



## FOUNDATIONAL CHARISM OF THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT

To continue our formation of the Foundational Charism, we allude to the recap of the talks presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> National Encounter, centered on the realization that God loves us.

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How is it possible for us to come to the realization that God loves us? How can we help our brothers and sisters to come to this marvelous realization - that God loves all of us?

First, each one of us must allow oneself to be open to a relationship with oneself. This openness with oneself leads to a healing and personal relationship with God, His son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

*More on page 2*

## THE JOURNEY THEME IN LUKE'S GOSPEL



This (liturgical) year, the Sunday lectionary features readings from Luke's gospel. Each gospel proclaims that the good news of our salvation (our right relationship with God) is best understood by looking closely at the life of Jesus. The gospel writers' strategy is to invite readers to identify with Jesus and the disciples in the story, and so learn to follow Jesus.

### Jesus' Life Is a Journey

More than any other gospel writer, Luke structures his gospel life of Jesus according to the pattern of a journey. The journey structure is a familiar one for understanding our human lives. It is a natural way to

*More on page 4*

# National Mailing

### Inside this issue:

FOUNDATIONAL CHARISM	1
THE JOURNEY THEME	1
2004 AFFILIATION FEES	6
Evangelization Walk	4
ENCOUNTER 2004	6

### CURSILLO TRIPOD

- PIETY → HOLINESS
- STUDY → FORMATION
- ACTION → EVANGELIZATION

Through this relationship with oneself, we begin the process of being free from the many conditions that the world has put on us; that we have put on ourselves, that we have put on each other, in order to be loved. Only in Freedom does man reflect his qualities of Person. Freedom of these conditions allows us entrance into the personal relationship of friendship with oneself and personal relationship of friendship with Jesus Christ.

We begin the journey of comprehending that God loves us as His creation; tall, short, thick, thin, dark skin, light skin, richer, poorer, etc. The simple, yet overwhelming awareness and acknowledgement of God's love for us, will free us. We were created with Freedom – Freedom to be sincere and accept ourselves as the person that we really are, and free to accept the person that our brothers and sisters are.

The acceptance of oneself fosters a true permanent friendship that will enable us to help each other get from where we are, to where we ought to be, which is a continual discovery of: "Who am I?" "Who is God?" and "Who is my brother and sister? Or better yet, to help our brother and sister discover their true self.

To cite a favorite saying of our brother Cursillista, Tony from Covington, Kentucky, when asked what he thought his role was in the Cursillo Movement, "It's about one beggar showing

another beggar to the bread line."



The truth is that the Absolute; the Creator of heaven and earth; the visible and invisible; the Alpha and the Omega already love us. All we are doing is reacting to this great love that God has and continues to provide to us in every moment of our life.

"Being Christian" is to accept the reality that God loves us and to allow His love to transform us in order for us to actualize Christ. It is to allow Christ to incarnate Himself in us in order that everything we say or do reflects the love of God in us and the love of God for others.

It is through a sincere disposition of our relationship with oneself, God, and others that we are capable of loving every person that God has placed before us, beginning with oneself. To discover God

as He is, it is necessary to present ourselves to Him as we are. It is not about where we want to place ourselves, but where God has placed us, in our home, work, and recreational environment.

We actualize Christ in each moment, i.e.: in the time and place of our existence, for the past does not exist nor the future - only the present; the time and place where you are at this precise time. We ferment the environment with the Good News that God loves us. The likeness of God will emerge in our brothers and sisters when they are aware of God's love for them, and with that knowledge and experience they will discover that they themselves can begin to actualize Christ in their true self.

This relationship with oneself will enable us to have a continual encounter and personal relationship with Jesus Christ, which is living out our Baptism of Priest, Prophet, and King. This personal relationship with Christ will make us more conscious and ever growing in Grace. The life in Grace enables us to discover and to be aware of the vocation, talents, and potential that God has gifted us, responding in accordance with our capabilities and possibilities, in the triumphant building of the Kingdom of God.

We must faithfully and continually persevere in this progressive conversion so as to

deepen the experience of our discovery of oneself, God, and others.

The Cursillo Movement has provided us with a method that we have come to know as the tripod to continue this progressive conversion. However, we must live it.



Accordingly, our piety is nothing more than our true intimate friendship with Christ in order to continue our journey toward holiness. Our study must be a true change of our mentality in order to continue to know who we are, who God is, and who are our brothers and sisters. This way we may continually form our mind in order to put on the mind of Christ; the mind of the Catholic Church. Our action must be a true change of our aptitude and attitude. An aptitude and attitude that must always be in line with the divine will of God, which is to live Christ's two greatest commandments - to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus Christ, in promoting and sustaining his belief in these two commandments, showed us His

loyalty to his convictions by going to the cross.

Living our tripod in all the normal situations and circumstances of our normal daily life with all its inputs, outputs, and feedbacks will enhance our criterion so as to always make better decisions on how to live and grow more effectively, and affectively, in the three friendships; with oneself, with Christ, and with our brothers and sisters.

The enhancement of our criterion is the results of our Christian life shared in our permanent intimate friendship group reunion. Remember, a Christian life that is not shared will not be lived. And if it is not lived it is not shared. The most profound form of sharing is Friendship.

Sometimes we get caught up in doing Christian things without being Christian. This will always "de-center" us from being Christian. Being Christian is Life; Life is the constant challenge to the truth of oneself. We must constantly remind ourselves that the only thing that should concern us is: "What does Christ want me to be, and what does Christ want me to do?"

This is living the Foundational Charism of the Cursillo Movement, - living our baptism to the fullness in order to discover our vocation and to have the conviction to carry out the vocation that God has given each and every one of us 24/7.

When we discover the exclusive image of oneself and the irreplaceable love of God within oneself, we find an unending fountain of Joy. This is the true joy of knowing and living God's love through us, with us, and in us. This is how we consciously fulfill the words of our Lord, King and Redeemer Jesus Christ: "They will know you are my disciples by the way you love one another."

Wherever we are, the world will be able to see us and say:

"Look, how those Christians love each other."

"Look, how those Catholics love each other."

"Look how those Cursillo Leaders love each other."

"Look how those Cursillistas love each other."

**De Colores!**



## THE JOURNEY THEME IN LUKE'S GOSPEL

pull together our experience of changes in space – going from the starting point through a transition to a new place – and time – from the past where we have lived, through the present where we now live, toward the future where we hope to live.



### The Journey Pattern

The familiar journey pattern (from – through – to) also describes Jesus' gospel life. He comes *from* God to become human in Mary's womb. He moves back toward God *through* a life of service dedicated to establishing God's kingdom community in Galilee. He confronts opposition and is crucified. But he is rewarded by God with new life and finally returns *to* God to continue the relationship begun here on earth. And he invites each of us to follow and imitate this journey with him.

### His Journey Is Our Journey

This journey of Christ is also the pattern that each Christian must follow. His journey is our journey too.

Like him, we begin our lives

with a birth whose conditions have been set by God not us. We are part of a divine place that shapes and guides all creation into the right relationship with God through Christ. Besides our unique human body, there is a divine dimension to us – what the biblical writers call God's "image". We are always "more" than our body and yearn to return to the mystery of God from which we came. Like him, we are invited to commit ourselves in baptism to a relationship with God and with others who have chosen to follow him and belong to his kingdom community.

Like him, we are invited to dedicate ourselves to a ministry of service to build up this kingdom community. Like him, we will be challenged to pay the cost of our commitment. Like him, we will have to pass through death to achieve the goal of being eternally with God.

### Our Emmaus Journey

As we move through this year with Luke, then, like the two disciple going to Emmaus on that first Easter morning (24:13-35), we want to recognize that Jesus is our constant companion on the journey. He is always present to open the scriptures to us in our reading, reflection and prayer. He is present to share our household and eucharistic meals. His daily presence

transforms us into witnesses of his resurrection.

Our year will be a success if we are able to say with these journeyers, "Were not our hearts burning within us as he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?"

Steve Mueller

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## THE NATIONAL EVANGELIZATION WALK

The National Staff plans to make the shirts and brochures available for the Walk in late January of 2004. Please send your orders for the shirts with an estimated number of different sizes to meet your community's needs by January 1st, 2004.



**NATIONAL CURSILLO  
AFFILIATION FEE INVOICE FOR “2004”**

**Please remit to:  
National Cursillo Center  
P.O. Box 210226  
Dallas, TX 75211-0226**

Please complete this form:

**Region**\_\_\_\_\_

**Diocese**\_\_\_\_\_

**Language**\_\_\_\_\_

**Check #**\_\_\_\_\_

**Payment due January 2004 for the amount of \$400.00 for each language element.**

**Remit the completed form and Affiliation Fee to the above address, and make a copy of the invoice for your records.**

**If you have any questions, you may call 214-339-6321 or E-mail:**

**[nationalcursillo.center@verizon.net](mailto:nationalcursillo.center@verizon.net)**

**Thank you for your support.**

## National Cursillo Center

Most Reverend James Tamayo, Bishop of Laredo, TX, Episcopal Advisor

Rev. Pedro Garcia, Grand Rapids, MI, National Spiritual Advisor

Jorge Barceló – National Spanish-speaking Coordinator

Joachim Le – National Vietnamese-speaking Coordinator

Victor Lugo – National English-speaking Coordinator



### THE ANNUAL NATIONAL CURSILLO ENCOUNTER 2004

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual National Cursillo Encounter will be held in Seattle, Washington State, from July 29 to August 1, 2004. The theme is “UNITY WITH CHRIST: Love should always make us tell the truth” (Ephesians 4:14-16). Please mark your calendar to attend the Encounter.

### 2004 AFFILIATION FEES

This is a reminder to all Lay Directors and Spiritual Advisors that the 2004 Affiliation Fees of \$400.00 are due January 2004 for each diocesan language element. The Affiliation Fee entitles each language element a 20% discount on orders of literature and materials totaling at least \$50.00. Invoices for the Affiliation Fees will not be mailed separately in order to reduce the number of mailings. Instead, the invoice is being attached to the last page of this mailing. Please print the invoice and use the form to submit your Affiliation Fees.

Actual Affiliation Fees for fiscal year 2003 (FY2003) received were \$79,363.00, an increase of \$17,513.00 from FY 2002. The budgeted amount for FY 2003 was \$98,400.00 (246 language elements x \$400). National Cursillo did not receive Affiliation Fees from 45 language elements, which contributed to a deficit of \$18,000.00 in Affiliation Fees. For FY 2003, 2 of the 12 regions paid 100% diocesan Affilia-

tion Fees. Region 2, with 24 language elements, paid \$9,600.00. Region 4, with 16 language elements, paid \$6,400.00. This is the second year that Region 4 has fulfilled their financial obligation. We would like to thank all Cursillistas who worked diligently in FY 2003 to submit their Affiliation Fees. We ask your continued attentiveness to this matter for FY 2004. If there is a language element that needs an extension, please contact the National Cursillo Center and state your reason for this extension. We will work with you on the extension.

### NATIONAL MAILINGS

If you receive the National Mailing through the US Postal Service but are able to obtain it through our Cursillo WEBSITE; [www.natl-cursillo.org](http://www.natl-cursillo.org), let us know so we may update our records. Please contact us at [nationalcursillo.center@verizon.net](mailto:nationalcursillo.center@verizon.net), 214.339.6321 or Fax 214.339.6322 to let us know if you no longer need the National Mailing mailed to you.

On behalf of the National Secretariat and Staff, we wish you and your family a Joyful and Peaceful Christmas Season and a Happy New Year.

Your Servants in Christ,

Jorge Barceló – National Spanish-speaking Coordinator

Joachim Le – National Vietnamese-speaking Coordinator

Victor Lugo – National English-speaking Coordinator

