



Cursillo

Diocesi di Birmingham Alabama

E. Paul Semmens

July 2013

“The goal of Cursillo is achieved as a consequence of people being in groups.”
Postcursillo Group Reunion and Ultreya, Gerry Hughes



Agenda



- † Bible Enthronement & Reflection
- † Leader's Prayer
- † Reflection & Floating Group Reunion
- † Doctrinal Talk
- † Technique Talks: The Cursillo Charism
- † Closing Prayer





Leader's Prayer



- † Lord grant that we may understand the necessity for depth in our Movement, rather than surface glory. Convince us of the truth that colorful programs do not constitute success.
- † My God, give us a spirit of self sacrifice so that we may offer everything for Your cause: our time, our abilities, our health and even our lives if necessary. Instill in us courage in our initiatives, good judgment in our choice of the right means, and that determination, which in spite of failures, assures victory.
- † Move away from us the tiny rivalries, sensitivities, discourtesies, pride, everything which distracts from You, everything which divides or discourages.



Leader's Prayer con't



- † Help us to maintain at a high level, a meaningful supernatural and mutual charity among ourselves, so that each one will seek by preference, the most humble task and will rejoice at the good performed by others, so that all our spirits, united in a common purpose, will have one single spirit, Yours Jesus, and that this spirit may let us see Your attractive goodness marked in all our faces, Your warm accents in all our words, and in our lives something superior to the world, something that proclaims Your Living Presence among us. Amen
- † Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patron of the Americas, Pray for US.
- † St Paul, Patron of the Cursillo, Pray for US.



Doctrinal Talk



TECHNIQUE TALK



Cursillo Charism



- † Source for this presentation:
- † World Body of the Cursillos in Christianity Website
<http://www.orgmcc.org/en/charism>



Charism



- † The origin of the word “CHARISM” is found in the Greek word **χάρισμα** (jarisma), which means to be “kind and generous”, “give something”. The suffix **μα** (ma), indicates the product of the action. So then, **χάρισμα** (járisma) means a “generous giving” “a gift”.
- † An ancient papyrus contains this term to refer to the gifts offered to the sailors. A relationship exists between the word **χάρισμα** (jarisma) and the Greek name **χάρισ** (jaris) which means “grace”. This relationship does not exist in either of the two equivalent words in English “charism” and “grace”.
- † There are two elements that contribute to defining what a charism is:
 - First, the charism is a gift granted “for the good of all”, (1Cor 12:7), in other words, it is at the service of others” (1Pt 4: 10)
 - Second, the charism is a gift granted to “one” or “some” in particular, not to everyone in the same manner.
- † St Paul termed the term Charism; he used the term 16 times



Charism Definition



- † Four essential elements and characteristics are associated with any charism:
 - A gratuitous gift from God
 - Granted to one or various persons
 - For the good of the Church community
 - Recognized by the Hierarchy
- † A charism is a Gift freely given that God confers upon some people for the good of the community.
 - A gift that proceeds from grace.
 - A gift with the character of public service.
 - A gift in service of the Gospel, of which it gives testimony to
 - A gift is, then, a spiritual gift that God grants freely and without depending upon neither merit nor the holiness of the person who receives it. It is also true that to become holy a charism is not necessary. Charisms are an expression of the multifaceted divine grace



Inputs to The Cursillo Charism



- † The Love of God for all people, is the essence and mentality of the Cursillo of Christianity Movement.
- † His LOVE for all people is the Good News - the Gift, with which the Lord desired to speak to the world from the island of Mallorca, in its beginnings during the 1940's.
 - The inspiration of the Spirit consisted in rediscovering the vision of the LOVE of God for all men and women
- † Cursillo is to give importance to baptism and friendship. Because it is by our Baptism that:
 - we are Sons and Daughters of God
 - we are Priests, Prophets and Kings.
 - we seek friendship, which is the breath of life.



Cursillo Charism



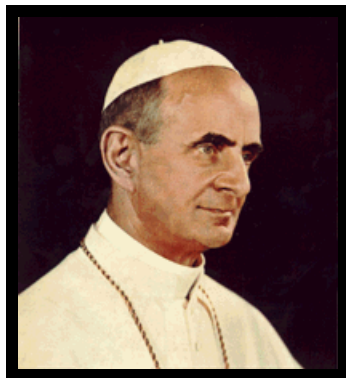
- † The Charism of Cursillo restores the simplicity of what is Fundamental to being Christian while rediscovering the Good News of the Love of God for all people.
- † The Charism of Cursillo is born “from the bottom up”, in response to the initiatives that come “above”. The Love of Christ is wielded as the only force capable of transforming the world.
- † The Charism of Cursillo is to feel the intimate experience that “God loves me”.
- † The Charism of Cursillo is to have an apostolic hunger, as being baptized, to communicate the great news of the Love of God to the most people in my environments, with a preference to those distant, so that all will feel that God loves them.
- † The Charism of Cursillo is to live “De Colores” (filled with grace), giving testimony in the movable square meter that surrounds us by the best means that is friendship.
- † This is the Gift of God that gave origin to the Cursillos of Christianity Movement



Summary



- † “Keep the spirit alive, Cursillistas! Walk the paths of the world taking with you the divine seal of grace on your faces with confidence and serenity. May your friendship with Christ blossom throughout all the world in a thousand colors”. (Pope Paul VI Message at the II World Ultreya, México, May 21, 1970).
- † “Evangelize the environments of the third Christian millennium: this is the challenge to Cursillos of Christianity” (Rome. III World Ultreya July 29, 2000).



Discussion Items





Discussion Items



- † Married Couples on the Secretariat
- † Changes to By Laws
- † Team Member Requirements



Married Couples on Secretariat



- † There is no guidance on married couples being on the Secretariat
- † Concern is a married couple would form a voting “block” and dominate Secretariat decisions
- † We have a married couple on the Secretariat presently who are serving because no one else stood up
- † Thought: married couples on the Secretariat should be discouraged, but believe we need to leave the option that married couples be allowed to be on Secretariat in extreme cases (no other candidates for a Secretariat position) so the work of the Lord can be done



By Law Changes



- † By Laws have been separated into
 - Bylaws which provide overarching guidance on the conduct of the movement
 - Operating Procedures: which give the roles of committees; checklists etc
- † RECOMMENDED Bylaw changes:
 - Addition: the Cursillo Chair must have served as a rector
 - Change: All Secretariat positions will serve a 3 year term; at the end of the term they must wait at least one year before serving again
 - Addition: All amendments must be presented to the SoL prior to Secretariat voting on changes to the bylaws



Team Membership



- † Must be living the movement in all 3 phases: Precursillo, Cursillo and Post Cursillo
 - Attempting to recruit candidates for the movement
 - Serve on teams when one can, attend Clausuras
 - Group and regularly attend Ultreyas
- † Must have been a Cursillista a year
- † Attend 6 SoL sessions per year; 4 must be in person, two can be remote (monthly telecom)
- † Team Members required to be members of the SoL:
 - Rector/Angel/Liturgist
 - Table Leaders
 - It is highly desirable that the Set Up Chief and the Palanca chiefs be fully qualified members of the SoL, but it is not a requirement.



SoL 2013 Schedule



Month (2013)	SoL Meeting Location	Comment
June	Combined-Cullman-Sacred Heart	
Jul	Satellite – Hsv and B’Ham	Quarter 3
Aug	Satellite – Hsv and B’Ham	
Sep	Combined-Cullman-Sacred Heart	
Oct	Satellite – Hsv and B’Ham	Quarter 4
Nov	Satellite – Hsv and B’Ham	
Dec	No SoL	
Jan	Satellite – Hsv and B’Ham	Quarter 1

**Remote SoL 1st Thursday each Month; 1900
Go to Cursillo.org/birmingham for details**



Discussion



Announcements



- † Men's 3 Day Cursillo Weekend is confirmed for Sept 5-8, 2013 and will occur at Sacred Heart Monastery (Benedictine Sisters) in Cullman.
- † Nominations for Secretariat positions will be held at the October SOL meetings.
- † Next Cursillo Region VII Encounter, October 25-26, 2013, Mobile, AL diocese.
- † Cursillo Day of Reflection, Saturday, November 16, 2013, Casa Maria Convent and Retreat House.
- † Reserve the dates! Cursillo de Cursillos weekend 25-28 September 2014

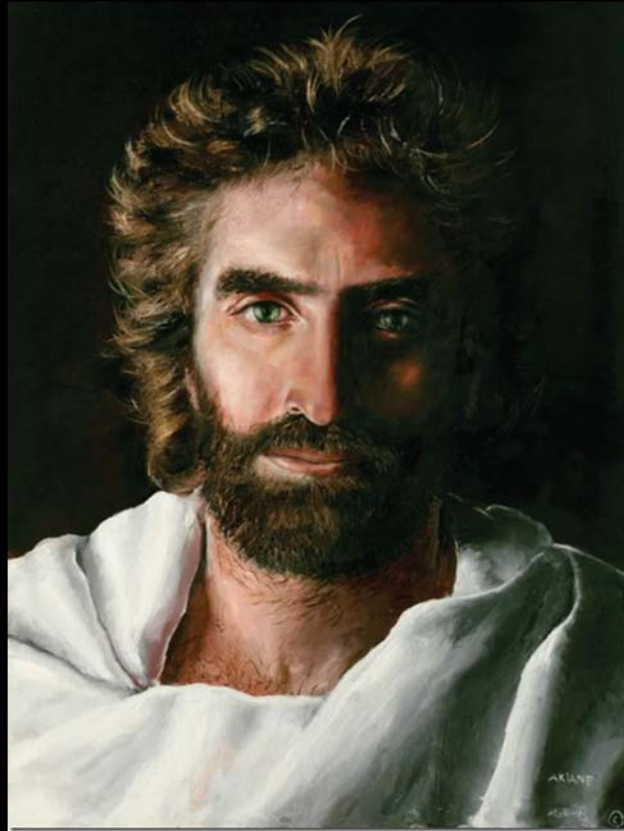


Closing Prayer



- † Dear Lord, we must have fraternal charity, or we can accomplish nothing for you.**
- † In loving you, help us to have a genuine concern for one another, a generosity in sharing one another's burdens, a gallantry in defending the reputation of our group, a sincere sympathy in sharing one another's suffering and sorrows, and a joy in sharing their spiritual growth.**
- † By this shall all men know that we are your Apostles. Amen.**

The Diocese of Birmingham School of Leaders



I Am Third



References Used by the Study Team



Author	Book	Reviewer
Cursillo Roles and Missions		
Gerry Hughes	The Postcursillo Group Reunion	John and Tom
Gerry Hughes	Let's Keep the 4th Day Simple	
National Cursillo Center	Let's Keep Pastoral Planning Simple	
Gerald Hughes	The Precursillo	
Gerald Hughes	The Cursillo Weekend	
Joseph Green	The Group Reunion	
Various	The Precursillo	
Bonnin, Forteza, Vadell	<i>The Structure of Ideas</i>	
National Cursillo Center	<i>Leader's Manual</i>	



References, con't

Author	Book	Reviewer
Cursillo Charism		
Rev Frank Salmani	Fundamentals of Christianity	Katie
Rev Juan Capo	The Basic Concepts of the Cursillo Movement in the Light of Vatican II	Christina
Eduardo Bonnin	My Spiritual Testament	Paul
Fr Juan Capo	Proceedings of First National Priest Director's Seminar	Paul
Bonnin, Forteza, Vadell	<i>The Structure of Ideas</i>	Paul
Rev Frank Salmani	Whom Shall I Send?	Katie
Rev Juan Capo	Lower Your Nets	Christina
Rev Paul Lackner	The Theology of the Laity in the Cursillo Movement	Brandi
Rev Ivan Rohloff	The Origins and Development of Cursill	Paul
Bonnin	The How and why	Sean
National Cursillo Center	Essential Principles	Sean
National Cursillo Center	Explanation and Purpose	Sean
Gerry Hughes, National Cursillo Center	Let's Keep Pastoral Planning Simple	Paul



Groups



- † Intended to be places of stability; intended to reinforce and sustain lessons of weekend
- † Mechanics variable; emphasis on the Spirit, the people attending
- † Goal should be to move closer together and to share as friends
- † Groups can include non Cursillistas; emphasis is on friendship [43]
- † Group reunions should try to touch the depths of the members' souls; lets us rediscover the awe and power of grace
- † Groups must be outward focused, if it turns inward it can forget its basic aim; emphasize Apostolic Actions-successes and failures
- † Every group should have a plan

[Proceedings of the First National Seminar for Diocesan Priest Directors,](#)
Father Juan Capo, 1973, 43-52



Groups

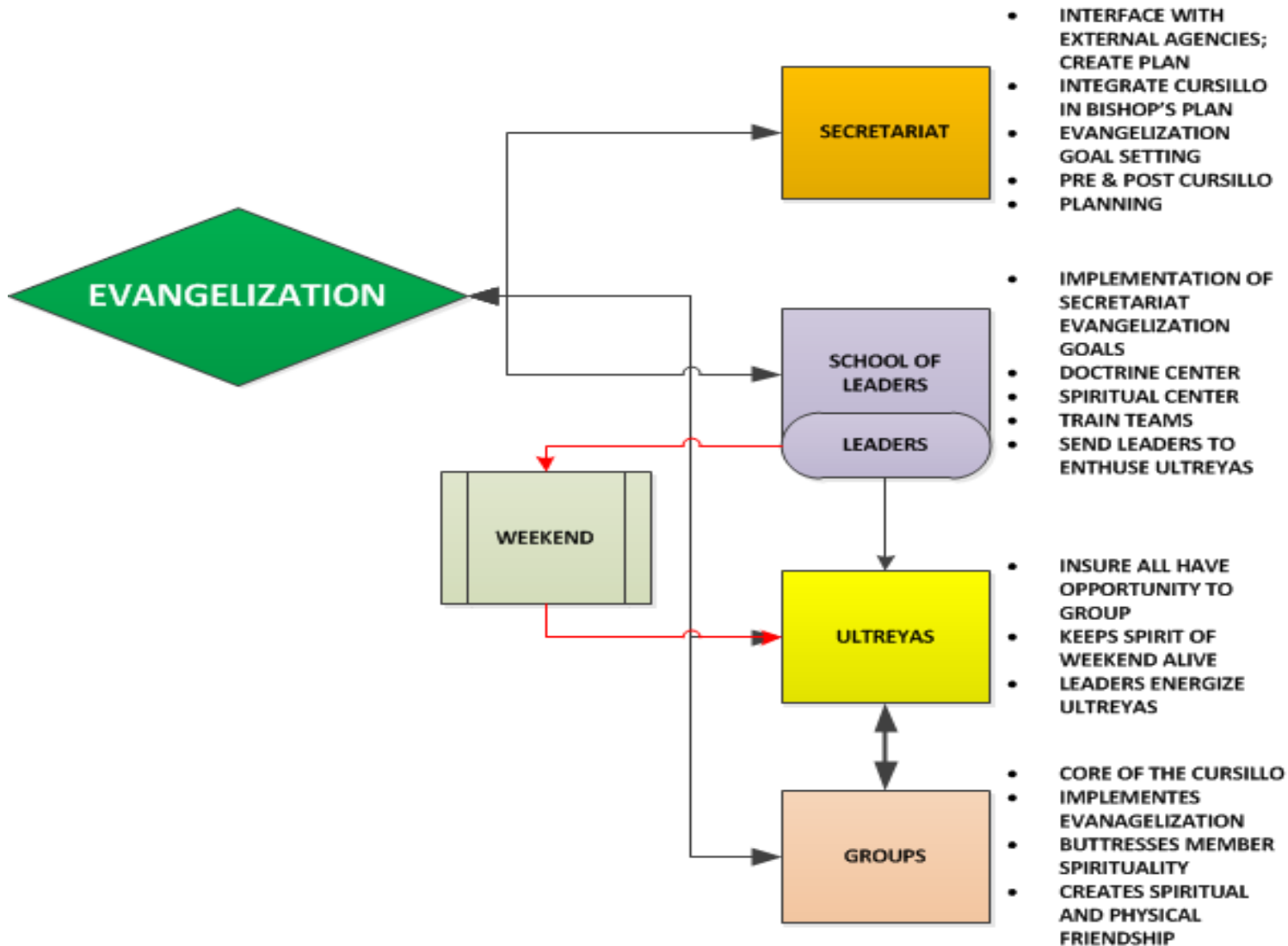


- † Cursillistas should be members of a group where they spend most of their time
- † “What makes a group is the process of meeting, sharing, planning and evangelizing together on a weekly basis.”
 - Groups should evangelize the group they are in or the environments that each member is in.
 - Pastoral plan should reach down to the group level
 - Group reunions should share evangelization successes and failures
 - Groups must be tied to Ultreyas and always emphasize transformation
- † Groups share evangelizing successes and failures and can identify new opportunities for evangelization
- † Evangelize with words and actions; backed up with prayers and sacrifice

[Let's Keep Pastoral Planning Simple: Gerry Hughes, The National Cursillo Center, 1987](#)



Cursillo Summary





Observations from The Postcursillo, Group Reunion and Ultreya



- † Reunion – The community comes together and engages in the sharing process. It is possible for the reunion to create friendship.
- † Friendship can be put at the service of Christ and the Church while at the same time meeting the need of the individuals to be a community
- † Ideally, a person should have been sponsored by a group reunion and have a friendship group waiting for them on their return from the weekend.
- † Group reunion should be authentic, and meet on a weekly basis



Observations from The Postcursillo, Group Reunion and Ultreya



- † There must be growth in the reunion, as there is in all aspects of life, sharing of their commitment.
- † Sharing is making others a part of one's life.
- † Basically, then a group reunion is a group of people who are friends and Christians who come together in a reunion to be better friends and better Christians.
- † The goal of Cursillo is achieved as a consequence of people being in groups.
- † The groups must be small. The makeup cannot be dictated by others, even leaders.



Observations from The Postcursillo, Group Reunion and Ultreya



- † Three fundamental elements: the life of piety, the progressive knowledge of Christ through study and the apostolic successes and failures experienced while evangelizing his/her environments (action).
- † “What have you done to better understand this gift during the past week through the reading of Scripture, spiritual books, study courses, etc. ?”
- † Group reunions have to be on their guard about sharing that is not Christ-centered so they don't drift into idle conversation



John 15: 1-8



- † “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.
- † 2 He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes* so that it bears more fruit.
- † 3 You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you.
- † 4 Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me.
- † 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.
- † 6 Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned.
- † 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.
- † 8 By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.



- † They are granted in order to strengthen the faith of those amongst whom these extraordinary gifts of the Spirit of God manifest themselves.
- † When a charism is exercised as service towards others, it can be confirmed that such exercise is a path of growth in faith and love.
- † The history of the Church shows it to be a permanent tension between charism and institution
- † Fortunately, the
- † Spirit does not allow itself to be controlled, it blows where it wants