

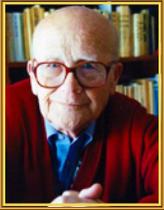


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# CURSILLOS

## in CHRISTIANITY

### National Newsletter



Servant of God

**Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló**

Founder of  
Cursillos in Christianity  
1917 – 2008

October 2020

[Welcome](#)

[What is Cursillo](#)

[My Resource Center](#)

[Cursillo Literature](#)

[National Newsletter](#)

[Palanca Requests](#)

[Donate to Cursillo](#)

[Forms & Memo](#)

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EDUARDO BONNÍN AGUILÓ

## 100 YEARS

### BIOGRAPHY, AND MENTALITY - PART 3

#### STUDY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Eduardo's Study of the Environment was the beginning and origin of everything that came afterward. It makes sense because his work transcended the nucleus of the people around him and attracted the attention of the rector of the diocesan seminary, José Rosell Santoma, who invited Eduardo to present the Study of the Environment to a group of seminarians and priests. Eduardo gave the rollo at the Seminary in Palma, on December 8, 1943, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. It was the first time that Eduardo presented it in public, and as he tells us, "it was something that caused a certain impact on that audience." (My Spiritual Testament)

Eduardo learned a lot from this participation and from everything he had lived. He was even more convinced that the solution to his concerns, how to present his ideas to infect others, was this: to bring people together in a closed and isolated place, considering that this would be the best way to reach the faraway person effectively. It was the Study of the Environment, which became the compendium, the manual, and the basis of everything that followed. The intent said Eduardo, "was not to feed the ecclesial structures, but rather to ferment normal Christian life in each person and as a result, the environment that surrounds them."

The reality Eduardo experienced, outlined in the Study of the Environment, produced the rest of the method. Eduardo believed this method would serve to ferment the lives of people with Christianity and, therefore, the environments in which they meet. Focusing primarily on the far away, though not exclusively, Eduardo believes that the method would also serve to revitalize in depth those closest to them, often called the everyday Christians.

Eduardo concluded that in ordinary life, in his daily life, almost no one had a whole week to stop their activities, the time that the Advanced Pilgrim Courses lasted, and therefore it was necessary to reduce the method to three and a half days. He reconstructed all the outlines that were given by the laity, especially those whose title he wished to maintain, namely, Piety, Study, Action, and Leaders, to adapt them to the mentality of non-believers and introduce them to the principles established in the Study of the Environment. He later wrote new rollos such as The Layperson in the Church, The Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo, and Christianity in Action.

In this context, he orders the rollos according to what he considers to be fundamental and following the intended purpose and introduces heterogeneity: people of different social classes and different ages must participate in the same Cursillo. He initiates, as a methodological part, the Way of the Cross, according to Fr. Manuel Llanos, which was effective the night of the retreat. He changed the role of the leaders by placing them at the service of the participants, and introduces the purpose of the corridor work, and promotes friendship during the three days.

Eduardo also introduces anecdotes and songs, well-known and non-religious, and reinforces the purpose of the table groups. Cursillo fundamentally changed from that of Pilgrims to Santiago to every person. Eduardo fully respected the five themes of Grace, which were given by the priests in the Cursillos de Peregrinos, as he said: "not to interfere in the field of priests." In short, this new Cursillo, which presents itself with a new structure, different from the previous ones (by Catholic Action), adopts a specific order and an innovative mentality.

Not everything was easy. The first of Bonnín's many challenges, to put into practice his innovative method, focused on his claim that the same "system" would serve people of different cultural and social levels and unbelieving people and people with faith.

(Continued on next page)



### Friendship in NACG by Fr Alex Waraksa

*Some friendships are formed in person, some friendships are formed at National or international gatherings and now with technology, some friendships are formed on phone calls or video meetings. It is a blessing to listen to the witness of others and their stories of faith. And particularly to hear of the role of Cursillo in their conversion or in their ongoing growth in the Catholic faith. Some were impacted more on the 3 days and some have grown tremendously in their 4th Day.*

*Friendships are formed due to an interest in the other person and/or respect for the other person. Friendship leads to an appreciation of the gifts of the person and a willingness to overlook their faults or weaknesses. Friendship leads to a desire to help the other person grow, yet with a respect that does not force the other person to do anything. Friendship respects the other person's freedom.*

*A Christian friendship is centered around following the same Master and Teacher, Jesus Christ. It may be centered around who God has made a person to be and who God is calling that person to become. Jesus helps them at times to pray together, learn together and serve together. This can be done at all levels in the Cursillo Movement.*

## EDUARDO BONNÍN AGUILÓ 100 YEARS - PART 3

These ideas, like some other innovative ideas, put Eduardo face-to-face with some people, not only with strong ties to the hierarchy but who were creating difficulties, "always with the best of intentions," as Eduardo liked to say

One of the first face-to-face in the field of culture and religion happened immediately between Fr. Sebastián Gayá and Eduardo Bonnín. At that time, Fr. Sebastian was in charge of the Pastoral in the University of Mallorca, despite his youth.

"Perhaps his change of heart took place when he invited Bonnín, in 1944, to take part in the School of Propagandists which Gayá directed. Eduardo used the Rollo outline he had prepared as the final element of his method, which would become the Rollo entitled "Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo. This rollo outlines in detail the model of the layperson the Cursillo wants to foster." (CHM - Cursillo History & Memory)

In this sequence, it also seems worth noting that: "... from the first moment, Eduardo has shown a great interest in that Gayá joined the project, and that he did so after resisting for some time to accept the intercultural or interclass dimension of the method created." (CHM). However, "perhaps Fr. Sebastian's change of attitude toward the developing Cursillo movement only came later, when Bishop Hervás named him Consiliario of the Youth with instructions to foster and supervise the new Movement." (CHM). Having an essential role in the genesis of Cursillo, Eduardo shows that same point: "Fr. Sebastian Gayá was the only one who had faith in us, but during the development of the Cursillos, his many occupations did not allow him to dedicate as much time as he wished, which he demonstrated often. Fr. Sebastian wrote some articles in the "Proa" magazine to which he gave the name "Stages of a Pilgrimage"- to prepare the environment for the pilgrimage to Santiago. Fr. Sebastian authored the "Pilgrim's Guide." When his many duties allowed him to, he attended weekend number XIII held in Montesión of Porreras from August 31 to September 4, 1949. He was the Spiritual Director, together with Fr. Pedro Bestard Amoros." (My Spiritual Testament)

## What Is the NACG and Its Service to the Cursillo Movement?

Greetings my friends!

It is my humble pleasure to respond to the call to share a brief presentation about the NACG and how it serves the Cursillistas in the North American, and Caribbean countries and Cuba. The NACG is one of the four International Groups who make up the World Organism of Cursillo in Christianity (aka OMCC). The NACG consists of the following National Secretariats: Antigua, Barbados, Canada, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States of America.

The current NACG Executive committee holds its seat in the United States and is chosen by the National Secretariat of the country where the rotation in turn is located. The last term was held by St Lucia. The current Executive Committee consists of Hugo Valverde (President), your humble servant, Marisela Rodriguez-Garcia (Vice President), Jim Santos (Treasurer), Jacquelyn DeMesme-Gray (Secretary), Fr. Alex Waraksa (Spiritual Advisor) and Bishop Eusebio Elizondo (Episcopal Advisor). Our term will end at the end of 2021. The group has its own bylaws and collaborates with three other IG's who represent Europe (GECC), Latin America (GLCC), Asia Pacific (APG). Together, these four groups are the OMCC. The North American Caribbean Group (NACG) is the coordinating body of the Cursillo in Christianity Movement (CCM) at the international level. The National Secretariat operates according to the Statutes of the OMCC. It is the role of this group to live as friends the method and charism of the Cursillo movement to function as a simple service organization. It is a true blessing and privilege to serve our Cursillistas friends from all of the NACG countries in this capacity.

During the COVID pandemic, although we have not been able to travel physically to any of the countries, we have been blessed to travel virtually through the NACG Weekly Ultreya on Wednesdays, the Saturday devotion to Mary during the month of May. We have put into action the creativity within the “new normality” in which we live. We had plans for an in person NACG Encounter, travel for a workshop to serve our friends in Cuba, a workshop in the Caribbean Islands; but instead, many of these events will happen virtually. We may be forced to “stay so home”, but we have never been more free! We can literally reach out to all through technology. While the virtual encounter of the hearts, the faces, the smiles, the person does not and will not ever substitute the in physical in-person encounter with Jesus in the person of friends, there is no doubt that the spirit of friendship is transcendent and only deepens the hunger of coming to the real and present encounter of each other. “The tree of friendship cannot be cultivated either for its shade or for its fruits, but for its flowers, and the flower of friendship is the detail.” (Servant of God, Eduardo Bonnin Aguilo)

We look forward to filling the last few months of our term with continued friendship and encounters; with self, Jesus and all of you. Please keep us and all of your fellow servant leaders in your dioceses, regions and the United States in your prayers, as we pray for each other. De Colores!

*“The greatest among you must be your servant.”*

*Matthew 23:11*

*Marisela Rodríguez-García*



From left: Jim Santos NACG Treasurer, Fr. Alex Waraska NACG Ecclesial Advisor, Juan Adolfo Moguel Ortiz OMCC President, Hugo Valverde NACG President, Archbishop Faustino Armendáriz Jiménez OMCC Ecclesial Advisor, Marisela Rodríguez García NACG Vice President, Jacquelyn DeMesme-Gray NACG Secretary

## WHAT DOES THE TREASURER DO?

A little over three years ago I received a call from Juan Ruiz, National Spanish Coordinator. Juan was calling on behalf of the National Secretariat. His words, as I recall them were: “Jim Santos, this is Juan. The National Secretariat would like to know if you would like to serve as treasurer of the NACG. Say yes.”

By the time the phone call was over, I said yes. I did not really know what my duties would be and believe it or not I was not even aware that the term was four years, not the traditional three years that go with most Cursillo positions. Some may say that it was foolish for me to say yes without knowing too much about the position, but we are, after all, called to be fools for Christ.

So, what exactly have I learned my duties to be as North American and Caribbean Group Treasurer? Well, I had to be able to balance our bank account. Now to be honest, my wife, who is a retired mathematics teacher, takes care of our checking account at home. But since most of the time we have more money in our household account than in our NACG account (the NACG account has a current balance of \$658), this is not really a big deal.

My second duty, which I share with the other four members of the Executive Committee is to try to make sure that the balance in the account does not dip too low. This means that we are constantly begging for funds. If you are reading this, please consider making a donation.

All five members of the NACG Executive Committee represents all of the 14 countries which make up the Group, and the over one million Cursillistas in those countries. We represent these as one of the four International Groups that make-up the OMCC, which serves Cursillistas around the globe. This representation takes the form of meeting attendance, and many, many, many phone calls and zoom meetings.

Yes, this job had been arduous, but it has also been incredibly rewarding, most especially in the many new friends that I have made; proving that when you are a fool for Christ, you are given a king’s reward.

*Jim Santos - NACG Treasurer*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

[Amazon Smile](#) quarterly donation: The National Cursillo Movement Inc. received a new donation of \$332.11.

Invoices for the 2021 affiliation will go out on October 1st and are due by October 30th.

### REMINDERS:

The National Cursillo Movement would like to invite you to join us for a Day of Prayer. **Every Saturday via Zoom at 8 AM (Pacific), 9 AM (Mountain), 10 AM (Central), 11 AM (Eastern) time.** If you are unable to connect via Zoom, we invite you to unite in prayer on the same day and time.

**Zoom ID: 87661105518**

Please join us by offering Palanca for the following intentions:

**Monday:** For all Secretariats, Diocesan, Regional, & National.

**Tuesday:** For an end to the violence in the world.

**Wednesday:** For Unity of the Cursillo Movement.

**Thursday:** For the Cursillo Movement's Apostolic Action.

**Friday:** For an end to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

**Saturday:** Special intention of the week.

**Sunday:** For our Spiritual Advisors.

Greetings De Colores!

**M**y name is Hugo Valverde and I am happy to have been called to serve as the president of the NACG executive committee.

In order to understand what the NACG is, one must know what the World Organization of Cursillos in Christianity is or, in its absence, by its acronym OMCC. The OMCC is the organism that the Holy See recognizes through its government and the Catholic Church through its institutions. The Holy See is the government that governs the dicastery. The dicastery helps the government (the Holy See) which helps the Roman Pontiff in the exercise of his Supreme pastoral office for the good and service of its whole church. In our case the dicastery is governed by the government (Holy See) and assigns the OMCC. In other words, it gives the CM worldwide recognition with a charism of its own and has granted him a decree and a statute. In this way the CM can have the doors open in any diocese of the world with the approval of its diocesan bishop. The OMCC has an executive committee and is made up of four international groups, in Europe the GEC, in Asia the APG, in Latin America the GLCC and in North America the NACG. Each of these groups has a simple executive committee, a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and a spiritual advisor.

My experience since the beginning to this call to serve in the NACG has been quite interesting since the integration of the committee has been by the work of the Holy Spirit through prayer a blessing, and I say this because we are all far away from each other. One of the first challenges was to learn how the NACG should function according to its statutes. The other was also to understand the decree and statute of the OMCC, which made it clear to us that we must be the bridge between the OMCC Executive Committee and the national secretariats, it has also been a process with slow but firm steps.

Everything has been a blessing. Being able to attend meetings in this journey, such as the invitation to Panama City at the beginning of this call was a very pleasant experience, knowing Tony Gonzalez from Cuba was also a blessing and I could never forget having been in the beautiful island of Grenada, where our brothers treated us like kings and are and will be a community always well loved.

But there is something that has given fruits, and fruits with good flavor, is having promoted the NACG Ultreya, where every Wednesday we have the pleasure of sharing with cursillistas from Canada, the Caribbean Islands, the United States community, who always supports us, and also the weekly participation from Italy, Mallorca, Mexico and Latin America. This has been the sweetness that the Holy Spirit has given us.

Cheer up and De Colores!

## PRAYER BEFORE AN ELECTION

Lord God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our city/state/country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community.

We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty.

We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned,

Men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender.

We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom.

We pray for discernment

so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love,

and keep in the ways of your truth

as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace.

We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Source: [www.usccb.org/resources/prayer-election](http://www.usccb.org/resources/prayer-election)

## ARE YOU PREPARED TO VOTE?

[ Touch for more information at [www.ewtn.com/vote/](http://www.ewtn.com/vote/) ]

## FORMING CONSCIENCES for FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP



The Catholic bishops of the United States are pleased to once again share with the Catholic Faithful Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, the bishops' teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics. This statement represents guidance for Catholics in the exercise of our rights and duties as participants in our democracy. We urge pastors, lay and religious faithful, and all people of goodwill use this statement to help form their consciences; to teach those

entrusted to their care; to contribute to civil and respectful public dialogue, and to shape political choices in the coming election in light of Catholic teaching. The statement lifts up our dual heritage as both faithful Catholics and American citizens with rights and duties as participants in the civil order.

To know more about this important issue, please [Touch Here](#)