



CURSILLOS

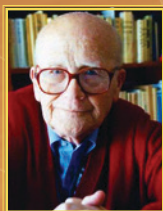
in CHRISTIANITY

National Newsletter

EDUARDO BONNÍN AGUILÓ

100 YEARS

BIOGRAPHY AND MENTALITY - PART 8



Servant of God
Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló
Founder of
Cursillos in Christianity
1917 – 2008

August 2021

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

The Pilgrim's Guide

As Eduardo Bonnín tells us, the authorship of the Pilgrim's Guide corresponds to Fr. Sebastián Gayá. It was he who gave body and soul to the Guide, and the Apostolic Hour that it includes, as the one we know today in Cursillos.

Its first edition in 1948, had as its main intention the National Pilgrimage of the young people to Santiago de Compostela that took place in that same year, although in its wording there was no reference to the way of Santiago.

To better facilitate the expansion of Cursillos, Eduardo Bonnín stated several times, that the Pilgrim's Guide be published in several languages.

The Apostolic Hour is the great novelty of the Pilgrim's Guide, its expression of authentic newness, both style and language, are well marked in the Apostolic Hour, a moment of audience with Christ.

At that time, prior to the II Vatican Council, it should be noted that a group of laymen before the tabernacle freely and spontaneously expressing their apostolic concerns out loud without the presence (obligatory) of a priest, was novel and even revolutionary; as Forteza says: *"The Apostolic Hour, a tightly written segment, which, in my opinion, would serve as new liturgical material for participative prayer, and which in my estimation constituted Gaya's major contribution to the Cursillo movement."* (Cursillo History & Memory, page 33).

Bishop Juan Hervás Blessing

In 1952, another special moment occurred that marked the life of Eduardo: the famous blessing of Bishop Hervás. Eduardo describes that moment in this way:

It had been decided that each year an assembly of Catholic Action would be celebrated, and the president would give a report of the activity from the past year and a plan for the future. I gave that report and I cited all the activities, but I highlighted the ones that stood out, above all the Cursillos in Christianity.

At that moment, I publicly asked Bishop Hervás if he would pronounce his approval or disapproval because I said to him, *"If you say to us that we should stop [Cursillos], we will stop; and if you tell us to continue, we will continue."* I asked him three times so that everyone would take note.

Then Bishop Hervás stood up and said: ***"I bless Cursillos in Christianity, not with one hand, but with both."*** "Everyone was filled with enthusiasm and when he went to his car, we lifted it and took him to the Episcopal House. When he got off, he said: 'I did not like this at all.' And I answered, 'Well, that's all we need, is for you to have liked it.' Then he asked, 'And now, how will all this end?' They opened the doors for us, and we finished with a prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. There were close to four hundred of us." (Eduardo Bonnín, *An Apprentice Christian*, page 42).



The Name of the Cursillos

The year was 1953, and a name was thought of for the Cursillos. After several proposals and exchange of opinions, in December, Bishop Hervás decided that the Cursillos would be called Cursillos de Cristiandad (Cursillos in Christendom).

For Eduardo the name that could best describe the Cursillo would be “Cursillos de Cristianía”, [Christianess] as he later shared with us.

“With regard to Christianity, that has connotations that give the idea that what is sought is a return to what was the ‘official Christianity’ accepted without objection by all, as long as nothing was opposed.

Evidently, the word Christianess expresses much better and gives the idea more clearly of what it is about. Christianess is something personal: of joyful joy. It has especially given us joy to see this word enter the grand door of theology, from the pen of one of the theologians of great prestige and solid formation, Olegario Gonzalez of Cardedal, in his book, *The Entrails of Christianity*.

It could be said that the Christian of today is called to pass through life with the baggage of his personal conviction, personal Christianess, that translates into his daily life, having and using a Christian criterion, to try to apply them in all his trials of living, with the goal of being able to give himself a reason for his faith and to be able to give it also to those around him.

To give himself reason for his faith, does not mean that he needs to enjoy a savage autonomy, rather only the precise and sufficient autonomy in order to work with the holy freedom of a child of God in a practical manner, without the “holy” attitude that comes from considering oneself as having fulfilled a requirement to the letter of the law, rather with the holy restlessness that comes from using kindness to apply criteria, to the point of feeling, perhaps to the very core of one’s being a certain comprehensible trembling of gratitude for having tried and been able to be loyal to the Spirit.” (Eduardo Bonnín, *An Apprentice Christian*, pages 58 -59)

Our Lady and the Cursillos

We believe that in the “blessing with both hands” by Bishop Hervás, one of the hands was that of Our Lady of Fatima, who with the Bishop has blessed the Cursillos. In that year, on her visit to Spain, the pilgrim statue of Our Lady traveled to the Island of Mallorca. It was the first time that the Pilgrim Statue had left Portugal.

Our Lady was always in the heart of Eduardo and in the heart of Cursillos. Our Lady of Detail was Eduardo Bonnín’s greatest devotion, hence, one of his favorite songs is “Que Detalle” - “What Detail Lord Have You Had With Me.”

Eduardo tells us: “I am in love with Our Lady of Detail; with Holy Mother Mary of beautiful detail, the real special touch, the special touch that she has of faith, that she has of hope and charity.”

“Ask Our Lady of Detail to teach them to let go of life, detail by detail, so that the people who are close to you can say that you are transparent to Christ. That they may think that life is beautiful, that it is worth living, because Christ has risen among us.”


The First 100 Cursillos

Time passed and in May of 1954 the 100th Cursillo was celebrated in Mallorca. All the dedication and availability of Eduardo is undoubtedly very significant in the first 100 Cursillos from Mallorca (which in reality have been 105) in the period between 1944 and 1954.

These data allow us to see how his life, in these years, was dedicated to the Cursillos in its many activities. Eduardo participated in 76 of the first 100 Cursillos in Mallorca. Eduardo was Rector in 65 of them and he participated as a leader in 11 Cursillos.

Francisco Forteza relates to us:

“Between 1949 and 1954, Eduardo Bonnín took an active part in 76 Cursillos, which means that he dedicated, on average, 60 full days a year. If we add to this his participation in a minimum of four group reunions a week and his weekly attendance at the Ultreya and the School of Leaders in Palma and very frequently in other cities and towns on the island, we find a workload that must seem incredible to anyone who had not witnessed his life in those years.

In addition, he added periodical visits to Madrid and professional work in his father’s business. Yet he quietly carried on an activity dear to his heart: extensive individual contacts, in person and by letter with Cursillistas, both laymen and priests. He also dedicated long hours to sessions elaborating and polishing files – by himself or with a group of people – and plans during endearing intimate ‘festivals del pensament’ [thinking festivals], which still go on under that name. The name comes from a verse of the poet Costa y Llobera and is preserved on an enameled tile in Eduardo’s library-office.” (Cursillo History & Memory, pages 127-129) 

NCSA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for your participation. Approximately 600 Cursillistas, laity, clergy, and religious gathered Virtually on July 23-24, 2021 to celebrate the 31st National Encounter and 2nd Virtual Encounter. The Cursillo Charism was present! 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 second virtual encounter: English, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese. The National Secretariat and Staff extend a “Special Thank You” to all Cursillistas for your faithful stewardship to Christ and His Church through the gift of Cursillo and for your continued support and Generous Donations. Christ is Counting on Us!

Cursillo Center bookstore Announcements:

- ★ Unity prayer cards are now available!
- ★ Order your National Encounter T-shirts & Mask

We are excited to advise that registration for our NACG “*Discovering FI3 in Light of the Charism*” bilingual workshop is open! September 18-19, registration deadline is Wednesday, September 8th.

Recommended Readings for NACG FI3 Workshop:

- ◆ History of Charism
- ◆ Fundamental Ideas 3
- ◆ My Spiritual Testament

Notations from

THE 31ST NATIONAL ENCOUNTER

OUR 2nd VIRTUAL ENCOUNTER

JULY 23-24, 2021

Charism in the Light of the Gospel of Jesus

We were called to be holy during our Baptism, re-emphasized during our Encounter with Christ when we lived our Cursillo Weekends. This experience ought to have caused us the realization that God has always been there for us; and that there will also be times that we would be tested to cause us to question God "Why" for said trials. But, we are challenged because God opens our eyes, our minds, our hearts till we come to realize further that we have been called to be God's instruments of his Grace!

As we gain more knowledge of this calling, we come to accept the truth of our existence, that Christ loved us first before we loved Him (He self-sacrificed himself by His Crucifixion and Death, then, by His Resurrection), we got reunited with God, Our Father. So, in essence, Jesus, in His Obedience to His Father and in loving us first like our Father loves us, He represents our Father God. (My Personal Belief: His Resurrection reveals that He loves me and He longs for me ALWAYS!)

According to St Mother Teresa: If You Believe, You will Feel It, therefore, let us train ourselves to listen with our Hearts!

"Christ thirsts" for us! It might be best to ask our Blessed Mother Mary to help us know and believe these Truths that Christ Loves and Thirsts for each of us! When we come to fully believe in the aforementioned Truth of our Existence, we can easily then be able to live our Cursillo Charism: that is SHARING with Others the Love and Good News of Christ, sharing His Gifts, His Message, His Mercy with Others (our Family and Friends) and with others who do not yet know Christ! Therefore, armed with that knowledge, let us reiterate these facts: (a) we have an obligation to share our belief in Christ; (b) we also have to exercise recompense, that is extending the gesture to 'winning over' those outside the Law... Share Christ! (c) evangelize, sharing the Gospel (the Good News) by living our Virtues in Friendship, Charity and the Gospel.

Other Methods to increase our Awareness of the Charism of Cursillo: (1) Stay in One House (Cursillo Weekend) to develop Friendship (2) Learn the Good News (3) Nourish Others with the Gifts that Christ has given.

To summarize this topic on the Charism of Cursillo, we have two roles to contend with: as a RECEIVER of said Gifts and also as GIVER of these Gifts to others. What Gifts are these? (1) The Gift of LOVE: that God in Christ Loves Us; and (2) We are to be Givers of said Gifts thru our Piety, Study, Action (PSA). Let us not worry about tomorrow; our PSA is our Guide in Life!

Christ wants us first to follow Him. Then, he allows us to do what we want to and that is to Love God with All our Hearts, with All our Souls, with All our Minds and with All our Might!

I believe in Christ present in the Eucharist, thus, I have become a daily Communicant. I have become stronger in my Faith because of the people who touch me with their PSA and the choice I have made ever since is to touch others with my PSA as well! Through these Fruits of Faith, we establish these Friendships that grow in and with Christ's Love, thus, we see our Environments become Christ-centered!

Christ, Person and Friendship, "Without FRIENDS, no one wants to live!"

COMMITMENT and DISCIPLINE of the CURSILLO LEADER - BAPTIZED, CONFIRMED, DISCIPLINED

Live with the MIND of CHRIST!

Missionary Endeavor:

† Touch others who have not yet engaged with the Mind of Christ

† Respond with our commitment of Faith through the Gift of the Holy Spirit

OBJECTIVES to keep in MIND

† that we are always in need of purification

† that we continually try to master ourselves

† that we try to attain DISCIPLINE (the rootword of Discipline is DISCIPLE)

How do we distinguish APOSTLE from DISCIPLE

† APOSTLE has only one task to tackle: DISCIPLE, two by two, they are to come in touch with others

Catechumens: those who are not baptized; those we need to catechize!

Common VOCATION of Disciples:

To Evangelize the World

Those who REVEAL the MYSTERY of the KINGDOM of GOD (HEAVEN)

Jesus Presents Himself as the Perfect Model of Discipleship. God sent His Son as God's Disciple. On Pentecost, The Holy Spirit made sure that this is made to be Alive and Unending!!!

At the End of these Presentations, there was a Song that entered my mind.... It begins with ...WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME IF I BUT CALL YOUR NAME?... I say "YES, LORD!!!"

Leticia N. Carbonell

Filipino Cursillo of Diocese of San Bernardino



MY MOTHER MARY!

Growing up as a catholic, I've always found our Blessed Mother Mary the second most enchanting person—only after Jesus—among all people in the Bible, even more than Moses, David or Elijah even though she wasn't mentioned as much in The Book. Not only, out of millions of people in the world, was she chosen by God to be the earthly Mother of God himself, but she also was gloriously assumed into heaven both body and soul at the end of her life here on earth. Her assumption is a message of true hope for us all God's children that one day, we will share in the same glory if, and only if, while still breathing in this temporal life, we do our part and prepare by faithfully imitating her in saying yes: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." (Luke 1:38 NRSVCE), and to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6 KJV)

My admiration in faith for our Holy Mother of God has greatly matured over time. From a simple-minded uttering 'wow, she got to meet and talk to a real angel' when I first read about the Annunciation at a much younger age, or 'go Mary, only you can tell Jesus to turn water into wine even when he didn't really want to' in the Cana wedding story..., to a deeper understanding of Her central role in Christ's grand plan of salvation. From Her very first unconditional "Yes" to Angel Gabriel putting Her complete faith in God's hands all the way to her very last unrelenting "yes" in Her pierced heart, suffering deepest pain yet still totally trusting in God's plan with the crucifixion and death of Her own son—and Her God—Jesus Christ.

Blessedly, our Redeemer died but not abandoned us. In fact, as a gift of love for us all at His last moments on earth, he lead Mary to us, he shared his Mother with us at that crucial moment some 2000 years ago while dying on the cross when he said "Woman, behold your Son. Then he said to the disciple, Behold your mother" (John 19:26-27 NKJV). Mary has become our Mother ever since she accepted to be the Mother of God, thus, the Mother of the Catholic Church and all of us, from whom we continue to seek help and invoke intercession in our daily prayers. Evidently, our Blessed Virgin Mother loves us so much she's been on an eternal mission striving to save every single one of our souls through her various apparitions all over the world across the centuries, with specific messages telling us what to do and how to live in order to stay in God's abundant grace and bountiful love. She is truly the Mother of Perpetual Help; the Refuge of Sinners; the Virgin Most Merciful; the Ark of the Covenant; and the Queen of Heaven... among other highly prestigious titles we praise Her daily.

Nothing has the power to draw us closer to our Blessed Mother like the Holy beads. Yes, over the years, I've grown fond of the Rosary and committed to do it everyday. I find it the essential spiritual key to a balanced lifestyle full of health, happiness, and inner peace. It's also the vital tool I equip myself with to live in a world full of inescapable temptations, fabrication, and destruction. Since living the Cursillo in 2017, I've also learned to pray our living Rosary together with my small group. We do it daily, we keep it active, we want to immerse in each mystery with every bead. I'm totally convinced that daily contemplating its mysteries is one sure way for me to have a more prayerful way of life, to be a generally better person, more relaxed and inspired, more generous and kind. Interestingly though, I was more than once challenged that by praying the Rosary, I become "worshiping Mary by focusing too much on Her and not enough Jesus...." On the contrary, I believe our Holy Rosary

is the most Christ-focused prayer that we ever pray to the Lord and we do that through His, and our, Blessed Mother whose intercession is ever so powerful. Intimately, reciting it daily certainly helps me to be more mindful when I pray, it gives me a more discerned heart, sharper intuition, even better prepared for life circumstances, whether it's the strength and determination I need to get through challenging situations; the patience and peace to deal with difficult people; or the will and courage to do the right things and to make the right choices. Over and again, it steers me back in when I start drifting, and puts me on a cruise speed when I stay on-track. But the most amazing thing I've learned about its power is that it has saved lives on earth and souls in the Purgatory. It totally could and did change the course of world history as we all know about the remarkable World War stories, the sudden collapse of many corrupted governments, the miraculous victories against evil forces... among countless of personal testimonies on its astounding power to have converted people and turned situations from quite impossible to easily simple.



Our Lady of La Vang

That leads me to the legendary story of Our Lady of La Vang. The year was 1798 and the place was La Vang of Quang Tri Province, Vietnam. Legend has it that during emperor Canh Thinh's decree of anti-Catholic that resulted in rabid persecution and execution in 1798, our Blessed Mother Mary mystically appeared to a group of devoted Vietnamese faithful who were hiding and retreating to this remote jungle. Despite miserably suffering illnesses, dangers and death, the faithful persevered and never ceased praying for God's help. Then one night, while on their knees routinely reciting the Rosary, they saw in between the branches of the tree around which they were gathering, a majestic vision of our Mother Mary appeared in the traditional Vietnamese dress known as ao dai, with the infant Jesus on her arms and two angels by their sides. With a most loving and consoling gaze, She affirmed that their struggle was aware of and their prayers were received in heaven, that from this day on, prayers said on this land would be answered. She then told them to drink the tea of boiled leaves known as Lá Vằng—a wildly grown plant in the region—as the cure for the deadly diseases that was plaguing them. Needless to say,

the divine remedy saved their lives and fortified their faith ever since. Soon after Her repeated appearances at the same spot, the circumstance vastly improved with persecution stopped and diseases diminished, they once again could return to their homes in the village where the story of the miracle was quickly spread far and wide.

By 1820, Catholics and some converted Buddhists built the first Church of Our Lady at the holy site, but it didn't survive the anti-Christianity wave in 1885. There were periods of time of intermittent oppression and persecution before 1901, when the replacement church building was completed, and La Vang became a place of pilgrimage for devout Catholics in the Southeast Asia. In 1961, the Church of La Vang was chosen by the Catholic bishops of Vietnam to be the National Sacred Marian Centre, and was declared the Basilica of La Vang in 1962 by Pope John XXIII. In 1998, in celebrating 200th anniversary of The Appearance, Pope John Paul II declared Our Lady of La Vang the patroness of the Catholic Church of Vietnam. In 2002, he blessed 6 statues of Our Lady of La Vang to represent 6 continents of the world, and its global popularity has greatly expanding with many Vietnamese churches and parishes adopting its name around the world.

Though the origin of the name "La Vang" was not universally agreed on, whether it came from the medicined leaf; the name of that geometrical region; a botanical family of certain golden leaves exclusively grown there; or even the act of yelling out loud for help of the villagers living in the deep wooded jungle, one thing is absolutely certain: the vision of 1798 still remains brilliant today and the holy site undoubtedly has become a most popular pilgrimage destination around the world with hundreds of thousand make their way there yearly, especially around August 15 when the Feast of Assumption is celebrated, to pay homage to our loving Vietnamese Mother, seeking Her perpetual blessings, solace, and guidance.

Let me end my reflection with a very intimate tidbit that has made both Marian Feast days very personal to me and my family since 2007: our beloved dad rested in God's peace on the Assumption holiday that year then my cherished mom followed on the Immaculate Conception five years later. As if our Mother of Sorrows wanted to assure us that we could always find sweet comfort in her tender heart, that she would always be there looking after us in the uncertainty of life, as long as we remember to run straight into her open arms then everything will turn out just fine, as in one of the Beatle's popular songs lyrics that I love to sing along so much since my early teen years:

*"When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be*

*And in my hour of darkness she is standing right in front of me
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be..."*

De Colores!

My devotion to our Mother began with the tradition of the Virgin of Guadalupe. I remember that as a child I looked forward to the month of December with great enthusiasm and I was very well behaved. I obeyed my mother in everything, so that she would let me go to the pilgrimages that were organized since December 3rd. Every day as we walked, we prayed the rosary. Guadalupan songs were sung, and Aztec dances were danced. I liked everything that was done, even though I had no knowledge of who the Virgin really was.

On December 12, the church was decorated with many flowers, it was a very joyful and solemn day at the same time. It was joyful because they started the mananitas at 5am. The feast lasted all day solemn because of the Mass, which was in Latin, it felt as if angels were flying in the place. At least that's what I felt. For several years my devotion to the Virgin was based on tradition. I did not pray every day, but when I had a concern I prayed more often.

After my cursillo I began to become aware of the importance of the Mother of God in the life of every human being. Little by little I began to include in my daily life, I learned to pray the rosary. More frequently.

Although my devotion to the Virgin is no longer traditional and I pray the rosary daily, I think I have failed her a lot, I have not given her the place she deserves. I like the different images of the Virgin and I would like to have one of each. Even so I would not give her the value that Mary deserves.

This year I gave myself the opportunity to make the retreat of 33 days towards a glorious dawn. Or rather it was Maria who wanted me to get to know him better. The 33 days of the treasure from which each day I went over was like taking out a pearl until I completed the necklace with the consecration.

In the Cursillo I met a Living Christ, who listens to me and loves me and who is always with me. In the 3-day retreat I met Mary who, like her son, is alive, listens to me, loves me and wants to be part of my life and I am convinced that she is my spiritual mother.

For me the 33 days of retreat was a personal encounter with Mary. It was a deeply spiritual experience. I also discovered that she, like her son, respects my freedom and keeps the distance I want to have.

This retreat reaffirmed Mary's presence in my life forever. Even when I crossed the border as an illegal alien, she crossed with me because I prayed many Hail Marys to her. Now it is clearer to me that she is always interceding for me with her son. And she suffers when I suffer and rejoices when I am happy. Now I have understood that it is not so important to have an image of each lawyer. The most important thing is to give her a place in my heart and let her be my treasurer to manage my life of grace and guide me on the way to her son.

Blessings, De Colores!

Angelita López-Valladolid



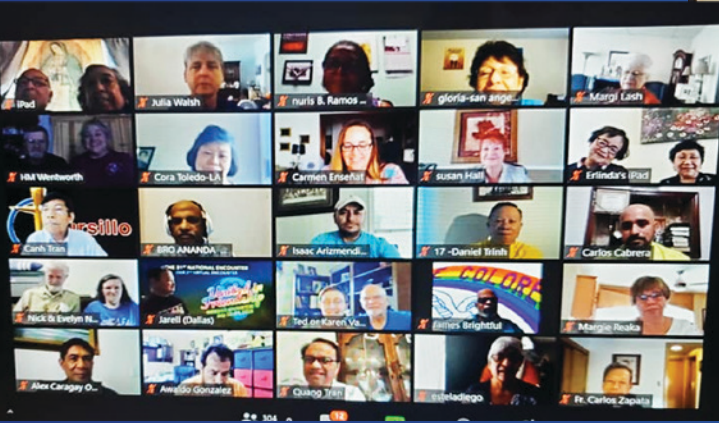
Jarell MV

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OUR 2ND VIRTUAL ENCOUNTER

JULY 23-24, 2021





"Discovering Fundamental Ideas III in Light of the Charism"

NACG Virtual Workshop
September 17 - 18, 2021

Ultreya!
Rollos
Small Group Sharing



Bilingual
Friendship
All are Welcome!

- * Are you thirsting for a deeper understanding of the Charism to better live and share it with others?
- * Are you wondering why there are variations on the origin of Cursillo by different sources?

Join us on a "Journey of Discovery with Friends" as we share our lives and knowledge toward the light.

"Something can never be properly understood until a light is shone on its beginnings"

READ CURSILLO LITERATURE TO PREPARE



Friday, September 17: 4:30pm PT; 5:30pm MT; 6:30pm CT; 7:30pm ET
Saturday, September 18: 7:00am PT; 8:00am MT; 9:00am CT; 10:00am ET

REGISTER NOW! Deadline, September 8, 2021

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NACG FI3 Registration Form

T-shirt only, click here: **T-shirt only**

