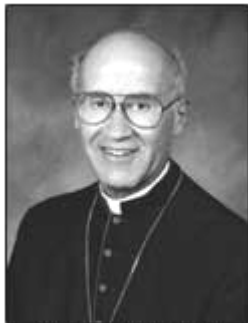


December 2004

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

We are blessed to share this article with you from Most Reverend Victor Galeone, Bishop of St. Augustine. We ask all lay directors to ask their Bishops if they have a Cursillo experience they would like to share in our National Mailing:



*Bishop Victor Galeone*

**“By their witness and example, they (the laity) can make the gospel an appealing message to their neighbors, coworkers, and fellow students, who might never cross the threshold of a church.”**

**My dear Friends in Christ,**

**I want to tell you of the marvelous experience I had at Camp St. John the weekend of Oct. 1-3. I made a Cursillo. I admit that I was less than enthusiastic about participating in this event, due to the many pressing demands on my agenda. But as the bus rolled off the campgrounds on Sunday evening, I realized that the Cursillo was one of the best religious experiences of my life. Bear in mind that my relationship with the Lord was pretty much the same after the Cursillo as it was before. Why, then, all the enthusiasm? Because I witnessed firsthand the love and dedication of our laity for the Lord and his church. The testimony of those Cursillo lay leaders moved me profoundly. I found myself repeatedly asking, “If I were married and had a family to support, would I be risking my job to defend my faith like that?”**

**The Cursillo movement is an excellent way to form lay leaders, as the documents of Vatican II challenge us to do. The Vatican II document, Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People (Apostolicam actuositatem, Nov. 18, 1965), pointed out that in a secular society, which continues to lose its moral bearings, it’s the role of the laity to act as a leavening in the decadent atmosphere of our age. The laity can enter where priests and sisters have no access. By their witness and example, they can make the gospel an appealing message to their neighbors, coworkers, and fellow students, who might never cross the threshold of a church.**

**Some ten years ago, a Lutheran pastor wrote a book in which he compared the Catholic Church to a sleeping giant. He opined that if Catholics should ever awaken to the fullness**

of the truth and beauty that is their heritage, they would bring about the greatest religious revival our nation has ever known. I am personally convinced that the Cursillo Movement is one of the most effective means to revitalize our lay people to assume the role that is rightfully theirs by reason of their faith and baptism. So if someone should invite you to participate in the next scheduled Cursillo weekend, please say, "Yes." You'll be spiritually the richer for it, and so will the church.

+ Victor Galeone,  
Bishop of St. Augustine

*(Excerpt taken with permission from Bishop Victor Galeone article from the St. Augustine Catholic Magazine November/December 2004 issue)*

## **BLESSINGS AND RECAP OF THIS PAST YEAR**

We give thanks and praise to God for His abundant love, mercy and compassion. He, and only He, has blessed the National Cursillo® Movement this year.

We would like to take this opportunity to recap a few of the year's events, which were communicated in more detail in prior National Mailings.

### **Personnel**

In January the Executive Committee selected our new National Executive Director – Victor Lugo. In September the Executive Committee selected a new National English-speaking Coordinator – Ceferino 'Cef' Aguillon, Jr. Also in September Barbara Jones, Editor for the Ultreya Magazine ended her employment due to the discontinuation of the Ultreya Magazine. (February, September and October National Mailings)

### **Cursillo Canonical Recognized by Vatican**

The Cursillo Movement has been historically recognized by the Catholic Church. From its beginning, with an impulse through the wide door of the Church; it received canonical recognition. It was at a May 2002 meeting with Cursillo representatives that Pope John Paul II encouraged the process of discernment that led to the official decree on June 11, 2004. (July National Mailing)

### **Financial**

The current Finance Committee did an excellent job getting our finances in order. We had a preliminary audit in May and a final audit in October for our fiscal year 2004.

The Finance Committee also established a new method for publication sales and for payment of National Affiliation fees. (October National Mailing)

### **Publications**

The National Cursillo® Center published a new book in English – The 1<sup>st</sup> Conversations of Cala Figuera. We also published one Cursillo book translated in Vietnamese – Our Fourth Day.

### National Encounter

The National Encounter in Seattle, Washington was sold out with 630 participants. We were truly blessed by the presence of Archbishop Alex Brunnet, Archbishop of Seattle; Bishop Charles Grahmann from Diocese of Dallas; and Bishop James Tamayo, National Episcopal Advisor from the Diocese of Laredo. (September National Mailing)

### Evangelization Walk

We had many successful Evangelization Walks throughout the United States. We are thankful to all that participated and we look forward to the Evangelization Walk 2005.

### Ultreya Magazine

The last publication of the Ultreya Magazine, August/September 2004 edition, was mailed in August. After 44 years of publication, we are grateful for the many witnesses shared through this magazine.

### e-Ultreya Website

We thank the computer network group for developing a web version of *e-Ultreya*. To submit your 4<sup>th</sup> Day witness, go to the National Cursillo® Website at [www.cursillo.org](http://www.cursillo.org) and click on “*e-Ultreya Magazine*”. By clicking on “submit an article” you can type your witness article and submit it to the editors. After being reviewed, your article may be posted to subsequent editions. This allows all Cursillistas, in the United States and the world, the opportunity to read your witness on what is fundamental for being a Christian.

### Thank you Cursillo Leaders

Thank you to all Cursillistas who serve the Cursillo® Movement. To those serving at the National, Regional, and Diocesan level – thank you for your dedication and perseverance. We appreciate all Cursillistas who are faithfully offering prayer and *palanca* for the work of the Cursillo® Movement. Truly, God has bestowed graces on the Cursillo® Movement this past year because of your faithfulness.

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.

The National Cursillo® Center is looking forward to continuing the work of serving God and His people through this gift of Cursillos in Christianity.

God bless you and your families during this blessed Advent season.

Your Servants in Christ,

Victor Lugo – National Executive Director  
Ceferino Aguillon – National English-speaking Coordinator  
Jorge Barceló – National Spanish-speaking Coordinator  
Joachim Le – National Vietnamese-speaking Coordinator  
Maria Cruz – National Cursillo® Office Staff  
Vicky Sarg – National Cursillo® Office Staff