



Cursillos in Christianity National Newsletter

National Cursillo Center • P.O. Box 799 • Jarrell, TX 76537 • 512-746-2020 • www.natl-cursillo.org

Bishop Emeritus Carlos A. Sevilla, S.J., National Episcopal Advisor for Cursillo



Bishop Carlos A. Sevilla, S.J.

Bishop Sevilla was born on August 9, 1935 in San Francisco, CA and entered the Society of Jesus, more commonly known as the Jesuits, in 1953. Bishop Sevilla was ordained to the priesthood on June 3, 1966. He furthered his studies at the Jesuit enkolleg in Innsbruck, Austria and the Catholic Institute of Paris, France. He made his solemn profession as a Jesuit on April 22, 1974. On December 6, 1988, Pope John Paul II appointed Bishop Sevilla Auxiliary Bishop of San Francisco, CA. Archbishop John R. Quinn, now Archbishop emeritus of San Francisco, ordained him Bishop on January 25, 1989. On December 31, 1996, Bishop Sevilla was named the sixth bishop of Yakima. In August 2010, he reached the age of 75 and submitted, as church law requires, his letter of resignation to Pope Benedict XVI.

On May 31, 2011, when the seventh bishop of Yakima was installed, Bishop Sevilla became Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Yakima. After consultation with the Bishop and the Jesuit Order, he continues to live in Yakima and is active in ministries there and wherever requested. Within the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bishop Sevilla serves as a member of the Sub-Committee for Hispanic Liturgy, and a consultant for the Committee of Hispanic Affairs. Bishop Sevilla lived his Cursillo in Cowiche, WA in 2003. He was approved by unanimous decision of the National Secretariat to serve a 5-year term in the position of National Episcopal Advisor for the United States Cursillo Movement effective October 1, 2014.

Advent Reflection by Fr. Alex Waraksa, National Spiritual Advisor

Jesus is coming. He came before and he will come again, but he wants to come into our lives each day. Hopefully we welcomed him with a profound love on our 3-Day Cursillo Weekend. But have we prepared to welcome him into our hearts regularly during our 4th Day with a commitment to authentic Piety?

Our Piety reminds us to search for him in our 4th Day, to prepare for his coming, to be aware that his grace is always available. Are we making space for Jesus in our daily lives? Advent can become extremely busy with multiple Christmas parties before the actual day of Christmas. Will the joy and peace of Jesus' birthday be apparent to us without a prayerful preparation?

For Study, the Church invites to reflect with the prophets on the holy waiting that occurred before Jesus' birth. A hopeful anticipation can still be ours as we stir up the belief that God has many spiritual gifts, or presents, waiting for us. Are our desires set upon what God wants to give us, or set upon what we want God to give us?

The peace of Christmas comes with our ability to accept God's will for our lives. Do we accept God's will only when we realize that it won't change to be according to our plans, to give us what we want? Or do we accept it with a complete openness like Mary accepted the gift of Motherhood. She did not know all the challenges, trials and sufferings that it would bring. Neither perhaps did she know the joy, wonder, inspiration, love, and eternal glory and honor it would bring.

Mary's Action accompanied her "Yes". As Christmas approaches, many people are open to actions of charity and perhaps to conversations about faith and the meaning of Christ's coming. May the Holy Spirit help us recognize the opportunities to evangelize that come in this holy season of Advent. Re-connecting with people that we might do so only once a year provides an opportunity also to share our faith with them and to pray for them.

Our call to Action is a call to service. Preparation for Christmas provides many opportunities for service. Many organizations in the church and charities outside of the church organize efforts to help the poor. We can help by a donation or by our time.

This Advent let us wait with an open heart for the gift of a Savior and the gifts only He can bring. God offers Jesus to the world. Jesus offers Himself on the cross. How do we offer ourselves to God and to others through our Piety, Study and Action?

National Cursillo Center Highlights for Fiscal Year 2014

Administration

- Distribution lists of Spiritual Advisors, Lay Directors, and Regional Service Teams are being finalized for better communication among diocesan, regional, and national groups.
- The National Cursillo Movement is an active core-team member of the Catholic Ecclesial Movements and New Communities that hosted the 1st Celebratory event on August 9, 2014 in Maryland with more than 1,000 participants from more than 20 Movements and New Communities in the United States.
- The National Cursillo Movement was invited by EWTN to record 2 episodes about the Cursillo Foundational Charism, essence, purpose, mentality, methodology, etc. The episodes will air in the spring of 2015.

Resource Center (Bookstore)

- The National Cursillo Center introduced several books from FEBA, Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló Foundation, such as Historia y Memoria de Cursillos, Evidencias Olvidadas, III Conversaciones de Cala Figuera, Cristianos en Rodaje by Valentín Galindo, Study of the Charism in English and Spanish from OMCC/NACG, and the Vietnamese version of the Spiritual Advisor's Manual.
- Several gift items were added to the National Cursillo website such as bookmarks, travel mugs, bumper stickers, tote bags, stylus pens, baseball caps, etc. You can view and purchase these gift items at <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/order1.html>.
- Printing cost was reduced by \$10K.

Donation Center

- Continued to promote the \$3/YR donation campaign. Donations received total \$46,252 as of November 20, 2014.

Event Center

- Planned and implemented the 24th National Encounter which was held at Chapman University in Orange, CA in July 2014. Total attendance was 655 Cursillistas.
- Finalized contract with Villanova University in Philadelphia, PA where the 25th National Encounter will be held.
- Dr. Ralph Martin will be the keynote speaker during the 25th National Encounter.

Finance and Operations

- Managed expenses and budget, net income up 33% from 2013: \$81K vs. \$61K.
- Installed new office phone system and desktop computers at the National Cursillo Center.

\$3/YR Campaign

As of November 20, 2014, the National Cursillo Center has received a total donation amount of \$46,252. This amount is up 6% from September 2014. The National Cursillo Center has issued 58 vouchers worth \$6,800 to the dioceses that donated \$200 or more to the campaign. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to offer 2 free National Encounter tickets to Lay Directors who are working hard to revive or establish Cursillo in their areas. The National Cursillo Center also provided four \$200 bookstore vouchers to 4 other dioceses that are re-establishing Cursillo.

The 2015 National Encounter registration fee will be determined based on the \$3/YR Campaign donation amount received by the end of December 2014. Therefore, the more you donate, the possibility of lowering the registration fee can become a reality and thus, more Cursillistas can join us at Villanova University in Philadelphia for next year's National Encounter!

Please continue promoting the \$3/YR Campaign by all means of communication such as Friendship Group Reunion, Ultreya, School of Leaders, Regional Encounters, workshops, personal contact, group e-mail, etc. For more information about the \$3/YR Campaign, visit <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/donate/>. Thank you so much for your continuous support and generosity.

2015 National Encounter

The 25th National Encounter will be held at Villanova University in Philadelphia, PA from July 23-26, 2015. Villanova University is a Roman Catholic institution of higher learning founded by the Order of Saint Augustine in 1842, offering the ideal setting for our National Encounter with a wide array of nice facilities and excellent services. You can check it out for more details at <http://www1.villanova.edu/main/about.html>.

Dr. Ralph Martin, a well-known international speaker, author and Cursillista, will deliver the keynote address at the 25th National Encounter. The registration form will be available on January 15, 2015 and there are only 750 seats available. It's expected to be a fully-packed National Encounter at Villanova University. See you there!

Cursillo de Cursillos (CDC)

Cursillo de Cursillos is a course that has provided Cursillistas with a treasure of knowledge and a living experience of what is essential in the mentality, essence, purpose, and methodology of the Movement in light of its Foundational Charism. This course has provided many Cursillistas with an opportunity to discover the immense possibilities that Cursillo has to offer the person and the Church.

To-date, Cursillo de Cursillos is the most effective course available for Cursillistas wanting to learn about the Foundational Charism of Cursillo. Every Diocesan Secretariat in every diocese of the 12 regions in the United States should ask their respective Regional Coordinator to provide a Cursillo de Cursillos for their community. The goal of Cursillo is to communicate God's love through friendship in the moveable square meter where God has placed us at this exact moment. Therefore, make the decision today to attend a Cursillo de Cursillos and allow the Charism of Cursillo to form you, inform you, and transform you. Christ is still counting on you!

Visit <http://www.natl-cursillo.org/resources/cursillodecursillos.pdf> to read the article, *Cursillo de Cursillos, Opportunities & Benefits* and view a list of Cursillo de Cursillos scheduled for 2015 - 2016.

Cursillo Resource Center (CRC)

The CRC was introduced in 2012. The CRC is designed to provide resources and information about the Foundational Charism of Cursillo. The CRC is not a School of Leaders or a training center, but a hub to disseminate official information regarding the Cursillo Movement. The information is offered to compliment what is being studied in the Diocesan School of Leaders. The National Cursillo Language Coordinators are providing these tools and resources to help Cursillistas in spreading the Good News that God loves us to others in their moveable square meter where God places them at any given moment! The information is presented in text, video, and MP3 audio so feel free to read, listen, or download the format of your preference.

The CRC website data for past 12 months indicates that Cursillistas are accessing the information; however, your help is needed to communicate to other Cursillistas that these resources are available through the CRC.

- The CRC webpage averages 220 unique visitors per day and 80,300 total visitors per year.
- There are 78 text articles in the CRC.
- There are 17 videos and 18 MP3 files in the CRC.
- Added 4 new videos and 1 MP3 this year:
 1. Eduardo History Video in Spanish is the most popular of all material in CRC with 580 plays and the Eduardo History Video in English with 353 plays.
 2. Evangelization through Conversion Video in English.
 3. Purpose, Mentality, and Method Video in English.
 4. Benefits of Affiliation Video in English.
 5. Evangelization through Conversion MP3 in English.
- Added 12 text articles this year.
- There were 3,187 total video plays during the past 12 months (8.7 per day).
- There were 1,243 total audio plays during the past 12 months (3.4 per day).

- Text articles are by far the most popular CRC download (average 417 downloads/day)
- The Cursillo Resource Center (CRC) is the most popular Cursillo webpage.

Donations to continue the development of the CRC are greatly appreciated. Send donations to the National Cursillo Center, PO Box 799, Jarrell, TX 76537. Visit the Resource Center at <http://www.natl-cursillo.org/resources/>

A special and sincere ‘Thank You’ to Dale Platteter, National Cursillo Movement Webmaster for volunteering his talents and service for the last 10 years. A consequence of his service translates to zero \$\$\$ in production and maintenance cost and a website that is available 24/7!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

The National Secretariat, National Staff, and the National Cursillo Center personnel wish you and your loved ones a Blessed Advent Season, a Merry Christmas, and a New Year filled with God’s peace, friendship, and joy!

De Colores!

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