



**ORGANISMO MUNDIAL DE CURSILLOS DE CRISTIANDAD – MÉXICO 2018-2022**  
**VIII Encuentro Mundial – VIII World Encounter**  
**1-4 de diciembre 2022 – 1<sup>st</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> December 2022**  
**Mar del Plata – Argentina**

*“Con un corazón misionero, siempre en movimiento”*  
*“With a missionary heart, always on the move”*

*And the apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith.” The Lord replied, “If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to [this] mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.*  
*(Luke 17, 5-6)*

Mar del Plata, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

Brothers and sisters of the Movement of Cursillos in Christianity,

It is for me a reason for great joy to welcome you to this VIII World Encounter of the Cursillo Movement. From farther or nearer we all arrived here with a sole impulse: meet one another, live together, learn, share, undertake. We are all leaders of this Movement we love, no matter which structure we are serving. Further to the responsibilities inherent to a World Encounter – of which I will soon speak – we have a very important one which is to accept the challenge of living in times of permanent changes and adapting ourselves to the resulting demands.

As I was saying, the World Encounters have the following purpose (Art. 12):

- a) Facilitating reflection on the CCM at the world level;
- b) Seeking unity of understanding of the essence of the CCM;
- c) Promoting the CCM to a more incisive and vital presence in the contemporary world and circumstances;
- d) Sharing experiences;
- e) Promoting the spreading of the Christian message in the world by means of the CCM;
- f) Authorizing the review of the book Fundamental Ideas when necessary and to approve the revised edition
- g) Approving changes to the current Statute.

It seems very appropriate to support this opening message with some criteria that sociologists share when they present their conclusions of the studies they carry out on different social movements in the course of history.

Sociology is the science dedicated to the study of human societies and their different phenomena as religious, economic and artistic ones.

The sociologists' conclusions warn us about the importance that every movement maintains fidelity to itself since *“movements tend to disappear, despite having had a great impact on society”*.

It is truly surprising to observe the emergence of movements – Some of a civil or a human nature; others of an ecclesial or Divine nature – throughout history.

The initiators of these movements have always been considered benefactors of humanity with a common denominator: *raising awareness*. Examples are Mohandas Gandhi, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Abraham Lincoln.

Historically, all movements have endured and continued to bear fruit *while remaining faithful to the goals and mindset* that gave rise to them.

According to sociologists, history shows us there are three reasons why a movement tends to disappear:

1. *Not being faithful to the objectives that the movement initially pursued* (frame of reference).
2. Not being faithful or *distorting the mentality* that originated it.
3. *Not adapting or not knowing how to renew in order to answer to the demands of contemporary society, that is, stopping to being a correct answer to those demands.*

Historically, when any of these reasons occur, the movements get sick, weaken and give way to others that come to fill the needs that could not be covered.

The Movement of Cursillos in Christianity will not escape the rigour of this law of history. At the OMCC, we have carried out a brief analysis (a kind of “tomography”) to quickly find out the health of our Movement:

- *Strengths*: The gift of the Holy Spirit; its Mentality, Method, Essence and Purpose, its leaders, its School of Leaders. Furthermore, the fact that our Holy Mother, the Church, has welcomed it with great blessing.
- *Opportunities*: Its effective method and purpose (evangelization) which have been proved reliable for more than 70 years in satisfying the hunger for God in contemporary society.
- *Weaknesses*: Its little or almost no leadership renewal resulting from closing or taking over spaces for young people. Loss of the characteristic feature of its identity as a Church movement, which is “communion”, resulting in lack of unity.
- *Threats*: Not wanting to renew themselves and/or not knowing how to adapt to the current reality.

### **Consequences:**

Sociologists enlighten us about the effects:

- The movements see their internal strengths reduced.
- They cease to be attractive or appealing.
- Other movements take their place.

How often does this happen?

- ✓ According to connoisseurs every 50 or 60 years. Especially when those who started the movement have already died.
- ✓ They call it “the rigour of history”.
- ✓ The MCC, like any movement, will have to endure the test of its presence in history. It also have to pass this test.

On what or who does it depend that the MCC not only remains, but also continues to grow and adapt to new realities?

On what or who does it depend that the adaptation to the new realities is carried out without harming its own identity, that is, what makes it what it is and not another movement?

Who are or who should be the most interested in safeguarding this identity and charism?

- ✓ We. Those of us who, after having had the intimate experience of an encounter with the Lord through a Cursillo, have been called to continue guarding the initial charism, the mentality, the method and the purpose of the MCC.
- ✓ We. The MCC leaders whom the Lord has chosen and given the responsibility of serving it with our talents and desires for a better society in the world.
- ✓ We. Since we have the firm conviction that the permanence, vigour, and fruitfulness of the Movement will be in proportion to the fidelity with which we adhere to the objectives and mentality that gave rise to it and continue to inspire it, here and now.

We cannot live what we do not know and that is why we have gathered in this beautiful and, for some, distant country, to reflect on the new realities that we must face in the tasks of evangelization. Because we want to be better, because we love the MCC through which we have discovered or rediscover God, because we love the Catholic Church to which we belong and which we want to serve faithfully.

- Without neglecting our strengths and opportunities, common sense tells us to focus our efforts on our weaknesses, like José “the dreamer”... “Even though you meant harm to me, God meant it for good, to achieve this present end, the survival of many people” (Genesis 50:20)
- Without ignoring our threats: not knowing how to renew and adapt to the current reality. This is today’s challenge.

### **Conclusion:**

I conclude with an exhortation by our dear Pope Francis, in his Address to the Roman Curia on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017, when he taught us that: *“a faith that does not trouble us is a troubled faith. A faith that does not raise questions is a faith that has to be questioned. A faith that does not rouse us is a faith that needs to be roused. A faith that does not shake us is a faith that needs to be shaken”*..

May we answer by means of our participation in this VIII World Encounter that this is the faith we have...

Let us all be welcome to Mar del Plata.

De Colores!