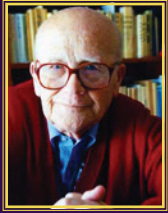




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CURSILLOS in CHRISTIANITY National Newsletter



Servant of God

Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló

Founder of
Cursillos in Christianity
1917 – 2008

February 2021

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

EDUARDO BONNÍN AGUILÓ

100 YEARS

BIOGRAPHY AND MENTALITY - PART 5

The year 1947 came and Fr. Juan Hervás Benet was appointed auxiliary Bishop of Mallorca by the Holy See with the right to succession. Fr. Juan Hervás immediately made contact with the embryonic reality of the Cursillos and was captivated by the spirit, the joy and the dynamism of the group that Eduardo Bonnín led. Later, in November of the same year of 1947, Fr. Sebastián Gayá was designated Diocesan Advisor to the Youth of Mallorca.

As we have seen, Bishop Hervás arrived in Majorca in March 1947, and Eduardo tells us the first moments of approaching the new Bishop of Mallorca with “his Cursillos”:

“When Dr. Hervás arrived in Mallorca we went to greet him. It was a normal visit to the new bishop from the Diocesan Council of Youth of Catholic Action, of which I was then the president. The bishop received us along with the entire Catholic Action, and he told us about his pastoral plans. I interrupted him saying that in Mallorca we had a procedure for winning young people over, which was what in the course of time would be called the “Cursillos in Christianity Movement.” So great was my impatience that I started to speak so vehemently that the bishop told me: ‘Will you shut up?’ Then he added, ‘today the audience is for all Catholic Action. We will arrange a day to be able to sit down and talk about it in detail’.

“When a few days later we went and talked with him, he was so thrilled that he was prepared to hold a weekly mass for us in the Episcopal house itself and lead us in a meditation before the mass. We agreed with him that 7 o’clock in the morning was the best time for the mass, so that we could all get to work on time. It was so agreed and done. The invitation was for all young people in Palma and we, the youth of Catholic Action, were the ones who were inviting them on behalf of the bishop. After the mass we used to have a small get-together, and when there had been new Cursillo weekends we would introduce the new Cursillistas to the Bishop”. (My Spiritual Testament, What Others Contributed to Cursillo, p. 53-54).

During year 1947, and in a very natural way, the third Cursillo was carried out with Eduardo’s outlines. It was held from April 16 to 20. Its Spiritual Director was Fr. Jose Estelrich, with Eduardo Bonnín acting again as Rector and joining them was only a single professor [rollista]: José Seguí.

In 1948 two Cursillos were held in close proximity. The first, which was already the fourth in history, was held during Holy Week with the “spiritual retreat” given by Fr. Amengual and Fr. Bartolomé Nicholas assumed the Spiritual Direction. José Ferragut acted as Rector and Eduardo Bonnín, Bartolomé Riutort and Juan Mir as professors [rollistas]. The second one in that year, the fifth in history, took place shortly after, in April, under the Spiritual Direction shared between Fr. Jose Esterich and Fr. Miguel Sastre. Eduardo Bonnín was Rector and Onofre Arbona and Antonio Salvá as professors [rollistas].

The “De Colores” Song

One of Eduardo’s ideas was to find songs that were not pious, but rather folklore, so that in times of rest or confusion in the Cursillo, they could sing and encourage the cursillistas. The **De Colores** song, and later the greeting with the same name, became important for Eduardo and for the Cursillos.

It is said that in a Cursillo, apparently in Montisión de Porreres, Eduardo realized that “things were not going well” so he asked Guillermo Estarellas to sing something to encourage and brighten the ambiance. There, Guillermo remembered a very popular song in Spain that his roommate sang when he studied in the peninsula, called **De Colores**. This is how it was sung and the Cursillo “took a turn” and it was well accepted by all.

(continue on page 3)

Baptism of THE LORD

NOTE: I focused on an optional Old Testament Reading — Isaiah 55:1-11, rather than Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 simply because the only time we hear this reading is at the Easter Vigil, which so many do not attend. It is too powerful to ignore, especially in our day and time.

SO....

Have you vented all your anger concerning the events of the past week? Have the ongoing promises of Coronavirus vaccines left you empty and upset? Did you allow things outside of your control cause inner tension? Now, have you prayed about these things more than vent, complain, and show anger? If you haven't, read the words of our Lord coming through Isaiah (55:1-11).

If you're thirsting for civility, for justice, for truth — "COME TO THE WATER." It doesn't cost a thing for us to give over our human response in favor of knowing God's want to comfort us. So, if you're tired of the rhetoric and you find it affecting your living as a believer in Jesus Christ and in the love of God — the Lord says: "HEED ME" and "LISTEN." Our God doesn't want influences and events to disturb the inner peace desired for us.

I know this is difficult. I have become very frustrated in not being able to receive a vaccine shot while expected to be present to the patients in the hospital — on the front line dealing with patients who are found carrying the virus the day after I anointed them and provided Communion. I am more exposed to the COVID virus than most police and fire personnel and EMTs, all who were provided the vaccine. I have been asked to come back into some nursing homes since residents and staff received shots. I wasn't called by any of them to receive a shot. What do I do? I listened to the Lord and went to the water! That is, I turned it all over to the Lord and then asked St. Joseph to intercede on my behalf since I do not — according to state guidelines — fit into either of the next two categories eligible for the shot.

SO, if you've been listing to bitterness, accusations, empty words of revenge, unfulfilled promises — and allowing them to affect your responses to life — "Listen that you may have life."

"I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David. As I made him a witness to the peoples, so shall you summon a nation you knew not, and nations that knew you not, will run to you, because of the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you."

Isaiah says, "Seek the Lord while He may be found, call him while he is near" — and open yourself to his thoughts and his ways. They are higher than our own. What a powerful reading this Isaiah reading is. God, as he did throughout His intervention in our human experience, wants to give us something we cannot give ourselves to satisfy our wants. It's an awareness of His mind and heart that continues to be ignored by man in the world today as it was in the time of Isaiah and the time of Jesus.

Now what we hear in the Isaiah passage takes form in Jesus' baptism when His purpose is first revealed. Jesus is anointed by the Spirit — the Spirit that is to be shown in power. It is divine sharing taking on human frailty. The beginning of God revealing Himself in and through us also happened at our baptisms when we were also anointed by the Holy Spirit with power. The words **"You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased,"** are spoken to us also at baptism. We have been wonderfully brought into the sharing of God's plan being fulfilled.

Jesus, in presenting himself for baptism, accepted the will of the Father. The first step of him being revealed occurs in the waters of the Jordan. The fullness of His revelation was to come through his submission to the Father's will — His death — but also His resurrection.



The first step of our revealing Jesus in the world and in our lives is also at baptism when we become his children and the words heard in the Gospel come alive for us: **"You are my beloved child; with you I am well pleased."** The fullness for us is in our submission to the Father's will that reveals Jesus Christ alive even today — when we seek, heed, and listen — when we accept His invitation to **"Come to the water."** These are actions of submission to the Father's will that reveal our lives in Jesus Christ and the fulfillment of the Father's Plan.

If you are thirsty — "Come to the water" — be renewed in the life you have been given.

Come to Divine Sharing! Get over the thought that you can move God to your way of thinking, to change his mind.

Brothers and sisters, the Lord says, *"You shall summon a nation you knew not, and nations that knew you not will run to you."* It may be one person at a time. That's okay, you're doing what you are called to do — calling others to the waters of life, to be fed by our compassionate, loving God as he speaks in new ways to us. When we accept the invitations of God to accept His way, heed His word, and seek him to be renewed in His way we enter Divine sharing — the Spirit of God becomes alive for us.

The frustration of our society has the ability to destroy people. I hear it time and again in speaking with people, in the confessional, in the abstinent behavior of people acting and speaking without regard for others. The hope for people is in the invitation of God that must be spoken and lived — revealed through you and me. A voice will not be heard from the heavens. It comes from the heart — the same heart that moved Jesus in His public ministry; the same Jesus who went to be renewed in the waters of life from the Father; who heeded and listened to the Father's assurance for His ministry and life.

For us, all of this is found in a true prayer life and fulfilled in the Eucharist, the sustaining gift needed to continue to live in the baptismal waters of life. But it is not for private use! God wants us to eat well, heed and listen to His word, be renewed, — and then enter into His ways, higher than the heavens as are His thoughts.


Fr. Tom Galvin, Spiritual Advisor Region 3

Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló: 100 Years - Biography and Mentality - Part 5 (continued)

This was in the beginning because afterwards, and due to its great acceptance, it started to be sung several times.

An important note about this song is that in the original song it said, *'and that's why I like the pretty girls of many colors.'* But when the bishop and the priests heard this section about the "girls", they told us that we had to remove it in spite of being beautiful. The "girls" were replaced by "loves" and thus the priests could then sing it. (*History of Cursillos in Christianity*, p. 137).

Cristóbal Almendro, in 1951, made an interesting and inspired analogy between grace and **De Colores**. This analogy, due to its clarity, was received with great enthusiasm by Eduardo, so the **De Colores** came to be like a "password" of the Cursillos, and the greeting **De Colores** among the cursillistas meant you were in a state of grace. When the answer was not **De Colores**, it was a sign that something might be going on. The **De Colores** is still used in the world, the world of Cursillos in Christianity, becoming the anthem song, although the Cursillo Movement has never recognized it as such, but the truth is that it identifies the cursillista family worldwide.

Thus, began the use of the term, **De Colores**, meaning "to be well", "to be in the Grace of God". And so, in a very concise way, this explains the proliferation and the meaning of **De Colores**, as a song or as a greeting between Cursillistas. 



My name is Conchita Mayorga, I lived my Cursillo in June 1995. Thank God we celebrated our 25th marriage anniversary in September 2020. We have four children and a grandson. I currently live in the City of Omaha, Nebraska. I will be serving as Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the National Secretariat in the United States in 2021. This opportunity is an honor and a privilege for me.

The National Secretariat meets twice a year and the meetings are led by the Executive Committee. One of the main functions of the Executive Committee is to implement the norms previously established by the National Secretariat, and to act on matters that arise from the meetings.

The Chairperson of the Executive Committee is responsible for presiding over the meetings of the National Secretariat, ensuring that each meeting is planned effectively and carried out in accordance with the Articles of Operation of the Cursillo Movement, and that matters are dealt with in an orderly and efficient manner.

During these meetings, the Chairperson will give the opportunity to all the members of the National Secretariat to express themselves freely and with respect. All decisions taken individually or collectively are subject to the approval of the National Secretariat at the next scheduled meeting.

The Executive Committee will also assume the role of the Personnel Committee.

The Personnel Committee has the responsibility of hiring, evaluating and, if necessary, dismissing the personnel of the National Cursillo Center. The committee reviews evaluations of work done by the National office completed by the Administrator.

The committee conducts an annual review of the National Cursillo Service Administrator (NCSA) service as indicated in the job description.

The committee conducts an annual review of the National Language Coordinators services as indicated in their job description.

The committee conducts other functions requested by the National Secretariat.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, The National Secretariat were unable to meet in person as planned in November 2020.

Thanks to technology we had our virtual meeting on January 22-23, 2021, where the new members of the Executive Committee for this year were introduced and commissioned:

Chairperson:	Conchita Mayorga
Vice-Chairperson:	Bobbie LaVoie
Secretary:	Steve Krause
Member-at-Large:	Carol Reyes

In addition to the introduction of the new Executive Committee members, among other matters, the National Secretariat agreed to initiate the process to hire a National Coordinator for the Vietnamese Cursillo community.

We thank Cindy Bruno for her commitment, dedication and service as Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

I sincerely ask for your prayers, so that the Holy Spirit inspires us and guides us to make the right decisions, that will help unite the Cursillo Movement and that through humility we can carry out a better service with Love and Charity for the good of the entire community of Cursillos in Christianity!

De Colores!

Conchita Mayorga





My name is Cindy Bruno, I lived my Cursillo in 1989. I am from Region 1 and live in Connecticut. For so many, many reasons 2020 will be a memorable year for me, my family and our Cursillo community. Words and phrases that we never or at best hardly ever used have become part of our day-to-day conversation. Social distancing, virtual platform, Zoom, quarantine, shelter in place, shut down, curbside, pandemic, out of an abundance of caution, unprecedented and of course Coronavirus and Covid 19.

In November 2019 I became the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of our National Secretariat. At the same time, I remained the Region 1 English Coordinator. As Cursillo leaders we know when we say yes to our Lord to serve in a new role, he will guide us. I was aware of the responsibilities that laid ahead of me but of course there is always unknown or unexpected blessings and struggles during any experience or at different times in our lives.

While God had been preparing me for many years for this most current role I still had much to learn. Communication: I share easily so I was reminded when not to respond, and when to trust and contribute. Time management: Was not great before not sure I improved. Prayer: Hold up our precious movement at all times. Ego: There is no place for it in Christian Leadership. This role has influenced my piety, study, and action and like all of you so has this pandemic. Moments close to Christ that greatly affected my piety would include: The opportunity to work and share with our incredible National staff. Spending time, albeit virtually with Ceferino Aguillon, Juan Ruiz and Nadia Lopez had a positive influence on all aspects of my tripod. Their dedication to the Cursillo movement is as vast as their knowledge of its Charism. Also shaping my tripod would be working alongside our 3 committed National Spiritual Advisors. Bishop Eduardo Nevares, Fr. Mark Seiker and Deacon Andy Carrillo bring their knowledge of our movement and our Catholic faith along with their personal spirituality to all they do for us and the other responsibilities they each have. Each were a blessing to me personally. The Regional Coordinators that make up the National Secretariat both now and, in the past, continue to inspire me thus effecting my piety, study and action. Their passion for Cursillo is so evident in their words, actions, and prayer life. Each Regional Coordinator has a constant "to do" list for their own region and yet often they reach out beyond those borders to offer assistance in other areas. This all-encompassing example of leadership has challenged me to be more, to listen more carefully to hear our Lord and to trust wherever He leads me.

Obviously, the pandemic has had a tremendous effect on all of us and our Cursillo activities. My year and my tripod were impacted by everyone's ability to pivot in new directions in light of all the Covid-19 restrictions. The manner in which the National Secretariat and Staff handled this made an impression I will not soon forget. Before too much time passed many Cursillo events began to occur via Zoom. Meetings, grouping, School of Leaders, Ultreyas, Regional Encounters, Step by Step, and other workshops. And of course, our "Virtual

National Encounter". I am so blessed and proud to be a part of a community that gives of themselves so freely, is willing to try new ways to do traditional activities and at the same time are mighty prayer warriors.

However, the event that has had the biggest effect on my spiritual journey this year was the birth of our third grandchild in March. Holding James for the first time when he came home, watching his than 2-year-old sister with him and of course seeing my daughter and son in-law fall in love with their son was a beautiful blessing in and of itself. But it was his birth during the Covid-19 lockdown that was the perfect reminder that God is in charge. No virus can separate us from His love, we never have to "social distance" from our Lord and the pathway of prayer, community and love is never shut down.

A promise of prayer accompanies the incoming Reginal Coordinators: Region 1 English John Wentworth, Vietnamese Canh Van Tran – Region 2 Spanish Milagros Perez, Region 5 Vietnamese Yen Duong – Region 6 English Beth Schroder – Region 7 English Yvonne Beyers, and Vietnamese Toan Tran.

A huge thank you to those who finished their terms in October 2020. It has been a blessing to serve with each of you. Peter Anh Tran, Damaris Chevez, Luan Nguyen, John Ciliberti, Thanh Ngo, and Ron Paulinelli.

We have also been blessed with a wonderful incoming National Secretariat Executive Committee: Chairperson from Conchita Mayorga, Vice Chair Bobbi LaVoie, Secretary Vince Johnson, and member at large Carol Reyes.

Please keep all these leaders and our movement in your prayers. God Bless each of you and always remember our first responsibility is to evangelize within our own square meter!

De Colores!

Cindy Bruno

Visit our online bookstore for Cursillo materials & gift ideas, exclusively for Cursillitas! www.natl-cursillo.org/cursillo-literature/

OMCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2022-2025 & NATIONAL CURSILLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In accordance with the rotation as stated in the OMCC statutes, The World Body of Cursillos in Christianity (OMCC) seat is transferring to the North America Caribbean Group (NACG) in January of 2022.

The NACG National Secretariats have selected The United States to serve as the OMCC Executive Committee for the next four years. The United States National Secretariat has confirmed the following servant leaders to serve on the OMCC Executive Committee for a term of four years, 2022-2025.

Steve Krause, President; Gloria M. Miranda, Vice President; Omelio A. Fernandez, Treasurer; Sharon Essner, Secretary; Fr. Mark Seiker, Spiritual Advisor; and Most Reverend Eusebio Elizondo, Episcopal Advisor.

We like to extend our gratitude to Mrs. Cindy Bruno who completed her term as Region I Regional Coordinator and Executive Committee (EC) Chair and welcome her successor, Conchita Mayorga, Executive Committee Chair; Bobbi Lavoie, EC Vice Chair; Vincent Johnson, EC Secretary; Carol Perez, EC Member at Large.

Please join the National Secretariat in congratulating these servant leaders and extend our best wishes, support, and prayers for their efforts in promoting the Cursillo Foundational Charism, Unity and Friendship.

GUIDELINES FOR DIOCESAN SECRETARIATS TO FOLLOW COVID GUIDELINES FOR DIOCESAN, LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL LEVELS. IN ALL CURSILLO ACTIVITIES, SAFETY OF THE CURSILLISTAS IS PARAMOUNT.

As the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available to the public, the level of anxiety to get back to “normal” among the community is increasing. The National Cursillo Center has received phone calls regarding reopening directives. Please refer to the “COVID-19 Re-opening Activities Memo on the National Webpage. (www.natl-cursillo.org). “Each Diocesan Cursillo Movement will need to determine when and how they will reopen person-to-person Group Reunion, Ultreya, School of Leaders, Three Day Cursillos, workshops, etc. Please consider the local reality to stay in compliance with diocesan, local, state, and government directives”.

SABATINA - (SATURDAY DEVOTION TO MOTHER MARY)

Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving are extremely important today more than ever! We know God loves us! He will not forsake us. Let us unite in prayer, join us every Saturday via Zoom at 8 AM (Pacific), 9 AM (Mountain), 10 AM (Central), 11 AM (Eastern) time.

Meeting ID: 869 5502 6246 Passcode: decolores

Please offer Palanca for the following intentions:

Monday: For all Secretariats, Diocesan, Regional, & National

Tuesday: For our Spiritual Advisors (Clergy)

Wednesday: Unity of the Cursillo Movement

Thursday: For the Cursillo Movement's Apostolic Action

Friday: For an end to the Coronavirus Pandemic

Saturday: Special Intention

God is with us even in the most difficult times of our lives. Let us continue to pray for each other for the end to Covid-19, for

those who have died from COVID-19, the infected, the first responders, our clergy, for PEACE in our nation and unity of the Cursillo Movement.

STEWARDSHIP

The work of the Cursillo Movement cannot take place without the generous support of our cursillista community. Prayerfully consider your part in sustaining our Cursillo movement. Stewardship opportunities:

☛ \$3 Campaign:

› Helps Cursillo in areas where it is needed, reducing book price, discounted National Encounter Registration fees to Spiritual Advisors, etc.

› You can find more information about the benefits of the \$3/year Campaign at: www.natl-cursillo.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/3-Year-Campaign-flyer.pdf

› Your \$3/year donation can make a huge difference to the future of our beloved Movement! Make recurring donations now at our secured website: www.natl-cursillo.org/donate-to-cursillo/

☛ Remember National Cursillo in Your Will or Living Trust:

› Consider leaving a legendary gift to the National Cursillo Movement when you make your will or living trust.

› Contact the National Cursillo Center if you decide to include the National Cursillo Movement in your will or trust so a proper gift acknowledgement can be made.

☛ Facebook For Nonprofits:

› Considering a Birthday, Giving Tuesday, or Just Because Fundraiser on Facebook?

› Support the Cursillo Movement, by Selecting: The National Cursillo, Jarrell, TX as your nonprofit of Choice.

☛ National Cursillo Resource Center:

› Need Fundamental Ideas? We finally received our shipment visit the NCC website or call the office to place your order. (<https://www.natl-cursillo.org/> Phone#: 512-746-2020)

☛ Amazon Smile

› Amazon Smile is a website operated by Amazon.

› Enjoy the same wide selection of products, same prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com.

› Shop at Amazon Smile (www.smile.amazon.com), the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the eligible non-profit organization of your choice: www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1ZXtwuUHK

› Easy steps to support National Cursillo Movement through Amazon Smile:

- Click on the link below to register National Cursillo Movement as your charitable organization: smile.amazon.com/ch/46-0563788
- Always shop at smile.amazon.com to support National Cursillo Movement. If you are an Amazon Prime Member your prime account will automatically linked to Amazon Smile.
- Everyone can Register at amazon smile, cursillistas and non-cursillistas!

Make a lasting impact through your donation. Thank you for your faithful stewardship to Christ and His Church through the gift of Cursillo, for your continued support and Generous Donations. **Christ is Counting on Us!**