

Mentality of the Postcursillo

I was asked to give a talk on the post-Cursillo “**rodaje**”. After learning about what you all do in your dioceses, I noticed that it differs somewhat from our practices here in Mallorca. This led me to find it much more interesting to focus not on the “how” of what we do but on the mentality from which we operate. Each diocese has its own circumstances, but the mentality and purpose behind our actions, in my view, should be common.

The mentality of the post-Cursillo should be the same as that of the pre-Cursillo and the Cursillo itself, as they are all part of the same method. Apart from a few nuances, there shouldn't be much difference. I would even argue that it should align with the life of any Christian.

Remembering Eduardo's words “The purpose of the Cursillo is life...”, in fact, we also say in the Preliminary Rollo that the 3 days of the Cursillo can be a blueprint for life.

Thus, the Postcursillo, should be like a source to which everyone can go again and again, to share, to help, to be helped and then to be able to transmit in their own environment the joy of living a full life in Christ.

Christ, Person and Friendship are the pillars on which the movement is based, and if we add to this the Gospel and common sense, probably that is enough to have sufficient criteria.

*In “the Structure of the Ideas,” it states: “Giving more importance to the Cursillo than to the post-Cursillo would be to prefer the solemn over the decisive, the extraordinary over the authentic. It is very important to ensure that souls encounter God, but it is much more important **to motivate them to follow Him**. The cursillista must always strive to grow more and better in their individual holiness (piety, study, and action) and in their group relationships (RG).”*

For me, that motivating them to follow is the heart of the entire post-Cursillo experience.

Eduardo said that the Cursillo aims to awaken a hunger for God, not to tell people how to satisfy it.

We would distinguish two ways of doing post-Cursillo, which are the same but different.

On one hand, we have the individual post-Cursillo, understood as the experience a cursillista engages in, whether or not they are a leader of their Cursillo, either alone, on their own, or with their group reunion.

On the other hand, we have the post-Cursillo that the entire Ultreya, the whole Cursillo Movement, engages in collectively.

For all of them, we should take into account:

1. **Respect for FREEDOM** We should respect the freedom of others; it is essential to always keep this in mind, especially in the individual post-Cursillo and in the follow-up that the Cursillo team provides.

It's about "Being for...", never "chasing after..."

As far as I know... Christ did not insist twice, nor did he ever chase anyone to follow Him.

In that individual postcursillo we see great successes, of people who help, accompany, and care for others.

We also see great failures of people who have felt overwhelmed, harassed, annoyed (I'm sure many of us know of cases, and it's a shame, because we always do it with the best of intentions).

In this adventure, I believe that, always remembering the respect due to the freedom of others, seeing the brother as a child of God, respecting him as he respects you, having faith and trust in God as well as in the brother, we will have much to gain.

We must also have the humility to know how to see when we are wrong, and to know how to put our foot down. At the end of the day, we are not professionals or teachers of cursillos?

We can accompany those who wish to do so in their journey of faith (helping to initiate a group reunion, to make visits, listening...) and allowing those who wish to leave to do so.

Sometimes we perceive as a failure the fact that a cursillista does not attend Ultreyas or do GR, when in fact his path, "his charism", may be in

another movement, parish, or at home. And to “force” him to develop it in cursillos, would be not to shine in his way, but a tarnished version in ours.

2. FRIENDSHIP be true friends, not pretend friendships or affection that we do not feel, as we will be caught - or making big promises that we cannot keep.

Avoiding, or not encouraging excitement of the moment would help to avoid false expectations.

I think that suddenly after three days of cursillos we are friends in Christ...a friendship is sown. Whether it germinates or not, time will tell, and getting carried away by enthusiasm can often degenerate into disappointment.

In the same way, to ask a Cursillo leader to follow up with someone with whom he/she has not had something, with whom he/she has not formed a beginning of friendship, is perhaps not the most appropriate thing to do.

How we look at the new Cursillista, I believe, can also mark what kind of relationship we establish with him/her.

To look at him, as we look at any friend, without paternalism, without pretending to guide him in anything, but only to accompany him where he wants to go. This may bring him closer to God, and motivate him to be the leader of his life, than pretending that he goes to mass with us and does rg every week... Which is great if the other person wants it that way.

But sometimes it seems that we only meet to “get them” and no one likes that.

This is the usual...**BE TRUE.**

3- It may be obvious, but I wanted to highlight that the post-Cursillo is for the individual **PERSON**, not for the Cursillo as a whole. Each person has their own experience, and I believe that this is how we will respect their freedom and foster authentic relationships of friendship.

4- THE CLIMATE OF THE ULTREYA.

The Ultreya is where the postcursillo should shine, it is the place where we can welcome others and more people continuously.

In Mallorca every Monday of the year at 8:30 pm, without previous notice. We all know that rain or shine, there you will find a group of cursillistas sharing their faith in the Ultreya.

In the Ultreya, everyone, absolutely everyone, **INCLUDING THE MOST RECENT**, should get involved in this illusion of welcoming others, from the beginning - and thus create and maintain! the climate in which to live a continuous Cursillo; to be that source of faith, friendship and joy, to which anyone would like to come and stay.

If such a climate does not exist, no matter how much a leader personally invests in one or two new cursillistas, we will lose one of Cursillo's best tools for perseverance.

How do we create or maintain that climate? How do we get people to want to come?

This is something we should all respond to together. My friend Isabel Cabrera says that if we stop going to the Ultreya, there may be someone who was hoping to find us and will not find the person they were looking for. There's also the one who would improve if I improved.

Another phrase I've heard often—though I'm not sure if it's from Eduardo—might give us some clues: *“to transparently reflect the tenderness of God within ourselves... if we have this in our minds and hearts, something will happen to those we encounter.”*

5 - NOT TO MAGNIFY THE GROUP REUNION IN THE POSTCURSILLO.

Just as we don't share what happens in the Cursillo before attending, perhaps we should also be a bit careful about generating excessively enthusiastic expectations regarding the Group Reunion.

In addition to not imposing, setting up, or forcing a Group Reunion in the post-Cursillo—something I believe we all agree on—it's evident that the Group Reunion must come from God and the hearts of each of the participants. (It's a different matter if we help, support, or suggest...) Continuously “magnifying” the “transcendental” importance of the Group Reunion to the new cursillistas could sometimes be counterproductive. On one hand, they might believe it to be something it is not (and expect fireworks; when they don't see them, they may give up).

We all know that finding one's own Group Reunion is not easy. Even I, myself, have made many attempts that did not meet my expectations. If we put excessive pressure on them, they may withdraw, and the facts show that many who experience a Cursillo never find one. So, yes, if we portray it as “indispensable,” the only thing we achieve is discouraging those who do not find it soon; they become frustrated for not achieving what others enjoy, feel they cannot continue in the movement, and leave.

Therefore, let's not forget that what we must present as transcendental and essential is Christ. If we want the post-Cursillo to be effective for more people

than it currently is, we can tell and show newcomers that in the Ultreya, they can find and share the best of themselves and discover what they seek.

On the other hand, it's important to note that the Group Reunion becomes a part of one's life; it is not a place for us to engage in post-Cursillo and pre-Cursillo discussions among ourselves.

WHAT ARE PEOPLE IN SEARCH OF?

People always seek and will continue to seek the same things they have always searched for... to be happy. They seek themselves, others, and God, often without even realizing it. However, times are always changing, creating the feeling that what is fundamental shifts, but that's not the case; what changes are the nuances.

I believe that if we all behave as we would have liked others to behave toward us, we surely wouldn't go wrong.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta said:

"Every act of love, done with all your heart, will always bring people closer to God."

In my early days in Cursillos, I remember not feeling very integrated. I struggled to talk to people because I didn't know what to say; I felt a bit out of place. But there were people who caught my attention—ordinary people, with normal lives, married, single, young, middle-aged, older, and even very elderly... and they seemed happy.

I saw a Pedro Riera, a Janet, a Jaime Galmés, and a María Medina. They were all much older, yet they had an energy and a sparkle in their eyes... a joy and enthusiasm for life and for the things of the Lord that amazed me.

I wanted to have that joy, that spark I saw in the eyes of those four and many others—a passion for doing things despite their age, for enjoying life... probably because at that moment, I wasn't doing so myself. I remember Jaime, one of Eduardo's group reunion friends. This man had the gift of spreading the love of God, making others see that living with faith, counting on God and the Lord Jesus made a difference... that it was possible to be happier and a better person by walking hand in hand with a living, normal, and close Christ... They made me want a bit of that.

That was what sparked in me the desire to attend Ultreya... All of them made me want to keep coming to Ultreya because I saw something I didn't have and

felt it was vital for me... and that made me think that if this Cursillo thing worked for them, why wouldn't it work for me?

I started to be more present in Cursillo activities, volunteering for everything—not because I thought my help was necessary, but because it allowed me to share more time with those I saw living life the way I wanted to live it. Eventually, I realized that sharing time and faith with them made me a better person and, above all, a better Christian!

I don't believe that the intention of all those people living this way was to keep my hopes alive for anything... but they infected me with their enthusiasm... and they could do so because they had it and maintained it for themselves.

We know that Cursillo is not a centripetal force trying to pull us into Cursillo and keep us there; on the contrary, it is a centrifugal force that sends us back to our own square meter. In Cursillo, what we provide is a license to drive oneself; it's for people to go into the world, into their world, proclaiming the good news that God loves them in Christ and that He loves you too.

That's why I don't see participation in Cursillo activities as the ultimate goal. However, for the movement to continue, we need people who have understood it this way and decide to maintain their enthusiasm and faith in this movement to help others encounter God and, in turn, spread the joy of being Christian.

You can lead a horse to water, but if the horse isn't thirsty, it won't drink. Sometimes we want to keep people in Cursillo who don't have a thirst for God, and while they may have discovered the value of friendship, found good people, or even encountered themselves during the Cursillo, if a personal encounter with God doesn't occur, or if they don't want to maintain it in Cursillo and prefer to go elsewhere... we can only respect that.

Do I believe there's something we can do to make them thirsty and encourage them to drink? Of course! In my view, it's about doing nothing more and nothing less than what we ourselves saw in those people who were role models for each of us. We must be ourselves and reflect what we say we believe.

What we all contribute is what we will find—both for ourselves and for the new cursillistas. And it may be that we are the reason some do not want to stay.

Christ is the protagonist, but we are His visible face... we are His voice... Are we worthy of Him?

I believe that if we focus on being Christians ourselves, preparing ourselves, living lives full of piety, study, and action... being joyful friends... that is the path for those who see us to say what one cursillista friend once said to another upon seeing her leave her Cursillo and noticing the change she had made... "I don't know what you've done, but I want the same thing you have!" And she knew because she signed up for the next Cursillo, and 15 years later, she is still happy thanks to encountering the Lord, herself, and her brothers and sisters in a Cursillo in Christianity, discovering THAT GOD LOVES HER.

DE COLORES!

Definition:

"Rodaje" interpretation/meaning:

"rodaje" (*filming or how a car runs*) can be understood as the process or journey into the "Fourth Day" after the Cursillo weekend experience.

It can also imply the idea of a process or a series of events unfolding, similar to the way a film is developed and edited. In the context of Cursillo, this concept is metaphorically applied to the ongoing journey of spiritual growth and engagement following the initial Cursillo experience. Has to do with the *Individual Treatment*.