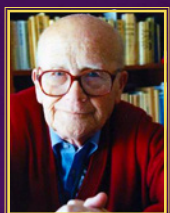


LENT CURSILLOS

in CHRISTIANITY
National Newsletter



Servant of God

Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló

Founder of
Cursillos in Christianity
1917 – 2008

February 2025

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National Cursillo Center
P.O. Box 799
Jarrell, Texas 76537
512-746-2020
512-746-2030 (Fax)

NACG Response

4.2.1. What are the OMCC's Expectations & Hopes?

Expectation is awaiting, based on experience, what we believe will happen, while Hope is awaiting, despite experience, what we wish would happen. Frequently, the difference between Expectation and Hope is our actions.

The World Body of the Cursillo Movement (OMCC) has faced challenges due to conflicting interpretations of its history, purpose, and Charism. While this has been true of the recent history of the past six to ten years, it has been the experience going back to its' early days in Mallorca. It would be reasonable to assume that, given this experience, the Expectation would be that such disagreements would not only continue but would continue to escalate.

Praise God that we are not a people of Expectation, but rather a people of Hope! It is a hope born out of the recognition that the Cursillo Movement, with all its' challenges and difficulties, has as its Guide none other than the Holy Spirit. We affirm that Cursillo possesses a Charism, and what is a Charism if not a gift of the Holy Spirit? If it is a gift from the Spirit, then the Spirit must continue its' presence as a Guide for the Movement. It is up to us to seek the guidance of the Spirit to heal the wounds and mend the rifts of the past, so we can create a more cohesive, collegial, and communal Movement.

Thanks to the current coordinating body of the OMCC for their dedication to improving collaboration, communication, and education among all members of this Movement worldwide! For the first time, they have gathered to hold its OMCC meeting in Mallorca, the birthplace of Cursillo. With a representative from each International Group a full member on the OMCC with a voice and a vote, and in response to the Holy Father's call for synodality, we hold tremendous hope for the future.

To bring that hope to fruition, in other words, to achieve the goal of bringing Christ's love to all people, we must continue, in friendship, to build a community that does not take issue with each other's interpretation of concepts and events. Instead, we must strive to learn about our different viewpoints and through dialogue and friendship, along with guidance from the Holy Spirit, come to an acceptance of each other's love for Cursillo.

"In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring." Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from conviction to hesitation and doubt. Often, we encounter people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could bring them happiness.

"For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God's word helps us find reasons for that hope." -Pope Francis, January 21, 2024

De Colores!

Jim Santos, Archdiocese of New York

NACG Response

4.2.2 The Impact of the OMCC on the Real Life of the Cursillo in Christianity Movement

The Organismo Mundial de Cursillos de Cristiandad (OMCC), as an ecclesial Movement of the Catholic Church, plays a crucial role in the vitality and unity of the Cursillo Structures and the Cursillista as a person in the Cursillos Movement worldwide. At its core, the OMCC serves as a beacon of fidelity to the Charism of Cursillo, ensuring its fundamental essence and purpose stay intact while adapting to the evolving needs of the Christian layperson in the world.

As the coordinating body, the OMCC promotes apostolic action by linking International Groups and National Secretariats, connecting to the diverse realities of the Cursillo Movement, and ensuring alignment with the Movement's Charism. This unifying presence prevents deviations from the core mission while ensuring its voice resonates universally, guiding the Cursillistas worldwide in their living the Charism and its methodology. It provides the necessary flow and structure to meet the needs of the Cursillo movement in today's world, enabling Cursillo to remain effective and relevant in its mentality, essence and purpose.

The OMCC aspires to have a profound impact, both collectively and individually, by safeguarding the unique Charism of Cursillo. This Charism, which gave birth to a method, inspires a mentality that forms and transforms those who live it. Through its method provided by the Holy Spirit, the person's mentality is shaped, and a Christ-like mentality emerges, deepening the person's spiritual life in their daily living, as they strive to embody the pillars of Christ, Person, and Friendship in their daily lives.

Historically blessed by Monsignor Bishop Juan Hervás¹, the Cursillo Movement gained ecclesiastical legitimacy, enabling it, along with the OMCC, to move through the doors of the Church, promoting the spirit of synodality while remaining faithful to a Charism that was conceived before Vatican II, aimed at the New Evangelization - what we in Cursillo refer to as the "Far away," and what Pope Francis calls "those in the peripheries."

This foundational blessing ensures that the OMCC serves with both pastoral sensitivity - empowering laypersons as Christians in the world serve in communion with the clergy - and apostolic zeal, strengthening its mission of bringing the person closer to Christ through the three encounters: Self - Christ - Friendship with others, so that the best reality that God, in the person of Christ loves each person in their uniqueness regardless of his circumstances in life, becomes evident.

Today, we celebrate the progress of the OMCC in fulfilling its mission, as outlined in the 2022 OMCC Statutes. This new framework consists of a nine-member body, with representatives from each International Group having an equal voice and vote (the Spiritual Advisor does not have a vote). With hope and faith, we trust that the Holy Spirit will guide us as we fulfill our roles as Cursillistas and work to shape a Church where every layperson can live out their vocation. Together, let us embody the purpose of the Cursillo Movement, ensuring that everyone we encounter knows that God, through Christ, loves them!

De Colores!

Marisela Rodriguez-Garcia, Diocese of Rockford

¹ Historical Blessing, "I bless the Cursillos de Cristiandad not with one hand, but with both." Study of the Charism (OMCC), An Apprentice Christian

NACG Response

4.2.3 What is the state of OMCC Synodality - Cursillo in Christianity Synodality?

The state of Synodality within our Cursillo in Christianity Movement supports our Holy Father Pope Francis and his call to journey together through respectful listening and collaboration. The OMCC embraces Pope Francis's call for synodality as a call at the heart of the OMCC.

With the adoption of the 2022 OMCC Statutes, each International Group (IG) now has a voice as a representative of the OMCC, reaffirming its commitment to embodying synodality through respectful listening and collaboration within the Cursillo Movement.

To realize this goal, the North America and Caribbean Group (NACG) has formed a group called the "Think Tank of Friends." This initiative brings together leaders from each country ensuring that every nation has the opportunity to participate and a meaningful voice within the NACG. By encouraging each nation to share its unique perspective, we collectively create a strong, unified voice for the NACG as we work to shape the direction of the OMCC through synodality.

There is great hope surrounding the synodality process and the direction of the new OMCC, particularly following the first OMCC meeting held in Mallorca, Spain, in October 2024. The Cursillo Movement originated in Mallorca, a fact that is cherished by both laity and clergy. This is explicitly stated in the Preamble of our Statutes and the Introduction on Historical Background in the Fundamental Ideas.

Building on our shared understanding, we can continue our journey together in synodality to preserve and nurture our Holy Mother Church, particularly within the Cursillo Movement. Through respectful listening, we must gather together—laity and clergy alike—to study, embrace, and celebrate the origins of our movement. Our birthplace offers many valuable insights. Indeed, the Holy Spirit has endowed our beautiful Cursillo Movement with a unique gift.

As we advance in synodality, let us continue to honor our beginnings in Mallorca and respect those who witnessed and experienced the first cursillos as guided by the Holy Spirit—those who continue to live out the Cursillo from the very start.

De Colores

Gail Terrana, Diocese of Rockford



Celebrating the Jubilee: How to Become a Pilgrim of Hope



Many other periods in history, the years leading up to 1300 were dark ones. Wars and disease raged through Europe, leaving Christians dispirited and looking for relief from their suffering.

In 1299, groups of believers decided to make a pilgrimage, on foot, to Rome to pray at the tombs of Sts. Peter and Paul asked for their intercession for the grace and strength to sustain them. So many pilgrims came, and so impressed was Pope Boniface VIII by their faith, that he declared the following year, 1300, as a Jubilee, “a year of forgiveness for all sins.”

Since then, the Church has designated specific years as Jubilees. In recent times, they have been commemorated every twenty-five years. You may remember the Great Jubilee proclaimed by Pope John Paul II, commemorating the beginning of the new millennium in 2000. Sometimes, a pope will designate an extraordinary Jubilee that falls outside the twenty-five-year timeline, as Pope Francis did in 2015 when he proclaimed a Year of Mercy.

This year, 2025, we have another opportunity to celebrate a Jubilee. The theme of this holy year is “Pilgrims of Hope.” Most of us won’t be able to be pilgrims who travel to Rome or the Holy Land. But Pope Francis wants everyone to participate in this year’s Jubilee and receive the graces that the Lord wants to shower on his people. “For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus,” Pope Francis said in the Bull of Indiction, the document outlining the theme of the Jubilee, called *Spes non confundit* or “Hope Does Not Disappoint.”

So that we can sustain our hope and become signs of hope to others, the pope has called for us to carve out “moments of greater intensity” during this holy year—times in which we take extra steps to make acts of faith or perform additional acts of service (*Spes non confundit*, 5). Here are some ways we can enter into the spirit of this year’s Jubilee.

Make a Pilgrimage. While Rome remains the center of activity in the Jubilee Year—with 32 million pilgrims expected—local churches will host their own activities and celebrations. As Pope Francis said, “Pilgrimage is of course a fundamental element of every Jubilee event. Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human

quest for meaning in life.” He added, “A pilgrimage on foot is a great aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort, and simplicity of life” (*Spes non confundit*, 5). But whether you walk or drive, making a local pilgrimage is a fruitful way to participate in the holy year.

Perhaps you and a few friends or family members can plan a pilgrimage together, whether to your diocesan cathedral or to a local shrine or holy site. No matter how far you travel, God will bless your efforts and reward your desire to receive all the graces of this holy year, including the gift of hope. And you will bless your fellow believers through your fellowship and prayer.

Forgive Your Debtors. For the Israelites, the Jubilee Year was to be celebrated every fifty years and involved the forgiveness of debts as well as a call to return land to its original owner (see Leviticus 25). We can follow in this spirit by forgiving the “debt” incurred against us when other people have hurt or offended us. “Forgiveness makes possible a brighter future, which enables us to look at the past with different eyes, now more serene, albeit still bearing the trace of past tears” (*Spes non confundit*, 23). This is a gift we can give to one another!

A Jubilee Year is also an opportunity to seek forgiveness from the Lord. Pope Francis wrote, “The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not only a magnificent spiritual gift, but also a decisive, essential, and fundamental step on our journey of faith. There, we allow the Lord to erase our sins, to heal our hearts, to raise us up, to embrace us, and to reveal to us his tender and compassionate countenance. . . . Let us not neglect Confession, but rediscover the beauty of this sacrament of healing and joy, the beauty of God’s forgiveness of our sins!” (*Spes non confundit*, 23).

The Church is urging bishops and parish priests to offer the Sacrament of Confession as often as possible throughout the year. The Jubilee is all about conversion and reconciliation, so try to take advantage of these additional opportunities to be cleansed and renewed.

Do Penance. During this Jubilee Year, the Church also invites us to “put into practice, in a concrete and generous way, the spirit of penance, which is, in a sense, the soul of the Jubilee.” (This is taken from the Apostolic Penitentiary, which outlines the conditions for receiving the indulgence traditionally associated with a Jubilee.) One way we can embrace the spirit of penance is to rediscover the penitential nature of Fridays—not just by abstaining from meat, but also by fasting from “futile distractions,” such as social media or television. We could also donate to a charity or perform works of spiritual or corporal mercy.

Doing acts of penance isn’t just an acknowledgement that we have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory. It’s also a path to growing in holiness, and it intensifies our prayers

and intercession for other people and for the world at-large. By consciously making acts of penance, we are reminded of the great mercy of God, who is always ready to forgive us and offer us a new path to him. Perhaps this year you could choose some kind of penance every Friday, or any other day of the week, and offer your sacrifices for all those in need of hope in this Jubilee Year.

Become a Sign of Hope. Pope Francis is calling us who have placed our hope in the Lord Jesus Christ to bring that hope to a hurting world. We all need hope, especially when we face our own trials or witness bad things happening in the world around us. Beyond that, though, the Holy Father has urged us to be “tangible signs of hope to those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kinds” (Spes non confundit, 10).

Among those he has singled out are people in prison or newly arrived from another country, as well as those who are poor, sick, or elderly. Pope Francis is especially concerned about the need for young people to have hope in the future and encourages us to make greater efforts to reach out to them.

Even the Church needs hope, Pope Francis said in a homily last year announcing the theme of the Jubilee. Members of the body of Christ may feel weary and burdened at times, he said, but hope will help the Church “always remember that, as the Bride of Christ, she is loved with an eternal and faithful love” and that she is “called to hold high the light of the Gospel” (May 9, 2024).

Can you reach out to someone this year who needs to witness your hope in Christ? Perhaps you could befriend a young person who seems lost, or a sick or elderly person who is confined at home with few visitors. Perhaps your parish priest would enjoy being invited to your home for dinner. Or you could organize a “Jubilee” diaper or food drive at your church to help the needy.

Anchored in Hope. Finally, throughout this holy year, keep in mind the image of an anchor, which keeps us steady and secure, especially when we find ourselves in troubled waters. It’s an image that Pope Francis draws from Scripture: the “anchor of the soul” that can help us “hold fast to the hope that lies before us”—the hope that one day, we will spend eternal life in union with God (Hebrews 6:18, 19). “The storms that buffet us will never prevail, for we are firmly anchored in the hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ and to overcome sin, fear, and death” (Spes non confundit, 25).

Whatever this Jubilee Year brings for each of us, may we never lose sight “of the grandeur of the heavenly goal to which we have been called” (Spes non confundit, 25)!

https://wau.org/archives/article/celebrating_the_jubilee/

The Jubilee Prayer

*Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your Son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.*

*May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.*

*May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.*

*To you, our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise forever.
Amen.*