The Intent and Purpose of Cursillos in Christianity

The Cursillos in Christianity are a spiritual method for the renewal of Christian life. They are directed toward having the truth and the grace of Jesus Christ proclaimed to each of the participants in the Cursillo. This is effected through the power and work of the Holy Spirit, for we believe that we cannot by our own reason or understanding believe in Jesus Christ our Lord or come to Him but the Holy Spirit calls us through the Gospel, enlightens us with His gifts, and sanctifies and keeps us in the true faith. All activity during a Cursillo in Christianity, whether it be that of the team members, including the talks and liturgies, or the tasks performed by the volunteer workers, is done with the expressed intention of being a channel through which the Spirit can work more effectively in the lives of the participants. The presence and work of the Holy Spirit is vital to every dimension of a Cursillo in Christianity.

However, Cursillos in Christianity are not to be identified with the Charismatic Movement. The expressed use of the gifts of the Spirit or the active seeking of such gifts during a Cursillo in Christianity is not the intention of a Cursillo. Rather, the purpose and intent of a Cursillo in Christianity is to provide a method whereby a participant can become increasingly equipped with the power of God’s grace to be an effective member of the Body of Christ.

This does not discredit expressions of the fits of the Spirit, such as speaking in tongues, healing, etc., but such expressions are discouraged during a Cursillo in Christianity. Great care must be taken so as to keep the focus on what God has done for us through Jesus Christ and what that means for His people. In every instance, all glory and praise should be given to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In the same way, Cursillos in Christianity are intended primarily for baptized individuals who already know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. It is true that the faith of many people who have participated in a Cursillo has been vitally renewed or awakened. But it is not the intention of a Cursillo in Christianity to seek to convert the participants. Rather, through the use of this method a participant is encouraged to persevere in his faith and to become an effective channel of God’s grace to others. It is assumed that there already is a desire on the part of the participant to grow in his faith and to become more intimately involved in his relationship with Jesus Christ.

COPIES of this statement are to go to the Rector and Spiritual Director of the Rollo room team and to the Rector and Spiritual Director of the Palanca Team. This statement is to be read at the first Team meeting, Thursday Night of the Weekend to both Candidates and Palanca Team. Be sure everyone on both the Team and the Palanca Team hears this. It is to be read by the Spiritual Directors. If you feel a stronger statement for Team and Palanca Team is necessary, do so.