

THE  CURSILLO[®] MOVEMENT

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September 2004

**To: National Mailing Recipients
Fm: National Cursillo Center
Re: September National Mailing**

The following section appeared in the last issue of the *Ultreya Magazine*, August – September 2004. It is being repeated in this mailing for the benefit of Cursillistas who did not receive the magazine.

THANK YOU, BARBARA JONES

The *Ultreya Magazine* was first published in Phoenix, AZ in 1960. The National Cursillo Center strived to provide a magazine of the highest quality for Cursillistas since the magazine's inception.

In the year of 2000, Barbara Jones accepted the responsibility of being the Editor of the *Ultreya Magazine*. However, by this time the magazine was struggling to maintain its existence due to the rise in printing and mailing costs, coupled with decreased subscriptions. Barbara was not to be deterred; she undertook a campaign to revive interest, enthusiasm, and subscriptions in the magazine.

During the National Encounter in St. Louis (2001) Barbara started a program to provide plaques, awards and trophies to the dioceses and regions that excelled in promoting the *Ultreya Magazine*. Many Cursillistas welcomed this program and during the National Encounter in Louisville (2002) many diocesan and regional leaders eagerly awaited the results of this campaign.

The Finance Committee met in May 2003 and faced the inevitable decision to discontinue the *Ultreya Magazine*. There were many factors affecting this decision, but none of them were because of the magazine's quality or Barbara's efforts to instill a magazine of sharing by and for the Cursillo community. The *Ultreya Magazine*, with the help of Barbara Jones, had actually sustained itself three years longer than the original estimate.

The National Cursillo Center, on behalf of all Cursillistas, says, "THANK YOU, BARBARA, for your tireless service to provide our Cursillo Movement with a top quality magazine these past four years". God Bless You!

ULTREYA

We would like to thank all Cursillistas who supported the Ultreya Magazine over the years. The end of the magazine, however, does not mean that we will stop communicating with each other on a national forum; we will continue to share witnesses through our National Website (see e-Ultreya section of this mailing). The Ultreya Magazine served us well over the years as a communication tool, but we must not mistake the Ultreya Magazine for Ultreya itself. The Ultreya is a reunion of fellow Cursillistas who gather to share personal experiences in living the Christian life. An Ultreya is an actual meeting where Cursillistas who have not yet encountered a fellowship reunion may experience one personally.

It is very important that Cursillo Leaders conduct Ultreyas in their diocesan Cursillo Movement according to its essential elements and not allow themselves to be led, or lead others to believe, that the Ultreya is simply another social function or a task to be completed. The Ultreya is in fact, an essential part of sharing our life in Christ with each other. The Ultreya enables us to live what is fundamental for being a Christian through the grace of friendship. The Ultreya is the time to live out the sharing experiences of our Cursillo Weekend.

Christ himself told us, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20)

The experience of encountering, God, others and self, never ends. This is why the Ultreya is referred to as the Fourth (4th) Day – because the 3-Day Cursillo continues until our Father calls us home. While it is true that we go to our God-given environments to “bloom where you are planted”, to carry out our baptismal mission, it is also just as true that we also come together at Ultreya to support, strengthen and give joy to each other as we live out the grace of God’s gifts. We are “leavened” continuously with the supernatural grace required to carry out the tremendous task of bringing the Good News to our brothers and sisters. “With God all things are possible.”

We are a restless and hungry community – hungry for the Christ in each other. Support the Ultreya and share the spiritual aids that help you to persevere in your search for fulfillment in Christ. Share your closest moment to Christ. What are you listening to, reading, or studying that enables you to come to a deeper understanding of yourself and Christ? How is your thinking becoming more Christian? How did you come to share, to introduce, to witness Christ to our brothers/sisters? What is your attitude toward those God has placed in your path? HE placed them in your path because you are the one HE will endow with the special graces necessary to bring that soul to HIM!

E-ULTREYA IS NEW FEATURE ON NATIONAL WEB SITE

There is something new on the Cursillo National web site at www.cursillo.org. It is e-Ultreya Magazine, an internet publication featuring witness articles from cursillistas.

Officially, e-Ultreya is published bi-monthly, but publication frequency is actually determined by the number of witness articles submitted. The format is simple and easy to follow:

1. Write down the “witness” you shared at an Ultreya.
2. Your “witness” should be how you are living your Piety, Study and Action.
3. The article should be no more than six paragraphs in length. Be sure to include your name, the city where you live and the name of your parish on the document.
4. Attach your article to an e-mail either as a Word document or a plain text document and send it to our editor at wdegler@aol.com. Detailed instructions may also be found on the National Cursillo web site, www.cursillo.org.

Articles received are reviewed by a volunteer staff of editors: Ward Degler (Indianapolis, IN) is editor-in-chief and is supported by Charles Lochmuller (Raleigh, NC), and Dale Platteter (Bedford, IN). If you are concerned about your writing skills, they will help.

In addition to e-Ultreya Magazine, the National Cursillo Center web site also hosts a listing of palanca requests, an on-line store for Cursillo literature, links to other diocesan web sites, a Cursillo-only search engine, and an archive of National newsletters. The site also provides free web space to affiliated diocesan movements, which enables a diocese to use this powerful vehicle for support.

14th NATIONAL ENCOUNTER

On behalf of the National Cursillo Secretariat, we would like to thank all Bishops, Priests, Deacons, and Cursillistas who made the sacrifice to attend the 14th National Cursillo Encounter in Seattle, Washington, July 29 – August 1, 2004. We give thanks to our Heavenly Father for the blessing of having 630 attendees, and the beautiful weather. The Cursillistas of the Archdiocese of Seattle are to be commended for their service in hosting the event – Thank You!

15th NATIONAL ENOCUNTER

It is not too early to mark your calendar for the 15th National Encounter. This Encounter will be held at St. Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, July 28 – July 31, 2005.

1ST CONVERSATIONS OF CALA FIGUERA

The I Conversaciones de Cala Figuera, (1st Conversations of Cala Figuera), is now available in English at the National Cursillo Center. The price per book is \$8.00 plus shipping and handling. The National Staff highly recommends this book to all cursillistas to discover more about the Foundational Charisma of the Cursillos in Christianity.

EVANGELIZATION WALK

Thank you to all Cursillistas who participated in the Evangelization Walk in July and August. If you are interested in starting an Evangelization Walk in your area, please

contact the National Cursillo Center for information on how to plan a walk. We also provide pledge forms and have T-shirts available for purchase for \$10.00 each (\$7.00 goes to the National Cursillo Center and \$3.00 stays in the dioceses). To obtain more information, call us at (214) 339-6321 or email us at nationalcursillo.center@verizon.net

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

The National Secretariat, which is composed of all Region Coordinators, the National Bishop Advisor and the National Spiritual Advisor, held their secretariat meeting on July 29, 2004, on the campus of Seattle University. During this meeting the Finance Committee Chairperson proposed financial adjustments for the good of the Cursillo Movement, which were agreed to by the National Secretariat. They are as follows:

National Affiliation Dues:

The initial affiliation dues will remain at \$400 per language group, per diocese to be paid by January 31, 2005. For the financial stability of the National Cursillo® Movement, the following action will be effective January 1, 2005:

- a. For those language groups whose payment is not received at the National Cursillo Center prior to February 1st, a late fee of \$50 will be assessed for a total of \$450.
- b. For those language groups whose payment is not received at the National Cursillo Center prior to May 1st, a second late fee of \$50 will be assessed for a total of \$500.
- c. For those language groups whose payment is not received at the National Cursillo Center prior to July 1st, the privilege of purchasing materials, publications or other items from the National Cursillo Center will be suspended until payment is received.
- d. Language groups that are in their initial stage of formation and/or face serious financial difficulty in remitting payment of dues will submit a written request to the National Cursillo Center prior to January 31st to schedule payments.

Publication Income:

The National Office is currently filling orders for materials, publications, or other items prior to payment of the items. This process contributes to inefficient and costly business practices to maintain account receivables, monthly invoicing, and write-off of delinquent accounts. The following action will be effective with the new fiscal year, October 1, 2004:

- a. All publication sales will be on a cash or credit card pre-paid basis.
- b. The exception being that the Lay Director requests a 30 to 60 day credit. This is only available one order at a time. The Diocese must be in good standing with the National Office. National Dues must be paid and a good history of timely payments in the past. (This does not apply to Regional Encounters, which would be considered consignment.)

Inventory:

There are several items in inventory, which need to be sold due to overstock of the item. The items are: a.) Crucifixes #300 – discounted to \$4.00 each from \$6.00; b.) *Origins and Development of the Cursillo* by Fr. Rohloff (English and Spanish) discounted to \$2.50 from \$5.00; c.) Cursillo 2000 pens – 50 cents each, with minimum order of 25 pens. The 20% affiliation discount does not apply of these sale items.

Diocesan or Regional Invitations:

When your diocese or region extends an invitation to any member of the National Staff for a visit, we ask that you pay for their expenses. All payments should be made out to the National Cursillo Movement and mailed directly to the National Cursillo Center, P.O. Box 210226, Dallas, Texas 75211. If the National Coordinator is coming on their own then they will be responsible for their travel expenses.

NATIONAL PALANCA INTENTIONS

Let's continue to join the National Cursillo Movement of the United States in offering *palanca* for the following intentions: Mondays for all Secretariats – national, regional and diocesan; Tuesdays for all School of Leaders; Wednesdays for all Cursillistas in the United States; Thursdays for the Cursillo Movement's Apostolic actions; and Fridays for all 3-Day Cursillo Weekends.

Your Servants in Christ,

Victor Lugo – National Executive Director

Jorge Barceló – National Spanish-speaking Coordinator

Joachim Le – National Vietnamese-speaking Coordinator