



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: The Secretariat
- † 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

Sr. Anne Elizabeth Sweet



- † “They are your gift to me.” Such astounding words of Jesus! Gift? That motley group of disciples who had such difficulty understanding him? Betrayer, denier, doubter among them? True, he was very close to some...but *all* of them-gift?
- † Jesus words call me to a new way of looking at the people in my life: my family, my community, my colleagues, the throngs of visitors who come to our monastery. They are God’s gift to me. *All* of them.
- † I often pray these words to Jesus, this prayer uttered for his disciples the night before he died this prayer *of* gratitude and *for* unity. I pray that I may have this same attitude toward those the Father has given to me. *All* are His gifts to me—those, to whom I am especially close, those who are difficult. *All* are His gift to me, to bring about something good and Christlike in me, to bring about a relationship rooted in Christ and in love, not just in feelings. And I am gift for them, to call forth something good and beautiful and Christlike in them.



Reflection Con't

Sr. Anne Elizabeth Sweet



- † Jesus' prayer is profound: may they – may we – be one as he and the Father are one. Can we even begin to comprehend such unity? Only through his grace and His love, and our openness to it, will this unity come to be...not only with one another but all of us *together* with Jesus and the Father.
- † This day, pray that we may be brought to perfection as one. In this, we will truly be his disciples.



Doctrinal Talk



TECHNIQUE TALK



SECRETARIAT

National Cursillo Center Mailing – October 2007



- † The two structural elements of the Movement, the School of Leaders and the Secretariat are indivisible, each one is dependent on the other and neither can function properly without the other.
- † It is from the School of Leaders that the members of the Secretariat are appointed and then it is the School that supports the work of the Secretariat. Only those leaders who have actively participated in the School can authentically understand the needs of the Movement they serve.
- † No Movement can be said to be functioning as intended if there is no active Secretariat and School of Leaders
- † "The Secretariats exist in order to simplify, facilitate and make possible the living of everything that is fundamentally Christian and to be the guardians of the purity of the method."
- † The members of the Secretariat are the servants of the servants; their role is to be one of simple service to the Movement
- † It is their responsibility and function to constantly deepen their understanding of the Foundational Charism and to apply its principles for the good of the Movement



SECRETARIAT

National Cursillo Center Mailing – October 2007



- † The Diocesan Secretariat is composed of clergy and laity, men and women. The whole Secretariat is entrusted by the Bishop with the responsibility of promoting, developing and directing the Cursillo Movement in a diocese.
- † The authority entrusted to the Secretariat is to embrace, study, and promote the Charism of the Movement
- † The Lay Director should always be a lay person responsible for the organization and methodology of the Movement.
- † The Spiritual Advisor, always a priest, deacon or vowed religious, is responsible for matters concerning doctrine and conscience.
- † Other Secretariat members include the Chairperson for the School of Leaders, Precursillo, Cursillo, and Postcursillo sections and a Treasurer and Secretary.
- † All Secretariat members have voice and vote. The members of the Secretariat come from the School of Leaders. Their selection places them in a position to be of greater service to the Movement



LEADERSHIP IN THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT

National Cursillo Center Mailing – August 2009



- † if we decide our particular calling is to the Cursillo Movement as a Cursillo leader, we must understand that this calling, like any calling from God is a vocation – it is not something we choose
- † He calls certain people to be leaders to help others accept the call. Some are called to lead others. They are Cursillistas who are willing to walk an extra mile for Jesus, to serve on the Secretariat, in the Pre-Cursillo, on the Cursillo Weekend, on the Post-Cursillo as Ultreya leaders and in the School of Leaders
- † Not everyone will be called to the School of Leaders
- † Ongoing conversion is essential for the Cursillo. Our life of Piety, Study and Action is essential to our living out our Fourth Day
- † If we accept the call as a Cursillo leader, prayer and study will be the fuel for the work of the Movement
- † What we need is ongoing formation
- † “It is better for the Cursillo Movement to remain dormant than to be run by unknowledgeable and uncommitted leaders.”



STRUCTURE OF THE CURSILLO[®] MOVEMENT

National Cursillo Center Mailing – December 2007



- † The Cursillo Movement is neither a structure nor an organization. “God did not become a structure, He became man”. (Eduardo Bonnín)
- † “The specific purpose of the Cursillo Movement is to make it possible for everybody to live what is Fundamental for being a Christian, to achieve the reality of the liberty of the person encountering the Holy Spirit
- † The School of leaders is a School of holiness; a school of community and a school of formation
- † “The Secretariats have as their foremost objective the inescapable duty of preserving, developing, actualizing and invigorating the mentality, the purpose and the basic core of methodology that defines and characterizes the Cursillo Movement as a Movement of the Church.”



SECRETARIAT

National Cursillo Center Mailing – October 2007



- † All that is done is done with the good of the person as the primary focus.
- † It is quite clear that the spirit of the Secretariat should be the spirit of group reunion, which is based on friendship
- † “In an atmosphere of team work (or friendship): where speaking the truth and freely expressing one’s own opinion are not only possible, but appreciated; where, upon finding differences, friendship will not suffer, nor willingness to come to an agreement; where, once a decision has been reached, all will be unconditionally loyal to carrying out that decision.”



Diocese of Birmingham Cursillo Bylaws

August 2012



- † The Secretariat, as a service unit, is not established to be served but to serve the entire Cursillo Movement. The Secretariat should not be dictatorial but must view its authority as one of service to the total Movement. The Secretariat must remember that Christ has entrusted the Movement's direction to it, through the Bishop, to whom the Secretariat will have to give an account for this charge.
- † As a group, the members of the Secretariat shall guide and coordinate all phases of the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama within the pastoral plan of the Bishop and the Cursillo Movement.
- † The Secretariat shall implement the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama, according to what is essential and fundamental as outlined in the official literature of the Movement.



Diocese of Birmingham Cursillo Bylaws

August 2012



- † Future members of the Secretariat, with the exception of the Spiritual Advisors, shall be nominated by the School of Leaders in October. Of those nominated, the members selected and approved by a simple majority of the Secretariat at the November meeting will commence their terms immediately following the November meeting.
- † To answer any question, precedence should first be sought in the Bylaws of the Diocesan Movement, then the Leader's Manual, and finally official Cursillo literature.
- † There shall be a Lay Director, Spiritual Advisors, School of Leaders Chair, Precursillo Chair, Cursillo Chair, Postcursillo Chair, Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Bishop shall appoint Spiritual Advisors to serve the Secretariat.



Summary



- † Secretariat has the mission of guiding the movement in a spirit of friendship
- † The Secretariat arrives at all its decisions via prayer and consensus
- † The Secretariat should emphasize what is fundamental to being a Christian and provide opportunities for the Spirit to work
- † The Secretariat guards the purity of the movement in accordance with the guidance of the Bishop and the Cursillo Movement

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



Discussion

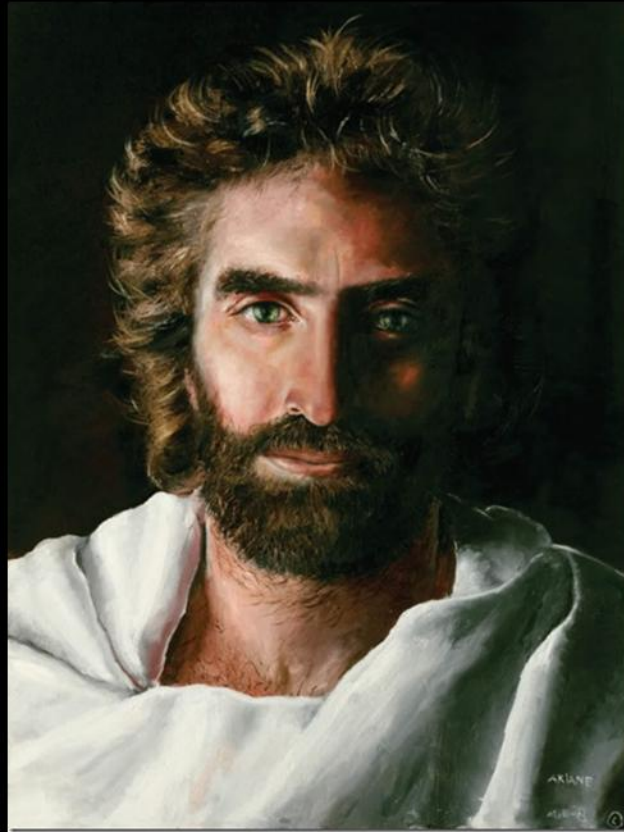


Closing Prayer



- + 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
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

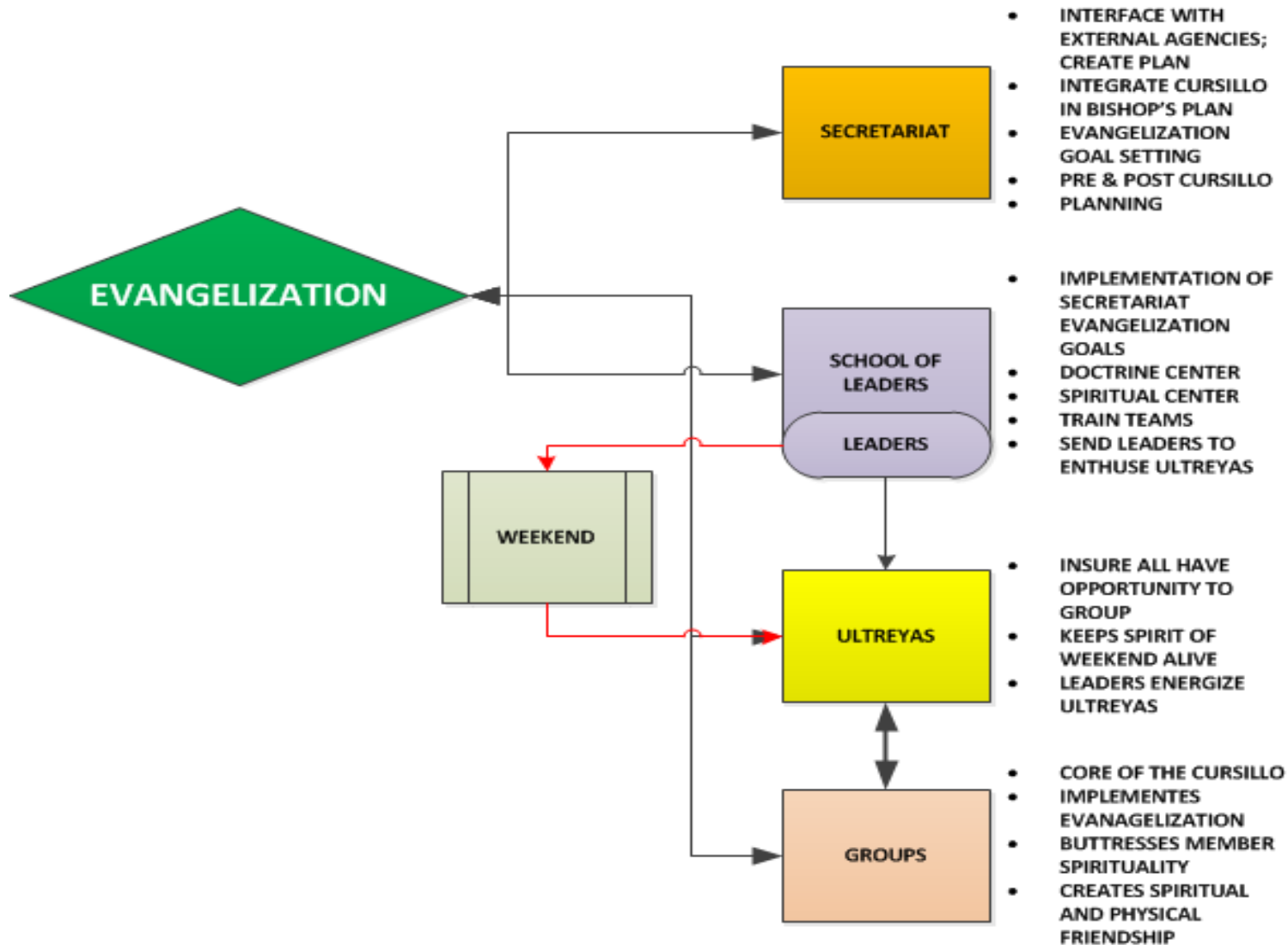


- † Cursillistas should be members of a group where they spend most of their time
- † “What makes a group is the process of meeting, sharing, planning and evangelizing together on a weekly basis.”
 - Groups should evangelize the group they are in or the environments that each member is in.
 - Pastoral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