

December 2005

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

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The theme for the 15th National Encounter was “*Be Messengers of Joy*”. The Encounter was held at the St. Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, July 28 – July 31, 2005. There were 599 Cursillistas in attendance.

The National Cursillo® Movement has been blessed with the addition of Ceferino Aguillón Jr., who moved to Dallas, Texas to serve as the National English-speaking Coordinator. Many of you have met him as he visited several Regions and Dioceses this past year. If you haven’t met him yet, be patient. He plans to visit the dioceses in Region 10 in Spring 2006 and the dioceses in Region 3 in Fall 2006.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

In July 2005, the National Secretariat approved Fr. Einer Ochoa as the new National Spiritual Advisor to the National Secretariat, replacing Fr. Pedro Garcia.



Rev. Einer R. Ochoa

Fr. Einer was born in Cenotillo, Yucatan, Mexico. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of San Antonio on May 26, 1985. He serves as pastor at St. Agnes Church in San Antonio, Texas.

Fr. Einer’s vocation started as a child and he desired to go to the seminary when he was 12 years old. His father, however, wanted him to first finish high school. He worked as a school teacher in Mexico for 15 years before coming to the United States to join his family in San Bernardino, California.

Fr. Einer lived his Cursillo in February 1976 in Riverside, Ca, which at that time was part of the Diocese of San Diego. Cursillo was significant for him because it awakened in him the desire to know and live his faith more deeply and seriously. As he re-discovered himself as a person, he became aware of his longing for a vocation. In 1980, he entered the seminary in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Texas.

He currently serves as spiritual advisor for the Cursillos of Christianity of the Archdiocese of San Antonio and as co-spiritual advisor for Region 8 Cursillo Movement. In his priesthood, Fr. Einer has been active in a number of religious groups, including serving as the first treasurer of the National Association of Hispanic Priests. He is also consultant for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Spanish in San Antonio and San Andres USA, Catholic School of Evangelization.

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

The National Secretariat met twice in fiscal year 2005, (October 1, 2004 – September 30, 2005). Below is a summary of the changes that were approved during this past fiscal year based on the recommendations made by our Finance Committee:

1. National Affiliation Dues:

The initial affiliation dues will remain at \$400 per language group, per diocese to be paid by January 31, 2005. For the financial stability of the National Cursillo® Movement, the following action will be effective January 1, 2005:

- a. For those language groups whose payment is not received at the National Cursillo Center prior to February 1st, a late fee of \$50 will be assessed for a total of \$450.
- b. For those language groups whose payment is not received at the National Cursillo Center prior to May 1st, a second late fee of \$50 will be assessed for a total of \$500.
- c. For those language groups whose payment is not received at the National Cursillo Center prior to July 1st, the privilege of purchasing materials, publications or other items from the National Cursillo Center will be suspended until payment is received.
- d. Language groups that are in their initial stage of formation and/or face serious financial difficulty in remitting payment of dues will submit a written request to the National Cursillo Center prior to January 31st to schedule payments.

2. Publication Income:

The following action will be effective with the new fiscal year, October 1, 2004:

- a. All publication sales will be on a pre-paid basis. Cash, checks, and credit card are accepted.
- b. The Lay Director may place a book order and request a 30-day credit period, not to exceed 60-days. This arrangement is available one order at a time. The Diocese must be in good standing with the National Office. Payment of National Affiliation dues must be current.

3. Publication Discount: Effective January 1, 2006 the discount for book order sales will be reduced to 10% from the current 20%.

LITERATURE UPDATE

The National Cursillo® Center published the following literature this year:

- Our Fourth Day, Vietnamese
- II Conversaciones de Cala Figuera, Spanish
- Pilgrim's Guide, (includes the Luminous Mysteries of the Holy Rosary), Spanish

We also made available the following English books:

- The Evangelizing Catholic, by Frank P. De Siano, C.S.P.
- Friendship: The Art of Happiness, by Dr. John Cuddeback.

OMCC - WORLD ORGANIZATION of the CURSILLO MOVEMENT

The World Organization of the Cursillo Movement, referred to as the OMCC (Organismo Mundial de Cursillos de Cristiandad) is transferring its seat to the United States in February 2006. In July 2005 the National Secretariat elected Juan Ruiz as OMCC President. The Secretariat is in the process of electing the OMCC Executive Committee that will serve for four (4) years; (2006 – 2010). The OMCC Executive Committee will begin their service on February 1, 2006.

We are including a portion of the November 2005 OMCC monthly letter that states the transfer to the United States:

“On the next 1st February 2006, a new stage of the history of the OMCC will begin. In accordance to the rotation practice, and with the OMCC Statute, the next term will be hosted by the North America and Caribbean Group, which chose the National Secretariat of the United States to accomplish the mission. The National Secretariat of the United States chose our dear brother Juan Ruiz from Los Angeles to coordinate the next OMCC Executive Committee. To him and his future team we wish God’s blessings and apostolic success. And, of course, we request all of you to follow them with both your motivation and continuous prayers.” OMCC Monthly Newsletter, November 2005

The OMCC held its VI World Encounter in Brazil, October 26 – 30, 2005. We are grateful for all your prayers for this Encounter. New friendships were made with Cursillistas from around the world. We are grateful for the nine Cursillistas that the National Secretariat approved to represent the United States. These representatives were:

- **Bishop James A. Tamayo – National Cursillo Episcopal Advisor**
- **Helen MacDonnell – National Secretariat Chairperson**
- **Victor Lugo – National Executive Director**
- **Jorge Barceló – National Spanish-speaking Coordinator**
- **Juan Ruiz – Elected OMCC President for the USA**
- **Veronica Trevino – National Secretariat member English Language Representative**
- **Arnold Parungao – National Secretariat member Filipino Language Representative**
- **Antonio Martins – National Secretariat member Portuguese Lang. Representative**
- **Vicente Pham – National Secretariat member Vietnamese Language Representative**

EVANGELIZATION WALK

THANK YOU! We had 30 dioceses participate in an Evangelization Walk this year. We thank you for your participation and donation to the National Cursillo[®] Center.

APPEAL LETTER

The Finance Committee sent an appeal letter (included in September’s Mailing) asking for donations from Cursillistas on behalf of the National Cursillo[®] Movement. We thank everyone who responded to our Appeal Letter. If you are interested in sending a donation to the National Cursillo[®] Movement, we gratefully welcome your contribution. God continues to bless our Movement.

STUDY

In this article I would like to share with you about the “Study” rollo, the second pillar where all Christian life should be sustained. The rollo in its essence is simple, however, it has been complicated and therefore, deviated – without any wrong intended of course - into two different ways: “*formation*” and “to know much”.

It Is Not To Know Much, But Rather To Love Much

When we speak about study in Cursillo, we are not referring to a “knowing” or “to know much”. Christianity that is living and intimate, must be based on some precisely known truths, dogmatically valued and sincerely felt. Our progressive integration into the Body of

Christ requires a progression, the simple and sincere usage of our intelligence in order to know and assimilate the Gift of God and to project this into all things.

In spite of this, the point of Christianity is not to know much, but rather to love much.

We Are Not Referring To A “Formation”

It is also necessary to remove the obsession for what has come to be called ‘formation’ - that is knowledge that illustrates but does not oblige; that can, awaken but not illuminate and that can destroy but not convince. What is intended with Cursillo is that the person that one intends to evangelize comes to regard the Lord freely, with conviction and the joy of discovery.

When the title of this rollo was changed from study to formation, little by little its context was also changed and therefore its original purpose pretended. Study is only a means to obtain a goal; the progressive integration and conformation of man in Christ. It would be a terrible error to turn it into a purpose. A means that bring about the discovery of the possibilities of the normal, living, and triumphant Christianization of our being; the reality of what it is to simply “*being Christian*”.

What Type Of Study Are We Then Referring? We are referring to the study which is necessary for the Christian to explain the reality of humanity and God.

Study. In our case, the application of intelligence is to know or discover the Gift of God and its projection in all things.

It Is Necessary for a Christian. In order that his works are the expression of his convictions and not just a customary ritual; and in order that his piety may become conscious and strong.

To Understand the Reality of Humanity – Person. This is the sum of our being and is the reason we have those doses of pride, cowardice, sinfulness, narrow-mindedness, and childishness which hinder our sanctification.

And of God: Who is a personal, living, omnipotent being, who wants the best for us, and has concrete hopes for each person.

But it is Only a Means: For the progressive integration and conformation of man in Christ, it would be a terrible error to turn it into a purpose.

That in Turn Requires the Use of Appropriate Means: Like books, magazines, other helpful artifacts, and some communal acts such as the group reunion and the Ultreya. The use of these means will help us produce the discovery of the possibilities of the normal, living, and triumphant Christianization of our being.

Some Aspects About The Rollo

It is the first rollo of the second day following a brief break after breakfast. Study is the second leg of the tripod where all Christian life is sustained. This rollo is not as vibrant as the Piety rollo, but also not purely cerebral. After this rollo the Rector takes an opportunity to remind the Cursillistas to make visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

Atmosphere At The Time Of The Study Rollo

The atmosphere is one of enthusiasm. Normally the Cursillistas are hoping that the rest of the rollos continue with the vibrancy of the Piety rollo. The first two phases of Cursillo, the preparation and proclamation phases, are intended to put the Cursillistas face to face with themselves, now they may be ready for that encounter with the Christ shared in the morning meditation. Study plays a big part in facilitating the way for that Encounter. The serenity of the Study rollo places them on the authentic track of what the Cursillo is truly about.

The Message Of The Second Day

The Meditation “The Figure of Christ” starts the 3rd phase of the Cursillo: Conversion (or development of the Christian life), which sets the ground for the second encounter that Cursillo pretends, the “Personal Encounter with Christ”. The message of the rollos of the day and more important, the witnesses of the rollistas, should portray their personal relationship with Christ – Lord and Man. A Christ who is real, living, personal, present in the Eucharist and a friend who is close to us at every moment of our life. This is the Christ who is in the Tabernacle; once we get to know Him we must incarnate Him.

What we intend with the Study rollo is to instill in the Cursillistas the idea of a deeper Grace, but in a more conscious and enlightened manner, thus to be a “living testimony of our faith”. One tries to provide a Christian approach and use of their intelligence that places before them a realizable perspective of the Christianization of their person and circumstances.

The Central Message Of The Rollo

The central message and essence of the rollo is found in the section “object of the study”. The object of our study is centered, condensed, and synthesized in the words of St. Augustine: “*Lord Jesus, let me know myself and know You*”.

To know ourselves. Understanding the reality of humanity is the sum of our being and is the reason we have those moments of pride, cowardice, sinfulness, narrow-mindedness, and childishness which hinder our sanctification. These are openings through which these things enter and keep us from being the saints that God wants us to be.

To know God. God is not a problem solver, a prayer answerer... but nevertheless, is: a personal Being; alive; an optimist for us; someone who wants the best for us; Omnipotent.

Purpose of Study:

It is clear that it is necessary to Study, but we should not give it more importance of what it is. No one should just study for the sake of studying. Study is only a means and should not be made as an end. Like a doctor who studies a series of things, not to know them, but to cure illnesses, to save lives and make a living. We want to study to resolve all the problems in our lives in the light of our Christianity. The purpose of our study is to provide an authentic apostolic formation for the Christian.

Formation: Formation is to give form. It is more than information; it is the exercise and perfection of our Christian virtues. Works are what give form to our lives.

Apostolic: Study is the aim of action. The Church needs militant Catholics who base their action on piety (knees) and direct it through study (intelligence). We are called to project into our environment these virtues we have acquired and exercised. The seller must know

something about the product and the buyer. In order for our actions to be effective, we must know Christ and the people we want to spread His message to. By knowing more about Christ and our brothers, we are then better able to serve the Lord in spreading His message to them. We can say that an hour of study is an hour of prayer.

Christianity Is Not Just A Way Of Life, But Life Itself

Christianity is not an outfit made up of liturgical practices, prayers, medals, and alms that one wears. We do not work so that Christians will go to Mass on Sundays, not say bad words, or become good people... we work so that all may become modern day saints in their everyday lives.

De Colores Jorge Barceló

16th NATIONAL ENCOUNTER

Next year's National Encounter will be held July 20-23, 2006, at the Villanova University in Philadelphia, PA. Keep this date open in your calendar. More information will be coming in our next mailing.

NATIONAL CURSILLO GIFT SHOP

The website design for the National Cursillo[®] Gift Shop is complete. However, the web site address is not available until the contents are transferred to a permanent server. In the meantime, you can visit www.natl-cursillo.org to check for a link to the Gift Shop. A link will be provided within a week or two.

E-ULTREYA WEB SITE

We have received several witnesses this past year at our e-Ultreya located on our website. This is also the site where palanca requests are handled. If you haven't visited this site yet, we encourage you to go to www.natl-cursillo.org and click on "e-Ultreya". Keep the witnesses coming; we are in need of more witness articles. We know many Cursillistas live the method and witness Christ in their daily life. Share the joy with others.

PALANCA INTENTIONS

Mondays – for all Secretariats

Tuesdays – for all Schools of Leaders

Wednesdays – for all Cursillistas in the United States

Thursdays – for the Cursillo Movement's Apostolic Actions

Fridays – for all 3-Day Cursillo Weekends

Saturdays – OMCC Executive Committee

Thank you for joining the National Cursillo[®] Movement of the United States in offering *palanca* for these intentions.

We wish you and your family a blessed Advent season and a Happy New Year.

Your Servants 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

Maria Cruz – Office Support