



National Cursillo Movement

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Person, Character, and Personality

Source: Reflections II, In Search of Oneself by Eduardo Bonnín.

In Cursillo the person is the focus of our concern. We see the person as a being created for love. Many people feel alienated from the Gospel because we, Christians, have not managed to convey to them — through friendship — that the love they are seeking is, thanks to Christ, within their reach, within themselves and in their brothers and sisters.

The person is the reflection, the expression and the brightness of God's specific plan for the human being. Being a person is a reality always open to becoming more of a person and a better person. Cursillo encourages the person to emerge, to become aware and to renew through believing the truth and enabling the desire of "good" through friendship.

A person is one who knows they are capable of loving and worthy of being loved; who knows he is limited, conditional and an integral part of a whole. The real revolution of concepts that Cursillo poses, is focused on helping the person discover their own worth, because of what they are and for their capacity to love and to be loved; certainly not because of their power, their knowledge or their possessions.

People who place more importance to their social status: being a teacher, doctor, mechanic, etc., than to the reality of being a person, and people who systematically mistake their asset as a person for their physical, cultural or financial situation will end up relinquishing their identity as a true person.

Each person is an individual and is a permanent source of living values. A person is someone singular, unique, unrepeatable, nonexchangeable, nontransferable, open to his own worth and that of others, with critical insight to be aware of the values he esteems and of his own successes (possibilities) and failures (limitations).

A person is not an accomplished, static and restricted creation, but an open, dynamic and free being. God's 'doing' God's actions, become our actions as they are assimilated by the person so that, by a kind of evolution, Christ becomes the culmination of our development. This fact penetrates reality with some particular nuances and provides us with a certain way of looking at it. The greatest realities of God fulfill the highest aspirations of the person.

Cursillo was born with the express purpose of being a Movement, not an organization; and it rejects, therefore, any form of overcrowding. The concept of "person" is undoubtedly one of the essential constituents of Cursillos foundational thinking.

Cursillo is not an organization, and therefore, it does not attempt to bring people together to organize them. Cursillo wants to be a Movement that will move each person inwardly toward the

truth that can motivate them, guide them and bring them to their personal fulfillment. The impulse, that the Three Day Cursillo motivated the Cursillista to move, has to be manifested by them in the very normality of their daily life. This means that only their intention will distinguish them from others, and even this intention should not be too characteristically or clearly highlighted.

You can never judge a person from the outside, because a person is exactly what their intention is. And we will never be able to know a person's intention unless the person who embodies it, opens and expresses it to us in the course of their freedom. The center of the target aimed at from the deepest intention inside a person, can never be interpreted, let alone seen by anyone other than the person in question. The person is a value in himself which we always have to consider and respect.

A person reveals himself to a greater and deeper extent through their reactions than through their actions. Their way of reacting to a success, a failure or an event, reveals their real self. Therefore, more important than the action, is the reaction that occurs inside the person which is illustrated in an outwardly manner.

Cursillo acts in a person as a ferment, stimulating and fermenting their life. It dilates, expands and widens their vision, and establishes and affirms their conviction. It motivates and stimulates their decision and makes perseverance pleasant and attractive. The Cursillo Movement has enabled millions of men and women in the five continents in the world to discover the value of being a person and the importance to cease being a mere individual.

“No matter how valuable a person might be, they will never excel the value of their being a person”. (Antonio Machado, Spanish Poet) The highest value of human things will captivate and mesmerize people to a higher degree than the high value of the works of science, technology, art or skill, created by great characters that seem not to appreciate the value of human things.

A person reveals themselves as being a better person through their reaction when confronted with things they are not able to do, than for the things they can do. A person arouses admiration. An important figure or celebrity causes envy amongst their peers and admiration amongst the fools. An uncontrolled “personage” ends up swallowing his own person.

The person — who we really are — is more valuable than the “character” we are driven or compelled to play in the great theatre of the world. We are always more important than our “role”. Therefore, one can sometimes realize that there is “more of a person” in the bank teller than in the bank manager.

The person affects the group, they have an effect on the community and on the world through their normal spectrum of coherent identity. They do this by displaying their capacity to love, understanding, forgiving and carrying out what is possible, and asking God to make the impossible possible.

To have personality is the ability to keep in mind that we are a person every time circumstances require us to play a “role”. Or also, the speed with which we resume our place as a person, once there is no need to play our “role” any longer. We have to endeavor to prevent the character from subduing or eliminating the true person.

All persons are equal, although some are more equal than others. Someone “is”; another one regrets the fact that “he is not”; and the other one “wants to be”.

Since creation, the person is substantially the same, they have not changed i.e. they flee from their fears and move towards their aspirations. The perennial awareness of this alternative is essentially what makes them become a person. It gives them the power to pass from being an individual to becoming a person, and to feeling frustrated when they deviate from their personal path. The path that will lead them to their concrete and specific fulfillment: that is, to feel they are loved and able to love.

We need to be strong, capable and useful; strong with active and passive strength; capable with aptitude and attitude, and useful to serve others and serve oneself, always with a conscious uniqueness, originality and creativity. Being singular is not tantamount to setting oneself apart from the rest. Being original and creative does not mean dominating the limelight.

When someone is acting too bossy, it reveals he is not the boss at home. Those who never get angry are almost never right when they eventually do. When a couple are driving a car and both of them can drive, they will always be arguing, and if they don’t argue, one of them will get sick of braking nonstop.

Conviction is as far away from fanaticism — “sacrificing people to ideas” — as from triumphalism — believing in the magical power of ideas with no need for the person to make any effort —.

People who are satisfied with the “how” — mere indicators of a possible way to personal fulfillment — can only obey rules. Whereas, those who are worried about the “why” of things, are able to exemplify criteria. Those satisfied with the “how” know how to give an explanation of things external to them. Those concerned about the “why” are able to become aware of the real problem through an act of acceptance.

A person who gossips or creates scandal talks about others; the “pain in the neck” talks about himself; the conversationalist talks about you; traders talk about their partners; thieves about their accomplices, and revelers about their peers. But sincere people talk about their friends.

When human concerns and worries don’t find a channel or way to be formulated, expressed and communicated, they become sour, they rot and get distorted. Deep down in their heart, what each person wants is to be taken seriously in earnest.

He who neither considers nor respects the truth and depth that may exist in another person with opposite feelings, is not an upright person. Whenever the spirit cannot understand, it must foresee, and wherever it cannot foresee, it must believe.

In my opinion, the best thing about a person is their capacity to think. But things have gone to such an extreme, that the person of today seems to be happy only when they do not think. I am surprised at hearing people returning from vacation boasting of having spent their vacation without thinking about anything, when in fact it was the right time to have thought about everything.

We, ourselves, are our best work. It is said that a person in their forties is responsible for the face they have. The fact is that throughout our lives, we have the opportunity to gradually sculpt the features that will shape us as a person.

If a person is to act as such, he must have both conviction and determination. Conviction alone produces theoreticians; determination alone produces reckless, unwise people.

The person affects the world through their conviction. They impact people through their decision and support it through their disposition. The world, in turn, affects the person by weakening their conviction; making them doubt their own decision and arousing confusion and disorientation in them.

You Oh Lord, want what each of us has. In the eyes of others, the one and only value that you ascribe to each one of us, with that unmistakable name with which you usually call each person. The person cannot merge into any sort of wholeness; they cannot even become “just a part” of the whole. For a person is not just a brushstroke in the painting, he is a whole picture that God’s providence has placed next to other pictures, and which the unique and unparalleled gaze of God rescues every moment and frees them from discredit, from oblivion and nothingness.

The person has four internal cornerstones: *Truth*: which gives meaning to life; *Good*: which fosters joy in the person; *Friendship*: which gives them encouragement; and *Art*: which is the contemplation of life. They also have three external angles: *love, work and amusement*. What the person has to achieve is that their attitude fits their capability. This is easy, but each person must discover it by himself.

The Cursillo Movement, using a method of its own and by the grace of God, makes the essential realities of Christian life become incarnated in the uniqueness, originality and creativity of each person. The person is the most important being in our Movement. If we neglect this aspect, the purpose of Cursillo will be distorted and its structures will be negatively impacted.

Being a person in a conscious way, requires and demands being aware of something or someone, being attentive, awake, and hands on the steering wheel of one’s life, so as to be well aware of what is going on.

Devoting our attention to reality enables a person to face their existence and bring their potential into focus. Nevertheless, a person often chooses to be dependent or independent. With this decision they take the stance of obedience or rebelliousness.

The person who depends on something or someone does not think for himself, the independent person is usually thinking incorrectly. A conscious person devotes their life and attention to others, but the personage depends on the role it has to play, and personality is independent of the one and the other.

There are three dimensions in each of us: our *person*, our *personage* and our *personality*, through which we gradually express, convey and make our style of life transparent. The person is what we really are. It is the reflection, the expression and the brilliance of the specific intention of God on a human being. To be a person is to have conviction, determination, and the ability to affirm these features in our living. The person is a “what”, an absolute value.

The personage is the role we are driven or compelled to play in our normal living or in the abnormalities that crop up before us. The personage expresses, conveys and reveals the “how”. When the personage devours the person, something occurs that is tragic for the person involved and amusing for the other people.

Personality is the ability to never forget that each one of us is a person, even when we have to act as a personage. It is the faculty of always being one’s very self, no matter the circumstances.

Recently, especially in the villages, people thought that only the doctor, the teacher, the priest and one or two landowners or political bosses or chiefs were considered to be “persons”. The other residents counted for nothing. It was thought they had been born to obey and act in the service of the boss in charge.