



Cursillos in Christianity National Newsletter

National Cursillo Center • P.O. Box 799 • Jarrell, TX 76537 • 512-746-2020 • www.natl-cursillo.org

25th National Encounter Highlights

By Hoang Tran, National Cursillo Service Administrator

The 25th National Cursillo® Encounter was at Villanova University in Philadelphia, PA during July 23-26, 2015. It was an enlightening and exuberant gathering of Cursillistas in Love and friendship. The encounter participants totaled 653 Cursillistas from 5 language groups from all over the United States.

The National Encounter opened on Thursday evening with a special prayer and blessing by Fr. Alex Waraksa, National Cursillo Spiritual Advisor.



Most Rev. Carlos A. Sevilla, S.J., Bishop Emeritus of Yakima and National Cursillo Episcopal Advisor, celebrated the **Opening Mass** with 43 clergy consisting of priests and deacons and over 700 Cursillistas in attendance which included many volunteers from Region II. Bishop Sevilla thanked the laity and clergy for their support to Cursillo and the Church.



Dr. Ralph Martin, from the Diocese of Lansing, delivered the keynote address, **Friendship with Christ, Key to Evangelization**. Ralph shared: “the most important thing that happened to me, was to live a Cursillo in 1964, to encounter and to surrender my life to Christ . . . to love Christ and to help others to know Him.”



Deacon Gary Terrana, Assistant National Spiritual Advisor, spoke on **Charity in the 21st Century**. Charity has such a high place of honor because it is the bond between God and man. It is superior to all the virtues. It is the first of all the virtues, because charity unites us intimately to God and our neighbor. To love God means that we want to please Him by doing good. To love our neighbors means that we want good things for them.



Maribel Gomez, from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, spoke on **Attitudes and Reactions**. Systems and techniques can be taught but not the attitude. And we know that the reactions a person will have depend on their attitude. Attitude is the disposition that one develops from the experiences that one has. Our attitude is acquired from the experiences we have and the choices we make to adapt to our surroundings or environment.



Fr. John Meyers, from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, spoke on **Prayer and Discernment**. The art of discernment, that is, distinguishing between desires and motives that are of God, and those which are not (the world, the self, and the devil), is the first area of concern for us. The second area of concern for us is discerning what God is doing in the world around us, or how to first recognize and then actively cooperate with God in each of our environments.



Walter Benavides, from the Diocese of Wichita, spoke on the **Means to Energize Our Fourth Day**. He has the certainty that joy comes from living a 4th Day in a constant state of joy in Christ. It is no coincidence that today is called the present, because that is precisely what it is, a gift, a present. And the leading cause of life's joy and this joy-like energy is contagious. and is the best way to energize the Group Reunions, our Ultreyas and our Schools of Leaders.



Hoang Tran, National Cursillo Service Administrator, spoke on the **National Cursillo Center and Direction**. Hoang provided an update on the benefits and opportunities of donating towards the \$3/YR Campaign. He introduced the \$5 Million Drive as a means for a brighter future for the National Cursillo Movement.

The National Encounter Fiesta was filled with joy, friendship, and an enthusiastic harmony which was demonstrated by the different cultural performances. Jesus was truly the Conductor of the Love Symphony #25 and we are blessed to be His instruments!

The National Cursillo Center is pleased to announce the total collection of \$5,861.32 during two Masses celebrated at the Encounter. Thank you so much for your generosity!

The National Encounter Committee is finalizing the date and location for the 26th National Encounter in 2016 and will announce this information in the October Newsletter.

Three Cursillistas won the raffle tickets to attend the 26th National Encounter and one Cursillista won the framed painting which was donated by Br. Richard McCann.

Don't forget to submit your National Encounter photos to Dale Platteter, Cursillo Webmaster at cursillowebmaster@gmail.com.

The National Secretariat, Staff, and Jackie DeMesme-Gray, National Encounter Committee Chairperson, would like to thank all Cursillistas who attended the National Encounter and all the Cursillistas who served on the different committees made-up of Region II volunteers. Your friendship, service, and contributions are greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing you next year!

\$3/YR Campaign Update and the \$5 Million Drive

As of July 15, 2015, the National Cursillo Center has received a total donation of \$74,665. This amount is up 9% from May 2015. The National Cursillo Center has issued 140 vouchers worth \$13,950 to the dioceses that donated \$200 or more towards the campaign.

Thanks to your donations to the campaign, Cursillistas in affiliated Dioceses can enjoy an additional 10% discount for each book order over \$50.00 as of February 1, 2015. That means Cursillistas can enjoy a total of 20% discount as a benefit of being affiliated with the National Cursillo Movement. The National Cursillo Center also provided bookstore vouchers for 8 dioceses that are in the process of establishing or re-establishing Cursillo in their respective areas.

The Diocesan Movements are invited to participate in the \$5 Million Drive from October 1-4. This is a fun event and those Diocesan Movements who donate more than \$3,000 will have an opportunity to win the following prizes:

- 1st Prize: Free National Encounter tickets for the Spiritual Advisor, Lay Director and School of Leaders Chairperson for 2016, 2017 and 2018.
- 2nd Prize: Free National Encounter tickets for the Spiritual Advisor, Lay Director and School of Leaders Chairperson for 2016 and 2017.
- 3rd Prize: Free National Encounter tickets for the Spiritual Advisor, Lay Director and School of Leaders Chairperson for 2016.

Continue promoting the \$3/YR Campaign and the \$5 Million Drive 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/>.

Cursillo Resource Center

Take time to visit the [Cursillo Resource Center](#) to listen, view, or download copies of the talks presented during the 25th National Encounter. Each talk will be available in 3 formats; video, MP3, and text. Some talks are available today; the rest will be uploaded soon. The talks are an excellent resource for personal enrichment and certainly for study in the School of Leaders.

De Colores!

Hoang Tran – National Cursillo Service Administrator
Ceferino Aguillón, Jr. – National English Coordinator
Juan Ruiz – National Hispanic Coordinator
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