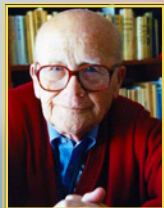




EDUARDO BONNÍN AGUILÓ

100 YEARS

BIOGRAPHY AND MENTALITY - PART 13



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

June 2022

[Welcome](#)

[What is Cursillo](#)

[My Resource Center](#)

[Cursillo Literature](#)

[National Newsletter](#)

[Palanca Requests](#)

[Donate to Cursillo](#)

[Forms & Memo](#)

[Links & Contacts](#)

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

MENTALITY

As we have seen, all Eduardo's thinking has not come from loose ideas, but from his lived experiences and realities marked by his own life and first-hand witness. Eduardo has always been a restless person, constantly seeking to know the reality of others, in search of the truth, he tried, through "his" truth, to reach the truth of others and thus, to fulfill the truth of God.

Eduardo used to write his experiences, impressions of what he concretely lived, and he would say *"I know the reality of life through the perspective of those who do not go to confession."*

His thoughts are thinking lived out and life thought out. So, it is not surprising that practically the whole of his thoughts, are authentic "precepts" that ignite the heart, far before the intelligence.

For those who first know the Cursillos and later the thinking of Eduardo, and for those who will first know Eduardo and later the Cursillos, the same conclusion is reached, the thinking of Eduardo and the Cursillos of Christianity are one and the same reality.

The thoughts of Eduardo and the Cursillos are not a coincidence, they are the result of care, a determined and firm will and desire to take the Good News to all the realities of his daily life.

One of the ways to get to know his thinking is to know his writings, to start selecting some pieces, some of the themes, combined with some ideas published in books and finally a set of phrases that somehow even today indicate much in why the Cursillos are what they are, "A reality not yet realized", as Eduardo said so many times. Those notecards, writings, books, and phrases could and should serve to make the Cursillos an accomplished reality. By knowing his thinking, this is possible.

Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló was, as he himself said, an "Apprentice Christian", who dedicated his life to the proclamation of God's love, valuing people, and going beyond friendship. Eduardo devoted his entire life to the Cursillos. Therefore, we can say that the basis of his thinking and the development of the mentality, the method and purpose of the Cursillos is in this "new" novelty, which we can call Eduardo's tripod: Christ, person, and friendship.

Eduardo was consecrated to Christ, the person, and friendship!

Along this line, the thinking of Eduardo Bonnín is reproduced and transcribed, based on each one of these subjects, followed by others that complete the thinking of Eduardo.

CHRIST, PERSON, & FRIENDSHIP

Christ: The Voice and Face of God

When God the Father sent His Son into the world for the redemption of mankind, He also gave us — through Him — the key to discovering the path that could lead each one of us to our most joyous fullness and fulfillment. Christ, in fact, came to us so that we could discover our identity, to illuminate our ability and possibilities and to help us recognize our limitations. In other words, Christ came to us so that we could start feeling and considering ourselves a person.

Christ is the precise, accurate and joyful point, from which the path of life becomes true and real, the point where the truth of life becomes a way that is also life. A life that is manifested in man through the dynamism of his faith, and it takes root in him through hope, and becomes effective through charity.

The reality of Christ is so vast, clear, and transparent, that it cannot remain unknown after having looked at it with clear eyes and a pure heart. In His human figure Jesus carries out the maximum values that man can discern in this world. His moral greatness is drowned within His intellectual depth, and both are, in turn, wrapped in the aura of great beauty and most ardent love.

Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is the only one who keeps us in equilibrium and delivers us from becoming a victim of the “messiah-isms” of the moment: whether it be science, comfort, security, information, technology, consumerism, progress...

Sometimes I think that, perhaps with the best of intentions, we are wrong to believe that Christ became a man and entered history to save the world. I do not think this was His idea — I humbly confess —, I think He became flesh and came to earth to save man, so that man could be happy through his faith in Him.

When Christ is at the tip of the forefront of a human being’s desire, they discover that they are listened to in the uniqueness of their desire, in the originality of their taste, in the creativity of their aspiration.

Christ tells the truth that He is, and He gives support to all other truths. He is the truth that makes all things true. Dostoevsky wrote:

“If they proved to me that the truth is outside of Christ, I would rather stay with Christ than with the truth.”

To stay motivated, we need to approach everything in a personal way. Only the person of Christ, and the Christ that each person is, can elicit a fascinating, attractive, and lasting motivation.

In the Christian perspective, the true, full, and final creation is the incarnation of the Son of God. The parables of the Gospel were proposed by the Lord to imply what He wanted to instill and demonstrate, not for them to be applied outside their situation and context. If a schoolteacher leaves the classroom to go find a student who got lost, chances are that when he returns, he will find an empty classroom.

The truth of Christ helps you discover your truth, penetrating all those layers that hide your most intimate reality, one by one, through the successive levels of your consciousness. The first level concerning the most obvious faults; the covert bad actions; the good deeds performed with bad procedures; the good resolutions adopted with insufficient conviction...

Christ must act in each of us that have been raised by Him. The risen Christ is a living, close and friendly person. Thanks to your living in conscious grace, you’re realizing that He knows you, He is looking for you and is offering you His love, and He wants to accompany you in your everyday life with the light of His word and the gentle thrust of his human tenderness.

To many non-professional people, many current inventions seem to be incredible. To unbelievers, the resurrection of Christ — the best of “inventions” — is unbelievable.

Unlike the teachers who want to demonstrate things, the witness of the resurrection of Christ, limits himself, to show in a spontaneous and natural way the truth of their life, rejoicing in the joy that stems from the fact that it is possible to love all men and women without exception, beginning with the closest

ones. He will be gentle with the Gentiles, Jewish with Jews, he will weep with those who weep and laugh with those who laugh; not because he is an “opportunist” but someone who is committed to everyone, because he is committed to Christ.

The Christ we proclaim today is identical to the one we have always been proclaiming since the Cursillo Movement began in 1944. And this Christ is none other than the Christ of the Gospel and the Church; that is the living, normal and close Christ that we have always tried to embody, express and present with full conviction and joyous enthusiasm at our Cursillo weekends.

HE IS ALIVE, because we experience Him in ourselves and in the others. To the extent we consider Him our goal, our purpose and orientation, all of life, ours, and the life of everyone else gradually makes sense.

HE IS NORMAL because He accompanies us in the normality of life, in the ordinary things of everyday life, in the domestic chores, in our daily bread and salt. We can turn to Him in our most difficult hours, but also in times of joy and gladness, which He certainly wants to share with us.

HE IS CLOSE, because He has become one of us and has come to participate in our human condition, and because every time we increasingly marvel at the joyful reality that, by grace, Christ is not just with us or at our side, but in our most intimate depths. It is difficult to speak of God to men. It is better to put them in contact with Jesus Christ and let Him speak to them of the Father.

It is somewhat disturbing that Jesus of Nazareth is remembered more for how he died than for how he lived. The first thing fosters religion, the latter ferments faith. By fostering religion, you obtain money, and churches of stone are built. Fermenting faith doesn’t because sometimes the faith of the person who has been taught grows higher than that which the teacher has. If you teach a person the Lord’s Prayer, and on the next morning he doesn’t remember it, you can admonish him for forgetting it saying, “I am amazed at your forgetting it”, or something of the sort. But if someone has taught a person to have faith, and on the next day their faith is stronger than that of their teacher’s... well, they do not like it, it doesn’t go over well...!

At the Cursillo weekend a triple encounter is offered to each Cursillista: an encounter with himself, an encounter with the brothers and sisters and an encounter with Christ. But until the encounter with Christ occurs, the other two encounters remain in a provisional status.

The encounter with Christ, which Cursillo is seeking and is in pursuit of bringing about, is an encounter with the Christ of the Gospel, who, by Grace is alive, real, and close to each of us. As we gradually grasp this reality in all its truth, we speak of Him to others, because the mouth speaks from the abundance of the heart. We speak to Him in our prayer, and we let Him talk to us so that He may guide our life.

God sent His Word to the world, and this Word took a human form of life. When we talk about Jesus, we generally refer to His miracles - the Sermon on the Mount, the Last Supper or other events that mark out his earthly existence. But we must not forget the thousand and one little details that occurred daily in His life, or that can be read between the lines, because they also belong to Him. He was watching the birds in the sky,

He sometimes ate fish and bread, He looked at the younger son — the prodigal son in the parable — with mercy and understanding, even though he was a rake and a globetrotter, He used to walk a lot, and He got tired, and was able to sleep in a boat during a heavy storm ... the seemingly less important or more marginal things in the life of Christ become God's word.

God shows His solidarity with men through Jesus Christ, by accepting and sharing their fate and destiny. Jesus has a human face. His person, his deeds and his words are the expression and word of God, the manifestation of God in history.

The characteristic and common differences between men help to enhance men's mutual admiration if they are centered on Christ and by Christ.

"In His Gospel, Christ has shown the world the supreme goal and the supreme force that should guide men's action: 'love'. With the word of Christ, the human person reaches their highest level, and society finds its strongest and greatest union. 'We believe, O Lord, in your word. We will try to follow it and live it out.'" (Paul VI in Nazareth).

Let us help build a world in which, if Christ were to be born again, it would be guaranteed that He would reach the age of thirty (i.e. the right to life, to health and food); a world where He could be heard and listened to (freedom of expression and communication, right to work and to human and social development); a world where He could make Himself understood (culture, education); a world where, if possible, He would not be crucified.

The kingdom of God is within each of us. Make room for Him in your heart. "God does not dwell high above — says Juan Ramon Jiménez— but in what is deep and profound". But Christians often try to place Him elsewhere.

This makes us remain in a state of being eternal seekers, rather than in a state of being conscious and, therefore, happy possessors.

During my life I have known people who, despite lacking everything were happy, and others who had everything they could ask for and were bored to death. This helps me understand the reason why the Lord says that His kingdom is not of this world, and why He places it where He is, where He wants to be and where He feels more comfortable, namely, in the interior of every person, so that, through His Grace, they can overcome their selfishness, pride and ambition and live a Christian life.

The devil, the temptation, is always abstract. The Lord is concrete, and He moves us to make concrete actions concerning specific people. Only what is real, effective, and concrete deserves our attention: a living, normal and close Christ, the concrete brothers and sisters and friends next to us. We make friends with the people living or working nearby, people in our environment. Proximity does not necessarily create friendship, but friendship does create closeness.

Christ must always be the point of reference for every believer who is trying to create friendship with somebody. Christ's friendship had nothing angelical, disembodied, or dehumanized about it. In Christ, his whole being is a clear language of love and tenderness.

People are gradually discovering that everything that is natural, normal, and human happens to be meaningful, valuable,

flavorful, and colorful. In connection with Christ all these values cause the emergence of a progressive astonishment aroused by everything that is genuine and true, and a growing admiration caused by what is real; as well as a crystal-clear joy produced by the echo of truth.

When we perceive the echo of truth we should not doubt: It is the Lord! A Christian person has experienced the breath of God that "when it passes us by, it leaves us with a longing for glory".

It is wonderful that Christ has redeemed us. But perhaps the event of our redemption overshadows a reality that often goes unnoticed: when God became incarnate in Jesus Christ, He gave us the motivation, orientation, and the goal to live fully, making the most of our life. From any point of the compass, in any situation — troubled or not, He is always the Way, the Truth and Life. Being the Way, He is orientation; being the Truth, He is enlightenment; and being Life, He is dynamism, energy, vitality, and strength.

We have to endeavor and prevent the heroic Christ from displacing the domestic, current, everyday Christ, Who gets mixed up with the life of every person and gives meaning to all their actions and a new sheen to the reality of their existence.

When a person has met Christ, and he is gradually placing Him into their life with conviction, decisiveness, and perseverance, there is nothing left for continuing their life as it was before. They can no longer limit themselves to regretting the absurd things that happen in the world: violence, hatred, alcoholism, drugs ... on the contrary, all these facts should make them come to that reflective conclusion of Martha and Mary when Jesus arrived at their home: "If you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When faced with anything that we consider is not in accordance with the will and hopes of God, we Christians must stop to think and say: If Christ and His Grace had been there, wherever, in the heart of that man, that woman, that young man, the one who sells drugs, the one who exploits others ... none of that would have happened. Moreover, perhaps on reflection and to be more precise, we should say: If we Christians would have been able to make Christ known there, wherever, in that place or that other one, these very sad and terrible things that are happening to those brothers and sisters, would not have happened, would never happen.

We know well that the Cursillo Movement is one among many other Christian Movements out there, but it is perhaps the only one whose goal — although not exclusively — it is to approach the "far away", not by offering them an imposed religiosity — which only aspires to be repaid by a gregarious, impersonal, and previously coined reaction — but by offering them a real encounter with the Christ of the Gospel and of the Church.

What we want is that the laity — which is formed by the vast majority of common men and women — may meet the living Christ of the Gospel, in the place where they are and in the simplest way possible, and that, feeling united with Him by grace, the direction of their life may change and they learn to delight in and savor their life, but without moving away from where they live.

(Reflections II, pp. 27-35)



Cursillo de Cursillos – Opportunities and Benefits

Eduardo Bonnín, Founder of Cursillo, traveled the five continents to spread Cursillo world-wide. During his travels, Eduardo was confirming that Cursillo was starting to show some misguided interpretations of the original ideas. Eduardo thought he had to do something so that such interpretations would not become irreversible deviations. He felt there was a need to design something for leaders and potential leaders of the Cursillo Movement. Therefore, “In Eduardo’s ‘lab of ideas’, he and some friends prepared the initial outlines for the Cursillo de Cursillos”. The first Cursillo de Cursillos (CDC) was held in Spain in 1957. (Eduardo Bonnín Aguilo 100 Years Biography-Mentality)

Simply stated, Cursillo de Cursillos is a course based on the Foundational Charism of Cursillo. The CDC has provided Cursillistas with a treasure of knowledge and a living experience of what is essential in the mentality, essence, purpose, and the methodology of the Movement. The CDC is offered to those Cursillistas who have the desire to be effective servant leaders in the world. It has provided many Cursillistas with an opportunity to discover the immense possibilities that Cursillo offers the person, the Church, and the world.

Cursillo de Cursillos has helped many Cursillistas delve into the foundational elements of the Movement in light of its Charism. This course follows a schedule and format like the Cursillo Weekend. The course begins on Thursday evening and concludes on Sunday noon. The rollos and Meditations are presented by a team of laity and clergy. Each rollo presented is followed by a dialogue within each table group. Sufficient time is allotted for questions and answers. Each day creates a different environment through the interaction of the Cursillistas

in friendship. The weekend provides a relaxing atmosphere with plenty of time for breaks, reflection, personal contact, and daily Eucharist.

Besides an increased knowledge of the Charism of Cursillo, the Cursillistas have enjoyed the opportunity to strengthen friendships and make new friends while sharing their personal experiences in discipleship and leadership. Cursillistas have enjoyed the opportunity to nurture and deepen the three essential encounters with self, Christ, and others which were discovered during the Cursillo Weekend. Like the Cursillo Weekend, the CDC must be lived and experienced to take advantage of its opportunities and benefits.

Cursillistas have responded enthusiastically to the truth and simplicity of the Foundational Charism of Cursillo and through God’s grace, they are inspired to return to their School of Leaders, Ultreyas, and environments to live, witness, and communicate the Good News that God in Christ loves us. This inspiration or response is evident in the Cursillistas as they listen, reflect, share, and freely embrace the true Charism of Cursillo!

Cursillo de Cursillos is the most effective workshop/course available for Cursillistas wanting to learn about the Foundational Charism. The Diocesan Secretariats of the 12 regions in the United States are encouraged to contact their respective Regional Coordinator to request a Cursillo de Cursillos for their community. The goal of Cursillo is to communicate God’s love through friendship in the moveable square meter (environment) where God has placed us at this exact moment. Make the decision today to attend a Cursillo de Cursillos and allow the Charism to form you, inform you, and transform you. Christ is still counting on you!

In Christ’s Friendship!

The National Secretariat & Staff

Communicating God’s love through friendship, Eduardo’s visit with Lupita

Hello, my name is Concepción Ruíz, but everyone calls me Conchita. I lived my Cursillo in October 1977, in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, California, and the following year we had the privilege of meeting Mr. Eduardo Bonnín, and from the beginning a great friendship grew between us.

I would love to tell you an anecdote of many that we spent at his side. Around 1995, in a Regional Meeting, I met a woman named Lupita. Joyful and in love with Our Lord since she had lived her Cursillo. She belonged to the Diocese of San Bernardino, California, and as time went by we learned that she had been diagnosed with terminal cancer and had little time left to live.

In those days Eduardo had been invited to a meeting in the San José Area to celebrate an event I don’t remember what was being held, and almost every time he came to California he liked to stay at my house (I am not bragging). He liked to stay with us and we would take him to the different places he was

invited. It happened that Lupita found out and her dream was to meet Eduardo. She liked to write a lot and started to write a lot of little letters to Eduardo, and she convinced her doctor to give her permission to travel to San José to meet Eduardo, and she told him that she would ride in the back seat the whole time. San José is about a five-hour drive from Los Angeles. They were a very humble family, but among their friends they managed to get someone to lend them a big car and a camera to film their meeting. Well, everything was planned this way, but before the weekend our friend Luis Balmaseda, who had been the lay director of Los Angeles, had moved to San Bernardino and who was also a friend of Eduardo’s, invited us to dinner. The drive is about 2 hours from where we live, when we arrived we were talking and he told us about Lupita’s situation, which was quite serious, and since dinner would take a while Luis suggested that we go to visit her, we agreed and went to her house. She could not get up, but when she heard who was in her house, she got up, got dressed up and went out with so

much love to meet the one who for her was almost an impossible dream because of her health condition, but she did not lose faith or the hope that God would grant it to her. It was very moving to see her young son recording everything with the borrowed camera. She gave Eduardo a big hug and then they sat down to talk a little far from us, and she gave him all the letters she had written to him. We didn't stay long because her health was very delicate. We said goodbye and went to Luis' house for dinner. Then we went to the school and while we

were there they told us that she had just passed away. And Eduardo's words were: IF GOD GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THIS TRIP JUST TO MEET LUPITA, IT WAS WORTH IT. This is just one of many beautiful experiences that we had with Eduardo in the more than thirty years of living with him, and for me, whether they beatify him or not, I will tell you that I met a Saint.

De Colores,

Conchita Ruíz

NCSA ANNOUNCEMENTS



Thank you so much for attending previous National Encounters. I hope you enjoyed every moment of the unforgettable event packed with friendship, love and grace from the Lord!

I'd like to invite you again to celebrate the 65th Cursillo anniversary with us at the 32nd National Cursillo Encounter, which will be held at Chapman University in Orange, CA from July 21-24, 2022.

The National Encounter Committee and Cursillistas in Region XI are enthusiastically preparing for this special National Encounter, which is expected to be a fully packed event with more than 900 Cursillistas, both clergy and laypersons, from the United States' Cursillo multiple language groups of English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Filipino, Portuguese, Korean, and Chinese!

The registration fee is currently \$375 per person and it will increase to \$415 after June 15. Please register early to secure your seat at this special Encounter. For more information about the encounter registration, agenda, FAQ etc., please see the links below: <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/encounter2022/> (English) (Spanish) (Vietnamese).

It is expected to be a fully packed National Encounter as we celebrate the 65th Anniversary of Cursillo in the United States. The National Secretariat and National Staff are looking forward to seeing you and sharing with you at 32nd National Encounter!

De Colores!

Nadia Lopez

National Cursillo Service Administrator

SAVE
the
DATE!

CELEBRATING

65 YEARS

of the
Cursillo Movement

IN THE UNITED STATES

& the **32ND**
National Encounter

DATES: **JULY 21-24, 2022**

REGISTER TO SECURE YOUR SEAT TODAY @
www.natl-cursillo.org/encounter2022/

NEARBY AIRPORT: **JOHN WAYNE AIRPORT,**
SANTA ANA, ORANGE CALIFORNIA

ENCOUNTER LOCATION: **CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY,**
ORANGE CALIFORNIA