

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER

Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska

September 2019



Calendar of Events

October 24-27, 2019	Men's Three Day Cursillo Weekend – Sacred Heart Parish, Hebron.
November 7-10, 2019	Women's Three Day Cursillo Weekend – Postponed until Spring 2020; watch the Lincoln Diocese website and future newsletters for dates/location.
November 16, 2019	Secretariat Meeting , at St. Joseph Church, York - 9:30am Meeting (9:00am Mass)
December 14, 2019	SOL - 9:30am – 1:30pm (Mass at 9:00am) at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church (IHM), Lincoln (English and Vietnamese communities)
January 11, 2020	Secretariat Meeting , at St. Joseph Church, York - 9:30am Meeting (9:00am Mass)
February 8, 2020	SOL - 9:30am – 1:30pm (Mass at 9:00am) at St. Ann Church, Doniphan.
Spring 2020	Cursillo Region VI Spring Encounter , hosted by the Dodge City, KS – Spanish Cursillistas. <i>Date and Location to be decided.</i>
July 23-26, 2020	Cursillo National Encounter , Creighton University, Omaha, NE. <i>National Encounters do not get any closer than this ... make plans to participate.</i>

Palanca for Men's Three Day Weekend ... Christ is counting on YOU!! Please offer PALANCA for the Upcoming Men's Weekend, for the spiritual success of this and every Cursillo activity. After all, Palanca is the backbone of the Cursillo Movement and essential for each spiritual success – on Weekends as well as in every Fourth Day. As the candidates are living their Three Day Weekend, your spending time with our Lord before the Blessed Sacrament is the best means of helping them encounter Him. Please consider offering an hour (or more) of prayer some time during the Men's Weekend.

Upcoming Three Day Weekends

The next Men's Three Day Weekend is scheduled to be held at Sacred Heart Parish in Hebron – October 24-27, 2019. The Women's Weekend will be held in Spring 2020, with details regarding date/location announced as soon as they are known. Begin / continue to pray and think about which of your friends you should invite to be a candidate. A registration form and information about Cursillo are included as inserts in this newsletter. If you are planning to sponsor a candidate, please contact the Coordinator for the Men's Weekend (Greg Vandenberg) for the Sponsor Form. As you continue to work with your friend/candidate, be excited and joy-filled and enthusiastic. Continue always to make a friend, be a friend, and bring your friend to Christ.

Want to Sign up for an hour to offer Palanca for the Men's Cursillo Weekend?

Here are four quick steps to use a SignUpGenius.com to sign up:

1. Enter this url address in your webpage browser <http://tiny.cc/rkf7cz>.
2. When the webpage loads, select the date and time you wish to offer adoration, prayer, sacrifice.
3. After making your choice(s), at the bottom of the page click on the "submit and sign up" button.
4. On the new screen, enter your name and email (optional) and click the "sign up now" button.
5. Already signed up? You can change your sign up by clicking on those words located above the top of the schedule of days/hours.

Report on the Fourth Day Retreat ... held Saturday, June 15, 2019 at St. Ann Church, Doniphan. The Retreat provided Cursillistas with a deeper understanding and a living experience of what is essential in Cursillo and in living our Catholic faith.

The retreat began at 9:00am (8:30am Mass) and ended at 4:00pm. It was a great opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones, while at the same time continuing to help us better understand the great gift that Cursillo is. In addition to a deeper knowledge of Cursillo, we learned from each other, and that helps to deepen the three essential encounters with self, Christ, and others that we discovered during the Cursillo Weekend.

Report on School of Leaders (SOL)

We have been studying/discussing a new book entitled: *Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló - 100 years – Biography & Mentality*. This book contains lots of previously unknown information about the life of our founder and his mentality as well as the history of Cursillos in Christianity. Many of Eduardo's quotes are very good for reflection and useful in living the 4th Day fully and joyfully! We will continue this study at the December 14 SOL.

At the August 10, 2019 SOL, we spent time reviewing the Step By Step guide, which will be used for the first time in our Diocese for the Men's Three Day Weekend in October. This guide is an English translation of Eduardo Bonnín's (the founder of Cursillo) notes regarding the way Cursillo Weekends are to be conducted. It outlines how the Cursillo Movement in Mallorca has operated since its inception. Step by Step is only now being translated into languages other than Spanish, and will be used in Three Day Weekends around the world.

Our next SOL is scheduled for December 14, 2019 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Lincoln. Please join us. As mentioned above, at this December SOL we will return to our study of the book entitled: *Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló - 100 years – Biography & Mentality*. The books will be available for purchase (\$9).

Report on Region VI Fall Encounter (September 13-15, 2019)

The Region VI Fall Encounter was hosted by the Spanish community of the Diocese of Wichita, KS at Hiawatha Camp & Retreat Center on September 13-15, 2019. There were approximately 20 English speaking cursillistas including 4 from the Lincoln Diocese and about 80 Spanish speaking cursillistas present. The topics covered dealt with the "Step by Step" guide for Cursillo Weekends. It was a continuation of the study of "Step by Step" that began at the Spring Encounter in March 2019. It was a very good Encounter.

From the Lay Director

De Colores!

The 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Gospel retells the parable of the disgraced steward and begs the question: Why would Jesus make the dishonest servant the hero of the story?

Jesus knows that forgiveness and mercy are in short supply in this world and so He tells a story about limited, self-motivated mercy involving the forgiveness of a portion of the debt others owe the servant's master. In his conclusion to the parable, Jesus says that his followers seem to be unable to match even the so-called mercy of this dishonest steward when He says; "*The children of this world are more prudent...than are the children of light*" (Luke 16:8). Jesus is looking for true mercy, extravagant mercy as shown by the Prodigal Son's father in last week's Gospel.

Do you have a friend that is having trouble forgiving someone because their friendship with Christ Jesus is not what it should be? Share the gift of Cursillo with that friend by inviting them to attend an upcoming three-day weekend. Perhaps learning what is fundamental to being a Christian and gaining the grace given during the weekend will assist them in placing the Gospel at the heart of their life and make that forgiveness possible. – **Greg Vandenberg**

From the Spiritual Advisor

The Magnificat meditation for Sunday, August 25, 2019 by Father Jean-Nicolas Grou, S.J. expressed some very beautiful thoughts in a meditation entitled “Asking Daily for the Grace to Strive”, that are worth reflecting on again:

“The first means of attaining virtue, which seems the most easy, and is in reality the most difficult, is to *will* it; but with a sincere, entire, efficacious, and constant will. And oh how rare is this *good will*! We imagine we will a thing, but in truth and reality we do not will it at all. We may have desires, longings, purposes, wishes; but that is not having a strong and determined will. We wish to be devout, but in our own way up to a certain point, and provided it does not cost us too much. We wish, and we are contented with wishing. We do not carry our wishes into practice; we are discouraged as soon as it is necessary to put our hand to the work, to overcome obstacles or set them aside, to fight against our faults ... We wish today perhaps; we begin bravely, but alas! our energies are soon relaxed ...

Everything depends upon perseverance. Let us ask God to grant us this good will, let us ask him for it every day; and let us try to merit, by our fidelity to the grace of today, to obtain it again on the next day.”

In the Gospel passage for that day, Jesus encouraged the people of His day and all of us to “*Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough. ... [Jesus continued a verse or two later] And you will say, ‘We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.’”*

Some of us rely on our human strengths or our friendships or associations with other persons to carry us through difficult times. Those strengths and talents that God has blessed us with and the friends and other persons in our lives are very important. However, none of us will get into Heaven through our own attempts or even just because we did certain pious acts. We have been invited by our Lord to open our hearts to His Word and to His Grace, and to allow His Grace, His Light and His Love, to soften our hard hearts and strengthen our weak wills. Allowing the Lord to strengthen us is one of the best things we can do.

Growing in the spiritual life is not a matter of “trying” or “desiring” or “wishing” as Fr. Grou wrote in the meditation. It is a matter of willing. We regularly, daily, exercise our will ... we practice our faith ... we live the Cursillo Method of friendship, which is a “path to go beyond” where we are, to where God wants us to be. God wants us to be in Heaven. To get there, He invites us to strive ... to exercise our will each day to live our tripod of Piety, Study, and Action.

Living our tripod involves a daily choice and willing. To succeed, we continue to exercise our will to love God and our neighbor each day. We continue to exercise our will to meet with our friends in a weekly group reunion, and to participate in our monthly Ultreya. We will to do this with our friends and continue to say Yes to Jesus.

That daily Yes is so important to us and to our friends and those persons we have not yet met, but who God wants us to introduce to our best Friend, Jesus. Continue to strive and will each day. May we pray for each other daily (offering Palanca for our friends in the Cursillo Movement). I ask your prayers for me. In June 2019, the Cursillo National Secretariat elected me to serve a three year term as the National Spiritual Advisor which begins October 1, 2019.

I encourage you to participate regularly in a weekly Group Reunion and a monthly Ultreya. Also, consider inviting one or two of your friends to attend the Men’s Three Day Weekend in October.

De Colores!! Fr. Mark Seiker

Report on 2019 National Encounter (July 18-21, 2019)

The 29th National Encounter was July 18-21, 2019 at the University of Scranton, in Scranton, Pennsylvania. We celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the First Cursillo in Mallorca with special guests from Mallorca. Over 900 Cursillistas participated, including both clergy and laypersons from multiple language groups including English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Filipino, Portuguese, Korean, and Chinese. It was a great opportunity to experience the unity and the diversity of the Cursillo Movement across the world.

The 2020 National Encounter will be at Creighton University in Omaha, NE on July 23-26, 2020. Encounters do not get any closer than this ... start making plans to participate.

Upcoming Ultreyas

Beatrice-Hebron-Crete:

Location alternates (2:00pm; usually 2nd Sunday of month)

- **October Ultreya** – In place of the October 13 Ultreya, please plan to attend the Men’s Closing at 5:00pm on October 27, Sacred Heart Parish Hall, **Hebron**
- **November Ultreya (November 10)** – St. Joseph Parish Center, **Beatrice**
- **December Ultreya (December 8)** – Sacred Heart Parish Hall, **Hebron**

Contacts: John/Kathy Springer (402) 826-2699

Southwestern Nebraska (McCook-Imperial-North Platte):

Location alternates (usually 2nd Sunday of month)

- **October Ultreya (October 20)** - 3:30pm CT – St. Patrick Church Basement, **McCook**
- **November Ultreya (November 10)** - 2:30pm MT – St. Patrick Parish Hall, **Imperial**
- **December Ultreya (December 8)** - 3:30pm CT – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Hall, **North Platte**

Contacts: Helen Bieker (308) 340-0268

Lincoln – Vietnamese Language Group:

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lincoln

- **1st Sunday of each month after 9:00am Mass (about 10:15am)** *[please notice the change from 2nd Sunday to 1st Sunday]*

Contacts: Diep Van Nguyen (402) 474-9588, Canh Nguyen (402) 435-0921, or Juliana Bui (402) 730-9230
.....

Not Currently Having Ultreyas *[Please participate in a neighboring Ultreya]*

- Lincoln
- Doniphan-Hastings-Holdrege-Minden
- Plattsmouth-Nebraska City
- Weston-David City-Shelby-Wahoo

For more information, contact Greg Vandenberg (308) 530-7587, Lay Director

Secretariat Mail

Lay Director – Greg Vandenberg; 3101 Meadow Court, North Platte, NE 69101
(glvandenberg@charter.net)

Newsletter is currently published as needed.

Lincoln Diocese Cursillo WebPage: www.seas-np.org/cursillolincoln.html

Region VI WebPage: www.natl-cursillo.org/region6

National WebPage: www.natl-cursillo.org

Secretariat Members

Lay Director	Greg Vandenberg (308) 530-7587
Precursillo	
Three Day Weekend	
Postcursillo	
School of Leaders / Secretary.....	John Springer (402) 826-2699
Treasurer	Kathy Springer (402) 826-2699
Spiritual Advisor.....	Fr. Mark Seiker (308) 534-5461

CURSILLO NEWSLETTER
3301 Echo Dr
North Platte, NE 69101-9608

Forwarding Service Requested

Men's Weekend Oct. 24-27
Sign up to offer Palanca
Use SignUpGenius.com
(See details inside)

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lincoln, NE
Permit No. 363

Men's Three Day Weekend

October 24-27, 2019

Sacred Heart Church, Hebron, NE



Eduardo Bonnin Aguilo
(picture copied from 100 Years Biography - Mentality)

Cursillo Registration Form

Diocese of Lincoln, NE

(Give completed Registration Form to your Sponsor or to your Pastor.)

Name:	Parish (include town)	
Street Address:		
City, State, Zip:	Birth Date	Gender: M F
Email Address:	<u>Current Marital Status</u> (circle one): Married Widowed Divorced Separated	
Home Phone:	Single Religious Priest	
Work Phone:	Spouse's Name:	
Cell Phone:	Is spouse Catholic? Yes No	
Occupation:	If not Catholic, what Religion?	
	Spouse's Occupation:	
Why do you wish to make Cursillo Weekend?		
Are you able to receive the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion? Yes No		
Has your spouse made a Cursillo? Yes No <i>(answer follow-up question to the right)</i>	If Yes, where and when? If No, has there been a meeting to explain Cursillo to both spouses? Yes No <i>(this is required regardless of which spouse goes first)</i>	
Activities you are currently involved in (Church, Civic, Professional, Hobbies, etc.):		
FYI -- Sleeping arrangements are generally foam mats / mattresses on the floor ... cots may be available.		
Do you have any conditions that would require special attention (health, diet, disabilities, allergies, problems with stairs, etc.)? No Yes / explain:		
<u>Emergency Contact</u> Name:	Phone:	
Do you have questions about the Weekend that your sponsor has not been able to answer? If so, what are they?		
Has the recommended follow-up program of Group Reunion and Ultreya been explained to you? Y N		

Your Signature _____ Date _____

Sponsor's Name _____ Sponsor's Address _____

If you have questions about a sponsor, please contact those listed below or ask your Pastor.

Sponsor's Signature _____ Date _____

A \$20.00 non-refundable registration fee should be submitted with the registration. During the Weekend, you will be invited to make a donation to help cover the expenses associated with the Weekend. Those who cannot afford the requested registration fee and/or donation should attend and contribute what they can. Checks should be made payable to "Cursillo of Lincoln" and mailed to:

- Men: Greg Vandenberg, 3101 Meadow Court, North Platte, NE 69101; 308-530-7587
- Women: Kathy Springer, 1410 E 15th St, Crete, NE 68333; 402-826-2699

Revised 08/13/2019

Additional Information for Candidates re: the Cursillo Weekend (2019)

The Coordinators for the upcoming Cursillo Weekends are Greg Vandenberg (308-530-7587) for the Men's Weekend (October 24-27, 2019) and Kathy Springer (402-826-2699) for the Women's Weekend (date/location to be scheduled for Spring 2020; information will be provided as soon as the dates are set). Cursillo Weekends are held in various locations around the Diocese. This one is being held at Sacred Heart Parish, 436 N 3rd St; Hebron, NE 68370 (phone number in case of emergencies during the Weekend is 402-768-6293).

The purpose of this note is to pass along some helpful information, based on questions we're commonly asked. If other questions arise, please do not hesitate to call Greg or Kathy (see contact information below).

- ✠ The weekend will start at approximately 7:30 p.m. on Thursday ... it is best to plan to arrive between 7:00 and 7:30 p.m. The Weekend concludes about 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. on Sunday.
- ✠ Someone will be there to meet you, greet you, and help you with your things.
- ✠ Please let us know if you have any special dietary (or other) needs.
- ✠ All meals, snacks, and drinks (tea, soda, water, coffee, etc.) are provided.
- ✠ You will need to bring a pillow and sleeping bag (or sheets and a blanket). We have foam mats and mattresses to put underneath your sleeping bag (these are surprisingly comfortable). You are welcome to bring an inflatable bed or cot.
- ✠ You may want to bring ear plugs if “background” noise bothers you at night.
- ✠ Bring comfortable clothing and any personal items you need (towels/washcloth, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, a couple of hangers for towels and clothes, flashlight, prescription medications, etc.).
- ✠ Dress is very casual, as most wear jeans and shirts/sweaters/sweatshirts, although we usually dress up a little nicer for the Lord's Day.
- ✠ Don't worry if you forget something, as we can get whatever you need.
- ✠ **There are showers available throughout the weekend.**
- ✠ There is usually time for sharing jokes, so please bring a number of your favorite clean jokes with you to share.
- ✠ You may want to bring a Rosary (if you have one) and a Bible.
- ✠ Was it mentioned that we have food?!?!?!?
- ✠ The Lincoln Diocese Cursillo Website is: <http://www.seas-np.org/cursillolincoln.html>

We look forward to spending the Cursillo Weekend with you in the company of our Lord.

Greg Vandenberg
3101 Meadow Ct
North Platte, NE 69101
(308-530-7587)
Email: glvandenberg@charter.net

Kathy Springer
1410 E. 15th Street
Crete, NE 68333
(402-826-2699)
Email: ks90710@windstream.net

What is Cursillo?

CURSILLOS IN CHRISTIANITY

In today's world, can Christianity penetrate the many areas of secular life? Can it live there? Can it grow there? Can it transform the world in a way that is more fruitful than the past and in keeping with the times? The Cursillo Movement thinks so. It proposes no new type of spirituality, but simply a method through which a person's spirituality may be developed, lived and shared in any area of human life where there are Christians willing to dedicate their lives to God in an ongoing manner.

Cursillo teaches that the Gospel should be proclaimed in very natural ways; i.e., we should be Christ-like as we go about our daily activities, right where God put us. Unfortunately, while most people would like to live their lives in a Christ-like manner, the pressures of the world often make this difficult. Cursillo provides a method (with tools) to meet the challenges and respond to the opportunities presented each day. The method is introduced by a little course.

FORMAT OF THE EXERCISES

Cursillo (pronounced **kur-see-yo**) is a Spanish word meaning "little, or short, course." It begins on a Thursday evening and ends the following Sunday evening. During the three days, those attending live and work together listening to talks given by priests and laypersons. They also share the Eucharist and pray together.

Titles of the talks indicate their content: Ideal, Habitual Grace, The Layperson: A Christian in the World, Actual Grace, Piety, Study, Sacraments, Action, Obstacles to a Life of Grace, Leaders, Study of the Environment, Life in Grace, Christianity in Action, the Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo, and Total Security. Each talk is followed by a discussion period.

THE FOURTH DAY

Cursillo recognizes the importance of persevering beyond the Weekend itself, so its design includes a method for increasing and continuing the conversion process beyond the Three Days by providing a means for living the "fourth day" (each day after the Three Day Weekend is referred to as the "fourth day"). In the Cursillo Movement, the community spirit is continued in the fourth day through a monthly gathering or reunion called "Ultreya", during which we encourage one another to continue to grow in Faith, Hope, and Love (Ultreya means "onward"; we encourage one another onward ... to continue/persevere). In addition, reunions of smaller groups of friends (Group Reunion) are available weekly for fostering spiritual growth in the individual members, helping each to better take Christ out into the world.

CHRISTIANIZING ENVIRONMENTS

The Cursillo Movement can have very positive results in the spiritual revitalization of the world ... the "New Evangelization." The Christ-likeness in a few good people is contagious. The transference of Christ's values to others in one's family, school, place of business, etc., is the Christianizing of environments the Cursillo promotes.

The goal of the Cursillo Movement is that Christ be the prime influence in society. Its primary objectives are to develop in Christians a consciousness of their power and mission to become leaders in the work of Christian renewal, and to sustain them as they provide a Christian leaven in civic, social and economic life. This "Christianizing of environments" is what the Cursillo Movement is all about.

CURSILLO

Cursillistas (persons who have lived a Three Day Cursillo Weekend) believe that Christianity CAN penetrate the many areas of secular life. Cursillo is not a new type of spirituality, but simply a method through which our spirituality is developed and lived – right where we are!!

A Cursillo Weekend's aim is to concentrate closely on the Person and teachings of Jesus Christ. Truly, a Cursillo is an encounter with Christ ... a real meeting with Christ. Cursillo gives those who participate a living understanding of basic Catholic truths and the desire to serve the Church. What's more, it provides a means to continue the Christian formation that begins on the Weekend.

Interested? You are invited ... Come and see!!

For More Information, Contact:

Greg Vandenberg, Lay Director	308-530-7587
John and Kathy Springer	402-826-2699
Helen Bieker	308-340-0268
Monica Buster	402-365-7682
Thai Nguyen	402-580-7587
Diep Van Nguyen (Vietnamese)	402-474-9588
Fr. Bernard Lorenz (Spanish)	308-414-1195
Fr. Mark Seiker	308-534-5461

Revised 09/22/19

<http://www.seas-np.org/cursillolincoln.html>

The Cursillo

*A Method to
Find,
Form,
Sustain
and
Link
Lay Leadership for Christ
and His Church.*

*One Means of Supporting
Christian Community.*



(Reprinted with permission from The National Cursillo Center) 4/3/94

Bishop James Conley (Bishop of Lincoln)

February 8, 2014

“The Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Lincoln has my blessing and full support. For many, making a Cursillo retreat can be a trigger moment for a deeper conversion of life and a greater commitment to discipleship in the Lord. The Church is gifted with disciples from the Cursillo Movement who are true evangelists. As Pope Francis stated in *Evangelii Gaudium*, “Jesus wants evangelizers who proclaim the good news not only with words, but above all by a life transfigured by God’s presence” (EG 259). Cursillo retreats provide the opportunity for

a heart to heart encounter with Christ, whose abundant love and mercy is transformative. Once transformed by a deep encounter with Christ, those involved in the Cursillo movement persevere in this grace through a life of prayer, regular participation in the Sacraments, and fidelity to the “fourth day.” The ready support of fellow Cursillo members and attendance at community reunions are a tremendous help as well. May God grant the Diocese of Lincoln many fruitful Cursillos and a great harvest of souls who have their hearts set on our Lord Jesus!”

Bishop Fabian Bruskwitz (Bishop Emeritus of Lincoln)

April 8, 2003 Pastoral Bulletin to Diocesan Priests

“Cursillo began in Spain in the 1940’s, and has since spread throughout the world (it was also the catalyst for such movements as Marriage Encounter, Teens Encounter Christ (TEC), Christians Encounter Christ, Residents Encounter Christ, and KAIROS, each of which addressed the needs of a specific group.) Through regular reflection on personal growth in the areas of holiness, formation, and evangelization, the Cursillo Movement offers Catholics an authentic means of helping the Church fulfill her mission of bringing the Gospel to the world.

“The Cursillo Movement first came to the Lincoln Diocese in 1965, and has since continued in its efforts to bear fruit in the spiritual lives of those involved, as well as in the environments these persons were sent by God to Christianize (family,

neighborhood, parish, work). Cursillo is a solidly authentic method of deepening a relationship with Christ, a means of putting on the mind of Christ. It is one way to assist Catholics to teach others to do the same.

“The Cursillo Movement is strongly recommended for its authenticity in promoting holiness, formation and evangelization in the spiritual lives of those who faithfully participate and persevere in living the Cursillo Method, especially to the leaders in every environment within the Diocese. The Lincoln Diocese Cursillo Movement enjoys the full endorsement and support of the Bishop and of Pope John Paul II who publicly thanked the Lord for all He has done and never ceases to do in the Church through Cursillo.”

Pope Francis (formerly Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio)

June 13, 2011 Letter to the Cursillistas of the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires

My dear Cursillistas:

“The good seed are the children of the kingdom.” (Mt. 13:38)

“As we approach the celebration of the feast of Saint Paul, your patron and model of how to live “de colores”, we give thanks to God for all the fruits that the Cursillos in Christianity Movement has generously given the Church.

“Your service of proclaiming Christ by being his witnesses in your everyday environments, is an embodiment, a concrete renewal of the Baptism that we have received in Him and makes you disciples and missionaries of the Word, as this was expressed in the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church: “Through their baptism and confirmation all are commissioned to the apostolate by the Lord Himself” (Lumen Gentium no. 33).

“I write to you conscious of the challenge that today’s society presents to the enculturation of the Gospel; but I trust that your audacity and apostolic fervor - born of a personal encounter with self and with Christ - will lead you to make history for the good of all. So that, many brothers and sisters, marginalized or not, who live on the fringe may feel embraced by the love of Jesus.

“To be a pilgrim in our City means not becoming comfortable, but to be open to life and to pay attention to what is happening in our heart - like a good Samaritan confronted with the difficult circumstances of so many brothers and sisters.

“It is necessary that the Cursillos in Christianity Movement, through the participation of everyone, continue its journey of pastoral conversion as proposed at Aparecida (Cf. 5th General Conference of the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean, “Disciples and Missionaries of Jesus Christ”)

“As Cursillistas living through difficult times you need to ask God for the Grace to have many candidates, to have an ongoing precursillo, so as not to fall into the hopelessness that paralyzes and causes anguish. The gift of the Kerigma that you received in your Cursillo sends you on mission as proposed by the tripod of piety, study and action.

“As an Archdiocesan Church, we need the unity of all in Christ, so that He, and only He may reign in our hearts and we may thus be able to recognize him like the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

“In thanking you for your journey as a Cursillista, I ask you not to stop renewing your apostolic zeal and dedication and that of your brothers and sisters in your Group Reunion before Jesus in the Eucharist.

“Today more than ever we need that your nearness in the environments be a source of light and joy for so many brothers and sisters who do not yet know that God is a Father who loves them tenderly.

“Today more than ever we need your presence so that many families may encounter the transcendent love of Christ - a new and greater dimension of human love.

“Today more than ever we need you and your witness at the Ultreyas, so as to go “onward”, to go beyond, in the proclamation and experience of the Kerigma.

“I ask that you pray for me. May Jesus bless you and Our Lady, Mother of Divine Grace, keep you.”

Affectionately, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio SJ,
Archbishop of Buenos Aires

Saint Pope John Paul II

July 29, 2000 Jubilee Address to Cursillistas, Rome

“Your presence here, so varied and festive, shows that the tiny seed planted in Spain more than 50 years ago has become a great tree laden with fruits of the Spirit. Indeed, it continues to be a successful response to the question asked by my venerable Predecessor Pope Paul VI at the first world Ultreya in Rome: ‘Can the Gospel still win over the mature person ... in urban and rural cultures?’ You transform the world by becoming new men and women. I am therefore delighted to join in your thanksgiving to the Lord for all He has done and never ceases to do in the Church through the Cursillos de Cristiandad. The theme of this world Ultreya – *Evangelizing the Milieus of the Third Millennium: A ‘Challenge’ for the Cursillos de Cristiandad* – demonstrates your efforts to repropose the experience of Christ to the men and women of the 21st century with new means and enthusiasm. This has become ever more urgent, since whole countries and nations, where religion and the Christian life were formerly flourishing and capable of fostering a viable and working community of faith, are now put to a hard test ... as a result of the constant spread of indifference to religion, of secularism and atheism.”

“In view of this situation which challenges believers to remake the Christian fabric of the ecclesial community, the Cursillo method aims at helping to transform in a Christian way the milieus where people live and work through the involvement of ‘new men and women’ who have become such from their encounter with Christ. This is the goal of the three-day ‘little course’ on Christianity, in which a team of priests and lay people, supported by the prayer and sacrifices of the movement’s other members, communicate the fundamental truths of the Christian faith in an especially ‘living’ way. When presented in this way, the message of Christ almost always opens participants in a Cursillo to the gift of conversion and to a deeper awareness of the Baptism they have received and of their own mission in the Church. They feel called to be the prophetic ‘leaven’ which

is kneaded into the dough so that the whole mass will rise to be the ‘salt of the earth’ and the ‘light of the world’ to proclaim to everyone they meet that only in Jesus Christ is there salvation and that it is only in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of man truly becomes clear.”

“... This is your apostolate, carried out in constant harmony with the Church, to show the ‘strength of communion’ which is at once the style and the very essence of the People of God. As you face the various forms of individualism which fragment and divide your evangelizing ability and resources, join your missionary forces with those of the various ecclesiastical groups raised up by the Spirit in the Church of our time. Endeavor to restore the beauty of the first Christian communities, which prompted pagans to say with admiration: ‘See how they love one another!’ And always be docile to the directives of the Magisterium. No charism, in fact, dispenses you from referring and submitting to the Pastors of the Church, whose discernment is a guarantee of fidelity for the charism, itself. May the Jubilee celebration instill in all of you a renewed fidelity to your original inspiration and a firmer ecclesial communion. Many people are looking to you for the light of faith.”

“... During the days of a Cursillo, the words of [a] popular Spanish song help the participants to reflect on the multifaceted beauty of creation. In encountering Christ, you have learned to look with new eyes at others and at nature, at everyday events and at life in general. You have experienced that true happiness is found in following the Lord. This personal and community experience must be passed on to others. Many men and women of our time, who unfortunately turn away from God, expect from you the light of faith that will help them rediscover the colors of life and the happiness of feeling loved by God.”

Pope John Paul II
July 29, 2000 Jubilee Address to Cursillistas, Rome

Blessed Pope Paul VI

• **May 28, 1966 Address to First World Ultreya, Rome**

“Cursillos de Cristiandad, that is the word, purified through experience, affirmed by its fruits, that today travels with citizenship papers throughout the world ...”

“Whether some methods become obsolete, whether new manifestations of the Spirit arise, the permanent task of the layman will continue to be the infusion of Christianity into life through the encounter and personal friendship with God and in communion with his brothers. The layman, upon forming himself in Christianity, reforms his mentality and conforms his life to Christ’s image by means of faith, hope and charity; acting with complete responsibility, he transforms the temporal structures in which he is immersed; guided in his action by the glance of Christ, he continually tries to remake the world according to God’s plan and design ...”

“We know that in your plan of spirituality and apostolate in the Cursillo Movement the ‘Sensus Ecclesiae’ (mind of the Church) is the guiding light that orients you ...”

“Beloved sons and daughters: Our soul is so oppressed by the vision of the evils which afflict the Church and mankind. But permit us to express our overwhelming joy that at this moment floods our soul before the immense

chorus of your manly faith in Christ, your fidelity to the Church, your fervent loyalty to this Chair of Peter and to the ministry of the episcopal hierarchy.”

“Cursillos de Cristiandad! Christ, the Church, the Pope, are counting on you!”

• **Dec. 8, 1975 Apostolic Exhortation on Evangelization in the Modern World**

“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 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. 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? Such a witness is already a silent proclamation of the Good News and a very powerful and effective one.”

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