

The Rooster Crows

TRUST AND SECURITY

By Greg English



In an attempt to follow up on what Steve wrote about in last month's issue, I want to carry his point on re-evangelization down to the level of the Group Reunion. When we say "re", we are saying we want to return to something from the previous. If the low number of Group Reunions in the Diocese is any indication, then perhaps we need to return to something basic to Group Reunions. For me, that "something" which is critical to both the mission and survival of an active Cursillo would be that we make sure to precisely follow the format set out for group reunions.

Eduardo Bonnin tells us that, "we must bear in mind that Group Reunions are not held so that there may be people to attend the Cursillo, but the Cursillos are held so that there may be people to make a Group Reunion. And that the Cursillo is only the best means that we know of for putting the soul at the necessary level to begin to make a Group Reunion." (p.259 Cursillo Manual) In other words, having strong small groups is the objective of the weekends. We must have them to insure we harvest the fruit of Cursillo, which in essence is to give each Cursillista, "an experience in Christian living". (p.258 Cursillo Manual)

The Cursillo manual also tells us that Group Reunions are a necessity. They are in essence "the second moment in the Cursillo". (p.259 Cursillo Manual) Christianity is meant to be lived together and the Group Reunion is only a means for living together the Christianity we all seek. Group Reunions are often referred to as friendship groups

and for good reason. There is no deeper friendship than one built on the strength of Christian love. Group Reunions give us the ultimate opportunity to build these Christian friendships. But there is one extremely critical factor for this to happen. That factor is **trust!** A group that does not establish a healthy level of trust which welcomes sharing, will become a shallow get-together. Or, it will turn to something else such as a Bible study, or it will just fall apart. The method of the group reunion as laid out in the Cursillo Manual is the one true method which will insure that these things do not happen. In other words, when the Cursillo method is abandoned, the group members will not grow and the group will not fulfill its purpose.

When we make our Cursillo weekend we are guided along a very specific path for a very specific reason. On that path we are introduced to a three-legged stool. It consists of Piety, Study, and Action. Well, guess what? That same three-legged stool is supposed to be present in the Group Reunions also. Imagine how incomplete a Cursillo weekend would be if any of those legs were missing. The same is true with Group Reunions. If we, in our groups, do not encompass all three legs in our reunions we will struggle and fail in our mission to live the Christian life that we are called to live. A new Cursillista coming into a group is going to expect to find all three elements there, and if they do not do so, they will start off with doubts about security and a sense of inconsistency.

Every Cursillista must have their chance to share all three

aspects of their faith journey every time they group. They must also feel that they are being heard and are therefore welcome to share. If a Group Reunion becomes too lengthy because there are too many people in the group, (Six member maximum! Four is ideal!), then the last ones to share may feel the need to abbreviate their sharing or not share at all. Also, if people are leaving before everyone has gotten their turn to share, then some may think their sharing is not "worthy". I have suffered through one session that lasted 3 hours. Funny thing about that though, after that 3 hour session the group began to shrink dramatically, right into oblivion! Another thing that lengthens grouping is for people to digress and to inject personal stories about things that do not fit the format. Group Reunions should last no more than one hour. If someone needs more help or wants to talk more about a particular situation in their life, they should do that after the regular format is done and all have had a chance to share. Each person should be able to complete their sharing without interruption.

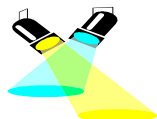
I could write more about the method for Group Reunions, but I think the Cursillo Manual covers it far better than I can. For those with access to a manual I would suggest a review for yourself, and please share the information with those who do not have a manual available. The method is explained on pages 260 thru 263 in the Cursillo Manual, under the Total Security Rollo.

Re-evangelize



Re-group

DE COLORES



Searching for a
few good people
who wish to
serve.

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2009 Diocese of Knoxville Cursillo Calendar

SEC MEETING, APRIL 25, OUR LADY OF FATIMA, ALCOA
SOL, MAY 16, ST. THOMAS, LENOIR CITY
SPANISH WOMEN'S CURSILLO #5, JUNE 25-28, 2009
SEC MEETING, JULY 11, ST. THOMAS, LENOIR CITY
SOL / DIOCESAN ENCOUNTER, AUGUST 8, TBA
SPANISH MEN'S CURSILLO #5, AUGUST 20-23, 2009
ENGLISH MEN'S CURSILLO #37, SEPTEMBER 10-13, 2009
ENGLISH WOMEN'S CURSILLO #38, OCTOBER 1-4, 2009
SEC MEETING, OCTOBER 2009, ST. JOHN NEUMANN, FARRAGUT
SOL, NOVEMBER 21, TBA

Secretariat Vacancies

There are two vacancies on the current Secretariat. We are looking for a Leader for the Spanish School of Leaders, and a Music Ministry Leader who will organize and coordinate the music for our weekends, closings, etc.. If you are interested in either position, please contact Jim Heath for more information. Details on these vacancies can be found on the Cursillo website also at <http://www.knoxvillecursillo.org> under vacancies. Also, anyone with computer skills is encouraged to step forward to edit the Rooster Crows, as my appointment was temporary.

