Notes from the National Encounter

## August 16 – 19, 2018 Seattle, WA

# Summary

It was awesome! Different than a 3-day weekend, of course; it was like many conferences I have attended over the years. There was: daily Mass; rosary; small group sessions to discuss the talks; plenty of food; music; and even a Fiesta.

It was an advantage to travel alone as I got to meet and to talk with many different people during the meals. I had meals with priests, deacons, coordinators and other attendees. Got a lot of insight on how they do things in their dioceses, issues, concerns and successes. The talks were all well prepared and interesting. Except for the Unity of Purpose and Understanding talk, most are things we have all heard over the years but presented differently. It is also good to hear things from someone else’s perspective.

Below are my notes from each of the sessions. I have given highlights via bullet points. If you have any questions regarding any a talk or comment, please contact me.

# Miscellaneous Comments from Conversations

* We are blessed: number of priests, deacons and returning Cursillistas working weekends
  + Strong Spanish presents in Rockford
  + Should we be looking at other groups?
* Diocese of Seattle has two Secretariat’s – English and Spanish
  + As do many others, some with another one for Vietnamese
* There were 3 Bishops, 22 priests and 20+ deacons at the session
  + Obviously, Mass was extraordinary with a Bishop doing it each day
* Miami Diocese does weekend’s the same as we do
  + As do many others I talked to
* We are not alone as all faced various issues
  + In fact, it seemed that many dioceses are struggling with keeping the movement alive
  + The bishop in Phoenix just disbanded the Secretariat due to non-functioning and too much politics
    - Issues with the English – Spanish; old vs new
* School of Leaders – many noted the same issues
  + Hard to get people involved; low attendance
  + More success when they were closer to the people
* Ultreya: more than many dioceses; low attendance seems to be the norm
* Need more young people in the movement
  + Very few there under 40
  + What about a group at NIU/Newman Center? Follow up of HS Retreats

Unity in Diversity – Keynote Speaker

Hugo Valverde, NACG President

* *Uniformity is not equal to unity….and unity is not equal to uniformity*
* Tolerance is not the same as acceptance
* What we want others to see from every Cursillistas: “Look how they love each other”
  + It is the Cursillo Motto
* What’s important is the 15 talks
* Wasting our time trying to figure out who we belong to…. English vs Spanish like Paul and Apollo
* Grouping: it is why we do this

# The Theology, Psychology and Pedagogy of Cursillo

Fr. David Smith, OMCC, Spiritual Advisor, 2006-2010

* “It is the time of the Cursillo”-> “Cursillo: now more than ever”
  + Keep coming back…it works when you work it” --- your fourth day
  + Rollo’s: from Human to Divine
* Theology:
  + Faith Seeking understanding
  + As we pray…as we believe
* Psychology
  + Man cannot live without love (JPII)
  + Loneliness is a major issue that needs to be addressed
* Pedagogy
  + People forget the evidence
  + Jesus is living, normal and near to us
  + We are created in God’s image, have an intimate capacity to accept grace and return to God

# Cursillo in Action

Hoang Tran, National Cursillo Service Administration

* Pope Benedict driving story
* A unique introduction: turn to your neighbor and say “Hi Jesus”

# The School of Leaders & Secretariat: Unity of Purpose and Understanding

John Ciliberti, Region VI Coordinator

Study of the Charism (gift from the Holy Spirit) (see definitions at end of notes)

* Challenges in authentic functions
* Movement to protect the Charism
* Trouble -> chokes Charism
  + Norms = Rules
  + Norms abuse Charism
* Essence of the Charism: “God Loves You”
* We must all know the truth -> criterion of the Charism

Secretariat

* Service Unit
* Assure proper function of the SOL and Movement
* Unity of Message -> Freedom of Cursillistas

School of Leaders

* Understand the Movement
* Do not teach or preach -> witness
* School is really listening and thoughts
  + Note: Best leaders may not be in the SOL
  + Don’t force to join -> Invite

*The Charism Criterion*

1. One Founder
   1. Sign of Hope
   2. Confirmed by Joh Paul II and Pope Benedict
2. Ecclesial Movement of Lay Initiative
   1. Clergy contributes
   2. Vatican II awakened laity
3. Essence of Divine Purpose
   1. Jesus Christ
      1. Alive
      2. Normal
      3. Near
   2. The Persons
      1. Created for Love
      2. Essential
      3. God’s Plan
      4. Personal Worth
      5. Value of being person … not an individual
   3. The Method of Friendship
      1. Best way to relate with God and others
      2. Understood by love
      3. Basic/Essential
         1. Originate @ pre Cursillo
         2. Intensify @ 3-Day
         3. Confirm @ post Cursillo
4. Method in Light of the Charism
   1. 3-Phases form a perfect unity
      1. Applied as a whole
         1. Pre Cursillo: encourage and prepare thru an offer of friendship
         2. Cursillo: One Self, God and others
         3. Post Cursillo: Enable to live constantly
5. Kerygma (see definition at end of notes)
   1. Joyful Proclamation by your witness
   2. Centered in Christ
   3. Effective
      1. Prayer and Palanca
      2. Personal Witness
      3. Friendship
6. Grace
   1. Offered fully
7. The Triple Encounter
   1. Self
   2. Christ
   3. Others
8. The Person of the Cursillo
   1. The faraway
      1. Far away from the Lord
      2. Do not know Jesus
9. Leavening the Environment
   1. Person centered environment

# Succession Planning

Cecelia Hamilton, Review IV Coordinator

* You should always be planning succession
* Five Steps:
  + ID those with potential or willingness
  + ID gaps
  + Develop Person’s knowledge
  + Engage person in leadership
    - Ultreya
    - Ad Hoc Committees
    - SOL Presentations
    - Team Formation
    - Rollo’s:
      * Members must be grouping
      * Must attend SOL
  + Improve the persons commitment

# Region V Reunion

* There are 16 dioceses in region
  + Our region getting new rep: Carol Perez starting in Oct. She is from Adrian, MI.
* Only 6 were represented at National
  + Only 12 people (two were coordinators)
* New Manual
  + It will NOT be a new 3-day Manual
  + It will be a manual to train Rector/Rectora to know the step-by-step method
    - Emphasis on the why we do each of the Rollo’s and how one leads to the next
    - They are looking to separate the Rollo into separate book at some time
  + Train Regional Coordinators in November
    - Roll out to Lay Directors and SOL in 1Q19
* Regional Meetings
  + Chicago 10/26/2018 – 10/27/2018
  + Chicago 4/12/2018 – 4/13/2018
* Other Coordinators are very aggressive and offer workshops, visits Secretariat meetings and has frequent discussions with Lay Directors (I spent an hour with the one from Region 2)
  + Hopefully new coordinator will be offering workshops
  + We need to think about having a true Cursillo de Cursillo in Rockford in the next few years.

# **Definitions:**

*Charism:*

**Catechism #798** – "The Holy Spirit is ‘the principle of every vital and truly saving action in each part of the Body.’ He works in many ways to build up the Body in charity: …**by the many special graces (called ‘charisms’), by which he makes the faithful ‘fit and ready to undertake various tasks and offices for the renewal and building up of the Church.’**[252] "

**Catechism #799**– "Whether extraordinary or simple and humble, **charisms** are graces of the Holy Spirit which directly or indirectly benefit the Church, ordered as they are to her building up, to the good of men, and to the needs of the world."

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**Catechism #800 – "Charisms** are to be accepted with gratitude by the person who receives them and by **all**members of the Church as well. They are a wonderfully rich grace for the apostolic vitality and for the holiness of the entire Body of Christ, provided they really are genuine gifts of the Holy Spirit and are used in full conformity with authentic promptings of this same Spirit, that is, in keeping with charity, the true measure of all charisms. [253]"

*Kerygma*

Is a term that is largely unfamiliar to most Catholics. Kerygma (from the Greek *keryssein,* to proclaim, and *keryx,* herald) refers to the initial and essential proclamation of the gospel message. The word appears nine times in the New Testament: once in Matthew (12:41), once in Mark (16:20), once in Luke (11:32), and six times in the letters of St. Paul (Rom. 16:25; 1 Cor. 1:21, 2:4, 15:14; 2 Tim. 4:17; and Titus 1:3). To put it simply, the kerygma is the very heart of the gospel, the core message of the Christian faith that all believers are call to proclaim.

*Ken Meeker*  
Lay Director

Rockford Cursillo (Anglo Section)