



Saint Paul the Apostle

CURSILLOS in CHRISTIANITY National Newsletter

EDUARDO BONNÍN AGUILÓ

100 YEARS

BIOGRAPHY AND MENTALITY - PART 11



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

February 2022

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EDUARDO WITH THE POPES

The encounters with the Popes were certainly very important moments in his life. They were great meetings of joy. Eduardo trembled and emitted joy through his pores, like a child that allows all the joy of his soul to overflow. Eduardo Bonnín was received on two occasions by Pope **John Paul II** and once by **Pope Benedict XVI**. In 1985, Eduardo was received for the first time by **Pope John Paul II**, during his participation in the Italian National Ultreya. In 2000, at the III World Ultreya, he was received for the second time by **John Paul II**. In 2006, he was welcomed by Pope **Benedict XVI** during his participation in the General Assembly of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, held in Rome from September 21-23, 2006, in which he presented the theme: **“The Contribution of Cursillos in Christianity in the Renewal of the Parish.”** (His Presentation is reproduced in full in a later chapter on Mentality.

A PASSIONATE READER

Eduardo Bonnín has always been an avid reader. His office is full of books - undoubtedly more than ten thousand - underlined, with notes and references. In Palma, some large bookstores counted on Eduardo’s sharp criteria to select the books to be ordered. When the new books arrived, Eduardo read them carefully, treated them carefully, including the detail of putting a lining on the covers to avoid damage to the books. Then he advised the bookseller about the books he considered worthy, in his judgment.

Eduardo has always preserved his freedom, and as far as reading is concerned, we can say that he exercised it in an exemplary way, this testimony is very illustrative:

“Once, I asked a priest if I could read Ortega and Gasset. He told me I couldn’t, but I did anyway. Imagine the fool I would have been if I hadn’t read it. In that time there was a Dominican priest that wrote a book titled The Philosophy of Ortega and Gasset and of course, the critique wasn’t at the same level as that which was critiqued. I remember I was reading it in the Selecta Library, near San Felipe Neri, and I was so irritated by what it said that I flung the book into the air, having forgotten where I was.” (An Apprentice Christian, page 33)

Eduardo read almost everything published in Spanish and Catalan, on religion, philosophy, psychology, etc. For many years, a great number of works passed through Eduardo’s screen of criterion and common sense. He liked to talk about, “Common sense as the least common of the senses.”

AN ASSIDUOUS WRITER

Eduardo wrote frequently, not only hundreds of tokens, texts, and articles, but he also maintained a large correspondence. He received thousands of letters, and none were left unanswered. He also wrote some books that are listed in the Appendix.

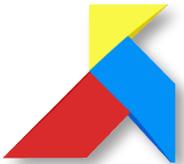
Of all that he wrote, Eduardo Bonnín considered the explanation of what the Cursillos intended as the most important, bearing in mind that “what was so simple was being complicated” as he tells us in an answer to Eduardo Suarez’s question in **An Apprentice Christian**:

“Cursillo has generated a great number of publications, but your thinking has largely been captured in your books, “Forgotten Evidence”, “Structure of Ideas”, “The Cursillo, a Reality Not Yet Realized,” and “The How and the Why”, a work in which you share authorship with the priest Miguel Fernandez. At this point in your life, in early 1999, are you working on a new text? (An Apprentice Christian, page 165).

I have not finished a Social Study and do not know if I will have time to write it. I found other works to be more urgent and important such as the explanation of what the Cursillo intends, given the persistence of the intention to complicate even the simplest of things. It is very important that we understand the 'why' and the 'for what' of the movement, to make better use of the 'how' and to be able to travel from the skin to the heart of the human being. To reach fulfillment, we have first to encounter ourselves, then later to anchor ourselves in Christ, feeling important, because we all are. The essence and purpose of the movement is to be faithful to the Gospel, open to realities and attentive to people: to bring to life what we celebrate in faith. (An Apprentice Christian, page 166)

Precisely the intention, the study, the reflection, the prayer, the structure and all the arrangement and the nerve of the Cursillo movement, is thought out, ordered, and given backbone so that it might be a process that fits the world, the world of people, so that the greatest number of people can receive the good news of the Gospel. The solution to the world's problems is not in the world, but in man. By the grace of God and thanks to God, we understood many years ago (and continue to understand) that only by centering on the person in faith, can we simplify, without distorting, the message of the Gospel. (An Apprentice Christian, page 166)

THE PAJARITA



The "Pajarita" (little bird) is an origami (traditional and secular Japanese paper folding art, creating representations of objects).

The "Pajaritas" are known by Eduardo's vast world of friends. When he was in a coffee shop or restaurant, he would take a piece of paper and fold it into the shape of a bird, offering it to those who were with him. Many are the ones who keep these "Pajaritas" as a memory of times spent with Eduardo. Today there are thousands of "little birds" scattered all over the world. In the Ultreya of Palma there is a glass vessel with a good amount of them. This habit of Eduardo was so peculiar that over time it became his hallmark and the symbol of the Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló Foundation.

FOUNDATION EDUARDO BONNÍN AGUILÓ

Initially, with all his humility, Eduardo Bonnín did not like to see his name associated with a foundation, nevertheless a foundation with the objective to preserve and to diffuse his thinking and his work, and to hold the depository of his spiritual goods, notes, books, articles, letters, photographs, etc., ended up looking like a good idea. The first initiative of the Foundation is due to Francisco Forteza, but given his untimely death, the one who ended up convincing Eduardo and establishing it was Jaime Radó, supported by other friends mainly Miguel Llabrés, Miguel Amengual, and Toni Ferrer. Today FEBA, Foundation Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló, is located in Eduardo's office, known as the "laboratory of ideas." Now a large part of his history and his thoughts are available on the Foundation's website at www.feba.info and accessible to all.

MY SPIRITUAL TESTAMENT

It was Eduardo's desire in life, to leave the facts and motivations that were produced from the beginnings of the Cursillos in

Christianity Movement. He also wanted to transmit it through a notarized document, where there would be no room to doubt its origin and authenticity.

"I sincerely believe that one of the greatest assets that I possess is the knowledge of what constitutes the authentic Cursillos in Christianity, as well as the Movement that it engenders, and I know, by proven experience, that when each piece that integrates it - Precursillo, Cursillo, and Postcursillo - fulfills its purpose, it responds with exact precision to its motivation, which is none other than to try to get the Good News of the Gospel to reach the most possible, and preferably to the "far away."

"As it has been said that the knowledge of the Cursillos in Christianity Movement is the most important of the goods that I possess, at the time of writing this Testament, I believe that the best I can bequeath to those who come after me is to leave in writing and describe in detail what Cursillo consists of, what its purpose is, and the objectives that the Movement should pursue."

LAST CURSILLO

Throughout his life, Eduardo Bonnín participated in many Cursillos, with the functions that were requested, from Rector to bell ringer. He personally accompanied many of those who became Rectors, some of them still alive today. His last Cursillo was No. 358 on September 30, 1993, in Santa Lucia, Mallorca. ☩

Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló was born on May 4, 1917. On February 6, 2008, Eduardo Bonnín passed away. He was buried in the atrium of the Capuchin church in Palma de Mallorca and his tombstone is engraved with the words he always said of himself: "An Apprentice Christian".

More on the Founder's biography here:

www.natl-cursillo.org/eduardo-bonnin-aguiló/



Archbishop **Joseph W. Tobin** made a Cursillo more than thirty years ago.

He said,

"more than thirty years of experience with the Cursillo Movement convinces me that the Cursillo Weekend is a game-changer, allowing

the grace of God to enter powerfully in the hearts of men and women in order to transform them into disciples who "walk the talk."

Spiritual Advisors WORKSHOPS

The Cursillo Movement is a Lay Movement in the Catholic Church. All Cursillistas who have lived a Three Day Weekend have experienced the Foundational Charism of friendship with self, Christ, and others, which was given to Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló. This Charism was blessed by Bishop Juan Hervás and supported by Msgr. Sebastian Gayá, and others. As a layman, Eduardo Bonnín lived in the world and saw the situations of ordinary parishioners in the Church. Eduardo knew that lay Catholics could reach out to other lay persons and share the power and the blessings of the Gospel.

However, Eduardo also knew and appreciated the very important, and indeed essential, place and role of the Priest or Spiritual Advisor in the Cursillo Movement. It is the Priest who is the channel of God's graces to the laity through the Sacraments, so that the laity filled with grace can better bring Christ to other lay Catholics and thus Christianize the world.

To be most effective, the Spiritual Advisor needs to be familiar with the nature of Cursillo and the history of the Movement. This is especially important because through the years, in many parts of the world, distortions have crept into the way in which Cursillo functions. It is important that Spiritual Advisors have an openness to learning and growing throughout their Fourth Day. It is important for the Spiritual Advisor to read the Cursillo literature, particularly the writings of the founder, Eduardo Bonnín and others from the Palma de Mallorca community.

It is also important to remember that "every day is a school day" and that we learn through our experiences as well as what we read and study. During the last five years, there have been five Spiritual Advisors Workshops (SAW). During these workshops, Spiritual Advisors are invited to experience what Eduardo often said: *"the Cursillos are the wonderful news, that God loves us, communicated by the most human means, which is friendship, to lead each one to what is best for him."*

The first three SAW were held in person from a Thursday afternoon to a Friday afternoon, usually at the same location that a Regional Encounter would start on that Friday evening. The first SAW was held September 14-15, 2017, at Fresno, CA (Region XI). The next SAW was held October 25-26, 2018, at Phoenix, AZ (Region X). The third SAW was held March 14-15, 2019, at Kansas City, KS (Region VI). Another SAW was scheduled for March 19-20, 2020, at Anaheim, CA. However, due to COVID-19, this SAW was cancelled.

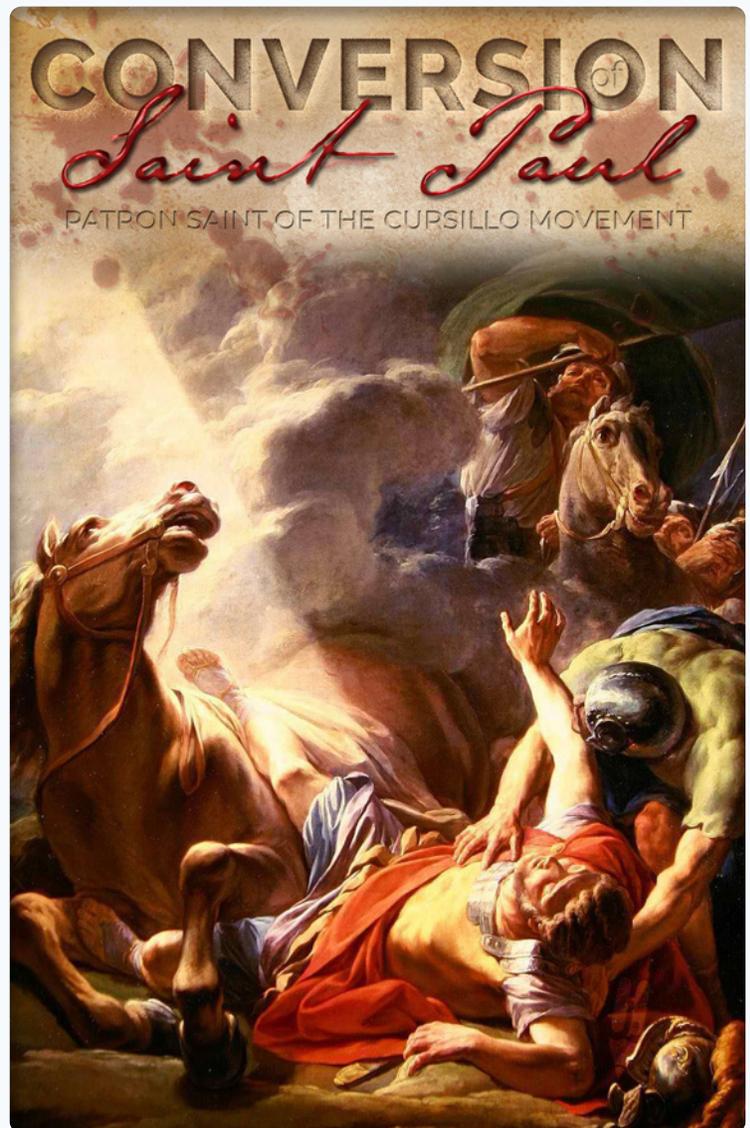
Over the next year, plans were made to schedule Virtual Spiritual Advisors Workshops. The first Virtual SAW was held on two consecutive Wednesdays, September 8 and 15, 2021, from 9:00 AM PT – 3:00 PM PT. There were about 23 Priests and Deacons that were able to participate. Most were from Region XI and a few were from Region XII. The next Virtual SAW was held on two consecutive Tuesdays, November 9 and 16, 2021, from 10:00 AM CT – 4:00 PM CT. There were about 25 Priests, Deacons, and Vowed Religious who participated from the Central and Eastern Time Zones (Regions II, III, IV, VI, VII, VIII).

The next Virtual SAW has been scheduled for **two consecutive Wednesdays, February 16 & 23, 2022**, from 9:00 AM ET – 3:00 PM ET. I invite all Spiritual Advisors to participate in this Virtual Spiritual Advisors Workshop. Some people will object to "more Screen Time"! However, I want to observe that you don't have to spend time or money to travel to a different location. The time that you save in not traveling, could be spent learning more about being a Spiritual Advisor in the Cursillo Movement as well as in prayer and reflection.

I am reminded of the words of Eduardo Bonnín encouraging all of us, Priests, Deacons, Vowed Religious, and Laity "to journey with Christ towards the Father, with the help of the Holy Spirit and of Mary and all the saints, bringing all our brothers and sisters with us."

May God bless all Cursillistas. De Colores!

Father Mark Seiker
National Spiritual Advisor



CHRISTIFIDELES LAICI | POPE JOHN PAUL II

CALLED TO HOLINESS

16. We come to a full sense of the dignity of the lay faithful if we consider the prime and fundamental vocation that the Father assigns to each of them in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit: the vocation to holiness, that is, the perfection of charity. Holiness is the greatest testimony of the dignity conferred on a disciple of Christ.

The Second Vatican Council has significantly spoken on the universal call to holiness. It is possible to say that this call to holiness is precisely the basic charge entrusted to all the sons and daughters of the Church by a Council which intended to bring a renewal of Christian life based on the gospel(41). This charge is not a simple moral exhortation, but an undeniable requirement arising from the mystery of the Church: she is the choice vine, whose branches live and grow with the same holy and life-giving energies that come from Christ; she is the Mystical Body, whose members share in the same life of holiness of the Head who is Christ; she is the Beloved Spouse of the Lord Jesus, who delivered himself up for her sanctification (cf. Eph 5:25 ff.). The Spirit that sanctified the human nature of Jesus in Mary's virginal womb (cf. Lk 1:35) is the same Spirit that is abiding and working in the Church to communicate to her the holiness of the Son of God made man.

It is ever more urgent that today all Christians take up again the way of gospel renewal, welcoming in a spirit of generosity the invitation expressed by the apostle Peter "to be holy in all conduct" (1 Pt 1:15). The 1985 Extraordinary Synod, twenty years after the Council, opportunely insisted on this urgency: "Since the Church in Christ is a mystery, she ought to be considered the sign and instrument of holiness... Men and women saints have always been the source and origin of renewal in the most difficult circumstances in the Church's history. Today we have the greatest need of saints whom we must assiduously beg God to raise up"(42).

Everyone in the Church, precisely because they are members, receive and thereby share in the common vocation to holiness. In the fullness of this title and on equal par with all other members of the Church, the lay faithful are called to holiness: "All the faithful of Christ of whatever rank or status are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of charity"(43). "All of Christ's followers are invited and bound to pursue holiness and the perfect fulfillment of their own state of life"(44).

The call to holiness is rooted in Baptism and proposed anew in the other Sacraments, principally in the Eucharist. Since Christians are re clothed in Christ Jesus and refreshed by his Spirit, they are "holy". They therefore have the ability to manifest this holiness and the responsibility to bear witness to it in all that they do. The apostle Paul never tires of admonishing all Christians to live "as is fitting among saints" (Eph 5:3).

Life according to the Spirit, whose fruit is holiness (cf. Rom 6:22; Gal 5:22), stirs up every baptized person and requires each to follow and imitate Jesus Christ, in embracing the

Beatitudes, in listening and meditating on the Word of God, in conscious and active participation in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church, in personal prayer, in family or in community, in the hunger and thirst for justice, in the practice of the commandment of love in all circumstances of life and service to the brethren, especially the least, the poor and the suffering.

THE LIFE OF HOLINESS IN THE WORLD

17. The vocation of the lay faithful to holiness implies that life according to the Spirit expresses itself in a particular way in their involvement in temporal affairs and in their participation in earthly activities. Once again the apostle admonishes us: "Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Col 3:17). Applying the apostle's words to the lay faithful, the Council categorically affirms: "Neither family concerns nor other secular affairs should be excluded from their religious programme of life"(45). Likewise the Synod Fathers have said: "The unity of life of the lay faithful is of the greatest importance: indeed they must be sanctified in everyday professional and social life. Therefore, to respond to their vocation, the lay faithful must see their daily activities as an occasion to join themselves to God, fulfill his will, serve other people and lead them to communion with God in Christ"(46).

The vocation to holiness must be recognized and lived by the lay faithful, first of all as an undeniable and demanding obligation and as a shining example of the infinite love of the Father that has regenerated them in his own life of holiness. Such a vocation, then, ought to be called an essential and inseparable element of the new life of Baptism, and therefore an element which determines their dignity. At the same time the vocation to holiness is intimately connected to mission and to the responsibility entrusted to the lay faithful in the Church and in the world. In fact, that same holiness which is derived simply from their participation in the Church's holiness, represents their first and fundamental contribution to the building of the Church herself, who is the "Communion of Saints". The eyes of faith behold a wonderful scene: that of a countless number of lay people, both women and men, busy at work in their daily life and activity, oftentimes far from view and quite unacclaimed by the world, unknown to the world's great personages but nonetheless looked upon in love by the Father, untiring labourers who work in the Lord's vineyard. Confident and steadfast through the power of God's grace, these are the humble yet great builders of the Kingdom of God in history.

Holiness, then, must be called a fundamental presupposition and an irreplaceable condition for everyone in fulfilling the mission of salvation within the Church. The Church's holiness is the hidden source and the infallible measure of the works of the apostolate and of the missionary effort. Only in the measure that the Church, Christ's Spouse, is loved by him and she, in turn, loves him, does she become a mother fruitful in the Spirit.

Again we take up the image from the gospel: the fruitfulness and the growth of the branches depends on their remaining united to the vine. “As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing” (Jn 15:4-5).

It is appropriate to recall here the solemn proclamation of beatification and canonization of lay men and women which took place during the month of the Synod. The entire People of God, and the lay faithful in particular, can find at this moment new models of holiness and new witnesses of heroic virtue lived in the ordinary everyday circumstances of human existence. The Synod Fathers have said: “Particular Churches especially should be attentive to recognizing among their members the younger men and women of those Churches who have given witness to holiness in such conditions (everyday secular conditions and the conjugal state) and who can be an example for others, so that, if the case calls for it, they (the Churches) might propose them to be beatified and canonized”(47).

At the end of these reflections intended to define the lay faithful’s position in the Church, the celebrated admonition of Saint Leo the Great comes to mind: “Acknowledge, O Christian, your dignity!”(48). Saint Maximus, Bishop of Turin, in addressing those who had received the holy anointing of Baptism, repeats the same sentiments: “Ponder the honor that has made you sharers in this mystery!”(49). All the

baptized are invited to hear once again the words of Saint Augustine: “Let us rejoice and give thanks: we have not only become Christians, but Christ himself... Stand in awe and rejoice: We have become Christ”(50).

The dignity as a Christian, the source of equality for all members of the Church, guarantees and fosters the spirit of communion and fellowship, and, at the same time, becomes the hidden dynamic force in the lay faithful’s apostolate and mission. It is a dignity, however, which brings demands, the dignity of labourers called by the Lord to work in his vineyard: “Upon all the lay faithful, then, rests the exalted duty of working to assure that each day the divine plan of salvation is further extended to every person, of every era, in every part of the earth”(51).



NCSA ANNOUNCEMENTS
2022 IN-PERSON
National Encounter
July 21-24, 2022
 Chapman University, Orange, CA
SAVE the DATE!



The National Secretariat and Staff extend their congratulations to Amy Thanh Dang on being selected to serve as National Vietnamese Coordinator for the United States Cursillo Movement. Amy is a stay-at-home mother who lives in Gilroy, California. She is a parishioner at Our Lady of

Peace Church in Santa Clara. She is married to Phuc Le since 2007 and together they have 5 children: Peter, Sophine, Christopher, Mary-Clare, and Catherine.

After graduating from San Jose State University in 1998 with a BS in Finance, she continued her study at the University of Phoenix where she earned an MBA in Global Management in 2003. She had over 15 years of diversified experience including business plan development and financial analysis for multi-million-dollar corporations. Despite her successful career, God called her to a greater vocation.

In 2007, Amy followed God’s call to quit her job and take on a humble yet noble vocation as a stay-at-home mother. She is in her 15th year of homeschooling her children and, though challenging at times, she is

confident that it was the best decision of her life. Motherhood has been her greatest and most rewarding accomplishment as she continues to serve God through her family.

Amy lived her Cursillo Weekend in 2008 in the Diocese of San Jose, California. The desire to live according to her baptismal promises moved her to serve the Cursillo Movement wholeheartedly.

She became the newly appointed National Vietnamese Coordinator on January 17, 2022. Her responsibility is to share with Cursillistas the Foundational Charism of the Cursillo Movement, emphasized through friendship, where all Cursillistas are treated with love, dignity, and respect.

By the grace of God, Amy strives to continue her conversion and to deepen her love for God by serving in the community wherever He places her. She thanks God for all His blessings in her life and desires to do His Will better every day. Through the Cursillo Movement, Amy aspires to be holy and to become a Saint in this modern time!

The National Secretariat and Staff thanks Amy for saying “yes” to serve Christ and His Church through the gift of Cursillo. Best wishes and prayers for Amy and her family.

SOME CURSILLO QUOTES THAT SPEAK ABOUT HOLINESS. THIS SHOWS THAT CURSILLO IS IN HARMONY WITH CHRISTIFIDELES LAICI BY POPE JOHN PAUL II.

Grace and New Evangelization

John Paul II remarked on May 9 of 1988, that one of the qualities of the New Evangelization is that it has a new ardor. In this without a doubt, there is a point of connection with the work of Cursillo, in which Grace is the desire for holiness that is prompted by the radical union with Christ, the only one Who has the Word of eternal life (John 6:69), who is the Bread of life, coming down from Heaven to give life to the World (John 6:58-61). (1st Conversations of Cala Figuera, Life Rollo, page 139)

The Leader and Normality

“It is true that we are all leaders and there is a rollo about leaders. We are all leaders. We must be leaders in the world and leaders in the Movement. We must differentiate between the two. In the Movement, we are all leaders because, in reality, the one that knows the least or has the least is the one that gives the most at a certain moment. In the world, specifically in my own ‘square meter’, what I do or don’t do there, is non-negotiable; nobody is going to do it for me. Here is where my holiness is, my sanctification. Remember that to

be a saint, we not only have to know what we are doing, but we need to know how to do it right. In other words, if I am married, I am going to be the best married man there is, and if I have to get on a horse, I have to do it like the best jockey, without falling from the horse. We have to be saints by doing whatever it takes, and we have to be saints where God has planted us”. (1st Conversations of Cala Figuera, Normality Rollo, page 159)

Group Reunion

In the Cursillo a person becomes holy. In the Group Reunion, we try to place him in a position that is stable, dynamic, sanctifying, and free so that he does not find himself totally and dejectedly “in a strange land.” (Structure of Ideas, page 109)

Enlightening: Clergy & Laity

In order that all may be in the area of what is really achievable they must admire each other for their desire to be holy, but holy as a priest and holy as a layman, with delimited fields, essentially different and essentially complementary. (Structure of Ideas, page 222)

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,
 Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.
 We fly to you today as your beloved children.
 We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
 as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother,
 and gain for our nation and world,
 and for all our families and loved ones,
 the protection of your holy angels,
 that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted,
 we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
 Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
 wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,
 teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be
 patient and kind.
 Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to
 our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,
 knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
 health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
 keep us in the embrace of your arms,
 help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.
 Amen.

