



# Cursillo

Diocese of Birmingham Alabama

E. Paul Semmens/Ken Levesque

May 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: Grouping
- † 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.



# Reflection

## Fr. Louis Evely, That Man is You



- † The big obstacle to sanctity  
Is that we're blind to our mission;
- † That our life stopped being profane the minute we were baptized  
And that it became a cult, a liturgy, an office, an apostolate.
- † What matters is not the kind of mission we have  
But awareness that we have one
- † And the unwavering conviction that God's with us  
That He has sent us wherever we are



# Doctrinal Talk



**TECHNIQUE TALK**



# Observations from

The Postcursillo, Group Reunion and Ultreya by Gerry Hughes



- † The precursillo and Cursillo weekend are only preliminary steps toward the postcursillo. The purpose of the three days is to bring people from the precursillo into the postcursillo.
- † If the purpose of the Cursillo Movement is to find, lead to conversion, and sustain evangelizers in the task of evangelizing the world, then the most difficult task will always be to sustain them.
- † Elements of what we call the postcursillo came before either the precursillo, or the weekend.
- † More effort by the leaders should go into the postcursillo than into any other phase of the movement.



# Observations from The Postcursillo, Group Reunion and Ultreya



- † The basic purpose of the Postcursillo should be the perfect conversion of each individual who has experienced the three days and transformation of the environments for which those individuals are responsible, especially their families, neighborhoods, and places of work.
- † The primary objective should be for each person to find his or her own unique place in the Church and in the world, and for the postcursillo to provide them the means to persevere in living the Christian life there.
- † The two basic means of growth: the group reunion, for the individual, and the ultreya, for the community.



# Grouping



## Friendship Groups

- † Primary purpose is for members to grow in holiness
- † Is the fundamental instrument for obtaining a growing and enthusiastic perseverance in harmony with the Cursillo method
- † Groups are friends who share their lives as Christians
- † For those who want to become better friends and better Christians through experiencing transcendent friendship

## References:

Leader's Manual pp. 126-132

The Group Reunion: Theory and Practice by Fr. Juan Capo



## Group Purpose



The Group Reunion fulfills a threefold purpose:

- 1) guarantee of the presence of God;
- 2) makes us sense the Church;
- 3) attainment of the threefold requisites of the Cursillo:  
idealism, self-surrender and the spirit of charity..."

“the group reunion tends...to encourage and increase the idealism, self surrender, and the spirit of charity of each of its members, and to assure perseverance....”



# New Cursillistas & Grouping



- † New Cursillistas should group ASAP
- † The Ultreya provides an environment to find friends
- † Friendship can be initiated anytime
  - The group or individual should “wait for (the candidate) on their return from the weekend
  - **(sic) a friendship group should be there for the new Cursillista**
- † Perseverance will be needed to find friends—sponsors need to support the new Cursillista throughout this process by grouping with them



# Group Characteristics



- † Small (3-8 members)
- † Formed by freedom, choice of the members
- † Members must desire each other's friendship
- † What is essential for a successful group is it must be based on friendship
- † Candidates for a weekend can group before their weekend

[Proceedings of the First National Seminar for Diocesan Priest Directors,](#)

[Father Juan Capo, 1973, 43](#)



## Group Characteristics cont



- † Sincerity--groups must be authentic; based on commitment to love and assist the other members of the group
- † Regularity--meets weekly
- † Seriousness--not a social group; discussions during grouping should center on Christ
- † Discretion



# Group Mechanics



- † All conversation should be focused about Christ in our lives
  - Therefore, extraneous long descriptions of situations are not appropriate
  - “Group reunions have to be on their guard about sharing that is not Christ-centered so as to not drift into idle conversation.” (PC, GR & U, p.32)
  
- † Mechanics are not as important as focusing on Piety, Study and Action
  - the Service sheet should help to focus this discussion
  
- † All should share and actively participate. Thinking about what is going to be shared in grouping in advance is encouraged.



## Group Mechanics cont



Elements of sharing—

- † Piety: Share the elements that keep us in contact with God
- † Study: how we better understand the gift of God and His will for us
- † Action: a description of our commitment to an apostolic life; both successes and failures
- † Closest Moment: describing our awareness of Him & our relationship with Him in our daily life



# Summary



- † Grouping is the heart of what Cursillo is all about; therefore, having all Cursillistas group is the fundamental function and should be our #1 objective.
- † Grouping is intended to help us become holy; therefore, grouping should focus on our relationship with God
- † Groups are based on friendship; groups that survive include friends
- † New Cursillistas should group as soon as possible
  - Ultreyas should insure New Cursillistas have a place to group
  - Sponsors have the lead to insure their candidates group
- † Cursillistas should group regularly, approach grouping with seriousness and sincerity, and practice discretion

# Announcements





# 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 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday each Month; 1900  
Go to [Cursillo.org/birmingham](http://Cursillo.org/birmingham) for details**



# Discussion

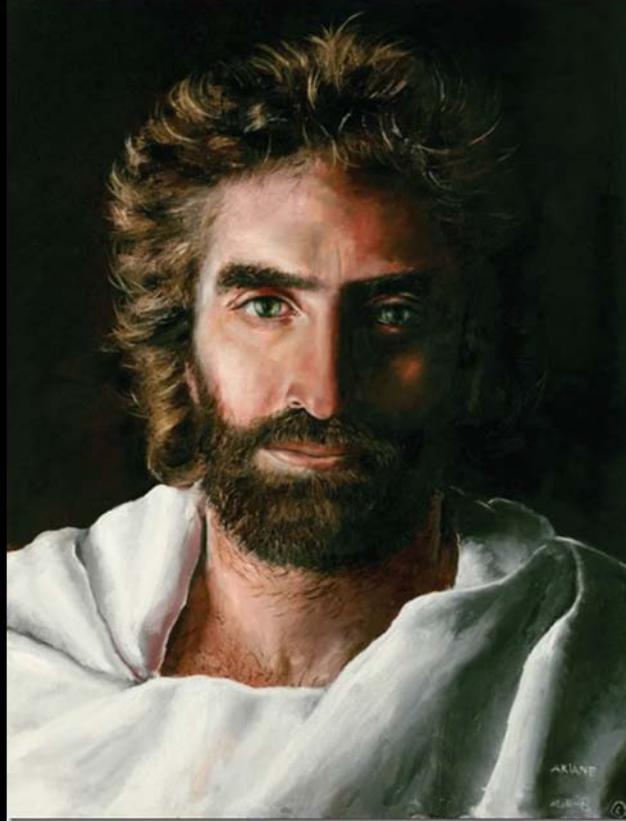


## Closing Prayer



- † 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
<b>Cursillo Roles and Missions</b>		
Gerry Hughes	The Postcursillo Group Reunion	<b>John and Tom</b>
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
<b>Cursillo Charism</b>		
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

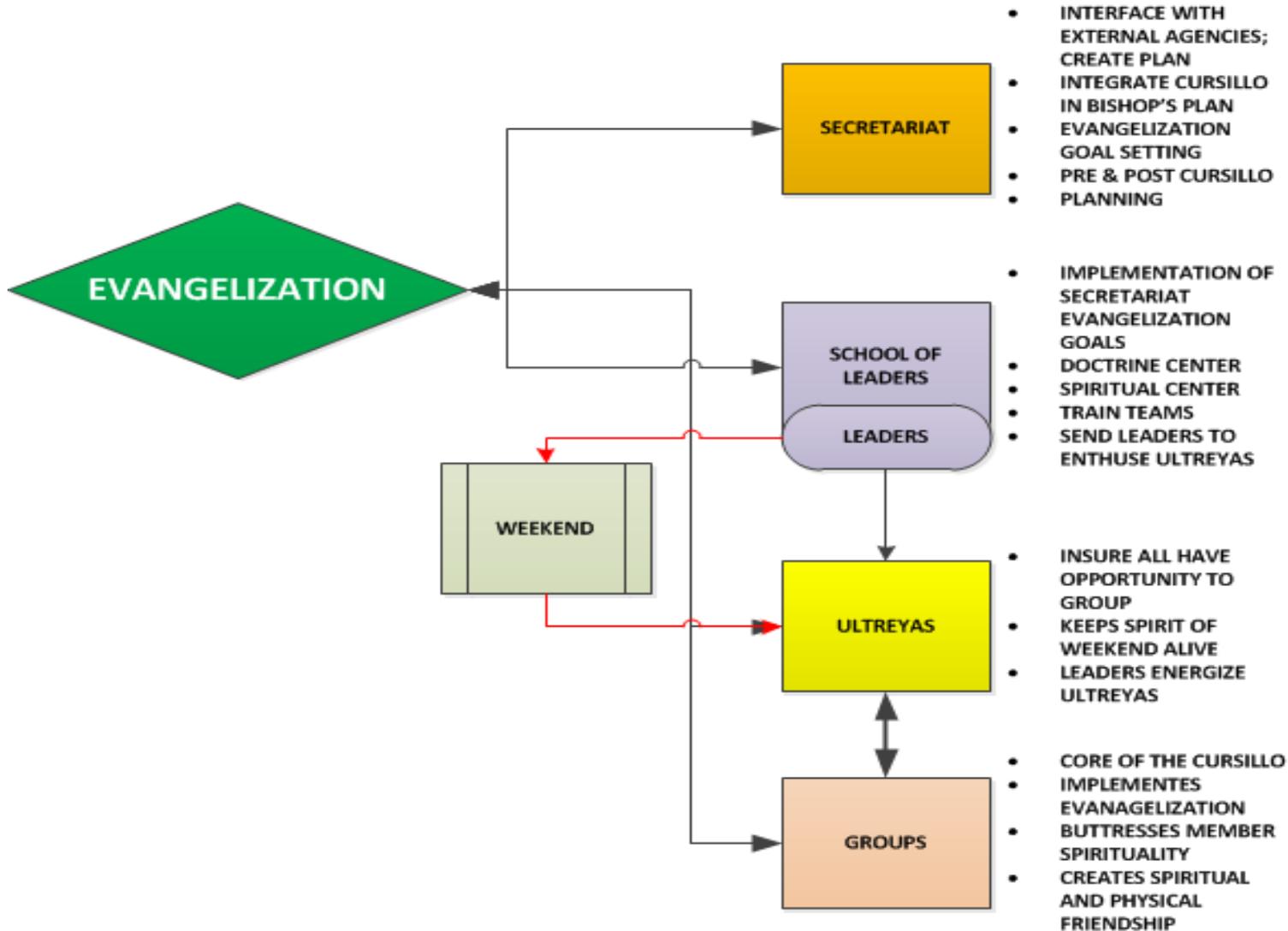


- † Cursillistas should be members of a group where they spend most of their time
- † “What makes a group is the process of meeting, sharing, planning and evangelizing together on a weekly basis.”
  - Groups should evangelize the group they are in or the environments that each member is in.
  - Pastoral 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