



REFLECTION: HUNGER FOR GOD

I. - What the Cursillo pursues and achieves

That's how Eduardo's article begins:

The Cursillo Movement pursues, and by the grace of God, manages to provoke the **HUNGER** for God in people, and, if they continue in the same spirit as in the Cursillo, they can maintain their **AWAKENED appetite** for what is **FUNDAMENTAL** to being Christian and allowing it to give meaning to their life.

And what is **FUNDAMENTAL** for Eduardo is the fact that God in Christ loves me. St. John in his first letter tells us "We love God because He loved us first". Eduardo had it very clear, that to love God and our brother is not possible if we don't feel beloved by the Lord first.

In the V World Encounter of Cursillos in Korea (in 1997) Eduardo said that the Cursillo Movement was not born as a response from the Church to the world, but as a way to communicate to the world that God loves us.

Also at the 1996 European Working Group Encounter, Eduardo said:

What Cursillos want to achieve, and in fact are already doing so, is the most urgently needed thing, specifically, that the Good News reaches the greatest possible number of men and women today.

And the Good News is that God loves me, communicated by the very best means which is friendship. When we discover in the Cursillo that God loves us, the first encounter with Jesus takes place. This wonderful encounter makes us discover that the Lord has approached me to generate a story of Love and Friendship.

This love drives away all my fears and the immediate consequence of this discovery is the need to know our friend Jesus better, this is the **HUNGER AND APPETITE** that Eduardo talks about in his article.

In the same Meeting in 1996, Eduardo said: "We must simply try to promote the **HUNGER** for God in the world".

II. How did Jesus awaken the APPETITE of the people?

Let me say a few words about this Jesus, this man of about 30 years. Everywhere Jesus went, he was followed by large crowds. Five thousand people, not counting women and children, listened to him all day long, even forgetting that they were hungry. Every town he went into, the whole town, we are told, turned out to hear him. The poor man who was paralyzed and wanted Jesus to heal him, couldn't get near Jesus because of the crowds and had to be lowered down through the roof.

And do you know why they followed him? Do you know why Jesus awakened in them this need, this appetite, and this desire to listen to him and to know more? For many years they had been told of a God of the Law, a God who judges, who rewards those who keep the law, punishing and condemning sinners.

Now thousands of people followed Jesus and crowded around and listened to Him because Jesus used another language; instead of a God of the Law He spoke of a God of Compassion, of a God who is Love, who forgives and eats with sinners.

Saint Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, who was murdered, said something totally revolutionary:

"Christianity is not a set of truths to be believed, of laws to be obeyed, or of prohibitions. Christianity is a **PERSON** who loves me and loves me so much that it always claims my love. And this person is called Jesus Christ".



III.- FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE

Eduardo points out in this article that the Cursillo awakens the **HUNGER FOR GOD** which means **DESIRE AND NEED FOR GOD**. And the Cursillo produces an impact that causes the Rebirth of a new **FUNDAMENTAL ATTITUDE** with regard to the meaning of life. This **CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE** is manifested in **THREE ASPECTS** of the same reality: **FAITH, HOPE** and **LOVE**.

1) **FAITH** is not a mental act, it is an act of trust, it is a personal encounter with Christ. He does not solve our problems, but goes along with us, at our side, all day long, in the moments of joy and in the moments of darkness, walks **with me** and says: "I love you".

Deuteronomy 31.6 tells us: "Be brave and strong, do not fear or tremble before them, for Yahweh, your God, is with you, he will not leave you or abandon you".

2) **HOPE**: Feeling loved by God is the true Hope that generates in us a full Joy.

The Hope that the world offers us is limited and false.

The Hope that we discover in a Cursillo is about realizing every day that we are connected to something and somebody that never fails.

We are convinced, as we wake up every day, that Life has a meaning if we open our heart to the tenderness of God.

It is a whole program of Hope.

3) **LOVE**. Faith and Hope lead us to Love. If you have felt beloved by God, you cannot stop loving Him and loving your brother.

The only condition of the Lord to give us his Love is for us to love our brother: "You are my friends, if you love one another as I have loved you".

IV.- ISSUES RAISED BY EDUARDO

What is true in the Cursillo, can it continue to be true afterwards?

If the encounter with the Lord has taken place in the Cursillo, this encounter will last if we continue to be connected to HIM, through Piety, Study and Action.

And if this true encounter has not yet taken place during the Cursillo, we can make it happen through friendship.

The world is tired of hearing talk about God, tired and full of words, they have no more patience. All they ask of us is: "Show me this God of whom you speak so much". And if we are able to present to them, the Love of Christ that we have discovered in a Cursillo, a Love that liberates us from all the fears, if we can transmit to them **THE PEACE, THE JOY AND THE HAPPINESS**, that this Love gives us every day, not with talks or rollos but with our life, it will be much easier to awaken this **HUNGER** and this **APPETITE** of which we are speaking.

Our Pope Francis in his homily in the Convent of Santa Marta on June 28th of this year, said that we do not have to convince anyone. Wanting to convince can lead to proselytism. Faith has to be transmitted, not to convince but to offer a gift. Not to preach but to show how I am living.

Those of you who were able to spend hours talking to Eduardo, you know how he did it, to provoke your **HUNGER** for God: looking into your eyes, listening and loving, making you feel the most important person for him. This is how the Lord does it when we are alone with Him: "*If you hear my voice and open the door to me, I will come in to you, and have supper with you and you with me*"

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