



The Cursillo® Movement

National Cursillo® Center • P.O. Box 210226 • Dallas, TX 75211 • 214-339-6321 • Fax 214-339-6322 • www.natl-cursillo.org

December 2007

To: National Mailing Recipients

Fm: National Cursillo® Center

Re: December National Mailing

THANK YOU, BISHOP JAMES A. TAMAYO



Five years ago, during the month of November in 2002, the National Cursillo® Movement was blessed to welcome one of the Catholic Church's most tireless advocates for the laity, Most Reverend James A. Tamayo, D.D., Bishop of Laredo to provide spiritual direction and inspiration for the increasingly diverse Cursillo communities striving together for the greater glory of God, and the coming of the kingdom of peace on earth. Bishop Tamayo has generously given his time, his vast experience and dedication as a shepherd of Christ, to raise the bar of commitment and service high on behalf of his "special" flock: Cursillistas everywhere in the United States. This month marks the end of his term as National Episcopal Advisor.

His patience and kindness, his unique Episcopal talents, and his sustaining and uplifting humanity will be greatly missed. We count ourselves fortunate to have had this special servant of the Lord as our Spiritual leader, as our fellow Cursillista, and as a faithful friend of the laity, to be among us as a guide, mentor, and advocate. Know, Bishop Tamayo that your Christ-like example of piety, holiness, and service will serve as a constant reminder that God's love shines brightest when it shines through those dedicated to loving and serving God through the love and service of others. May the Lord bless you abundantly and abide with you always.

END OF THE YEAR MESSAGE by NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ADVISOR



As we approach the end of the liturgical year and immerse ourselves into the wonder of the season of Advent preparing ourselves to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ in history, awaiting for his coming to us every day, and preparing for his second coming, we turn our attention to the pillar of our fourth day, our spiritual growth, piety, study, action, group reunion and Ultreya. Our piety moves us to focus on the basic attitude of our hearts, and pray and strive to be authentic Christians avoiding the fallacy of being satisfied in doing Christian things.

In being conscious of living the life of grace, we strive to grow through everything we do: in our intimate individual life, family, at work, through our social life and civic involvement. In being prayerful and

committed, living in grace is our process of growing in divine life. Sharing in the “Moment Most Aware of Christ” convinces us of that. God is actively present in us all the time. Piety is life in Christ consciously growing as we intertwine our lives in the sharing of the love of Christ. It is the direction of one’s whole life to God.

As human beings, however, we realize the need for a plan, a method: a personal spiritual program. We need a system in our lives. We need to set realistic goals to aim at. We need the input of other Christians to reassure us at our level and challenge us to rise higher. Study is our basis for piety and action. A study focused always on life; study that immerses us deeper into the treasure of our Catholic faith to convert our hearts and make us life-givers...We want study that offers us true, useful, and practical knowledge to have a better formation, a Christian formation to help us change our minds. We want this formation to conform our own lives to God’s plan, so that through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, we will be divinely and humanly equipped to transform and animate our environments. This is the essence of discipleship as our Lord has called us to be.

The theme of the Fifth Latin American Bishops’ Conference in Aparecida, Brasil, on May 13, 2007, was “Disciples and missionaries of Jesus Christ for all the people of God to have life in Him.” “The church has the great task of taking custody and feeding the faith of the people of God reminding the faithful of this Continent that in virtue of their baptism they are called to be disciples and missionaries of Jesus Christ.”

Jesus commissions his disciples “Full authority has been given to me both in heaven and on earth; go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always until the end of the world.” (Matthew 28:18-20). Then he told them: “Go into the whole world and proclaim the good news to all creation. The man who believes in it and accepts baptism will be saved.” (Mark 16:15-16)

As we strive to live as good disciples of our Lord we realize the importance of spiritual direction as an important tool of spiritual growth. Spiritual direction guides us to submission to God and His will in order to live, love and learn to be at the service of others. It is an important component in the formation of the apostles of the Cursillo Movement. Spiritual direction transforms us into the loving plan of God for ourselves: “As high the heavens are from earth, so are my plans for you.” We submit to God under the spiritual director’s guidance. Spiritual direction is of utmost importance because it helps us to learn how to love God, others and ourselves. It also helps us to define our roles in the service of the church, to live a fuller life in Christ, to guide us on the way to Him and to concrete ways of service. Spiritual direction encourages us, enlightens us, and helps us to make decisions. It helps us to identify our virtues, and strengthen and improve those we need to. Spiritual direction guides us to wholeness, unity, and team collaboration. It is the mark of a true disciple.

“So we should be open;- to God, to know where He speaks and what He tells us;-to the world, to know and make ourselves sharers of the lot of our fellow human beings’ situations;- to ourselves, to know ourselves better and continue the process of constant interior renewal.” “We want to teach how to discover God in all creative, redemptive, and sanctifying work through the Word of God, the Sacraments, the Magisterium of the Church and all personal events and in the signs of the times.” (Leaders Manual)

Our conversion can stagnate if we keep talking – even to God- about the same old things in the same old way. We want a life that is all of that, a good pastoral personal plan for ongoing spiritual growth that involves a deep piety fueled by prayer from the heart, a solid study, and a dynamic and life giving apostolic action nurtured and celebrated in group reunion and Ultreya.

Prayer from the heart is the soul of the Christian person. It is the best tool for holiness and the best weapon against the power of evil. Prayer from the heart is the backbone of growing into being Christian. It is the main component of Piety. A direct and intimate experience of God is the basis of prayer from the heart. Prayer becomes exciting when we discover the Lord in our everyday personal events.

Jesus is our model of prayer. He prayed before major decisions spending time in intimate communion with the Father. The Holy Spirit compelled Jesus to go into the desert to pray for forty days before his public ministry. This is the source tradition for the devotion of the 40 hours adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Before choosing the Twelve, He prayed. Before He made the long, way to Calvary He prayed. Prayer was for Jesus communion with the Father. Communion means “working with”. Prayer aims at nourishing us and launching us to action. It does that by helping us to know, love and serve God.

Prayer is the raising of one’s mind and heart to God, or the petition of good things from Him in accord with His will. “Prayer is a conversation. In a conversation there is always an ‘I’ and a ‘Thou’ or you. In this case, the ‘Thou’ is with a capital T. The “Thou” is more important because our prayer begins with God. In prayer, the true protagonist is God. Man achieves the fullness of prayer not when he expresses himself, but when he lets God be most fully present in prayer.” (Crossing the Threshold of Hope by Pope John Paul II)

Prayer is the living relationship of the children of God with their Father, with his Son Jesus Christ, and with the Holy Spirit who dwells in their hearts. It expresses in vocal prayer, meditation, and contemplation. It finds its greatest articulation in adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, praise, and blessings. St. Paul encourages us to pray constantly, “Pray in the Spirit at every opportunity using prayers and petitions of every sort. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.” (Ephesians 6:18) Constant prayer is prayer from the heart. It is the constant attitude of love to God that prays with inaudible sounds. It is the ceaseless activity of the heart in a perpetual attitude of adoration and praise. It is the awareness of the presence of God in the inner recesses of our hearts.

Prayer is the light of the soul. A man, who is religious, is religious morning, noon, and night. The Egyptian monks prayed short prayers many times a day. They, in that way, avoided tiredness in saying long prayers all day long.

I would like to share some writing about prayer with you.

“We learn to pray learning how to listen, for in the silence of the heart God speaks. To be able to hear that silence we need a clean heart; for a clean heart can see God, can hear God, can listen to God; and then only from the fullness of our heart we can speak to God.” (At prayer with Mother Teresa. 1999)

“No matter how much our interior progress is ordered, nothing will come of it unless by divine aid. Divine aid is available to those who seek it from their hearts humbly and devoutly; and this means to sigh for it, in this valley of tears, through fervent prayer from the heart.” (St. Bonaventure)

“The true source of prayer is not an emotion but an insight. It is the insight into the mystery of reality, the sense of the ineffable that enables us to pray. As long as we refuse to take notice of what is beyond our sight, beyond our reason, as long as we are blind to the mystery of being, the way to prayer is closed to us.” (Abraham Heschel)

“Christian prayer is love. It is best understood in terms of love. Everything else we may say about prayer revolves around the fact that prayer is love.” (Fr. Edward Carter)

“The fruit of silence is prayer. The fruit of prayer is faith. The fruit of faith is love. The fruit of love is service.” (Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta)

“For me prayer means launching out the heart towards God; a cry of grateful love from the crest of joy or thought of despair; it is a vast supernatural force which opens out my heart, and binds me close to Jesus.” (St. Therese of Lisieux)

“The prayer of the mind is not perfect until the person no longer realizes that he is praying.” (St. Anthony of Egypt)

“Our awareness of our status as slaves would make us sink into the ground and our earthly condition would dissolve into dust, if the authority of the Father himself had not impelled us to this cry...”Abba Father!”...When would a mortal dare call God “Father,” if man’s innermost being were not animated by power from on high?” (St. Peter Chrysologus)

“However great may be the temptation, if we know how to use the weapon of prayer well, we shall come off conquerors at last, for prayer is more powerful than all the devils.” (St. Bernard of Clairvaux)

“After I enter the chapel I place myself in the presence of God and I say to Him. “Lord, here I am; give me whatever you wish.” If he gives me something, then I am happy and I thank him. If he does not give me anything, then I thank him nonetheless, knowing, as I do, that I deserve nothing. Then I begin to tell him of all that concerns me, my joys, my thoughts, my distress, and finally, I listen to him.” (St. Catherine Labouré)

“Talk to your Father, He is worried too!” (Anonymous)

Our fourth day unfolds as we grow spiritually, praying always in the expectation of the coming of the Lord to us everyday, celebrating his words and deeds, and preparing to receive Him at the end of times. This is our way to prepare ourselves to live eternally “De Colores!” in heaven in the company of the angels and saints, when the Lord will tell us; “Come faithful servant; receive the reward of your labor of love”.

LET US CELEBRATE OUR BLESSED MOTHER AS THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, PATRONESS OF THE AMERICAS – PRAY FOR US.

ST. PAUL, PATRON OF THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT – PRAY FOR US.

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A GRACIOUS NEW YEAR!

DE COLORES!

Fr. Einer R. Ochoa

STRUCTURE OF THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT

The Cursillo Movement is neither a structure nor an organization. “God did not become a structure, He became man”. (Eduardo Bonnín)

“Freedom of thought – The change of this world does not lie in the change of structures; it lies in the change of minds. When someone wants to suppress someone else, forbid him/her to think, because thought is the vital energy that moves this world.” (1st Conversations at Cala Figuera, #2 Freedom)

“There is an unquestionable fact that during the Cursillo Movement’s history, there have always existed two ways to understand it and by consequence, also two ways to conduct and guide its purpose. Some believe that it's only to give life to the structures and organizations that already exist, leaving them the same but always with a better spirit. Others believe that giving it the room to live, in the basic and minimal structure of Group Reunion, Ultreya, and the School, it can take the good news of the Gospel to all the most intimate areas of human, singular, family and social existence.” (1st Conversations at Cala Figuera, Life #8)

The Person

“The specific purpose of the Cursillo Movement is to make it possible for everybody to live what is Fundamental for being a Christian, to achieve the reality of the liberty of the person encountering the Holy Spirit. This will surpass any structure and will strike down any temptation to enclose and classify something that it is as natural and spontaneous as the individual encounter with the Gospel of Christ.” (1st Conversations at Cala Figuera, Life #8)

As outlined in Fundamental Ideas, #32-d, the founders opted to “Christianize those people responsible for creating or influencing the structures already in existence; give a Christian backbone to the world – structured as it already is.”

“If the individual human being and the world in general had in fact ceased to be Christian, despite outward appearances of being Christian, then:

The Cursillo Movement would not aim directly at doing Christian things, but instead would put all its emphasis on being Christian; because when one is Christian, one can do so much better whatever it is that has to be done. Apostolic action is of value only if it is the outcome of being Christian. Action that is not expressive of one’s innermost being lacks the force it needs to be effective, because it is not stamped with the unmistakable seal of vital commitment. At best, it

can serve only to ease the minds of people who believe that with a fixed quota of activities than can satisfy their obligations.” (FI 20-f)

The human race does not change. Since God’s creation it has remained substantially the same. The challenge and threats of this world to the men and women of today have the same old cause. That is, the active absence of God in the minds and hearts of people.

“As a matter of fact, we would dare say that the starting point of entire Movement was their profound perception of a reality. And that reality, as the founders saw it at that point in time, was as simple as this: a world with its back turned on God, Christ and the Church. They had a deep-seated conviction that life had ceased to be Christian, and that this was because the influence Christianity had on real life was just about nonexistent, even in so called Catholic circles.” (FI #17)

“The concept of person, which is in the essence and the Foundational Charisma of Cursillos, rejects the individualism in the same way as it rejected the “angelism” and the sacrificial masochism. From it flows our essential conviction on how to live and to be saved ‘in a cluster’ and on the certainty that you only live fully that which you share with others.” (1st Conversations at Cala Figuera, Person #1)

“Man is a being designed for Transcendence, and he transcends in the measure that he embodies now, in this world and in this life, his desire and his hope of seeing his life and his world transformed. In the human being beats a natural faith in all that is real which, necessarily, impels him beyond his time and his space.” (1st Conversations at Cala Figuera, Person #1)

“The human being as a rational and social animal, subject to rights and reality, at the same time transcendent and conditioned, is capable of loving and only in love will feel fulfilled and happy.” (1st Conversations at Cala Figuera, Person #1)

“When man comes to see in another, someone worthy of being loved, and therefore as essential as oneself, he is on the threshold of already being a person and being a Christian. A person is, then, one who knows himself to be capable of loving and worthy of being loved.” (1st Conversations at Cala Figuera, Person #1)

Group Reunion

The CM is the instrument for men to find themselves, realizing their existence, and that other exists; to embrace them with an ideal, and to communicate it to others. “The Friendship Group Reunion makes it possible to live out, in an authentic, continual, and progressive way, what is fundamental for being a Christian.” (FI #476) They listen to each other; they dialogue; they know and understand each other; they value and respect each other and learn to love one another.

“The Group spurs on the individuals within it; both the Ultreya and the Group Reunion give momentum to the work of evangelizing the world.” (FI #500) The group reunion achieves this in a normal and natural way.

Ultreya

Ultreya is the reunion of the groups. A group of Christians united in one faith, one Lord, one Baptism, in an attitude of progressive conversion. “The Ultreya spurs the Groups on towards

evangelization of their various environments...” (FI #500) They constitute an evangelizing community.

The only thing we can pass on to other people is the conviction and faith we have that Christ loves us. If we do not have it, we cannot pass it on, nor bring about change, leavening or fermentation in anything; attitudes, environments or structures.

The School of Leaders

“The School is an instrument of apostolic outreach to people who have lived the experience of a Cursillo weekend. It helps them discover, accept, and grow in their vocations, bringing them together so that together they can take on the responsibility of being leaders in the Church, in the Movement and in their respective secular environments.” (FI #532) The School of leaders is a School of holiness; a school of community and a school of formation.

The School is to the Ultreya what the team is to the 3-Day weekend. “Just as the team is what makes the Cursillo weekend possible, it is also a team that makes the Postcursillo possible.” (FI #513)

Secretariats

“The Secretariats exist to preserve the dynamic unity of the Cursillo Movement...” (FI #578)
“The Secretariats have as their foremost objective the inescapable duty of preserving, developing, actualizing and invigorating the mentality, the purpose and the basic core of methodology that defines and characterizes the Cursillo Movement as a Movement of the Church.” (FI #582)

The Diocesan Secretariat

This Secretariat is a small group of Cursillistas selected from the School of leaders for their sanctity, example and knowledge in the Cursillo Movement. It should serve in a Group Reunion climate. Its purpose is to safeguard that which is expressed in article #582 mentioned in this article above, guided by the principles of the School of holiness, community and formation; and to function and serve as outlined in Fundamental Ideas #593.

The Regional Secretariat

Besides being an agent to safeguard the Cursillo Movement’s mentality, essence, and purpose, the Regional Secretariat is also responsible for, but not limited to, the following:

- Determine the educational needs for the various diocesan Cursillo Movements within the region.
- Determine the educational needs of those attending Regional meetings and functions.
- Encourage the Regional Coordinating Group and Regional Service Team members to promote and conduct nationally recognized workshops throughout the region.
- Provide an atmosphere for open sharing among the various diocesan Cursillo leaders.
- Help ensure proper communication between the Regional leaders and the Cursillistas within the diocesan Cursillo Movements.

The National Secretariat

The National Secretariat is composed of all the Regional Coordinators for each language group that represents the twelve Regions of the United States, a National Spiritual Advisor, and a National Episcopal Advisor. “The National Secretariat is the service committee for an entire

country, appointed or recognized by the Episcopal Conference of that country as a means of communication, interconnectedness, and unified direction for all the Diocesan Secretariats.” (FI #594) This is achieved through the Regional Secretariats.

“The National Secretariat is responsible for the good conduct of the Cursillo Movement in the United States and, therefore, establishes policy for that purpose and retains all authority to implement its established policies.” (Articles of Operation; Article I, B)

The National Secretariat selects a total of four people (from the Regional Coordinators) (two each year) for a two-year term to act in their name between meetings of the National Secretariat. The National Secretariat meets at least twice a year to promote, evaluate, and update the National Pastoral Plan, and to assure the purpose of the Movement is achieved.

In addition to the basic responsibilities of other Secretariats, one of its main responsibilities includes promoting communication within the Cursillo Movement and maintaining relationships with International Cursillo bodies.

The OMCC

OMCC is the acronym for Organismo Mundial De Cursillos De Cristiandad. The OMCC, World Organization of Cursillos in Christianity, is composed of four International Groups: 1) **GLCC**, Latin-American Group 2) **GET**, European Working Group 3) **NA/CG**, North American and Caribbean Group and 4) **APG**, Asia Pacific Group.

The present Seat is in the NA/CG and the OMCC Executive Committee seat is in United States.

<p>GLCC Latin-American Group of the CM Seat is in Colombia</p>	<p>GET European Working Group Seat is in Gibraltar</p>
<p>Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica Dominican Republic, Ecuador El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay Venezuela</p>	<p>Austria, Belgium, Benin Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Germ-Spanish, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, U. Kingdom</p>
<p>NA/CG North American and Caribbean Group Seat is in Canada</p>	<p>APG Asia Pacific Group Seat is in Taiwan</p>
<p>Canada -English Canada -French Canada - Spanish Canada - Vietnamese Caribbean English United States - Vietnamese United States - English United States – Spanish</p>	<p>Australia, Australia Vietnamese Guam, Hawaii, Philippines Republic of Korea Saipan, Taiwan Thailand</p>

<p>OMCC Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OMCC seat rotates every four years among the International groups • Only International groups have the right to vote • OMCC designates the International Group for the next seat • The International Group select the National Secretariat to be the seat • The National Secretariat selects the Executive Members: • Meet at least every two years • Have World Encounters Periodically: • Unity of the essential points of the CM • Updating and revitalizing the CM • Share experience 	<p>Purpose/Objectives:</p> <p>It is the purpose of the OMCC to promote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fidelity to the Church and its teachings • It is an entity of Service (Not of Authority) • Promote the Dynamic Unity of the CM Worldwide • Mentality of the Founders • Fundamental Ideas • Conclusions of the International and World Encounters
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You may have noticed that the outline of the Movement’s Structure begins with the “person”; this is because all the efforts of the Cursillo Movement at all levels: Diocesan, Regional, National, and worldwide are intended for the purpose of:

Proclaiming the best news of the best reality:
That God, in Jesus Christ, loves us;
Communicated by the best means;
Which is friendship;
Towards the best of each one
Which is the person and his capacity of:
Conviction, Decisiveness and Constancy.

REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2007 (October 1, 2006 – September 30, 2007)

NATIONAL ENCOUNTER

The theme for the 17th National Encounter was “*God Is Love*”. The Encounter was held at the University of Texas in Arlington, Texas, June 29 – July 2, 2007. 800 Cursillistas attended. The National Cursillo® Movement also celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a pilgrimage to Waco, Texas where the first Cursillo was held in the United States.

DIOCESAN

In fiscal Year 2007, 89 percent of the language groups submitted affiliation fees. There are three new affiliated groups. There were several Diocesan workshops conducted by the National Staff.

REGIONAL

The National Staff visited the diocese in five Regions: Region III – English, Region VIII – Spanish, Region VIII – Vietnamese, Region VII – Spanish, and Region IX – 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 – “Structure of Ideas”, “Let’s Keep the Fourth Day Simple”, “Postcursillo, Group Reunion & Ultreya”, “Sponsor’s Booklet”, and “Reunion of the Group”.
- Spanish – “Vamos a Mantener el Cuarto Día Sencillo”.
- Vietnamese – “Pilgrim’s Guide”.

Reprinted publications:

- English – “Pilgrim’s Guide”, Cursillo, What is It?”, “Our Fourth Day”, “Group Reunion Sheets”, “Service Sheet”, “Leader’s Manual”, and “Cursillo Manual”.
- Spanish – “Ideas Fundamentales”, “Reunión de Grupo”, “Guía Del Peregrino”, and “Carnet”.

NATIONAL MAILINGS

There were 6 National Mailings, each in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese language:

- October 2006: article by Most Reverend Gerald F. Kicanas, D.D., Bishop of Tucson, and the *Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo* Rollo.
- December 2006: address by Fr. Einer Ochoa, National Spiritual Advisor, to the Cursillistas, *Review of Year 2006*, and the *Total Security* Rollo.
- February 2007: article on *Important Criteria or Principles on the Essence, Mentality and Purpose*, and *Precursillo*.
- April 2007: article on *Learning to Live the Message - A Journey through the Cursillo*.
- June 2007: address by Fr. Einer Ochoa, National Spiritual Advisor, to the Cursillistas, article by OMCC and *Postcursillo*.
- August 2007: address by Victor Lugo, National Executive Director to the Cursillistas, and an article on *School of Leaders*.

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

The National Secretariat met in November 2006 and June 2007. In November 2006, two Executive Committee members were selected. Six 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. In June 2007, the National Secretariat revised its National Pastoral Plan.

THE NATIONAL CURSILLO® WEB SITE

The e-Ultreya magazine continues to post witnesses from Cursillistas. It can be found on the National Cursillo® 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. The three volunteers providing the technical support to e-Ultreya have attempted numerous ways to keep this project going but have had little if any support from the National Cursillo Movement community. We encourage you to go to www.natl-cursillo.org and click on “e-Ultreya” and submit your witness.

CATHOLIC FAITH ENRICHMENT

In February 2007 the National Cursillo[®] Movement in partnership with Lighthouse Catholic Media, a division of Saint Joseph Communications began providing CDs on sound Catholic teaching. The details were posted on the www.natl-cursillo.org.

NATIONAL CURSILLO[®] GIFT SHOP

The National Cursillo[®] Gift Shop website, www.nationalcursillogiftshop.com, and the sale of Cursillo related items, are managed by the Center. Please visit the National Cursillo[®] Gift Shop and browse through the Specials. Your financial support advances the evangelization function of the Movement.

EVANGELIZATION WALK

Four dioceses participated in an Evangelization Walk this year.

18th NATIONAL ENCOUNTER

The 18th National Cursillo[®] Encounter will be held at the Catholic University of America, CUA, in Washington, D.C. on July 31 – August 3, 2008. The theme for the 2008 Encounter is: “*Christ Is Our Light*”. The Encounter will commence on Thursday, July 31, 2008, with the Keynote Address by Most Reverend Francisco González, S.F., and immediately followed by Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation, and Benediction in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The Encounter’s Fiesta will include time for one brief performance (song or dance) from the different cultures and ethnic groups in the National Cursillo[®] Movement. Dioceses wishing to be included in this program must contact Phyllis Winston at 202-723-6756 by May 31, 2008. The timeline for the Fiesta is limited, but we hope to accommodate each of the different cultural groups.

The registration cost is \$325.00 if you register by May 31, 2008. We strongly encourage you to make your plans now to attend the 18th National Cursillo[®] Encounter by sending the attached registration form to the National Cursillo[®] Center. You may also register on-line at www.natl-cursillo.org. Lodging capacity is 600 persons. Rooms will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. The Registration Fee includes transportation to/from Reagan International Airport only, three nights lodging, dinner on Thursday evening, 3 meals on Friday and Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday morning. Catholic University of America, CUA, is approximately 40 minutes from Reagan International Airport.

We invite you to go online at <http://visitors.cua.edu/CUAmmap.pdf>, to view a layout of CUA campus. While online you can also visit the City of Washington D.C. webpage at <http://www.dcvisit.com>, for more information about places to visit while in the area.

Please send Palanca for the 18th National Encounter to Sandra Coles-Bell at 7304 Carroll Avenue, #139, Takoma Park, MD 20912. The fax number is 301-891-0741 or you can e-mail your Palanca to Palanca2008Encounter@mac.com.

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

Let's continue to pray and offer Palanca for each other and the National Cursillo[®] Movement.

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

18th National Cursillo[®] Encounter Registration Form
Catholic University of America – Washington, D. C.
Thursday, July 31 – Sunday, August 3, 2008

Cost for the 18th National Encounter is \$325.00
(Please use a separate Registration Form for each registrant)

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY – THANK YOU – PLEASE FILL IN ALL THE BLANKS)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Work: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Preferred Language: _____

Diocese: _____ Region: _____

Gender (Circle one): Male Female Specify: Bishop, Priest, Deacon, or Religious _____

Lodging is assigned on the first come, first served basis. Two persons per room. Two rooms share a center bathroom. No single rooms. There are 3 - 4 floors for each hall, with stairs only, no elevators. Limited number of first floor rooms. Limited number of wheelchair accessible rooms.

If you wish to room with a specific person (spouse, friend, relative) then the other person's Registration Form must accompany this form. We will not guarantee your roommate if the forms do not accompany one another.

Roommate preference? (Circle One): Yes No If Yes, Name: _____

Special needs (Wheelchair/physically challenged): _____

Do you wish to participate with the Encounter Choir? (Circle one): Yes No

Make checks payable to: National Cursillo[®] Center

Credit Card payment: _____ Circle one: MasterCard or Visa (No Discover or American Express)

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name on Credit Card: _____

Send this form and payment to:

National Cursillo[®] Center
P.O. Box 210226 - Dallas, TX 75211-0226
Telephone: (214) 339-6321, Fax: (214) 339-6322, e-mail: nationalcursillo.center@verizon.net

Full payment of \$325.00 per person and this form must be received by May 31, 2008
Registration cost received June 1, 2008 – June 30, 2008 is \$375.00
Registration cost received July 1, 2008 – July 11, 2008 is \$425.00
Unable to guarantee lodging after July 11, 2008!

There is a \$40.00 non-refundable fee for all cancellations up until May 31, 2008. No refunds after May 31, 2008 – No exceptions! The National Cursillo[®] Center is responsible for the payment to the University even when you cancel.

Confirmation # _____ Office Use Only
