

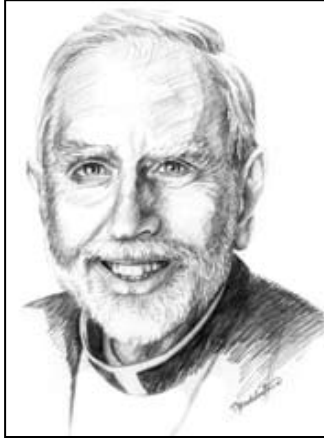


The Cursillo® Movement

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October 2006

To: National Mailing Recipients
Fm: National Cursillo® Center
Re: October National Mailing



Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas

DE COLORES

The “Little Course” that has had a huge impact on the spiritual lives of millions of people around the world since 1949 is once again, after more than a year of reorganization, an active movement here in the Diocese of Tucson.

“Little Course” is the English translation for “Cursillo,” which is popularly known as the three-day weekend of intensive spiritual reflection and exploration. The movement grew out of the desire of a group of young people in post-World War II Spain to be more involved in their Catholic faith.

Over the years since its introduction in our Diocese, this movement, under the leadership of Bishop Manuel Moreno, touched the lives of many women and men seeking to know the Lord.

Deacon Keating Ackerley, along with others, strengthened the movement and opened the Cursillo Center in Stanfield. Now, a new Cursillo Secretariat under the leadership of Dick Goddard has been formed.

While I had had contact with Cursillistas in Chicago and here in our Diocese and while I had heard the testimony of many about how the Cursillo has changed their lives, I had not made a Cursillo. As our Cursillo was reorganizing, I promised Deacon Armando Valenzuela, the movement’s new spiritual director, that I would make the first Cursillo to be scheduled in our Diocese.

So, it was my privilege and joy late in June to be among the first group of men to participate in our renewed Cursillo.

As I joined a number of other men for the Cursillo at Immaculate Conception Parish in Yuma, I was a little anxious about what I was getting in to. I did not know any of the participants nor what the experience would be like. I almost backed out, knowing that I was leaving on vacation the day after the Cursillo was to end and that I had lots of work to finish. As we gathered for the first time in the community room at Immaculate

Conception, I met those with whom I would share the Cursillo. They were mixed in age and background. These men, too, were obviously a little anxious about what lay ahead. Only one, Father Joseph Nietlong, was a priest. We all looked at one another as if to say, “what have we gotten ourselves in to?”

Father Jim Hobert, pastor of St. Monica Parish in Tucson, was among the spiritual directors for the experience.

I know and trust Father Jim as a dedicated, hard working priest. It was obvious that he valued the experience, giving up his time to be with us. I expected that he would have a lot to offer and he did. Deacons Nick DeLaTorre and Dan Mulloy were part of the team. I had ordained these men deacons just several years ago. It was delightful now learning from them.

A number of experienced cursillistas – Oscar Chavez, Dave Clark, Dick Goddard, Barney Krull, Joe Medina, Manny Sanchez, Rogene Small, Tony Tellez, Jose Aranda, Steve Campuzano and Roy Trevino – were the lay members of the team, each taking some part in making presentations, organizing the events and cooking and serving the meals.

Cursillo is an intensive and engaging experience. We worked and prayed long into the night. There were instructions on the faith. There was time for personal and communal prayer. There was time to discuss and learn about the faith life of those who shared the experience. There were a number of touching and surprising moments.

While I won’t give away the specifics of the Cursillo, I can say there were times that many of us cried and were moved during the retreat, especially when experiencing how powerfully God loves us.

Bishops and priests spend our lives leading others in prayer. The Cursillo was a chance to reflect on my own life of prayer and my relationship to Christ. The leaders were very solicitous not to let me be “the bishop,” but a participant learning like the rest. I appreciated that.

Since my Cursillo, Number 484, there has been another in English for women that took place in Yuma, as well as another in Spanish for men and another for women, also in Spanish. I hope their experience was as powerful as ours.

One of the things that amazed me was the interest and eagerness of the men to learn more about their faith. They were totally engaged. They reflected openly about their faith journeys and some of their shortcomings and some of the challenges in their lives. Our openness mirrored the openness of the team, who gave of themselves totally for us that we might have a meaningful experience of the Lord.

Cursillistas often say to one another, “De Colores.”

The title of a beautiful song that borrows from Mexican folklore, “De Colores” (In Colors) expresses the joy of living and the beauties of creation. Considered by many Cursillistas as

the movement's theme song, the song calls us to a joyful realization of God's love and of the presence of Christ in ourselves as well as in others.

You can read about Christ, you can hear others talk about Christ, but when you experience Christ and the power of His love, it makes all the difference. I take pride in being among those for whom the Cursillo was an opportunity to meet Christ in a fuller way. I pray that the Cursillo will thrive and be a movement that touches the lives of many in our Diocese. "De Colores."

Most Rev. Gerald F. Kicanas, D.D.
Bishop of Tucson



THANK YOU, MARIA!!!

Thank you to Maria Cruz for her dedication and commitment to the National Cursillo® Movement! Maria started her employment at the National Cursillo® Center in Dallas, Texas, on April 11, 1983. She retires on September 30, 2006, with over 23 years of service to the National Cursillo Movement. All of us, at one time or another, have spoken with Maria on the phone when placing a book order, inquiring on Cursillo, or updating diocesan information. Some of us were fortunate to meet and visit with her at the National Encounters. Over the 23 years, Maria's responsibilities grew. She prayed for us, explained Cursillo, referred Cursillistas to their Lay Directors, processed Encounter reservations, served meals for the National Secretariat during their meetings, organized the National Cursillo® Gift Shop, translated materials, and the list goes on. She will be greatly missed by all of us. We wish Maria many blessings in the years to come. Thank you, Maria, for being an example of Christ - serving all of us Cursillistas throughout the years!

CURSILLISTA BEYOND THE CURSILLO

Following is an explanation for reintroducing this Rollo on the Cursillo weekend. In many places this Rollo has been dropped from the weekend schedule and if it is given, it is not given in the sequence that was originally intended.

Eduardo Bonnín has expressed concern and cannot understand why it was dropped. In his opinion, Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo is vital in understanding the Total Security Rollo which follows it. It contains many of the points that are sometimes given in what is now known as the 4th Day Witness Rollo at the Closing. Although the Cursillo has evolved in some ways since its beginning, there has always been a specific purpose for each day and for each Rollo being presented at a specific point in the unfolding of the weekend. This is the only way the complete message of Cursillo can be delivered and experienced.

The overall message is missing when a piece (Rollo) of the picture is presented out of sequence. It is like giving a person a box containing a jigsaw puzzle but without a picture or reference on the outside of the box. They have all the pieces except they don't know how they fit together. This Rollo gives the candidate a picture of the whole so that the pieces can then be fitted together.

This is the purpose of the Rollo and why it is important that it be given on the weekend and in the proper sequence.

- **It sums up and synthesizes all that they have heard**
- **It helps the candidates to concretize the message of Cursillo within themselves**
- **It bridges the gap between the personal aspects of Cursillo: the encounter with self and with Christ**
- **To the social aspect, the encounter with others: in Group Reunion and Ultreya**
- **It then points the way ahead, towards the 4th Day**

The 4th Day is not healthy in many places; many are not grouping or attending Ultreya. The question often asked is: How can we get people to commit to the 4th Day? Did we ever present it to the candidates in a convincing manner? On the Cursillo weekend, did they hear that we have a solution to the problems and dangers that they might face in the world? Are we convinced that we have found a solution? Did they understand that the solution is:

- **Contact with Christ.**
- **Contact with their brothers and sisters.**

The method is alluded to but not explained. They hear the terms “Group Reunion” and “Ultreya” and it makes them curious. The candidates need to hear at the end of the three days:

- **What they will be.**
- **What they will have.**
- **What they should know.**

They need to hear it summed up in simple terms. They need to hear from the rollista that he/she is convinced that what they have experienced and what they are feeling is real and that it can be lived. That they can respond to what they have heard: To live as Christ in the world is not to lose anything, but to increase the value of one’s own life. The Cursillista evangelizes his/her environment by:

- **Encouraging others and infusing life.**
- **Their actions are supported by their piety and guided through the method of the Cursillo.**
- **Life can be a perennial Cursillo.**

This particular rollo is primarily a witness rollo. It sums up the whole of the weekend to that particular point in time, coming as it does between the Christianity in Action Rollo and Total Security. Its purpose is to center in the candidate all that they have heard to that point, to help them to concretize the message within themselves.

At this point in the weekend the candidates are not only tired, they are in transition, perhaps reluctant to leave and yet eager to get going with all their apostolic plans. This Rollo cautions them, while encouraging them by the conviction and witness of the rollista. It lets them know that because they contributed the simple things asked of them, God has showered them with His Grace.

It reminds them that they did not come to Cursillo just for themselves, that they have changed, but their environments are the same as they were when they left. They have the

mission to lead them to Christ; to bring others to Christ. The Rollo communicates their response to the mission. Eduardo prefers the word possibility vs. responsibility. Responsibility means the obligation to answer for something, and, possibility is the capacity or ability to do something or not do it. Nobody likes to feel obligated to do anything. It is easier to get a response when people are told that they have possibilities. When people are asked to take on responsibilities they usually think twice before committing themselves, but when they discover their possibilities they assume the responsibility.

Cursillo has awakened in us a lot of possibilities and we have the mission of sharing them with others because God wants it this way. We respond before God and before the Church the “Mystical Body”. The world gets lost, because there are few Christians who live and act as Christians. This Rollo points out two possible dangers that the candidates may face when they return to their environments. The first is a lack of humility, believing “that we are important and indispensable” because we just attended a Cursillo; and the second, a lack of confidence, believing that we cannot do anything to cure those ills. Nothing good can be done without Christ and with Christ all things are possible; “Christ and I an overwhelming majority”.

If the Study of the Environment rollo has been well presented, the Cursillistas will be much better prepared for what he/she has to face. The Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo Rollo gives hope that we, as Cursillistas have found a method to continue what was experienced in the Cursillo, and not only maintain it but to have it grow. It bridges the gap between the personal experience of encountering self and Christ and the social aspect of Cursillo, the encounter with others.

The Rollo sketches the kind of person the Cursillista should be: an active apostle, someone who works in a dedicated way for Christ. The Cursillista should be a witness of Christ, one who carries on His mission; someone who brings Christ to their environments of family, neighborhood, workplace, social, etc. If the Cursillista does not understand what he/she should be, the Cursillo has not communicated the right message.

A few final admonitions are made to help the Cursillistas avoid making some of the “classic” mistakes. One of the most common problems is caused by the tendency to think that everyone should do the same thing. Their apostolic action is carried out in different ways, according to their potential and personal circumstances, but they all have a common purpose, to build up the Kingdom of God through evangelization.

The Cursillista should not leave the Cursillo expecting that everyone will understand them. They will find people who are prejudiced against the Cursillistas, and even some who might have the sad mission of making the figure of Christ unfriendly. The Cursillista must aspire to live in Grace in the normality of life. There is a tendency for people who have just found Christ to think that living as a Christian is incompatible with normal life. They will tend to feel that they must give up all their old friends, their pastimes, their entertainment, their social life, etc. Sometimes changes need to be made. Occasionally a person will lose an old friend, and perhaps some other things. The difference the Cursillo makes should not be that they be out of touch with reality. What should distinguish them is their love of Christ, the joy and optimism that comes from knowing Him. This is where they are being called to live their life in Grace.

The Cursillista should be like leaven in dough. We've got to see to it that in each environment there is an effective person who gives life to the environment. They should bring the ideas found in the Cursillo into society. They must do it by means of sharing their Piety, Study and Action, increasing their life in Grace and their awareness of it through Group Reunion and Ultreya; this is, making life a perennial Cursillo.

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.

NATIONAL CURSILLO GIFT SHOP

Our online store has items available for sale with the patented Cursillo® emblem. If you are looking for gifts for family and friends (early Christmas shopping) we encourage you to visit our online store. We appreciate your business and support of the National Cursillo® Gift Shop. You can visit our on-line store by going to the gift shop website www.nationalcursillogiftshop.com or through a link on our National Cursillo® Movement website, www.natl-cursillo.org.

DONATIONS

The National Cursillo® Movement gratefully welcomes your donations. Your financial support advances the evangelization function of the Movement and is eligible for tax deductions purposes.

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