



National Cursillo® Movement

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Cursillo in Action

Presented by Hoang Tran, National Cursillo Service Administrator, at the 28th National Cursillo Encounter held at Seattle University in the Archdiocese of Seattle – August 17, 2018.

Let's begin with the Holy Spirit Prayer:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in us the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit and we shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray: O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructs the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

De Colores!

This is the information session so I'd like to update you on the headline news I just received today about Pope Benedict XVI almost getting a speeding ticket. Here's the story:

After getting all of Pope Benedict's luggage loaded into the limo, the driver notices the Pope is still standing on the curb.

'Excuse me, Your Holiness,' says the driver, 'Would you please take your seat so we can leave?'

'Well, to tell you the truth,' says the Pope, 'they never let me drive at the Vatican when I was a cardinal, and I'd really like to drive today.'

'I'm sorry, Your Holiness, but I cannot let you do that. I'd lose my job! What if something should happen?' protests the driver, wishing he'd never gone to work that morning.

'Who's going to tell?' says the Pope with a smile!

Reluctantly, the driver gets in the back as the Pope climbs in behind the wheel. The driver quickly regrets his decision when, after exiting the airport, the Pontiff floors it, accelerating the limo to 205 kph. (*Remember, the Pope is German and he didn't know there's a freeway speed-limit in other countries!*)

'Please slow down, Your Holiness!' pleads the worried driver, but the Pope keeps the pedal to the metal until they hear sirens.

'Oh, dear God, I'm going to lose my license -- and my job!' moans the driver.

The Pope pulls over and rolls down the window as the cop approaches, but the cop takes one

look at him, goes back to his motorcycle, and gets on the radio.

'I need to talk to the Chief,' he says to the dispatcher.

The Chief gets on the radio and the cop tells him that he's stopped a limo going 205 kph.

'So bust him!' says the Chief.

'I don't think we want to do that, he's really important,' says the cop.

The Chief then asks, 'Who do you have there, the mayor?'

Cop: 'Bigger.'

Chief: 'A senator?'

Cop: 'Bigger.'

Chief: 'The Prime Minister?'

Cop: 'Bigger.'

Well,' says the Chief, 'Who is it?'

Cop: 'I think it's God – Jesus Christ!'

The Chief is even more puzzled and curious, 'What makes you think it's Jesus Christ?'

Cop: 'His chauffeur is the Pope!'

I laughed out loud but when I thought of it more I learned a good lesson from this humorous story: The cop knew God's existence when he saw the Pope, right? In other words, the cop found Jesus Christ was with him!

I still remembered Fr. Einer Ochoa, in his keynote at Region XI Encounter, asked people to greet the persons sitting next to them "Hi, Jesus!" That struck me hard because it was a good reminder that we need to see Jesus in each person and as a result, our attitude and reaction would change accordingly whenever we encounter anyone in our movable square meter! Fr. Einer never knew his simple request has impacted me spiritually!

I am certain each one of us here has impacted others in our moveable square meter in our daily life by what we say, how we act or react, what we do, by just a simple gesture of reverence when we make the sign of the Cross in Church, etc.

That's what I meant about 'Cursillo in Action'. 'Cursillo in Action' is **not about doing** Cursillo events such as Cursillo weekends, Regional Encounters, National Encounter, CDCs, workshops, fund raising, charity drive, etc. but its' about **being a person**, something continuously authentic!

I was amazed when I learned from Cef Aguillón, our National English Coordinator, that he used to spend a whole month on a road trip to visit Diocesan Cursillo Movements in different regions. A whole month away from family! I am 100% sure that he was willing to do so because he loves Cursillo so much! Cursillo is in his heart!

Juan Ruiz, my twin brother, our National Hispanic Coordinator, was willing to travel around the world to promote the Cursillo whenever he was invited. Cursillo is in his blood!

Vincent Pham, our National Vietnamese Coordinator, almost stepped into his 5th day in 2016 due to neural virus attack and he couldn't remember anything except the word 'Cursillo'. Cursillo is engraved in his brain!

Patrick Anderson, our National Cursillo Center office manager, is willing to drive from Jarrell, TX to Dallas, TX to pick up books at 6 am to save the National Cursillo Center some shipping cost. He doesn't have to do it but he's willing to do so because he treats Cursillo as his own! He has saved every penny he can for the Center.

All members of the NACG (North American Caribbean Group) Executive Committee are serving you as volunteers at this Encounter: Hugo Valverde as an usher, Jackie DeMesme-Gray as the encounter liaison, Jim Santos selling raffle tickets, Marisela Rodriguez-Garcia is willing to serve as an interpreter. Unfortunately, Marisela couldn't make it due to her Grandfather's illness.

In Cursillo vocabulary, there are no such words as "have to", "must", "ought to", but "willingness" or "willing to" because of love!

It would take hours to mention all the Cursillistas that have impacted my life in different ways. But they all have the same characteristics: **LHF** (Love, Humility and Friendship)

National Cursillo Center (NCC)

Some of you have not seen the photo of the Cursillo Movement's 'headquarters' in Jarrell, TX and most visitors miss it when they drive there. Do you know why? Because it's a 'Hidden Treasure'.



People might think it's a high rise building like the Trump Tower or the Space Needle of Seattle. That's why they missed it! When I first saw the Center, I felt strongly attached to it that I was willing to move from San Jose, CA to be present at this lovely Center! I don't have to, but I am willing to! And our Lord miraculously made it happen in 2014 and my whole family was swept by His "Tsunami of Love" from CA to TX and we've been happy to live there!



Have you heard of the “Pokémon Go” game that has been so popular lately? People enjoy searching for Pokémon in the park. During the thunderstorm season, I enjoy searching for “Pokémon” on the front yard of National Cursillo Center (NCC) for a while before I enter the Center. Do you know why? Because there are lots of puddles after the rain and I had to search for the dry spots to step on so that I could get into my office dry and clean. ☺ Looking

from a distance it seemed like I was playing “Pokémon Go”! ☺

There’s a suggestion that I should build a parking lot for visitors, so they don’t have to search for Pokémon after the rain and the quote is \$60K. And I told my office staff: “Forget it! We’d rather use \$60K for something that will benefit Cursillistas, such as workshops for starting up Cursillo in an area, book price reduction, etc.”

Just for your information, we haven’t spent a penny of the \$3/YR Campaign fund on the NCC. If you open the \$3/YR campaign brochure, the NCC is at the bottom of the list and unfortunately our funds have not trickled down to the NCC yet. So I brought my concern to Jesus during my 1-on-1 with him and I was amazed of his great sense of humor! I asked him: “Lord, you know I am an extreme introvert and I hate to sound like a broken record asking for \$3/YR again and again. So, can you give me \$3 million so we can be done with the Campaign? And he said “Granted!” I thought he would ask Bill Gates or Warren Buffet to wire the \$3 million to the NCC account but I just wanted to make sure and asked him “how, Lord?”. And do you know what his answer was? “\$3 has been wired to each Cursillista in the USA” . . . back to square one! ☺ I did the math and yes, we have 1 million plus Cursillistas in the USA and it does add up to \$3 million! So, I’d like to make a nice request to all Cursillistas in the USA: “The first \$3 in your bank account is for the Cursillo, the rest is yours! Could you wire \$3 back to NCC?” ☺

My dear friends, Pat Tower and Linda Bryant - previous Regional Coordinators, approached me 2 years ago and offered to oversee the \$3/YR table during the Encounter because they felt pity on me. ☺ So, if you want to leave a legacy to our beloved Cursillo Movement, please see Pat and Linda during breaks.

Lesson learned: sometimes we just want to find an easy path, a short cut or a bypass. But it might not be what our Lord wants. So we need to discern God’s will, **want what God wants, do what God wants and live what God wants!**

I know that many Cursillistas have not taken the opportunity to visit the National Cursillo website. Do you know we actually have 3 websites in English, Spanish and Vietnamese with tons of information about Cursillo?

www.natl-cursillo.org (English)

<https://www.natl-cursillo.org/espanol/inicio/> (Spanish)

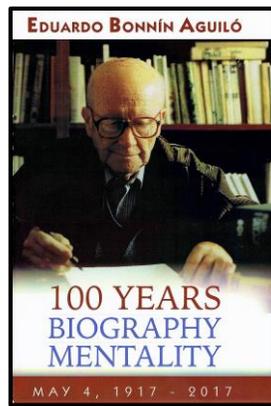
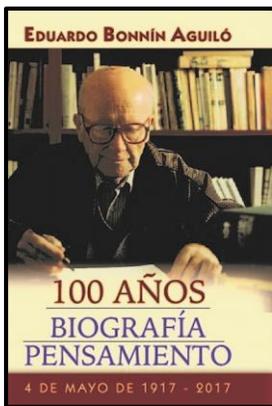
<https://www.natl-cursillo.org/tieng-viet/trang-nha/> (Vietnamese)

How many of you have accessed My Resource Center, Cursillo de Cursillos (CDC) page, Founder page, National Newsletter, Forms and Memos, Donations page, etc.?

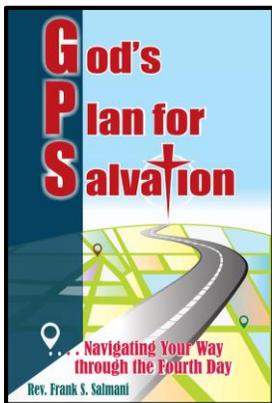
National Staff is currently posting a series of 10 rollos from the revised translation of *1st Conversations of Cala Figuera* in My Resource Center. Our goal is to go deep into the Foundational Charism!

National Cursillo Bookstore

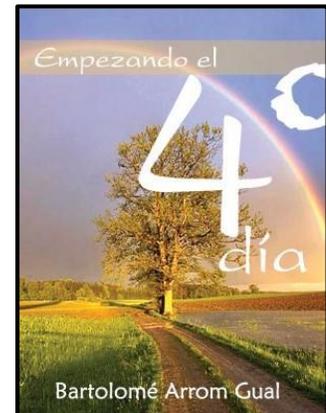
I am glad to announce 4 new books that are available at this National Encounter. You are the first to see them and buy them!



Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló - 100 years – Biography & Mentality is available in English and Spanish (special thanks to the authors Fausto Dâmaso and Mário Bastos – previous OMCC Executive Committee members). This book contains lots of priceless information about the life of our Founder and his mentality as well as the history of Cursillo in Christianity. I particularly like many of Eduardo's quotes that I can reflect upon and live my 4th Day fully and joyfully!

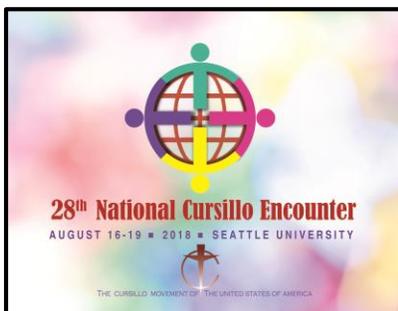


God's Plan for Salvation (GPS) – Navigating Your Way through the 4th Day by Fr. Frank Salmani who is also the author of the popular book *Whom Shall I Send, Discerning the Will of God*. Fr. Salmani uses his Sunday homilies as a context for living out the Fourth Day with reference to the Foundational Charism as a GPS to our salvation.



Empezando El 4º Día (Beginning the 4th Day) – was written by Bartolomé Arrom Gual. This book was written in Spanish by a very close friend of

Eduardo Bonnín and the entire book is a constant dialogue of questions and answers between a person who has just lived the Cursillo and a person who has been living it for many years.



Do you have the National Encounter booklets with you? Do you have any question about the symbol on the cover?

Somebody asked what it's about? Others just saw a circle with 4 knobs. Actually, if you look closer, there are 4 persons holding hands together. Who are they? They are representatives of 4 International Groups and this encounter is special because we have 3 of them here. It represents Unity in Diversity! It's God's

providence! We're so glad that Br. Juan Adolfo Moguel Ortiz, OMCC president, is here and we fully support his efforts to unite all 4 International Groups in Love, Humility and Friendship (LHF)!

I read *Eduardo's Reflection II – In Search of Oneself* again last week and really enjoyed it because I always find something new to reflection upon. Then I tried looking at the Cursillo Foundational Charism as a precious diamond at different angles and would like to describe Cursillo in 1-syllable words, 2-syllable words, 3-syllable and 4-syllable words as follows:

- 1-syllable word: **Christ/Love**
- 2-syllable word: **Friendship**
- 3-syllable word: **Encounters** (I really enjoy encountering the **'person'** in each and everyone of you!)
- 4-syllable word: **De Colores!** (multi colors! it's our 4th day living, unity in diversity!) Our 4th Day is just a *Kerygmic De Colores!* to everyone we meet with a smile because we have great joy in our hearts! I never see a Cursillista saying "De Colores" with a funeral face! Always with a joyful smile filled with grace! Do you agree with me that joy is contagious? We must be a 'good virus' to spread the joy of being loved by God to everyone, everywhere we go. Isn't that simple?

Somebody might ask me if I have a 5-syllable word. Well, I am not there yet! I still enjoy my 4th day and don't want to go the 5th yet. ☺ Stay tuned! I will ask uncle Eduardo Bonnín and let you know at the 29th National Encounter next year!

I love watching Symphony orchestras and I am amazed how all the musical instruments are synchronized and played in harmony for such a long period of time. I related "Cursillo in Action" to a "*Grand Love Symphony*" conducted by our Lord Jesus Christ! Each and every one of us is part of this orchestra! This year we're playing the *28th Love Symphony* right here, right now and I'd like to recognize all volunteers of Seattle and Region XII, especially Steve Murray – National Encounter Chairperson, who have played the "hospitality" instrument so beautifully! You're living witnesses of Love, Service and Friendship!

Back to the humorous story of the cop encountering Christ, I think it would be a great honor to be Jesus' chauffeur but I don't think he wants to be in the back seat though. So I asked Jesus "Can you drive my life, Lord?" and He happily replied "Yes, my friend!" and I happily jumped in the back seat to enjoy the ride with my best Friend and my Lord, Jesus Christ! ☺

De Colores!

Love never fails (1 Cor 13:8)