



# Cursillos in Christianity National Newsletter

National Cursillo Center ♦ P.O. Box 799 ♦ Jarrell, TX 76537 ♦ 512-746-2020 ♦ [www.natl-cursillo.org](http://www.natl-cursillo.org)

## Life

Source: 1<sup>st</sup> Conversations of Cala Figuera, Foundation Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló (FEBA).

The revised translation of 1<sup>st</sup> Conversations of Cala Figuera describes *Days of reflection on the Founding Charism of the Cursillo held in “The Porciúncula” in Palma de Mallorca on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Cursillo Weekend held in Cala Figuera in Santanyi, on the Island of Mallorca, Spain in August 1944.*

There are 10 topics in the revised translation of 1<sup>st</sup> Conversations of Cala Figuera. The following outline is on the 8th topic, *Life* presented by Fr. Antonio Perez Ramos. Cursillistas are encouraged to read this topic in its entirety at the [Cursillo Resource Center](http://www.natl-cursillo.org). This is a great resource for study in the School of Leaders. You can purchase a copy of the *revised* translation of 1<sup>st</sup> Conversations of Cala Figuera at [www.natl-cursillo.org](http://www.natl-cursillo.org).

- The Christian view of things is to manage with good sense that which is vital.
- Good people become fatigued by the constant repetition of impersonal acts of kindness.
- Life is a gamble, not an answer.
- Life is a constant challenge to the reality of oneself.
- The spirit and good flavor of life is to enjoy the fact of being subject to surprise.
- The best form to render worship to God is simply, being happy.
- Everything crashes before a meaningless life, morality and religiosity. And all remains centered, orbited and energized by the person whose life has sense.
- Only a living Christ, normal and near, has the power of attracting us.
- Christ is a model that models; the way which directs us; the truth that releases us of our complexes and prejudices; and the reason that continuously energizes life.

## 2018 National Encounter Highlights



The 2018 National Encounter was held at Seattle University during August 16-19, 2018. The Encounter was blessed with the presence of 3 Bishops, 45 Clergy and Vowed Religious and special guests which included the OMCC President, Executive Committee members of the NACG and Asia Pacific International Groups and 670 Cursillistas from 7 language groups in the USA!

The encounter was an enlightening and exuberant gathering in Love and Friendship! All volunteers and committees involved in planning the National Encounter are to be commended for their warm hospitality, selfless services, and living witnesses!

Below is a brief summary of the talks presented during the National Encounter. Visit [My Resource Center](#) to access the talks presented during the National Encounter which are available in text documents, video, and MP3 audio. All files will be uploaded to the National Cursillo Website as they become available from the speakers.

### **Unity in Diversity**

Hugo Valverde, President of the North America Caribbean Group (NACG) talked about our call to live in community, to respect each other with the understanding that God created us with diverse gifts (read 1 Corinthians 12: 20-26), so we can use them where He places us at any given time. Hugo talked about his recent call from God to serve as President of NACG which he refers to an “unmerited” honor, but nevertheless, an opportunity to use his diverse gifts in unity with the other NACG Committee members. [More . . .](#)

### **The Theology, Psychology and Pedagogy of Cursillo**

Fr. David Smith from the Archdiocese of Miami began his talk by substituting its title with “*Cursillo, Now More Than Ever*” which was the theme of the Ultreya in Fatima in 2017. Fr. David reminded us that Cursillo emphasizes a Jesus who is alive, normal, and near to us. Cursillo seeks to initiate, nurture, and deepen “communion” and “friendship” in order to understand the theology supporting the Cursillo method. Fr. David shared a famous saying of St. Irenaeus, “the glory of God is the person “fully alive” that is flourishing in grace. St. Augustine declared, “our hearts are restless until they rest in you”. We are never fully ourselves, “at home”, except in the Lord. Pope John Paul II in his first encyclical, “Redemptoris Hominis” stated, “man cannot live without love. He remains a being that is incomprehensible for himself, his life is senseless unless love is revealed to him”. We recall the fundamental proclamation of Cursillo, the BEST NEWS, that “God in Jesus Christ loves me/us”. [More . . .](#)

### **Secretariat/School of Leaders: Reaching a Unity of Purpose and Understanding**

John Ciliberti, Region VI English Coordinator and Rodrigo Becerra, Region X Hispanic Coordinator, reminded us about our Founder’s vision of the Secretariat which is to simplify, facilitate and make possible the living of everything that is fundamentally Christian and to be the guardians of the purity of the Cursillo Charism. Every Movement needs a “group of friends” (School) who have dedicated themselves to deepening their understanding of the Cursillo Movement. These are people who want to get to the bottom of the mentality, purpose, and method because they want to understand the WHY of things. Well-schooled leaders act as leaven within the Movement. They do not teach by preaching but by being living witnesses to the very essence of the Charism. John and Rodrigo spoke about the “Charismatic Dimension” of Cursillo, an ecclesial Movement of “Lay Initiative” with “One Founder”, and other criteria specific to the Charism of Cursillo. [More . . .](#)

### **Succession Planning**

Cecelia Hamilton, Region IV English Coordinator and Gloria Miranda, Region I Hispanic Coordinator, provided a definition of “Succession Planning” and emphasized the importance of

using this process when searching for replacements to fill positions. “Succession planning is a process for *identifying and developing new leaders who can replace veteran leaders* when they leave, retire or die.” It entails first identifying, then developing internal people with the potential to fill key positions, thus increasing the availability of experienced and capable people, that are prepared to assume these roles as they become available. Cecelia and Gloria covered the five important areas of Succession Planning: 1) Identify those with potential or willingness; 2) Identify the gaps; 3) Develop the person’s knowledge; 4) Engage the person in leadership; and 5) Improve the person’s commitment. [More . . .](#)

## **2019 National Encounter**

Preliminary plans are in progress to sign a contract with the University of Scranton in Scranton, PA to hold the 2019 National Encounter during July 18-21, 2019. More information about the encounter will be provided at a later date as the contract is finalized.

## **\$3/YR Campaign & Amazon Smile Update**

The National Cursillo Center (NCC) has received a total donation of \$184,991 to the \$3/YR Campaign from June 2013 to September 2018. The NCC has advanced \$170,000 to support Dioceses that are establishing or re-establishing Cursillo, book discounts, National Encounter registration fee reduction and vouchers to Diocesan Lay Directors. The NCC has received \$1,307 from Smile Amazon Foundation thanks to the participation of many Cursillistas!

Continue promoting the \$3/YR Campaign and Amazon Smile through your Friendship Group Reunion, Ultreya, School of Leaders, Regional Encounters, workshops, personal contact, group email, etc. For more information about the \$3/YR Campaign and Amazon Smile, visit <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/donate-to-cursillo>. Thank you so much for your continuous support and generosity.

De Colores!

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