

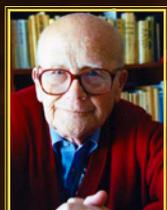
# HE IS RISEN!

CURSILLOS in CHRISTIANITY *National Newsletter*

EDUARDO BONNÍN AGUILÓ

**100 YEARS**

BIOGRAPHY AND MENTALITY - PART 18



Servant of God

**Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló**

Founder of

Cursillos in Christianity

1917 – 2008

**April 2023**

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## ESSENCE AND PURPOSE

*Christ: The Essence.*

**ESSENCE:** The nature of a thing.

**PURPOSE:** Things are explained and understood better by expressing their ESSENCE AND PURPOSE.

God is a reality evident in everybody, in its clarity or ambiguity, in its presence or absence, on the surface or in depth.

All religions, in one way or another, manifest what man has done and does, to approach God.

The Christian Religion - that of Christ - consists in believing and trying to demonstrate with one's life the expansive wave that is produced by giving credence to the reality of what God has done to approach man.

The Cursillo Movement consists of

- Proclaiming the best news of the best reality: that God, through Christ, loves us,
- Communicated by the best means: which is friendship,
- Toward the best of each one: which is being a person.

This is the framework, the focus, and the point of view, from which the essence of the Movement and the purpose we want to achieve with the Cursillo can be better and more optimally grasped. This purpose is to learn to live life in the light and the force of this truth, trying to achieve it in our reality, in the normality of our daily lives, trying to perceive, value, and appreciate things, events, and people from the perspective of the love that God has for us.

The knowledge, the conviction, the experience, and the sharing of what is FUNDAMENTAL TO BEING CHRISTIAN – (of the love that we believe God has for us) – that is lived in the Cursillo gives us news of its existence, the occasion to affirm and bear witness to our conviction, the experience of the possibility of making it life, and proof of its effectiveness. It is also a standard for an acceptable way of life, to detach from that which acts as a catalyst for pride, ambition, and selfishness that weighs us down, helping us to develop our personal qualities to their fullness.

Simplifying and stimulating the integration of “US” into a warm and brotherly human being; for what is genuinely shared and carried out in company is the journey of the distance between what we really are and what one is honestly striving to be, in a climate of authenticity, which brings forth one's actual reality, without self-deceptions that disfigure or disguise it. There are those who lose their identity in how they direct themselves, with the best of intentions, to good goals in and of themselves. Still, instead of leading to greater fulfillment and gratifying enjoyment, they cloud the view of their everyday life and sour life with guilt that does not help at all, besides not being true.

All this and much more is what we want, and often the Cursillo Movement accomplishes, so that people, knowing the true meaning of life, can live it, seeing ordinary things with new eyes.

## PRECURSILLO

Any man or woman, whatever age<sup>1</sup> he may be, as long as he has personality: (a capacity for conviction, determination, and perseverance), can live the experience of a Cursillo. The very essence of what is intended to be achieved with it requires that this experience must necessarily be lived in the singular

<sup>1</sup> In the US Cursillo, the minimum age is 18 due to the ‘Safe Environment’ guidelines set forth by the bishops.

since what is intended to make ferment in a Christian, is precisely the singularity, originality, and creativity of each person. Therefore, going together husband with wife, a boyfriend with a girlfriend, or boys with girls, reduces, if not nullifies, its purpose in distorting the power of what is achievable since it starts from a sociological and conventional situation, which does not allow the message of the Cursillo to reach the root of his own existence, by assuming assumptions that are always too much of an assumption to assume.

The encounter with oneself is the most ignored part of the Cursillo Movement even though it is the critical point where its effectiveness resides. It is undoubtedly the most difficult to grasp by those who have always placed their Christian living in the quiet parking lot of their habitual and routine religiosity, with no personal choice whatsoever, from where they tend to observe the reality where today's men are struggling like someone watching a parade of soldiers from the VIP seats.

### CURSILLO

The Cursillo is the gathering of a few, 25 to 35 (plus the team leaders), in a place isolated from their daily life for three days, where gospel realities are lived and shared in person as they are incarnated by leaders who strive to live them and embody them.

The Cursillo is the evidence of a triple encounter with oneself, Christ, and others.

Manifesting and proclaiming itself in a behavior, it is possible to prove and verify that the truth burns in the heart of man when he is faced with Christian values that are lived in fullness and freely offered.

The Cursillo provides, for whoever participates and attends, with the proper disposition that consists in contributing enthusiasm, dedication, and a spirit of charity. It provides the climate and the means to accept oneself as one is, to understand that one can be better, and to make the journey in the company of others. It is to accept oneself with one's qualities and limitations, to understand that it is always possible to improve, and to know how to live and to share life in friendship.

The Cursillo is not a change in the system but a change of system.

The Cursillo is not an event of life, but a way to make life a continuous event.

The Cursillo is not a project that is realized but a realization that is projected.

The Cursillo is not only an achievable reality in history but a turn we must give to history.

### GROUP REUNION

The Group Reunion is the reality of life shared in friendship.

A reunion of people who are friends because they are Christians, who propose to be better friends to be more Christian and be more Christian to be better friends.

The Group Reunion redefines the term friend and gives it a liberating creative sense and power.

The Group Reunion is made of its members' willingness, ambiance, and friendship.

The Group Reunion facilitates and simplifies the continuation of the three encounters that the Cursillo initiated and facilitated with oneself, Christ, and others. Not only not forgetting, but highlighting

and emphasizing that of the three encounters, the first is the most important, since it constitutes the indispensable structure for the other two to come about.

The encounter with oneself is the axis, the pivot, and the support of the entire Cursillo Movement. Whoever understands the Movement knows well that there is more distance from a man's skin to a man's heart than from a man's skin to the moon. To stimulate the encouragement to travel this path towards the center of oneself, with the optimism and the joy that is created in the closeness of a friend, from the intimate conviction of the smallest detail, is the main task that the Group Reunion pursues and obtains when the necessary, adequate, and concrete means are used to achieve it.

### ULTREYA

The Ultreya is the circumstance that makes it possible for the best of each one to reach the most possible. There, we celebrate the festival of gathering, the joy of knowing we are united, and the rejoicing over a common motivation, without unnecessary complications that complicate it.

In a specific place, for a determined amount of time, by the Grace of God, the participation of friends and brothers and sisters who attend, and the prayers of many, what is true becomes possible, what is good becomes attractive, and what is possible becomes concrete. This is a genuine Ultreya, which is not complicated with pious elements that distort it but is made by contact with people who live the truth, want to live it, or sad not to live it. In the Ultreya, when the leaders fulfill their task, that of carrying on as in the Cursillo, suggesting the best Group Reunions, the same climate of the Cursillo is lived and shared and is a generator of communities, open to the restlessness of the world and its resonance in the Church - understood as a community of people, moved by the love of Christ, made personal in them by Grace, and collective in all through charity.

THE THINKING OF EDUARDO BONNÍN

DIOCESAN SECRETARIAT OF MALLORCA, AUGUST 1989

From the IV World Meeting of Cursillos in Christianity in Caracas, Venezuela, 1988

### NCSA ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ Rector's Guide (English and Spanish) is now available at NCC.
- ◆ Amazon discontinued Amazon Smile, please consider donating to the NCC through the \$3 Campaign.

### ◆ Funeral Arrangements for Hoang Tran

#### • Viewing and praying:

Tuesday, April 18, from 11:00 AM to 5:30 PM at [Holy Spirit Catholic Church \(Doyle Hall\)](#)  
[17270 Ward St. Fountain Valley, CA, 92708](#)

#### • Funeral Mass:

Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 12:00 PM also at [Holy Spirit Catholic Church](#)

Burial will follow right after Mass at [Asscension Cementery](#)  
[24754 Trabuco Rd. Lake Forest, CA, 92630](#)



Brother Hoang on 1st Step-by-Step Zoom meeting, March 5, 2023. Look at the raised hand, he was dedicated to the Cursillo Movement till his very last days. You will be greatly missed, beloved brother!



## *Farewell, Brother Hoang*

The morning I visited Hoang at Kaiser Orange county hospital, California, I was told the doctor was examining him. There were several other visitors who also came to visit him and we had to wait for a while. When we were allowed to enter his room, the first thing I noticed was although a bit tired; he looked so calm and relaxed. He was breathing on his own and didn't need a respirator. Around his bed were his wife, Hương, two sons, his brother, and several cursillistas who served in San Jose Cursillo region together with him. One of them was in the same decuria from his very first 3-day course.

Someone said a few words of comfort and encouragement on behalf of the group. He nodded, smiled, and thanked us in a low voice. I went to his bedside, held up his hands, and while putting one decade rosary in his hand, I prayed to God in my head: "May the power of Holy Spirit deliver to you our special faith, our strength, and our vitality", but my mouth was saying "Dear brother Hoang, when you meet our Lord, please remember the Cursillo Translation Group." His face brightens with a smile and he nodded happily. It seems that everyone including him knows that his time is only counted by the day and it is not long, but no one wants to look sad.

Hương probably knew everyone was wondering about his health status, so she briefly told about his condition: He had unusual symptoms a while back but didn't know it was serious until the doctor who saw him last noticed that his skin tone has abnormally changed, so the doctor asked to perform a scan and found out that he had stage 4 pancreas cancer. That was on Thursday morning 3/16/23 and Hoang was immediately taken to the emergency room.

Before leaving, I went to his bedside one more time, held his hand and asked him if he wanted to say anything and promised to finish all his unfinished tasks. He just said "Always hold on to God" and "please keep regular spiritual meeting." When I bowed to him for the last time, I observed the usual gentle look on his face and his usual caring and tolerant eyes.

I am sure that he always has peace of mind as usual and is ready to meet our Lord. Please continue to pray for him as a token of gratitude for all that he has done for the Movement and for those he had helped and also had the privilege of meeting him.

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## *Farewell Friend...*

*Many years with you, we shared the same path  
Holding on to God - still doing just that  
Loving our brothers - a Cursillista's task  
Sharing the Good News - so heavenly glad!*

*And we always knew that this day would come  
That we each in turn would truly "go home"  
Whenever our loving God's calling us  
Ashes to ashes, dust to dust...*

*Then the news hit me, you were gone  
In shock and sorrow, I quietly mourned  
You're so dearly loved by all you touched  
I treasure our friendship very much!*

*So peacefully you slowly departed  
Ringing in us your inspiring remarks  
"In the Lord we trust, evermore a must  
Offer up to Him all our dreams."*

*Now sadly I accept that you're no longer here  
Away from us, but to God, you are near  
Greatly we'll all miss our dear brother  
May your kind soul rest in peace forever!*

*Shalom my friend.*

*(As my prayer for the gentle soul of Joseph Hoang Tran, a beloved friend, a wonderful Cursillista.)*

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*(J&j translation)*



## How Brother Hoang's Faith Inspired Mine

In July of 2013, I made my Cursillo and was fortunate to be in the same Region 8 as Brother Hoang, who accepted his position as the National Cursillo Service Administrator in March of the same year. Like many of us, we encountered Christ and wanted to share the joy with as many people as possible. Our Group Reunion reached out to other Cursillistas for assistance and formed a Vietnamese Language Cursillo Movement with the Diocese of Fort Worth – eventually leading to our own Cursillo Weekend. We were fortunate to have our brothers and sisters from the Diocese of Dallas and the Diocese of Orange to assist with logistics and manpower, but it was Brother Hoang who helped me understand the hows and whys. I learned through Cursillo that no matter how far away, what language, or nationality you are, God always provides help.

Brother Hoang's favorite quote was "The Cursillo is to live the Mystical Body of Christ," which he used as his motto for his spiritual life. He lived his faith in inspiring ways, and here are some of how he inspired me:

*Prayer:* Brother Hoang spent one-on-one time with his boss and friend, Jesus, before beginning his day. He attended daily Mass and even built a special, sacred place in his home for Jesus to talk to him. During one of our Virtual Regional Encounters, Brother Hoang messaged me, "Be right back! One-on-One with my Boss!"

*Readiness to Help:* The word "no" did not exist in Brother Hoang's vocabulary. I remember seeing him loading and helping Cursillistas with their luggage and greeting them as they left as early as 4 AM for the airport after the National Encounter. On another occasion, he waited until the last person arrived before resting during our training in Scranton, PA. He quietly set up sound systems alone and prepped podiums for the speakers, allowing other participants to socialize.

*Encouragement:* Whenever I needed advice or a second opinion, Brother Hoang would say, "Don't be afraid. It doesn't matter how many years you have been in Cursillo; you have Jesus, and He will provide!"

*Promotion of Love and Unity:* Brother Hoang's advice regarding issues or conflicts within our Movements was to remember the four letters before attending the National Secretariat Meeting:

**C** for **Christ and Cursillo**, **L** for **Love**, **H** for **Humility**, and **F** for **Friendship**.

*Humility in Leadership:* Brother Hoang could lead and influence people. He initiated the \$3 Year Donation Campaign and was known as the \$3 Man to benefit our Movement but took no credit for himself. He often referred to his title as "NADA" versus NCSA.

In conclusion, reflecting on Brother Hoang's life – it is hard to understand God's reasons, but it is a good reminder to trust that God has a purpose. He orchestrated the events in our lives according to His good plan, and Brother Hoang followed God's will and completed his mission for Christ. Let us all pray for Brother Hoang on his Fifth Day journey with our Lord, along with our Founder Eduardo Bonnin and all Cursillistas.

De Colores!

Maria Nga Nguyen

## Farewell to Hoang Tran, a Friend, a Servant Leader

*This article contains excerpts from Hoang's talks at the National Encounter in August 2016. This is who he was. May his soul Rest in Peace.*

"I'd like to tell you things about myself that are not included in my biography. I am an introvert type of person, and I hate fundraising, I hate asking for people's money even though I know how to do it. Three years ago, I visited the National Cursillo Center (NCC) in Jarrell, TX, after the interview for the National Cursillo Service Administrator position, and I was struck immensely by its simplicity and humbleness!"

"I told myself I must do something for the Cursillo, and that deciding moment pushed me out of my introvert shell, and I have actively found ways to help the National Cursillo Center. I asked Jesus, "How can I help the National Cursillo Center to recover its financial stability? Please give me an easy solution because you know I am an extreme introvert!" And behold, the \$3/YR campaign idea came to mind, and I knew it was from Jesus! Some Cursillistas praised me for the idea, but I told them it was Jesus' idea, not mine. Having confidence in Jesus' companionship and out of love for Cursillo, I don't mind being a broken record asking \$3 from you again and again until we reach our goal."

"After surrendering my will and saying YES to the Lord, our family was swept by His Tsunami of Love from California to Texas! Some friends told me, "Wow, it's a huge sacrifice you're making for the Cursillo by moving to Texas!" No, they're wrong!"

"In fact, it was a heavenly reward the Lord granted me, and I kept praising Him every morning I got up from bed. The greatest reward I received from God is you, my friends! I lost count of how many new friends I made during the past three years, and it's been such a blessing and mystery to me. It was a great experience of getting out of my comfort zone to follow Christ blindly, and I can assure you that the Lord never fails you! Following Christ is full of pleasant surprises and joy! Yes, it's a nice surprise that Jesus gave me the idea of a \$3/YR campaign and its synergy!"

"I'd like to share a strange experience about vacation while I am serving the Cursillo full time. I used to work for high-tech companies as director of design engineering. I designed a frequency generator chip in your computer, which is also known as the heart of the PC. It provides heartbeats (frequencies) for the CPU, memory card, keyboard, etc. I managed three design teams: two in San Jose and one in Singapore. I normally worked 12-14 hours a day, and I always looked forward to vacations to relax and forget about the stress at work. However, when I said YES and worked for Christ full time, I worked 14-16 hours daily, including the weekend! The strange thing is that when I took a vacation, I was still thinking of Cursillo and thinking of you, my friends! Then I realized that I could take a vacation from my job, but I could not take a vacation from my vocation, from my calling. I asked myself: Can I take a vacation from my wife or children? No way!"

"I hope you're enjoying every moment of your life with Joy in your heart, a Smile on your face, and a Kerygmatic De Colores for the world with your conviction and living witness!"  
De Colores!



"HE HAS RISEN,  
HAVE FAITH IN HIM...  
AND HE WILL ALWAYS BE  
THERE FOR YOU!"

HAVE A BLESSED AND  
HAPPY EASTER!



**2023**  
**NATIONAL**  
**ENCOUNTER**  
CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY | OMAHA, NE

July  
20-23

REGISTER BY JUNE 7, 2023: \$450 PER PERSON,  
\$50 MORE AFTER JUNE 9, 2023. WE ARE UNABLE TO  
GUARANTEE ATTENDANCE AFTER JULY 8, 2023.

[www.natl-cursillo.org](http://www.natl-cursillo.org)