

NEWSLETTER

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*Good Samaritans
that want to make
a differences*

Lets hear from Loreta Sigarlaki - VI World Ultreya

The sixth World Ultreya was held on Friday, June 6, 2025, from 3 PM to 8 PM, at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, Rome, Italy The World Ultreya was organized

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jointly by the Organismo Mundial de Cursillos de Cristianidad (OMCC) and the Italian National Secretariat. It was well attended by thousands of cursillistas.

The Ultreya's theme was "Did not our hearts burn within us as he spoke to us on the way?" (Lk 24:32). This event was followed by participation in the larger Jubilee of Movements on June 7 and 8, 2025 at the Vatican where we saw Pope Leo XIV for the first time in person and were blessed to have spent two days with our Holy Father at the Vatican Square. It was also Pentecost Sunday and we really felt the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all the peoples present from different parts of the world.

We were at the basilica two hours before the ultreya started. It gave us the chance to explore the basilica and to mingle with all our brother and sister cursillistas from all over the world and it did not matter what language you speak. It seemed that the language spoken was that of love and there was just so much excitement in the air. The atmosphere was very joyful and everybody was very respectful. As to be expected, there were a lot of picture taking, hugging, smiling and nobody was a stranger. A greeting of "De Colores" will surely garner a "Where are you from"? and strike up a conversation.

The Ultreya started with presentations from the different international groups (GAPCC- Asian Pacific, GECC-Europe, GLCC-Latin America and NACG-North America and Caribbean). As part of NACG, we sang "Let there be Peace on Earth". We did not imagine ourselves to be singing at the Basilica but this was our chance and somehow, we sounded "angelic" according to our ever faithful and loyal friends who did not sing with us! At 4 PM, the ultreya started with an opening prayer followed by talks given by His Excellency, Jose Angel Saiz Meneses, Archbishop of Seville, OMCC Spiritual Advisor, then by the OMCC President, Alvaro Martinez Moreno and two OMCC Italian Coordinators. A talk on the role of OMCC was given followed by resonances from the different international groups and finally 4 different laywitnesses from Mexico, Uganda, Spain and Italy. There were a lot of speakers mostly in Italian and Spanish but there was simultaneous translation available. Each participant was also given a pamphlet that had all the talks in English which was a real convenience to us. The ultreya finished with a concelebrated mass at 7:30 PM where the theme of the ultreya was expounded. We all left the basilica tired but exhilarated. Sharing excerpts from the homily of His Excellency, Jose Angel Saiz Meneses, Archbishop of Seville, OMCC Spiritual Advisor on 6/6/2025:

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A joyful Christian, a Christian who lives with meaning, a Christian who radiates peace and hope, is the best proclamation of the Good News. But it also takes concrete form in fraternal welcome, attentive listening, and sharing one's faith with simplicity and authenticity. It is made concrete in the courage to propose Cursillo to those who are thirsting for God, offering them the opportunity to live a profound experience of encounter with the Lord, with themselves, and with their brothers and sisters.

And this is where from the Gospel of Luke that we have chosen as the motto and guiding thread for our World Ultreya takes on its whole meaning: "Were not our hearts burning within us as he spoke to us on the way and explained the Scriptures to us?" (Lk 24:32). These words of the disciples of Emmaus echo the fundamental experience of Cursillo. All of us have experienced that inner fire that is kindled when we hear the kerygma, share our faith with our brothers and sisters, and discover the depth of Scripture in the light of our own lives.



That burning of the heart is the unmistakable sign of the living presence of the Risen Christ in our midst. Cursillo is fundamentally an encounter with the living Jesus who walks besides us, explains the Scriptures to us, and reveals the love of the Father to us. This encounter transforms our hearts and enkindles them with a new fire that we can not contain, a fire that impels us to go out to meet others and share the joy of this discovery.

The Ultreya, as an encounter of communities, is precisely a privileged space to rekindle that fire, to share the experiences of encounter with Christ in our different environments, to strengthen each other in faith and our commitment to evangelization.

As we listen to the testimonies of our brothers and sisters, as we share our struggles and hopes, we feel our hearts burning again, we feel the missionary impulse renewed in us

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them"

MATTHEW 18-20

Brothers and sisters, this World Ultreya is not a point of arrival, but a new point of departure. We will return to our homes and communities, with hearts inflamed by the encounter with Christ and strengthened by fraternal communion. We will carry the certainty that the Lord continues to walk beside us, explaining the Scriptures to us, setting our hearts on fire.

Lets Hear From Archbishop's Full Homily at World Ultreya

HOMILY: May we feel the urgency to go out
to meet our brothers and sisters

(Friday of the 7th week of Easter, 06/6/2025: Acts 25:13-21, John 21:15-19)

Greetings

My heart is filled with immense joy as I look upon your faces, pilgrims and apostles who have come from the ends of the earth to this Eternal City, the heart of Christianity. In this incomparable setting of Rome, in the context of the Jubilee Year 2025, the Jubilee of Hope, we gather as the Cursillos in Christianity Movement to celebrate this VI Worldwide Ultreya, an encounter that transcends borders and cultures, uniting us in one spirit, in one Lord.

The importance of this World Ultreya lies precisely in feeling ourselves to be a living part of a history of grace that began in the 1940s and continues to flourish in every corner of the world where a Cursillista, with their "De Colores," radiates the joy of the Gospel. It is a privileged moment to remember with gratitude the journey we have made, to strengthen the bonds of fraternity that unite us, and to renew with ardor our commitment to be leaven of the Gospel in our environments. In this jubilee context, where the universal Church is focused on divine mercy, our Ultreya takes on a particular resonance. It is the unanimous cry of a Movement that has experienced firsthand the transforming power of a personal encounter with Christ, an encounter that impels us to go out to meet our brothers and sisters, especially those who are furthest away, those who suffer, those who most need meaning in their lives.

The readings that the liturgy offers us today shed particular light on this encounter. In the Acts of the Apostles, we hear Paul's account before King Agrippa. Paul, imprisoned for the sake of the Gospel, does not waver in his testimony of the Resurrection. His firmness and conviction challenge us today: with what courage do we proclaim the Good News in our own "Areopagus," in our family, work, and social environments? Can we defend our faith with the same passion as Paul, even in the face of adversity? Psalm 102 is a song of praise and blessing to the Lord, who forgives our sins, heals our ailments, and fills us with mercy and tenderness.

Continuation From Archbishop's Full Homily at World Ultreya

It is an invitation to recognize God's greatness and infinite love for us, his creatures. In raising this psalm, we make our own the feelings of so many brothers and sisters who, through Cursillo, have experienced inner healing, the embrace of the Father who restores and gives new life.

But the Gospel of John resonates with special force in our hearts today. The dialogue between the risen Jesus and Peter on the shores of the Sea of Tiberias is a fundamental passage for understanding the mission that the Lord entrusts to his Church and, therefore, to each of us as living members of the Church. "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" Jesus' question is direct, personal, and demanding. He is not satisfied with a superficial love, but seeks a profound, sincere response that involves Peter's entire existence. And in response to Peter's threefold profession of love, Jesus entrusts him with a momentous mission: "Feed my lambs... feed my sheep." These words resonate today with renewed force in our Movement. We are called, like Peter, to be shepherds of Christ's flock. This is not mere activism or an organizational task, but a service that springs from love, from a personal and profound love for Jesus.

"To shepherd" means to feed, guide, care for, and protect. It means being attentive to the needs of each brother and sister, especially the weakest, those who feel lost or disoriented. It means offering them the nourishment of the Word of God, the guidance of faith, the care of the community, and the protection of fraternal love. In the context of the Cursillo Movement, the call to "shepherd" takes on a particular meaning in our experience of the Fourth Day. It is not a simple emotional remembrance of those three days of grace, but a continuous commitment to live in grace, witness God's love in our environments, and bring others to a personal encounter with Christ who transformed our lives.

Every Cursillista, in a broad sense, is called to be a shepherd according to God's heart, an instrument of his mercy, a bridge that facilitates the encounter of others with the Lord. This is accomplished, first of all, through the witness of our own lives transformed by the Gospel.

Continuation From Archbishop's Full Homily at World Ultreya

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Continuation From Archbishop's Full Homily at World Ultreya

Jesus' call to Peter "Feed my lambs, feed my sheep" - resounds powerfully in each of us. May we feel the urgency to go out to meet our brothers and sisters, especially those who have not yet experienced the joy of new life in Christ. May our witness of life, our sincere and straight forward words, be an effective means of bringing others to experience the fire that burns in our hearts.

Mary, Mother of the Church and star of evangelization, accompanies us on this journey. Her generous response to the angel's announcement and unconditional fidelity to God's plan are our model and inspiration. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit remain with you always. Be colorful!

De Colores!

Jose Angel Saiz Meneses, Archbishop of Seville (Spain), OMCC Spiritual Advisor



Lets Hear from Loreta Sigarlaki - Celebrating the Jubilee Local Jubilee Pilgrimage Walk

The Filipino Cursillo Movement of San Diego sponsored a jubilee pilgrimage walk on Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 1045 AM. This was open to everyone. Pilgrims were asked to park at St Joseph Cathedral, a designated pilgrimage church by the Diocese, walk 10 minutes to Our Lady of the Rosary Church to gather and pray, and then walk back to the Cathedral and enter through the local Holy Door. For those who were unable to walk, they prayed in solitude inside the Cathedral. Confessions were available to pilgrims and non-pilgrims alike. There was time for adoration and personal devotion while waiting for mass. At noon time, the Angelus was prayed and several prayer intentions were offered in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. Mass was celebrated by his Eminence, Pablo Virgilio Cardinal David, Bishop of Kalookan, Philippines, concelebrated by Fr Cecilio Moraga, Fr Romie Supnet, Fr Michael Tran, Fr Roger Pingol and Fr Nemi Sungcad. It was also a day of remembrance as we commemorated the significance of this historic day which Cardinal Pablo "Ambo" stressed out in his homily and how beautifully he connected the tragic event with our faith and reminded us of a loving God who created all things to be good. And as we celebrate this jubilee year, may we always walk in hope, arm in arm with our sisters and brothers in Christ as we journey in life with one another! After all, we are all pilgrims of hope! De Colores!

Lets Hear from Cardinal Pablo David Homily - Nine Eleven

St Joseph Cathedral for Thursday of the 23rd Wk in OT, 11 Sept 2025, Col 3:12-17, Lk 6:27-38

Today we commemorate the death of around 3,000 people 24 years ago on that tragic day we call 9-11. It happened in the year 2001 when 19 extremist militants hijacked four commercial airplanes. Two of them were deliberately flown into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in Manhattan, causing both towers to collapse. A third was flown into the Pentagon near Washington DC, and the fourth one, which was meant to target the White House crashed into a field in Pennsylvania because the passengers fought back.

It was reported that many people in America, not just those who lost their loved ones in that tragic incident, found themselves going back to their faith and praying again. Apparently, even those who just saw it on television felt so traumatized by the tragedy. I remember watching a series of interviews—especially among families of victims. Many of them testified how, after that incident, they had to struggle with the temptation to lose faith in humanity. The shock of realizing the kind of violence and cruelty that some people are capable of made them feel the urgent need to cope and to restore their sense of equanimity by returning to Church and praying to God again—just to keep their sanity.

The question that many people found themselves asking after that horrific incident was, “What do you do when you realize you have enemies who hate you so much that they would imagine doing such a despicable thing in a carefully planned way, in order to cause you harm and destroy you?” The most common tendency is to become so fearful, insecure and paranoid to such an extent that you lose trust in your fellow human beings and obsess about your security by arming yourself to the teeth. You can get so angry that you want to hit back and take a revenge against your perceived enemies. You become so concerned about anticipating possible attacks, to such a point that you switch from a defensive to an offensive posture, and you begin to behave exactly like your enemies.

Who is happy when that happens? Satan, our real enemy—the only one we are taught by our faith to reject, at baptism. In today’s Gospel, Jesus gives us the most radical aspect of his teachings: the exhortation to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, to pray for those who mistreat us. Why? Because he teaches us to treat no one among our fellow human beings as an enemy. It is not even right to call anyone among our fellow human beings as “by nature” evil. You will have to believe in an evil God if you believe that some human beings are innately evil. No, we distinguish between action and person. We reject the action, not the person. We hate sin but love the sinner. We attribute the evil to the real enemy—Satan. Only by doing this can we save ourselves from despair and hopelessness, and from losing faith in our humanity. No, we are by nature good but capable of so much evil because of many circumstances in life that can cloud our judgment and condition us for evil. And the real struggles and warfares in life are not against fellow human beings but against Satan who can manipulate human beings.

Continuation from Cardinal Pablo David Homily - Nine Eleven

Perhaps that is why St. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians teaches us about the many gifts of the Spirit, but also exhorts us to aspire for—what he calls—“the more excellent way”, or the “greater gifts”. He says—only these three spiritual gifts endure—faith, hope, and love, but “the greatest is love,” and that only love “endures forever.” That is why Paul says in our first reading, “Over all these, put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.” Remember how John also said in his epistle that God is love? It means—the most godless people in this world are not those without religion, but those without God.

And since we Christians do not have a monopoly of the capacity to love unconditionally, it also means that, wherever in the world we encounter love, we encounter God. Like Moses, we must be ready to discover the burning bush—even in the most unlikely places and be ready to remove the sandals from our feet because we stand on holy ground. For, as Saints Augustine once said, “Ubi caritas et amor Deus ibi est.” Where there is love, there is God.