

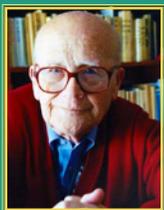


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CURSILLOS

in CHRISTIANITY

National Newsletter



Servant of God

Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló

Founder of
Cursillos in Christianity
1917 – 2008

June 2020

[Welcome](#)

[What is Cursillo](#)

[My Resource Center](#)

[Cursillo Literature](#)

[National Newsletter](#)

[Palanca Requests](#)

[Donate to Cursillo](#)

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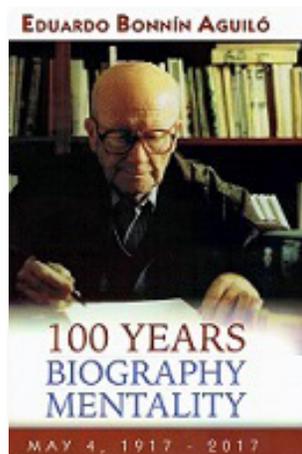
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EDUARDO BONNÍN AGUILÓ

100 YEARS

BIOGRAPHY, AND MENTALITY

This newsletter and future newsletters will feature excerpts from a book published by OMCC in 2017, *100 Years, Biography, and Mentality*. What is hoped for, is that the message each person receives will create a hunger to explore further, to go deeper into the gift of Cursillos in Christianity, to help us know our Founder and reach a unity of purpose and understanding of the Foundational Charism.



The Cursillos in Christianity Movement is presented in the history of the contemporary Church as an important contribution of the lay faithful who contribute in their way to the great task of evangelization. It is characterized by the beauty of the first encounter with Christ, the discovery of the value of baptism, of the Church, of each of the sacraments and the non-negotiable mission of a testimony of the joy of the Gospel. (Preface, page xi)

If we take into account the history of the early times of Cursillos, in its genesis, we see that among its indicators and pioneers were a bishop, a pastor, a theologian priest and a layman. Of course, I am referring to Mons. Hervás, the priests Gayá and Capó, and Bonnín. (Preface, page xi)

Together with the historical description of the events of Eduardo Bonnín's life, the book tells us the evolution of his thinking, his motivations, the depth of his vision about human relations and his extraordinary faith in the love that God, out of love for Christ, shows for each and every person. (Prologue, page xiv)

Always motivated by Christian criteria, but not so accustomed to norms, Eduardo left a legacy which this book reflects well through numerous elements and testimonials. A controversial figure for some, Eduardo has always maintained an attitude of humility, a quality only accessible to those who are very close to God. (Prologue, page xiv)

This attitude is shown through each page of this book, on each line. In them we find practically all the questions related to the Cursillos, from their genesis, foundations, historical data, essence, purpose and mentality, and a great number of related subjects. Also, many articles related to the movement are described or published as appendices. But, more important than all this, is the depth that the authors provide us with the thinking of Eduardo Bonnín. (Prologue, page xiv)

It is in this context, in recognition of Eduardo's role as "guide" of the initiators, and pointing out the anniversary, Eduardo's 100th birthday, that we intend to make known to the world of Cursillos, through the OMCC, the life and the thinking of Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló. (Introduction, page 1)

To make his life known, it was considered important to address his biography, pointing out the most important moments of Eduardo's life. (Introduction, page 1) To make his thoughts known, it was considered important to address his ideas in relation to some topics, to which he dedicated his entire life. (Introduction, page 2) †

Dear Cursillistas:

Very few people can say during their lifetime that they have met a living saint. Looking back on the people I have been privileged to encounter in my life I feel blessed to say I met Eduardo Bonnin Aguiló. Coming in to Eduardo's presence one is immediately impressed by his simplicity and humility. As our eyes met, I felt I was welcomed with great respect and brotherly love. His abrazo conveyed a spirit of solidarity in the mutual love we both have for God and the gift to the Church of the Cursillos de Cristiandad Movement.



From left to right:
Maribel Gomez,
Margarita Rado,
Maria Vicens,
Ventura Rubi,
Jaime Rado, Juan
Ruiz, Gail Terrana.
Front row:
Eduardo Bonnin
Aguilo, Bishop
Tamayo

As we sat down to converse in his apartment in Mallorca, Spain, I was eager to learn more about his role in the founding of the Cursillo Movement. Yet, like any saint, he did not want the focus to be on him but on God's grace in one's life. He wanted first to know about my life and how the Cursillo Movement was helping the Church in the United States of America. I shared with him that my first contact with Cursillo was when my mother and then my father lived their Cursillo. Seeing how the grace of God in their lives helped them draw closer to God, I realized how this special Movement was bringing souls to Christ *un alma y mil mas*. Since this was in my youth, I had to wait many years before as an adult I lived my Cursillo. Then as a Catholic bishop and as the National Chaplain for the Cursillos de Cristiandad Movement, USA, I promoted Cursillos in the dioceses of the United States of America. I was blessed to spend a week with Eduardo as we travelled throughout Mallorca retracing the steps of the Cursillo Movement and participating in prayer sessions, Ultreyas, Leadership School, and visits with individual cursillistas.

Throughout this time, I was touched by Eduardo's humility and depth of truth in acknowledging God's guidance and the collaboration of others in the development of the Cursillo weekend and the Movement's foundation. A distinct feature in the life of every saint is the awareness that they are only instruments or, as I remember Eduardo saying to me, a pencil in God's hand, who in love and humility plant the seeds which God's grace allows to grow and bear good fruit to the glory of God and the salvation of souls. This I strongly believe is what Eduardo did as he lived his "Fourth Day". When I left Mallorca and gave a blessing to Eduardo upon his request, I thanked God that I in turn had received the blessing of knowing a living saint for our time.

iDe Colores!

Most Reverend James A. Tamayo, D.D.
Bishop, Diocese of Laredo (Texas, U.S.A.)
May 15, 2020



Houston, March 28, 2020

Dear my fellow cursillistas,

Similar to the national intervention to prevent the spread of Coronavirus, we have in Houston the rules "Stay Home, Work Safe" and "Social Distancing." That means people should stay home unless essential travel, no gathering more than 10 people, keeping distance at least 6 feet apart. Businesses shuttered. Churches closed. No public Mass, even for Funeral. So sad!

However, "social distancing" should only mean "physical distancing". Many people are under stress from losing their jobs, financial constraint, tight living space, fear of illness, uncertain future. Now, more than ever, people need "social closeness": love, support, prayer from family, friends, neighbors; more keen awareness of others' needs. As cursillistas, we are called to witness for "God loves you". It demands us to live more generous, courageous, loving in this challenging time!

Our Vietnamese Cursillo Movement at Galveston-Houston has been preparing for the 3-Day Weekend Encounter in October 2020, with many young leaders (who will be the future of the Cursillo and of the Church) among the participants. Many of these people may not speak Vietnamese fluently; therefore, English may be used intermittently to explain different concept or for sharing. This "special accommodation" demands much thoughts, prayer, and preparation. Therefore, our School of Leaders wants to continue meetings and preparation in the midst of social distancing. Instead of regular SOL meeting at St Paul's Cursillo Center, we meet in Zoom. The first meeting in Zoom last week gathered 25 participants, a few of whom have not been able to attend past meetings due to driving problem at night. Meeting efficiency seems good. Through this continuing effort and work in this difficult and restricted time, our friendship and team spirit increase.

Another new project for our Houston Cursillo Movement is to help the Elderly and the Sick, who should not venture outside due to their fragile immune condition, but still require grocery, medicine and essential shopping. When need arises, cursillista volunteers from different areas of Houston work together to meet the demand. We "go shopping", deliver products at the front door of the person in need, while at all times observing the safe distancing and sanitizing recommendations. Through this project, we want to share the Love of God, especially to the non-catholic.

To conclude, I want to quote from Cardinal Luis Tagle, the president of Caritas International: "A pandemic spread of a virus must produce a pandemic "contagion" of charity. History will judge our generation by the power of self-less love that this common emergency will have generated and spread or will have failed to do so."

May God bless us with more generous heart and courageous charity in this Coronavirus pandemic.

In the love of Jesus. De Colores!

Fr. Anthony Tam Pham

Spiritual director, Cursillo Movement for Arch of Galveston-Houston, the Vietnamese language

I write this reflection during the pandemic, still with “shelter in place” restrictions. I am going into work, but with reduced hours... so in one sense there is more time available, but in another sense that time is quite occupied. My cursillo life goes on, regardless of the circumstances in which I find myself. Christ remains my Axis, my Rock, my Refuge, my loving Friend.



As I live out the tripod, my piety has indeed been altered...daily Mass substituted with livestream Mass, sacramental Communion replaced by spiritual communion, Adoration substituted with livestream Adoration, etc. But, the presence of Christ is felt strongly through it all! Sitting and meditating with scripture, the Living Word, brings me peace and a deep joy and confidence in God's amazing love

for me. A beautiful experience of community prayer has been my participation in the NACG 24hr Living Palanca for the end of COVID 19, as well as uniting in prayer with Pope Francis and the Body of Christ throughout the world, and with our Bishops and priests who continue to minister to us through today's technology.

My study has been nourished by countless online free conferences, webinars, retreats ...too many to even take advantage of them all! But one that I'd like to share that has removed some cobwebs, so to speak, is a 30day retreat that I am in the middle of called, Ascending with Ignatius presented by Fr Mark Thibodeaux...traveling with Jesus to the Ascension. On one of the days, we spent time with scripture reflecting on how to imitate Jesus in our discipleship.

This will be a springboard for me as we gradually return to more personal encounters, which are so limited at present. The healing of the deaf man (Mark 7:31-37) shows me to understand the other's world, to try and connect/communicate in a way that person can relate to. The Wedding at Cana (John 2: 1-12) shows me that Jesus does His work quietly, not wanting the attention taken off the married couple. Zacchaeus the tax collector (Luke 19: 1-10) shows me to pay attention to the person, meet the person where he/she is, offer companionship. I plan to spend more time with these three passages, really diving deep to see what Jesus is doing and then ask Him to teach me.

And as for action...I think the biggest thing for me right now is to be an encouraging voice, a listening ear, and considerate of what the other person is going through...phone calls, texts, checking in with family, friends, including our priests, deacons, religious; giving financial support as possible. AND prayer... before, during, after these interventions! Always remembering to give thanks! I work in a hospital, so to be a peaceful, gentle light in a stressful environment is a goal. At my work station, in addition to various holy cards, a rosary, and prayers... there are two 8x10 portraits: one of St Dominic with his finger over his lips, and one of St Benedict with his hand to his ear. They are a daily reminder for me to be quiet, humble and listen with the ear of my heart.

So, in this less active, *not* less full, time of the pandemic, I think of the words of Cardinal Robert Sarah: “Man controls his hours of activity if he knows how to enter into silence. The life of silence must be able to precede the active life.” May we all emerge from this time even more ready to build the Kingdom of God!

Glory to God for all things!
De Colores! Donna Valenti, Region 2

During the 1970's my parents visited Mallorca on several occasions. They were not Cursillistas; had never heard of Cursillo as far as I know. They simply enjoyed the island for its beautiful beaches and casinos. Unfortunately for them, they undoubtedly missed the most beautiful part of the island; the beautiful Cursillo Community and the wonderful Cursillistas of Mallorca.

I, on the other hand, was able to experience the friendship of our Mallorcan brothers and sisters when I had the opportunity to visit there this past October, as the Mallorcan community hosted a multi-lingual, International Cursillo de Cursillos to honor the 75th Anniversary of the first Cursillo weekend. But even more than that, I was able to share the experience with other Cursillistas not just from around the United States, but from around the world.

The CDC itself was an eye-opening experience. While I have had the pleasure of attending several CDC's stateside, and even participating on teams for several, I had never heard the messages of the rollos given with such sureness as they were given during those three days last October. Each Rollista spoke with a magnitude of surety that there could be no doubt of their closeness to Christ and their love of the Cursillo Movement.

The CDC was so much more than the rollos however! There was the joy of celebrating the Eucharist together, the fellowship of the fiesta, and the time spent with like-minded and loving members of our Cursillo family.



Jim Santos with cursillistas at Eduardo Bonnin's FEBA office with Fr. Mark - 2019 CDC in Mallorca

Many of us came a day or two early and enjoyed a bus trip sightseeing around the island, including memorable high points, such as a visit to the monastery of the Virgin of Lluc, and singing as a group in front of the famous statue. We also went to Cala Figuera, site of that first Cursillo weekend, and San Honorato, site of the first numbered Cursillo. We concluded the day with a visit the atrium of the Capuchin church where lies our Founder, Eduardo Bonnin. This is the same building that was the prison where Eduardo would make his visits to prisoners.

I was also given the opportunity, along with several others, to visit Eduardo's office. Without a doubt, his spirit could be felt in those rooms where he worked. What a shock to find, among all of his books and the famous picture of Jesus that appears behind him in several photographs, an entire series of duck figurines! I learned that Eduardo was fascinated with ducks; the fact that they could go into the water and come out dry!

Last, but certainly not least, many of us joined in the regular weekly Ultreya held in Palma on Monday evenings. It was the perfect ending to a truly remarkable visit with our brothers and sisters from around the world. My advice to anyone reading this; if you ever get a chance to visit Mallorca, do not hesitate. Don't go for the beaches, or the casinos, or even the sights – instead, go and seek out the friends we have in the Cursillo Movement there!

Jim Santos, NACG

SAVE THE DATE!
THE 30TH NATIONAL ENCOUNTER
IS GOING VIRTUAL!
JULY 24-25, 2020



Livestream Masses, Virtual Fellowship, and Breakout Sessions.
The Rollos for the Encounter will include:

- ♥ **Personal Encounter with Christ**
- ♥ **Friendship with Self, Christ, and Others**
- ♥ **Regional Coordinator and Service Team Responsibilities**
- ♥ **The Christian Leader in the MCC**

More information to follow! Open Registration: June 5th!
www.natl-cursillo.org

LET'S MAKE HISTORY TOGETHER!