



December 2008

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

DISCERNMENT TO LIVE WHAT IS FUNDAMENTAL FOR BEING A CHRISTIAN

Reflection by Fr. Einer R. Ochoa, National Spiritual Advisor



Discernment according to the Webster's New World Dictionary comes from the Latin word 'discernere' <dis-, apart+cernere, to separate: to separate (a thing) mentally from another or others; to recognize as separate or different, to perceive or recognize, to perceive or recognize the difference. In religious terms, Discernment of Spirits is the ability to distinguish whether a given idea or impulse in the soul comes from the good spirit or from the evil spirit.

The discernment to live what is fundamental for being a Christian is to realize the full potential of living in Christ according to our state in life. *To live in this essence of Christianity is equivalent to live truly in the Kingdom of God and His Justice. Everything else is extraneous. This is the basis of the catholicity of the Cursillo Movement, which makes it capable of responding to any person at whatever moment and in whatever place.* (The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement)

Our faith plays a fundamental role in this discernment. Faith is the acceptance of the word of another. The basic motive of all faith is the authority (or right to be believed) of someone who is speaking. This authority is an adequate knowledge of what he or she is talking about, and integrity in not wanting to deceive. It is called divine faith when the one believed is God and human faith when the persons believed are human beings.

Having made discernment in this regard we consider the fullness of our faith as everything contained in the Word of God as the basis for our Catholic faith. To live in the experience of our faith lead us to the capacity of a real conviction in the truth of God and our salvation in Jesus Christ. This reality helps us to make a commitment to a life in Christ based in the reality of God present in the church of today, in the reality of the church as the body of Christ on earth. In the reality of the Cursillo Movement in the present times, in the reality of the person as the masterpiece of God's creation, in the reality of our eternal dignity, and the reality of the ultimate experience of sharing in the fullness of the Glory of God eternally.

Living in the Gospel of Jesus Christ is having an integrated concept of the contemporary world and its relationship to a God who is mysteriously present and active in the dynamics of the Church of today, in the dynamics of a true and authentic Cursillo of Christianity, in the dynamics of a true evangelization.

In this special body of the Church called Cursillo, discipleship is based in the living experience of the love of God and the love of neighbor. This is the ultimate truth of our existence, the core of the faith in Jesus Christ.

Discernment is a constant companion in our journey De Colores. It begins with our Precursillo experience and continues during the three day Cursillo, and Postcursillo or our fourth day. Our fourth day is characterized by the paramount attitude of growing in the love of God and neighbor through our group reunion and Ultreya. Human friendship, shared living faith, and apostolic action form the core of these two groups of Christians which are the objectives of our Cursillo Movement.

The objectives of the Cursillo, being the core group of Christians living the life of grace in Christ, is the basis of the leavening of environments with the Gospel. This conscious, growing, and shared living of the life of grace is influenced by the secular dimension of the world. Jesus' words to his disciples "You are in the world but do not belong to the world," is a reminder of their Christian newness in the frame of their secular nature.

The discernment of the particularities of our social environment indicates the way in the cultivation of relationships within this environment: with nature, with others and with God.

The lifestyle of the Christian living his or her fourth day inevitably will lead to the leavening of his or her environment and consequently to the transformation of the social environment with the spirit of Christ.

Never like before we face an extraordinary environment affected heavily by the globalization of the world. If discernment of environments is crucial in the mission of the Church today it is imperative to consider the importance of the witnessing of true Christians in a world which more and more is a sophisticated environment awaiting the mercy of a real, compassionate, caring and loving God.

The Church, as the visible manifestation on earth of the invisible God, is called today to a heroic witnessing of a life impregnated with the eternal values of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As we move into the Advent season awaiting the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ on Christmas, everyday, and at the end of times, we, like the Blessed Mother, listen attentively to God's call, ponder His Words in our hearts, thank Him for having adopted us in Christ and, share the Good News with a world desperately seeking for meaning, life, faith, hope, and love.

De Colores!

PERSONAL CONTACT & AUTHENTIC WITNESS

"The task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church..." said Pope Paul VI. *"Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize..."* (Evangelii Nuntiandi #14) The purpose of the Cursillo Movement is the Evangelical leavening of environments with the Gospel by means of persons -*vertebrae*- who live what is fundamental for being Christian.

The personal contact, together with the witness, along with other contributors, are essential elements utilized in each one of the three phases of the Cursillo Movement Method to obtain their purpose. *Personal contact* are two words that cannot be miss-interpreted in our Movement.

When referring to “contact” in Cursillos, we refer to the approach, to the treatment, the friendly relation of a person to another with the end result of bringing him or her to Christ. “Personal”, means: unique, private, individual, original, subjective. In other words, what we mean is, to apply the “method of action” that we emphasize so much in our Cursillo Movement, that is, “to make a friend, to be a friend, and to bring that friend to Christ”.

“This person-to-person style of evangelization is, without any detriment to the validity and importance of collective proclamation, endorsed by Evangelii Nuntiandi: “Communication of the Gospel from person to person must be encouraged and esteemed. This is the method which Our Lord Himself constantly employed as we see in His discussions with Nicodemus, with Zaccheus, with the Samaritan woman, and with Simon the Pharisee. It is the method employed by the Apostles. It may indeed be said that the only true form of evangelization is that by which the individual communicates to another those truths of which he or she is personally convinced by faith. We must not allow the necessity of proclaiming the Good News to the multitude to make us neglect this method by which the personal conscience of the individual is touched by some inspiring words which he or she hears from another.” (Fundamental Ideas #317; Evangelii Nuntiandi #46)

In the Precursillo

Precursillo is the first phase of the Cursillo Movement; therefore it should be developed as a function of what is first, last and always the purpose of the Cursillo Movement. (FI 206-234)

The Precursillo cannot be reduced to simply inviting a person to live a Cursillo; or to an announcement in the parish bulletin. The Precursillo, before being “a study and selection of environments”, before being “a selection and preparation of candidates”, should be a sincere effort of establishing a friendship which can only come by way of personal contact. Persons who carry out the Truth of the Gospel are those who give witness of their life. *“Through this wordless witness these Christians stir up irresistible questions in the hearts of those who see how they live: Why are they like this? Why do they live in this way? What or who is it that inspires them? Why are they in our midst?”* (Evangelii Nuntiandi #21) We should remember that our Postcursillo - our fourth day - is the Precursillo of others. The witness we give will only match what we are living.

Personal contact in the Precursillo will carry over to the Cursillo where the team will continue the work.

During the Cursillo

The three day Weekend integrates a series of technical resources to obtain its purpose. The objective of the Cursillo is to give knowledge (by the word) and conviction (by the witness). The theology, psychology, and pedagogy of Cursillo is about knowing what to say, how much to say, when to say it, how to say it, and what not to say, thus stirring up dialogues among the decurias, and channeling to a personal dialogue. This sharing is traditionally known as *corridor work*.

It is necessary to know the person(s): how they are, how they should be, and how they may become what the Cursillo intends. *“The leaders of the Cursillo have to be in touch with the times; they have to be attuned to people as they are here and now. Evangelization will lose much of its power and efficacy if it does not take into consideration the people to whom it is addressed, if it does not make use of their language, their signs, and their symbols; if it does not*

offer an answer to the questions which are relevant to them; if, in a word, it does not reach and influence their way of life.” (Fundamental Ideas #261; Evangelii Nuntiandi #63)

We should be in constant personal contact during the Cursillo weekend; making good use of the *sounding* and *stabbing* technique although always, and above all respecting the freedom of the candidates. During the first day, the sounding and the dialogue develop as the candidates get acquainted with each other by means of a natural dialogue. In the second day, the dialogue is now a result of friendship; the sounding by the leaders continues by strategically applying the stabbing aspect -the leader befriends all, illuminating them so that they clearly see the Truth, and directing them so that all become friends of Christ and friends with each other. In the third day the dialogue develops as brothers in Christ - through an assurance of being children of the same Father. In the third day the most important contacts of the Cursillo are carried out. The new Cursillistas want to put in practice what they have found with others in their environment. Therefore, the leader will illuminate their path so that they can help others see clearly, and guide them all toward their fourth day. (For more information please see the Leaders Manual - Pgs. 49-54, and Structure of Ideas, Pgs. 26-34).

“The ‘corridor work’ of personal dialogue has a different focus for each of the three days. On the first day, the goal is to get better acquainted with the Cursillistas; on the second day, to free them of any prejudice against the proclaimed truth, by showing how it relates to their individual circumstances; and on the third day, to help them plan their re-entry into their respective environments.” (FI #316)

Although not all of us have been called to share a rollo at a Weekend, some of us have been called to give witness as part of a team. To share a rollo is not the same thing as presenting a talk. Sharing how one lives the various aspects contained in the message being presented is to give a rollo; therefore, this includes a personal witness of how we are living the fundamental ideas of the rollo.

Let us remember that the intent of each rollo is to provide a piece of the overall message. It is important that the witnesses be related to the ideas contained in the rollo. If the witness does not go with the idea intended, the message may create confusion. In some instances it may be better to provide an anecdote to better illustrate an idea.

The Postcursillo

“Everything done by means of the Cursillo method to attain the purpose of the Movement as a whole has the Postcursillo as its final objective. The Postcursillo is meant to continue the process begun during the Cursillo Weekend - that of being converted and living out what is fundamental for being a Christian.” (Fundamental Ideas #452)

“The leader in the Postcursillo has a double role to play:

a) as an individual, making personal contact with each Cursillista; and

b) as a team member, in the School and in the Ultreya.” (Fundamental ideas #514) For such reason, the leaders who have served in a Cursillo have the responsibility to continue the work of Personal Contact in the Postcursillo. *“The leaders should have, for a prudent time, the responsibility for the perseverance of those who attended a weekend, while they incorporate fully to their Christian community”* (II. World Encounter)

“Just as a team is what makes the Cursillo weekend possible, it is also a team that makes the Postcursillo possible. The immediate objective of leaders in the Postcursillo is to motivate and

help new Cursillistas to find a group of friends they can join so that they can take part in Christian community. Participation in this community will enable them to take on the apostolic responsibilities of their life situations.” (Fundamental Ideas #513)

“Above all the Gospel must be proclaimed by witness. Take a Christian or a handful of Christians who, in the midst of their own community, show their capacity for understanding and acceptance, their sharing of life and destiny with other people, their solidarity with the efforts of all for whatever is noble and good. Let us suppose that, in addition, they radiate in an altogether simple and unaffected way their faith in values that go beyond current values, and their hope in something that is not seen and that one would not dare to imagine. ...” (Evangelii Nuntiandi #21)

“Finally, the person who has been evangelized goes on to evangelize others. Here lies the test of truth, the touchstone of evangelization: it is unthinkable that a person should accept the Word and give himself to the kingdom without becoming a person who bears witness to it and proclaims it in his turn...” (Evangelii Nuntiandi #24)

While on this subject, it is important to mention the witness shared at the Ultreya. When we speak of the lay rollo at the Ultreya we are referring to the witness itself. The witness cannot be different to what one is living in the fourth day (although it should be something recent); the living and sharing of the love of God and the love of neighbor. In other words, how am I contributing to the extension of the Kingdom of God in my daily living? How am I bringing Christ to light in my environments? All in all, how am I carrying the Cursillo I am living to others?

One may think that giving a witness is sharing something extraordinary. A witness is to share that which is lived. When a person talks about what he or she is living, it is almost always told well, unless it is lived just to be told. The dazzling personalities will entertain, but those who live close to God will reflect Him. *“When I came to you, my friends, I did not use big words and great learning to announce God’s message.” (I Cor. 2:1).*

After the witness rollo at the Ultreya, an “echo” or “resonance” is also shared. This does not mean providing a summary of the witness that was shared or giving another witness. The echo is a brief affirmation of what the brother/sister shared, “I also live it this way...”; simply emphasizing on some points of the witness of how both live the love of God and the love of neighbor supported by their Piety, Study, and Action.

In conclusion, let us cite from Evangelii Nuntiandi about “Authentic witnesses of life”

“Let us now consider the very persons of the evangelizers.

It is often said nowadays that the present century thirsts for authenticity. Especially in regard to young people it is said that they have a horror of the artificial or false and that they are searching above all for truth and honesty.

These “signs of the times” should find us vigilant. Either tacitly or aloud-but always forcefully-we are being asked: Do you really believe what you are proclaiming? Do you live what you believe? Do you really preach what you live? The witness of life has become more than ever an essential condition for real effectiveness in preaching. Precisely because of this we are, to a certain extent, responsible for the progress of the Gospel that we proclaim...

We are all responsible for the answers that could be given to these questions.

We therefore address our exhortation... We say to all of them: our evangelizing zeal must spring from true holiness of life, and, as the Second Vatican Council suggests, preaching must in its turn make the preacher grow in holiness, which is nourished by prayer and above all by love for the Eucharist.

The world which, paradoxically, despite innumerable signs of the denial of God, is nevertheless searching for Him in unexpected ways and painfully experiencing the need of Him-the world is calling for evangelizers to speak to it of a God whom the evangelists themselves should know and be familiar with as if they could see the invisible. The world calls for and expects from us simplicity of life, the spirit of prayer, charity towards all, especially towards the lowly and the poor, obedience and humility, detachment and self-sacrifice. Without this mark of holiness, our word will have difficulty in touching the heart of modern man. It risks being vain and sterile.”

De Colores!

REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2008 (October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008)

NATIONAL ENCOUNTER

The 18th National Cursillo[®] Encounter, with the keynote address entitled “*Christ Is Our Light*”, was held at The Catholic University of America and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C., July 31 – August 3, 2008. 650 Cursillistas attended. Highlights of this Encounter are available on our website www.natl-cursillo.org

DIOCESAN

Fiscal Year (FY) 2008, 88% of the language groups submitted affiliation fees. There are four newly affiliated groups:

- Region IV, Knoxville – Spanish
- Region IV, Memphis – Spanish
- Region VIII, Lubbock – English
- Region VIII, Lubbock – Spanish

There were several Diocesan workshops conducted by the National Staff.

REGIONAL

There were four Regional Visitations:

- Region I – Spanish (7 dioceses), April 2008
- Region IV – English (15 dioceses), October and November 2007
- Region VIII – English (12 dioceses), April and May 2008
- Region V – English (11 dioceses), September 2008
- Region XII – Spanish (4 dioceses), June 2008

The National Staff participated in several English, Spanish, and Vietnamese Regional Encounters.

LITERATURE

Completed revision and publication of National Cursillo[®] Movement’s books:

- English – “Cursillos in Christianity Brochure”.

- Spanish – “Cursillos de Cristiandad Brochure” and “El Libor del Padrino”.
- Vietnamese – “Cursillo, What is it?”.

In Progress:

- English – “Cursillo de Cursillos” and “Evidencias Olvidadas”.
- Spanish – “Evidencias Olvidadas”.
- Vietnamese – “Cursillo Manual” and “Leader’s Manual”.

Reprinted publications:

- English – “Pilgrim’s Guide”, Cursillo, What is It?”, “Our Fourth Day”, “Leader’s Manual”, “Fundamental Ideas”, “Group Reunion Sheets”, Carnets and “Service Sheets”.
- Spanish – “Nuestro Cuarto Dia”, “Manual de Dirigentes”, “Guia Del Peregrino”, “Ideas Fundamentales”, “Vertebración de Ideas”, Hojas de Reunion de Grupo”, Hojas de Servicio” and “Carnet”.
- Vietnamese – “Our Fourth Day”.

New Publications:

- “Los Origenes Mallorquines de los Cursillos de Cristiandad en EE.UU. (Texas, 1957-1959)” and “Historia De Un Carisma”.

NATIONAL MAILINGS

There were 6 National Mailings, each in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese language:

- October 2007: article on *Secretariat*.
- December 2007: address by Fr. Einer Ochoa, National Spiritual Advisor, to the Cursillistas, *End of the Year Messages*, and an article on *Structure of the Cursillo Movement*.
- February 2008: address by Victor Lugo, National Executive Director to the Cursillistas, and an article on *Palanca*.
- April 2008: article on *Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló, Founder of the Cursillos in Christianity*, and *Service Sheet*.
- June 2008: address by Fr. Einer Ochoa to the Cursillistas, *A Reflection on our Holy Father’s trip to the United States*, and an article on *The Three Encounters in the Three-Day Cursillo*.
- August 2008: address by Victor Lugo to the Cursillistas, and an article on *Sponsoring Candidates for the Cursillo Weekend*.

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

The National Secretariat met in November 2007 and July 2008. In November 2007, two Executive Committee members were selected. Six new Regional Coordinators were commissioned to serve on the National Secretariat. The National Secretariat is made of the twelve regions of the United States. The Regional Coordinator from each language group in each region serves on the National Secretariat.

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.

EVANGELIZATION WALK

FY 2008, one diocese contributed 40% of their Evangelization Walk proceeds.

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 activities will include attendance and transportation to/from the OMCC IV World Ultreya in Anaheim, CA.

The Encounter registration fee is \$360.00, if you register by May 31, 2009. 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 serve 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 to CSUSB on Thursday, July 30, from **Ontario International Airport ONLY**, and back on Sunday, August 2. We will not be able to provide transportation to/from another airport!

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.

The OMCC Executive Committee has chosen a location that is conveniently located within walking distance to many hotels, stores and restaurants. This will provide a wonderful setting for us to share before and after the Ultreya. It is also located across the street from Disneyland and California Adventure Park. Here is the link, www.anaheimconventioncenter.com, to the Anaheim Convention Center so you can view the grounds online and see the many hotels available in the area.

Your contribution of \$25 US per person will allow access into the Anaheim Arena. 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.

The following is the process for ordering your tickets:

International Orders:

OMCC will handle all International orders. Contact the OMCC: Juan Ruiz at 562-309-5821 or jxruiz@verizon.net or Gail Terrana at 716-297-7905 or gat257@gmail.com. Full payment is required to process your order. The tickets for those persons outside the United States will be held for the person purchasing the tickets at a “will call” area the morning of the event. We will give further details about the location soon.

Orders within the United States:

The National Cursillo[®] Center will handle all domestic orders. 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.

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.

DONATIONS

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

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 Executive Committee

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

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

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 \$360.00
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 \$360.00 per person and this form must be received by May 31, 2009
Registration cost received June 1 – June 26, 2009 is \$410.00
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



IV World Ultreya

Anaheim, CA. USA

AUGUST 1, 2009

"The Beauty of Being a Christian and the joy of communicating it"

From the Second World Congress of Ecclesial Movements and New Communities in Rome, 2006

**Anaheim Convention Center
Anaheim, California USA**

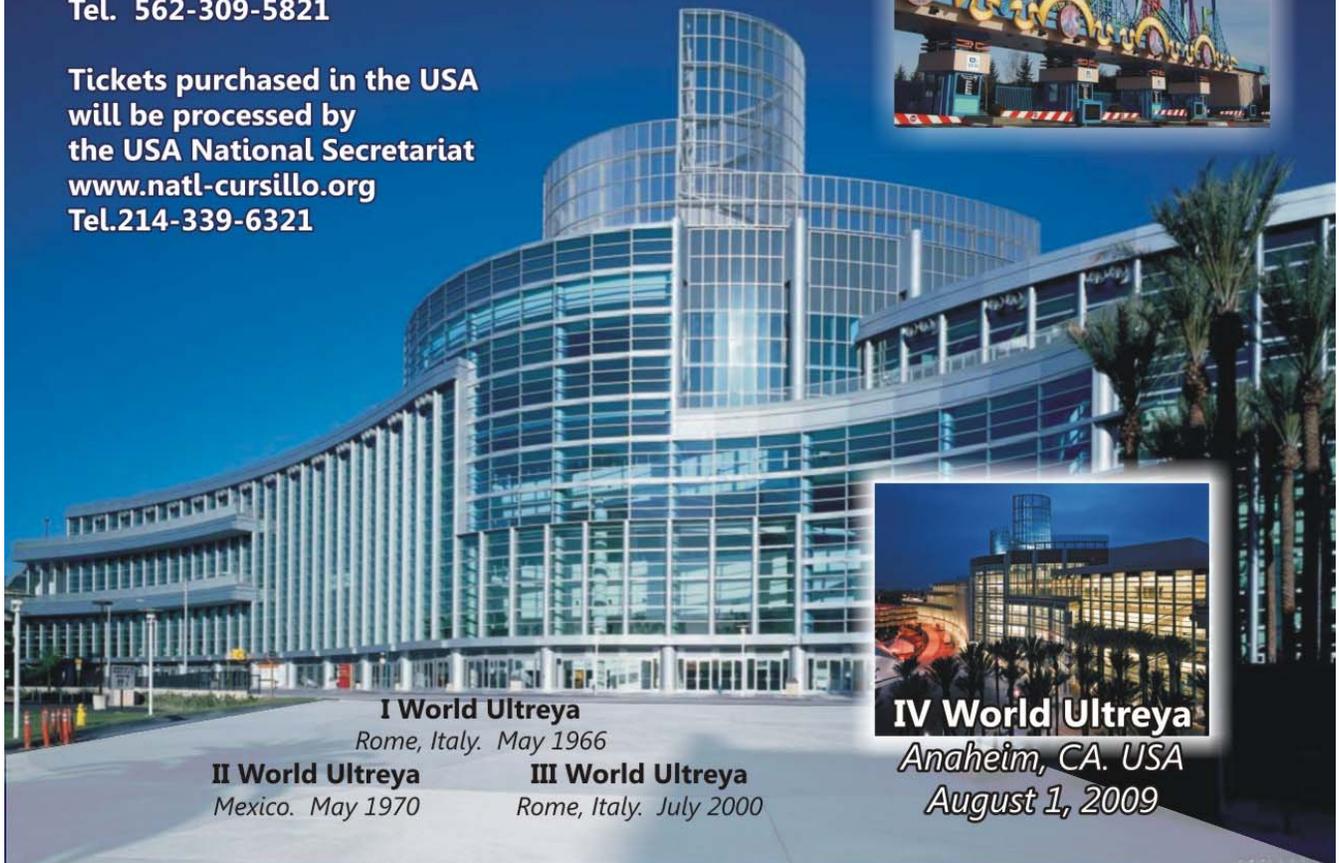
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ENTRANCE FEE USD \$25

Tickets purchased outside the USA
will be processed by the Executive Committee of the OMCC

The point of contact is:
Juan Ruiz jxruiz@verizon.net
www.natl-cursillo.org
Tel. 562-309-5821

Tickets purchased in the USA
will be processed by
the USA National Secretariat
www.natl-cursillo.org
Tel. 214-339-6321



I World Ultreya

Rome, Italy. May 1966

II World Ultreya

Mexico. May 1970

III World Ultreya

Rome, Italy. July 2000

IV World Ultreya

Anaheim, CA. USA

August 1, 2009

