



ORGANISMO
MUNDIAL DE CURSILLOS
DE CRISTIANDAD

OMCC

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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To all Cursillistas around the world

Dear Friends,

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May the peace and love of Our Lord always be with you!

"The Beauty of Being a Christian and the Joy of Communicating it"

We gathered in the name of Jesus Christ... 31 countries were represented with over 5,000 Cursillistas. All gathered in friendship, all reflecting the love God has for each one of us...

We had a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends from around the world. Some we never met and some we have corresponded with through email but have not met in person. All was accomplished within the normality of our lives... Enjoying the friendship we shared with one another. Sharing our intent of bringing the Gospel, incarnated in us, to those with whom we share the mobile square meter radius where God has planted us, (as Eduardo Bonnín would say) "...so they know that God loves them..." **The very basics of our Foundational Charism!**

The event itself could be defined in different ways. The same as we define the (*personal*) Cursillo each one of us have lived. **It was a wonderful experience!** It had (like our Cursillo) the joy and the meaning each one of us put in and harvest from it, and it had the individual blessings that The Holy Spirit sent our way. Some are yet to be discovered, as we look back and reflect on this experience, the theme, "The Beauty of Being Christian and the Joy of Communicating it", and also on our Keynote Address from Professor Guzman Carriquiry and the homily of Cardinal Sandoval.

In our current times, we often experience gatherings where the central figure is some well known pop star, music band or sports team, etc. In these, the common element is often the flashy, artificial presentations. An Ultreya, or any Cursillo activity, is far from a flashy artificial show... It is a gathering where the central element is sharing our love for Christ and each other, to encourage one another to continue, to carry on... in one word "ULTREYA!"

We started the IV World Ultreya in Group Reunion. All of us were encouraged to share

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our piety, study and action with someone we did not know. As you looked around the Arena, you could see small groups gathered – sitting, standing in the aisles, on steps – all sharing their Christian life. What a beautiful sight to see! Bishop Dominic Luong, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Orange County led us in prayer.

Following the Group Reunions, Juan Ruíz, President of the World Cursillo Movement (OMCC) Executive Committee gave a formal welcome, sprinkled with words about his (and his committee's) three and half years of service on the OMCC. The Executive Committee's tenure will conclude at the end of this year.

In the next stage of the IV World Ultreya, we heard the recognition and support from the Holy See, through the message from Cardinal Bertone, Secretary of State to Pope Benedict XVI, read by Sr. Eymard Flood of the Diocese of Orange County. The Keynote address was given by Prof. Guzman Carriquiry, Under Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Laity. His address expressed the gift of a Movements charism, particularly that of the Cursillo Movement and he gave us a wonderful document to study.

At the start of the Mass, the Matachines eloquently processed the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe with their drum beat and dance as is there custom. The procession for Mass included Cardinal Sandoval, two Bishops, 70 priests and 20 deacons. In his homily during Mass, Cardinal Sandoval Iñiguez, the OMCC's Episcopal Advisor, reminded us of the basics of our Charism and the most basic needs for us to succeed in our Christian life.

We then heard how that Christian life becomes flesh in each one of us, as we heard five witnesses, each in their own language. Dale Platter, (English); Soo Elizabeth Kang, (Korean); Aileen Macatula, (Tagalog); José Salvador Sorto Chacón, (Spanish); Tam Nguyen, (Vietnamese); and Stefania Lucent, (Italian). Each shared with us a glimpse of their fourth day... All of their witnesses were wrapped up by Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, National Episcopal Advisor for the United States.

As the afternoon advanced, the Cursillistas of the World joined in songs, applause, and joy. Our plurality was also manifested in the cultural presentations from different parts of the world. We sang "*Que detalle*" (*What a Detail*), followed by "*Un día a la Vez*" (*One Day at a Time*), a song that reflected so much of our day in the IV World Ultreya.

Then, we took time to focus on the work ahead. The seat of the OMCC has been in the United States as the assigned country (according to the protocol) by the members of the North American Caribbean Group. It now moves to another one of the four International Groups of the world. In this case, it moves to Australia in the Asia/Pacific region.

Juan Ruiz introduced the incoming members of the Executive Committee from Australia: Yvonne Carrigan, President; Derek Moylan, Vice President; Margaret Morris, Secretary; Peter McMahon, Treasurer; and Fr. Adrian Farrelly, Spiritual Advisor who had to leave early. They will take over the responsibility of leading the OMCC in January 2010 for the next four years. Let us always pray for the success of their mission.

Our IV World Ultreya approached its closing... and it was time to pray again, as we started the IV World Ultreya... as we always do! Fr. David Smith, Spiritual Advisor of the OMCC Executive Committee gave a reflection of the day, and pointed out the importance of friendship in the charism of the Cursillos in Christianity Movement. He then led us in a final prayer and blessing...

Let us be thankful to God for making possible this IV World Ultreya.
Let us give thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make it a reality.

Let us give thanks, especially to the many volunteers who served so lovingly to prepare an atmosphere of love,

Let us give thanks to all of those around the world who joined us through their prayers but were unable to attend. May the fruits of their prayer linger for years to come.

And then the final song, DE COLORES! The whole crowd exploded with joy – with everyone singing the song that has become the anthem of the Cursillo Movement followed by the typical "The love arrived".

To conclude the celebration, two canons shot out buckets of confetti throughout the arena. For a couple minutes the confetti flowed from the cannons and everyone was dancing and singing in this rain of multi-colored paper!

In closing, let us commit to reflecting on the theme of this IV World Ultreya. Let us pray that Our Lord would allow us to re-discover **every day**:

"The Beauty of Being a Christian

And

The Joy of Communicating it"

God Bless The Cursillos in Christianity Movement!

As always, we close, begging the Lord to keep us united in his love and friendship.

De Colores,



Juan Ruiz
President - OMCC