



# The Cursillo® Movement

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## COMMUNICATION

*Source: Presented by Ceferino Aguillón, Jr. at the National Cursillo Encounter held at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio - July 20, 2012*

### Introduction

Greetings from Texas! My name is Cef Aguillon. I lived Cursillo in the Diocese of Victoria in February 1986 and I sat at the table of St. Paul.

It is good to be here with you at Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH. For some us, this place brings back a lot of memories. Personally, I felt like the Apostles did when the Holy Spirit came at the time of Pentecost. This campus turned into a day of Pentecost as 650 Cursillistas who attended the 13<sup>th</sup> National Encounter in 2003 listened to the 1<sup>st</sup> Conversations at Cala Figuera. We had 65 tables setup with 10 Cursillistas per table. During that National Encounter, we listened to the 10 topics of the 1<sup>st</sup> Conversations: Person, Freedom, Love, Friendship, Conviction, Sincerity, Criterion, Life, Normality, and Joy!

The Holy Spirit is here today just as He was in 2003, just as He was in your Weekend, just as He was during Pentecost so let us be aware of His presence and movements as we continue this encounter and this presentation on Communication!

Before I continue though, I would like to thank Antonio Punyed, a Cursillista from Mallorca, Spain for what I am about to share with you. This is the talk he presented during the III Conversations in Mallorca during May 2011. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Today's Charism of Cursillo is the same Charism of the 1940's. May this talk and all the others we will hear and have already heard at this National Encounter enkindle in each of us a desire and hunger to continue our journey of discovery of the great gift we have come to know as the Foundational Charism of Cursillo!

### Encounter

The purpose of the Cursillos in Christianity Movement is the *shared living of what is fundamentally Christian* and its essence is the *joyful communication of being Christian*. The kerygmatic message of Cursillos is not for putting it away in a safe place, but to communicate it and by means of this joyful communication, transform our environments "to be" Christian. The very word kerygma indicates there is something to declare, to announce, or to proclaim. The announcement must be proclaimed by witnesses - the conviction with which the proclamation is made must be conveyed in terms of real life. The proclamation is carried out by "testimony of life," which is the radiation of faith, hope, and charity.

The communication with oneself, leads us to an "encounter", to a self-discovery and a discovery of others, always taking into account their point of view, their concept of the world, their interests, and their ideology. Putting ourselves aside, we go out to meet them, aware that this otherness will allow us to be aware of the other communicating our being Christian.

Conscious of this otherness will lead us to discover a God who is a friend that is always close, who is always available to be discovered in us and in others. A God who must be found in ourselves in such a way that we encounter ourselves, and in this way fulfill part of the essence of Cursillo; that is, for each one to encounter oneself.

If *otherness* (uniqueness-distinctiveness) is the *condition of being another*, its discovery places us in a dimension in which being conscious is born from within the pursuit of the "alter ego" (change self-image), the other I or the other self. This decision always leads us to what we have come to know as "encounter." The first encounter is with oneself, and then as we explore the inner self in depth, we will have the encounter that Christians call God, and it is precisely this God, who motivates the inner self to move outward to the encounter with the other human beings who surround us.

On a personal level the discovery of myself brings me face to face with my intimate *otherness*. An encounter with oneself is essential to enable us to act from personal motivation, by engaging our free will and who we really are, that is, our personality, as opposed to being motivated by fear or aspiration (ambition). This is communication at a personal level, with my very self, with my soul, with my conscience, with that part of my being that feels moved by my potential and the on-going discovery of "who am I, who is Christ, and who are my brothers and sisters"?

This presentation on Communication is not making reference to the means used by the media whether for social means or otherwise. Today, there are many means for communication. Never before has man been so well communicated or informed by the media and/or technology, however, never before has man felt so isolated! Thanks to the media and technology, each day we find ourselves closer to what is distant, yet, at the same time, we find ourselves further from those who live near us.

For example, man, woman, and child spend many hours in front of the computer investing hours on social networks and/or texting, or talking on their smart phones, etc. without ever knowing what is happening at home or the whereabouts of the kids, mom or dad, grandma or grandpa. This is the reality we live in today.

The world can influence you so much that you come to believe you are something that you are not and therefore, begin to live that way. You may be a sincere, noble and just person, but for others this is not important, they despise you and treat you bad, to the point that you begin to believe that you are bad. So it happens that the "clever one" the one who lives without values, devalues others or abuses their person.

In the Study of Environment, Eduardo Bonnín discovered that the exterior of man, that is, his appearance or persona, did not always resemble the true person, that is, who he truly is in his inner most being. Here is an excerpt of what he shared in Seoul, Korea at a National Encounter in 1997:

"Some men, with the help of science and financial support have been able to go from the exterior of man to the surface of the moon. We (Cursillo) are trying to achieve something that is immensely more difficult, that is, to go from the exterior of man to his innermost being, in order to learn to understand ourselves and to move towards other people, so that we may become more

aware of the wonder of our life, to learn to live in harmony and love our fellow men and women and to share with them the challenge and adventure of becoming a true person.”

Therefore, the key to building a personal history, will be to discover oneself, the inner self, and come to know ourselves, who I am, which in turn will provide an awareness of my potential and my limitations as a person, and my capacity for conviction, decisiveness, and constancy, which leads me to have self-esteem, and *to have an encounter with oneself*. Only then, through humility and sincerity, can we gradually come to appreciate, value, and understand the others in our surroundings.

When we, as persons, exercise our faculties of intelligence, freedom, will, and effectiveness, we will begin to deepen in our interior, a searching for an authentic truth that will help us understand and decipher the many situations for which we did not find an answer in the past.

By internalizing our truth, that is, who we are as a person, we will become aware of our limitations, produced, without a doubt, from our weaknesses and consequences of some addictions we should replace for the things we believe, for things that have value, and for the things we can love.

Communication with oneself helps us know our personality, what or who I am and what I could or should be and thus we will begin to correct ourselves through a gradual discovery of the miracle of my life and the miracle of my informed conscience. By being able to appropriately direct my intelligence, my freedom, my will, and my feelings, I will begin to project and to accept myself as I truly am, realizing that I can be more and be better and thus begin to change, by forgiving myself and even to go as far as loving myself. How can I love others if I do not love myself?

Christ, in the Gospel tells us "For the kingdom of God is within ourselves."

Communication with myself, with my soul, and my conscience consists in challenging myself, and according to my capabilities and limitations to be honest with myself, and in this way I can begin to heal my soul and thus I will discover God within me in order to become friends with Him and be one with my person and walk together through life and avoid feeling lonely.

It is essential to achieve an intimate otherness within us through sincerity, serenity, and a profound awareness and therefore, enter into an intimate dialogue with God. The communication with God, which we call prayer, provides us an opening of the soul towards grace that helps us to love and to always desire good for ourselves and others. This is true Christian communication.

### **Projection**

By discovering ourselves, we find our ideal, the ideal for which it is worth living and even dying for, that great ideal that is Jesus Christ and His grace.

My intelligence, my freedom, and my will, just like my feelings, should be one with Christ so that from within me will grow the desire to communicate with others, to infect them with the shared living of my truth that is nothing more than friendship with Christ, which brings me joy and happiness as I discover day after day, that He loves me.

Communication with the Lord is the relationship that exists between what I am and what I can be, discovered by means of Grace. And what He expects and wants of me as a person is what we have come to know in Cursillo as my Close Moment with Christ. What do you want from me, speak Lord, your servant is listening!

We are a social people. We must find ways to give of ourselves, get to know each other, to know the other and in this way, we can give life to the message in Scripture, 1John 4:20: "If someone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen."

We cannot afford a self-centered attitude, nor isolation, nor loneliness, but rather an identity through otherness; therefore, we should alternate with the other, the I in the other through communication.

It is in this way that we make it a reality that Cursillos in Christianity consists of a living proclamation of the best news of the best reality that God in Jesus Christ loves us, communicated to as many people as possible through the best means which is friendship and directed towards the best of each one which is their being a person. These are the means we use to communicate the joy of being Christian and the shared living of the life of Grace in friendship, but friendship that is understood as the encounter with the other. It is in this interaction in which we become transformed and where the friendship of Christ becomes the central axis of our being.

True communication with others is when you are authentic (by being yourself) which gives you the confidence to communicate yourself to the other.

There are different ways to communicate or interact with others, from conversations of little interest, to conversations about my inner truth, my ideals, my hopes, leading to relationships that reach a deeper level of intimacy that in turn produce genuine bonds of friendship.

Friendship progresses when there is communication from the very truth of each one, therefore, the capacity of admiration grows and loyalty is strengthened in the relationship since we become more of a friend in truth. Friendships arise from the encounter. The true value of friendship implies devotion and an unconditional relationship, that is, to accept the other as he is and not for what I want him to be and always praying for what Christ wants from each of us.

Conditional friendship should never happen (friendship for voting me in as Lay Director, Rector, etc.), nor friendship under pressure, friendship for ulterior motives, etc. Genuine friendship can only exist when there is a desire to be a friend and to feel happy without expecting anything in return because of the friendship. True friendship always desires the best for the other.

Communication takes place by a transmission between my truth and the truth of the other person (my neighbor), between the desires of conscience and what we hope that God will prepare for us.

Cursillos in Christianity are the shared experience or communication of living what is fundamental to being Christian, from a consequence of being baptized, of feeling I am a child of God, from an encounter as a child of God, brother of Christ and a living temple of the Holy Spirit, which enables me to see in every person, the very person of Christ.

Therefore, the Charism of Cursillos is to experience the communication of the best news that "God in Jesus Christ loves us." The shared living of Christ among us, the Gospel, and common sense will help make this love known to every person by the most excellent means or channel of communication, which is Friendship.

Communication is essential for interpersonal relationships, therefore, the first mission we have is to know ourselves, who am I? What do I want others to know about me? What do they expect of me? What do they think of me? Dependent upon this, is my realization as a person with talents, capabilities, and limitations in order to project myself as I truly am, in *what I think, what I want*, and *how I act* and in doing so find the path to true happiness.

One day someone came up to me because they knew me or wanted to meet me and a relationship of communication began and eventually this relationship grew into a close friendship. This is something that has probably happened to the majority of us. Someone approached us in our *moveable square meter* (environment), began a conversation with us, and eventually that initial communication and interaction led to friendship.

As we continued to get to know each other with sincerity and truth, we grew in friendship. The consequence of this friendship, is that one day, I felt the desire to accept the invitation of *come and see* that my friend made for me to attend a Cursillo in Christianity.

The living experience of the retreat on Thursday and the three days of Cursillo were for me to know myself and then come to know God and His grace and the others. I understood the mission of being baptized, the living experience of the sacraments and I felt myself an active member of the Mystical Body of Christ and thereby accepted the great mission to communicate God's love to others because no one should live or die, without knowing that God in Christ loves us.

As I mentioned, my experience of Cursillo took place in February 1986 in the Diocese of Victoria in Texas. Since then I have attempted to learn as much as possible about Cursillo and its intended purpose, methodology, and Charism. I have always tried to keep in mind Eduardo's words: "Cursillos in Christianity is a reality not yet realized." If we believe this, it is because we also believe that the gift of Cursillo to the person of Eduardo came from the Holy Spirit. And if this gift was communicated by God to Eduardo and eventually to all of us, then we will always be making a conscious effort to understand it, to live it, and to communicate it.

I had the opportunity to meet with Eduardo for one week in Palma de Mallorca in June 2006 during which time the OMCC Executive Committee was also meeting with him. I had previously met Eduardo at a Cursillo de Cursillos in Texas and at a National Encounter in Denver, CO; however, communicating with the Founder of Cursillos for an entire week was a truly enlightening and transforming experience. Eduardo was used to meeting with Cursillistas who stopped by his office to ask questions about Cursillo.

The OMCC Committee and I had the opportunity to ask Eduardo many questions during the week we were with him. I remember that during one of those days as we continued the interaction, Eduardo stopped for a moment and said: "*Momento*" or one moment please; the response to all your questions is very simple, that is, first *live the Gospel* and secondly, when you have to, *use Common Sense!* I was in total surprised by his simple response because I was

expecting a detailed response since it was coming from the Founder of Cursillos, but I learned my lesson that day because I realized that *to live Cursillo is simply to live the Gospel!* Needless to say, the communication between Eduardo, the OMCC Committee and I resulted in an opportunity to be formed, informed and transformed. I will forever treasure my encounter with Eduardo Bonnín, a dear friend who was always in the process of *making a friend, being a friend, and making his friends, friends with Christ.*

Something to keep in mind . . . . As Cursillo Leaders who serve the Movement in the Secretariat and School of Leaders, we can best be described as the keepers of the flame of the vision of the Founder, keeping it burning brightly as a beacon for all those whose paths will be illuminated by its light.

### **Leavening Environments**

After my Weekend, I began the Postcursillo, the Fourth Day known as the *perennial Cursillo*. And in the days that followed I discovered the need to communicate the unrest that would arise from my experience of Cursillo. Within a year, I was attending diocesan workshops, regional gatherings, and eventually National Encounters. I grew in admiration for the people and their shared experiences that encouraged everyone towards an on-going conversion and on-going knowledge of Cursillo.

Throughout all this, the task at hand continued, that is, a further study of who am I, who is Christ, and who are my brothers and sisters?

We cannot afford to stop communication with ourselves for this will eventually help us to learn to forgive ourselves and grow as persons. Equally important is my communication with Christ, in and through prayer and my friendship with Him that leads to collaboration with Christ to make friends with "others" while ensuring that they see in us the person of Christ who loves them.

Everything has a common denominator, which consists of communication and which requires that we put others first in order to understand them, admire them, and together build a genuine friendship.

We must get to know our friend, Jesus Christ, more and more every day — the loving and forgiving Christ that is *alive*, that is *normal* and *near*, who became like us in order to become our friend who truly loves us and is always watching over us.

When the relationship between two friends is reinforced by the friendship they have in Christ, the desire to be better friends is multiplied until eventually they reach true friendship. True friendship is the result of a good relationship through communication.

The means of perseverance, the Friendship Group Reunion and the Ultreya (the gathering of the friendship group reunions) allow us to come to know each other better, to admire each other, help each other and become better friends every day so that hopefully it can be said of our community, *Look how they love each other* and in this way challenge the people of this century; those who live their values according to the *media* and may end up substituting true values or true ideals for false values or false ideals.

Today, the message of Cursillos in Christianity, referred to as the Charism of the Movement, that is, that God in Christ loves us, is as urgent as it was in the 1940's, when Eduardo and his friends

initiated the process of knowing, discovering, and projecting themselves, by means of the Cursillo Method. Cursillo became a reality that has produced good fruit in abundance. And coming to us with the strength of an atom bomb that can wipe out the old man and allow the new man to be born with the fullness of joy and happiness to have found the only One for whom life is worth living and even dying for!

De Colores!