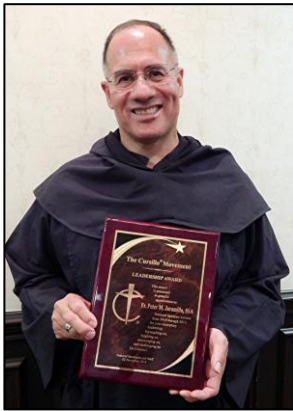


Cursillos in Christianity National Newsletter



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Message from Fr. Peter M. Jaramillo, SSA, Outgoing National Spiritual Advisor



Fr. Peter Jaramillo

The unforgettable Bible story of the ten lepers that were healed and only one who came back to give thanks is probably more par for the course for humanity amazing as it may seem. Somehow it seems so easy for us to take God and the people we love for granted. Ironically, the case may arise such as the death of a loved one or when tragedies occur around holidays, we might ask ourselves what can I possibly be thankful for at this moment in my life? Even when the Lord “giveth” and “taketh” blessed be the name of the Lord! Yet, one can still be thankful because God is the owner of life, “all creation, all times and seasons belong to him”. As Augustine says so well “you have created us for yourself and our heart is restless until it rests in You”. For those of us who have lost a loved one this year, I pray we do all that we can to trust in the Lord even when we don’t understand, ultimately we believe that our hope is in the resurrection and we know that our future is eternal life, to be with Him at the banquet table in heaven. If, we think that a homemade Thanksgiving meal can be delightfully fun with turkey and ham and all the fixings, imagine what Thanksgiving in Heaven could be like? What a joy it will be, I can hardly wait!

I want to take this opportunity to tell you how grateful I am for all the blessings and experiences that I have encountered during my ‘stint’ as National Spiritual Advisor with the Cursillo Movement from 2010 to 2013. I am grateful for the leadership of the National Secretariat members who worked so hard to accomplish much over the last few years; I am grateful to the priests and deacons who labored with me on the S.A.M. (Spiritual Advisors Manual) committee and for the leadership of Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, National Episcopal Advisor. Let me also to take this opportunity to introduce Fr. Alex Waraksa, a priest from the Diocese of Knoxville, TN and presently Diocesan Spiritual Advisor of Knoxville, as the new National Spiritual Advisor and Rev. Mr. (Deacon) Gary Terrana from the Diocese of Buffalo as the Assistant Deacon Spiritual Advisor. I am happy to pass on the torch of leadership of Spiritual Advisor that I have carried for these past few years. Recently, I have shared with them my hopes for the future especially with the promotion of Spiritual Advisors’ Workshop Teams to be strategically placed throughout the nation to support clergy renewal and to help safeguard the charism that is Cursillo. As we close this Year of Faith I pray for the blessings to continue to shower upon the Cursillo Movement in the USA and to renew a greater desire for holiness and evangelization in the year ahead beginning anew with this Advent Season. Asking for your prayers and giving thanks to God for the blessings as I move forward in Ultreya with Cursillistas in the Lord.

De Colores!

Fr. Peter M. Jaramillo, SSA

Fr. Alex Waraksa, National Spiritual Advisor



Fr. Alex Waraksa

The National Secretariat and National Staff extend a warm welcome to Fr. Alex Waraksa as National Spiritual Advisor for the Cursillo Movement in the US. Fr. Alex grew up in Oak Ridge, TN. He was ordained a priest in 1990 for the Diocese of Knoxville, TN and has served in 10 different parishes, 5 as associate pastor and 5 as pastor. Fr. Alex is currently associate Pastor at St. Patrick Church in Morristown, TN and the 5 Rivers deanery coordinator of Hispanic Ministry, which gives him responsibilities in other parishes as well for Spanish speaking parishioners. He has also served in the past as Diocesan Youth Director and Director of the office of Worship and Liturgy and as a teacher at Notre Dame High School in Chattanooga, TN. Fr. Alex lived his 3-Day Cursillo in September 1997 and has served on most Cursillo Weekends in his diocese since then. Fr. Alex has also served as Region 4 Spiritual Advisor since 2009 and has attended most National Encounters since 2006. Congratulations Fr. Alex!

Deacon Gary Terrana, Assistant Deacon Spiritual Advisor



Deacon Gary Terrana

The National Secretariat and National Staff extend a warm welcome to Deacon Gary Terrana on his selection as Assistant Deacon Spiritual Advisor for the Cursillo Movement in the US. This is a new position approved by the National Secretariat effective November 2013. Deacon Terrana lives in Niagara Falls, NY and is married to Gail for 35 years. They have one son and daughter-in-law and two grandchildren. Deacon Terrana was ordained a Permanent Deacon on June 26, 1999 and currently serves in the Diocese of Buffalo, NY. He lived his Cursillo Weekend in February 1986 in the Diocese of Buffalo. Deacon Terrana is currently assigned to serve at St. Jude the Apostle Parish in N. Tonawanda, NY. He serves as the Diocesan Pastoral Care Coordinator at Niagara Falls Memorial Center in Niagara Falls, NY and Spiritual Care Counselor for Niagara Hospice in Lockport, NY. Deacon Terrana has served on several Cursillo Weekends and National Workshops including Cursillo de Cursillos. He has attended National Encounters, NACG Encounter, World Ultreyas and World Encounters. Congratulations Deacon Terrana!

National Cursillo Center Highlights for Fiscal Year 2013

Administration

Distribution lists are being created in an effort to improve communication at the national, regional and diocesan levels. National Cursillo census data was collected from 78% of total dioceses in the US. This data indicates there are approximately 783,565 Cursillistas who have lived a Cursillo Weekend.

Following is the breakdown:

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|--------------------|------------------------|
| English: 396,552 | Filipino: 6,276 |
| Spanish: 365,071 | Portuguese: 1,460 |
| Vietnamese: 12,555 | Native American: 1,651 |

Therefore, the projected data for 100% census participation will be approximately 1 million Cursillistas in the US. Compliance documents such as Investment Policy, Financial Procedures, Whistle Blower Policy, etc. were reviewed and updated. The National Cursillo Movement is an active core-team member of the Catholic Ecclesial Movements and New Communities.

Resource Center

Introduced new books from FEBA, Foundation of Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló, such as Eduardo Bonnín, An Apprentice Christian. Added gift items to the National Cursillo website such as Cursillo Caps, Cursillo Lapel Pin, Cursillo Pendant, and Cursillo Ballpoint Pen. You can view and purchase these items at <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/orderl.html>. Book sales increased by 11% and printing cost was reduced by \$10,000.

Donation Center

Implemented the \$3/YR Donation Campaign. Total received as of 11/27/13 is \$18,223.66.

Event Center

The 2013 National Encounter attendance was up 53% from 2012: 650 participants in 2013 vs. 425 participants in 2012. A contract was signed with Chapman University in Orange, CA for the 2014 National Encounter and a 5-yr Strategic plan for National Encounters has been developed.

Finance and Operation

Managed the National Cursillo Movement expenses and budget. The net income is up 225% from 2012: \$63K vs. \$28K. Two office staff personnel were hired for stable operation of the National Cursillo Center. Patrick Anderson is the Office Manager and Liliana Recio is the Office Support.

\$3/YR Campaign Update

As of November 27, 2013, the National Cursillo Center has received a total donation amount of \$18,223.66. Thank you so much for your continuous support and generosity!

The National Encounter voucher will be issued to each diocese according its donation at the end of December 2013. The 2014 National Encounter registration fee will be determined based on the campaign donation amount received by the end of December 2013. The more you donate, the possibility of lowering the registration fee can become a reality and therefore, more Cursillistas can join us at Chapman University in California for next year's National Encounter! Please continue promoting the Campaign by all means of communication such as Friendship Group Reunion, Ultreya, School of Leaders, Regional Encounters, workshops, personal contact, group email etc. For more information about the \$3/YR Campaign, please visit <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/donate/>

2014 National Encounter

The 2014 National Encounter will be held from July 31st to August 3rd at Chapman University which is located in the historic City of Orange, California. Chapman University offers the ideal setting for our National Encounter with a wide array of facilities and services. A cozy chapel, a historic 950 seat auditorium, state-of-the-art meeting rooms, air-conditioned residence halls and innovative meal menus are available for all activities of our event. For more details, you can check it out at <http://www.chapman.edu/about/index.aspx>. There are only 950 seats available. The registration form

will be available on January 15, 2014 and it is expected to be a fully packed National Encounter at Chapman University. See you there – bring a friend!

Cursillo Resource Center (CRC)

Cursillistas, please take time to visit the Cursillo Resource Center at <http://www.cursillo.org/resources/>. The CRC offers video, MP3, and PDF documents on various topics of Cursillo. Workshop presentations from the National Encounter held at Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH and Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY are also available via the CRC. The information found at the CRC is offered for personal study and to compliment what is being studied in the School of Leaders. Feel free to copy the link to CRC and send to all your Cursillo friends. Help us promote the Cursillo Resource Center website.

Reminder - New E-Mail Address

The new e-mail address for contacting the National Cursillo Center is admin@natl-cursillo.org. All Diocesan Secretariats are asked to communicate this change to the School of Leaders and Fourth Day Community. Effective January 2014, the old e-mail address, nationalcursillo.center@verizon.net will no longer be used.

On behalf of the National Secretariat, National Staff, and National Cursillo Center Staff, we wish you and your loved ones a blessed Advent Season, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

De Colores!

Hoang Tran – National Cursillo Service Administrator
Ceferino Aguillon, Jr. – National English Coordinator
Juan Ruiz – National Hispanic Coordinator
Joachim Le – National Vietnamese Coordinator