

'The Cursillo – A New Vision for the Cursillistas' (From pages 13-14 from Cursillo Manual: Chapter 2: DYNAMICS OF THE CURSILLO, THE TEAM, AND ROLLO PREPARATION')

The Charism of the Cursillo Movement – the gift of God thru the Holy Spirit to the Church – is the Grace given to individuals who are open to, and desiring of, a closer relationship with God. It is powered / enabled by the selfless sacrificial giving and love of many other Christians.

It is not a coincidence that this topic is being presented to us during this Holy Week. Because Christ's ultimate, unfathomable sacrifice of himself for us, that we are spiritually focused on this week, is the perfect, supreme example of what we are called to do, in the Cursillo Movement – to selflessly, sacrifice ourselves to give and love our neighbor.

All 3 phases of the Cursillo Movement – the Pre-Cursillo, the 3-Day Cursillo, and the Post-Cursillo - require this selfless sacrificial giving and love.

Every person in this room knows this deeply. Every one of us have given and given and given of ourselves so that this Grace of God can touch others – so that others can wake others up to the depth of God love for us – what He has for us and what He wants of us.

During the Cursillo Weekend, God's Grace, allows the candidates to receive a new vision / a waking up, to what it means to be fundamentally Christian, in a deep, life changing way. That is, to love God and love our neighbor, deeply. On a Cursillo weekend, God's Grace moves this reality from just words to am alive, vibrant priority, a new, crystal clear Idea for us.

Before a Cursillo Weekend, one has often heard Jesus summarizing this ideal in scripture. In Matt: 22:36-37, We hear this: a Pharisee asks Jesus, **"Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" Jesus replied, "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. 'This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."**

We know this in our heads and in our hearts. However, on the Cursillo Weekend, this comes very alive to us, scales fall from our eyes, minds and heart, and we want deeply for this to be our guiding Ideal for the rest of our lives. We suddenly begin to understand that we are being challenged to commit ourselves to this way of life. And we are taught how we can do this, how we can persevere in this for the rest of our lives.

All this, on the Cursillo Weekend, is enabled by the selfless giving – the Palanca – of others.

The Candidates learn this vividly on Friday at the end of the Piety Talk. By that point on the Weekend, most have begun to feel the love of God for them. However, when they learn that others, most who do not even know them, have been praying and sacrificing for them, so that the love for God will become real to them, they realize deeply, in their hearts, that God's deep love for them IS real. And that others have played a part in their being able to realize this.

How does this happen? It is a mystery of God that our prayers and sacrifices for others allows others to go from blindness to sight and from hardness of heart to soft open hearts.

This Palanca on the Cursillo Weekend is shown to the Candidates in the following ways:

- Through the reading of Palanca from other Cursillo communities from around the nation and world.
- Through the reading of Palanca summaries from Community Ultreyas, Group Reunions and School of Leaders within the Community. (We in Fort Worth need to do more of this)
- Through the reading of Palanca from individuals within the community – in their Palanca bag.
- Through being made aware of the Palanca of the TEAM in serving them.

As they reflect on the giving of the TEAM, they know that this love for them is real because they see the TEAM's individual attitude, sincerity, and self-surrender to God. They see it in the real,

deep love for God by the TEAM members in Chapel at Meditation, Mass, and visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

They also 'see' it in:

- (1) Our serving them by being attentive to their needs
- (2) Our giving them our joy, our friendship, and our respect
- (3) Our sharing with them at the Decuria tables, during Meal time, during free time, etc.
- (4) Our sharing with them in the giving of the Tals, especially if there is a witness

That is why we, who are on TEAM, as well as in the SoL and at Ultreyas and Group Reunions, must keep it real. We can not give what we do not have, or what we have let go dormant.

God's Grace can only flow thru us if we have it in us. It can not be faked. It cannot be done with exaggeration and dramatization and cannot be done to manipulate. It must be real. It requires our constant focus and commitment.

Our Palanca, our sharing of the vision of new life in Christ is demonstrated through our witness of love for Cursillistas not only on the Weekend, but continually:

During Precursillo, it is shown in our concern for potential Candidates' well being, always given without personal interest or expecting anything in return. It is shown when we help them with any of their needs, be they natural or material, psychological, or spiritual.

During the Cursillo, by the outside Community, it is shown by our Palanca letters, our providing meals, our respecting the Weekend cloister, our commitment to having weekends that are true to the Cursillo Method, and our warm sincere welcome of the new Cursillistas at the Closing.

During Postcursillo, it is shown by the deepening of our friendship with them, and each other, and our helping them, and each other, to continually grow in the three encounters: Self, Christ and Others. This happens in our parishes, group reunions and Ultreyas.

So, let us renew our commitment to selflessly give of ourselves to the ultimate Ideal that we learned of on our own Weekend. Let us grow continually strive to grow and stay close to God so we can be channels of his Grace as we continue to serve in the Cursillo Movement.

DeColores!