

PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR THE LAITY

958/04/AIC-104

DECREE

The Movement of *Cursillos de Cristiandad* was born in the forties of the last century, in Mallorca (Spain), on the occasion of the spiritual preparation of a pilgrimage to the tomb of the Apostle Saint James, organised by the Catholic Action youth during the Compostelan Holy Year of 1948. The first “Cursillo in Christianity” was held in January 1949 and took place at the Santo Honorato de Randa Sanctuary (Mallorca).

In the group of initiators of the *Cursillos de Cristiandad*, Mr. Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló, as well as some Pastors among whom the then Bishop of Mallorca, His Excellency Monsignor Juan Hervás Benet (1905-1982) who followed the growth of the Movement with paternal solicitude, and Reverend Mons. Sebastián Gayá Riera distinguished themselves.

Since its birth the *Cursillos de Cristiandad* Movement saw a remarkable expansion which made necessary the institution of the Diocesan and National Secretariats, as well as of the International Groups, aiming at providing an adequate co-ordination of the action determined by the Movement. During the V Interamerican Encounter celebrated in Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic), from 23rd to 27th June 1980, the World Organisation of the Cursillo Movement was created as a service structure at international level intended to guarantee the fidelity of the Movement to the Church’s teachings, to promote the unity, to preserve the identity, and to co-ordinate the International Groups activity (cf. *Statutes*, art. 1-3, *Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement*, No. 610-611).

In the course of the years, the *Cursillos de Cristiandad* revealed themselves as a valid instrument of Christian formation and evangelisation at the service of the Church. The heart of the Movement is formed by the kerygmatic announcement of the Christian message, which sprouts in the apostolic mission in all environments of life. The pedagogy of faith that characterises the “cursillo” sets out the promotion of a personal encounter with the Lord and support their own members in their search for holiness and their commitment to be witnesses of Christ in the world.

At present numerous diocesan Bishops manifest their appreciation towards the *Cursillos de Cristiandad* Movement. Also Supreme Pontiffs expressed their high regard for the *Cursillos de Cristiandad* Movement: Paul VI who proclaimed Saint Paul Apostle the Patron of the Movement through the Apostolic Brief *Viget salubriter* of 14th December 1963 (AAS 56 {1964}, pp.524-525), and John Paul II who, in Jubilee Year 2000, on the occasion of the Third World Ultreya of the *Cursillos de Cristiandad* Movement, addressed the attendees these words: “Dear brothers and sisters, be the courageous witnesses of the "service of the Truth" and work ceaselessly with the "strength of communion". In relying on your rich spiritual experiences, which are a treasure, take up the "challenge" that our time raises to the new evangelisation and fearlessly give it your own response.”, Discourse, 29th July 2000, 3 (*Teachings of John Paul II*, XXIII/2 {2000}, p.97).

Considering all the above,

In view of the request made by the Executive Committee of the World Organisation of the Cursillo

Movement, through which it is requested to the Pontifical Council for the Laity the juridical recognition of the same Organisation, as well as the approval of its Statute;

In view of the opportunity of recognising the mentioned Organisation and approving its Statute in order to propitiate a better co-ordination and diffusion of such apostolate at the service of the Church, and having the remarks proposed by this Dicastery been accepted;

In view of the Articles 131 and 133, ## 1 and 2 of the apostolic Constitution *Pastor bonus* about the Roman Curia, and canon 116 of the Code of Canon Law, the Pontifical Council for the Laity decrees:

1^o. The recognition of the World Organisation of the Movement *Cursillos de Cristiandad*, as the structure of co-ordination, promotion, and diffusion of the *Cursillos de Cristiandad* experience, with private juridical personality, in accordance with canon 116, # 2 of the Code of Canon Law.

2^o. The approval of the Statute of the above mentioned Organisation, duly authenticated by the Dicastery and deposited in its archives, for an *ad experimentum* period of five years.

Given at the Vatican, on the thirtieth day of May of two thousand and four, Solemnity of Pentecost.

Josef Clemens
Secretary

Stanislaw Rilko
President