



Cursillos in Christianity National Newsletter

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Spirituality

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

To be holy is the first call and the first duty of every Christian person. To ensure that the Cursillista gets into the sphere of God, and more precisely, gets to the very point in this sphere where their talents will bear the best fruit, that's all that should matter.

We intend that Christians become fully aware of the baptism they received and that they live up to it. We want every redeemed person to be baptized and that all the baptized persons become saints, apostles and men and women of their time.

We want them to be holy people living in conscious and growing Grace in line with the Church, in contact with Christ, and in communion with the brothers and sisters. We want them to be apostles, carrying out Christ's redemptive longing with their life, going out of their way so that Christ may live — by grace — in every brother and sister. We want them to be men and women of their time, with deep personality, making the miracle of normality true with their life, at the rhythm of their needs and in step with their demands.

Prayer is a spiritual energy operational in the whole of life and, therefore, in every situation that life may offer. The prayer that is prayed with faith will establish a living person-to-person relationship between God and the person. Through prayer, faith, that is a gift of God, is inserted into human dynamism. Christian prayer is not life, but it is inconceivably separated and removed from life.

The "Our Father" is a great prayer. It is brief, it is never tiring, and it satisfies the deepest longings of any believer.

In this sublime prayer that Jesus taught us, the concept of "our" has expanded. Not only do we care for our family, but for all people, for the whole of humanity. People who have more than they need and do not see those who lack the most necessary things, have not realized that God wants to use them to serve others.

Cursillo is a tangible proof of the efficacy of prayer. Those people who with their prayer and mortification are somehow "forcing" God from within their daily life, are an essential part of Cursillo, as essential or even more than Cursillo leaders. It is imperative to achieve that every soul has contact with God.

The prayer of the Cursillista has to be natural, not pretend. The prayer is vigorous, constant, cheerful and confident; supernatural in its goal.

The Christian should feel and consider themselves the bearer of hope. If I love others, I have to try and communicate this hope to them, leaving the ultimate choice in God's hands and up to the freedom of each person.

People who have faith in a truth which souls are thirsting for, and they do not suffer from seeing that others do not share it, either do not have faith in the truth they believe, or this truth has not reached the depths of their spirit.

Focus yourself on the apostolate, but in a way that it will not disorient you, neither in your intention nor in your action. Not everyone is good for everything, but everyone can and should do something. Be specific about what you should do.

God has entrusted the salvation of many people — who are His hope and wish, and therefore your hope and wish — to your dedication. He has entrusted them to you.

Do not doubt that the person who is considered bad would be good if those who call themselves good were better. Ascertain your possibilities and define exactly what you must do.

Do you think you are something or do you think you are nothing? Contact Christ through the Gospel, through the Eucharist and the priest. Contact the brothers and sisters. Contact those who will improve you and contact those who would improve, if you improved.

I am an out-and-out believer in God's Providence and, I can see that almost none of the goals I had set out to achieve in my youth have come true. But the Lord has proven to me on many, many occasions, if not in every occasion, that He has a better taste than me, since He has led me into other ways.

Physical miracles, like those narrated in the Gospel, are very rare and sometimes they allow for several different interpretations. But moral miracles — the effect of the grace of God within the person — are obvious and relatively frequent within any truly believing community.

When faced with a miracle of God's grace, there is always some super orthodox person ready to prove that it has been done on the Sabbath.

“God dwells in the hidden center of a person's soul, with His divine essence, reality and substance. This is where God works expanding His divine being, enjoying His very self. God cannot abandon this hidden center because He has stipulated His eternal will never to wish nor to be able to abandon that place. This hidden center in the person has, by grace, exactly what God has by nature. The soul becomes a full image of God, in its color, in its form . . . divine!” (Jesús Sáez Cruz, Spanish Theologian and Philosopher)

The life in “habitual grace” is updated by “actual grace” and it is nurtured and strengthened by the sacraments, so as to be able to face successfully the obstacles to grace. Take advantage of all the means at your disposal in order to enhance your life in grace.

Cursillistas center their ideal and dreams on being able to live in a conscious and ever-growing

grace. Their aim will always be to attune their spirit to the rhythm of the Holy Spirit and thus they will be able to possess, exercise and project their faith, hope and charity in all their actions.

The 'why' of our Service Sheet. Our pledge of honor to serve Christ has to be in keeping with the real capabilities and possibilities of each of the members of the Mystical Body, in each of the activities where our holiness gradually becomes authentic through our piety, study and action.

The Service Sheet, Spiritual Direction and Group Reunion are the three pillars that will ensure not only the permanence of our life in grace, but also the continuous growth of the spirit in every Cursillista.

The Service Sheet — in keeping with the possibilities and needs of each person —, will show the Cursillista their personal place in the Church and will put them in the vanguard of Catholicism. An honest spiritual direction will then, at every moment, at every crossroad, determine the precise adjustment of the Service Sheet to life. And the Group Reunion will both maintain the Spirit at the necessary level for us to be able to comply with the Service Sheet, and it will, at the same time, register and make clear before the collective consciousness of the group, the failures that may have occurred; and the contrast with the other members' better fulfillment of their commitment, will spur the soul on to a constant improvement and perseverance.

Become aware of your possibilities by taking advantage of divine grace. You cannot fail; Christ and you are an overwhelming majority. Maintain your willpower in keeping with your possibility. The more concrete you make your motivations the more they will be motivating.

The Scriptures bear clear witness to the fact that God is constantly asking men and women to turn to Him with love. He accepts the risk inherent in freedom, which at the same time is telling the believer how much God expects from men and women.

Unity is the result of charity, but not equality, and uniformity even less. Being good is not equivalent to cease being the salt of the earth and becoming the world's sugar.

The Virgin Mary has been occupying a central place in the Cursillo Movement, from the very beginning; from 1944 until today. We have honored Mary, The Mother of God, at each Three Day Cursillo by saying the Rosary, with the specific requests we mention at the beginning of each mystery, and also at the end of each collective visit we make to the Tabernacle.

Through Mary we get to know Christ, who is alive in us and in others. It's also through her that all good things and everything of value comes to us, which, at the same time, increases the value of other things. She helps us to see the world from the truth, instead of seeing it from falsehood and lies. She is the one who enlightens and affirms us in everything that is good and genuine.

It is a consolation and a wonderful truth that the Virgin Mary, being the Mother of every person and everything, is also the mother of those who get bogged down and those who stray or get lost along the way. Knowing that She is everyone's Mother and being fully conscious of this, cheers us up and comforts our living and makes sure that it progresses accompanied by her warm encouragement and her maternal love that paves the way and clarifies everything.

In the Lord's Prayer we ask God to forgive our messes and excesses, our faults and mistakes, as we forgive others for theirs. We ask Him that men and women may get to know, appreciate and love one another. That we may trust them again, trust the forgiven men and women again, because the things that God has mended are better than His initial works. Remember the cases of the adulterous woman, the prodigal son, etc. The good news of the Gospel is that God forgives without measure, that His goodness is limitless. Every celebration of divine worship presupposes that the disciple of Jesus has reconciled with his brother before the celebration.

Habitual grace opens up a world of unsuspected realities. Grace is creative, it creates amazing, unexpected, essentially dynamic capabilities. No one can know, and let alone predict, how the seed of grace will grow and develop in the Christian person who actively works with it, with humility, simplicity and trust.

Instead of the simple "more and better", there are those who are instilled with the idea of "that's enough", a "that's enough" they regard as a state-of-the-art attitude. In the "that's enough" attitude, they see the sign of their apostolic maturity which entitles them to, joyfully and with impunity, place those who are taking it seriously and are willing to go "all out" with a normal, committed, liberating and evangelical simplicity, as being in an attitude of an angelic naivety.

Every authentic lay life today is like a wedge that disturbs everything that requires an urgent solution, i.e. the relationship between the Church and the world, a Christian sense of the world, the formation of priests, and the concept of the priest... For the lay person is able to discern reality, and their word has the force of evidence.

We can give the world up for lost! This is the daunting approach that often paralyzes our apostolic work. But the world is nothing but the sum of the men and women who inhabit it. Men and women who are lost, yes, many times: many Pauls, on the eve of their way to Damascus; many Mary Magdalenes, on the eve of their meeting with Jesus; many Xaviers, on the eve of meeting Ignatius, etc. Men and women who are always lost on the eve of being found by the grace of God, within those twenty-four hours that are always granted to Paul, Magdalene, Frances Xavier, etc.

Conversion involves two possibilities. The first one is the return of those who are far away from the Father's house. The second, is to make the older children (who act like the elder brother) realize that they are also in need of conversion.

Every man and woman seek what is good, and only good will fulfill them. Anguish — which is the symbol of our age — is nothing but yearning for God. Every normal person is deeply interested in being a person. And they are never more of a person than when they become a temple of the Holy Spirit.

Our Piety. Devout? Overly pious? Excessively devout? Pharisee? Reflect on what you were like before, so as not to be like that again. Be natural, manly if you are a man, feminine if you are a woman. Be brave, be cheerful; always in the conscious and growing grace of God.

Cursillo is under the action of an intense and constant shower of actual graces. A Cursillista is the person who converts their freedom into a starting point for transforming the world around them.

I lack trust in those who proclaim their faith to others, especially if they try to convert them. Faith spreads itself only when it is lived out by the person. The knowledge of the things of God cannot be found in books, it belongs to the realm of personally lived experiences. Books are of some help, at most. Sometimes they are an obstacle.

Unlike the tips of the arms of a starfish, the poles of the development of criterion do not develop evenly and in sync. We are all equal in the “what”. We are all different in the “how”.

To avoid wasting your time fishing without catching any fish, seek the most effective approach. Do not mistake tactics. Conquering yourself is not the same as trying to win others over. For yourself you will need: a will, knees, head and heart. For others it will be the heart, head, a will and knees.

Only those with enough spirit and criterion to break new ground will be able to do it effectively. Those with criteria but without spirit will hardly be able to spread the good news to others. Those who have spirit but lack criteria, will easily lose their focus or their action, and will disorient the action of others and lead them to believe that the focus is on doing.

Cursillo becomes distorted when it is used for the comfort of the “good ones”, to keep things as usual, to solve the problems in the existing church organizations.

The Christian ideal is the ideal of simplicity, which isn’t easy. To be like a child does not mean to be superficial, but quite the opposite. Simplicity is the goal of being profound.

The lay person is the one who must know how to develop the unchangeable and eternal things and values, in accordance with the style and demands or needs of their time.

2020 National Encounter

Preliminary plans are in progress to sign a contract with at Creighton University, in Omaha Nebraska, to hold the 2020 National Encounter during July 23-26, 2020. More information about the encounter will be provided at a later date as the contract is finalized.

De Colores!

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