

JUNE 1966



CURSO NO. ONE . . . MARCH 17-20, 1966



CURSO NO. TWO . . . MAY 5-8, 1966

## Cursillos In Christianity Diocese of Miami

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### DEDICATION

TO HIS EXCELLENCY BISHOP COLEMAN F. CARROLL

It would be impossible to publish the first number of **FOURTH DAY**, indeed it would be impossible to call ourselves 'CURSILLISTAS' if it were not for the interest, impulse and direction given to this movement of the Church by our Bishop.

It was under the direction of the Most Reverend Bishop that the Cursillo movement was introduced into the Diocese of Miami over four years ago. And now, the same spirit that gave life to the movement in Spanish has breathed life into our recently founded English Cursillo.

His Excellency saw to it, that Father Fidelis and a team of men came from Opelousas to begin this great 'Christian Renewal in English' in our Diocese.

It is with heartfelt gratitude we dedicate this first number to Our Bishop, Coleman F. Carroll, and at the same time we ask his continued prayers and his blessing on the Cursillo movement.

It is not too much to say that the Cursillo Movement did not just happen at this time, but that it was prepared for our times by the Holy Spirit Himself. The Apostle Paul did not just happen to be available when Christ needed an apostle to bring grace and truth to the Gentiles; God had prepared him throughout his entire life long before he was knocked off his high horse at the time of his miraculous conversion.

The Cursillo Movement is part of that brilliant preparation begun by the Holy Spirit a long time ago to meet the needs of our times. The liturgical and biblical movements, Pope John XXIII, Pope Paul VI, the brilliant Fathers of the Council and even the receptiveness of the world did not just happen. And the Cursillo Movement was begun years ago in preparation for today's apostolate and to answer the needs of our age.

The first and most obvious directive of the Council is to the laity: they must assume their own responsibilities and obligations and not merely be a part of the equally necessary, but different, apostolate of the bishops and priests. Heartily recommended as necessary reading for every cursillista is the "Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity".

Listen to a few things this decree has to say: "Our own times demand no less zeal on the part of the laity. In fact, conditions today call for a completely more intense and broader lay apostolate . . . the Holy Spirit making the laity more and more aware of their own responsibilities and urging them on to the service of Christ and the Church everywhere.

"Indeed a member of the Church, who does not contribute his due measure to the development of the body, must be said to be useful neither to the Church nor to himself. Their activity openly bears witness to Christ and promotes the salvation of men. They are called by God to exercise their apostolate in the world like a leaven, with the ardor of the spirit of Christ. They must bear witness to Christ throughout the world. The very testimony of their Christian life and the good works done in a supernatural spirit, have the power to draw men to the faith and to God."

A true apostle, however, like a true cursillista, cannot stand around waiting for opportunities; he must seek them: "A true apostle looks for opportunities to announce Christ by words, addressed either to non-believers with a view to leading them to the faith or to the faithful with a view to instructing, strengthening and encouraging them to a more fervent life. For there are many persons who can hear the Gospel and come to know Christ only through the laity who live near them."

The decree speaks of the individual apostolate of the whole lay life arising from faith, hope and charity. It manifests Christ living in those who believe in Him. Then by their apostolate, lay people announce Christ, explain and spread His teachings in accordance with one's status and ability and faithfully profess it.

These and other phrases in the decree show how well the Cursillo Movement fits in with God's plan for the post-conciliar era.

We must respond wholeheartedly and completely to the call each one of us has received from the Holy Spirit and to the directives of our Bishops who thus close this decree: "The Most Holy Council, then, earnestly entreats all the laity in the Lord to answer gladly, generously and promptly the voice of Christ, giving them a more pressing invitation in this hour, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit."

Pope Paul put in a nutshell: "It is necessary to remake Christian society; it is necessary to awaken it, to be aware that we are responsible! This is a tremendous word, dynamic, unsettling and energetic. He who understands it can no longer remain sleeping and indifferent. One feels that such a word changes greatly the program of one's own existence. We are responsible for our times, for the lives of our brothers and we are responsible before our Christian conscience. We are responsible before Christ, before the Church and history. We are responsible before the fact of God. It is the hour of souls, who have understood that to be Christian involves a commitment."

As Cursillistas we must be ready!

RT. REV. MONSIGNOR JOHN J. FITZPATRICK

## CURSILLOS DE CRISTIANDAD DIOCESIS OF MIAMI

130 N. E. 2nd Street - 4th Floor

Miami, Florida 33132

Telephone: 379-5266

April 21, 1966

Right Rev. Msgr. John J. Fitzpatrick

6301 Biscayne Blvd.

Miami, Florida

Dear Msgr. Fitzpatrick;

It is with great joy that I inform you that our Diocesan Secretariat has voted unanimously to help pay some of the expenses incurred in connection with our first Cursillo in English.

You may be assured that we will continue to do palanca for the Cursillos in English, and that, if it is necessary, to call on us for future Cursillos, we will be ready to humbly offer all our efforts.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Jose Ramon*

J. R. GARRIGO

*President*

JRG:mp



SUNDAY MASS IN THE BARRACKS

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### CURSILLISTAS LAMENT

I made the best posters, And I sang real loud  
Took more notes than the whole darn crowd.

I prayed like a demon, And confessed real good  
That I'd become a saint was well understood.

I came charging homeward, Full of faith and grace  
And sanctity was shining on my innocent face.

But my family didn't see that, A saint was marching in  
They quickly annoyed me to the point of sin.

So now I'm a pilgrim, Moving kinda slow  
And my wife often mentions I've a long way to go.

### THE CURSILLO — A FEMININE VIEWPOINT

Many people, both friends and acquaintances, knowing that my husband has just made the Cursillo, have asked me, "what is a Cursillo?" Since I have been unable to glean anything that suffices for a definition but vague answers running the gamut of "a form of retreat" to "the most profound and enriching experience of my life", I will not presume to tell anyone what it is. Perhaps, though, I can describe what it has meant to my husband, myself and our family and show how, whatever the Cursillo is, we are no longer the same people we were before that long weekend in March.

Like most other retreats I have been on in the course of my life, one always leaves with one or two uplifting thoughts, promises remade and New Year resolutions newly resolved. Perhaps there is a sharing of some of our more personal thoughts or a discussion on the ideas forwarded in the talks with our close friends. When my husband arrived home late that Sunday night, I was all set to question him, anxious for some discussion on what he had derived from his "retreat." I sensed somehow that this had been different when he quietly asked if we could wait for a while to discuss the Cursillo. He wanted time to meditate, to sift and ponder all that he had learned. Wound up and exhilarated, yet so very tired, he could barely carry on a coherent conversation. Thus putting all thoughts of further discussion out of my mind, I affectionately said I had missed him, for I had. He replied in all sincerity that he hadn't experienced the same feeling of emptiness as he had been with God. It took me a while to get over some damaged pride and to fully understand what he meant. From that moment on I was to learn much about myself, my husband and our marriage and to see more clearly than ever before the assets and defects of each.

The next morning I remember waking up and looking at him closely, waiting for him to begin again what had ended in confusion for me the night before. I almost thought perhaps it had been a dream; that my husband was not really as he had appeared. In the next few minutes and in the days following, I was to learn that I had not been dreaming. It was religion and things pertaining to religion from sun up to sun down — the work of the laity, the Holy Spirit, grace and songs sung quietly to himself. It was "God bless you" and spiritual readings and phone calls from people I had never heard of. It was a new language — palkanca, de Colores, Ultreya even the word Cursillo.

We talked and talked — a multitude of thoughts and ideas came spilling out like water overflowing. Some relevant to the discussion of the moment, some seemingly from out of the blue. Each thought seemed so important that it couldn't be left unsaid. We discussed our children and how we might better understand them and aid their growth; our marriage and what we could do to improve it from all standpoints, spiritual, moral, physical and social. We talked about our spiritual reading habits and our spiritual life and how we might contribute ourselves more actively to the church and God. Each day became more and more exciting than the one before and I found myself thinking all day long about what we had discussed the night before. I have always looked forward to my husband's nightly homecomings, but there was even more excitement now.

I knew however, that this intense intellectual and spiritual elation could not be sustained at such a fever pitch and such is the case with all cursillistas. My

husband slowly descended from "cloud nine" and life once more became almost like normal. The difference was that it was not really ever to be the same again.

The Cursillo to me, then, is perhaps first an awareness. We are awakened (perhaps re-awakened is a more accurate description) to that whole body of knowledge we have acquired in our lifetime. However we now find that things are no longer what we once thought they were. They are colored now — in rosy colors — by the thought that this is God's world, not ours and all that is in it is His; that we are his children and we are all brothers with Christ — not rivals or enemies — disinterested and indifferent to each other; that we are or should be active, not passive members of the Mystical Body of Christ which is the Church; that we have a dual purpose on earth and that is to work towards our own salvation and that of every other creature with whom we come in contact.

This new awareness leads me to what I consider the second aspect of the Cursillo. It would do no good to have this knowledge and keep it dormant. My life in all its phases has suddenly been touched with a new meaning and I am able to relate it all to God in a way I never did before. Our morning and night prayers, once either said separately or not at all, are now said together, when circumstances allow. Grace before and after meals has taken on new significance. I try now to offer up my daily actions to God whether it be doing the dishes, hanging the wash, making beds or enduring a trip to the dentist or an hour of shopping with two tired and hungry children. And I know that if offered up in this way, I can hope to merit some of the grace needed to save my soul. I have come to realize that a single prayer while doing my work is worth more to God than an hour spent in prayer to the neglect of some other duties pertinent to my vocation as a wife and mother. The subtle logic that if God is our Father, my neighbor is my brother has made me be more charitable to the elderly neighbor who somehow makes me feel that my child is a "Dennis the Menace" or to the woman who blithely pushes her way ahead of me in the store. This realization has also prompted me to control my feminine urge to gossip.

I have come to look upon my children in a different light and I find that my patience has suddenly been extended indefinitely. I have also come to look upon my husband in a new light as well. Always the head of the house, he has now taken unto himself the new strength of the real and vital spiritual head. With his enthusiasm and example as guidelines, we have undertaken what I consider the third part of the Cursillo: Involvement. Commitment. Participation. With a new understanding of the sacrament of Confirmation, we have made resolutions to *do* and *act* not just sit and think. We have become aware that our participation in our parish was on a very limited scale, and we want to remedy that. In our CFM group we are attempting to achieve a true apostolic feeling for ourselves and the group as a whole. The projects involved with our group are becoming more meaningful and we are all benefitting spiritually. My husband has encouraged me to do much more spiritual reading than I have ever done and I have found that each new book urges me to read more and more. A much clearer understanding of the sacrament of Confirmation has also impressed upon us the fact that in every minute of our day, we can be the instrument of God's will and that through us many more souls can be brought to Him. We now feel the pull of the Holy Spirit and the words "God depends on YOU". Where will it all end? I hope it never does.

JANE OBERNESSER

# CURSILLO CONVENTION

SPONSORED BY THE NEW YORK AND BROOKLYN CURSILLOS CENTERS

Convention Headquarters: St. Paul's Cursillos Center, 484 Humboldt Street, Brooklyn 11211, N.Y.

Dear Cursillista:

You are invited to participate in the 8th National Convention. Here we will see the need for exchange of vision and structure, and our part in the world as the People of God in Christian maturity.

The Convention will take place in New York City at the Hotel Statler-Hilton, 401 Seventh Avenue at 33rd St., across from, Penn Station, August 24th to 27th INCLUSIVE.

Your attendance and participation in the Convention will help to develop a heightened recognition of the Cursillo Movement and stimulate the involvement of all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the challenging encounter with all men throughout the world.

There will be qualified, excellent speakers (in both English and Spanish) presenting talks relating the Cursillista to the challenges and indicating how his response to them can fulfill the CHRISTIAN ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY.

Provisions are being made for afternoon and evening workshops and forums with ample time for social activities and sightseeing tours.

We need your help to attain the success of the 8th National Convention. Please help us to get Associates, Sponsors and Contributors NOW... by returning the enclosed form with names and donations.

Your enthusiasm and cooperation will greatly help the Planning Committee.

We Are Counting On You!

Fr. Allan Casanova C.P.

## CURSILLO NEWS



### PROFESSORS SCHOOL FORMED

The school for the training of professors and auxiliaries for the next Cursillo began on Monday, May 16. The school is meeting weekly developing their knowledge of the Rollos and especially the technique of the Cursillo.

Many men will be needed to help with the Cursillo No. 3 for men. Please be as generous as possible with your time when asked to help.

Send in your applications for candidates for the next Cursillo beginning July 7. The sooner we have the application the sooner it can be processed.

### OBLIGATIONS OF THE SPONSOR

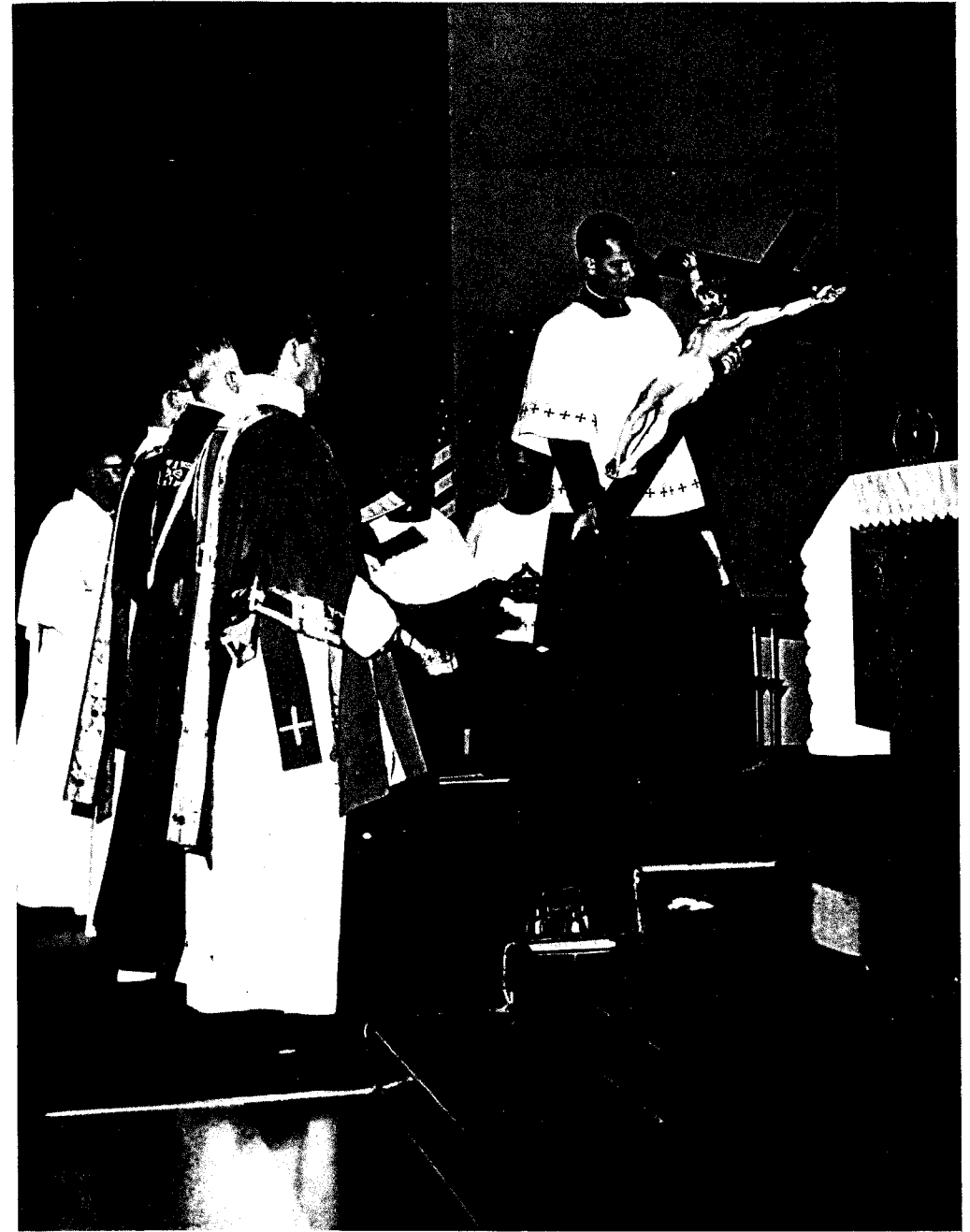
Once you have handed the application to a prospective Cursillista, **DON'T DROP HIM.** Your obligation to him begins the minute you approach him with the idea of making a Cursillo. If he is accepted make it as easy as possible for him to attend. See that he has the necessary transportation to Corpus Christi Church the evening of the Cursillo. Keep in contact with him before the Cursillo. Advise the Spiritual Director as soon as possible of any change of plans of the candidate. You know that for the last Cursillo we had 70 applications. Granted this was too many, however only 37 attended. Have you done anything to follow up **YOUR** candidate. Did **YOU** do Palanca for him???? This is a very important matter. We must not take lightly our sponsorship of an individual. Christ is using us as *instruments*. Don't fail Him. This may be **YOUR** candidate's Opportunity to experience his first taste of love, charity, and brotherhood that exist among us.

### WEEKLY GROUP MEETINGS

The Group Reunion is a necessary, stable, dynamic joining of from two to five Christians, in friendship, on a supernatural level, in the Communion of Saints, in which one and all share in the permanent actual grace of the same life, toward their mutual sanctification and the living practical truth of Apostolic Christianity.

The weekly meetings are an essential part of the Cursillo. Any suggestions on reforming groups are welcome.

Remember, it's not what you get out of the group reunion, but what you put into it that matters.



BLESSING OF THE CROSS