



Servant of God

Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló

Founder of

Cursillos in Christianity

1917 – 2008

August 2025

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National Cursillo Center
P.O. Box 799
Jarrell, Texas 76537
512-746-2020
512-746-2030 (Fax)

Pilgrimage to ROME

Fortunately, God granted me the great gift of going to Rome this Jubilee Year 2025 with a very appropriate theme, “Pilgrims of Hope,” and on that pilgrimage I experienced moments that I had been eagerly looking forward to. During every minute of my pilgrimage, God’s love was quick to manifest itself, as the highlight was when we had the opportunity to see Pope Leo XIV up close on three different occasions in St. Peter’s Square. These were moments very close to Christ, a dream that, by the grace of God, came true.

On this pilgrimage, I was accompanied by my husband John, a small group of friends including a deacon and the spiritual advisor of the diocese where I live. We also felt honored because we were accompanied by a great friend, a priest who currently lives in Rome, and we had the opportunity to share and deepen our friendship. He celebrated daily Mass for us in different basilicas and shrines, even in the catacombs. We also went to Assisi, Orvieto, and other places. Together we had unique and unforgettable experiences that I will always cherish in my heart. I owe all this to God and to the friendship I have found in Cursillos.

Our journey consisted of visiting places of pilgrimage, passing through the Holy Doors of the major basilicas and shrines where we gained indulgences.

These experiences and the World Ultreya have renewed my faith, my hope, my joy, and have motivated me to continue with a fervent heart for the Lord and for this blessed movement. The theme of the Ultreya was: “Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the road?” (Lk. 24:32), which is what I felt during the pilgrimage. Everything I experienced has encouraged me to continue walking in friendship with confidence in the Lord and the certainty that he walks with us.

The words of the Ultreya still resonate with me: “We must understand our Cursillo charism as a pearl that we have received and must care for, not only as a pearl, but as a seed that we have also received and must bring to fruition.” They also told us that we must be like “penguins and sharks”; we cannot stop moving, we cannot stop swimming, we cannot stop seeking new paths and continuing to make our movement bear fruit.

Experiencing the Ultreya, reconnecting with friends, meeting new ones from other parts of the world, was wonderful and filled my heart with joy. Even though we spoke different languages, we felt the same spirit, the grace of God.

In conclusion, I can say that my pilgrimage was an exceptional experience that exceeded my expectations. I ask God to grant me the opportunity to attend the next World Ultreya. And may I relive it every day with enthusiasm and joy, living the mission that God has entrusted to me, continuing to evangelize, embodying the charism, and bringing friends closer to Christ. It is up to us to go to others, to those who are far away, always offering our friendship. Ultreya!

Always walking forward together,

De Colores!

Carmen Golias - Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas

THE HOLY DOORS OF THE JUBILEE

In 2024 when the World Ultreya was announced, I experienced a deep calling to be there, to bring Cursillistas, fellow pilgrims on my journey. With the permission of the National Secretariat and the NACG, I organized a tour to include the Cursillo World Ultreya and to walk through the four Holy Doors of Rome. Since the 15th century, it has been a ritual to open these locked doors for the Jubilee year, which in recent history is every 25 years. These sealed gateways are part of the major basilicas in Rome: St. Paul Outside the Wall, St. John Lateran, Mary Major, and the most famous, St. Peter's. The unlocking of these doors is a manifestation of the Church welcoming the pilgrims on their journey with open arms. If you are prepared and prayerful, a plenary indulgence can be granted for each door you pass. What is plenary indulgence? It is a special grace offered to remove all temporal punishment

for sins that have already been forgiven through confession. It provides complete purification, sparing a soul from further spiritual reparation for past wrongs.

The Holy Doors symbolize an entry into new life, a crossing from sin into grace, and a commitment to spiritual renewal. There are four conditions for gaining plenary indulgence. First, to have a spirit of faith and conversion. Second, to have received the sacrament of confession shortly before or after passing the holy doors. Third, to receive the Eucharist ideally on the same day. Fourth, to pray for the intentions of the Pope. The last is a true desire to not sin. Renouncing sin to live a virtuous life.

On June 3, along with 3 priests and 40 Cursillistas, I journeyed to Rome for the NACG Pilgrimage. I received the sacrament of confession the day before I flew to be ready to visit

the Holy Doors. As soon as we left the airport, the pilgrimage began at St. Paul Outside the Wall. At this door, our guide explained to us the respectful way of prayerfully passing through the door. I passed through the door in awe, touching its golden bronze figures, blessing myself with the cool water from the font just inside the church. I prayed and wondered if I was ready to receive the indulgence.

In the afternoon on that first day in Rome, we ventured to St. John Lateran to experience another spiritual passage after which we celebrated Mass in the Baptistry fulfilling the third condition. As the day ended, the feeling of being a true pilgrim for Christ overwhelmed me. We waited two days before rising early and walking to the Basilica of Mary Major, I walked through the door feeling free and renewed to open my arms to my faith. We immediately celebrated Mass then visited the

Tomb of Pope Francis. Prayers for the Pope's intentions were offered to our past spiritual leader and new leader, Pope Leo XIV.

We had the opportunity to again visit St. Paul Outside the Wall to attend the Cursillo World Encounter with 3000 Cursillistas on fire. At the World Ultreya, I was able to embrace a friend, who had recently lost her husband to cancer, he was a true leader in Cursillo. That night I remembered Fr. Einer sharing that we can give our plenary indulgence to a deceased person so they can be freed from the consequences of their sins in purgatory. The next morning, we ventured to the Vatican, as I passed through the last Holy Door at St. Peter's, I offered my indulgence to my friend's husband, may his soul be with Jesus. De Colores!

*Bobbi LaVoie
Diocese of Rochester, NY*



The National Cursillo Secretariat is excited to welcome Rev. Dr. Edgardo Jara, O.F.M., "Fr. Lalo" as the National Spiritual Advisor for the US National Cursillo Movement. Congratulations, Fr. Lalo!

Rev. Dr. Edgardo Jara, O.F.M., affectionately known as Fr. Lalo, lived his Cursillo in 2015. He served as the Cursillo Spiritual Advisor for the Archdiocese of Washington, DC, from 2015 to 2020 and from 2022 to 2024.

Fr. Lalo has felt a commitment to the church from a young age. He was called to discern a religious vocation in 1997, entering the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans) in Mexico. Through much change and misdirection, the Lord led Fr. Lalo back to the Franciscans in 2012. He then earned his Master of Divinity and was ordained a Priest in 2017. Ministering primarily on the East Coast, his dedication to grassroots ecclesial communities culminated in a Doctor of Ministry. His missionary zeal extends into the digital world. Fr. Lalo hosts a podcast called Fe + Coffee, offering reflections on the mystery and centrality of the Eucharist.

Fr. Lalo was born in San Carlos, Costa Rica, and raised in a deeply faith-filled family. He is currently the Pastor at the multi-lingual parish of Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside, CA. In addition to his love for teaching and preaching, Fr. Lalo enjoys hiking, exploring new cultures and traditions, traveling, singing, watching movies, relaxing in a hammock, and—staying true to the spirit of his podcast—drinking plenty of coffee.

As dawn broke on the first days of January, the world brimmed with a renewed sense of hope. We welcomed the new year as the Jubilee Year 2025, Pilgrims of Hope. This also coincides with the 6th World Ultreya in Rome.

It was a beautiful experience along with 39 members of our group from southern and northern California lead by a Spiritual Advisor. Each day new graces unveiled, from the gentle camaraderie during shared meals and the silence and awesome feeling of hope as we entered ancient basilicas, hearts open to the sacredness of the 4 Holy Doors, from St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, Basilica of St. Paul and St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican. Each door that we entered started with the Jubilee prayer. Our path led us through winding cobblestone streets, past monuments steeped in centuries of faith, as we traced the footsteps of countless pilgrims before us. And of course, a trip for gelato was never missed.

Our 6th World Ultreya was held at the Basilica of St. Paul outside the walls and was attended by thousands of Cursillistas from different parts of the world. It was a great reunion to see friends whom I met during our visit in Mallorca, Bro. Alfred Bongi, International Rep. from Australia, the President of the APG Service Committee, Bro. Conrado P. Dizon whom I only had

spoken on the phone during my visit in the Philippine last February 2025 and other Cursillistas we encountered at the several National Encounters. It was an encounter of many languages with one voice and the same message of God's love communicated through friendship.

There were witness talks presented in different languages and affirmations as well. We as part of the NACG rendered a song of peace. There were participations from different languages and rekindling of friendship.

Blessings JUBILEE of YEAR 2025

This path that we experienced is one of the values of the ongoing companionship of fellow Cursillistas. The following day we lined up along with many church ministries to visit St. Peter's Basilica and passed the 4th Holy Door. It was very hot, and the line was long but the anticipation and prayers of passing the last of the 4 holy doors gave me the feeling of content. Thousands of pilgrims stood in the heat of the sun.

The evening was spent with the pre-vigil (Vespers) at St. Peter's Square, where we had a very close encounter with Pope Leo XIV

on his Pope mobile. Screams and yells of "De Colores Pope and we love you Pope" was returned with smile, wink and thumbs up. It was a true joy. He has this aura of calm and love as he kissed little children.

Then Sunday was spent with another long line for the Pentecost Mass, presided over by the Holy Father Pope Leo and hundreds of priests in attendance including all the priests from our group and those we know from OMCC and NACG. Hundreds of thousands of people with banners and priests lined up for the mass.

We journeyed side by side and discovered that our Christian life built with genuine friendship will leave an impact to each one of us and there will be a continued sharing of stories, prayers and simple message. After our trip there's a unique bond that was formed and the Jubilee 2025 truly gave us the sense that we are all Pilgrims of Hope. The bond that was created needs to be nurtured with the blessing of the Holy Spirit. The life of the Cursillo is sustained by supportive environment grounded by the best news, that God in Christ loves us and communicated by the best means FRIENDSHIP!

Ultreya...onward we go!

*Penny de Leon,
Diocese of Oakland*

A PILGRIMAGE THROUGH FAITH AND BEAUTY: *My Jubilee Year in Italy*

Walking through the Holy Doors of the four papal basilicas in Rome—St. Peter's, St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, and St. Paul Outside the Walls—was more than a symbolic act of faith during the Jubilee Year; it was a journey steeped in reverence, connecting our steps to centuries of prayer, tradition, and transformation.

We were truly blessed to be accompanied by Father Dinh VoTran, our Cursillo Spiritual Advisor, whose guidance elevated this pilgrimage beyond travel—it became a spiritual awakening. Father Dinh didn't just lead us to each Holy Door; he educated us on their biblical and doctrinal significance, grounding our journey in Scripture and tradition.

One of the most awe-inspiring moments was witnessing the Pentecost Mass at St. Peter's Square, surrounded by pilgrims from around the globe. The square overflowed with faith—chants, prayers, and the sacred stillness of thousands standing together as one. When Pope Leo IV appeared in his Popemobile, gliding past the rows of worshippers, time itself seemed to pause. His blessing radiated across the crowd like a wave of divine love. My heart swelled as my young adult children gazed in reverence, their faces lit with wonder. For them—and for me—it was a "wow moment" that stitched itself into the fabric of our faith journey.

Another unforgettable experience was attending the Sixth World Ultreya. It was our first time gathering with Cursillistas from every corner of the world. Though we spoke different languages and had never met, it felt as if we had known each other forever—greeting each other with warm smiles and heartfelt embraces. The love and unity we shared was unmistakable. That spirit of communion transcended every barrier and revealed the universal heartbeat of our movement.

Having my children with me made this pilgrimage even more meaningful. They not only witnessed the grandeur of our Church but came to truly understand its heart—especially through watching priests live humbly and sacrificially. Their eyes were opened to a quiet heroism: a simple life devoted to love, service, and the call of God.

This Jubilee pilgrimage was a truly memorable experience. From the sacred sites to the shared moments with fellow pilgrims, every step reminded us of the beauty of our faith and the joy of being part of something greater. The friendships, the quiet reflections, and the powerful celebrations brought new energy to our spiritual lives. It's a journey we'll carry with us—one that encourages us to keep growing in faith and walking with hope, wherever life leads.

De Colores!

Maria Nga Nguyen - Diocese of Forth Worth, TX



The Holy See

VIGIL OF PENTECOST

HOMILY OF THE HOLY FATHER LEO XIV

*St. Peter's Square
Saturday, 7 June 2025*

[\[Multimedia\]](#)

Dear sisters and brothers,

The Creator Spirit, whom we invoked in the hymn – *Veni Creator Spiritus* – is the Spirit who descended upon Jesus as the quiet driving force of his mission: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me” (Lk 4:18). When we ask the Spirit to enlighten our minds, to multiply our languages, to awaken our senses, to instill love, to strengthen our bodies and to grant us peace, we become open to God’s Kingdom. This is, according to the Gospel, the meaning of conversion. It is a “turning toward” the Kingdom already close at hand.

In Jesus we see, and from Jesus we hear, how everything changes because God is king, God is close to us. On this vigil of Pentecost, we are deeply aware of this closeness of God, of his Spirit who joins our lives to that of Jesus. We are caught up in the new things that God brings about, so that his desire for the fullness of life will prevail over the power of death.

“He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord” (Lk 4:18-19). Here tonight, we sense the fragrance of the chrism with which our foreheads have been anointed. Dear brothers and sisters, Baptism and Confirmation united us to Jesus’ mission of making all things new, to the Kingdom of God. Just as love enables us to sense the presence of a loved one, so tonight we sense in one another the fragrance of Christ. This is a mystery; it amazes us and it leads us to reflect.

At Pentecost, Mary, the Apostles, and the disciples with them received a Spirit of unity, which forever grounded in the one Lord Jesus Christ all their diversity. Theirs were not multiple missions, but a single mission. They were no longer introverted and quarrelling with one another, but outgoing and radiant with joy. Saint Peter's Square, with its wide-open and welcoming embrace, magnificently expresses the communion of the Church that each of you has experienced in your various associations and communities, many of which are the fruit of the Second Vatican Council.

On the evening of my election, moved as I looked out at the people of God gathered here, I spoke of "synodality," a word that aptly expresses how the Spirit shapes the Church. That word begins with the Greek word *syn* – meaning "with" – which speaks of the secret of God's life. God is not solitary. God, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is a "with" in himself, and God with us. At the same time, the word "synodality" speaks to us of a road ahead – *hodós* – for where there is the Spirit, there is movement, a journey to be made. We are a people on the move. This does not set us apart but unites us to humanity like the yeast in a mass of dough, which causes it to rise. The year of the Lord's grace, reflected in the current Jubilee, has this fermentation within it. In a divided and troubled world, the Holy Spirit teaches us to walk together in unity. The earth will rest, justice will prevail, the poor will rejoice and peace will return, once we no longer act as predators but as pilgrims. No longer each of us for ourselves, but walking alongside one another. Not greedily exploiting this world, but cultivating it and protecting it, as the Encyclical *Laudato Si'* has taught us.

Dear friends, God created the world so that we might all live as one. "Synodality" is the ecclesial name for this. It demands that we each recognize our own poverty and our riches, that we feel part of a greater whole, apart from which everything withers, even the most original and unique of charisms. Think about it. All creation exists solely in the form of coexistence, sometimes dangerous, yet always interconnected (cf. *Laudato Si'*, 16; 117). And what we call "history" only takes place as coexistence, living together, however contentiously, but always together. The opposite is lethal, but sadly, we are witnessing this daily. May your meetings and your communities, then, be training grounds of fraternity and sharing, not merely meeting places, but centres of spirituality. The Spirit of Jesus changes the world because he changes hearts. The Spirit inspires the contemplative dimension of life that rejects self-assertion, complaining, rivalry and the temptation to control consciences and resources. The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom (cf. 2 *Cor* 3:17). An authentic spirituality thus commits us to integral human development, to making Jesus' words a reality in our lives. When this happens, there is always joy: joy and hope.

Evangelization, dear brothers and sisters, is not our attempt to conquer the world, but the infinite grace that radiates from lives transformed by the Kingdom of God. It is the way of the Beatitudes, a path that we tread together, between the "already" and the "not yet," hungering and thirsting for justice, poor in spirit, merciful, meek, pure of heart, men and women of peace. Jesus himself chose this path: to follow it, we have no need of powerful patrons, worldly compromises, or emotional strategies. Evangelization is always God's work. If at times it takes place through us, it

is thanks to the bonds that it makes possible. So be deeply attached to each of the particular Churches and parish communities in which you cultivate and exercise your charisms. Together with the bishops and in cooperation with all the other members of the Body of Christ, all of us will then work together harmoniously as one. The challenges facing humanity will be less frightening, the future will be less dark and discernment will be less complicated... if together we obey the Holy Spirit!

May Mary, Queen of the Apostles and Mother of the Church, intercede for us.

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Friendship and the Art of Living: Bonnin's Final Gift

By Charley Green

When Gerry asked me for something for this newsletter, I thought, "What can I share that will help people know what Eduardo Bonnin was thinking?" Several years ago, I was given a copy of some rollos that Eduardo had given in Mallorca less than a year before his passing. He wanted so much to leave everyone with the simple, straightforward truth of the Cursillo as he understood it. Here are some excerpts from one of those rollos that was titled *Detalle*, or Details:



"The Cursillo is a process of friendship. To initiate this process of friendship, we must first understand ourselves, and then we must work to understand others. If we know ourselves, we will know how others are and how we are ourselves. To visualize this, imagine that each person has four sides. Inside each person, there is **truth**, there is **goodness**, there is **friendship**, and there is **contemplation**. I believe that if we could reach inside and take hold of the folded-up edges of this person's four-sided sheet, each one of you could pull down the side that I tell you to. Then one side would unfold for the truth, another for goodness, another for friendship, and another for contemplation. We all have these four attributes. You can call them the four zones. It just so happens that sometimes one zone or another goes to sleep, very often we are oblivious to it."

"**Truth**, the truth sets us free. If you want to feel free, you absolutely must be truthful. The truth sets us free, and this is very good..."

"**Goodness**, the goodness that makes us happy, doing good, being good. The only way to be happy is to be good, not pretend to be good..."

"**Friendship**, friendship is the spirit of living. Without friendships, you aren't alive. People can't live without one another, and family is not enough..."

"If we do not have **contemplation**, if we don't know how to admire things, to see things with new eyes every day, then we don't know how to live. We have just not learned the art of living..."

Eduardo has passed on into eternity and his final reward. Millions of people have been blessed because of his simple "Yes!" to our Lord. We may never be called to or enabled to do as much, but we must each do what we can. And we must not do it by any sort of mimicry or imitation. Rather, we must always find the pathway our Lord has chosen for each one of us, and we must always use these four principles as our certain guide rails and guard rails for our own "camino" throughout our life of being a Christian. Truth, Goodness, Friend-ship, and Contemplation — these are our trustworthy markers for a joyful and fruitful journey through this life in Him.



Stewardship in the Cursillo Movement

Stewardship in a Catholic Movement context refers to the responsible management and use of the gifts that God has given to the Cursillo community. This concept goes beyond financial support and encompasses the sharing of time, talent, and treasure as an expression of gratitude for God's blessings. It is a way of life that encourages Cursillistas to live as disciples of Jesus, reflecting their baptismal promises and motivating their actions through gratitude rather than obligation.

In essence, stewardship involves:

- Receiving God's gifts gratefully: Recognizing and appreciating the blessings and talents bestowed upon us.
- Cherishing and tending them responsibly: Using these gifts in a manner that is accountable and respectful.
- Sharing them in justice and love: Offering our time, talents, and resources to support the Cursillo Movement.
- Returning them with increase to the Lord: Enhancing and multiplying these gifts through our actions and contributions.

This holistic approach to stewardship aims to deepen personal relationships with Jesus and foster a spiritually vibrant and financially secure Cursillo Movement.

The Benefits of Stewardship

Stewardship and Friendship

We are associated, connected, linked, and related through friendship within the Body of Christ and the gift of Cursillo!

International & World Cursillo Stewardship

The US National Cursillo Movement is united with the NACG, North American Caribbean Group, through stewardship. The US, Canada, and the Caribbean Islands form the NACG International Group. National Cursillo is connected to the OMCC, the worldwide organization of Cursillos in Christianity. The OMCC includes four international groups.

Recognition from the NCCB and Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) recognizes the US Cursillo Movement. Most Rev. Eusebio Elizondo is the liaison between Cursillo and the NCCB. "The National Cursillo Movement of the USA enjoys the approval to develop and carry out functions as an Ecclesial Movement within the US Episcopal Conference." (Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, NCCB, May 4, 2023) The Dicastery for the Laity, Family, and Life acknowledges the US National Cursillo Movement.

Stewardship and Service to the Cursillo Movement

The dioceses serve the Cursillistas within their boundaries, the regions serve all the dioceses in the area, and the national secretariat supports the 12 regions of Cursillo.

Access to the Cursillo Bookstore, Materials, and Trademarks

One of the benefits of Stewardship is that it gives Dioceses access to the National Cursillo website, bookstore, materials, and registered trademarks, including the Cursillo name and logo.

Access to National Cursillo Workshops

The Regional Coordinators and Service Teams are available to inform the Diocesan Cursillo Secretariats and Schools about the Cursillo's founder, mentality, purpose, method, and charism through one-day or two-day custom workshops tailored to the needs of each diocese. This information is also accessible during the annual spring and fall regional encounters.

Access to The Cursillo Resource Center

Dioceses can access [My Resource Center](#) online to learn about the founder's life, the charism, and the history of Cursillo. Cursillistas can read, listen to, view, and download articles, audio files, and videos. These materials cover nearly every aspect of the movement.

Access to Diocesan-Regional Cursillo Website Listing

Dioceses and regions may request to link their diocesan or regional Cursillo website to the national Cursillo website at <https://cursillousa.org/links-contacts/>.

Access to Prayer and Palanca Request

Dioceses and regions can request [prayer and palanca](#) for Cursillo-related events.

Access to the National Cursillo Center

The National Cursillo Center is located at 250 W. FM 487 in Jarrell, TX 76537. The center is approximately 45 minutes north of Austin, TX. Stop by for a visit. The phone number is 512-746-2020, and the email address is admin@natl-cursillo.org.

Why is Stewardship Essential?

- Stewardship enables us to support each other's evangelization efforts beyond the borders of our local parishes and dioceses.
- Stewardship shows the unity of who we are as a movement across the diocesan, regional, national, and global levels.
- Stewardship ensures consistency in the Cursillo message, enhancing evangelization efforts.
- Stewardship unites us through diversity, love, and friendship.
- Stewardship preserves the movement's structure as a single body, with a unified essence, purpose, mentality, method, and charism.
- Stewardship helps maintain the financial stability of the Cursillo Movement, allowing it to keep serving the Cursillistas across the 12 Regions of the US.

How and Where is Stewardship Revenue Used?

- Daily operation of the National Cursillo Center.
- Insurance for the National Cursillo Center property.
- National Cursillo Center lease, computers, printers, shipping, utility bills, phone, internet service, and maintenance.
- Print and ship books to Cursillistas.
- Purchase Cursillo crosses, t-shirts, caps, mugs, etc.
- University fees and other expenses associated with the annual National Encounter.
- Travel expenses, room and board for Regional Coordinators (Fall Meeting) and Staff to attend the National Secretariat meeting in November.
- NACG affiliation.
- OMCC affiliation.
- Employee compensation.

Thank you for your friendship, leadership, service, and teamwork!v

National Cursillo Secretariat

National Spiritual Advisors

National Cursillo Language Coordinators

National Cursillo Center Coordinator

August 27, 2025