

**CURSILLO 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TALK**  
**PERSEVERING IN THE WAY OF CHRIST**  
Catholic Pastoral Center: November 21, 2009

De Colores!! Welcome to this wonderful anniversary celebration!!

Later today you will hear a summary of the 30-year history of the Cursillo Movement in our Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

As we look back and give thanks to God for the way God has blessed us these past 30 years, we also look ahead to ponder what the next 30 years will hold. We cannot control the future, but we do have the ability to affect the present, which is the doorway into the future.

The most important thing we can do is to **persevere**---  
keep running the race of faith, to not grow weary, but move onward and upward---  
ULTREYA!

In order to persevere as individuals and as a wider Cursillo community in living a life of grace and spreading it, we need to constantly return to the **remedies** that will help us overcome the obstacles to living this life of grace.

In order to persevere as saints (living a life of holiness) and apostles--  
Christian leaders who form Christian life in our society--  
we need to draw strength from the remedies in order to keep running the race.

## INTRO: THE FIVE REMEDIES

A. Sacrament of Reconciliation

B. Mortification

C. Prayer

D. Spiritual Direction

E. Contact with other Vital Christians

I only have time to touch on a couple of these, which I believe are very important for us as individuals and as a community of faith to move forward into the future full of hope: **MORTIFICATION** and **CONTACT** with other **VITAL CHRISTIANS**.

## I MORTIFICATION

- A. Remember, the most **essential mortification is DYING to self** in order to RISE with Christ.  
The **cross**, in other words, is the source of strength to persevere in living a life of grace and spreading it.

Mortification, living a life marked by the cross of Christ, manifests itself in LIFE of DISCIPLINE

- B. **DISCIPLINE**-- Running the race, if you are an athlete requires discipline (1 Cor. 9: 25-27)
1. Rise earlier to pray or carve out more time in our day
  2. Watch what we eat spiritually—whatever we get close to we become, the principle of OSMOSIS.
  3. Make Lent a year-round discipline, where we are constantly renewing our life of prayer, helping those in need, and fasting from whatever is not of God.
  4. **SIMPLICITY**---what we have is a gift from God and meant to be shared  
Reexamine “materialism” in our lives---what stuff has a hold on us that we cannot share or share very grudgingly.

## II CONTACT WITH OTHER VITAL CHRISTIANS--- absolutely essential remedy.

Our 3-days with Christ on our Cursillo weekend was a powerful opportunity to see how Christian community can be lived and how we need one another in order to do so.

### A. **GRAND ULTREYA** today and the monthly *Ultreyas that we attend*

Meant to rouse one another to love and to do good works.

### B. **Grouping on a weekly basis**---in order to be HELD **ACCOUNTABLE**

We all need someone or some people to hold us accountable.

1. **HOLINESS** (PIETY)-- about much more than spending tons of time in church

Prayer that leads us to service, to live our life for others.

Need Christian brothers and sisters to help us see if our life of holiness is producing the fruit of a more compassionate heart, a life of service.

2. **FORMATION** (STUDY)--- **too much information** out there today, especially with all the “Catholic” websites that are available.

\_Read and study only the best,

and ALWAYS START with GOD’S WORD in the **Bible**.

Read and study the Pope’s encyclicals, especially the latest:

*“Carita in Veritate*

3. **EVANGELIZATION**—constantly work at MAKE A FRIEND, BE A FRIEND, and BRING A FRIEND TO CHRIST. Look out for Christian leaders who can be invited to transform their environments.

Sharing of the GOOD NEWS---not first of all about giving up something, but about receiving the GLORIOUS GIFT of Abundant Life.

### III ONGOING CONVERSION

If we are to persevere as a Community of Faith, all of us need to be in the process of ONGOING CONVERSION.

Contact with other vital Christians and mortification help us enter into this progressive conversion.

All of us need to humbly admit that we are sinners in need of God's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

All of us need to die to our pride and reach out to someone who will walk with us as our spiritual director and help us find where God is lurking in our lives and how we are to respond.

All of us need to find time daily for prayer and at least weekly receive the best gift for a converted life—the **Eucharist**---dying with Christ at Mass and rising up to new life with Him as he gives us a share in his life, his body and blood.

We do not have to do “great things” or do “everything” but simply need to scatter the seeds of the Gospel through our lives of faith.

***ROMERO PRAYER written by Bishop Ken Untener  
On occasion of Bishop Oscar Romero's death***

This is what we are about:

We plant seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities....

We may never see the end results,

but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not Master Builders....

We are prophets of a future not our own.

*Esto es lo que somos: Sembramos semillas que algún día se desarrollarán.  
Regamos las semillas ya sembradas, sabiendo que en ellas hay promesas del futuro.  
Estamos estableciendo los cimientos  
que más adelante necesitarán ser desarrollados más.  
Proveemos la levadura que es más eficaz de lo que nos podemos imaginar...*

*Tal vez nunca veamos los resultados,  
Pero esa es la diferencia entre el maestro de obras y el trabajador.  
Nosotros somos trabajadores, no somos Maestros de Obras...  
Somos profetas de un futuro que no es el nuestro.*

We do not have to do everything.

We simply need to be leaven in our environments, scatter seeds, and persevere in hope that God will do the rest, that God will bring to completion the good works we begin.

## **CONCLUSION: PERSEVERE BECAUSE OF RELATIONSHIP TO LIVING CHRIST**

We persevere in running the race when we are faithful to something that engages not only the mind but also the heart.

Perseverance, therefore, is different from endurance which is about plodding along, getting the job done though our heart may not be in it.

We persevere because we have given our heart to Someone; and really, because he has given his sacred heart to us FIRST.

Each day, at every moment, to say,

***"I am yours, Lord. Take, receive, all that I am and have."***

With that kind of hope-full attitude, with that kind of living love, with that kind of fervent faith, we can persevere in running the race TOGETHER and HELPING EACH OTHER TO WIN the crown imperishable, Life on high with Christ Jesus.