

CURSILLOS

in CHRISTIANITY

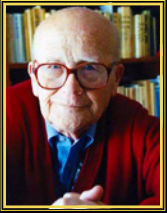
National Newsletter

HOPE PEACE JOY LOVE

EDUARDO BONNÍN AGUILÓ

100 YEARS

BIOGRAPHY AND MENTALITY - PART 10



Servant of God

Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló
Founder of
Cursillos in Christianity
1917 – 2008

December 2021

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



THE LEADER'S MANUAL

Eduardo had always maintained a close relationship with Ciudad Real, and Bishop Hervás had not gone through a Cursillo and never did in his life. At Bishop Hervás request, Eduardo gathered all the outlines of the Cursillo and sent him a copy, just as he himself tells us:

"When Bishop Hervás was moved from the Diocese of Mallorca and assigned to Ciudad Real, I gave him all the documentation I had on Cursillo. He, with a group of priests, studied it carefully." (MST, p.54).

With this material, Bishop Hervás, together with his closest collaborators, published the **"Leaders Manual in 1962"**.

Some criteria in the Manual were changed. In some rollos of the Cursillo and even regarding the Postcursillo, there had been a different approach as Bishop Hervás, says in his introduction.

This was another moment of a setback for Eduardo. The energy obtained from the Pastoral Letter was now stumbled over with the **"Leaders Manual"**.

Eduardo's thoughts were shared by Francisco Forteza:

"We have always believed that one of the greatest potential benefits of our movement is to assist Christians to go from the level of rules to the level of criterion in their lives. The Leader's Manual was expressly designed to instill just the opposite. The Cursillos themselves in their methodology went from criterion to adherence to regulations. Cursillo was locked in a circle of juridical rules and a set of ordinances that could threaten the basic spirit of the Movement." (Cursillo History & Memory, p. 170)

CURSILLOS FOR WOMEN

One of Eduardo's main concerns, in his deepest essence, is the person. As we know, the Cursillo has its beginnings in the masculine scope, but from the beginning it was clear for Eduardo that the Cursillo had to be open to the reality of all people, and the Cursillo for women had always been one of his preoccupations. This was another obstacle in the way that caused him difficulties, to the point of being accused of wanting to find a girlfriend.

Eduardo Bonnín said:

"We had to fight very hard to get women's Cursillos because they [hierarchy] did not want it, not the bishop himself, but the priests, who said that the women were incapable of making a group reunion, and we protested and said: 'That's not so!' 'Yes, it is!' And of course, the young men had gone, and the girls had not gone to a Cursillo, and they thought that their boyfriends had become fools and they were right because, of course those girls would pass by these young men who were now different and they did not understand it, and that was a real problem. Thank goodness that by the grace of God it was possible for a lady to speak with the Cardinal of Tarragona and that made it possible to have Cursillos for Women, and it is very picturesque because the first time that they gave permission to hold a women's Cursillo they gave orders that today make us laugh. Priests could not come out in the pictures with the women who were living the Cursillo, ... and could not eat with them at the same table. It had to be a separate table. Well, nowadays this seems ridiculous." (From a transcript of the rollo presented by Eduardo in Argentina in 1993)

Eduardo ends his idea as he continued:

"... since the beginning of beginnings, we made a petition for Cursillos to be for women as well and we have suffered the denials. To be honest, there was no discussion and there was a lot of misunderstanding, because people from all over would come to us saying that women should live the same as what the men had, but, of course, not together in the same Cursillo. We knew well, and still know, that Cursillo cannot be based on or supported by the external and social reality of the candidate, but rather everything needs to focus and direct itself to each person as an individual, aiming precisely at their internal and personal reality." (An Apprentice Christian p.52).

CURSILLO OF CURSILLOS

With the expansion of the Cursillos in the five continents, Eduardo Bonnín, in the trips that he made to the different countries, was confirming that the Cursillo was starting to show some misinterpretations of the original basic ideas, doubts that had something in common in diverse latitudes. Eduardo thought he had to do something so that such interpretations would not become irreversible deviations.

Thus, arose the need to find something that was thought of and designed for the leaders and potential leaders of the Cursillo Movement.

From there came the **"Cursillo of Cursillos"**, designed and thought of by Eduardo, who with some friends, met in Son Saletes (Sencelles) for several days, to give shape to the Cursillo of Cursillos.

Francisco Forteza tells us:

"In Bonnín's 'laboratory of ideas', we prepared all the initial outlines for this program. Two versions were composed: one, to take two days and the other, three days (both with an introductory evening) to suit the available time in each locality." (Cursillo History & Memory, p.219).

The first Cursillo of Cursillos was held in Madrid in 1957.

CONVERSATIONS OF CALA FIGUERA

The **"Conversations of Cala Figuera"** was born from Eduardo Bonnín's desire to gather cursillistas from the whole world in a meeting for an exchange of experiences, that served so that the ideas, that surfaced in any place where Cursillos are celebrated, be placed within the reach of all, making the friendship and the admiration grow between all.

At the beginning of the 1990's, there arose the concern and the need to define the essentials of the Founding Charism, in the Cursillos in Christianity circles.

The conditions were set so that Eduardo Bonnín's wishes could be fulfilled. In August 1994, 50 years after the first Cursillo of Cala Figuera (August 19-22, 1944), the **"I Conversations of Cala Figuera"** were born and celebrated in Mallorca in an event that counted on the participation of 146 leaders from 15 countries. In this international meeting, 10 concepts were developed, which brought the participants' understanding closer to the Foundational Charism. The topics were: **"Person"; "Freedom"; "Love"; "Friendship"** (presented by Eduardo Bonnín); **"Conviction"; "Sincerity"; "Criterion"; "Life"; "Normality"** and **"Joy"**.

Eight years later, in 2002, from April 25-28, the

"Conversations of Cala Figuera II" were held at the Lagomonte Hotel, next to the Alcudia Bay, in north Mallorca, in an event that counted on the participation of nearly 200 people from more than 17 countries.

With the idea that the Cursillos are a journey in the company of friends, seven concepts were addressed: **"Fundamental Ideas and the Charism of Cursillos in Christianity"; "The Founding Charism of the Cursillo Movement"; "Unity of Criterion in the Cursillo Movement"; "A Christianity in Action"; "The Cursillo in Christianity: An Encounter with Oneself"** (presented by Eduardo Bonnín); **"The Vocation of the Laity in Cursillos: A Method of Friendship"** and **"Challenges and Future of the Cursillos in Christianity"**.

In 2011, after the death of Eduardo Bonnín, his friends organized and celebrated the **"Conversations of Cala Figuera III"** in Mallorca, trying to always preserve the meaning and spirit of the previous ones. Its content went along the same line of thought of Eduardo, where seven concepts were addressed: **"Dialogue on Christiania [Christianess]"; "The Meaning of Life"; "Attitude"; "Creativity"; "Communication"; "Trust", and "Transcendence"**. The **"Conversations of Cala Figuera III"** gathered close to 200 people, from 18 countries of the 5 continents in a friendly atmosphere.

The Friends of Eduardo organized the **"Conversations of Cala Figuera IV"** from May 5 – 8, 2016, on the island of Mallorca, the birthplace of Cursillos in Christianity and homeland of Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló.

The event, titled by many as a "Friendship Festival", took place in the Sa Mániga Auditorium in Cala Millor and was attended by some 220 world leaders from 18 countries.

This meeting of friends, who came from all continents, began on the night of **May 4th**, with the celebration of Eucharist in the Church of the Capuchins, celebrating the **99th anniversary** of the birth of Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló.

In the next three days the "Friends of Eduardo Bonnín" who were present, were able to enjoy the development and study of themes and concepts related to the essence of the Foundational Charism of Cursillos, such as: **"In Search of"; "News"; "Encounter"; "Hope"; "Fullness"; "Gratitude"** and **"Signs"**.

This "Festival of Friendship" counted on the participation and testimony of some "friends of Eduardo", including Onofre Arbona, the only living cursillista from the first Cursillo of Cala Figuera, in August of 1944.

EDUARDO AND THE FIVE CONTINENTS

The seed of the Cursillos spread throughout the world and where required, Eduardo Bonnín was traveling to insist on the Good News that God in Christ loves us and doing so with an attitude of friendship towards all the people he met.

Around the world, Eduardo participated in: Cursillos, Cursillos de Cursillos, Ultreyas and conferences. His luggage was a full heart, brimming with all that God gave him through the Cursillo.

He was in **Germany** in June 1976, April 1997, and October 2001. In **Angola** in July 1973. In **Argentina** in October 1981,

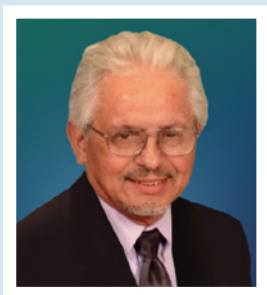
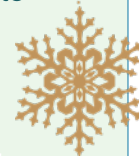
November 1991, August 1992, May 1993, and November 1994. He went to **Australia** in September 1991 and September 1998. Cursillos were discussed in **Austria** in December 1971, September 1974, and October 1992. He went to **Bolivia** in April 1998 and to **Brazil** in July and August 1966. He went to **Canada**, in January 1992, July 1992, July 1993, April 1994, April 1995, September 1995, and May 1996; to **Chile**, in August 1988 and ten years later returned in August 1998. In July 1998 he was in **China**. In **Colombia** in August 1968, in **South Korea** in April and May 1972, September 1992 and October 1997, in **Costa Rica** in July 1978 and **Ecuador** in July 1995. He was in **El Salvador** in July and August 1996 in January 1992, in August 1993, and in July 1996. He was in **Scotland** in July 1995. In the **United States** they took the Cursillo message several times, as early as August and September 1961, in May 1962, in July and August 1966, in July 1971, in May 1983, May 1988, January and April 1991, May and July 1992, April 1993, April and September 1994. In August, September, and October 1995, in February, March and June 1996, in March, April, May, June and December 1997 and in July and August 1998. He was in the **Philippines** in April and May 1972 and in October and November 1995, in **Guam** in October 1996 and **Guatemala** in May 1985, July 1996 and June 1998. He was in **Honduras** July 1993 and July 1996. He went to **Hungary** in November 1997 and **England** in July 1990 and five years later in July 1995. He always went with the message of Cursillos in his

luggage. He was in **Italy** in October 1955, May 1966. April 1985, September 1986, October 1991, in September 1992, April, November and December 1993, June 1994, May and December 1995, September and November 1996, February, September and October 1997, May and September 1998, and November 1999. He was in Ireland in June 1978, September 1994, and July 1997. He visited **Japan**, speaking of Cursillos in April and May of 1972 and was in **Macao** in the same months, April, and May of 1972. He went to **Mexico** in May of 1962, August of 1963 and 1970, in September of 1980, in January and November 1992, March and September 1994, January 1995, November 1996 and August 1998. He was in **Nicaragua** in February 1972 and July 1996 and in **Panama** in August 1993. He went to **Peru** in July and August of 1966. Eduardo's voice speaking about friendship of Christ and the Cursillo came to **Portugal** in May 1968, February 1981, April 1982, April 1983, January 1997, and February 1998. He was in Puerto Rico in August 1990 and **Santo Domingo** in the **Dominican Republic** in July 1980. Eduardo Bonnin also went to **Thailand** in September 1993 and October 1994. He was in **Taiwan** in April and May 1972 and in November and December 1982. He was in **Venezuela** in June 1976 and July 1988.

These were the main trips Eduardo made around the world. Some may be missing but not for being less important, but more so for lack of knowledge at the time of this publication. ☩



The National Secretariat and Staff extend their sincere thanks to **Deacon Andrés (Andy) Carrillo** for his leadership and friendship during his 3-year term as Assistant National Spiritual Advisor for the Cursillo Movement. He lived his Cursillo Weekend in June 1979 in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Deacon Andy is to be commended for his witness of living and sharing the Foundational Charism through friendship. Thank you for the spiritual guidance. Best wishes and prayers for all your future endeavors. God loves you and we do too!



Deacon J. G. "Lupe" Treviño, Assistant National Spiritual Advisor

The National Secretariat and Staff extend their congratulations to Deacon Lupe Treviño on being selected to serve as Assistant National Spiritual Advisor for the United States Cursillo Movement. He will serve a three-year term.

Deacon Lupe is married to Martha, and they live in Cypress, Texas which is in the northwest area of Houston. They have 3 children, 6 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. Deacon Lupe and Martha celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 1, 2021. He was

ordained a Permanent Deacon for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston on January 18, 2003 and is currently assigned to Christ the Redeemer Parish. Deacon Lupe has been living his Cursillo since January of 1987 and has served the Cursillo Movement since that time. He is the assistant Spiritual Advisor for the Galveston-Houston English and Spanish Cursillo. He is also the Spiritual Advisor for Region VIII English Cursillo.



Region XI First Virtual **FILIPINO** Grand Ultreya



It was Saturday, August 28, 2021, when the Region XI Service Team (RST) hosted the very first virtual Filipino Grand Ultreya with over 300 attendees. The Region XI Filipino language group is composed of eight Diocesan Secretariats namely: Dioceses of Oakland, San Francisco, Sacramento, San Jose, San Bernardino, San Diego, Los Angeles, and Orange. Region XI Filipino language group is under the leadership of Sister Rosalinda Pascual, Regional Coordinator (RC). The RC is supported by RST members. They are Sisters Evangeline Bravo (Los Angeles), Andrea “Len” Robrigado (San Bernardino), Penny De Leon (Oakland), and myself, Bro. Mario Camorongan (Oakland). Our Regional Spiritual Advisor is Father Ven Amidar (Orange).

Each Diocesan Secretariat headed by its Lay Director participated in the Grand Ultreya. It involved weeks of preparation of lay witness talks, echo talks, spiritual summation, and coordination with the Tech Team from the Diocese of Oakland. There were variety of presentations which included the parade of banners, fiesta, and entertainment.

After countless hours of preparation and lots of prayers, meetings after meetings, finally the day came. The program started at 9:00 AM and was opened by Emcee Bro. Mario Camorongan welcoming the attendees. This was followed by virtual Eucharistic celebration presided over by the Most Reverend Bishop Alex Aclan, celebrant from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Music was provided by Billy Ricafort.

After a brief break, Deacon Rey Encarnacion, Diocesan Spiritual Advisor of the Oakland Diocese, said the opening prayer. Then Sister Rosalinda Pascual, Regional Coordinator, delivered an encouraging opening remark. At this time Sister Penny de Leon, RST member (Oakland), in her clever and entertaining way, presented the Parade of Banners citing the humble beginning of each of the eight Diocesan Filipino Cursillo Community. The parade also included the Regional Service Team with the very first Regional Coordinator from 1992-1995, Sister Sophie Ruallo (San Francisco – may her soul rest in peace), followed by nine Regional Coordinators: Sisters Norma Gamboa, Carol Bautista, Remy Jimenez, Brothers Arnold Parungao, Ronnie Gamalinda (RIP), Sisters Letty Sabiniano, Margie Acol, Linda Buhay, and currently, Rosalinda Pascual. A number of Regional Spiritual Advisors guided Region XI Filipino Cursillo. Father Jose Arong (RIP), Msgr. Fernando Gutierrez (RIP), Deacon Steve Budnik, Deacon Ben Agustin, Msgr. Willie Manrique, and currently, Father Ven Amidar.

After the banner parade, Sister Len Robrigado, RST member (San Bernardino) introduced our spiritual keynote speaker, the Most Rev. Bishop Aclan, from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles who shared with us his insight about the new evangelization especially during this time of the pandemic. This was followed by the Floating Group Reunion.



After the floating group reunion, Sister Evangeline Bravo, RST member (Los Angeles) introduced the first group of speakers: Bro. Gio Peralta (San Bernardino), lay witness speaker, and three echo speakers: Brothers Sam Sebastian (San Jose), Gerry Fernando (Los Angeles), and James Orate (Orange). Then the second group of speakers: Sister Lilibeth Villaro (San Francisco), lay witness speaker, and three echo speakers: Sisters Siena Dinh (San Diego), Corrie Budnik (Oakland), Mona Braza (Sacramento). After all the talks, Father Ven Amidar gave the Spiritual summation. All of the speakers did a wonderful job sharing things I felt within my inner core.

One of the exciting features of the Grand Ultreya was the Fiesta and Entertainment facilitated by Sister Len Robrigado. There was a variety of entertainment such as the performance by Elvis Presley a.k.a. Bro. Rico Bagsic (Los Angeles). We were caught by surprise!...we didn't know that Elvis was a Cursillista! The performance by Oakland Diocese of the various Filipino hymns brought back memories growing up in the Philippines. It was fabulous! Of course Cursillistas from the Dioceses of San Francisco, San Jose, San Bernardino, and San Diego also shared their best performances. Overall, everybody enjoyed the Fiesta. It was a Blast!

Sister Rosalinda capped the event with her closing remark and acknowledgement to all the participants in the Grand Ultreya. She thanked the Oakland Diocese Tech Team and called them “Zoom bees” for a job well done. They showed a labor of love through their efforts and hard work spending countless hours putting together the powerpoint and other aspect of the presentation. Judging by the many compliments shared to me by a lot of people, I would say that it was a success!

Deacon Steve Budnik, past Region XI Spiritual Advisor, said the closing prayer and gave us the final blessing. Then the final hymn of “De Colores” by the Oakland Diocese closed the program at 2:00 PM.

De Colores!

*Bro. Mario Camorongan
RST Member (Oakland)*

My CURSILLO Journey



my three-year term as Assistant National Spiritual Advisor came to an end on September 30th. Even though the term was over, Fr. Mark Seiker, National Spiritual Advisor, invited me to attend the November National Secretariat meeting as a new Assistant had not been confirmed. I greatly appreciate Fr. Mark, the staff – Nadia, Cef, Juan, Conchita, Bobbi, and Carol – for their **generosity and friendship**. It was and continues to be a great experience of love and **friendship**.

My Cursillo journey started June 14, 1979. Wow, nearly forty-two years as a Cursillista has certainly transformed my life. Two **friends** at work invited me to live a Cursillo. There was no hesitation on my part as these two **friends** loved the One they preached. They lived out Jesus' message of love God with all your heart, all your mind and all your strength; and love your neighbor as yourself. The years following were filled with group reunion, ultreyas, school of leaders and much more. I assisted in many Cursillos both in English and in Spanish. I had the privilege of serving as Rector for two Cursillos as a layperson.

Then in 1989, Fr. Juan Mendez, Pastor of my parish, asked if I had ever considered the diaconate. That began the process to my ordination to the diaconate in July of 1993. This was a totally different experience in my family life, my parish and in the Cursillo. I began to serve as Spiritual Advisor for both English and Spanish Cursillos. As time progressed, I became the Archdiocesan Spiritual Advisor. Later I was asked to serve as Region X Spiritual Advisor.

Through the years, I attended National Encounters from Seattle and Orange County to New York and Washington,

DC. I served at Cursillo de Cursillos from Walla Walla to Owensboro, Kentucky, and many in between. Through these experiences, I have met many people who I now call **friends**. One friend is Deacon Gary Terrana who served as the first Assistant National Spiritual Advisor. During National Encounters, Deacon Lupe Trevino and I began to help with the liturgies for the Encounters. I believe that Deacon Gary hoped that one of us would take his place when his term ended.

And so it happened that I replaced Deacon Gary a little over three years ago. And now Deacon Lupe Trevino will replace me. I experienced Cursillo at a different level. Through this experience, I have attended staff meetings, National Secretariat meetings as well as served in a different capacity for National Encounters. I have presented at Schools of Leaders in both English and Spanish. I have had the privilege of serving with Bishops, priests, and deacons and many great lay cursillistas. I have assisted in Spiritual Advisors Workshops, helped with the development of Application forms for both the Assistant National Spiritual Advisor and the Regional Spiritual Advisor. I assisted in creating the Unity Prayer card.

So many stories to share, so many memories. I will continue to serve in the Cursillo Movement in whatever way the Lord calls.

Wow! What an experience! What a journey! I thank the Lord Jesus for his message to me on the Three Days of my Cursillo – “Andy, I love you!” I thank the Lord Jesus for all those he has placed on my journey. They truly love the One they preach and live out Jesus' message of love of God and love of neighbor. Please pray daily for the Cursillo Movement – an instrument of God's Grace. God bless you all **my friends!** Peace!

Deacon Andy Carrillo



*The National Secretariat,
National Staff, the National
Cursillo Center personnel, and the
National Cursillo Newsletter team wish
you and your loved ones a Blessed Advent
Season, a Merry Christmas, and a New Year
filled with God's love and friendship!*

CURSILLO *after*

COVID



he title of this article is a sign of hope because, in God's time, the Cursillo Movement will be meeting in person, being present to each other in all Cursillo activities. The light at the end of the tunnel is more visible today, so don't lose hope!

Hope means putting Christ at the center of all our activity. C.S. Lewis puts it this way: "Put first things first, and we get second things thrown in; put second things first, and we lose both first and second things."¹

St. Cyprian and St. Charles Borromeo are famous for their inspirational leadership in times of pandemic. But there is no shortage of much more modern examples today.

It is difficult to know what the "new normal" will look like in the Cursillo community participation at the Ultreyas, School of Leaders, and Secretariats. However, what is certain is that the Cursillo Movement's leadership must not simply see itself as a passive recipient of whatever status quo will eventually emerge. Instead, the leadership must see themselves as being in the business of shaping it.

Inspirational Leadership

The US Cursillo consists of inspirational leaders, those who inspire and motivate others, those who always rise to the challenge. Leaders who have kept their diocesan cursillistas connected through the pandemic. The connection has been through prayer, Group Reunions, Ultreyas, School of Leaders, Secretariats, workshops, and regional and national encounters. Connecting through technology has been effective, so we thank God for providing the means to share our piety, study, and action through friendship.

The challenge for the Cursillo leadership is to prepare a plan for transitioning from technology meetings to in-person Cursillo activities within each diocese. Some in-person activities have already occurred in 2021. However, the timing for transitioning may be different in each diocese based on the status of the pandemic in the area.

The reality is, that each Diocesan Secretariat already has a plan in place: the Cursillo Apostolic Plan. Review the plan to determine if anything needs to be implemented in the Precursillo, Cursillo, or Postcursillo to help the diocese move from technology to in-person activities. For example, is there a need to offer a sponsor's orientation so the Cursillistas can be ready to make friends and make them friends of Christ? Is there a need to study the 'Rector's Guide' to apply it at the next Cursillo Weekend? Is there a need to set up small committees

to start contacting Cursillistas to attend the next in-person Ultreya or School of Leaders? If the answer is yes to these questions, do it now!

Reviewing, revising, and sharing a copy of the Cursillo Apostolic Plan with the Cursillistas will provide an excellent 'road map' that will guide the Cursillo community to a safe transition from technology meetings to in-person Cursillo activities within each diocese. Reach out to your respective Regional Coordinator for assistance if needed. It's time to bring the joy and love of the Cursillo Weekend to the Cursillistas in person. Let's continue to support one another and continue the journey in the company of friends. Thank you for your inspirational leadership. Christ is counting on us! A Merry & Blessed Christmas to you and yours. De Colores!

Cef Aguillon
National English Coordinator

NCSA ANNOUNCEMENTS

**2022 IN-PERSON
NATIONAL ENCOUNTER
JULY 21-24, 2022
CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY
ORANGE, CA**

**SAVE
the
DATE!**

ADVENT

The word 'Advent' is from the Latin *adventus* for "coming" and is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas.

Advent begins on the Sunday after the Solemnity of Christ the King and continues for four weeks until Christmas Vigil Mass.

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1 C.S. Lewis, The Collected Letters of C.S. Lewis