



The Cursillo® Movement

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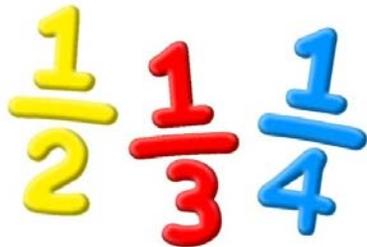
Strategies for a Brighter Future

Source: Presentation by Hoang Tran at National Cursillo Encounter, Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York - July 27, 2013.

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Maybe some of you are wondering why I was chosen for this National Cursillo Service Administrator position. To tell you the truth, I don't know why, either ☺ and still wondering... I'm just like some guy coming out of nowhere ... speaking English with accent. But today I will speak a different language; it's the language of LOVE, from the bottom of my heart. And I'm sure that I have no accent with this language!

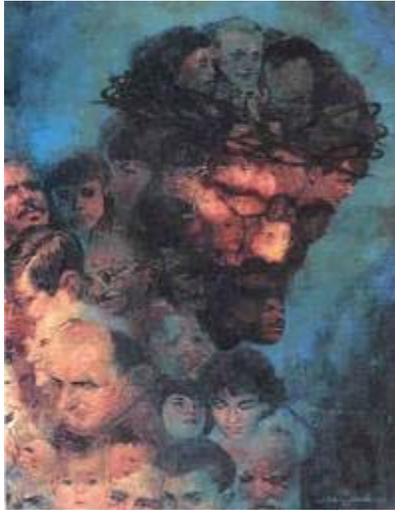
I used to be an executive at a high tech company when I lived my Cursillo Weekend about 6 years ago. Since then my spiritual life has completely changed. I have a 1-on-1 meeting with Jesus in daily Mass, first thing in the morning. I don't know when I entered into the intimate relationship with Jesus, but it just happened gradually until one day I realized that I love Him deeply, much more than I love my wife! It's kind of scary and I kept it for myself. I dared not tell my wife. One month later, when we were praying in silence together in our prayer room, my wife told me: "Sorry honey, I have some bad news for you: I love Jesus more than I love you".... I felt so relieved and happy! I smiled back and said, "So do I!" It's an amazing grace. When I said I loved Jesus more than her, it doesn't mean that I loved her less but actually I loved her more than the days before. With the love of God, everything is fulfilled. It was an amazing experience I'd like to share with you.



When I prepared for this talk, I didn't know where to start. So I asked Jesus to give me a hint, and I received this picture. I thought about this several times, and these fractions made a lot of sense to me about how to live the Mystical Body of Christ. Each of us is just like one of these fractions. Imagine we have a million of these fractions side by side, they are just separate numbers and they cannot add up. The key is ... they must have the same **denominator** before they can add up and increase in

value. For our Cursillo movement, we have 12 regions, right? If we don't have the Mystical Body of Christ as the **common denominator**, we're not one body. So it's LOVE, the Mystical Body of Christ that bonds us together.

Please look at this picture. You will see each one of you in Him.



It's because of LOVE that Nieves and his Transportation team have been working hard day and night picking you up at any airport, even at 2am, 3am, and 4am! They don't have to pick you up at odd hours but they wanted to do it because of LOVE. I met brother Israel on Tuesday night at 3am at McDonald near Hofstra after he and 3 other Cursillistas picked up sister Letty and Rachelle at the JFK airport. I admired him for his action. Instead of taking days off from work to attend this Encounter, he took days off just to pick you up at the airport. What a Palanca he offered to the Movement! I knew they were really tired but always smiling because they're serving you with LOVE. They're living the Mystical Body of Christ because they saw Jesus in each one of us and they were actually picking up Jesus at the airport. So if each one of us lives the Mystical Body of Christ truly and fully and I guarantee you that the National Cursillo Movement will have a bright future!



National Cursillo Center "Headquarters" in Jarrell, Texas



Let me share something with you about our National Cursillo Center, our “Headquarters” in Jarrell, Texas. When I visited the Center on March 14th, I was struck by the simplicity of our “Headquarters”. But I felt such an instant connection with this place with a sense of total belonging. I met Dominga Anderson, the one who just received the certificate of Appreciation, and listened to her story. She was the only person managing the bookstore back in March. Since the Center is in a rural area, she told me she was scared to be alone and dared not open the door to anybody, visitors, strangers ... However, she never quits ... because she loves the Cursillo Movement. I’m touched by her conviction and attachment to the Center. So the first item on my checklist when I assumed my position is to have an ADT security alarm system installed at the Center for her safety. I have an urge to do something for the Center. I even want to relocate to Texas so that I can be present at the center. Even though I don’t have to ... but I want to.

So what are the strategies for a brighter future of the Cursillo Movement?

Like I said, we’re ONE BODY, we’re together, no separation between each of us. That’s why I felt such a strong connection with anyone of you here even I met you for the first time ... I felt as if we met 20 years ago. It’s an amazing grace, the Charism of Friendship! Before my talk, I went to the Palanca Chapel and talked to Jesus. I asked Him “Please, stand by me. You’re my Holy Companion”. And surprisingly, the Blessed Sacrament is right here (on stage with me)! I felt so blessed to have Him all the time with me.

1. Palanca: You’ve heard the word “true Palanca” here and there in previous Rollos. What’s true Palanca? It’s your prayers and sacrifices wrapped in LOVE! I’ve been offering Palanca for the National Encounter since April. Sometimes I’m working 12-16 hrs/day, 7 days a week just to prepare for this event. It’s not that I have to but I want to! I took every opportunity to turn all discomforts or issues or problems into Palanca. My room was freezing! I turned it into Palanca. Things didn’t go well as planned! I turned

them into Palanca. I worked long hours with Lucy Wing to prepare for the name tag inserts and labels until midnight. Even these beautiful booklets were designed by a Cursillista with many late nights and revisions. We took everything with love and turn it into Palanca! Your Palanca and my Palanca added up because we have the same denominator, which is “LOVE” and we, together, have made this event happen with plentiful graces from God.

2. \$3/year donation campaign: you’ve probably heard about this campaign or saw it in the inside of the back cover of your booklet. **Somebody asked me how long is your campaign?** 6 months? 1 year? **My answer is ... only 1 day ...** but it’s your Fourth day!!! 😊

Yes, this campaign won’t stop after 1 month or 1 year. It will last until we leave this world and enter the Fifth day.

We have more than 1 million Cursillistas in the U.S. If only 10% participates in this campaign, the \$3 will add up quickly to \$3,000, \$30,000, even \$300,000! Now we can see the power of addition. The \$3 is just a fraction. But if it’s added with others under the same denominator, which is “LOVE”, we will have a huge number! Then we can do a lot of good things for our beloved Movement.

It’s not about how much you donate, but HOW you donate, and how you wrap your donation with LOVE!

With your \$3/year donation:

- The National Cursillo Center (NCC) will achieve its financial and operational stability.
- The NCC will have the budget to revive dormant diocesan movements and help establish Cursillo in areas where it is needed.
- The NCC will have the budget to translate good books for each language and establish effective communication channels by means of audio and video technology.
- The annual National Encounter will be more affordable for every Cursillista. Your donation will help to offset some expenses of the Encounter and therefore drive the cost down.
- The NCC will provide a credit of 25% of your donation toward your Lay Director’s ticket to the National Encounter.
- Your \$3/year donation will send at least 300 key leaders from all over the U.S to the National Encounter so that they can synchronize with the National Secretariat in terms of the Cursillo Charism, literature and materials, methodology, policy and future strategic planning for the National Cursillo Movement.

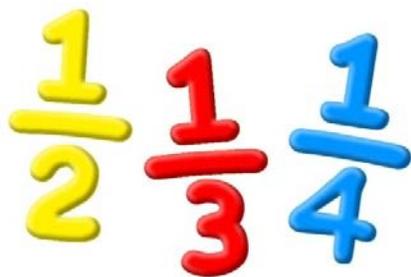
I just received a check for \$1,350 from the Vietnamese School of Leaders in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston – and they will automatically receive a credit of 25% of the donation amount, which is \$338 toward the voucher to attend the next National Encounter at Chapman University. This is another easy way to earn free tickets to the Encounter. ☺ Let's give a big hand for the Vietnamese School of Leaders, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston!

3. Effective Communication: Again we must have the same channel to communicate with each other. For example you must turn your dial on your receiver to channel 3 for listening to Spanish or channel 1 for English. If you don't do that, you will only hear noises! Again we must have the same denominator. I will set up a communication channel among national, regional, and diocesan movements so that the messages won't get lost due to the communication breakdown. Just want to do a quick check here: please raise your hand if you heard about the \$3/yr campaign before you attended this Encounter? less than 50%. Thank you.

If your diocese doesn't have a group e-mail distribution list, I recommend you create one. I know some dioceses have a large distribution list of 400, 800, or 1,200 Cursillistas. It's great that we can promote the \$3/yr campaign using this network.

4. Make the National Encounter affordable: Reduce registration fee to increase attendance: do you want the tickets reduced to \$300, \$250, or even \$200? Again this \$3/yr campaign is the right solution! It's in your hands. I need your help.
5. Resource Center:
 - Introduce E-book (cost effective without shipping and inventory management)
 - Translate more books to other languages
 - Reduce printing cost and pass the savings to you
 - Upgrade Book store/Gift shop online
 - Website enhancement (video/audio clips)

In summary, please think about this image:



How can we add these up? I need you to be a plus sign between them and bring all to the **same denominator**, which is LOVE, which is the Mystical Body of Christ. If we can do this, the miracle will happen and it's in your hands!

De Colores!
Hoang Tran

Love never fails. (1 Cor 13:8)