



**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”*

**VIII WORLD ENCOUNTER OF THE MOVEMENT OF CURSILLOS IN
CHRISTIANITY
Mar del Plata, Argentina – 1st to 4th December 2022**

The VIII World Encounter of the Movement of Cursillos in Christianity (VIII WE), convened in accordance with Art. 11 of the Statute of the World Organisation of Cursillos in Christianity (OMCC) by its President, Juan Adolfo Moguel Ortiz, was held from 1st to 4th December 2022, at the Hotel 13 de Julio, in Mar del Plata, Argentina. The VIII WE was developed under the motto "*With a missionary heart, always on the move*" with the objective: "*Reflecting on the urgent renewal of the MCC in the face of challenges that the current reality presents to the evangelization of environments, proposing updated responses with a clear sense of synodality and fidelity to the Church, the Pope and his Magisterium, which would allow it to continue being a vanguard movement in the "first announcement" with a new form of government at the world level*".

Participants to the VIII WE included: the members of the Executive Committee of the OMCC (OMCC-EC); three of the four International Groups (IGs): European Group (GECC), Latin American Group (GLCC) and North American and Caribbean Group (NACG); the following National Secretariats (NSs): Argentina, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Spain, United States, Honduras, England and Wales, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, and representatives of various Diocesan Secretariats (DSs), as identified in the Directory.¹

According to the Agenda², the VIII WE began on 1st December, at 9:00 a.m., in the Cathedral of Mar del Plata, with the Holy Mass officiated by Msgr. Faustino Armendáriz Jiménez, Archbishop of Durango, Mexico, and Spiritual Advisor of the OMCC, and concelebrated by Msgr. Gabriel Mestre, Bishop of Mar del Plata, Argentina; Msgr. Eusebio Elizondo, Auxiliary bishop of Seattle, EUA; Msgr. Pedro Maria Laxague, Obispo de Zárate-Campana, Argentina and the other priests attending the event. Msgr. Gabriel Mestre welcomed the participants and, mainly, the President and the Spiritual Advisor of the OMCC. In his homily³, Msgr. Faustino Armendáriz reminded the attendees that the Eucharist, "fount and apex of the whole Christian life", expressed the communion and unity among those who were beginning such an important event for the Movement of Cursillos in Christianity (MCC), "giving thanks to the Lord for he is good and his mercy endures forever", and feeling called by the urgency of finding updated answers, with a clear sense of

¹ Forwarded to the participants.

² Handed to the participants.

³ Uploaded to the OMCC site.

synodality, fidelity to the Church, the Pope and the Magisterium, which would allow the MCC to continue being a vanguard Movement in the first announcement.

Then, in the main hall of the WE site, the OMCC President welcomed⁴ the participants, emphasizing in his welcome the responsibility of the leaders to safeguard the identity and charism of the MCC, always considering that we cannot do it alone, isolated or outside the Church, but from a faith that questions, encourages and moves us, as Pope Francis teaches us (cf. Address to the Roman Curia on 21.12.2017). Next, the President of the NS of Argentina, Federico Caprotta, greeted those present, speaking of his joy in receiving them; Fr. Raúl Fleckenstein, Spiritual Advisor of the NS of Argentina, invited everyone to live the WE with a Eucharistic heart, and the Archbishop of the host Diocese, Msgr. Gabriel Mestre, reiterated his desire that the participants might have a fruitful experience of the MCC during the Encounter. In addition, at the end of the act, the declaration of the appointment of the VIII WE as an asset of Tourist Interest of the Mar del Plata City Council was read. After the introduction of the participants, the Agenda⁵ was read and explained by the OMCC President. Subsequently, Alberto Stang, the IGs Coordinator, was asked by the President to read the VIII WE Procedures⁶ and put it to the vote for their approval by the NSs, who approved it unanimously. The OMCC President also said as stated by the Procedures, in addition to the nineteen NSs who were attending the VIII WE in person, twenty-three other NSs had registered to vote online, owing to their inability to travel, and according to the specific indication of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life. They would also follow the presentations, with their respective translation, via streaming. He also informed that the technical managers had also made it possible for the Cursillista community all over the world to follow the same presentations through social networks. Then, the composition of the Drafting Commission took place: appointed by the OMCC were Maria Elisa Zanelatto, from the OMCC Work Team, as coordinator and Fr. Arturo Thomas Jiménez, from Mexico. The plenary appointed four other members: Raúl González Hurtado, from Spain; Marisela Rodríguez García and Nadia López Valladolid, from the United States; Isabel Acevedo, from Chile; Miguel Gutiérrez, from Paraguay; and Fr. Raul Fleckenstein, from Argentina. Thus was concluded the first section of activities of the VIII WE.

There was then a short break followed by the presentation of the first theme by Msgr. Mestre "**The reality to evangelize: the challenges of a changing world**".⁷ The talk dealt with the reality of today's world, how our response to this reality should be; and some intuitions that the Pope proposes us to internalize in the light of *Evangelii Gaudium*. Msgr. Mestre ended by suggesting three questions for the Groups: 1) Looking at this first presentation as a whole: Which are the three words that resound in my heart in the light of evangelization in an *epochal change*? 2) How shall we have to modify the pedagogy of the faith of our usual pastoral staff so that we, Catholic Christians, really live *in, through* and *from* the joy of the Gospel? 3) What two steps should be taken in living the faith of the Movement of Cursillos in Christianity in your country or region in order to be able to respond in terms of evangelization to the men and women of *our time*?

⁴ Handed to the participants.

⁵ Handed to the participants.

⁶ Handed to the participants.

⁷ Handed to the participants and uploaded to the OMCC site.

After the work of the Groups and lunch, the attendees met for the second theme presented by Msgr. Faustino Armendáriz Jiménez, Archbishop of Durango and Spiritual Advisor of the OMCC-EC, who spoke about "**The Church's response: acting in synodality**".⁸ The most outstanding points made by Msgr. Faustino regarding the need to respond to the challenges of a changing world through synodality were the need to look at the reality of the Movement and of our Church with faith and hope, so that, from synodality (listen, dialogue, discernment, shared decisions), we could face the necessary changes that would lead us to continue being a movement that responds to the needs of today's man from the evangelical message point of view. In the end, he suggested the following questions to the Groups: *In order to make possible and visible this synodal Church style...* 1) How are we going to overcome paradigms and practice the art of community discernment to interpret together the signs of the times? 2) How are we going to take on the challenge of further promoting communion, participation and mission? 3) How are we going to walk in synodality as a Movement and as members of the People of God?

At the end of the afternoon, and since it would not be possible for the 21 Groups to present their conclusions on all the questions suggested by the speakers, it was decided that the result of their work would be delivered to the Drafting Commission in digital mode so that they could summarize it and share it on the OMCC site, after the VIII WE. At that moment, however, some groups were asked to share their key ideas, thus completing the tasks of the day. After the community prayer in the chapel, the attendees gathered for dinner and afterwards they were able to socialize and say their individual prayers.

Friday began with the Eucharist, celebrated by Msgr. Pedro Laxague who called those present to live their lives in such a way that everything would happen according to their faith. After mass, the day's work began with a word from the Drafting Commission explaining how they were working and presenting a summary of the main points of the previous day.

After a short break, the third presentation began, given by Mari Loli Negrillo, vice president of the GECC. Her talk dealt with "**The MCC's answer: It is time to go further**".⁹ and motivated the attendees to discern what is typical of an ecclesial movement such as ours: to respond, according to its own charism, to the challenges posed by today's world to which the Church feels the need to give an answer in synodality. It was the moment to emphasize that the Movement, today, is asked to deprive itself of ease and face reality. Mari Loli stressed that any project arising from the MCC needs to be one in which we walk a path of evangelization together. And she concluded with the words of the Holy Father: "It is the hour of you, of men and women engaged in the world of culture, politics, industry... who by your way of life are able to bring the newness and joy of the Gospel wherever you are." In the end, she proposed to the Groups that they reflect on the following questions: 1) How do we see the Movement today? 2) What do we need to contribute and where does the Cursillo Movement need to be positioned in order to give more fruit? 3)

⁸ Handed to the participants and uploaded to the OMCC site.

⁹ Handed to the participants and uploaded to the OMCC site.

How does the Cursillo Movement need to respond in order to contribute to the evangelizing task that is needed today?

Then, taking advantage of the good number of Spiritual Advisors present, at approximately 11:30 a.m., there was a moment when they had the opportunity to meet in order to share their personal experiences.

The morning ended with the work of the Groups, and, after lunch and a short break, the afternoon activities began with the fourth theme, by Juan Adolfo Moguel Ortiz, OMCC President. Presenting it under the evangelical advice, “*for new wine, new wineskins*”, he detailed everything related to the development of the proposed change to the OMCC Statute, intended to express the need of “**A new form of service to the Movement**”.¹⁰ He reported the background of the Encounter in Rome, from 30th May to 3rd June this year, the decisions taken and their consequences, making very clear the decline of certain norms and the need for them to be replaced by others so that the MCC continues to be a valid instrument of evangelization. More than proposing, he limited himself to emphasizing the closeness of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life to our Movement and its concerns with the urgency of a healthy updating. Halfway through the presentation, a video of Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, was shown. The Cardinal called the MCC to unity and discernment on the path to be followed in order to continue being an instrument of evangelization in our days. After the video, Juan Adolfo's talk continued. At the end of it, a series of questions and doubts were expressed, some of them being answered, while others were postponed for the next day's presentation. The questions that he suggested to the Groups were: 1) How do we interpret the need for the MCC worldwide government (OMCC) to have the approval of the Holy See? 2) The DLFV has offered clear and valuable guidelines for the governance and coordination of ecclesial movements. How could we transfer and welcome them in all instances of our Movement? How do we understand the proposal that such a government be made through a structure closer to the bases where the MCC becomes visible and concrete? 3) Cardinal Farrell remarked on several occasions that if there is a proposal to modify structures of the MCC, the reason is to encourage the Movement to carry out more and better its evangelizing task in today's world. How can we adapt our structures – all of them – to go further in our evangelizing task?

Then, in plenary, for the presentation of the work carried out in the Groups, ten of the twenty-one Groups were asked to report their answers to the questions with which Juan Adolfo had ended his presentation. In their reports, the groups underlined how positive it was that ours was a Movement recognized by the Holy See, because belonging to the Church gives the MCC the credibility that allows it to be welcomed as an ecclesial movement by all the Bishops. They also emphasized the need for the structures to be channels to promote and carry out the evangelizing task of the Movement in today's world and to facilitate the permanent renewal of its members.

¹⁰ Handed to the participants and uploaded to the OMCC site.

Before dinner, the attendees were once again called to gather in the chapel, for prayers and meditation. It was the fulfilment of a very dense and productive day for all attendees.

Saturday also began with the Eucharistic Celebration, presided over by Msgr. José Ángel Saiz Meneses, Archbishop of Seville, Spain, who called the participants to identify the sending out of the disciples, giving them power to heal diseases and expel demons, with the situations we live today in the face of so much poverty and marginalization, which many times we simply ignore, because the digital age created crowds of people who are in the same place, but do not communicate one another because they do not take their eyes off their cell phones. He reminded everyone that, in the 1940s, the Lord blessed his Church with the charism of the Cursillos in Christianity, which continues to be very up to date in terms of making the first announcement.

Next, the attendees met in the main hall, where the President, Juan Adolfo, according to the schedule, proposed to explain the voting process. Marisela, Vice President of the NACG, asked for the floor to inform that the NSs of the NACG complained about not listening to the talks and should be reimbursed for their registration costs. Juan Adolfo explained that the problem of costs was not relevant at that time; what was important was that everyone understood that the process had been carried out in accordance with what was agreed in Rome and, even concerning dates and deadlines, according to what had been determined by the DLFL. Regarding the technical problems, he added that all measures had been taken, but situations arose that were not in his power to solve.

Right away, he told the attendees that Margaret Morris, the President of the APG, who was not being able to participate, had sent a video that was projected, while the Spanish-speakers followed the text of her message in Spanish.

The President of the NACG asked for the floor and read a letter that Margaret had written right after the two proposals of the Statute Review Commission were sent to the DLFL, in which she criticized the OMCC-EC for not having given Marisela the opportunity to explain her proposal. Juan Adolfo took the floor, then Álvaro, then Maria Elisa, to clarify that, in fact, Marisela did have the opportunity to present her proposal. What she was not given was a second chance, for a specific meeting to present it in full, since she asked for it when there were less than two days left before the material was delivered to the DLFL and, as a result of the differences in time zones, there was no time for both completing the work and holding another meeting.

It was commented that all this had happened during the process and that what should be done, at that moment, was to vote on the proposed change to the Statute in terms of a new form of government of the MCC worldwide, in accordance with the application of the requirements of the Decree of the Pope for international Associations of Catholic Faithful.

After explaining details of the work process of the Statute Review Commission, Juan Adolfo asked Álvaro, who had been the author of the Instrumentum Laboris

that served as the basis for the drafting of the Proposal, to answer some questions that the Presidents of the NSs, who were going to vote online, had asked.

Once the clarifications were completed, the President of the NACG asked that another Caribbean country could register to vote, when there was practically just an hour left before voting began. Juan Adolfo said that all the Presidents of National Secretariats had been informed that only those who had registered until 30th November could vote online, but he would not make himself the decision to prevent or authorize this Caribbean country to vote, but rather transfer this decision to the NSs Presidents present. Consulted, three approved, one abstained from voting and the other fourteen did not approve.

Before the voting session, those present gathered in the chapel, before the Blessed Sacrament, for a moment of reflection and prayer.

First, the online voting took place as it could not be delayed in respect to the differences in the time zones of the voters.

A group of tellers was then formed: Msrg. Eusebio Elizondo, Msrg. Faustino Armendáriz and Msrg. José Ángel Saiz Meneses. Juan Adolfo then asked Maria Elisa to explain and lead the process, calling each NS present, asking them to sign the Attendance List, handing them the ballot and an envelope for them to fill out the ballot, put it in the envelope and place it in the ballot box. After the session, the votes of the 18 NSs attending the WE were counted, resulting in 4 votes against and 14 votes in favour of the proposal. The template of votes received online was then projected on the screen, showing that out of the 23 registered voters, 17 had voted, of which 7 voted in favour and 10 voted against the proposal. The total votes were 14 against and 21 in favour, failing to reach the two-thirds majority required by the Statute for approval of the proposal. Information was received later that Ukraine failed to enter the system and South Africa sent in its ballot after the scheduled time.

After lunch, the attendees left for a tour of the city and, at 7:30 p.m., gathered in the chapel for prayer and meditation. After the last dinner of the Encounter – which featured a local music show – they had time for socializing and individual prayers.

Sunday began with morning prayer and a meditation by Fr. Jorge Farfan who encouraged the participants to always search God's will. Next, the Drafting Commission read the decisions of the previous day, explaining that, as approved at the beginning of the WE, the final drafting of the Minutes would be the responsibility of the same Commission and would be published on the OMCC website for free access.

The Commission then presented to the Assembly its suggestion for a document that included the main conclusions of the Groups presented in plenary. Said Document summarized the vision of the world and of the Movement presented through four themes, the discernment of the Groups, and their suggestions for actual actions. After the reading, the National Secretariats present gave the Document unanimous approval¹¹.

¹¹ Uploaded to the OMCC site.

Then, in the item of the agenda initially intended for a meeting of the IGs, the President of the NS of Peru, on behalf of some other Presidents of the NSs present, asked Juan Adolfo for the opportunity of a meeting of all the Presidents of NSs, which was granted. During the meeting, each of the Presidents expressed their feelings, ways of thinking and their attitudes towards the results of the vote. In a fraternal and lively atmosphere, an ambience of harmony, a sense of adherence and belonging to the Church, to the Pope and to the Magisterium was built, leading so far as to propose that, since the WE was not yet concluded, the voting in person be restored to raising hands before all those in attendance. At this moment, Juan Adolfo requested the presence of Msgr. Faustino Armendáriz to consult him. The Spiritual Advisor of the OMCC suggested leaving the vote as it was, since it would not be prudent to make a new vote without consulting the Dicastery, in addition to the fact that the NSs that had done so online would also have to be summoned. At the same time, he proposed an alternative to those present: if anyone wanted to change the intention of his or her vote, they should do so in written form addressed to the OMCC, so that such communication could be attached to the minutes of the WE.

Immediately after, the participants left for the Closing Eucharist of the VIII WE, in the Cathedral of Mar del Plata, which was celebrated by Msgr. Gabriel Mestre. In his homily, Msgr. Mestre highlighted the presence of John the Baptist in the Advent, clearly and firmly calling for conversion through three points expressed by three words: *obstacles*, *vipers*, *Jesus*. The first word, Monsignor said, calls us to conversion by removing the obstacles that prevent the Lord from coming into our hearts and which, as Isaiah points out, consists of *preparing the way, and make straight his paths*. Achieving it demands that we first ask ourselves which obstacles, within our personal life context, prevent the Lord from reaching our hearts, and then intensify the rhythm of prayer to remove them and allow the Lord to come and encounter us. In particular, he added, all the participants should leave this Encounter with a deep spirit of ecclesial renewal, willing to remove the obstacles so that Christ reaches all corners of the MCC in any part of the world. The second very harsh expression of John the Baptist, in respect to the Pharisees and Sadducees, clearly religious people, is vipers. Using apocalyptic images, he anticipates Jesus by calling them hypocrites, a word that identifies their false and superficial religiousness, which does not bear fruit of sincere conversion. One must convert so as not to be a race of vipers! It is not enough to say that we did Cursillo, etc. We must bear fruit of sincere conversion in all areas of our lives so as not to receive the harsh epithet that John the Baptist addresses to the Pharisees and Sadducees. The third and last word is the good news of this Sunday of Advent: convert yourselves to this Jesus who welcomes each person with his heart and who was announced in the prophecy of Isaiah. We convert to Him as Pope Benedict XVI taught us when he said that "one does not begin to be a Christian because of an ethical decision or a great idea, but rather because of an encounter with an event, with a Person who gives new horizons to life, and with that, a decisive orientation."

By removing obstacles, not being a brood of vipers, opening the doors of our heart so that He can inhabit it, let us renew, in the light of the joy of the Gospel, our identity as missionary disciples. In this framework of the culmination of the WE VIII, remarked Msgr. Mestre, may the harshness of John the Baptist help us to understand that we are responsible for our times.

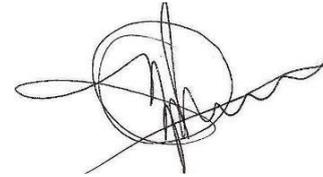
At the end of the Eucharist, they took advantage of the moment for an official photo of all the participants of the event.

Returning to the WE site, the attendees gathered for the last time and for a farewell lunch.

Mar del Plata, 4th December 2022.



Maria Elisa Zanelatto
Drafting Commission Coordinator



Juan Adolfo Moguel Ortiz
OMCC President