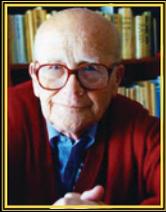


# CURSILLOS

## in CHRISTIANITY

### National Newsletter

www.natl-cursillo.org



Servant of God  
**Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló**  
Founder of  
Cursillos in Christianity  
1917 – 2008

April 2021

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EDUARDO BONNÍN AGUILÓ

**100 YEARS**

**BIOGRAPHY AND MENTALITY - PART 6**

#### FIRST NUMBERED CURSILLO

In the year 1949, from January 7–10, another Cursillo took place in Mount Randa, San Honorat, Mallorca. This 1949 Cursillo - which by what has been explained so far is recognized as the sixth in history - however, even though it was not the first, was and is now known as No. 1; because it was from this point on that the Cursillos became official and were numbered.

The Cursillo known as the No. 1, had Fr. Guillermo Payeras as its Spiritual Advisor and Eduardo Bonnín as Rector. The Leaders were: Andrés Rullán, Bartolomé Riutort and Guillermo Estarellas and Gillermo Font as assistant.

Twenty-one new Cursillistas participated. The initial retreat was directed by Fr. Juan Capó, who after the meditations, the same night, left the retreat house. Bishop Juan Hervás was absent but sent a letter to the then President of the youth of Catholic Action and Rector of this Cursillo [Eduardo], a letter that was read at the closing ceremony of the Cursillo.

*El Obispo de Mallorca*

Palma, January 7, 1949.

Mr. Eduardo Bonnín, President of the Diocesan Council  
of Catholic Action Youth.

Dearly beloved in Christ: Through the Diocesan Advisor, I have learned about the Cursillo at San Honorato. These lines are dedicated to the Cursillistas. You already know, since I have repeated it again and again, that the young people of C.A. are my consolation and my hope. I expect much, very much from them.

May this Cursillo be another source of Christian life and apostolic work, which will sprout in the field of our youth. I commend to the Cursillistas the purpose of my trip to Madrid; with their prayers they can achieve the success of the endeavor.

To all the Cursillo leaders, to all those who have collaborated in it and to each and every Cursillista, my warmest pastoral blessing.

*Juan, Bishop of Mallorca*

It seems opportune to point out that up to 1949 there was one Cursillo celebrated each year. From this Cursillo in 1949, it can be said that the Cursillos “began to gain strength”, because since then several were celebrated a month. That year, there were 20 Cursillos. This was one of the reasons that the need for numbering was considered, because referencing the Cursillos began to get confusing. Therefore, No. 1 was assigned to this year’s Cursillo in January.

To remember this event, a plaque has been placed at the entrance to the Monastery of San Honorat that marks the fulfilment of Cursillo No. 1, January 7–10, 1949.



Receive a fraternal embrace from your brother in Christ, Deacon Martín García Cruz, Cursillista of All Saints Parish in Fort Worth Texas. First of all, I am grateful for the opportunity to share with you some of the experiences I had with Father Jasso, one of the first Cursillistas in the United States. He lived the first Cursillo that was held in Waco, Texas. And Father Jasso also had the joy of meeting and talking with Eduardo Bonnin, whom he admired all his life.

After having the pleasure of greeting you, I would like to share with you that I had the grace of knowing Father Jasso for more than 23 years. From the moment I met him, his life testimony changed my life, my family, the parish and also the entire city of Fort Worth. I mention this because he was well known in our city, he was very clear about what Cursillo taught him in terms of transforming environments. The Cursillista is called to do that, to go out on his fourth day to transform his surroundings into a more Christian environment. I repeat, he knew everyone, from the humblest person to the Mayor of the City.

I will share with you part of Father Jasso's life of **Piety**; he was a man who, although he was always very busy, never stopped praying. I would often find him in the chapel praying the Liturgy of the Hours. When we would sometimes go out to Waco to visit his family or his brothers, the Franciscan Priests in Waco, he would say to me: son let's pray the Rosary. At the Holy Hours, even though another Priest or I would expose the Blessed Sacrament, Father Jasso was also adoring the Blessed Sacrament.

Father Jasso made his annual pilgrimage to visit the Virgin of San Juan de los Lagos in Jalisco, Mexico. On one occasion he arrived with very bad feet, to such a degree that the doctor recommended him to use crutches, but in those days a person died. A parishioner and Father Jasso, with his crutches, celebrated the funeral Mass for that person.

As for the **Study**, I can share with you that Father Jasso never left the books. He was always learning. He was frequently studying in his office or when we went out to a conference and there was a book sale he would always buy more than one book. For him, study was always paramount in his life and he recommended it to everyone, and especially to young people.

Father Jasso knew very well the practice of the **Action** he learned in the Cursillo. He talked to all kinds of people, both the poor and the rich. He fed anyone who came to his parish and was hungry. He also fed the rich when they sought a word of encouragement or advice for their lives.

He helped the homeless and paid for places for them to spend the night. He helped families who could not afford electricity, water, medicine or transportation. All this I am sharing with you, because I saw it with my own eyes. He used to say: "He who does not live to serve does not serve to live". If Father

Jasso slept 5 hours it was a lot, because everyone had his phone number and they always called him for different needs, and even if he was eating he would stop to help them, even if it was at 2:00 am. They would call him to see a sick person and he would go to the hospital or to the house where the sick person was, he was tireless. A lady once told me that it was because the Grace of God gave him that strength, and I think so too.



**FR. STEPHEN JASSO, TOR**  
NOVEMBER 26, 1932 –  
FEBRUARY 12, 2021

In this final part, dear brothers and sisters cursillistas. I share with you the part that I shared with him during his illness, which was not only sad for me, but also for our parish and for the city that knew him.

I say it was sad for me because he was a very active priest and the illness he had was a disease that was immobilizing his body little by little. I spent a whole year taking care of him in his wheelchair and giving him his medicines, taking him to his medical appointments, until he was attended by professional nurses who knew how to take care of patients with this disease.

I repeat this, the sad one was me because Father Jasso lived and accepted his illness with such faith and trust in God, Our Lord, that I have no words to explain how he lived his illness.

It was impressive to see him smile so many times in the midst of his illness. He said to me, Martin, I know how I am going to do with this illness, but you know, I take it with pleasure. If Christ gives me this Cross I gladly take it, I do not deny it, on the contrary I take advantage of it because I offer my suffering for the parish, for the whole Church, for the young people and for vocations. And it happens that this last year of his life, 7 new priests will be ordained from his Franciscan Province to which he belongs in Mexico as it has not happened for a long time.

Finally, the nurses called us to tell us that Father Jasso was in his last moments. So I went to say goodbye to him and I whispered in his ear: "Father I love you very much, I will follow everything I learned from you. I will work as you taught me, I love you very much".

The day before the funeral Mass with Father Jasso's body in the parish, a little nun told me that she had wanted to see Father Jasso's body because she had never met him personally. She only knew him through the newspapers or television, and she told me that when she saw his face, she said; this Man is a Saint, and she confirmed to me what I and many people experienced that day of his funeral. Something I had not felt before, I felt what St. Paul says: "The lives of these men is the fragrance of Christ rising up to God." (2Cor. 2:14-15)

De Colores brothers.

*Deacon Martín García*

# Jesus, the Carpenter's Son

*"Where did this man get this wisdom and mighty deeds? Is he not the carpenter's son?" (Mt 13:54-55)*

It was natural that at some time Jesus should return to Nazareth where he had been brought up. Jesus taught them in the synagogue. "They were astonished and said "Where did this man get such wisdom and these mighty works? Is he not the carpenter's son?" "And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and in his own house." And he did not work many mighty deeds there because of their lack of faith.

When Jesus returns to Nazareth, he is rejected maybe not by what he says but much more for who he is. They would not listen because they knew his "father" and mother." Joseph lived in Nazareth of Galilee, and was therefore religiously, socially, and economically marginalized in the eyes of the Jerusalem authorities. And who would think that the Messiah would come from Nazareth.

The Gospel of Matthew gives us a picture of St. Joseph as father to Jesus. From the Gospel of Matthew, one learns that Joseph is a just and obedient man, the husband of Mary who has no relations with her when she conceives, the earthly father of Jesus, who names him and gives him a place in the line of David, who guards and defends him under God's guidance, and who raises him as a carpenter at Nazareth. He receives his vocation in dreams and is the final link in the line of the Old Testament patriarchs who await the fulfillment of the promise.

We can learn many ways of being a father from St. Joseph. First Joseph is obedient – obedient to God's word. Joseph would also have passed on to Jesus the values required to become a good carpenter. You need patience for waiting until the wood is dry and ready, good judgment for ensuring that your plumb line is straight, persistence for sanding until the tabletop is smooth and honesty for charging people a fair price.

I come from a family of eleven children. I have five brothers and five sisters. My Father was a carpenter. From my father and grandfather, I learned at a young age about carpentry. My father would often get my brothers and me to remove nails from old boards that we use for flooring in our home.

Through my father's faith, I learned those prayers that we all learn at a young age. We live in an old neighborhood in Santa Fe. We were about 3 blocks from Cristo Rey Church, our parish. Cristo Rey had a school with grades from "pre-first" to eight-grade. Pre-first was like kindergarten today. At a young age I was taught about being obedient to God's word, about being patient, about good judgment, persistence, and hard working.

These things were taught at an early young age, but I have come to appreciate my father's example as years have gone by. Now with seven children of my own, seventeen

grandchildren and one great grandchild I have come to appreciate all that two carpenters have taught me as well as St. Joseph's son. I pray that I might pass on to my children and grandchildren those invaluable lessons. And maybe my children and grandchildren will say as people said about Jesus – Isn't he the carpenter's son?

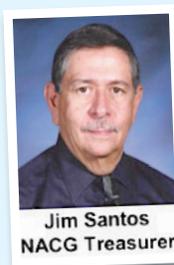
*Deacon Andy Carrillo*

The following were used in the Article:

[osjusa.org/st-joseph/scripture/Oblates of St. Joseph](https://osjusa.org/st-joseph/scripture/Oblates%20of%20St.%20Joseph)  
[www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/12/13/st-joseph](https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/12/13/st-joseph)

## FUNDAMENTAL IDEAS THIRD EDITION, A STUDY IN COMPROMISE

*"A Camel is a Horse designed by a Committee".  
– Sir Alec Issigonis*



Jim Santos  
NACG Treasurer

Printed in 2015, the third edition of Fundamental Ideas (FI3) can be thought of as the best compendium (available at this time) of the thoughts and understandings of the worldwide Cursillo Movement.

That said, it is a document that no one considers perfect; in fact, it is likely to be considered invalid to a certain degree by every single person who reads it. Not everyone will find the same things invalid; it is a matter of your point of view.

It is accepted by all that the Cursillo Movement has been given to us as a gift from the Holy Spirit. What is not agreed upon by everyone, at this time, is whether or not that gift was given to one person (Eduardo Bonnín) or to several persons (Bonnín, Sebastian Gayá, Bishop Juan Hervás). From that seed of disagreement springs other disagreements, such as when and where was the first Cursillo held, what is the purpose of the Group Reunion, and what is meant by Evangelization of the Environment, among other things.

As a result, FI3, which was written by individuals belonging to these different camps of thought is, at best, a compromise of ideas. But it is the best compromise at this time. As the introduction states:

*"It's not perfect; in this world, nothing is. However, it is what the Movement considers possible in our day..."*

The introduction also states that FI3 is not meant to be a final statement, but one that must be periodically evaluated and updated. For it to be evaluated, it must be studied.

Over the next few months, the NACG will be holding workshops to study not only what is in the pages of FI3, but why what is there was put there. It is essential for a good understanding of our Movement and the gift the Holy Spirit gave to us.

**M**y name is José García. I am married to Marisela and we have two grown boys. I lived my Cursillo in February of 2000.

Living my 4<sup>th</sup> day has been a roller coaster ride. This past year was no different, but it was very intense with the COVID pandemic that has brought us new challenges. One of them was not being able to see my family and friends, not being able to hug my family, nor my fellow Cursillista friends. That is something that I miss. This has made me realize that I was taking a simple hug for granted. Although, the biggest challenge for me was when the churches were closed. Having the norm taken from you, when it came to going to Mass or simply wanting to visit the Blessed Sacrament. I know that no matter what, God has always been there with me and this was no exception.

Last February, my wife and I started to do the consecration to St. Joseph at a church near our home. I felt that God was getting me ready for what was to come by giving me the perfect example of what to look up to. Learning about St. Joseph has opened my eyes to what it means to be the head of the family guided by the Holy Spirit. St. Joseph was a husband, a father, a provider, a carpenter, but most important, he was a listener and when it came time to obey God's message; He did it without any questions. He had complete faith in our Lord to just pick up his young family and move them to Egypt to keep them safe until God told him when it was time to go back home. In the bible St. Joseph never says a word; I guess that makes him the strong silent type.

Last March, when they started to shut down everything, my family started to pray to keep all of our loved ones safe from COVID. Since then, I had Joseph on my mind and we started to pray the Litany of Saint Joseph, and as we would pray it, there were phrases that would stay in my mind. Head of the Holy Family, Pillar of family life, Hope of the sick, Patron of the dying, but the one that would never leave my mind was Patron of patience. I am not a very patient person and this phrase has stuck in my mind. I know that you need to be careful for what you ask for because God will help you overcome it with a lot of work. I have been put to the test at home and at work. I wish I could tell everyone that I am a patient person now, but sometimes our journeys are going to be long ones. I am happy to know that St. Joseph will be there guiding me to get closer to God.

I am not sure about you, but I am so thankful for Zoom, because it has given us a way to see our loved ones during these difficult times. It has also given us another way to get to know so many people. The Zoom Ultreyas have become very important to us, not just because my wife is the one running them, but because everything has been closed and we cannot get together in person. These have been a perfect tool to use to not feel alone in these challenging times, because we know we can get on every Wednesday and see so many of our friends where we can laugh and pray together. I also see another one of St. Joseph phrase at work here, and that is Protector of the church. Since we the people, are the church, we can be assured that St. Joseph is there with us.

It's never too late to know the person that was entrusted with the son of God.

De Colores!

*Jose J Garcia, Diocese of Rockford, IL*

## CONDOLENCES

*"The Christian meaning of death is revealed in the light of the Paschal Mystery of the Death and Resurrection of Christ in whom resides our only hope. The Christian who dies in Christ Jesus is 'away from the body and at home with the Lord' (2 Cor 5:8)." - Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1681*

March marked one year since Covid-19 drastically changed our lives. Many have suffered unexpected hardships, loss of work, sickness, death, and mourning in a pandemic has been extremely difficult. I want to express my sincere condolences to the family and friends of those who have lost a loved one during this extremely difficult time. May we find comfort in the Lord's promises and our beloved brothers and sisters rejoice in the Eternal Ultreya, De Colores!

*Nadia*

## 2021 NATIONAL ENCOUNTER

**Save the Date!!! July 23-24, 31<sup>st</sup> National Encounter**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Virtual Encounter! Registration will open, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
More information to follow!

## \$3 CAMPAIGN & AMAZON SMILE

Continue promoting the \$3/YR Campaign and Amazon Smile through your Group Reunion, Ultreya, School of Leaders, Regional Encounters, and Workshops. This quarter the National Cursillo Movement received \$401.14 from Amazon Smile! For more information about the \$3/YR Campaign and Amazon Smile, visit [www.natl-cursillo.org/donate-to-cursillo](http://www.natl-cursillo.org/donate-to-cursillo). Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

## REMINDERS

### Sabatina, NACG Ultreya & Study Sessions:

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), 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:** 848 8328 6372      **Password:** decolores

NACG Ultreya & Study Session every Wednesday at 5 PM (Pacific,) 7 PM (Central), 8 PM (Eastern)

**Zoom ID:** 826 1385 0527      **NO Password**

**NACG Newsletter:**

[sites.google.com/view/nacg-news/2021-newsletters](https://sites.google.com/view/nacg-news/2021-newsletters)



**PLEASE JOIN US BY OFFERING PALANCA FOR THE FOLLOWING INTENTIONS:**

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

**Tuesday:** For the Pope & his intentions.

**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.

*Happy Easter!*

