



# The Cursillo® Movement

National Cursillo® Center • P.O. Box 210226 • Dallas, TX 75221 • 214-339-6321 • Fax 214-339-6322 • [www.natl-cursillo.org](http://www.natl-cursillo.org)

**April 2006**

**To: National Mailing Recipients**

**Fm: National Cursillo® Center**

**Re: April National Mailing**



Bishop J. Peter Sartain

**Dear Fellow Cursillistas,**

**My name is Bishop Peter Sartain. I made Memphis Cursillo #81 in January of 1981, and I sat at the table of St. Peter.**

**It's hard for me to believe that I began my participation in the Cursillo Movement 25 years ago! Since then, I have served as Spiritual Director for many Cursillo Weekends, attended countless weekly Ultreyas and group reunions, and served as Diocesan Spiritual Director for the movement in the late 1980's and early 1990's. I have seen God do powerful things in the lives of Cursillistas, and through the years I noticed that Cursillistas are the most likely to be involved in parish life.**

**As you know, Cursillo is a “movement,” which means that its purpose is to gather Catholics together for nourishment and mutual support; no one is a Cursillista by him/herself! The purpose of the weekend – the “Little Course in Christianity” – is to reintroduce Catholics to the substance of our faith and offer them a method for growing in that faith, their relationship with God and other Catholics, and support them in their mission to live the gospel in daily life. Christians are to be leaven in their environment, bringing the fragrance of Christ everywhere they go. Essential to the on-going life of the committed Cursillista is participation in a group reunion and Ultreya.**

**To support the movement on a diocesan basis, there is always a Secretariat, a group of lay people animated by a spiritual director and under the jurisdiction of the bishop, which guides the movement and ensures that it follows the national norms. Crucial to any diocesan Cursillo movement is the School of Leaders, which prepares men and women in a more comprehensive way to lead the diocesan movement through regular pastoral and theological formation, spirituality, and the movement itself. It is from the School of Leaders that team members for the weekends should be selected. That kind of formation ensures that we don't develop our own way of doing Cursillo, which could take us farther and farther from the founder's original insight and intent.**

**We are blessed that our diocese has experienced the Cursillo movement for many years, and I see its fruit all around me. I am happy to offer my support to the movement and encourage everyone, especially the Secretariat and School of Leaders, to do their part to make the movement even stronger.**

Please do your best to help support the movement. You know how important it has been for you, and you will have a profound impact on the environment of our diocese if you renew your own understanding of Cursillo as directed by the National Secretariat.

Sincerely in Christ,

Bishop J. Peter Sartain  
Diocese of Little Rock, AR

### **16<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL CURSILLO<sup>®</sup> ENCOUNTER**

This year's National Encounter is being held at Villanova University in Villanova, Pennsylvania on July 20 – 23, 2006. The theme is "*Speak, Lord, your servant is listening*", and to prepare us for "listening" we will begin the encounter with Eucharistic Adoration. We will address the question, what are we doing with the gifts God has given the Cursillo Movement. And how are we being faithful disciples with what God has given us?

The university is approximately 45 minutes from Philadelphia International Airport. The registration cost is \$275.00 if you register by May 19, 2006. The registration includes: transportation to and from the Philadelphia Airport, three nights lodging and three meals a day, beginning with dinner Thursday evening and ending with breakfast Sunday morning. The encounter is open to all Cursillistas. A registration form is included with this mailing. You can access the registration form or register on-line at [www.natl-cursillo.org](http://www.natl-cursillo.org). Registration is limited to 600 participants based on maximum conference room seating capacity. Room will be assigned on a "first come, first served" basis. Make your plans now to attend this 16<sup>th</sup> National Cursillo<sup>®</sup> Encounter.

We will have simultaneous translation for the major presentations at this encounter. All Workshop Sessions will be presented separately per language.

This year's Ultreya will be held on Friday evening and the Fiesta on Saturday evening. The Fiesta will include time for the performance of a song or dance from the different cultures in the National Cursillo<sup>®</sup> Movement. Dioceses interested in participating in this event must contact the National Cursillo<sup>®</sup> Center at 214-339-6321 by June 20, 2006. There are a limited number of spaces available and we hope to accommodate all the cultures involved in Cursillo in the United States.

### **LEADERS**

Leaders conscious of their mission of being baptized, incorporate a Christian axis within their personality, clearly see the requirements of their baptism and they actively make this a reality in life with their restless soul according to their possibilities. They must be laypersons, saints, apostles, men and women of their times, in line with the magisterium of the Church. Engaged in their natural and supernatural qualities:

**Natural Qualities:**

They have a truly human personality, centered on a Christian axis.

**Supernatural Qualities:**

Developing the inexhaustible potential of their baptism.

**Leaders** is the last rollo of the second day. It ends the third phase – the “Development of the Christian life” phase – the call to a metanoia and prepares for the last phase of the Cursillo – the “Projection” phase. The third phase intends for the Cursillistas to have an encounter with Christ. This intimacy with Christ should be the most noticeable characteristic and prominent in the life of the Christian. One must remove the misguided idea we may have of Christ. One must present a Christ alive, real, personal, and close to us.

For this reason the day begins with the meditation “The Person of Christ”. Who is Christ? How is Christ? His human nature, his heart, his intelligence, his power - his character of firmness and at the same time his kindness. This is the Christ we have in the Blessed Sacrament. The rollo of “Study” intends that the cursillistas deepen their knowledge of this Christ. The ability of each person to be a leader should be cultivated and fortified. The rollo of “Sacraments” helps the Cursillistas learn how to relate with Christ. It introduces a practical and effective way to have an intimate and personal relationship with Christ, through a double objective that one must obtain. The first objective is a call to live in His friendship.

The second objective is to show how the “Leaders” rollo is the natural bridge between the tripod of Piety, Study and Action and the message of the remaining rollos - the message of “projection”. The “Action” rollo begins to help them see that one must personify and share this Christ. Apostolic Action is both an expression and consequence of our love for God. The “Leaders” rollo illustrates the life of the true Christian in the world. The remaining rollos specifically emphasize how this is to be achieved, but the Leaders rollo, by means of the rollista’s testimony, should indicate that it is possible to achieve.

The fourth phase intends for the Cursillistas to project the living experience of Cursillo in their everyday environments. It should inspire the leader with the idea of what is attainable in the world by a group of men and women who put all their natural and supernatural abilities to the service of the noble ideal of the Christian.

The “Leaders” rollo affirms that all of us are and should be leaders; all of us do something, with a sense of responsibility, as active members of the Mystical Body of Christ. Being a leader does not refer to those who are in “high positions”, such as: presidents of corporations, or those who have outstanding talents, or those who have great wealth, or who are prominent in the world. Leader refers to those who influence others and therefore help in the transformation of our society.

Being Christian is “to be a person” in every sense, struggling and growing to be human and holy. Everyone, in their own way, is a leader; the only thing that is required is for one to totally surrender to Christ.

Natural qualities are those that every human being can possess. But to the Christian these qualities are reoriented; they are put to the service of the Christian ideal. For example, a non-Christian or a non-practicing person can be generous, but Christians are generous because of their love to Christ. The supernatural qualities, on the other hand, are qualities that only the believer can possess. They are qualities that we develop by means of our relationship with God; God produces these qualities in us. All in all, when a person surrenders themselves to Christ two things happen: his good natural qualities are reoriented to the service of Christ and also, something new is granted to us since there is something new in our life - a relationship with Christ.

This is not an opportunity, no matter how tempting, to present a personal witness of our conversion to a Christian way of life. The witness begins subsequent to that point and to where the rollista is at this moment. At the same time, the humanness of the rollista should be made evident; all examples and/or witnesses should not be instant successes, but how even through failure a person can continue to grow.

The leader's reliance on God must be clear, but also how the leader spent considerable human effort of their own should be interwoven throughout. The rollo should present a picture of the leader as one who "prays as though everything depends on God (which it does) and acts as though everything depends on them (which it does)."

The rollo should be simple in style, forthright, and strong. The rollista should present the simple message that everyone possesses the capacity to be a leader. Thus the mode of the witness should fit the level of the participants' mentality on the weekend so that each can see his/her place in the plan of God.

### **E-ULTREYA WEB SITE**

The National Secretariat is asking for your support for the e-Ultreya Internet version of the Ultreya Magazine, by both submitting a witness article and by encouraging all Cursillistas to submit witness articles to the e-Ultreya.

We are all aware of just how invaluable it is to have the opportunity for many friendship groups to hear the witness of other diocesan friendship groups at Ultreya. This is why it has been the goal of the Ultreya Magazine to bring true witnesses to the Cursillo method by sharing these witness stories and statements with many other dioceses and Cursillistas affiliated with the National Cursillo<sup>®</sup> Movement. When the decision was made to abandon the paper version of the magazine, we were blessed to have a truly cost-effective alternative presented to us; an alternative that is fully supported by the National Cursillo<sup>®</sup> Center. The Internet version - e-Ultreya - has received thousands of visitors at its website location each time it is published, but nonetheless still struggles to get witness articles from Cursillistas that speak to how the Cursillo Movement's method has aided the person in their apostolic success or failure.

Is this struggle, this lack of articles, happening because the nature of an Ultreya witness is known but to a few? Or is it happening because not enough of us are encouraging each

other to send in witness material to e-Ultreya? The Regional and Diocesan Cursillo Leaders were encouraged to seek out and promote sending in such articles at the past two National Secretariat meetings and National Mailings. However, since then, the e-Ultreya has received very few articles. At the July 2006 National Secretariat Meeting, a progress report will be presented to speak to this issue. Regrettably, if this situation does not improve, it is possible that the e-Ultreya will cease to exist at the end of September 2006 and the opportunity to hear and share our witness around the country will be lost.

We strongly encourage you to send your witness to the e-Ultreya Magazine. It is located on our National Cursillo<sup>®</sup> Movement website [www.natl-cursillo.org](http://www.natl-cursillo.org) and then click on “e-Ultreya”. This is also the site where palanca requests are handled.

### **EVANGELIZATION WALK**

We encourage all Cursillistas to participate in the 2006 Evangelization Walk. To coordinate the event throughout the United States, we planned the Evangelization Walk the day before Pentecost, which is Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> this year. However, feel free to plan your Walk anytime it is convenient for your Diocese. The National Secretariat would like to remind all Cursillistas that the purpose of the Evangelization Walk is not about selling T-shirts but to promote the Cursillo<sup>®</sup> Movement in their dioceses. The National Cursillo<sup>®</sup> Center has “Evangelization Walk” T-shirts available for \$7.00 plus shipping. For more information, call 214.339.6321 or email us at [nationalcursillo.center@verizon.net](mailto:nationalcursillo.center@verizon.net).

### **LITERATURE PRICE INCREASE**

Due to increased printing expenses, the new price of *Our Fourth Day* book in English and Vietnamese is \$3.50 and the Spanish version, *Nuestro Cuarto Dia* is \$4.00 effective April 1, 2006.

Effective this mailing, affiliated dioceses should contact the National Cursillo<sup>®</sup> Center to order *Fundamental Ideas*, *Leaders’ Manual*, *Cursillo Manual (3-Day Manual)* and the *Pilgrim’s Guide*. These books are not available for purchase through the internet.

### **NATIONAL CURSILLO GIFT SHOP**

The website for the National Cursillo<sup>®</sup> Gift Shop is now available. We encourage you to take a look and browse through the Cursillo<sup>®</sup> merchandise being offered. You can visit our on-line store by going to our new gift shop website [www.nationalcursillogiftshop.com](http://www.nationalcursillogiftshop.com). The gift shop can also be accessed through a link on our National website.

### **APPEAL LETTER**

We would like to thank everyone who continues to respond to the Appeal Letter sent out in 2005 September’s Mailing. If you are interested in sending a donation to the National Cursillo<sup>®</sup> Movement, we gratefully welcome your contributions. God continues to bless our National Cursillo<sup>®</sup> Movement.

**PALANCA INTENTIONS**

**Mondays – National, Regional, and Diocesan Secretariats**

**Tuesdays – Schools of Leaders**

**Wednesdays – Cursillistas in the United States**

**Thursdays – Cursillo Movement's Apostolic Actions**

**Fridays – Cursillo Weekends**

**Saturdays – OMCC Executive Committee.**

**Thank you for joining the National Cursillo<sup>®</sup> Movement of the United States in offering *palanca* for these intentions.**

**Your Humble Servants,**

**Victor Lugo – National Executive Director**

**Ceferino Aguillón, Jr. – National English-speaking Coordinator**

**Jorge Barceló – National Spanish-speaking Coordinator**

**Joachim Le – National Vietnamese-speaking Coordinator**

**Maria Cruz – Office Support**