain. He provided a talk on the *History of Cursillo*. Miguel was a very close friend of Eduardo Bonnín so what he shared was what he lived with the founder. In order to fully understand Cursillo, it is important to know the Founder, the Cursillo Charism and History. Miguel was presented with a Commemorative Plaque for the 70th anniversary of Cursillos in Christianity and a National Encounter T-Shirt full of volunteers' signatures in appreciation for his visit to the US Cursillo. Jackie DeMesme-Gray, Region 2 Coordinator provided a practical method for *Evangelization through Friendship* which included an overview of the Four Movements of Apostolic Action. Fr. Alex Waraksa provided citations from Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel* that is sure to lead everyone to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ. Steve Krause presented a special workshop for Regional Coordinators, Service Teams, and National Staff. Everyone had an opportunity to share his or her piety, study, action, and close moment to Christ during the Ultreya. Imagine an Ultreya with 660 Cursillistas sharing in friendship!

Saturday, August 2nd

On Saturday, Omar Baez, Region 7 Coordinator spoke to the encounter attendees about the *Christian Leader's Call and Responsibility*. He began with a quote "Christian leaders, a vocation of service". He provided an overview of the leader's natural and supernatural qualities. The priests, deacons, and

religious came together for a *Spiritual Advisor's Workshop* provided by Fr. Alex Waraksa and Deacon Gary Terrana, Assistant National Spiritual Advisor. Deacon Ben Agustin, Region 11 Spiritual Advisor provided a talk on *Growing in Holiness through the Cursillo*. He walked us through scripture references and books that can help our journey towards attaining and living a holy life. Hoang Tran, National Cursillo Service Administrator, delivered the final talk. He talked to us about his relocation from California to Texas – a Mission Impossible made possible with God, for God, and in God. He also talked about the meaning of *Stewardship in the Cursillo Movement* as being the fruit of love . . . to want what God wants and to do what God wants. The National Encounter ended with a Fiesta for all by all! Imagine a Fiesta with 660 Cursillistas sharing each other's talents and the joy of being Christian!

A total of \$7,413.94 was collected during Friday and Saturday Mass at the National Encounter. Thank you for your generosity! David Tittle from Region 1 composed a song, *Christ is Counting on Me* and sang it for all Cursillistas during the encounter. He donated all rights for the song to the National Cursillo Movement. THANK YOU DAVID!

Make sure to visit the Cursillo Resource Center (CRC) to access copies of the talks presented during the 24th National Encounter. Follow this link <http://www.natl-cursillo.org/resources/>. Don't forget to visit the National Cursillo Website at <http://www.natl-cursillo.org> to see a slideshow of the photos taken at this year's National Encounter! A special thanks goes to all the Cursillistas who contributed photos for the slideshow.

70th Anniversary of Cursillos in Christianity August 1944 – August 2014



Eduardo Bonnín organized the first Cursillo in history in August 1944. The Weekend was held in a chalet, Mar i Pins, in Cala Figuera de Santanyi on the island of Mallorca. Eduardo was the Rector, supported by José Ferragut and Jaime Riutort as leaders. And thus, with the Grace of the Holy Spirit, the Cursillos in Christianity Movement was born. The US Cursillo Movement unites itself with all the Cursillistas in Palma de Mallorca, Spain in celebrating 70 years of witnessing the clear and simple profile of the tree of Cursillo bearing abundant fruit in the person and in the world. HAPPY 70th ANNIVERSARY!

National Encounter

The National Cursillo Center is requesting feedback from all Cursillistas who attended the 24th National Encounter at Chapman University in Orange, CA. Here is a link to the encounter evaluation form: <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/encounter/evaluation/>. For priests, deacons, and religious who attended the Spiritual Advisor's Workshop, please use the link below to complete the evaluation form: <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/encounter/evaluation/sa/>.

All Cursillistas are invited to attend the 25th National Encounter at Villanova University in Philadelphia, PA. The encounter will be held from July 23-26, 2015. More information will be available later on the National Cursillo Website.

\$3/YR Campaign Update

As of July 31, 2014, the National Cursillo Center has received a total donation amount of \$40,629. This amount is up 9% from May 2014. We have reached 13.5% 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. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to offer 2 free National Encounter tickets to Lay Directors who are working hard to revive or establish Cursillo in their areas. We also provided 3 \$200 bookstore vouchers for 3 other dioceses that are establishing Cursillo. Please 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 so much for your continuous support and generosity.

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

You can access, read and/or download text files of some of the talks presented at the 24th National Cursillo Encounter at the National Cursillo Resource Center: <http://www.natl-cursillo.org/resources/>. The following talks are available in text format. More talks will be added to the Resource Center in the coming weeks.

Evangelization Through Friendship by Jackie DeMesme-Gray, Region 2 Coordinator

Christian Leaders by Omar Baez, Region 7 Coordinator

Stewardship in the Cursillo by Hoang Tran, NCSA

Growing in Holiness through the Cursillo by Deacon Ben Agustin, Region 11 Spiritual Advisor

Please share this information and this link <http://www.natl-cursillo.org/resources/> with the Secretariat and School of Leaders in your respective dioceses and encourage all Cursillistas to visit the Cursillo Resource Center today!

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.

De Colores!

Hoang Tran – National Cursillo Service Administrator

Ceferino Aguillón, Jr. – National English Coordinator

Juan Ruiz – National Hispanic Coordinator

Joachim Le – National Vietnamese Coordinator