

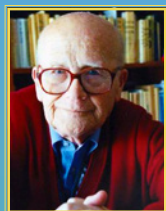


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CURSILLOS

in CHRISTIANITY

National Newsletter



Servant of God

Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló

Founder of
Cursillos in Christianity
1917 – 2008

August 2020

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EDUARDO BONNÍN AGUILÓ

100 YEARS

BIOGRAPHY, AND MENTALITY
- PART 2

BIRTH AND EARLY YEARS

Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló was born in Palma de Mallorca on May 4, 1917 in the family home where, until recently, Niza bar was located, in the heart of a Catholic family dedicated to the semi-wholesale trade and export of grains and nuts. He was the second of 10 children. One of his brothers became a Priest and one of his sisters became a Vowed Religious. In the early years, Eduardo received an intense religious education from his parents. His first studies were in the French School, in the La Salle Academy and his intellectual formation came from the Augustinian Fathers, and especially with professors that his parents paid to teach him at home.

MILITARY SERVICE

In 1936, Eduardo had a defining experience in his life: mandatory military service. Eduardo realized that many young people had completely different ideals of life from his, to the point of having said that, "There, completely different values were lived, quite opposed to those that had been my light and guidance since my youth," and then he continued by saying: "This shock, continuously proven in my life at the barracks, prompted me to have the following thought: do these people feel weighed down by the Law or do they ignore the Doctrine?" For various reasons, Eduardo came to the conclusion that, rather than being weighed down by the law, they had no idea of the doctrine. "When I joined the ranks, (in the military) and I engaged with a multitude of people, each one with a different personality, I understood that God loved them. It was then that I began to become interested in bringing them this reality."

MESSAGE OF THE FARAWAY

From what he saw, lived, and learned and all his concern for the person and for friendship, Eduardo saw an opportunity through this experience of the barracks: the importance of carrying the message that "God loves us," especially to the faraway, the "others," the unbelievers, the indifferent. Eduardo never lost his great desire to read and to stay abreast of the most current writers. He focused his reading on what he called, the "Thinkers who at that time were on the crest of the wave." And he read, read, and read. Providentially, the text of a discourse that Pope Pius XII had given to the parish priests and Lenten observers in Rome made its way into Eduardo's hands. It was February 6, 1940. The Holy Father urged us to look for "new" ways, different from the usual, so that everyone, but especially those faraway will know the Love of God. At this point in his life, this discourse, was the palanca that marked his action throughout his life: that everyone, but preferably those faraway, know that God in Christ loves them. This "Study of the Environment" is the beginning and source of everything that came after. Eduardo's preoccupations continued: it was necessary to carry the message that Christ loves us, person to person, especially to the distant ones (faraway), through friendship.

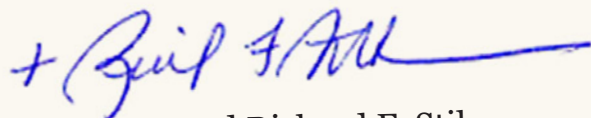
CATHOLIC ACTION

In order to understand the importance of Catholic Action in the life of Eduardo Bonnín, and later in what became the Cursillos in Christianity, it seems opportune to point out some related historical aspects. Catholic Action was created by Pius XI. Throughout Spain and also in a particular way in Mallorca, a great mobilization of young people had been planning a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, with the main objective of taking "100,000 young people from all of Spain to Santiago." The president of the youth of Catholic Action in Mallorca, José Ferragut, tried to find people with leadership skills that could help with this very ambitious task. That was when Ferragut found Eduardo Bonnín, a restless young man with a great sense of leadership. Eduardo did not belong to Catholic Action, although he had participated in some of its meetings. In Eduardo's opinion, Catholic Action reduced the field of action only to practicing "religious" and to the parishes and Eduardo understood that the work of the parish was good, but that it was necessary to reach beyond the parishes, as Pope Pius XII said. Eduardo's intention was to go further, to the faraway, to reach the unbelievers, the indifferent, those living in environments without Christian values. †

Dear Friends in Christ,

I made a Cursillo a number of years ago as a priest of the Archdiocese of St. Louis and am pleased to offer my whole hearted endorsement of the Cursillo Movement here in East Tennessee. A Cursillo weekend is indeed a spiritual journey, an opportunity to slow down and allow the presence of the Holy Spirit to touch one's life in a deep and meaningful way. However, what happens after the weekend is when the real benefit begins. You will learn how to truly enhance your spiritual life in ways that bring you closer to Our Good and Gracious Lord, and also give you specific methods to bring that same spiritual renewal to all your environments. This encounter with Christ allows you a deeper understanding of what it means to be a friend of Christ, and to bring your friends to Him. I believe you will find a Cursillo weekend to be one of the best ways you choose to spend three days. De Colores.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Richard F. Stika
Bishop of Knoxville



Well, it is now done. With great fun, hype, excitement, glitches and never-before done in Cursillo, online Rollos, the Virtual Encounter of 2020 happened. It happened so fast that it hardly seems, like it is already done. Amid a pandemic, social distancing, Zoom platform, breakout sessions and virtual Mass, upwards of 700 participants in two days experienced what could never have been imagined would ever happen at a Cursillo event - no in-person contact. Nothing in our square meter but our spouses, our pets, and our computers. After all, we are Cursillistas. We invite people in person, we group, we Ultreya, we were founded on personal friendship. We hug, we shake hands, we smile, we share meals; we are shall I say, "Virtually Present". And yet, Friday afternoon thru Saturday we were "Present Virtually".

OK, let us figure this out. Eduardo Bonnin, our founder, was known to keep many notes. I took notes. He structured a 3-day weekend that changed lives and had a direct impact on the world today. What did he teach us? To have an Ideal, to know Oneself, know Christ and know Others. Well, there we have it—Virtual National Encounter 2020 in a nutshell.

The Encounter has the ideal of ULTREYA in our current environment. We must study the people in our Environment. Our study led us past the quarantines, fear, lost hope, Satan rejoicing we closed our Churches. It led us to virtual platforms

that we could see each other's faces, hear our voices and yes sometimes hear the background environments on unmuted mics. The Holy Spirit inspired our leadership to not postpone or cancel, but to find a way. And they did. Bishop Nevares celebrated Mass as if a million people were there. Fr. Mark spoke about his Encounter with Christ. Nadia Lopez talked about Friendship. Cef Aguillon reminded us that we are called by God personally to serve through action. Juan Ruiz talked about being a Christian leader. Bobbi LaVoie gave her witness, she is listening to her call. Did anyone want this to be virtual? Of course not. But having it was far more important than not. ULTREYA - Onward, thru whatever obstacles. Success, yes SUCCESS!!!

I came out of this event inspired to action. My love for Cursillo grew. I had a Metanoia, a conversion of my resolve to keep pushing forward. I saw how many people were online, excited, waving at friends, talking over about another hundred people talking and still the messages got thru to their friends. I saw friends I have made over the last several Encounters and waved; they waved back---oh maybe they were waving at someone else—ok we'll just call it the Virtual Wave.☺ Break out rooms were a technical challenge but we carried on. We learn, we evaluate, we improve. We now have virtual ways to touch our environments. To Make a Friend, Be a Friend and Bring a Friend to Christ. De Colores and as always, ULTREYA!

Vince Johnson, Region 10 Coordinator



With great joy and much gratitude, I thank God for giving me the opportunity to participate in the Virtual National Encounter that took place on July 24 and 25, 2020. I want to thank all the participants for offering their time and effort by connecting through ZOOM to the Virtual Encounter and be part of this story.

I greatly admire the leadership and participation that the regional coordinators and other leaders had during the Virtual Encounter and for Jesse's and Nadia's patience and their great work. We were able to share in friendship with people from all over the nation and some people from other countries.

It is true that during the Covid-19 pandemic things are not the same. It is not the same connecting through virtual means than it is being in person. The lives of many people are not the same, our life is not the same. The reality in which we live is different, and although my wishes are so great to meet again in person and to fill the room with Cursillistas, the Virtual Encounter made me live the Charism of the Cursillo and experience friendship in a colorful party with all of you as if we were in person.

The Holy Spirit was always present at all times; the Rollos were connected to each other and I was very moved when Bishop Nevares spoke of the founders of the Cursillo Movement, of this beautiful gift that continues to live in our hearts. I reflected on the problems and obstacles that Eduardo Bonnín had, and I recognized that I need to read more, know more about Eduardo's thoughts in order to understand and discern how to better live the Charism of Cursillo and how I can better serve Christ through the Movement.

The Rollos made me reflect on Friendship, (Friendship with Christ, with myself and with others) in knowing that Christ loves me and that He wants me to be a Saint. For this reason, I am convinced, and now more than ever, committed to carrying the experience of Cursillo to all wherever I go. The Cursillo Movement was born to communicate to man that Christ LOVES him, especially those who are far away, but we need to be in Friendship with Christ to know him better, the more you know him the more you will reflect his light to attract others to Christ. We need to spend time with others, through personal contact, and by this, I mean that in the reality in which we live personal contact can be virtual, by phone or any other means. We need to be connected to know ourselves more, understand ourselves more, to listen to ourselves more because when we listen long enough as a friend, then the friend begins to ask you and know about you and the friendship grows.

Eduardo Bonnín said that people make and shape history and that, when the person is transformed through Friendship, history will be transformed from the inside out and the environments in all areas of our life will be transformed.

Now I have many more friends that I met during the Virtual Encounter, and I thank God for the technology because more than 700 people, through Zoom, experienced living in colors and the grace of sharing friendship. I encourage you to continue communicating to stay in contact to keep the flame burning and to live in colors with the hope of coming back together very soon with the embrace of Christ.

Conchita Mayorga, Region VI Spanish Coordinator



God is truly an all-knowing God and His ways are mysterious. Who can predict that in March of this year, 2020, that there will be a sudden abrupt global pause of the "normal" life we know and used to live? It was so unexpected that no one can even imagine it will happen during our lifetime. But one thing is certain through our faith and as baptized Catholic, God's grace outpours readily on earth during this troubled pandemic time. I also believe when a door closes and allow God to guide you, a window of hope and opportunity will open.

The Cursillo Movement prompted by the Holy Spirit held not in-person gathering but through God's gift of virtual connection. The virtual National Cursillo Encounter was in no way diminished the interconnection of the Cursillistas all over the United States. It was the attestation of a relationship inspired by strong friendship through their encounter with Jesus and are actively "living" their 4th day. The 700 registrants exuberantly greeted each other with resounding "Decolores!" as if everybody were in a real physical place. The smiles, the laughter, and the waving hands dominated the screen.

The Spiritual Keynote topic and Rollos vividly brought me back to my Cursillo. The Cursillo provided me concrete and rational information of the three encounters [self, Jesus, and others] to live a life of Christian discipleship. It opened the lenses of my life myopic vision to develop and improve the spiritual side. It was the starting point of my desire to know Jesus and to allow Him, in humility, to transform me to become a better loving Christian as depicted in the picture of "Christ at Heart's Door" in Revelation 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock."

All the talks by the four speakers were inspiring. It emphasized the essential message of the Cursillo Tripod; piety [heart], study [mind], and action [will]. It is the foundation of Christian spiritual life and when piety and study are done in constancy and with devotion, apostolic actions with love [doing the Lord's work in a Lord's way] will deliberately follow. Cef Aguillón stated "do not feel inadequate or not ready to the task" believe and trust in the Lord and it will work out. It reminded me of the passage in John 15:4 "Abide in Me and I in you, As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me."

Father Mark Seiker highlighted the practice of Piety as a friendship dialogue with Jesus. He explained different ways of praying and the best one I like is personal praying using the acronym A-C-T-S, Adoration, Contribution, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. It is simple, honest, and almost child-like talking to Jesus. Cef Aguillón mentioned several familiar catch-word phrases also caught my attention that reflect the virtue of humility such as "Don't impose, but propose", "Do not stand out but stand firm," Plainly speaking authentic Christian Leader is a humble servant leader as stated in Mathew 20:28 "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Gloria is the face and the voice of calmness amid technical problems. Her apologies were heartfelt by participants who were unable to initially enter the breakout room sessions. Her extreme patience and repeated kind instructive word is the calm within the storm of confusion that eventually helped resolved the issue. Juan Ruiz with his winning smiles and gestures and fun attitude was so engaging showed me and to the rest of the viewers the epitome of a Cursillista full of joy, a true authentic leader who boldly said "A beautiful world, very important people, and life is worth living for!"

At the end of the Clausura the words of our founder, Eduardo Bonnín, were very clear "We are asked NOT only to BRING the Good News but BE the Good News!"

Fe Hortinela, San Francisco Filipino Group Region XI

THE 30TH NATIONAL ENCOUNTER



1st VIRTUAL ENCOUNTER | JULY 24-25, 2020



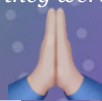
Being part of this Virtual National Encounter was a very "close moment with Christ" because I could see and feel the hand of Our Lord throughout the whole process, before during and after the Encounter. It was amazing how more than 700 Cursillistas got together simply to grow in the love and friendship of God. Hopping from one workgroup to the next was amazing because I got to see and shared with so many of the 700 cursillistas. Even through some of the technical difficulties, everyone stayed calm and just enjoyed the extra time together. God is so good!

Juan Ruiz, National Hispanic Coordinator



Preparing for the Virtual National Encounter, without knowing what to expect, I was very surprised on how smooth it was to get into the platform and see the amount of participants go up....up....to almost 700 Cursillistas. Seeing their faces as they joined the platform was breathtaking. Knowing how special the National Encounter is in person, I noticed and experienced the same joy, excitement, and spiritual insight as the participants. I was also moved by some of the messages, Cursillistas saying how touched and moved they were, even with technical issues.

Gloria M. Miranda



Bishop Neváres asking for forgiveness for all technical difficulties... at the beginning of Saturday Vigil Mass... I was touched by his humility.

Linda Buhay



The Virtual National Encounter was a real blessing! Connecting ~700 Cursillistas through technology brought forth the "joy of friendship" that comes from the heart. Although Cursillo is about "personal contact", God gave us the opportunity to come together virtually so that we could see each other, smile and wave at each other, and greet each other: De Colores! I thank every Cursillista who participated in the Encounter. Thank you for your presence. I also thank Nadia and her team for the great job they did in planning the Encounter. With God, all things are possible! De Colores!

Cef Aguillón, National English Coordinator



Amazing to see so many people so eager to meet each other, many more than I anticipated, admittedly. I almost missed it because of work but thanks God, I did not and had a chance to make history with the big Cursillo family. All the rollos were inspiring and touching. Thanks to all the rollistas, and the dedicated staff whose efforts are certainly noticed, that made it all possible. And thank you very much for the opportunity to have my tiny contribution, too. God is great! De Colores!

Jarell M.



Approximately 800 Cursillistas, laity, clergy, and religious gathered Virtually on July 24-25, 2020 to celebrate the 30th National Encounter and 1st Virtual Encounter. The world was paralyzed, but that did not stop us! We had several glitches, but the Cursillo Charism was present, and we made history!

Your presence, your patience, your friendship, your culture, and your love for Christ and Cursillo made this National Encounter very special. There was considerable diversity of language groups present at the first virtual encounter: English, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese. A 'special thanks' to all the Cursillistas who served behind the scenes to make this encounter possible and a sincere appreciation to Brother Jesse Jones, and Brother Dennis Gramalinda, both cursillistas from Region XI, Filipino language group; for your abundance of patience, serenity, and help with the virtual platform. Brother Jarell Minh from Region VIII, Vietnamese language group for designing our 1st Virtual Encounter T-shirt and flyer.

To all the rollistas, Executive Committee Chair Cindy Bruno, Master of Ceremony Gloria Miranda, the National Secretariat, Spiritual Advisors, Staff, Volunteers, and all participants; this encounter would not have been possible without your unconditional support and love of Christ.

Thank you to our spiritual advisors, to Most Rev. Eduardo A. Nevares, National Cursillo Episcopal Advisor, and Auxiliary Bishop of Phoenix, who live-streamed both masses from Phoenix. Keynote speaker Fr. Mark Seiker National Cursillo Spiritual Advisor spoke on the Personal Encounter with Christ. Deacon Andres Carrillo National Cursillo Assistant Spiritual Advisor, who prayed the Sabatina-Saturday devotion to Mother Mary. Ceferino Aguillon spoke on The Responsibilities of the Regional Coordinator, and Juan Ruiz spoke on The Christian Leader in the Cursillo Movement. The National Encounter ended with a special YouTube dedication of the De Colores song by Fr Einer Ochoa Region XI Spanish Regional Spiritual Advisor. After the National Encounter, many stayed on the virtual platform to continue socializing through friendship! Copies of all the talks presented during the National Encounter will be posted at My Resource Center on the National Cursillo website. Please allow 2-3 weeks for posting.



Nadia Valladolid, NCSA

Amazon Smile Update

From inception (November 2016–May 21, 2020): \$3060.67
Last quarter, May 21, 2020: \$237.75

Shop amazon Smile and select: National Cursillo Inc, in Jarrell TX as your non-profit of choice.

National Encounter \$3 campaign donations: \$2143

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