



ORGANISMO
MUNDIAL DE CURSILLOS
DE CRISTIANDAD

OMCC

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Dear friends,

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May the peace and love of Our Lord always be with you!

In the month of May, I had the honor of being invited to Mallorca for the 90th anniversary celebration of the birth of our friend Eduardo Bonnin and it was truly a living testimony of the friendship that reigns in cursillo.

Among the more than 500 people in attendance, there were people from many parts of the world, who thanks to the Charism of Cursillo, gathered in the confidence that what united us was simply love of Christ and love of the movement. It was truly an Ultreya that celebrated the beauty of being Christian and the joy of friendship.

At this celebration I also had the pleasure of sharing with people who, because of their great love of the movement, are carrying out positions of service like our friends: Francis Napoli and Joseph Yeo-President and Vice President of GET; Sheelagh Winston-Secretary of NACG; Maria Dolores Negrillo Martinez and Fr. Jose Valiente--President and Vice Council of Spain's National Secretariat; and Antonio Punyed--President of El Salvador's National Secretariat. And along with the Mallorcan community, we shared with a good-sized group from Italy, Portugal and Germany.

It was fabulous to see together, in the year 2007, Eduardo Bonnin the rector of the first cursillo in history (Cala Figuera 1944) as well as the first official Cursillo Number 1 (San Honorato 1949), with one of the candidates of the cursillo at Cala Figuera, Salvador Escribano and also Guillermo Estarellas and Magin Mora a leader and a candidate, respectively, from San Honorato. Guillermo Estarellas was the person who introduced the song *De Colores* to Cursillos.

I also want to share with all of you an endearing moment that was a "Moment very close to Christ": It was having the opportunity to visit Father Sebastian Gayá at his retirement home. Fr. Sebastian Gayá participated for the first time as Spiritual Director in the Cursillo number XIII celebrated at the Monastery of Montesón de Porrás from August 13 to September 4, 1949, along with Fr. Pedro Amóros (Magazine Proa # 131, 1949). And since 1949, Fr. Sebastian Gaya has been a promoter of the Charism of the Cursillo Movement, whom along with Dr. Hervas and other priests, has given it untiring spiritual direction. This was a very special moment for all those present: Eduardo Bonnin, Arsenio Pachon, Fr. Sebastian Gaya and myself. There lies no doubt that with the love and friendship of God in Jesus Christ everything is possible.

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This kind of friendship is what cursillo teaches us in all phases of its methodology; Precursillo, Cursillo and Postcursillo. This sincere and true friendship is found in a Group Reunion. As we all know, the methodology of CCM offers us two means in order to persevere and continually grow in our fourth day; Group Reunion and Ultreya. The Group Reunion (with whom you choose) for the intimate aspect of the person and the Ultreya and its Group Reunion (with whom you should) for the social aspect of the person.

The Group Reunion, with whom you choose, takes us to the creation of that sincere and profound friendship with a small group of friends with whom, with great anticipation, you gather weekly and share your Christianity, which involves all your life in general, in a natural, normal and sincere way. And in this way, this small group of friends will motivate each other to be a better person and a better Christian in all aspects of the real and normal life we live.

It is such that we have not only one “Best Friend” who we desired to have or had in our youth, but rather to have many “Best Friends” with whom you can share your joys and sadness, your successes and failures, your moments close to Christ and your Piety, Study and Action. And this friendship becomes so profound that it is not enough to share in the weekly reunion, but rather it is shared in every place that we meet and at any time of day or night.

The group reunion with whom you should, held at Ultreyas, is what helps us increase our circle of friendship to a more global dimension of church. The celebration of gathering at the Ultreya helps us to make more friends so that we increase our growth by sharing our Christian life with others, who, just like us, want to be better persons, better friends, in a word better Christians.

We cannot waste these two means the CCM offers us for perseverance and constant growth in our journey to Our Father. I invite all of us to reflect on these two means and that we analyze their condition in each one of our diocese.

Moving on to another very important topic, we want to let you know that the Committee for the revision of the book *Fundamental Ideas* will meet from June 9-13 in Gibraltar. As such, we greatly need all your prayers.

We also want to remind you to send your suggestions for the Statute and the Charism to your National Secretariats. The fact that the PCL has clarified that any change to the Statute needs to be approved by a World Encounter does not change in any way the process of study we have begun at all levels of the Operational Structure of the CCM. This way, the study that could be presented at the World Encounter, will be the result of an inclusive and representative participation of all the cursillistas that chose to contribute.

As always, we close with the infinite desire to remain united in the love and friendship of God in Christ Jesus.

De Colores,



Juan Ruiz
President - OMCC

A note from our Spiritual Advisor...

Friendship is the authentically human form of communication between persons. Among its components are intimacy and commitment. Out of a fear of intimacy and commitment, do we choose to remain in our “comfort zones” and hide behind get-togethers of those who have shared interests, such as sports or the arts?

The “foundational charism” of Jesus’ ministry was lived in friendship. Out of the fullness of his intimacy with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus lived friendship intensely. Jesus related to the 12 apostles in profound friendship. “I call you friends because I share with you what I have received from my Father” (John 15:15). Jesus didn’t share a common interest in the politics or the sports of his day, but, rather, what was dearest to him, his relationship with the Father.

However, Jesus sought out three (Peter, James and John) for an even deeper friendship. They came from different backgrounds—Jesus was a carpenter, while the others were fishermen. Yet Jesus invited them, and indeed, counted on their friendship and support at important moments of his ministry: the raising of Jairus’ daughter (Luke 8:51), the Transfiguration (Luke 9:28), and the Agony in the Garden (Mark 14:32). I imagine that Jesus was humanly more distressed at the cowardice and betrayal of these three, than that of the other (with the possible exception of Judas).

The Latin American bishops (C.E.L.A.M.) in 1979 stated, (Puebla #324) “As spiritual beings, humans must free themselves from every sort of servitude to these things (“worldly values”). They must move on to the plane of personal relations where they encounter themselves and other human beings. Their dignity becomes real in fraternal love.” The Cursillo mentality is that the person flourishes in and for friendship.

From a Cursillo perspective, Ultreya would correspond to Jesus’ friendship with the 12 apostles, while Group Reunion would correspond to his friendship with Peter, James, and John. Do we prefer the relative “anonymity” of Ultreya because we would rather avoid the intimacy and commitment of Group Reunion? (They won’t miss me...)”

Group Reunion primarily (not to downplay the role also played by Ultreya) seeks to transform the three encounters of the Cursillo weekend into friendship. These encounters are continuous and progressive and “feed off” of each other. The 3-day Cursillo cannot bear the full weight of the three encounters, which are meant to last a lifetime. The Cursillo is only the “first installment”. By facilitating the sharing of the joy of living in grace through Group Reunion, friendship is converted into a permanent source of actual grace.

Through Group Reunion, I come to know myself most fully through the eyes of the Other (Christ) and of other intimate friends. It is a paradox—sharing ourselves doesn’t diminish or lessen us, but rather “enlarges” us, causing us to grow. There are two scripture passages I have found to illustrate this. “He who fears God behaves accordingly and his friend will become like himself” (Sirach 6:17). Friendship with others in Christ raises the joy of living that friendship. “We must consider how to rouse each other to good deeds and to love.” (Hebrews 10:24). Group Reunion provides the means to do so—we encourage each other toward heaven because, in a certain sense, we experience the first fruits of heaven (love, unity, and self-emptying) in Group Reunion.

We become “Christophers” (Christ bearers) because we believe that the best means to communicate the best news (that God in Christ loves me/us) is friendship. The friendship lived in Group Reunion is itself evangelizing. In Luke 10:1, Jesus sent evangelizers out in pairs. I am convinced that, part of the success of those evangelizing efforts, was facilitated by the witness of friendship between those who were sent. If the initial (and still primary) target of the Cursillo is the “outsider”, friendship, as seen lived in the lives of the leaders, will make the Gospel credible.

Group Reunion does require intimacy and commitment—let’s not sell it short!

De Colores,

Fr. David Smith
Spiritual Advisor - OMCC