

April 2009



The Rooster Crows

“Christ and I, a Powerful Crushing Force”

By Erasmo Hernandez



In the Cursillo we have used slogans to describe the results of what this wonderful movement is and asks every participant to be aware. From the beginning, the purpose of the movement is to awaken the conscience of the soul to the reality of the spiritual world. To achieve this purpose the cursillo uses many slogans such as “de colores” “many colors,” “I’m the church” “Christ counts with you, and I count on his grace”, “Not all of us are good for everything, but all of us are good for something” “I can do everything with the one that comforts me”. The great “Palancas” prayers of the apostle say “stop, think and reflect”. Many battles have been won with the knees, not with many punches. God is always good and the last one “Christ and I, a powerful crushing force”. Every slogan suggests a reality and looks to complement the soul.

“Christ and I, a powerful crushing force” are the words of the martyr Manuel del Llano y Pastor Manuel Llano was a Spanish student who had lost his mother. He was a lover of life and everything related to God. He was a restless dreamer. He was a man of prayer. He was a member of JECE or the catholic youth of Spain in 1932. In this group he made many friends and shared his concerns about holiness.

In 1933 he went to a spiritual retreat that would change his life and his vocation of holiness. The following year he went to Rome and it was revealed to him his vocation of Martyrdom.

After this moment all life, his thoughts, poems are about giving his life to Christ as a martyr. He would say more, more, as he was looking for a profound union with Christ and his cross. About this time, the Spanish Civil war started. The country was in a tremendous tension. In 1936 they invaded his home, they found his white and green crucifix, which was the symbol of JACE and made him a prisoner. They released him in the early hours of November 17, 1936 with the intention of killing him in the streets. They beat him up, they teased him, but he was calm. He had a tremendous force because he was holding his crucifix. They asked him where is he getting this strength. He died the following day with his crucifix and his last words were “Christ and I a powerful crushing force”. He lived the words of Saint Paul “I can do everything with the one that comforts me” “Philippians 3:14”.

Christ and I a powerful crushing force can have several interpretations. The mystery of Christ is that he is a God and a man. The Christ that Manolo Llanos knew is the complete Christ not a partial one. He is the Christ that lived in earth and experienced sadness and happiness. He is the one that suffered, died was resurrected and ascended to heaven. He is the Christ that we find in our prayers, the sacraments and the church. Prayers are the source of the intimate relationship with Christ and the cursillista discovers Christ in prayer, knows him, and gives his life

completely to him.

We find Christ in the Eucharist, a man who frequents the Eucharist fills the presence of Christ because the bread and wine are the body and blood of Christ.

Christ is also present in the church because Christ is present and acts through us. Like he has said, “he will be with us until the end of the ages.” As participants of the church we act in Christ by Christ and with Christ. It is Christ who is acting through us. The cursillista should describe the vital union he has with Christ. How? Through constant prayer, the frequency of the sacraments and the complete trust that we are members of his body the church.

The young Manolo Llanos experienced this union with the mystery of Christ and the church. In his last moments of life he had the force that only God can give.

The cursillista should be aware that the force that we need to live the fourth day doesn’t come from us but from Christ. We have to give him all of what we are.

The force of Christ is the force of a Christian. Then we can say like St Paul “When I’m weak is when I’m strong” “Christ is absolute and I’m not” we need him and in the cursillo of Cristiandad we faced this reality “Christ and I, a powerful crushing force.”

Re-evangelize



Re-group

DE COLORES



Christ is
counting on
you!

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2009 Diocese of Knoxville Cursillo Calendar

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 17, 2009, ST. JOHN NEUMANN, FARRAGUT
SOL, NOVEMBER 21, TBA

Secretariat Vacancies Filled

The two vacancies on the current Secretariat have been filled. The Spanish School of Leaders will be Alicia Mora and Erasmo Hernandez. The Music coordinator will be Judy Holt. Also, anyone with computer skills is encouraged to step forward to edit the Rooster Crows, as my appointment was temporary.