



The Cursillo[®] Movement

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December 2006

To: National Mailing Recipients

Fm: National Cursillo[®] Center

Re: December National Mailing

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ADVISOR



Fr. Einer R. Ochoa

Unity comes from Jesus Christ and without Him there is no unity. He came to make unity possible. *“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”* Matthew 18:20.

“That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” John 17:21.

The unity of Christians is encompassed in the testimony of their vocation, their call. It is the living sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Our unity is the reflection of the unity of the Holy Trinity.

“So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.” Philip 2:1-2

In his letter to the Church at Corinth, St. Paul advocates for unity in the body of Christ. He is addressing the issue of division when he writes, *“I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” or “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Cephas,” or “I follow Christ.” Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?”* 1 Cor 1:10-13. He urges and exhorts Christians to adopt attitudes of reconciliation, and take action to avoid division and to promote unity. *“Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.”* Philip 2:3-5.

Unity is therefore a goal for all Christians. It is especially a challenge for Christians involved in Cursillos of Christianity.

In the history of the Church there have always been tensions among Christians. Difficulties which arise because we cannot agree on a certain issue or course of action should not be ignored nor should we pretend that God is going to resolve them. God wants unity but He acts through human beings.

We are morally obligated to discern when there is disunity and to do something to correct it by identifying the causes and working to restore unity.

Conflicts come from:

- **negativism**
- **Hostility**
- **Personal differences**
- **Pride**
- **Fundamentalist perception of the Word of God**
- **Misunderstanding**
- **Seeking control or power**
- **Personal agendas**
- **Prejudices**
- **Criticism**
- **Selfishness**

But can be resolved by:

Positive attitudes and virtues
Self-control
Empathy
Humility
Correct study of the Word of God
Openness
Good stewardship
Selflessness
Charity
Enthusiasm
Generosity

Personal differences should never hurt or destroy human beings and their relationships. What is more important is the unity, integrity, and purpose of the Cursillos of Christianity since we believe it to be the work of the Holy Spirit. Our mission therefore is to *share* with others what is fundamental for being a Christian: the love of God lived in the reality of authentic *friendship*; a reality which invokes, promotes, and sustains *unity*.

We should be faithful to the original foundational charism envisioned by the founder of the Cursillo Movement. We are encouraged to live out our Cursillo tripod of piety, study, and action; and especially the study of Cursillo literature because a solid grounding in the authentic method would reveal the flaws of a different approach to the Cursillo Movement method.

We would also avoid the common misconception of believing that the mission of evangelization is doing what needs to be done for the sake of evangelization no matter what the means. There are even some who have “evangelized” individuals to become candidates instead of persons to love.

It is easy to fall into these traps when our lives have not been transformed by the love of God, when we are not thankful to Him and others, when we have fallen into the sin of “*elitism*”.

There is hunger and thirst for God in our times. We cannot afford to be distracted by our own shortcomings; by our assumptions that our own personal methods and ways are the best. We need to remember that we have been given a great gift for the good of others; that the Cursillos is the work of the Holy Spirit, and an excellent way of Christian life, and that

we have been called to a life in the Spirit, a life of service. Just ask yourself this question: “Where would we be today, if it were not for our Cursillos?”

What we need is to strengthen the Spirit of God in us. We need especially to be aware that we need one another; that we need to avoid isolating ourselves from others and to seek opportunities to be with others. The ideal that we strive for is to know ourselves better. And we especially need to pray constantly and to do it with Faith, Hope, and Love. The mission to serve is there for us if we are willing to be good stewards of the Cursillo Movement and true disciples of the Lord. We should take up the initiative of fostering and strengthening unity. We should seek, with all our hearts, minds, and bodies, to be sensitive to others and to love them and respect them wherever they are in their own journey of faith. We need to strive to build the mystical body of Christ, the church in our particular environment. We need to grow in our Catholic faith and concentrate on what unites us because unity in Christ is not here or there but inside each and every one of us.

There is a call from Christ

One way to God

One Spirit

One Baptism

But many ways to live this call in an authentic humility of heart.

It is only the acknowledgement of the value of humility as a personal value that will dignify and spur us to promote unity in the Body of Christ, and Love is the most important of all the Charismas of the Holy Spirit.

Let us all therefore strive for a more authentic, Christian, loving, sincere, united and service-oriented Cursillos of Christianity. And let us undertake this great challenge, this magnificent mission to which we are all called, in the spirit, the confidence, and the knowledge, that Jesus *is* the way, the truth, and the life.

De Colores!

TOTAL SECURITY

This rollo should be the bridge between the Cursillo and the Postcursillo. It is a guarantee to a joyful perseverance. During the three days we experienced and lived the Grace; we want to secure it during our 4th day.

What is insured? Whatever one does not want to lose. We want to guarantee the treasure discovered at the Cursillo. *The life of Grace in our 4th day. Grace that is conscious, growing, and shared.*

Christian sharing, sole cause of sanctification on account of the jubilant reality of the Mystical Body of Christ, is especially made possible by friendship. That is the deepest, most pleasant, and efficacious form of all human “living together”.

This is encountered in the Group Reunion, which is friendship elevated to the level of the transcendent. A guaranteed channel that allows for the most efficacies in the minimum

amount of time to bring Christianity into life and into the world, to bring it into all those things that happen in the Mystical Body of Christ.

Total Security cannot be given successfully unless certain conditions have been met. First of all, the piety rollo must have been clear and effective and the Service Sheet clearly explained. Secondly, the vision of apostolic action in the Cursillo must have been clear and convincing.

In the past, the Total Security rollo was renamed “Group Reunion and Ultreya”. This may not seem to be a big deviation, however, when we in our Movements understand Cursillo only from the perspective of and within the context of the weekend, changing the name of a rollo leaves the message of the rollo open to adaptation and therefore the true message is neither understood or delivered by the rollista, nor is it received by the candidate.

If on the other hand, the rollista and in fact, all the Leaders, have a deep and thorough understanding of the purpose of the whole Movement, then perhaps the name of the rollo is not so important. The message will come through because the rollista understands its goal. It is unfortunate but true, that in many Movements the Cursillistas learn about the Movement only through the preparation of the rollos. This is a travesty.

If we look at the 4th Day in many places, we realize sadly that it is failing. This isn't because the method is faulty, it is because we haven't understood it and few are living it.

Total Security is presented as something that is of benefit rather than something that will cost something, i.e. added commitment, another reunion or meeting, etc. We can all make time for those things that are important to us (our health, sports, our favorite TV program, exercise, etc.)

Total Security not only centers on the sharing and friendship among conscious and growing Christians, but it shows by explanation and personal witness how the two methods of the Postcursillo program fulfill the needs of the apostle. A structure can be deadening. If someone maintains a structure for the sake of the structure, they will find the structure a burden and a source of death. A structure or technique is of value only when people want to do something and are looking for the means to accomplish what they want. Holding a hammer in the hand is a major obstacle to using your hand, unless you actually want to hammer something.

We do not find “Total Security” by attending Group Reunion and Ultreya, we find Total Security by coming to understand that God loves us, unconditionally, i.e. “there is nothing that can separate us from the Love of God found in Christ Jesus”. Total Security in this context does not mean that life is now free of worries and problems. It simply means that in finding friendship with Christ, we come to understand how God loves us. It is the Group Reunion and Ultreya that give us support and helps us to continue the process of conversion in which we deepen our friendship with Christ, becoming more and more convinced of God's love which is where we find Total Security.

We need tools to live well. The Group Reunion and Ultreya are one of the chief values of the Cursillo, one of the greatest treasures that the Cursillo contains. It is worth going to a Cursillo just to be able to make Group Reunion and live the Ultreya.

“We must bear in mind that Group Reunions are not held so that there may be more people to attend the Cursillos, but the Cursillos are held so that there may be people to make a Group Reunion.” (Structure of Ideas, p. 80).

The purpose of the weekend is to have people ready to make a Group Reunion. Great effort must be placed on the importance of this rollo and its message. The second purpose of this rollo is to clarify and to emphasize certain points of the Cursillo. It refers back to the previous rollos and “power ideas” shared during the three days; the joyful testimony of the rollista points out how they apply to “each person” so they may live what is fundamental for being Christian.

The Group Reunion thrust of the rollo is aimed at the reunion of friends; it is not directed to a mere reunion, but so they may share what is fundamental for being Christian in the tone of a reunion of friends. Too often the failure of the Group Reunion and the subsequent dropping away is due to beginning a reunion without a deep friendship, and then feeling the constraint of non-acceptance, finally causing one to leave in pain and disillusionment. This is the insistence for the need to find a friend to share with, one who accepts us right where we are.

The Ultreya is the second half of the perseverance method. Both the Group Reunion and the Ultreya must be lived if maximum growth is to be achieved. Either one by itself will eventually lead to disillusionment and discouragement, or to a stoppage of personal growth. The Group Reunion is for the spiritual growth of the individual person and those in the group. The Ultreya is for the spiritual benefit of the Community.

The form that is used for sharing is the basic Group Reunion sheet: “I am counting on you”. While no great effort should be made to insist on this form, it does set a starting place for the new participants. The true emphasis is placed on sharing our Tripod of Piety, Study, and Action. Those sharing in the example of a Group Reunion should use this form.

After the rollo, the Rector, contrary to the way the decurias were originally distributed, asks the cursillistas to gather in groups by their parishes, environment, or friendships established during the Cursillo to share in group reunion. This group reunion has proven to be of a greater help than any theoretical explanation or any exemplary reunion by the leaders. Since the time in Cursillos is very limited, the Rector may have a preliminary distribution of the groups, but all should have the freedom to group with whomever they desire.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2006

NATIONAL ENCOUNTER

The theme for the 16th National Encounter was *“Speak, Lord, your servant is listening”*. The Encounter was held at Villanova University in PA, July 20 – July 23, 2006. There were 600 Cursillistas in attendance and many new friendships were made.

DIOCESAN

In fiscal year 2006, 89.5 percent of the language groups were affiliated. There were five new affiliated groups. There were several Diocesan workshops conducted by the National Staff.

REGIONAL

The National Staff visited the dioceses in four Regions: Region X – English, Region IX – Spanish, Region VII – Vietnamese, Region VI – Spanish, and Region III – English. The National Staff also participated in several English, Spanish, and Vietnamese Regional Encounters.

LITERATURE

The National Cursillo® Center completed revision and publication of National Cursillo® Movement's materials and books:

- English – “Cursillo Manual”, “Leaders’ Manual”, “Pilgrim’s Guide”, “Cursillo, What it is?”, Service Sheet, Group Reunion Sheet, and Cursillo Carnet.
- Spanish – “Cursillo Manual”, “Leaders Manual”, “Service Sheet”, “Group Reunion Sheet”, and “Cursillo, What is It?”.

Reprinted publications:

- English – “Fundamental of Ideas” and “Our Fourth Day”.
- Spanish – “Fundamental of Ideas”, “Structure of Ideas”, “Cursillo Carnet”, “Pilgrim’s Guide”, and “Our Fourth Day”.
- Vietnamese – “Our Fourth Day”.

NATIONAL MAILINGS

There were 5 National Mailings, each in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese:

- February 2006: address by Reverend James Tamayo, National Episcopal Advisor on the OMCC, address by Victor Lugo to the Cursillistas, and the Action Rollo.
- April 2006: address by Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain, Bishop of Diocese Little Rock, to the Cursillistas, and the Leaders Rollo.
- June 2006: address by Most Reverend Bishop Edward Kmiec, Bishop of Diocese of Buffalo, to the Cursillistas, and the Study of the Environments Rollo
- August 2006: address by Fr. Einer Ochoa, National Spiritual Advisor, to the Cursillistas, and the Christianity In Action Rollo.
- October 2006: address by Most Reverend Gerald Kicanas, Bishop of Tucson, and the Cursillista Beyond Cursillo Rollo.

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

The National Secretariat met in July and November 2006 at which time, two Executive Committee members were selected. Eight new Regional Coordinators were commissioned to serve on the National Secretariat. The National Secretariat is made of the twelve regions of the United States. The Regional Coordinator from each language group in each region serves on the Secretariat.

OMCC - WORLD ORGANIZATION of the CURSILLO MOVEMENT

In January 2006, the seat of the OMCC (Organismo Mundial de Cursillos de Cristiandad) was transferred to the United States. The National Secretariat elected five cursillistas to serve on the OMCC Executive Committee. The OMCC Executive Committee represented the World Cursillo Movement at the 2nd World Congress of Ecclesial Movements and New Communities in Rome. The Congress ended on the Eve of Pentecost with our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI conducting vespers. Bishop James Tamayo and Ceferino Aguillón joined the OMCC Executive Committee in Mallorca, Spain to spend a week with our founder Eduardo Bonnín.

The OMCC is currently holding its 1st Ordinary International Meeting in Dallas, Texas from November 30 – December 3, 2006. Cursillistas from Australia, Korea, Columbia, Gibraltar and Canada are attending this meeting. Please continue to keep them in prayer.

EVANGELIZATION WALK

Nine dioceses participate in an Evangelization Walk this year.

E-ULTREYA WEB SITE

The e-Ultreya magazine continues to post witnesses from Cursillistas. It can be found on the National Cursillo[®] Movement web site, www.natl-cursillo.org. Every issue is viewed by thousands; however, since its initiation e-Ultreya has encountered surprising difficulty obtaining witness articles. We encourage you to go to www.natl-cursillo.org and click on “e-Ultreya” and submit your witness.

NATIONAL CURSILLO GIFT SHOP

The National Cursillo[®] Gift Shop website was developed and officially placed on-line in 2006. Please visit the National Cursillo[®] Gift Shop at www.nationalcursillogiftshop.com and browse through the Christmas Specials by clicking on the “Specials” link.

NEXT YEAR'S 17th NATIONAL ENCOUNTER

Plans are being finalized for next year's 17th National Encounter. It will be held June 29 – July 2, 2007, at the University of Texas at Arlington in Arlington, Texas. The Encounter will begin on Friday instead of Thursday and end on Sunday evening instead of Saturday evening. Departure day and check-out will be on Monday, July 2, 2007. Keep this date open in your calendar. More information will be available soon.

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.

We wish you and your family a blessed Advent season and a Happy New Year.

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

Abraham Gonzalez – Office Support