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## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

**JUNE - 2017**

# V World Ultreya

Still having as main theme the V World Ultreia, held with the greatest enthusiasm and joy, in this newsletter of June we transcribe all the rollo-rollo by proclaimed by Juan Ruiz, of the United States, past-President of the OMCC's Executive Committee 2006-09, with the following name:

### **"Friendship, Trust and the Faraway"**



First of all I want to thank God and his mother Mary, in this beautiful place of Fatima, for this unmerited invitation that I have been made through the Executive Committee of the World Organization of Cursos in Christianity, to share a little of my life within this beautiful charism, with all of you who come from so many countries of the world, simply to share, the reality of God's love and friendship, in Christ Jesus.

The theme that I have been asked me to share with you is something that comes from the heart of the Foundational Charism of the Cursos in Christianity Movement: "Friendship, Confidence and the Faraway".

As Christian leaders, who have freely chosen to serve our Church through this Charism, these elements of Friendship, Confidence and the Faraway, should already run in our blood, in our DNA, as is now customary to define the authenticity family relations.

### **FRIENDSHIP**

And starting with Friendship, I consider that we can learn about the terminology of "friendship" is any dictionary or the infinity of books that speak on this subject. Even so, I feel that the best way to fully understand it and to start living it

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and sharing it is to see it lived concretely, live and in person. Therefore, let me share with all of you the way I had the privilege of seeing and understanding the experience and sharing of this friendship.

But to better understand the impact that this experience and sharing had in my life, I need to add that in my life, friendship was always something primordial that I sought in all the paths of my life. And it was not until after 27 years of my life that I came to find it in a Cursillos in Christianity. However, it was not in a way that I could understand, but simply in a way that I could feel it.

But God, being so great and always responding to our concerns, especially those of unbelievers like me, answered me almost immediately, giving me two great figures that materialized that friendship. Of course many others came later, but due to the time they have given me, I can only speak of these first two.

The first figure was in the person of Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló, when I met him in the United States in 1978, a few months after having lived my cursillo. In his person, his attitude and relationship with all those around him, I saw materialized the feeling I felt in the cursillo. And it was a friendship that was continually confirmed with each encounter and through each conversation, a friendship that grew steadily through the years. And I can honestly confirm that although we did not always agree, there was always respect, love, sincerity, understanding, mutual admiration, and during all the years that he was with us, I never felt disappointed in any way, And my goodness, now that he is in this process of beatification, I feel that this friendship continues to grow permanently, not only with me, but among all his friends.

However, since the Lord knows how stubborn and incredulous I am, he had a lot of patience and compassion and sent me another great figure to fully understand this concept of true friendship.



This other great figure came to me through the person of Father Don Sebastián Gaya. I met Don Sebastián Gaya in 1994 during the First Conversations of Cala Figuera, held in Palma de Mallorca, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the First Cursillo in Cala Figuera de Santanyií. After that occasion, I no longer had the privilege of sharing again with him in person, until he was in the convalescent home in Mallorca. It was there that I had a great moment close to Christ that I want to share with all of you, because it was a symbol, live and in person, of true and supernatural friendship that is formed when Christ himself is the common denominator, "where two or more gather in my name, there I am", says the Holy Scripture.

I remember very well, as if it were just yesterday, when Eduardo Bonnín, Arsenio Pachón and myself went to visit Don Sebastian in that convalescent home in Mallorca.

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Eduardo sat in an armchair in front of Don Sebastian, who was sitting in another armchair. Arsenio was sitting to the left of Eduardo in a chair. And I was sitting in Don Sebastián's bed, in front of Eduardo and Don Sebastián. We were all talking and trying to fix half of the world, when suddenly Don Sebastian turned and stared at Eduardo, and with all the love and tenderness of the same Christ Jesus, said; "Eduardo, you are the greatest lay person in the world", And the two of them looked at each other so tenderly that they filled the environment with so much love and tenderness, that we almost began to cry as we witnessed this scene of friendship.

For me, at that moment, the friendship that the Fundamental Charism of Cursillos in Christianity talks about was fully confirmed. Two people, who, although they did not think exactly the same, respected one another, dialogued, loved each other and had Christ himself as the common denominator. And imagine, Don Sebastián Gaya is also in the process of beatification. So I am so dumb, stubborn and incredulous, that the Lord had to send me two future saints, so that I could fully understand true friendship!

And I ask myself, why but does this kind of friendship have so much power and value?

For me the answer is very simple, as I mentioned earlier, this kind of friendship has as the common denominator Jesus Christ himself, and therefore, it becomes a supernatural friendship.

My dear friends, do you realize the dimension of that friendship? ...

Do you realize how it can grow steadily and progressively regardless of whether we are of different nationalities, cultures or different languages?

This common denominator has its own language, the language of love, which is understood anywhere in the world and within any culture. And reiterating, this kind of friendship does not require that we all think exactly alike, or that we be the same physically or intellectually.



When there is this true friendship, there is love, there is respect, there is dialogue, there is patience, and there is humility and much understanding. All this is what helps us to accept ourselves as we are and complement each other so that together we CAN live and share the truth of the risen Christ, the truth of the Living, Normal and Nearby Christ that many of us discovered in our own cursillo.

And in this way, we can easily realize that we can also call this Living, Normal and Nearby Christ a FRIEND, a friend who is available to all of us, since He is in our very person from our baptism and, in the same way in our neighbor.

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And if this Christ is in us and in our neighbor, that is, the person who is close to us, it is only logical that this same person, this same neighbor, has the same value as you and I, and may not have the same talents as you and I have, but perhaps might have the talents that you and I do not have. Therefore, it is necessary to see that this neighbor was also created with the same love and to share the same love that Christ asks us to live and to share in the last two commandments that he himself left us: "love God and our neighbors as ourselves".

Consequently, this person, our neighbor, is also a child of God, brother of Christ and living Temple of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the simplest logic tells us that this person deserves the same love, the same respect, the same admiration and the same opportunity for dialogue, understanding and patience. All these elements contribute to the creation of a true friendship, a supernatural friendship.

We can also find these same elements, in a true Group Reunion. Here we can see the great value and the kerygmatic testimony that a true friendship projects to all of our surroundings and to any periphery automatically. I call this the effect of humidity. Humidity can gradually settle down and before anyone realizes, everyone ends up drenched.

Dear friends, don't you think that it is really worth giving our lives to build this kind of friendship in all our environments?

Of course, when we understand what the methodology of our dear Charism refers to when it mentions the terminology "environments," that is, any place where we have a human relationship, during the 24 hours of each day of our lives. In short, "environments", refers directly to our "Movable Square Meter" that accompanies us the 24 hours of each day of our life. This means, nothing more nor nothing less, than simply trying to be authentic Christians, in attitude and action, 24 hours a day.

If half of all the millions of Cursillistas that exist in the world understood this simple concept, I can assure you we could've already had the whole world living a deep friendship with this risen Christ. I would even dare to say that there would no longer be any need for more cursillos!

**This is the power of this true supernatural friendship!**





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**CONFIDENCE**

Now, talking about trust, I consider this to be a topic that is closely intertwined with this same friendship, since there can be no real friendship, if there is no confidence.

In sociology and social psychology, confidence is the belief that a person or group will be able and willing to act appropriately in a given situation and thought. This trust is greatly reinforced in terms of actions.

The dictionary also gives us a very similar definition. It says that confidence is the certainty or firm hope that someone has, in another individual or in something. That is, the faith or belief that a person will act in a fair, appropriate, or effective manner.

Isn't this precisely what is sought in a true friendship?

How can there be a true Friendship without this confidence?

Confidence, therefore, refers to familiarity in how we treat one another; it refers to a belief that considers that a person will be able to act in a certain way in a given situation. And in this sense, confidence can be reinforced or weakened according to the actions of the other person. Therefore, I consider that we can see that there is a human need to have confidence, not only and first of all in oneself, but also in God. And for it to be transcendental, we need to have confidence in all those that surrounds us 24 hours a day.



I can easily discover this triple confidence in the experience of my own Cursillo and the formation of my Group Reunion.

First: The Cursillo clarified very well and in a very direct way what I was worth as a person, Son of God and living temple of the Holy Spirit. And in addition, I shown the great panorama I had in front on me so my life could make better sense. All this gave me the self-confidence to initiate that journey in the search for that or those who give more sense to my life.

Second: In this search, it was very clear to me where the origin of this confidence came and that it needed to remain in a state of constant union with the Live Normal and Close-by Christ that I discovered at the same Cursillo. In a few words, in a constant friendship with this unconditional friend who gives us the confidence to continue being his disciples and missionaries, constantly feeding us with his love and unconditional friendship

Self-Confidence

And how can we have self-confidence?

Clarity in our relationships generates this confidence. Doubts and fears are not only a threat to our self-esteem, but also to our relationships. Doubts and insecurities are a stance that overshadows relationships and kills confidence. And mistrust, generates even more mistrust and ends up invading all our relationships.

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This self-confidence can be very complicated, when we depend on others to feel good, when in reality, feeling good, should only depend on ourselves. We are the only protagonist of our self-confidence and we need to value ourselves as people and accept ourselves as we are with our weaknesses, as well as more importantly, with our many talents that God gave us so that we can be original, authentic and unique.

Confidence in God

Having this capacity to recognize our own value as a person, gives us the necessary self- confidence, and leads us to have confidence with the giver of all the value that we have as human beings, with our father, brother and friend; Jesus Christ!

More importantly, it shows us the possibility and importance of the confidence in the life of a disciple of Jesus Christ, the confidence that helps us to live in a different way from people who do not know the Lord.

The Bible itself speaks of this throughout the pages of God's Word and reminds us that the self-confidence comes from our Creator. And it is not something that only the person of a strong will can possess, but all those who claim to be followers of Christ.

The apostle John also tells us in chapter 1, 5:14: "This is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us".

Confidence in others

And going back to my witnessing as the third part: When I started forming my Group Reunion, being a shy and introverted person, I started to open up very gradually, and as I felt acceptance and understanding, I opened more and more quickly. Something similar occurred with the other members of the Group Reunion, and as a result of this confidence generated by the constant and each time greater opening of all the members, we began to form a friendship as large and deep as the one I shared with you with my experience with Eduardo Bonnín and Don Sebastian Gaya.

The Ecclesiastical 22:23 tells us: "Make fast friends with a man while he is poor; thus will you enjoy his prosperity with him; in time of trouble remain true to him, so as to share in his inheritance when it comes".

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For me, to have, feel and experience this confidence is essential to create a true friendship with all those around us, so that our soul, where we put our confidence in others, will find a peace of mind, and that our hearts, be assure that by relying on them, they will do what is good and right for us.

This self-confidence, this confidence in God and in our neighbor, is what gives us was is necessary to take on our challenges, overcome them and reach our aspirations.

**The Faraway**

Turning to the theme of the Faraway, I consider that understanding the theme of Friendship and how fundamental Confidence is within the creation of any friendship, we can realize that when trying to live and share this friendship and promote this sense of trust in our surroundings, we can easily reach the peripheries, as our beloved Pope Francisco is asking us to do, and bring the love and friendship of God in Jesus Christ to all, that the methodology of the Cursillo Movement calls the Faraway.



From the beginning of the beginning, the concern for these faraway was one of the elements that gave birth to this beautiful Charism of Cursillo in Christianity.

Starting from that message of Pope Pius XII, on February 6, 1940, to the parish priests and Lenten pilgrims in Rome, where the Holy Father was compelling them “to seek new paths, different from the customary ones, so that everyone, but especially the faraway, could know the love of God”, to the present time with our beloved Pope Francis, who is asking us to “reach the peripheries in order to carry the message of the love of Christ to the most faraway”, these faraway have been the preferred purpose of the Cursillo Movement, although not exclusively.

But who are the faraway?

Many times we understand as faraway those who are physically far from the Church, as an institution. And indeed this person who is physically distant from the Church is a kind of far away, but not exclusively. Since it's also a faraway, he who does not have faith, or who does not know if he has it, because he lives absorbed by things that he believes important, but that do not fulfill him.

The faraway are also all those who do not know--because they are not informed or misinformed--the beauty of being a Christian, which clearly amounts to a lack of Christian criteria. That was exactly what Eduardo discovered among his friends in the barracks when he gave his military service.



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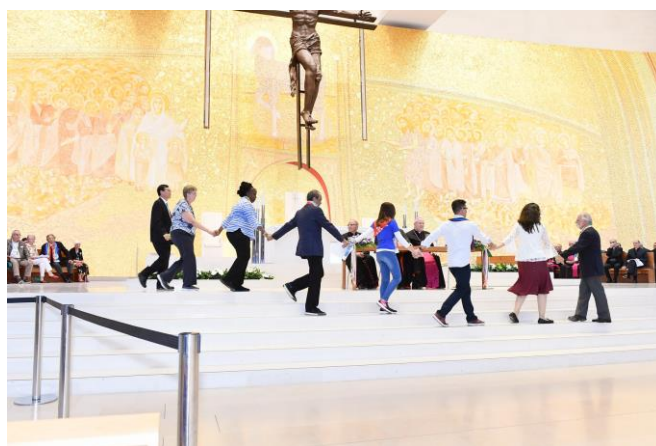
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These faraway may also be in the very center of a parish, a ministry, religious movements or even, as one priest once mentioned, within the very clergy. And it is not very difficult to detect these faraway, because they do not live what they preach and do not necessarily preach what they live. In short, there is no coherence between what they preach and what they live. Their words say one thing and their lives and actions another completely different.

In addition, I would also like to include in their defense, that in many cases this usually happens with very good intention, because as I said before, they are not well informed or are ill informed. And they are very faithful to the good or bad information they have received.

Within these faraway, and perhaps those of most character and personality, are often the protagonists of many actions, almost always for the sole reason that the news has come to them that God, in Jesus Christ loves them, in a language and appropriate style to not only capture it, but even to feel like studying and deepening their understanding of it.

When we can understand, comprehend or better yet, love these faraway, as God loves them, loving them as they are and not as we want them to be, and when they are respected, valued and listened to, logic and common sense gives us a complete conviction that it is in their our own geographical, social and family environment where they have to grow and bear fruit.



I can tell you myself that before living the Cursillo and having Priest friends and being part of different ministries, I was still a “faraway”, since I didn't feel the joy of being Christian and searched for that he joy in temporal things and events. I knew very well that I had to love God, but never felt that that same God, loved me the way I was and constantly was calling me to be his friend. I was satisfied with doing what I had to do and wanted to be left in peace. In fact, I even disliked the name Cursillo.

But the Lord being more astute than all of us, knew what I had inside and that I was seeking that true supernatural friendship, send mi a person who, through friendship, led me to this beautiful encounter in a Cursillo of Christianity.



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In conclusion, we need to be aware that every person, and especially those faraway, need to be touched by the love and friendship of God in Christ Jesus, so that the happiness that often can only be found in a superficial and temporary form in the worldly things of life, can be discovered in a true and permanent form, when they feel they are valued and respected people, and more importantly, knowing that they are totally loved by that Christ whom they carry in the center of their own heart from the very moment of their own baptism.

This knowledge fills us all, faraway or not, with so much joy, that we only have one escape that prevents us from exploding, that of sharing that joy with all those around us.

Concluding, I believe that in order to fully live and share this Friendship and Confidence with all the Faraway in our Movable Square Meter, as our good friend Eduardo Bonnín would very well say, "we must be faithful to the Gospel, open to the reality we live in and attentive to people".

**De Cores!**

**IDE CORES!**