



# 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)

The following article, *The Methodology of Cursillo*, is a summary of the workshop presentation by Michael Ciccocioppo at the National Encounter at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York on July 26, 2013. For a copy of the complete presentation in text, MP3, or video, visit the Cursillo Resource Center at <http://www.natl-cursillo.org/resources/>.

## **The Methodology of Cursillo**

The Cursillo Method of friendship is as simple and concise as the Cursillo Movement itself. It is part of the Foundational Charism of the Cursillo Movement that was given by the Holy Spirit to its founder, Mr. Eduardo Bonnín, who was inspired by an exhortation of our Holy Father Pope Pius XII on February 6, 1940, challenging the Church leaders to make every effort possible to bring others back to Christian values (Leaders' Manual).

The Cursillo Method has three phases or basic elements, defined as Precursillo, Cursillo Weekend, and Postcursillo, closely united with each other like in a circular motion.

### **Precursillo**

Precursillo is the first phase in the Cursillo Methodology. The apostolic mission of Precursillo is to witness to others what we have discovered, that is, *the Good News of God's love*. Precursillo is all about the Person, Christ and Friendship.

We, Cursillistas, are constantly nourishing our intimate relationship with God through Jesus Christ in the celebration of the Eucharist, in the Blessed Sacrament and in our neighbors. Our apostolic mission is to bring Christ to others in our own environments through *Palanca* (prayers & sacrifices), friendship, and personal witnesses. In the Precursillo, we encounter many people in our immediate moveable square meter that goes with us wherever we go, which is our own environment. Simply stated, the *environment* is also *the person and his or her circumstances*. Mr. Eduardo Bonnín kept reminding us to evangelize the person, who will in turn transform his or her own environment. People must transform themselves first and their environment will change accordingly. Keep in mind that it is not the purpose of Cursillo to bring all our friends to a Cursillo Weekend. Cursillo is only one avenue by which to bring others to encounter Christ.

In the study of our environment, we have found some friends who are natural leaders and we should help them know what the Cursillo is before encouraging them to be *potential candidates*. They should be properly prepared to freely attend a Cursillo Weekend in order to become Christian vertebrae in their own environments. It is important, therefore, to consult the current Cursillo literature, such as the Leaders' Manual, Structure of Ideas, Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement, etc. to read the criterion for *those who should go, those who can go and those who should not go*, and also for understanding the *sponsors' responsibilities*.

### **The Cursillo Weekend**

The Cursillo Weekend is the second phase of the Cursillo Methodology and its aim is to provide an

opportunity for each candidate to encounter *Self, Christ and Others* in order to experience a true and on-going *conversion* with the help of the prayers and sacrifices by the team members and the Fourth Day Communities in many places, even worldwide. This phase is also about the Person, Christ and Friendship initiated by way of *personal contact*.

During the Cursillo Weekend, the candidates are provided with the means and methods, *Piety, Study and Action* to be continually practiced and perfected within their *Friendship Groups* and *Ultreya*, where they learn and help one another to become the *Christian backbones* in their environments. Their perseverance in an intimate relationship with God certainly assists them to maintain their progressive conversion and constant hunger for Him after their Cursillo Weekend and during their *Fourth Day in the Postcursillo*.

To accomplish these goals of the Cursillo Weekend, and also the Mission of the Church, requires a team of dedicated, knowledgeable and well-informed leaders, who faithfully participate in their *Group Reunion, Ultreya* and the *School of Leaders*. They are the immediate witnesses to Christ for the candidates. Some of them, clergy and laity, take turns in delivering the message of the Cursillo Movement in the talks called “*lay rollos*” and “*spiritual rollos*” and meditations, sharing their living what is fundamental for being Christian and joyfully proclaiming to the candidates the message “*God loves you and me unconditionally*”. It is the most effective proclamation of being Christian and a true witness that it is possible to live in God’s Grace.

Mr. Eduardo Bonnín kept reminding us that it is more important “*to be Christian rather than to do Christian things*”. Francis Xavier Cardinal Nguyen Van Thuan, a Servant of God, and a Cursillista, shared the same thought in saying “*seeking God rather than God’s works*” during his 13 years of imprisonment after South Vietnam fell into the Communist regime on April 30, 1975 (The Road of Hope). It is important for Cursillo leaders to consult the Cursillo Manual and the Spiritual Advisors’ Manual and Leaders’ Manual for detailed guidelines and instructions to administer an authentic Cursillo Weekend.

### **Postcursillo**

The Postcursillo is the third phase of the Cursillo Methodology, also known as the *Fourth Day*. Its apostolic mission is that everyone is called *to be a living gospel* in their everyday lives by living the Gospel realities discovered on the Cursillo Weekend through a life of Piety, Study and Action. The foundation of the Postcursillo phase is also the Person, Christ and Friendship. Much like the Precursillo and the Cursillo Weekend, the Postcursillo also requires *personal contact* to establish and/or strengthen *friendships*, in order to continue the encounters with Self, with Christ and with Others, to provide *authentic witness of life*, and *real Palanca*, namely prayers supported by sacrifices.

As mentioned in the second phase of the Cursillo Methodology, the Cursillo Weekend, the Cursillistas in the Postcursillo are called to continue discovering and deepening their friendship in each of the three encounters discovered on the Weekend. The Cursillistas are now in a state of progressive conversion and are ‘being Christian’ and ‘evangelizing’ where God has placed them – in their everyday environments.

The Cursillistas who live without weekly Group Reunions and seldom participate in Floating Groups in Ultreyas are unlikely to persevere in their on-going conversion and **their** encounters with self, Christ, and others. In today’s world, we need this Total Security – Group Reunion and Ultreya!

When there are no Friendship Groups in a Cursillo community, a simple gathering in the name of Cursillo is NOT an Ultreya, which is the Reunion of the Friendship Groups, providing a lived experience of community that is a living reality of many different people and circumstances. It is also a place where people meet and make friends to form Friendship Groups. Cursillistas should consult the Leaders' Manual for the vital elements of Group Reunion and an authentic Ultreya of the Cursillo Movement. It is important that Ultreya leaders avoid any deviations in order to harvest intended results as experienced by our founder Eduardo Bonnín himself.

### **Conclusion**

The Cursillistas who have been voluntarily called to the leadership of the Cursillo Movement should walk an extra mile by living the Cursillo Method in their everyday lives. They must appreciate and respect the Cursillo Method generously in order to be able to apply it in the most appropriate manner to the Mentality and Purpose of the Cursillo Movement.

### **A Note from Fr. Alex Waraksa, National Spiritual Advisor**

When you think of your Cursillo experience(s) what do you think of first? The people. The ideas, the organization of events and time? If we think of the people we might also think of the friendships we have made.

On the road to Emmaus, was the disciples impression more of the teaching of Jesus or of just being with him and discovering some of who he was, yet being left with a tremendous hunger to know him better. "And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:30-32)

On the Cursillo Weekend, many of us were impressed by the people that we met. Their witness, their commitment to being catholic, how their faith helped them overcome challenges, how their faith led them to take risks. How even in some of their failures, that they learned about themselves and used those experiences to help them in the future.

Did we have a new or different experience of Jesus? Did we gain confidence in our ability to have a better relationship with Jesus? Was this relationship just more of an experience of God's love for me or did it also include God's confidence in me as an evangelizer. Did it include God's challenges to me to grow in my spiritual life?

In our grouping and Ultreyas we hear about others successes and failures in their efforts to make progress in the spiritual life.

St. Paul took a big risk from being one who persecuted Christians to one who would then try by his preaching and example of life to create Christians by inviting non-believers to accept Christ. "they only kept hearing that 'the one who once was persecuting us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.' So they glorified God because of me." (Galatians 1:23-24)

In our recent Lenten season we have been reminded of the value of prayer, fasting and almsgiving or charity. These in their truest form are to improve our relationship with God and with others.

The spiritual life always orients one towards God. This can be relating directly to God through prayer and piety. Or the spiritual life can guide us to look for God and Godly values in other persons or situations. We might see this in our attempts at apostolic action. We might call this the study of the environment; seeing where God is present or absent. Hopefully living the Cursillo method helps us become more spiritually aware; aware of our ongoing encounters with ourselves, God, and others.

This challenge leads us to examine the intentions of our spiritual desires: Remembering to look for God and not just miracles; remembering to look for meaning and not just signs; remembering to look for a relationship that will last and not just an experience that will become a memory.

We need to examine our spiritual life regularly to make progress. Is it being led by God or myself? Is it leading me towards loving action, or tempting me just to pray more to feel good. Am I becoming more like Christ in all areas and relationships in my life or just where I feel comfortable? Authentic piety leads us to do the will of God in Piety, Study and Action.

### **National Encounter**

The 2014 National Encounter will be held from **July 31 to August 3** at Chapman University which is located in the historic City of Orange, California. The registration fee is \$335 per person. The fee is **\$50 less than last year!** If a language group can register at least 150 Cursillistas by April 30, they will get the simultaneous translation during the event. There are only 950 seats available. It is expected to be a fully packed National Encounter. See you there – bring a friend!

The 2014 National Encounter registration form and Frequently Ask Questions (FAQ) are now available to download at:

<http://www.natl-cursillo.org/> (English)

<http://www.natl-cursillo.org/espanol/> (Spanish)

<http://www.natl-cursillo.org/viet/> (Vietnamese)

The National Encounter will include the following workshop presentations. A copy of the National Encounter Agenda will be posted on the National Cursillo Website as soon as time schedules are confirmed with Chapman University.

#### **Thursday, July 31**

Cursillo and the New Evangelization - *Bishop Emeritus Carlos Sevilla S. J.*

#### **Friday, August 1**

History of Cursillo - *Miguel Sureda from Palma de Mallorca, Spain*

Evangelization through Friendship - *Jackie DeMesme-Gray, Region 2 English Coordinator*

The Joy of the Gospel - *Fr. Alex Waraksa, National Spiritual Advisor*

Workshop for Regional Service Teams and National Staff - *Steve Krause, Past Region 8 Coordinator*

#### **Saturday, August 2**

Servant Leaders' Call and Responsibility - *Omar Baez, Region 7 Spanish Coordinator*

Spiritual Advisor's Workshop - *Rev. Alex Waraksa, National Spiritual Advisor and Deacon Gary Terrana, Assistant Deacon Spiritual Advisor*

Growing in Holiness through the Cursillo - *Deacon Ben Augustin, Region 11 Filipino Spiritual Advisor*

Stewardship in the Cursillo Movement - *Hoang Tran, National Cursillo Service Administrator*

### **\$3/YR Campaign Update**

As of March 14, 2014, the National Cursillo Center has received a total donation amount of \$33,031. This amount is up 10% from January 2014. We have reached 11% of our \$300,000 goal for this fiscal year.

The National Cursillo Center issued 44 vouchers worth of \$5,750 to the dioceses who donated \$200 or more. Congratulations to the Vietnamese Cursillo, Diocese of Orange in Region 11 who received the highest voucher value of \$900 to pay for the National Encounter registration! Their donation was \$3,647. The next cut-off date of issuing vouchers is April 15, 2014.

Please continue promoting the Campaign by all means of communication such as Friendship Group Reunion, Ultreya, School of Leaders, Regional Encounters, workshops, personal contact, group e-mail, etc. For more information about the \$3/YR Campaign, visit <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/donate/>. Thank you so much for your continuous support and generosity.

### **Cursillo Resource Center (CRC)**

Cursillistas, please take time to visit the Cursillo Resource Center at <http://www.natl-cursillo.org/resources/>. The CRC offers video, MP3, and PDF documents on various topics of Cursillo. Workshop presentations from the National Encounter held at Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH and Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY are also available via the CRC. The information found at the CRC is offered for personal study and to compliment what is being studied in the School of Leaders. Feel free to copy the link and send to all your Cursillo friends. Help us promote the Cursillo Resource Center website.

### **Literature**

The Spanish version of Study of the Charism (Estudio del Carisma), item #241, is now available for purchase at \$7 per copy. Please check it out at <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/espanol/orderl.html>. Both the English and Spanish versions are available for sale at the National Cursillo Center bookstore. Please share the good news with your School of Leaders and all Cursillistas in your diocese.

De Colores!

Hoang Tran – National Cursillo Service Administrator  
Ceferino Aguillon, Jr. – National English Coordinator  
Juan Ruiz – National Hispanic Coordinator  
Joachim Le – National Vietnamese Coordinator



**24<sup>th</sup> National Cursillo<sup>®</sup> Encounter  
Chapman University, Orange, CA  
July 31 – August 3, 2014**

Last Name:

First Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

E-Mail:

Phone:

Diocese:

Region #:

Language Group:

Male or Female:

Select one:  Bishop  Priest  Deacon  Vowed Religious  Laity

Select one:  Spiritual Advisor  Assist. Spiritual Advisor  Lay Director  Other:

If you wish to room with a specific person (spouse, friend, relative) then the other person's registration form must accompany this form.

Do you have a roommate preference? If yes, provide name:

Need assistance - physically challenged? Describe need:

Make checks payable to: National Cursillo Center. Only MasterCard and Visa credit cards are accepted.

**Registration Fee is \$335.00 per person.** Full payment and this form must be received by May 31, 2014. Registration fee increases to \$385.00 per person beginning June 1, 2014. **Unable to guarantee registration after June 30, 2014.**

Visa or MasterCard:

Card Number:

Name on Credit Card:

Expiration Date:

Voucher # (if any):

Discount:

Amount Submitted:

Please use a separate Registration Form for each person. Type or print legibly and fill in all spaces as applicable.

Send this form and payment to:

National Cursillo<sup>®</sup> Center

P.O. Box 799

Jarrell, TX 76537

512-746-2020

[admin@natl-cursillo.org](mailto:admin@natl-cursillo.org)

**There is a \$40.00 non-refundable fee for all cancellations through May 31, 2014. No refunds after May 31, 2014. The National Cursillo<sup>®</sup> Center is responsible for payment to Chapman University regardless of cancellations.**

For office use only – Registration Confirmation # \_\_\_\_\_