



SIMPLICITY AND THE CURSILLOS

I. INTRODUCTION

We affirm that the greatest strength and the greatest weakness - at the same time of the genuine Cursillos - is its simplicity.

The Cursillos must be simple in its message and in its method: in the structure of its Movement. Because they are simple, the Cursillos spread and adapt to all cultures in the five Continents spread by normal people strongly convinced of its truth and efficaciousness.

Because they are simple, the “wise men” always think that they have to be improved, supplemented, and they manage to distort them with enormous frequency.

II. SIMPLICITY

Simple is the opposite of complicated or complex.

It is not about true / false.

They are truths

- Reality has a meaning and this unity of what is real is God (simple).
- God manifests himself in everything (complex)
- God incarnates in Christ (simple)
- There are several versions of what is Christian (complex)
- Man wants to be happy (simple)
- Man seeks his happiness in pleasure, in possessions and in power (complex)
- The person is happy when he loves and is loved (simple)
- The person believes to love and to be loved often mistakenly (complex)
- The person is only happy in Christ (simple)

These are errors

- Men are bad (simple)
- Men are weak (complex)
- Reality (the world) has no solution (simple)
- Each reality has a different solution (complex)
- The Church is not faithful to Christ (simple)
- The history of the Church is impeccable (complex)



Simple is the message that (accept it or not) can be understood by all those who have a minimal maturity and normality, without the need for great effort or preparation.

III.- SIMPLICITY AND CHRISTIAN LIFE

Reading the Gospel, the Christian life seems simple.

However, after reading some theological treatises it seems very complicated.

We believe that there has been a process of progressive complexity of what is Christian, which is the main cause for today's man to feel alienated [faraway] from Christian life.

Remarkable "simplifying" efforts have been made (catechisms, the Second Vatican Council, etc.), but all are from the top down.

Cursillos are the simplifying effort of what is Christian made from the bottom up. (like the manufacturer who before deciding which product it manufactures, conducts a market test on consumers).

A group of lay people, supported by some priests, carried out this simplifying effort in Mallorca, Spain in the 1940s, which was later embraced by the Institutional Church.

Only by focusing on the person, from faith could the message be simplified without distorting it.

Thus Christian life (more than a doctrine, a moral, some rites, a structure, etc.) is a personal relationship of friendship with Christ, which makes those who achieve it happy.

In a climate of true friendship it could also be simple to communicate the Christian life to the man of today, along the lines of the Gospel.

IV. – THE SIMPLICITY OF THE MESSAGE.

“What is fundamental”

God	}	Living normal near		The person	}	Seeks happiness Seeks love, happiness Lives by environments
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Grace

The absolute is God
 who is incarnated in Christ
 who lives in man by Grace.

The desire for happiness is a search for God

Love/Friendship	{	with oneself	}	Generates happiness
	{	with Christ	}	
	{	with others	}	

People of Church ---- Church of people

From formation ---{	Catechumenate
	Catechesis
To trust ---{	Freedom in friendship - Group
	In a Gospel setting – Ultreya

V.- THE SIMPLICITY OF THE METHOD

Search	oneself	Precursillo
Encounter	Christ	Cursillo
Friendship	with others	Postcursillo

Precursillo

- Make friends in your environment.
- Become friends.
- Help them search.
- Help them wait (hopefully)
- Vertebrae – priorities – environments / people



Cursillo

An environment of overall usefulness [general utility]
to facilitate the encounter
generating friendship
in the shortest possible time. Excludes factors of rupture (political, etc.) and of delay (mixed, specialized)

Testimony: Of love of neighbor / of love of God.

Word of those who live it:

- The possibility: as a person / Ideal - as a Christian / layperson
- Personal reality:
 - * Heart Piety }
 - * Mind Study }
 - * Will Action }
 ----- Personality
- Social reality:
 - * Environments
 - * Christianity
 - * Person
 - * Groups / Ultreya
- Word of God:
 - * Grace

Postcursillo:

- * prolongation of the encounter in friendship
- * my friends: group
- * the friends: ultreya
- The Group
 - * Stable
 - * Freely formed
 - * Without bosses
 - * Meeting weekly and with a procedure
 - * Share what is lived:
 - Love of God: objective / subjective
 - Love of neighbor: achieved / planned



- The Ultreya
 - * Reunion of the group reunions
 - * Interpersonal level (spontaneous groups)
 - * Level of personalization of the collective (rollo and interventions)

- The Movement
 - * Cursillos as an environment
 - * Groups or School of Leaders
 - * Service group or Secretariat

VI.- THE SIMPLICITY OF THE MOVEMENT

Unique cohesive relationship:	– The friendship
Minimum structure:	– School and Secretariat
Non-managerial:	– Service Structure

In human and Christian matters, the vast majority of movements are organized, one sets goals and defines means, others (or all) set them in motion.

In Cursillos it is necessary to distinguish objectives

a) External objectives

- It only drives the final and personal goals and these through personal freedom.
- Allows group objectives as possible (own activities)
- Rejects specific intermediate external objectives for Ultreyas, Schools and Secretariat.

b) Internal objectives

Implantation }		} Message
Progression }	of the	} Method
Authenticity }		} Movement
Cohesion }		

No others

They are channeled through: { Ultreyas
 { Schools
 { Secretariats

Only temporarily, the groups

In the environment of Cursillos it is radically different.

Internal objective: formation

- Know (the truth)
- Activate inner life (patterned)



External objective: organization

- Do (good)
- Act
- Improve / change structures

By focusing on person-environment (living) there is an inevitable (but cordial) clash with the surroundings - the others "supposed" Christians.

Especially delicate is the clash with the structures "of" (not only "in") the Church:

- Parishes
- Diocese
- Episcopal conferences
- Council of the Laity, etc.

(Canon Law lags behind life, like all Law)

Activities "for Christians only"?

Activities "for cursillistas only"? - exclusively the Movement

All non-deforming formation is eventually sought by the interested party

VII.- THE MAKING OF SIMPLICITY.

1) "Debug"

"Complete" The message

"Correct"

2) "Adapt like crazy"

"Modernize" The method

"Guide"

3) Instrumentalize

Organize The movement

Enrich

- The Leaderships
- The "pastoralization" of the Cursillos
- The Installation [setting up]