

# CURSILLOS

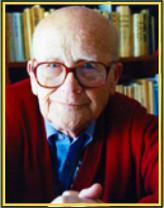
## in CHRISTIANITY

### National Newsletter

EDUARDO BONNÍN AGUILÓ

**100 YEARS**

**BIOGRAPHY AND MENTALITY - PART 12**



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

**April 2022**

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Jarrell, Texas 76537  
512-746-2020  
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## FINAL ACT IN THE CURSILLO: "MAÑANITAS"

Eduardo never stopped participating in Cursillo activities. Despite his advanced age, he was always present at the reunion in the "Plaza de los Patines" [Public Square], where, in Mallorca, the candidates who are going to live the Cursillo meet before leaving for the retreat house, and where they also meet with a good amount of the Cursillistas of Mallorca, to greet and to encourage the new ones.

Eduardo was always present at the morning serenade of "Las Mañanitas", which is a very important moment for the new cursillistas, where on Sunday morning, the new ones are awoken by a serenade of many cursillistas singing "Las Mañanitas" sung especially for them.

Eduardo still participated in the School of Leaders, Clausuras, Ultreyas, and in most of the activities of Cursillos.

Already close to his heavenly Ultreya, Eduardo, very sick, even in a wheelchair, wanted to participate in some Mañanitas. It was probably his last wish to participate in a Cursillo event.

The importance of the Mañanitas for Eduardo was such that he himself tells us:

*"Also, in a spontaneous way, the Mañanitas were incorporated. The Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles told me that this event had united the Chicanos and the Americans, because both, who had not been fraternal, went to sing them at four in the morning."* (An Apprentice Christian, p. 106).

## A SENSE OF HUMOR ALWAYS PRESENT

From the beginning, Eduardo was recognized as having a great and keen sense of humor, a characteristic that accompanied him his whole life. Eduardo was always willing to participate in the "Fiestas en el Aire" [free-spirited Fiesta] and to laugh, especially at himself, and often said: *"if you find one more foolish than me, introduce him to me!"*. In humor he reflects on the love he felt for life.



***"Life is beautiful, people are important, and life is worth living."***

## A SPECIAL GRATITUDE

A special thanks to Eduardo's intense dedication, which provided a great physical and psychological capacity, as well as an almost exclusive dedication to this Movement. We also owe gratitude to his family, certainly to his mother and sisters, but in a very special way to his brother Jordi Bonnín who humbly and silently supported Eduardo and to all of those who one day went through a Cursillo and have seen their lives change for the better. We must be grateful to them and remember them in our prayers.

Francisco Forteza tells us:

*"The key to such intensity must be sought in the physical and psychological capacity of Bonnín himself, and in his personal commitment to this work, but also in apparently accessory facts, which are transcendental in the practice of making the extraordinary possible."*

*Thus, the unique way of being and living of Jordi Bonnín, Eduardo's brother, always aware that his quiet mission was to replace with long-term dedication to the family business as many hours as he could, to free his brother more, and that, at the wheel of his classic Fiat "balilla" he so many times served as a link and companion of all.*

*Triduum*

Beside the abstinence of Jordi, no less transcendental was the discretion and charity made courtesy of D. Mercedes Aguiló, Eduardo's mother and sisters, who only smiled when at the same time and in untimely hours four or five different groups "invaded" many rooms of their ample but not unlimited family house on Sindicato street in Palma. (Cursillo History & Memory, page 129)

### EDUARDO TRIED TO BE CHRISTIAN EVERY DAY AND ALWAYS

After a life dedicated to the love of God and people and to bringing to the world the message that God, in Christ, loves each one, being "always content but never satisfied," the leaven produced by this seed is visible in the five continents.

Chosen by the Holy Spirit to be the faithful custodian of the Founding Charism of Cursillo, Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló died in late afternoon of February 6, 2008, in his homeland, Mallorca. The vigil for Eduardo lasted three days while delegates from all over the world arrived for his farewell. He was buried on February 9 in the Capuchin church, which was the prison chapel where Eduardo regularly visited the prisoners and where in 1949 he accompanied those prisoners who were sentenced to death in their last moments. The solemn funeral Mass was celebrated on February 12 in the Cathedral of Palma de Mallorca presided over by Bishop Jesús Murguía and concelebrated by 47 priests and a crowd of friends from all over the world who filled the Cathedral which was covered by a crowd of media and broadcast in all parts of the world. On his tomb you can read what he said he was in life, "An Apprentice Christian."

**"Eduardo, who let God fulfill his prayers, his thoughts, and his whole life! We will not stop until we give a Cursillo on the Moon!"**

### STREET NAMED AFTER EDUARDO

The City Council of Palma through its Decree No. 6140 dated April 10, 2014, decided to assign the name "Passage Eduardo Bonnín 1917-2008" to a narrow street next to the church of the Capuchins of Palma (where his tomb is located), with entrance on the street of Capuchins and the exit in the Plaza del Condado Rosellón.

On May 9, 2014, a Mass was celebrated in his memory at the Capuchin church in Palma, presided over by the Bishop of Mallorca, Monsignor Javier Salinas, followed by the official act of installing the plaque with his name.

It is not customary for a community to pay homage to someone, simply for being a Christian, especially someone who has dedicated his whole life trying to be, "an apprentice Christian", as he always said. But ... it happened.

A street, perhaps the smallest of Palma, but great in importance, because it is located where the courtyard of the prison once was, where Eduardo often shared his friendship with "his prisoner friends."

### CAUSE FOR BEATIFICATION

On February 5, 2015, gathered in the atrium of the church of the Capuchins of Palma, next to the old prison door, where today Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló is buried, was the first step to start the process of the cause of beatification of Eduardo Bonnín. The Secretariat of Mallorca was constituted as the author of the cause.

The Bishop of Mallorca, Javier Salinas, agreed to continue with the process, and named Fr. Gabriel D. Miquel Ramis, as the postulator of the cause. This process of beatification is determined by Eduardo Bonnín's reputation of holiness. It also happens because in his time, he was worried about people living in the outskirts of God and his restlessness led him to wonder how he could bring these people, the far away, to God. His restlessness and enthusiasm stimulated those who crossed paths him.

Eduardo will be, we believe, beatified, and canonized for dedicating his whole life to the total surrender to Christ, to the Person, and to Friendship through the Cursillo Movement.

The echo of his holiness resonates on all continents. Eduardo is a person who dedicated his life to making friends and making them friends of Christ, in the way of normality.

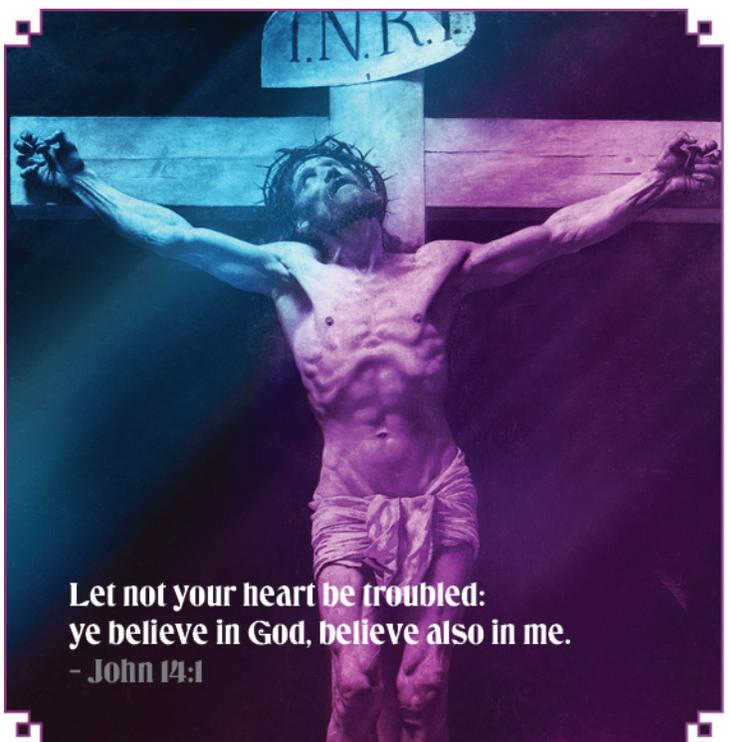
He lived and made life for others, the living, normal, and close Christ! Essentially, because there, is the finger of God.

***Eduardo, the man who let God fulfill his prayers, his thoughts, and his whole life! Eduardo will be the saint of normality!***

### CONSECRATED TO CHRIST, PERSON, AND FRIENDSHIP

Eduardo prayed, thought, and dreamed Cursillo, and dreamt them in his own language, which is the universal language of the Cursillo. He had little time left to devote himself to anything else. We can say that Eduardo was "consecrated" to normality by means of friendship. His priorities were always the others, and his telling them the best news; **that God, in Christ, loves us.**

So, he never married. When asked why he had not married he replied, "Because I did not have time". All his life, his time, was dedicated to this great cause: to get Christ to live fully in each person. Always valuing **the person** and raising **friendship** to the level of transcendence. 



**Let not your heart be troubled:  
ye believe in God, believe also in me.**  
- John 14:1

**Beatification process of Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló**  
 The Postulator, Fr. Gabriel Ramis told us, Cursillistas from around the world, that in order to initiate the cause of Beatification of Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló, testimonies of fame of holiness are needed in order to show that Eduardo Bonnín truly enjoys a solid and wide-spread reputation of the heroic virtues of a Servant of God among the faithful or if he has possible miracles.

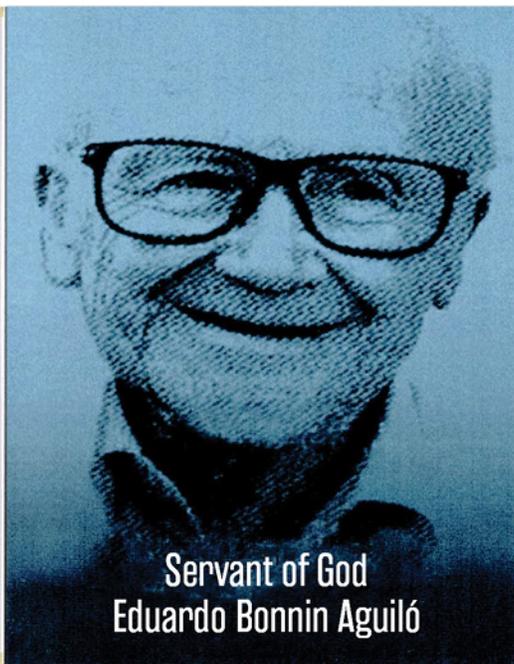
For this reason, we were given an address, so that those who want to send their personal testimony duly signed and dated regarding the motive by which someone thinks that Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló, as a Servant of God, manifested a heroic degree in their Christian virtues; as well as a simple miracle or great miracle when the intercession of Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló has been sought.

This is the data required for the testimonies:

- Date
- Name and surname
- Identity (ID, passport, etc.)
- Diocese
- Address
- Phone
- Email
- Signature

Submit testimony by writing to: Casa de la Iglesia  
 Delegación Causa de Los Santos  
 Calle Seminario No 4  
 07001 - Palma de Mallorca  
 Baleares - Spain

We encourage you to distribute this information to whomever you think could give their personal testimony of the reputation of holiness of Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló.



Servant of God  
 Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló

God, the dispenser of all graces and charisms.

You granted your servant EDUARDO BONNÍN AGUILÓ the grace of dedicating his whole life, with humility and generosity, to the work of the CURSILLOS IN CHRISTIANITY MOVEMENT, as he traveled the five Continents proclaiming that God in Christ loves us.

Grant us through his intercession the favor that we now implore Thee.  
 (Name the favor being requested).

Also grant us the grace, of his beatification for your greater glory and the good of your Church, that shines throughout the lives of its saints.

We beg this of You in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

(At the end we pray The Lord's prayer)

With the License of the Ordinary of Mallorca. For Private Use

# CURSILLO

Past, Present, and Future

## SUMMARY

One nice evening, I received a request from a dear friend of mine, Sis Linda Buhay who is the National Newsletter Coordinator, to summarize my 7-page rollo 'Cursillo - Past, Present, and Future' into 1 page for the upcoming 65<sup>th</sup> Cursillo Anniversary. When I opened my rollo that I presented at the 60<sup>th</sup> Cursillo Anniversary in 2017, I just scratched my head and told myself how I could shrink 7 pages into a 1-page summary? I couldn't say 'No' to Sis Linda because the word 'No' doesn't exist in the Cursillo dictionary. Then I had a sudden encounter with my uncle Eduardo Bonnín, and he showed me how to summarize it even into 1 line without losing any details: the hyperlink to my Rollo on the National Cursillo website.

I just laughed and I really love Eduardo for his great sense of humor!

Now let's review what our beloved Cursillo Movement has achieved since 2017? We all knew that the Covid-19 pandemic has turned our lives upside down since 2020 and we had to cancel many in-person Cursillo activities due to Covid-19 lockdown measures. Was Cursillo dead? Absolutely not! On the contrary, our Cursillo Movement has found a creative way to keep the fire of Cursillo burning during this difficult time. Indeed, I could attend many virtual Regional Encounters Ultreyas, School of Leaders, Group Reunions, etc. back-to-back thanks to Zoom application. It's similar to the period when Eduardo Bonnín and the Cursillo Movement in Mallorca had to spend almost 10 years in 'the desert' from 1956 to 1964 under Bishop Enciso's jurisdiction. During that time, they had to hold Ultreyas at coffee tables in the Plaza Major (the main city square) in order to

"maintain a strong bond of union and a collective enthusiasm" (p. 153 – Cursillo History & Memory). I must confess that the main reason for me to attend virtual National Encounters or Regional Encounters during the last two years was not about listening to the rollos (although they were all excellent), but about counting and seeing the faces of my dear friends radiating love and friendship on the screen!

I believe our 'Cursillo tree' was pruned by our Lord during the Covid-19 pandemic so that its roots could grow deeper and stronger for a 'full bloom' in no time!

Our Lord Jesus gave me a hint to summarize the 'past, present and future of the Cursillo' even into one word: that is LOVE. Indeed, Love can endure any trials and overcome any obstacles. Love never fails! (1 Cor 13:8)

See you all at the 2022 In-Person National Encounter in July. I can't wait for a 'Cursillo hug'! I can't wait to hold your hands singing the 'De Colores' after Masses! I can't wait to be a child again during Fiesta!

To read *Cursillo: Past, Present, and Future* in its entirety, visit [www.natl-cursillo.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Cursillo-Past-Present-Future.pdf](http://www.natl-cursillo.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Cursillo-Past-Present-Future.pdf).

De Colores!

Hoang Tran  
 An Apprentice Cursillista

The following rollo was presented by Fr. Esteban Jasso, T.O.R. at the 27th National Cursillo Encounter held at Trinity University in the Archdiocese of San Antonio – July 28, 2017.

**D**e Colores brothers and sisters Cursillistas!

After living the first Cursillo in Waco, TX on May 27, 1957, I entered the Franciscan Third Order Regular (TOR) on September 17, 1957, to begin the year of postulancy in Loretto, PA. The following year I was sent to Mallorca to begin my novitiate at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Cure followed by two years of philosophy, one in Palma de Mallorca and one in Porciúncula, Mallorca. During these two years I was invited to the Ultreyas in Palma de Mallorca. They were very strong experiences of the Cursillo Movement. I had the pleasure of meeting the Founder of Cursillo, Eduardo Bonnín and the men who assisted him, such as José Ferragut, Francisco Forteza, Juan Capó and Bishop Juan Hervás, and others. As well as the Franciscan religious of the Third Order Regular who participated in the first Cursillos: Fr. Tomeu Nicolau, Fr. Amengual, and Fr. Font. After living in Mallorca from 1958 to 1961, I was sent to study Theology for 4 years at the University of St. Thomas in Rome, Italy where I was ordained a priest on February 21, 1965. I then returned to Spain for 6 months of pastoral studies in Madrid. After living 8 years in Europe, I returned to Waco, Texas to celebrate my first Mass.

### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE FIRST CURSILLO IN WACO, TX**

In 1955, something important happened at the St. Francis Parish in Waco, Texas. Fr. Gabriel Fernandez established a Catholic Action group which paved the way for the first Cursillo in Christianity in Waco, Texas. The men from Catholic Action of Waco participated in the first Cursillo which included some of us who are here with you today: Luis Salinas and yours truly, Fr. Esteban Jasso.

After my two years of military service during the Korean War, I returned to Waco and to my surprise found out that Catholic Action was active at St. Francis, my parish and without being present, I was appointed as its first President and later I was appointed Diocesan President for Catholic Action by Bishop Reicher of Austin. During those two years, before the first Cursillo in Christianity, Fr. Gabriel prepared us with the Cursillos de Conquista and an impressive youth ministry. In 1957, God blessed us with the arrival of Bernardo Vadell and Agustín Palomino in San Antonio, Texas. They immediately contacted Fr. Gabriel to prepare for the first Cursillo in Waco.

### **FIRST CURSILLO IN WACO, TEXAS - MAY 27, 1957**

The young men who attended the first Cursillo were from the Catholic Action group at St. Francis Parish in Waco, Texas. As a young member of Catholic Action, my life was firmly centered

on prayer and living in Grace by way of the sacraments. During this time, I lived powerful personal experiences of Christ and Mary. However, what impressed me the most of the first Cursillo was the witness by Bernardo Vadell and Agustín Palomino. At that time of my life, listening to Fr. Gabriel preach, who was an excellent preacher, I found it normal since that was his mission as a priest. However, for a layperson to speak and preach of Christ, the Church and its doctrine with strength and conviction was quite a compelling revelation for me and without a doubt, for the other young men. I fell in love with the mission of the laity in the Church and this led me to begin thinking about my vocation to the priesthood. I made the decision to enter the Franciscan Third Order in which I've been in for 60 years, 52 years as a priest. This year I will be 85 and I am "De Colores" with you Cursillistas from Waco, the United States, and the world.



The "Rollo" given by Bernardo and Agustín with such vigor and grace reached the depths of my being. The Rollos were like a summary of the essential Doctrine of the Church. Each of the Rollos enlightened my baptismal faith to give it all the splendor that God wants to see in each one of us. Without a doubt, the Cursillo in Christianity was a true Pentecost for all of us.

I remember that during my four years of studying Theology at the University of St. Thomas in Rome, Italy, the theologians

were very interested in what was said about Cursillos in Christianity and the impact experienced by those who lived it. The professor who was going to oversee my thesis advised me to select the topic of Cursillos in Christianity. Especially the aspect of going into detail on whether the results [of living Cursillo] were simply sentimental or from Grace. The answer was: "that natural life recovers through Grace what is lost by sin" and "Grace restores in the human being what sin has destroyed" and the person's dignity as a child of God, is restored. Man must prepare the way to grace with all the human means that God has given us.

As Fr. Antonio Perez correctly stated: "That is why it has been said that the life of Grace, with the apostolate as its consequence, is the essence of Christianity and therefore, the essence of the Cursillo Movement."

Sentimentality [feelings, emotions] does not change the person. Sentimentality will disappear, it is blown away with the wind, but an experience lived in Grace will remain throughout life. The Cursillo is a convincing experience of Grace in order to begin living as children of God, committed to his Son, the Holy Spirit and the Church.

It is important to recognize that Cursillos in Christianity were ahead of the Second Vatican Council from which we still have much to discover. The Cursillos are a Movement founded by laity committed to Christ and his Church, as were Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló, José Ferragut, and other young men from

Mallorca's Catholic Action. It is an honor and privilege to tell you today that I met these men during my three years in Mallorca from 1958 to 1961. They were well prepared and saintly. The Ultreyas which I was able to attend were many and they were full of a life De Colores. The song De Colores lived in the person, and it was shared with others in the Group Reunions. The religious of my Franciscan Order were spiritual directors of the first Cursillos that took place between those in Cala Figuera and the first numbered Cursillo at San Honorato in 1949. I am convinced that the Cursillos have not given everything they can give to the Church and to the world. There is so much we need to do for Cursillo today. Ultreya! We must go much further in search for Christ.

**OUR COMMITMENT TO CURSILLO**

1. Return to the founding sources of the Cursillos in Christianity Movement.
2. Safeguard the Orthodoxy of Cursillos in Christianity.
3. Become leaders who think and people of prayer like our Founder. We are very prone to activism that we forget to be more creative in our action.
4. Cursillos in Christianity are an excellent means in the Church for the New Evangelization. New in its ardor, in its methodology and in its expression.



**NCSA ANNOUNCEMENTS**



Thank you so much for attending previous National Encounters. I hope you enjoyed every moment of the unforgettable event packed with friendship, love and grace from the Lord!

I'd like to invite you again to celebrate the 65th Cursillo anniversary with us at the 32nd National Cursillo Encounter, which will be held at Chapman University in Orange, CA from July 21-24, 2022.

The National Encounter Committee and Cursillistas in Region XI are enthusiastically preparing for this special National Encounter, which is expected to be a fully packed event with more than 900 Cursillistas, both clergy and laypersons, from the United States' Cursillo multiple language groups of English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Filipino, Portuguese, Korean, and Chinese!

The registration fee is currently \$375 per person and it will increase to \$415 after June 15. Please register early to secure your seat at this special Encounter. For more information about the encounter registration, agenda, FAQ etc., please see the links below: <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/encounter2022/>(English)(Spanish)(Vietnamese).

It is expected to be a fully packed National Encounter as we celebrate the 65th Anniversary of Cursillo in the United States. The National Secretariat and National Staff are looking forward to seeing you and sharing with you at 32nd National Encounter!

De Colores!

Nadia Lopez

National Cursillo Service Administrator



**HAPPY EASTER**  
*Blessings*



CELEBRATING

65 YEARS

of the  
*Cursillo Movement*

**IN THE UNITED STATES**

& the **32<sup>ND</sup>**  
*National Encounter*

DATES: **JULY 21-24, 2022**

**REGISTER TO SECURE YOUR SEAT TODAY @**  
[www.natl-cursillo.org/encounter2022/](http://www.natl-cursillo.org/encounter2022/)

NEARBY AIRPORT: **JOHN WAYNE AIRPORT,**  
**SANTA ANA, ORANGE CALIFORNIA**

ENCOUNTER LOCATION: **CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY,**  
**ORANGE CALIFORNIA**