



The Cursillo® Movement

National Cursillo® Center • P.O. Box 210226 • Dallas, TX 75211 • 214-339-6321 • Fax 214-339-6322 • www.natl-cursillo.org

June 2009

To: National Mailing Recipients
Fm: National Cursillo® Center
Re: June National Mailing

SAINT PAUL, CURSILLOS OF CHRISTIANITY, AND OUR FOURTH DAY

By Fr. Einer R. Ochoa, National Spiritual Advisor



Beloved brothers and sisters of Cursillos in Christianity,

At the end of the Year of Saint Paul, our faith makes us look at this giant of faith and ponder about the marvels of the grace of God in him who preached among the Gentiles and left a spiritual legacy that has guided our church for two millennia. As our Patron Saint, we take a look at his Piety, Study, and Action as an inspiration for all of us in our Cursillos in Christianity.

God chose St. Paul for a special ministry before he was born; he endowed him with special gifts, he befriended him, and the Holy Spirit turned his gaze on him and called him (Precursillo). St. Paul had a personal encounter with Jesus, found the Messiah, found himself, and the Church (Cursillo). St. Paul became the apostle of the Gentiles and a teacher of Piety, Study, and Action (Postcursillo). St Paul had a zeal for the glory of God before and after his conversion (Piety). He studied under Gamaliel and after his conversion on the road to Damascus he spent three years in reflection of his new found faith (Study). His letters are the showcase of a man who was a tireless evangelizer (Action).

St. Paul modeled his PIETY after Jesus, his master. He was a man of prayer, “This is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven: May your holy name be honored; may your Kingdom come; ...” Mt 6:9-13. “In the same way the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.” Rom 8:26-27. “After Jesus had gone indoors his disciples asked him privately, ‘Why couldn’t we drive the spirit out?’ “Only prayer can drive this kind out.” answered Jesus; “nothing else can.” Mk 9:28-29.

St. Paul learned to ask through prayer: “Do all this in prayer, asking for God’s help. Pray on every occasion as the Spirit leads. For this reason keep alert and never give up; pray always for God’s people. And pray also for me, that God will give me a message when I am ready to speak, so that I may speak boldly and make known the gospel’s secret. For the sake of this gospel I am an ambassador, though now I am in prison. Pray that I may be bold in speaking about the gospel as I should.” Eph 6:18-20.

“Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God. At the same time pray also for us, so that God will give us a good opportunity to preach his message about the secret of Christ.” Col 4:2-3.

“Don’t worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. And God’s peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds safe in union with Christ Jesus. Phil 4:6-7.

St. Paul and the Eucharist. “For I received from the Lord the teaching that I passed on to you; that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in memory of me.” “In the same way, after the supper he took the cup and said, “This cup is God’s new covenant, sealed with my blood. Whenever you drink it, do so in memory of me.” 1Cor 11:23-25.

St. Paul was a learned man who knew the Holy Scriptures and found in them the fulfillment of God’s promise in Jesus and the Church (STUDY). “In him who is the source of my strength I have strength for everything.” Phil 4:13. “Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and his mighty power. Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil...” Eph 6:10-11. “The life I live now is not my own; Christ is living in me. I still live my human life, but it is a life of faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Gal 2:20. “We know that God makes all things work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his decree.” Rom 8:28. “Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you may judge what is God’s will, what is good, pleasing and perfect.” Rom 12:2.

St. Paul’s travels, his evangelization, and the exuberance of his letters are proofs of his ACTION. At the twilight of his life he was able to say with conviction: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on a merited crown awaits me; on that day the Lord, just judge that he is, will award it to me-and not only to me, but to all who have looked for his appearing with eager longing.” 2Tm 4:7-8. The work of St. Paul is a legacy in the many churches he founded in Asia Minor, Macedonia, Achaia, and other regions. His sufferings, numerous as they are, are the price he paid for the birthing of those communities. “I traveled continually, endangered by floods, robbers, my own people, the Gentiles; imperiled in the city, in the desert, at sea, by false brothers; enduring labor, hardship, many sleepless nights; in hunger and thirst, and frequent fasting, in cold and nakedness. Leaving other sufferings unmentioned, there is that daily tension pressing on me, my anxiety for all the churches.” 2Cor 11:26-28.

At the June’s closing, of the year of St. Paul, our hearts look with gratitude to him as an example of a strong faith in God, of hope in his promises, and of an ardent love for all brothers and sisters in the faith in our one Holy Catholic, and Apostolic Church and in the World wide movement born in Cala Figuera more than 60 years ago: Cursillos in Christianity.

DE COLORES!

ULTREYA – THE REUNION OF GROUP REUNIONS

Excerpts from “Evangelization through Conversion” by Eduardo Bonnín

The Postcursillo is designed to facilitate the nurturing of those three essential encounters that took place on the Cursillo so that they grow and develop into true friendship — friendship of the individual with himself, with Christ, and with our brothers and sisters.

Methodologically speaking, there is no doubt that the key to this process of friendship building is the last encounter — friendship with the others; not only the “others” that encompass “all” but especially the friendship with those who are intimately involved in our conversion process, those in our Friendship Group Reunion and Ultreya.

Precisely because Friendship Group Reunions always run the risk of turning into mutual admiration societies, self-focused groups or groups under the direction and control of someone who manages or manipulates it, either from within or without, they should always be part of the universality and diversity afforded by the Ultreya.

It is in the “witnessing” environment of the Ultreya where those who have just started their conversion process can meet and develop true friendships with other, likeminded people already on the journey. This is why Cursillo always discourages any attempt to turn the Ultreya into a “collective” or “public” event that cuts out or undermines the Group Reunion aspect that defines Ultreya just as Cursillo always discourages any attempt to suggest that the opening Group Reunions should always be made up of the same people.

It is essential to the Cursillo method that the Ultreya remains primarily a kind of meeting place where individuals can go to make new acquaintances, to make and be friends — and develop friendships of the type that will drive, strengthen, direct and sustain the conversion process and all its unsuspected blessings.

The Ultreya is the gathering of the Friendship Groups – the Reunion of the Group Reunions. The Groups and their members participate in it for the same reasons they go to the Friendship Group Reunions: to share what everybody and every Group lives. They *do not* go there to acquire knowledge *nor* to receive instructions.

If the purpose of the Ultreya were to be an educational or organizational one, it would not have the “universal” aspect that so clearly characterizes and defines it. If that were the case (i.e. educational and organizational) it would be better to divide into groups from similar professions, or environments or other defining characteristics. Instead, and consistent with what Cursillo has maintained from the very beginning, the aim is to simply provide the opportunity for each and everyone to share their experiences so as to sustain and motivate the pilgrim mentality of conversion. As such the larger and broader the structural base of the Ultreya is, the more effective and efficient it becomes.

Because of this, Cursillo highly discourages the notion of controlling and orchestrating the Ultreya Group Reunions since orchestrating and controlling have no place in something, which by design must be “spontaneous” if it is to sustain conversion!

Catholics of today complain about the rise of sects and cults among everyday people and especially the youth, but we forget that in large part, it is because we lack the baptismal simplicity, (the enthusiasm for what is simple — because it is everlasting) and the cheerful

wonder of the Good News that GOD LOVES US — that many people are driven to seek outside the established Church, what they were absolutely entitled to have found within it since it is an essential part of Christ’s heritage and thus our inheritance as children of God.

This is not to say that Cursillo wishes the Ultreyas to possess the “hard sell” atmosphere of the sects, or that they be focused on cultivating “feelings” but in no way should they stifle the sharing of what is actually being felt or the overflowing joy of those who are aware that they are beloved Children of God.

Unfortunately, there are those who insist on making the Ultreya a venue of studies or of coordinated activities in addition to being the place where experiences are shared. When this happens, and despite the person’s noble intentions, the focus shifts away from the conversion process in a way almost unnoticeable at first by even the faithful Cursillistas, until the entire focus has changed from that of *being and becoming Christian* to that of *doing Christian things*. It is to prevent this very shift that the Ultreya must be faithful to the mission. The whole Movement depends on it being so. Once the Ultreya ceases to be this instrument of conversion and turns into venues for those who believe they know better or are better than the others — they inevitably lose members and end up simply being a place where the “the most saintly” and those who attended “the most recent” Cursillo, gather.

In short, the genuine Ultreya is one of the few places and occasions where the person who is in the process of conversion can really see that he can be the best without being better than the others. This unique and evangelical sensation can be attained by those who are becoming fully human and fully Christian. The Ultreya should show and prove, through its method and proper atmosphere that while a human can always become more fully human and more fully Christian, we can never become more than what we truly are, children of God.

To avoid the vital and essential character of the Ultreya from turning into mere fireworks, into a show rather than an abode, it is essential that it be supported and strengthened by a School of Leaders. The most important thing to keep in mind is that the primary and essential role of the School of Leaders is to support the Ultreya in their area. One of the main tasks of the School of Leaders is to ensure that the Ultreya is accomplishing its purpose. The Ultreya should be discussed by the leaders during the School sessions to determine if the person leading the Ultreya fulfilled their task, was the witness rollo what it should be, were the responses (echo) in keeping with the mentality, were the new Cursillistas there, did they seem comfortable, and what measures can be taken to improve the Ultreya? Instead of finding innovative things to introduce to ‘liven’ it up, the School of Leaders should study and discuss the different elements that are part of an authentic Ultreya and look for ways to improve those.

By cultivating and nurturing true interpersonal relationships, and the warmest of them all is *friendship*, within all of life’s circumstances or environments, we create the vertebrae and the ferment, or leavening, that is needed to move the Precursillo of today to the Postcursillo of tomorrow, when all things shall be restored to Christ and the Kingdom of God that is already amongst us will be revealed through friendship and love in all of its glory.

De Colores!

19th NATIONAL ENCOUNTER

The 19th National Cursillo[®] Encounter will be held at California State University, San Bernardino, CA, (CSUSB), on July 30 – August 2, 2009. The Encounter will commence on Thursday, July 30th with the Keynote Address “The Conversion of Saint Paul” by Alejandro García-Rivera, Roman Catholic lay theologian, and immediately followed by Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation, and Benediction.

All Cursillistas attending the Encounter will be transported to/from the OMCC IV World Ultreya in Anaheim, CA.

The Encounter’s Fiesta will be held on Friday, July 31st and will include time for one brief performance (song or dance) from the different cultures and ethnic groups in the National Cursillo[®] Movement. Dioceses wishing to be included in this program must contact Len Robrigado at 909.815.4801, or robrigado@msn.com. The timeline for the Fiesta is limited, but we hope to accommodate each of the different cultural groups.

The Encounter registration fee is now \$410.00, if you register by June 26, 2009. We are unable to guarantee attendance after June 26th. We strongly encourage you to make your plans now to attend the 19th National Cursillo[®] Encounter by sending the attached registration form to the National Cursillo[®] Center. You may also register on-line at www.natl-cursillo.org. Capacity is 750 persons. Rooms will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. The Registration fee includes three nights lodging, dinner on Thursday evening, 3 meals on Friday and Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday morning. We will provide transportation from the **Ontario International Airport (ONT)** only to the college (CSUSB) on Thursday, July 30th. And we will provide transportation from the college (CSUSB) back to the **Ontario International Airport (ONT) ONLY**, on Sunday, August 2nd. Please note the airport code of ‘ONT’ as we will not be able to provide transportation to/from another airport!

Please send Palanca for the 19th National Encounter to Enrique Avelar at 18635 Chapae Lane, Apple Valley, CA 92307. The fax number is 909-989-7507 or you can e-mail your palanca to ehrn4880@hotmail.com.

OMCC IV WORLD ULTREYA

The World Cursillo Movement (OMCC) is inviting all Cursillistas of the world to gather on Saturday, August 1, 2009, 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM, at the Anaheim Convention Center Arena in Anaheim, CA for the IV World Ultreya of the Cursillos of Christianity Movement.

Attendance to the IV World Ultreya is \$25 US per person. The Arena has seating capacity for 8,000 persons. The cost of the ticket does not include food or parking. The Arena has its own food vendors and no outside food will be allowed inside the Arena. The parking fee is \$10 per car.

Complete and submit the attached IV World Ultreya form, with a check or credit card information (VISA or MASTERCARD ONLY), to the National Cursillo[®] Office. If you prefer online processing, visit the website, www.natl-cursillo.org. Full payment is required to process your order.

Tickets on domestic orders will be mailed in June 2009. The delivery of tickets on international orders will be handled by a “Will Call” desk at the Anaheim Convention Center the day of the World Ultreya.

We await the IV World Ultreya with anticipation and prayer. Thank you for your cooperation and we ask that you keep the IV World Ultreya in your prayers as well.

CATHOLIC FAITH ENRICHMENT

The National Cursillo[®] Movement continues the partnership with Lighthouse Catholic Media, a division of Saint Joseph Communications. The details are posted on the www.natl-cursillo.org.

NATIONAL CURSILLO[®] GIFT SHOP

The National Cursillo[®] Gift Shop website, www.nationalcursillogiftshop.com, and the sale of Cursillo related items contribute to the financial support of the National Cursillo[®] Movement.

DONATIONS

The National Cursillo[®] Movement gratefully welcomes your donations. Your financial support advances the evangelization function of the Movement and is eligible for tax deduction purposes.

NATIONAL CURSILLO[®] CENTER

The National Cursillo[®] Center will close on Friday, July 3, 2009, for Independence Day and will open on Monday, July 6, 2009, at 9:00 AM CST. We will also be close on Tuesday, July 28, thru Tuesday, August 4, 2009, for the 19th National Encounter and IV World Ultreya, and will open on Wednesday, August 5, 2009, at 9:00 AM CST. Please plan your book orders accordingly.

PALANCA INTENTIONS

Mondays – National, Regional, and Diocesan Secretariats

Tuesdays – Schools of Leaders

Wednesdays – Cursillistas in the United States

Thursdays – National Cursillo[®] Movement's Apostolic Actions

Fridays – Cursillo Weekends

Saturdays – OMCC and NACG Executive Committee

Let us continue to pray and offer Palanca for each other, the 19th National Encounter, the IV World Ultreya, and the National Cursillo[®] Movement.

Your brothers in Christ,

Victor Lugo – National Executive Director

Ceferino Aguillón, Jr. – National English-speaking Coordinator

Jorge Barceló – National Spanish-speaking Coordinator

Joachim Le – National Vietnamese-speaking Coordinator

19th National Cursillo[®] Encounter Registration Form
California State University, San Bernardino, CA
Thursday, July 30 – Sunday, August 2, 2009

Cost for the 19th National Encounter is \$410.00
Includes attendance and transportation to the OMCC IV World Ultreya

(Please use a separate Registration Form for each registrant)

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY – THANK YOU – PLEASE FILL IN ALL THE BLANKS)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Work: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Preferred Language: _____

Diocese: _____ Region: _____

Gender (Circle one): Male Female Specify: Bishop, Priest, Deacon, or Religious _____

If you wish to room with a specific person (spouse, friend, relative) then the other person's Registration Form must accompany this form. We will not guarantee your roommate if the forms do not accompany one another.

Roommate preference? (Circle One): Yes No If Yes, Name: _____

Wheelchair/physically challenged: _____

Do you wish to participate with the Encounter Choir? (Circle one): Yes No

Make checks payable to: National Cursillo[®] Center

Credit Card payment: Circle one: MasterCard or Visa (No Discover or American Express)

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name on Credit Card: _____

Send this form and payment to:

National Cursillo[®] Center

P.O. Box 210226 - Dallas, TX 75211-0226

Telephone: 214.339.6321, Fax: 214.339.6322, e-mail: nationalcursillo.center@verizon.net

Full payment of \$410.00 per person and this form must be received by June 26, 2009

Unable to guarantee attendance after June 26, 2009!

There is a \$40.00 non-refundable fee for all cancellations through May 31, 2009. No refunds after May 31, 2009 – No exceptions! The National Cursillo[®] Center is responsible for the payment to the University regardless of cancellations.

Confirmation # _____
Office Use Only

OMCC IV World Ultreya
Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, CA
Saturday, August 1, 2009, 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Pacific Time

Ticket Form for Orders Within the United States

Contribution for Admission to the OMCC IV World Ultreya is \$25.00

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY – THANK YOU – PLEASE FILL IN ALL THE BLANKS)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Work: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail Address: _____

The IV World Ultreya will be held at the Anaheim Convention Center Arena in Anaheim, CA, on Saturday, August 1, 2009, 12:00 PM – 9:00 PM. Arena capacity is 8,000. You must present your ticket to enter the Anaheim Convention Center. Arena doors open at 12 Noon. The ticket price to the IV World Ultreya is **\$25.00**. Full payment is required at the time of purchase. If you lose your ticket you must purchase another ticket to attend the IV World Ultreya. **No refunds – No exceptions!** The ticket price does not include meals but you may purchase food from the Arena vendors. Parking is \$10 per vehicle.

Number of tickets: _____ at \$25.00 each Total: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: National Cursillo® Center

Credit Card payment: Circle one: MasterCard or Visa (No Discover or American Express)

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name on Credit Card: _____

Send this form and payment to:

National Cursillo® Center
P.O. Box 210226 - Dallas, TX 75211-0226
Telephone: 214.339.6321, Fax: 214.339.6322, e-mail: nationalcursillo.center@verizon.net