

Meditation talk by Rev Peter Johnson at Cursillo Secretariat meeting 1st December 2018

James 5:13-20

I suppose we've all done it, perhaps it just comes naturally, and I hope it does, but have you ever thought about how you actually go about describing Cursillo to a parish member, or to someone you happen to meet?

Well, this reading from the letter of James got me thinking. What is it about the Cursillo movement that gets me in? What is it about Cursillo that's made it an important part of my Christian journey? And, what is it about Cursillo that I would hate to give up? All in all, what is the value of Cursillo? And these questions are all the more because significant because, in the first place, I had no desire to join Cursillo at all. Something obviously happened.

Now take the 'me' out of the equation and think of it from your own point of view. Why are we all here, a part of Cursillo Tasmania? I thought about this for quite some time - - and realised there was an answer staring me in the face. The greatness of anything belongs, of course, to God. But there is another - - an additional answer to the question as to what it is about being part of Cursillo that's so comforting - - and it's this. There is something very special about the company we give to each other. We spend our time and energy sharing with other Cursillistas - - sharing with other Christians - - sharing with others who express their joy at being in Christ. What a shock! Human beings are important after all! Yes, Cursillistas are important - - not just as a movement, but also hugely important to each other. But then let's go a little further. What is it about Cursillo which enables us to give to others? You see, in the end, that's the question that needs answering, isn't it.

'Is any one of you in trouble, asks James' Well, I know that I am from time to time, and I'm going to guess that all of you are too, in one way or another. So, says James, we should pray - - but isn't it wonderful to know that we can also share in the prayers of others people - - people we know as friends - - people we know as friends in Christ. Yes, coming together in the Lord is the answer that James gives. And that is what Cursillistas do! We make a point of coming together, this is it. We embrace each other regularly in Group Reunions, where we share our lives with each other - - where we share our faith with each other - - where we share ourselves with each other. And there is, of course, something else. We are able to share our weaknesses with each other as well as our strengths. But, and this is the point, it is in this way that we share our lives in Christ together.

And then, of course, we also come together at Ultreyas, and here, as the name tells us, we fortify ourselves and each other in the love that Christ gives us, just as did those men as they journeyed to St. James, Santiago De Campostella.

‘And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick well.’ And, of course it does. But, the prayer offered also brings healing to the spiritually sick. Does anyone every feel doubt creeping into their lives? Is there ever a dark spot in your understanding? Are there times when we feel unable to express ourselves to the doubters who form crowds around us? Well, of course, these are some of the problems which plague all of us. So, let’s get in there and share our sorrows as well as our strengths with each other. Let’s share our sorrows so that we can lessen them and, even, resolve them. But let’s also share our strengths that we can multiply them. And yes, once again, these are some things that Cursillistas do. By the way, have you ever met a group of us in Cursillo where there hasn’t been a smile or a face full of laughter for all to see? This is a measure of what we do.

Listen to James again, ‘so pray for each other so that you may be healed.’ And, one of the ways of being healed is to discover ourselves. And how do we do that? Well, of course, it’s again a matter of coming together - - coming together in Christ. In many ways, with other believers around us, it isn’t a matter of being taught - - it’s process of catching what each of us as to offer, even though often it is something we don’t recognise as giving at the time.

Listen to James again. ‘My brothers (and I’m going to add sisters), if any one of you should wander from the truth and anyone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover a multitude of sins.’

There have been problems to face in Cursillo as we’ve travelled through 2018, and I’ve no doubt there will be many others in the next year or two. However, listen to James, look at ourselves, and the goal will be seen to be so very much worth any effort we have to make.