



Oct. 14, 1913
Mar. 31, 1988
Bishop of Austin
1971-1985

Austin, Texas
January 4, 1979

Most Reverend Vincent Harris
Bishop of the Diocese of Austin
Austin, Texas

Most Reverend Bishop Harris:

It is with great pride and honor that a group of cursillistas from our diocese of Austin approach you as our spiritual leader to report on the activities of the Cursillo movement in the diocese during the year of 1978.

A sincere word of thanks goes to you for allowing us to grow in Christ through the permission and support offered from your chancery office. Our prayers and deepest appreciation goes to God who chose to put you and other zealous religious persons (especially Father Leo Martinez, our spiritual director) behind the many Catholic successes and good will generated from cursillistas amongst thousands of people in the diocese of Austin and far beyond its borders.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to you a synopsis of the activities of the Cursillo movement during 1978.

II. BACKGROUND

Since May 27, 1957 the Cursillo movement has been growing steadily in the diocese of Austin to the benefit of the Catholic church and of the thousands of individuals touched by the many religious activities performed by convinced Catholic men and women.

Tangible results were the following: out of the first cursillo (No. 1) two individuals have been ordained, these were Father Esteban Jasso from Waco, Texas, now a Franciscan, and Father Lorenzo Hernandez, another Franciscan also from Waco. Gregorio Concha, from Bartlett, Texas, became a Jesuit brother from the same first group of cursillistas from our diocese. In 1963 another cursillista from Monterrey, Mexico, chose to become a Priest. Additionally, in 1963 Monsignor Lonnie Reyes, now chancellor of our diocese, participated in cursillo No. 75 and has been great help since then to the Cursillo movement.

Furthermore, Bishop Patrick Flores was a cursillista during cursillo No. 17 and has been a great supporter all along. Bishop Mendes, now in Austin, was at San Jose Parish when he attended one of the first cursillos in Waco, Texas. Moreover, Sisters M. Olivia and Rose Moreno from Waco also attended some of the earliest cursillos conducted in that city. Additionally, several other priests and sisters and many

lay persons (men and women) have unselfishly dedicated great amounts of time to the Cursillo movement in the diocese of Austin by praying, planning, evangelizing, informing, organizing and coordinating with several other Catholic organizations in our diocese (such as the Cruzada del Rosario, Altar Societies, Charismatic Movement, etc.), since the cursillista believes that it is through these other organizations where he, or she, can do the greatest work by bringing others closer to Christ and His church, helping you, as our spiritual leader, to make Catholicism a living reality in all of us, through good evangelization.

III. CURSILLOS DURING 1978

One of the most important activities at the heart of the successful continuity of the Cursillo movement is the cursillo itself. The result has been a greater awareness and active participation in the overall religious life in our homes and communities through cursillos. There were five cursillos: three for men and two for women during the year 1978, with:

Total men participating.....72

Total women participating...83

There are now one hundred and fifty-five new cursillistas in the ranks of active Catholics in our diocese during 1978.

IV. TIME EFFORTS

It is worthy to note that it takes a time of about fifteen organizers to successfully conduct each cursillo (spiritual director, director, other leaders, such as the rollistas and several other auxiliary personnel, such as cooks and janitors) who donate their time and talents so others can become better Catholics. Thus, a lot of hard work and careful coordination, as you well know, goes on during a cursillo for an average of 396 working hours. This time does not include the countless hours which go into planning a cursillo before it is actually held. Only God knows the time spent after each cursillo, since it is then when the fruits are literally seen in the daily lives of the cursillistas and all of those touched by them in our diocese and elsewhere.

V. COSTS

On the average each cursillo costs about \$1,000.00 at this writing (Dec. 1978), which goes for items such as paying for the usage of the building and paying for the janitor, meals during the cursillos, religious articles, and several other expenses. Even though the participants donate about \$25.00 each to forfeit some of the expenses of each cursillo, the movement sustains itself with the Fiestas De Colores, which are held once a year, and from donations given at "clausuras".

Some of the funds in the treasury this year were spent on three trips to represent the Cursillo movement of the Austin diocese to the movement's Region VIII meeting in Dallas. This Region VIII covers Texas, Louisiana and part of Mississippi. Additionally, there was one trip to Chicago, Illinois, to coordinate with the National Cursillo Movement, one trip to New Orleans to a regional annual meeting, one trip to Corpus Christi to attend a regional workshop of Region VIII and to elect new officers. Names and dates of those travelling and/or attending are available from Mr. Ines Gonzalez, president of the Secretariat, Pius XII Cursillo Center in Round Rock, Texas.

VI. PARISH WEEKLY ULTREYAS

Weekly Ultreyas lasting from one hour to one and a half hours each, were held in the following parishes in our diocese:

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Location</u>
Cristo Rey	Austin
San Francisco	Austin
San Juan Evangelista	San Marcos
Guadalupe	Temple
St. Ann	Rosebud
Santa Monica	Cameron
Guadalupe	Taylor
San Jose	Manor
Sacred Heart	Elgin
Saint Mary	Lampasas
St. Joseph	Killeen
St. Williams	Round Rock

You will notice that in 1965 there were twenty-three parishes with weekly Ultreyas in our diocese. However, since 1964 there has not been a full time spiritual director designated to the Cursillo movement, being thus a key factor to the success of the religious life of thousands of Catholics in our diocese.

There used to be parish Ultreyas at the following additional parishes:

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Location</u>
San Jose	Austin
Dolores	Austin
Santa Julia	Austin
Santa Maria	Austin
Guadalupe	Austin
St. Anthony	Kyle
St. Joseph	Marlin
Conception	Bastrop
St. John	Martindale
St. Mary	Lockhart

One reason for not having them now is probably the lack of a full time spiritual director.

VII. ULTREYAS COMARCALES

In addition, Ultreyas Comarcales are held monthly in which many hours are religiously spent in the spiritual growth of Catholics and touched by cursillo members. According to Mr. Ines Gonzalez, president of the diocese Cursillo movement's secretariat, the following Ultreyas Comarcales were held from 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. in our diocese:

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>People Attending</u>
St. Ann	August 20	Rosebud	80
San Jose	September 10	Manor	65
San Francisco	October 15	Austin	83
San Francisco	November 12	Waco	70
Sacred Heart	December 17	Elgin	78

VIII. REUNIONS DE GRUPO (GROUP REUNIONS) AND ADDITIONAL SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES

Many religious activities are performed by the cursillistas. At least once a week (and in some cases more often) cursillistas got together in small groups to help each other to become better Catholics. Moreover, when the cursillos were held, and long before and also afterwards, the "palancas" (spiritual support activities) were done by thousands of people throughout the diocese and nationwide. Lastly but most importantly, continuous day to day religious activities (masses, communions, visits to the Blessed Sacrament, fasts, Via Crucis, apostolic hours, rosaries, special mortifications, meditations, and others) were offered to God for the well being of His church and its members. Literally, hundreds of thousands of hours were spent during 1978 by many cursillistas, their families and other persons in religious activities during 1978 by many cursillistas, their families and other persons touched by them.

IX. SPECIAL EMPHASIS

During 1978 an effort was made to bring together with some success the Rosary Crusade (La Cruzada del Rosario), the Cursillo Movement, the Charismatic Movement, and the Marriage Encounter Movement together. Many Cursillistas belong to other Catholic organizations and their apostolic work is done through them. For example, the Rosary Crusade was formed from a group of enthusiastic and interested cursillistas right here in Austin some years ago. They saw the need for reaching out spiritually to other Catholic individuals and groups. However, many groups were not reaching with religion into the homes of Catholics

in our area (diocese). The cursillistas tried to get others interested in prayer, religion and the word of God. "Going after the lost sheep" through diocesan travelling prayer groups-the Rosary Crusade-became a success. Cursillistas were reaching out.

Mr. Ignacio Moreno, a cursillista from the Rosary Crusade, reports that special diocesan travelling prayer groups during the last four years, have had a direct impact on area Catholics as follows:

- 9 prayer groups have been established
- 20 to 40 persons per meeting have attended and people have kept in touch afterwards
- 1st year effort concentrated in the homes
- 2nd year effort expanded to churches and homes
- 3rd year effort eight other prayer groups were organized
- 4th year effort focused on the organization of more prayer groups and the establishment of a Holy Hour of Reparation each first Friday of the month.

Additionally, there were visits to jails, hospitals, funeral homes, special rosaries for special needs were said, several people were brought back to church, and a rosary was said by thousands in the Austin Municipal Auditorium on December 12, 1978, as you well remember.

X. SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

The cursillo movement in the diocese of Austin needs an enthusiastic, convinced and all out effort to keep what is evidently working well for all of us in our diocese. A well prepared priest who is culturally and religiously sensitive (not always available in our parishes now) to the needs of thousands of Catholics, will result in better service to the children of God, and we all can capitalize in the golden opportunity and leadership given by His Holiness Pope John Paul II in his coming to address CELAM in Puebla, Mexico during January of 1979. The assigned priest could well assist the Cruzada del Rosario (Rosary Crusade) and the Charismatic Movement, in addition to being the cursillos' spiritual director. Said spiritual director could be placed at a parish in Austin where he could be close to your office and where he could have the freedom to travel and attend to the needs of thousands of hard working convinced Catholics, most of them Spanish speakers (but not exclusively).

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During 1978 Father Leo Martinez helped tremendously and a lot of good was accomplished through his vision and dedication. More can be done this new year (1979) if our spiritual director is given more support from your chancery office and a greater freedom to operate responsibly in answering to the needs as perceived by groups who have had special language and cultural differences (for example, the Mexican Americans of 1978 are descendants of Spanish and native American settlers in much of Southwester U.S. and now, still, in 1978 comprise a large part of the diocese of Austin).

As of now we really appreciate you allowing Father Leo Martinez to help with the Cursillo movement and also with the Cruzada del Rosario as our spiritual director. The movement has been favorably influenced by having persons such as him guide us and help us to become better Catholics. And we are responding generously and reporting to you our leader. A group of us would like to discuss this report with you at your earliest convenience, since we know that you are deeply interested in the Catholic welfare of your humble followers.

Your continuous cooperation is always appreciated.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

The Cursillistas of the
Diocese of Austin

!De Colores!