

FOUNDATIONAL CHARISM OF THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT (Part 2)

Source: National Cursillo Center Mailing – December 2003

To continue our formation of the Foundational Charism, we allude to the recap of the talks presented at the 13th National Encounter, centered on the realization that God loves us.

How is it possible for us to come to the realization that God loves us? How can we help our brothers and sisters to come to this marvelous realization - that God loves all of us?

First, each one of us must allow oneself to be open to a relationship with oneself. This openness with oneself leads to a healing and personal relationship with God, His son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Through this relationship with oneself, we begin the process of being free from the many conditions that the world has put on us; that we have put on ourselves, that we have put on each other, in order to be loved. Only in Freedom does man reflect his qualities of Person. Freedom of these conditions allows us entrance into the personal relationship of friendship with oneself and personal relationship of friendship with Jesus Christ.

We begin the journey of comprehending that God loves us as His creation; tall, short, thick, thin, dark skin, light skin, richer, poorer, etc. The simple, yet overwhelming awareness and acknowledgement of God's love for us, will free us. We were created with Freedom – Freedom to be sincere and accept ourselves as the person that we really are, and free to accept the person that our brothers and sisters are.

The acceptance of oneself fosters a true permanent friendship that will enable us to help each other get from where we are, to where we ought to be, which is a continual discovery of: “Who am I?” “Who is God?” and “Who is my brother and sister? Or better yet, to help our brother and sister discover their true self.

To cite a favorite saying of our brother Cursillista, Tony from Covington, Kentucky, when asked what he thought his role was in the Cursillo Movement, “It's about one beggar showing another beggar to the bread line.”

The truth is that the Absolute; the Creator of heaven and earth; the visible and invisible; the Alpha and the Omega already love us. All we are doing is reacting to this great love that God has and continues to provide to us in every moment of our life.

“Being Christian” is to accept the reality that God loves us and to allow His love to transform us in order for us to actualize Christ. It is to allow Christ to incarnate Himself in us in order that everything we say or do reflects the love of God in us and the love of God for others.

It is through a sincere disposition of our relationship with oneself, God, and others that we are capable of loving every person that God has placed before us, beginning with oneself. To discover God as He is, it is necessary to present ourselves to Him as we are. It is not about where we want to place ourselves, but where God has placed us, in our home, work, and recreational environment.

We actualize Christ in each moment, i.e.: in the time and place of our existence, for the past does not exist nor the future - only the present; the time and place where you are at this precise time. We ferment the environment with the Good News that God loves us. The likeness of God will emerge in our brothers and sisters when they are aware of God's love for them, and with that knowledge and experience they will discover that they themselves can begin to actualize Christ in their true self.

This relationship with oneself will enable us to have a continual encounter and personal relationship with Jesus Christ, which is living out our Baptism of Priest, Prophet, and King. This personal relationship with Christ will make us more conscious and ever growing in Grace. The life in Grace enables us to discover and to be aware of the vocation, talents, and potential that God has gifted us, responding in accordance with our capabilities and possibilities, in the triumphant building of the Kingdom of God.

We must faithfully and continually persevere in this progressive conversion so as to deepen the experience of our discovery of oneself, God, and others.

The Cursillo Movement has provided us with a method that we have come to know as the tripod to continue this progressive conversion. However, we must live it.

Accordingly, our piety is nothing more than our true intimate friendship with Christ in order to continue our journey toward holiness. Our study must be a true change of our mentality in order to continue to know who we are, who God is, and who are our brothers and sisters. This way we may continually form our mind in order to put on the mind of Christ; the mind of the Catholic Church. Our action must be a true change of our aptitude and attitude. An aptitude and attitude that must always be in line with the divine will of God, which is to live Christ's two greatest commandments - to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus Christ, in promoting and sustaining his belief in these two commandments, showed us His loyalty to his convictions by going to the cross.

Living our tripod in all the normal situations and circumstances of our normal daily life with all its inputs, outputs, and feedbacks will enhance our criterion so as to always make better decisions on how to live and grow more effectively, and affectively, in the three friendships; with oneself, with Christ, and with our brothers and sisters.

The enhancement of our criterion is the results of our Christian life shared in our permanent intimate friendship group reunion. Remember, a Christian life that is not shared will not be lived. And if it is not lived it is not shared. The most profound form of sharing is Friendship.

Sometimes we get caught up in doing Christian things without being Christian. This will always “de-center” us from being Christian. Being Christian is Life; Life is the constant challenge to the truth of oneself. We must constantly remind ourselves that the only thing that should concern us is: “What does Christ want me to be, and what does Christ want me to do?”

This is living the Foundational Charism of the Cursillo Movement, - living our baptism to the fullness in order to discover our vocation and to have the conviction to carry out the vocation that God has given each and every one of us 24/7.

When we discover the exclusive image of oneself and the irreplaceable love of God within oneself, we find an unending fountain of Joy. This is the true joy of knowing and living God’s love through us, with us, and in us. This is how we consciously fulfill the words of our Lord, King and Redeemer Jesus Christ: “They will know you are my disciples by the way you love one another.”

Wherever we are, the world will be able to see us and say:

“Look, how those Christians love each other.”

“Look, how those Catholics love each other.”

“Look how those Cursillo Leaders love each other.”

“Look how those Cursillistas love each other.”

De Colores!