



Cursillo

Diocese of Birmingham Alabama

E. Paul Semmens

August 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 Talk: Friendship
- † 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



Friendship

- † The identification of the human need to live in community, to have friends begins in the book of Genesis
 - In Chapter 6, God walked with Man
 - God wants us to live in community, be friends, with Him and those with whom we interact
- † Religious orders were all founded in communities
 - Teresa of Avila made her Carmelite house small (originally 13 nuns) so the nuns would all become friends
- † Sin blocks our ability to live in community; sin turns us inward, focused on self
 - We only see things through the lens of our self protecting prospective
- † Cursillo is a movement of friendship, of communion



How to be a Friend

- † We have a saying: “Make a friend, be a friend and bring a friend to Christ”.
- † To be the evangelist the movement wants us to be to make the friend we must continually:
 - Encounter our selves: Study
 - Encounter God: Piety
- † The third encounter is with others or action
- † Being a friend requires us to be contemplative which is a product of our faith and God’s graces
 - Contemplation lets us see the virtue in everything, especially the goodness of each person and to desire friendship for no selfish purpose
 - We are all a letter in God’s vocabulary, speaking uniquely for God



Friendship

- † Friendship is interrelating with others and God
- † When two people are friends and they bring God into their friendship, God amplifies His graces
- † All true friendships come from God
- † Friendships are a way we can become collectively closer to God; they are a way for our love to grow
- † Friendship can become communion when we interact with others through a contemplative lens
- † The Tripod is intended to build our friendship with God, ourselves and others



Cursillo Friendship Organizations

- † Friendship Groups are the fundamental gathering of Cursillistas where they discuss their faith journey with the Tripod as an outline
- † Ultreyas are our community, an environment where Cursillistas can grow and learn from their brothers and sisters.
- † Ultreyas are an opportunity for Cursillistas to personally interact with other Cursillistas who are walking the faith journey.
- † Cursillo is all about friendship. If a brother or sister has an opposing view or wants to exercise his/her apostolate in another ministry, we send them off with love
- † If Cursillistas want to make Cursillo their apostolate, they become members of the School Of Leaders; which is a friendship group onto itself



Announcements



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- † 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



Discussion



Action Items

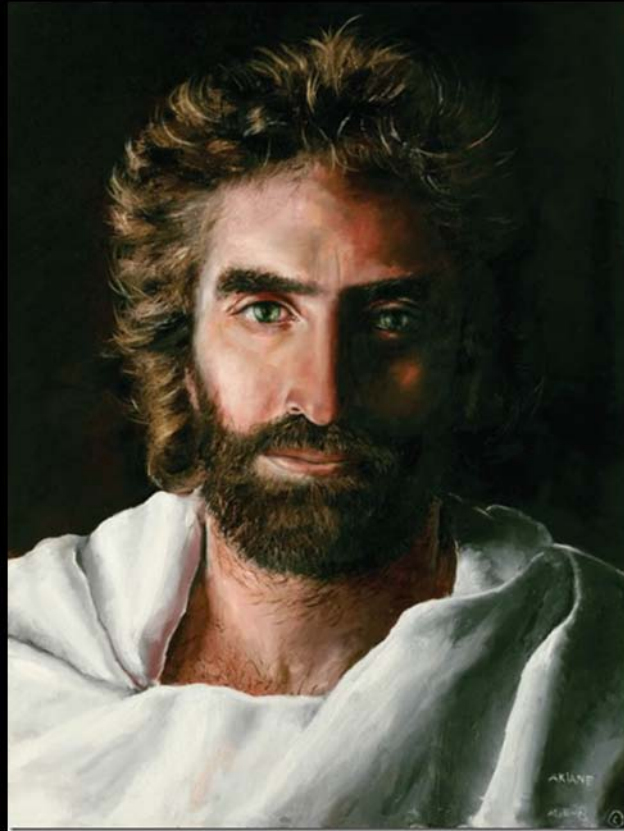
- † Married Couples on the Secretariat: all concurred that this situation is not desirable, but it should be allowed to insure sufficient members are available to do the Lord's work
- † 3 Year Terms for the Secretariat: all concurred this was a good idea; Secretariat should turn over 1/3 of its membership annually, vice half the Secretariat as is the current practice. Secretariat members who have completed their term will have to sit out for one year before serving on the Secretariat again.
- † All concurred Cursillo Chair should be an ex-rector.
- † Secretariat will discuss these issues this afternoon and bylaws amended as appropriate.



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