

*The first papal intervention we record is of particular importance in the life of the Cursillo Movement. In fact, on December 14, 1963, on the XIX Centenary of the arrival of St. Paul in Spain, Pope Paul VI, in a document called in Vatican terminology "Brief Pontifical," "after mature deliberation and with the fullness of his apostolic authority," named, constituted and declared the Blessed Apostle Paul, "heavenly Patron before God of the Cursillos in Christianity."*

*The document, written in Latin, which begins with the words "Viget salubriter" ("Bloom happily"), delicately calligraphed on parchment, once translated into Spanish, was published in No. 10 of the Bulletin of the National Secretariat of Spain, in April 1964. Its text is as follows:*

**SAINT PAUL VI- ROME, 14.12.1963**  
**PONTIFICAL BRIEF FOR PERPETUAL MEMORY**  
**SAINT PAUL, PATRON OF THE CURSILLOS OF CHRISTIANITY**

An apostolic movement or school of Christian spirituality is happily flourishing in Spain and in other parts of the world. Its purpose is to help the laity, with the help of divine grace, to cultivate the spiritual life, to know Christ and his doctrine more deeply, to have frequent recourse to the supernatural source of the Sacraments, to be concerned for the good of others, and to collaborate with those who exercise the sacred ministry.

This method of Christian teaching, commonly called "Cursillos in Christianity," which is already extended to a significant number of the faithful, has produced very abundant fruits: Christian renewal of family life in conformity with the divine law; vitalization of parishes; faithful observance of duties, both private and public, according to the dictates of conscience.

All this has filled the bishops and other pastors of souls with great satisfaction. And it would not be right to overlook the fact that the ranks of those who militate under the banners of Christ in the association of Catholic Action have received a joyful increase with the new elements that this method of Christian formation has given them and that many of them have embraced the priesthood or, leaving the world, have consecrated themselves to God in the religious life.

All of them recognize St. Paul the Apostle as a model to imitate and a protector to turn to, whose coming to Spain is now celebrating its nineteenth centenary, a solemn commemoration in which the Cursillistas of Christianity have outstanding participation. At the express wish of the cursillistas, in the name of the bishops and his own name, our beloved son Benjamin de Arriba y Castro, Cardinal Presbyter of the Holy Roman Church, Archbishop of Tarragona, has begged us to declare the Apostle of the Gentiles the heavenly patron of this new form of lay apostolate.

Acceding most willingly to this request, after consultation with the Sacred Congregation of Rites, We, with specific knowledge, and after mature deliberation, with the fullness of Our apostolic authority, by these letters and in perpetuity, appoint, constitute, and declare the blessed Apostle Paul "heavenly patron" before God of this lay apostolate or

method of Christian spirituality known by the name of "Cursillos in Christianity," with all the honors and liturgical privileges due to such a title. Nothing to the contrary notwithstanding.

Thus, we decree and dispose of, ordering that these letters be and remain always firm, valid, and effective; and produce and obtain full and complete all its effects, and benefit now and in the future to all those to whom they refer or to whom they could refer, and thus must be understood and defined;

It being considered null and void whatever, consciously or unconsciously, is attempted against these letters by any authority.

Given in Rome, near St. Peter's, under the Fisherman's Ring, on December 14, 1963, the first day of Our pontificate.

A.G. Cicognani, Secretary of State

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