



REFLECTION: CHRISTOLOGY

De Colores! My name is Ceferino (Cef) Aguillón. I lived Cursillo in February 1986 in the Diocese of Victoria in Texas. I sat at the table of St. Paul. Thank you, FEBA-USA, for the invitation to participate in this “Afternoon with Eduardo”, to commemorate the 76th anniversary of the Cursillo at Cala Figuera. A warm Texas welcome to all Cursillistas!

It is a blessing to be serving Christ and his Church through the gift of the Cursillos in Christianity Movement. Cursillo is centered on Christ, the person, and friendship. Eduardo dedicated his entire life to Cursillo. His thinking and the development of the mentality is attributed to what he considered essential in Cursillo: the love of Christ, being attentive to the person and going beyond friendship. All three are linked and come together conclusively in Cursillo.

Eduardo dedicated his life to making friends and making them friends of Christ in the way of normality.

Eduardo wanted us to understand that the essence of Cursillo is Christ. Christ is the center of life during the Cursillo and the center of the Cursillistas personal lives.

He tells us that Cursillos in Christianity consists of:

Proclaiming the best news of the best reality:

That God through Christ, loves us;

Communicated by the best means: which is friendship; and Addressed towards the best of each one: which is his being a person.

This is the framework, the focus, the point of view from which the essence and the purpose of Cursillo can be better understood.

This purpose is to learn to live life in light of this truth, trying to achieve it in our reality, in the normality of our daily lives, trying to perceive, value, and appreciate events and people from the perspective of the love of Christ. The knowledge, the conviction, the experience, and the sharing of what is *fundamental to being Christian* that is lived in the Cursillo gives us: news of its existence and an occasion to affirm it in life.

Our belief is in God and faith in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. When God the Father sent His Son into the world for the redemption of mankind, He also gave us – through Him – the key to discover the path that could lead us to our most joyful fulfillment.

Christ came to us so that we could discover our identity, to illuminate our ability and possibilities and to help us recognize our limitations. In other words, Christ came to us so that we could start feeling and considering ourselves a person.



Christ is the precise, accurate and joyful point from which the path of life becomes real, the point where the truth becomes a way of life. A life that is manifested in man through his faith. It takes root in him through hope and becomes effective through charity.

The reality of Christ is infinite, clear, and transparent, that it cannot remain unknown after having looked at it with clear eyes and a pure heart. In His humanity, Jesus carries out the maximum values that man can discern in this world. His moral greatness is drowned within His intellectual depth, and both are, in turn, wrapped in beauty and love.

Some people believe that Christ became a man and entered history to save the world; however, the reality is that Christ became flesh and came to earth to save man so that man could be happy through his faith in Him. What brings happiness, what gives sense to the life of every person is: *to feel loved and to feel capable of loving*.

It is in living that wonderful reality when happiness becomes real, the happiness of being loved and the happiness of being free. This is what enables us to be Christians: *loving God and loving our neighbor*. Christ wants us to base our priorities less on whether we are fulfilling a rule and more on whether we are growing in our love of God and neighbor. Rules are not the answer. Cursillo is based on criteria. Therefore, Love is what's necessary. When there is love, we embrace the criteria. Remember, God loved us first!

The truth of Christ helps us discover our truth, penetrating all those layers that hide our most intimate reality, one by one, through the successive levels of our consciousness.

There is an article by Eduardo on Mallorca's FEBA website called "El Que", which means "The What". This paragraph and the next are what Eduardo writes: Cursillos in Christianity move in the area and the level of "The What". The risen Christ is a living, close and friendly person. Through a conscious, living, and shared life of grace, we are realizing that He knows us, He is looking for us and is offering us His love, and He wants to accompany us in our everyday life with the light of His word and the gentle impulse of his human tenderness.

When we open ourselves to faith and believe, and above all when we try to live these realities, we verify that the essence of Cursillos in Christianity, its most central core, has no visible dimension in space, because it moves at the level of intimacy, deep, personal, and vital where the impression is so evident to oneself and for oneself, that the interpretation of others can never express it exactly.

The Christ we proclaim today is identical to the Christ we have always been proclaiming since the Cursillos in Christianity Movement began, the Christ of the Gospel and the Church. The Christ who is alive, normal and close to us. The Christ we express and present with full conviction and enthusiasm during the three days of the Cursillo.

He is alive, because we experience Him in ourselves and in the others. To the extent we consider Him our goal, our purpose and orientation; all of life, ours and the life of everyone else gradually begins to make sense.



He is normal because He accompanies us in the normality of life, in the ordinary things of everyday life. We can turn to Him in our most difficult times, but also in our times of joy, which He certainly wants to share with us.

He is close, because He has become one of us and has come to participate in our human condition, and because every time we marvel at the joyful reality that, by grace, Christ is not just with us or at our side, but in the depths of our inner most being.

The Cursillo weekend offers an opportunity for a triple encounter for each Cursillista: an encounter with oneself, an encounter with Christ, and an encounter with others. The encounter with Christ, which Cursillo is seeking, is an encounter with the Christ of the Gospel, who, by Grace is alive, real, and close to each of us. As we gradually understand this reality in all its truth, we speak of Christ to others, because the mouth speaks from the abundance of the heart. We speak to Him in our prayer and we let Him talk to us so that He may guide our life.

The purpose of Cursillo is to communicate God's love to the person so he will know and believe that God through Christ loves him and that through this encounter he can develop a relationship, a friendship with Christ to know him, to love him, and to serve him. The person does this through his capacity of conviction, decisiveness, and constancy.

Cursillo is a confirmation that God has invited all of us to a close, intimate relationship with Christ *now*, while we live on earth. However, our life on earth is transitory; therefore, our relationship with self, Christ, and others goes beyond yesterday, today, and tomorrow because we are on a pilgrimage that leads towards eternity! This is our ultimate purpose, to be with the Holy Trinity and the Communion of Saints in eternity. This is why it is urgent that we bring our brothers and sisters into this same union with Christ *now*.

God has revealed himself to humanity by becoming a man himself and inviting us to a relationship with him. Our acceptance of that invitation is faith, through which we learn to know God. This knowledge, in turn, moves us to become disciples, which means we live out our faith in our daily lives.

Ultimately, faith is an encounter with the person of Jesus Christ. Through Jesus, we come to know the Father and the Holy Spirit, and through our faith in him we are formed as disciples and enter into a loving relationship with each other. Jesus is at the very center of our relationship with God. This is how much God loves us: *"The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself"*. (CCC #27)

In closing, I would like to share a message of Christ's love and mercy that I reflected on this week. It comes from Matthew 20:1-16. It's about a parable that Jesus tells his disciples. The Kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. I'm not going to read the entire parable, but what happens is that the landowner goes out at different times of the day and finds men standing idle in the marketplace, so he tells them: you too go into my vineyard. Men were arriving at the vineyard at different hours of the day. At the end of the day, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the



last and ending with the first. Every laborer received the usual daily wage and of course some of them were upset because they had arrived at the vineyard earlier than the others. The owner of the vineyard asked: are you envious because I am generous? Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.

What if the day you entered heaven; you were greeted by someone who you knew had lived a bad life? Your immediate reaction might be “What is he doing here?” Then maybe St. Peter would gently remind you of Jesus’ parable of the landowner and the laborers. This unexpected citizen of heaven came “last” to receive God’s mercy—he turned to God as he was dying—but he still came, and that was all that mattered to Jesus.

It can be hard to wrap our minds around this parable. It just doesn’t seem fair. But Christ’s love and mercy can’t be limited or measured out. It is so vast, so overflowing, that it is always pouring out like a waterfall from his heart. So, while it might seem to us that God should hand out mercy like a paycheck, it doesn’t work that way. Whoever comes to him will be covered in his mercy— a mercy that saves us and fills us with his divine life. This parable shows us that there is hope for those who haven’t yet encountered Christ. God will offer his love and mercy when anyone comes into his vineyard, no matter what time of day!

People are searching for hope, meaning, and a place to meet Jesus, and he is asking us to draw them into his mercy no matter when they show up. Let us be the loving, welcoming face of Jesus. May we always be open to everyone who is seeking Christ, and through us, may God’s grace and mercy flow out to the entire world!

Life is beautiful, people are important, and life is worth living! (Eduardo Bonnín)
De Colores!

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