

BRIEF STORY OF CURSILLO MOVEMENT IN GALVESTON-HOUSTON DIOCESE

IN DECEMBER OF 1953 POPE PAUL VI GAVE APPROVAL OF THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT. HE APPOINTED ST. PAUL AS OFFICIAL PATRON AND PROTECTOR OF THE MOVEMENT.

ARCHBISHOP PATRICK FLORES WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN STARTING THE CURSILLO IN OUR DIOCESE. ARCHBISHOP FLORES MADE A CURSILLO WHEN HE WAS A PRIEST AND HE WANTED BISHOP NOLL WHO WAS BISHOP OF THIS DIOCESE AT THE TIME TO APPROVE THE CURSILLO.

BISHOP NOLL WAS A LITTLE CAUTIOUS SO HE ASKED FR. BILL PICKARD TO MAKE THE WEEKEND, WHICH HE DID IN WACO, TEXAS. HE WAS TO REPORT BACK TO BISHOP NOLL. FR. PICKARD GAVE A VERY FAVORABLE REPORT AND THAT GAVE BIRTH TO THE CURSILLO IN OUR DIOCESE.

THE FIRST CURSILLO IN OUR DIOCESE WAS IN SPANISH AT GUARDIAN ANGEL CHURCH IN PASADENA IN 1959. BECAUSE THE MOVEMENT DIDN'T HAVE A PERMANENT PLACE TO HOLD CURSILLOS, THEY WERE HELD IN VARIOUS CITIES AND PLACES - FROM HUNTSVILLE TO GALVESTON, FROM WHARTON TO BEAUMONT. THEY WERE HELD IN CHURCHES, HIGH SCHOOL GYMS, DORMITORIES, THE SEMINARY, PRISON, AND FRAME HOUSES.

IN 1976 THIS BUILDING WAS PURCHASED. IT WAS FORMERLY GULFGATE CHRISTIAN CHURCH. THE CHAPEL WAS DEDICATED IN THE NAME OF ST. PAUL AND THE CENTER WAS CALLED ST. PAUL'S CURSILLO CENTER.

THE FIRST CURSILLO HELD IN THIS BUILDING WAS #210 IN NOVEMBER 1976.