



ORGANISMO MUNDIAL DE CURSILLOS DE CRISTIANDAD – MÉXICO 2018-2022

VIII Encuentro Mundial – VIII World Encounter

1-4 de diciembre 2022 – 1st -4th December 2022

Mar del Plata – Argentina

“Con un corazón misionero, siempre en movimiento”

“With a missionary heart, always on the move”

HOMILÍA

1st December 2022

+Mons. Faustino Armendáriz Jiménez
Archbishop of Durango and
Spiritual Advisor of the OMCC

Your Excellency Msgr. Gabriel Mestre,

Dear priests, Spiritual Advisors of the MCC, brothers in Christ, the Lord:

We are gathering around the altar of the Word and the Eucharist, acknowledging that this is where all our thoughts and actions, as members of the People of God and as the Movement of Cursillos in Christianity, spring from. The Second Vatican Council rightly proclaimed that the Eucharistic Sacrifice is “fount and apex of the whole Christian life” (LG 11). Undoubtedly, it is in the banquet of the Eucharist that communion and unity with God and among us is most fully expressed, as Saint Paul affirms: “one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all” (Eph 4, 5-6).

Today we begin our VIII World Encounter of the MCC, and we do it with hope and joy, placing our trust in God and giving him thanks for so many benefits and gifts he grants us. We have heard in the Psalm: “*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his mercy endures forever. Better to take refuge in the Lord than to put one’s trust in mortals. Better to take refuge in the Lord than to put one’s trust in princes.*” Coming to such an important moment as a Movement is a sign that we trust in the Lord, in Him is our hope, in Him our Salvation.

It fills us with hope and security that the general objective emphasizes that we come to propose “updated responses with a clear sense of synodality, of fidelity to the Church, the Pope and his Magisterium, which allow it (the MCC) to continue being a vanguard movement in the first announcement...”

We have come from many parts of the world to meet as brothers and, in closeness, to be able to listen to each other, dialogue and discern everything that the Holy Spirit inspires and encourages us to do. Before the altar of God, under his gaze as a Father rich in mercy, we want to place our desires and hopes, our sorrows and difficulties, our achievements and failures, but above all our confidence and willingness to continue growing in communion and participation as the People of God. We are aware of the great challenges that are posed to the Church today to carry out the work of the New Evangelization, and we also see, as the Cursillo Movement, the urgent need to renew ourselves not only in the structures, but also and especially in attitudes. For this reason, the motto of this meeting is illuminating and inspiring: “With a missionary heart, always on the move”, which

reflects the call of Jesus and the Holy Father for us to be an outreach missionary movement (cf. Mt 28, 20).

The word of God today invites us to grow in trust as we have heard in the first reading from the prophet Isaiah: “*Trust in the Lord forever! For the Lord is an eternal rock.*” Coming here surely fills us with expectations and good wishes for the Movement's journey; even fears, doubts and uncertainties may arise in our hearts. However, we are convinced that it is not enough to have good intentions and projects for the future. Nor do we stay in the mere feelings of nostalgia and resignation for times past. We are meeting today to make God's salvific plan a reality in the *here* and *now* of our history. We are the ones whom God has wanted to invite today to participate in His work of salvation, to put His word into practice and fulfil his will.

We admit, as the Gospel according to Saint Matthew says today, that: “*Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven,* but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.*” It is not enough then to invoke the name of the Lord, or to say I am a Cursillista, I am a leader, I am an Advisor or Spiritual Director. It is about listening and putting into practice the Word of God, fulfilling his will. We could ask ourselves as an examination of conscience: and what is God's will for us at this time? Undoubtedly, the image used by Jesus of the house built on rock guides us to think about the solidity of a foundation, about its firmness, about what is compact and strongly united, hence how important it is to build a Movement of the Church on firm and permanent foundations.

Given the words of the Gospel, how can we not think of our communities, which live what is fundamental to be a Christian in their own reality? They are the ones we must continue to build on firm rock, with solid structures, which does not imply only secretariats or schools of leaders, but prudent people who listen and put into practice the Word of God. What a powerful teaching we have heard in the gospel when it says: ““*Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house, but it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.*”

All of us have experience of what it means to build on solid foundations, and it is striking that the solidity of which Jesus speaks springs from a virtue such as prudence. Only through it can the Word of God be put into practice. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (n. 1806) offers us a clear definition of what prudence is, saying: “It is the virtue that disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstances and to choose the right means of achieving it. Prudence is the “right reason in action”, writes St. Thomas following Aristotle. It is not confused with timidity or fear, nor with duplicity or dissimulation”

It is called *a guide to the virtues* because it guides the other virtues indicating them rule and measure. It is prudence that directly guides the judgement of conscience. The prudent man decides and instructs his conduct according to this judgement. Thanks to this virtue, we apply moral principles to particular cases without error and overcome doubts about the good we should do and the evil we should avoid.

On the other hand, listening to the word of God but not putting it into practice is building on sand, and in sand there is no solidity or firmness. Therefore, in moments of difficulty, discouragement, weakness, what has been built on sand does not remain but is destroyed. If there is no solidity, there is division; if there is no prudence, it will not be possible to judge correctly and only a temporary or conventional good will be simulated, because there will be communication but not communion, we will be reunited but not united, we will be walking, but not together or in synodality, but in isolation. The *Fundamental Ideas 3* book rightly invites us to grow in the awareness that “the MCC is an ecclesial movement in which lay people, priests (and religious), each according to their vocation, contribute in communion to one and the same and mission: to evangelize” (IF 3, no. 301).

Pope Francis continually exhorts all Christians in all communities of the world to live and “offer a radiant and attractive witness of fraternal communion. Let everyone admire how you care for one another, and how you encourage and accompany one another: ‘By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another’ (Jn 13:35). This was Jesus’ heartfelt prayer to the Father: ‘That they may all be one... in us... so that the world may believe’ (Jn 17:21). Beware of the temptation of jealousy! We are all in the same boat and headed to the same port! (EG 99).” Let us ask for the grace to rejoice in the fruits of this Movement that belong to everyone.

The Church's task is always evangelization and our Movement's purpose is to leaven the environments with the Gospel. Let us not lose heart in the evangelizing task. Let nothing distract us; we are responsible for the call that God made us from the moment we lived our Cursillo, and when we heard “I'm counting on you” we answered, “and I with his grace”. Alone we will not be able to do much, but united and in communion we will be able to gather efforts for the good of the communities entrusted to us. Each of us undertake the commitment to announce the Good News of the Kingdom to our brothers, and build our Christian life solidly, without fear, without divisions, without quarrels. We are all valuable and we all need each other! The testimony of communion is what makes our actions credible; the testimony of communion evangelizes.

Let us be instruments of peace and love in this World Encounter; let us sow seeds of fraternity and hope in our hearts, so that the Word of God may be fulfilled in us, and that the prayers that we will raise to the Father in this season of Advent become a reality in our persons. May Mary, who knew how to listen to the words of the angel, teach us to be humble and simple in listening, and to be able to welcome Christ into our hearts. Saint Paul, our patron saint, inspire us to spend and be utterly spent ourselves, to bring only good news to our brothers who are born to a new life in the Cursillo. Amen.

De Colores!