

To the Cursillo Community

Dear Friends:

I am asking Emerson Champion to circulate this letter in order to end any confusion or contention about the Clausura for Maryland #94 on Sunday, November 4th. I chose not to be one of those distributing the bread during the administration of the Holy Eucharist. For the past several years I have believed, and this was true for +Bob as well, that the celebrants should be the spiritual directors as they have been the spiritual leaders for the weekend and it is a most special relationship. At the Clausura for Maryland # 94 there were sufficient ordained members on the team so my distributing the bread was not necessary. I made this decision, and not the spiritual directors.

I believe very strongly that the bishops should be present for all Clausuras. The role I see is to be the preacher and to stress the Fourth Day. I have endeavored to do this with prayer, passion and energy. I also believe the bishop should bless the crosses, unless they were distributed earlier, such as at the agape meal. I have preferred not to take a major role at the altar. Furthermore I meet with the spiritual directors prior to the Clausura and discuss the service and go over everything.

It saddens me that some feel that Spiritual Advisers slighted me. We discussed this and it was my choice to have Rick, Becki and Pat distribute the bread. If people are concerned that a bishop has a greater role, I can understand. But please understand that it was my choice and not any slight on anyone's part! I also trust that people do not feel that if the bishop is not distributing this diminishes the service. Often at a visitation, celebration of new ministry, ordination or other special events where there are other clergy in the sanctuary, I often yield in the distribution. Bishops are called to servant ministry as we all are and there are times when the leader should step aside and let others act.

I trust this will clarify what happened at Maryland # 94, and that we can all move forward in Christ's mission.

De Colores!

+John