

## FREINDSHIP IN POST CURSILLO

FRIENDSHIP is the key to POST CURSILLO!

As what they say: "Make a Friend, Be a Friend and Bring a Friend to Christ!"

Seven topics to discuss:

- (1) Total Security
- (2) Group Reunion
- (3) What makes a successful Group Reunion
- (4) Ultreya
- (5) Difference between Group Reunion and Ultreya
- (6) Purpose of Ultreya
- (7) Why do Cursillistas need GR and Ultreya?

- In Pre Cursillo, the person seeks Christ.
- In the three-day weekend, the person encounters Christ.
- In the Post Cursillo, the person follows Christ. It is the perennial living of what is fundamental for being a Christian. The basic purpose of the Post Cursillo is to renew, accelerate and continue the conversion of each individual.

### SLIDE #1 - TOTAL SECURITY

For a Christian, all of life experience is a shared experience. And of all the forms of sharing life together, FRIENDSHIP is the most intense, enjoyable and efficacious. Because of this, to take FRIENDSHIP to a TRANSCENDENTAL LEVEL is the best way to accomplish the CHRISTIANIZATION of the world. And it is in this that the GROUP REUNION consists of FRIENDSHIP converted into an ACTUAL GRACE. And because of this, it is a SECURE GUARANTEE that always gives a renewed momentum to the things of the Lord. And it is because of this, that it becomes the CENTER, the AXIS and VERTEBRAE of our pilgrimage to the Father. If you do what is said in the Cursillo, the continuation of the spirit is fully assured and the risk of it being short lived is covered. Hence, the TOTAL SECURITY.

A Christian way of sharing life together is especially made possible by friendship that is encountered in Group Reunion. A guaranteed channel to make Christianity a reality. The life found in the Cursillo weekend cannot end there. Hence my second topic:

## SLIDE #2 - WHAT IS A GROUP REUNION (GR)?

The GR is the second phase of the Cursillos in Christianity. It is an extension of the Cursillo weekend. It is a channel for sharing life and living life together thru friendship.

Many times called the Friendship Reunion, it is a group of individuals who are friends because they are Christians; and who wish to become better friends and to be better Christians and vice versa. Therefore, GR is friendship converted into permanent actual grace. It is the place, the means, and the instrument through which the living, practical and triumphal and awesome truth of our Christianity is shaped and made concrete. Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in the midst of them. It serves as a road to the creation and development of personalities centered in Christ. It tends to encourage the spirit of self-surrender and the spirit of charity of each member to assure perseverance. What is essential in the GR, is that it is based on true friendship and Christian sharing by the group members.

In a GR, after invoking the Holy Spirit, we share the love of God and our love for our neighbor with our Piety, Study, and Action (PSA).

GR are not merely to gather Cursillistas. They have been created to be centered in a conversation about the presence of Christ in our lives. The living of our Christian life in terms of our PSA is accomplished because we are Christians and not because we are Cursillistas.

Another important aspect of GR is the sharing of our closest moment with God, that moment of greater awareness of Him in our lives to others so they can also become aware of Christ in a similar circumstance.

## SLIDE #3 - What makes a successful GR?

- 1) Regularity - weekly if possible. The most important function of GR is that it gives spiritual form to our lives and therefore should be the greatest occupation of joy of our life.
- 2) Seriousness - we must have a serious attitude about the value of the GR with the spontaneous joy that must always permeate our Christian personality. Seriousness obliges us to celebrate the meeting without delays and hurrying to start on time and end on time.
- 3) Discretion - Confidentiality. It creates an atmosphere conducive to intimate confidence.
- 4) Sincerity - being sincere in attitude and not words. A lack of sincerity with one or more of the members will result in loss of trust and it changes to cold courtesy and artificiality. Under such conditions the GR should cease to exist.

#### SLIDE #4 - WHAT IS ULTREYA?

It is a reunion of the Group Reunions. It is the runway to express what we believe by loving one another. It is the place where all want to live one faith, in common charity, in the service of one Lord and on the way to a common hope sharing it all by means of friendship. The Ultreya is an instrument at the service of the purpose of the Cursillo Movement in order to make everything we have lived in the Cursillo a reality in life. In the Ultreya, it is necessary that the members of the existing friendship groups mingle with others to form the floating group reunions. This unifies the Movement as well as facilitates the incorporation of the new Cursillistas into the Cursillo community.

Cursillista must view the ULTREYA as something they need and want, as an attractive opportunity, not something they feel compelled to attend.

#### STEPS of the ULTREYA:

- Opening Prayer: it is always important that we invoke the Lords presence in everything that we do.
- Ultreya Floating GR: we mingle with the different members of the Friendship GR. We share here our PSA or the moment closest to God. Here we share the events of our evangelistic journey. We listen to the sharing of the Cursillistas about their Christian life in their fourth day.
- Ultreya Witness Talk: a Cursillista will share about his/her concrete experience of striving to live what is fundamental for being a Christian. He/she will explain how he/she lives a love of God and neighbor and how he/she has been able to overcome the daily obstacles in living a Christian life. They give witness to their growth in living union with Christ so that others may be encouraged to go and do likewise. The talk should be a personal sharing of ones growing union with Christ, growing knowledge of Christ, bringing others to know Christ, so He is better known, loved and served.
- ECHO: to communicate briefly and precisely on how the witness speaker has lived his talk. It is not to criticize or to explain it in a different way.
- Spiritual Advisors Summation: given by the priest or deacon or vowed religious. The spiritual advisor should focus his comments on the witness talk and the echoes. The summation should further encourage the participants to go forth and live the good News.

- Whenever possible the ULTREYA should always conclude with a visit to the Blessed Sacrament or a closing Prayer.

SLIDE #5 - What is the difference between Group Reunion and Ultreya?

GROUP REUNION - is friendship converted into permanent actual grace. It is a small group of friends with certain rapport, receptivity and desire for the same friendship among the members. It is based on true friendship and Christian sharing by the group members to become closer friends and better Christians each day.

ULTREYA - is the reunion of all group reunions.

It is the place where we receive the nourishment we need for our spiritual and evangelical journey.

GR - is also called the Friendship Reunion.

Ultreya - is also called the Floating GR.

GR - oversees the good of the individual.

ULTREYA - oversees the good of the community.

GR - the better communication is given in the Friendship GR

ULTREYA - the Greater communication is given with the community.

GR - is "I" whereas Ultreya is "us."

In GR - we are like the WAVES, In Ultreya - we are like the SEA

SLIDE #6 - WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE ULTREYA?

- To achieve the normal communication of Christians at a determined place. Through this communication, all the concerns of each one resonates through the body of Christ and the concerns of the Body of Christ resonate in each one. In this way, we are able to give the whole world the witness of our unity.
- To make our friendship a testimony to the world.
- To achieve communication at a determined point.

The ULTREYA itself places the grace filled Cursillistas to be more enthusiastic, more dedicated with most spirit of charity. Since Christ is incarnate in a real living and joyful way, an environment of admiration and friendship blossoms in the Ultreya. This is what makes it possible so that in the Ultreya, everyone feels understood, helped and admired.

SLIDE #7 Why do Cursillistas need GR and ULTREYA?

- 1) It is a runway for the Cursillo to continue.
- 2) A place to meet so all can gather in one same place.
- 3) We have the Ultreya so we do not lose this environment, rhythm and style and also so that it will be strengthened and developed in us and in others. In Ultreya, we could say "ALL FOR THE PERSON" because a Christian can always find in it a group of lay people and priests who intensely live everything the Cursillo proposes and requires with a spirit open to interaction and to dialogue.
- 4) To be able to find those friends that we would like to make the GR with.
- 5) The aim of the PC is to accomplish the vision that is permeated in the weekend. It should open up the realistic possibility of continuing the encounter with self, Christ and the brothers and sisters in a progressive and growing manners. Hence the GR and the Ultreya which are both important for the attainment of the direction of our whole life in the light of the gospel and the opportunity to share that life with other Christians.

Lastly let me finish my talk with:

Let us not focus so much on the GR and Ultreya coming out well but on the persons coming out better: DECOLORES!