

CURSILLOS

in CHRISTIANITY

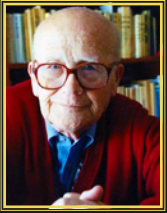
National Newsletter



EDUARDO BONNÍN AGUILÓ

100 YEARS

BIOGRAPHY AND MENTALITY - PART 4



Servant of God

Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló

Founder of
Cursillos in Christianity
1917 – 2008

December 2020

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THE FIRST CURSILLO

Despite the many difficulties, the **FIRST CURSILLO IN HISTORY** was born. It was a moment of grace, a moment of charism, but also as a result of much prayer. The first Cursillo is known as the *Cursillo of Cala Figuera*, because they were referred to, at that time, according to the place where they were celebrated. The Cursillo was carried out in a villa of Cala Figuera, called Mar y Pins, and took place during **August 19-22, 1944**.

This Cursillo of August 1944 had Eduardo Bonnín as rector. The Spiritual Director was Fr. Juan Juliá and the professors (leaders) were Jaime Riutort and José Ferragut. The first cursillistas attending were 14: Sebastián Mestre, Antonio Binimelis, Leopoldo Febrer, Bartolomé Obrador, Miguel Rigo, Francisco Oliver, Onofre Arbona, Francisco Grimalt, Salvador Escribano, Damián Bover, Antonio Mesquida, Francisco Estarellas, Antonio Obrador and Antonio Ma.

The Cursillo of Cala Figuera was realized with the name of *Cursillo for Pilgrim Leaders (Cursillo de Jefes de Peregrinos)* because this is the way it was approved. Eduardo tells us in *My Spiritual Testament* that, "This was the first "Cursillo Three-Day Weekend", and although we called it "Cursillo for Pilgrim Leaders", because we would not have been allowed to hold it under any other name. This Cursillo was not like those (Catholic Action Cursillos) with the same name that had been held in Mallorca up to then." (*My Spiritual Testament*).

This Cursillo already had all the essential elements of what is now known as Cursillos in Christianity, except for the first rollo (Ideal) and the last one (Total Security), which were incorporated in the 50's and since then have become part of the method.

Eduardo said many times that from this Cursillo of Cala Figuera, he continued to use the same method and materials in the following Cursillos to confirm that the Cursillo of 1944 was an authentic Cursillo in its totality.

As previously mentioned, Eduardo kept the names of the Piety, Study, Action and Leaders rollos, but with their contents completely revised according to the purpose that Eduardo intended. Eduardo wrote all the content of these and other Cursillo rollos based on his "*Study of the Environment*" for their sequential interconnectedness and purpose.

Thus, the Cursillos in Christianity were born by the Will of God and His inspiration, which were present in the person of Eduardo Bonnín. In November 1944, another important moment occurred for Eduardo. He was named President of the Mallorca branch of Catholic Action at the 6th Men's Youth Assembly, a position that he held until 1951.

In 1945 Eduardo participated in the third "Cursillo of Advanced Pilgrims" held in Lluc and presented his Study of the Environment rollo.

After the Cursillo of Cala Figuera in 1944, a second Cursillo was celebrated in September of 1946, with the outlines of Eduardo. The Cursillo took place in the Sanctuary of San Salvador, Felanitx, located in the south side of the Island of Mallorca. The Spiritual Director was Fr. Juan Juliá and Eduardo was the rector. The professors (leaders) were Antonio Ruiz and Guillermo Estarellas and two other leaders from Catholic Action. The closing ceremony of this Cursillo was attended by the Diocesan Counselor, Fr. Jose Dameto, in what became the first recognition that the diocesan church gave to the "new system".

In this same year of 1946, Eduardo ended his long military service and therefore, had more free time to dedicate to his concerns and aspirations. ✝



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Watch, Prepare, Rejoice, Hope!

During the four weeks of the holy season of Advent, the Church encourages us with these words: Watch, Prepare, Rejoice, Hope! Each day the Church invites us to live in our own lives the hopeful, watchful, preparation for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. We know that Jesus has already come in history. We know He will come again in majesty at the end of the world. He also comes in Mystery in the Liturgy and the Sacraments of the Church... and even in our daily lives!

However, Jesus' coming is not always in the normal ways that we expect. Jesus is very much the God of the unexpected. In March, as we were beginning to live with COVID-19, a friend shared with me an interesting question: "What was the most useless purchase in 2019?"... "A 2020 planner!" Life for most of us in 2020 has been anything but what we might call "normal" or what we might have planned or expected.

Yet, God has been very much present. COVID-19 did NOT stop Easter! And COVID-19 will NOT stop Advent or Christmas! God is in control of everything and is always present in the world even in the midst of a Pandemic. Grace happens!

God is present to us through Grace. Even when we sin, God continues to love us, to send us His grace, and to invite us to turn to Him. The Responsorial Psalm for the First Sunday of Advent is: "Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved." When we are walking away from the Lord, or focused on ourselves, or looking at the problems, failures, or successes of someone else, we are not looking at the Lord. At those times in our lives, God sends us His grace and invites us to cry out: "Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved."

God wants us to turn, to repent, to be converted (metanoia)... so that we can see His Face. When we can "see" the Face of the Lord in the Scriptures and in the Eucharist, then we are more able to see His Face in ourselves and see His Face in others.

Please continue to use social media and technology to reach out to other Cursillistas and encourage them in living their Fourth Day during the four weeks of Advent, during the Christmas Season and always (even if some Cursillo gatherings are held through Zoom or on the internet). We meet with other Cursillistas, our friends, to encourage them. The Church encourages us on the Third Sunday of Advent to "Rejoice". Even in the midst of COVID-19, we Rejoice! Not because we are halfway through Advent (or through COVID-19)... but because we are closer to the celebration our Lord's birth!

The Birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God who "pitched His tent among us"... is filled with so much joy that we cannot celebrate it on just one day. The Church encourages us to extend that Joy for Eight days (the Octave of Christmas), for the Twelve Days of Christmas, and even for Forty Days... until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2.

I pray that each of us will experience this Advent and Christmas (an Advent and Christmas like none other!) as an opportunity for us to gaze on the Lord's Face in our daily prayer and reflection on Scripture. That daily gaze will prepare us to gaze on His Face in the Eucharist and gaze on His Face and His Grace present in our own lives. Only then, will we be prepared to gaze on His Face in other persons around us!

May God bless you, your family, and all Cursillistas.

Father Mark Seiker – National Spiritual Advisor

EXPLANATION OF NATIONAL SECRETARIAT



One of the operational structures of the Cursillo Movement are the secretariats. The United States of America is perhaps the only country that is currently divided into 12 regions and has 27 regional coordinators representing the languages of Spanish, English, Vietnamese, Filipino, Korean, and Portuguese.

The regional coordinators, together with the National Episcopal Advisor (who serves a term of five years); the National Spiritual Advisor and the Assistant Spiritual Advisor compose the National Secretariat for a term of three years.

The National Secretariat, together with the National Language Coordinators, work closely to maintain the unity and authenticity of the founding charism of the Cursillo Movement in all dioceses of the United States through Meetings, Workshops, Cursillo de Cursillos, National Encounters, National Apostolic Plan and other events as needed.

The National Secretariat meets twice a year. Discerning through prayer, establishes norms that are in accordance with the official resources used by the Cursillo in the United States. They are responsible for promoting friendship and fostering open dialogue for the unification and common good of the Movement. They guide and serve the dioceses in their needs when requested. It is extremely important that all the members of the National Secretariat know the Foundational Charism of the Cursillo Movement and are active in practicing the method, because this allows a clear vision of the essence, purpose and mentality of the Movement.

The meetings of the National Secretariat are directed by the National Executive Committee, which is elected from among the Regional Coordinators who are entering their second year of service. They select two regional coordinators each year for a period of two years. Once the election is made, the person with

the most votes will be the Vice-Chairperson of the National Secretariat and will serve in that capacity for one year. At the end of his term, the Vice-Chairperson will become the Chairperson of the National Executive Committee and will serve in that capacity for one year.

The main function of the Executive Committee is to implement the norms previously established by the National Secretariat, not to create them, but to act on matters that arise from the meetings of the National Secretariat.

Since the majority of the members of the National Secretariat represent the Spanish and English-speaking groups of the Cursillo Movement, the Executive Committee will consist of at least one Spanish-speaking and one English-speaking member and two other members. A member of the Executive Committee will be designated Secretary to document the minutes of the meeting. The structure then consists of *a. The Chairperson of the National Secretariat, b. The Vice-Chairperson of the National Secretariat, c. The National Episcopal Advisor, d.*

(Without exceeding) two other members of the National Secretariat. It is necessary that the National Cursillo Service Administrator, the National Episcopal Counselor, the National Spiritual Advisor, the Assistant National Spiritual Advisor and the National Language Coordinators attend the meetings of the Executive Committee. The National Cursillo Service Administrator, the National Spiritual Advisor, the Assistant National Spiritual Advisor and the National Language Coordinators have voice, but no vote.

Each member of the National Secretariat present at the meeting has a vote by consensus. The meeting cannot be held if 50% of the secretariat members are not present and if 50% of the Regions are not represented. Meeting dates and location are determined by the National Cursillo Services Administrator in consultation with the Executive Committee.

For more information, please visit the National Cursillo page: <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/resource-center/>

Conchita Mayorga

Mark this season of Advent by loving and serving others with your whole heart.



My name is Rosalinda Pascual, from the Filipino Cursillos in Christianity - Archdiocese of Los Angeles. I lived my Cursillo in May of 2001 at the Divine Word Center in Riverside, California.

A year has passed, since I responded to God's call, to serve Christ as Region XI Filipino Language Coordinator after much prayer and discernment. Through this experience, I learned I needed to express my love for God with complete trust, commitment, and dependence on Him.

Because the role given to me was so different from my regular job as a nurse, I was anxious about whether I can effectively fulfill this position. So, I asked the Lord for guidance and He answered me, teaching me how to do it. God knows every person's potential and will provide what is needed to reach that potential.

First, I started studying the Articles of Operations, Eduardo Bonnín's books, the Step by Step Rector's Guide, and more. Then, the Lord sent me four energetic regional service team members to support me whenever I needed: Mario Camorongan, Evangeline Bravo, Andrea Len Robrigado, and Penny De Leon. These study materials and Cursillo leaders were wonderful gifts from our Lord. Now, I knew I had to proceed to the next step – action.

Thanks to the annual Diocesan report from the Lay directors, I was able to start a conversation and friendship with the regional secretariat. Through this connection, I understood their diocesan needs, strengths, and weaknesses. Knowing these aspects made communication and working together easy for us.

Our Lord knew that I love to travel, so He gave me many opportunities. Last November 2019, I flew to Omaha, Nebraska to attend the National Secretariat meeting for the first time. With the support of Cef Aguillon and Linda Buhay, we were able to give the Step by Step Rector's Guide workshop in-person in San Jose, Sacramento and Oakland, CA before the lockdown.

The coronavirus pandemic did not prevent us from performing our service responsibilities. Thanks to technology, the regional team was able to provide virtual meetings, Step by Step Rector's Guide workshops for San Bernardino and San Diego, the Regional workshop for Los Angeles, and the Region XI Fall encounter online. With the passionate enthusiasm, commitment, and immense engagement of the Filipino Cursillistas, we were able to maintain a great number of participants at the National and Regional encounters as well as in all of our workshops. Zoom meetings gave me the opportunity to visit dioceses virtually through the School of Leaders and Ultreya, where I was able to see and greet them.

Recently, the Filipino Cursillistas were honored and blessed to participate as the Lay witness and echo speakers at the North American Caribbean Group (NACG) Ultreya. I was moved by the opportunity to meet our brothers and sisters in Christ in others states and countries while witnessing their devotion.

This role assigned to me was not just a position. This role is about action, inspiration, love, friendship, and Christ. Being a regional coordinator is a privilege to be used wisely to lead people to Christ.

De Colores!

Rosalinda Pascual
Region XI Filipino Language Coordinator



When the pandemic started closing businesses and schools, the transition was difficult for everyone. My children felt lost without

connections with their friends, study groups, or professors. In personal cases, company layoffs or separation caused some of my old colleagues to drift away. Companies and individuals have quickly adapted virtual tools to carry out activities that were previously face-to-face. Video conferencing technology is now a much more acceptable and friendly substitute. Zoom, teleconferencing, and Webex became a way of life and so must our Cursillo Movement; there are ways to keep going even amid Covid. Ultimately, it comes to my realization that humans adapt to control unforeseen circumstances and persevere to reach our goals.

The Vietnamese Cursillo dioceses have persevered during the pandemic lockdown and social distancing. My favorite verse found in Matthew 19:26 states, "With God, all things are possible". Through God's grace combined with technological aid from Nadia and Fr. Joseph Vu, the first nationwide Zoom Lenten Night of Reflection and Meditation for the Vietnamese Cursillistas in April was made possible. In addition to group reunion, Ultreya and School of Leaders, Region XI had great success with the Bible Study series "Acts of Apostles" by Frere An Phong. The first series was successful enough that Frere An Phong was invited to lead another Bible Study series with Cursillistas in Region I. Region V reported normal Cursillo activities. Regions VII held weekly online School of Leaders, monthly Ultreya, and bidaily-rosary.

As for Region VIII, I am blessed and thankful for my predecessors: Anna Khanh, Fr. Joseph Dao Vu, the Regional Service Team, and Lay Directors. We are one vision, one mission, and one team that came together via Zoom and teleconferencing for spiritual reflection, prayers, and expressing our concerns for the future, and moving forward. We deliberated a proper action plan. Fortunately, our diocesan spiritual advisors constantly provide support and are always present at Ultreya and School of Leaders. Additionally, our Big Brothers and Sisters Cursillistas from the Diocese of Dallas and Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston also invite other dioceses to attend the monthly School of Leaders and Ultreya.

We believe open-door policy truly signifies the Cursillo motto "Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ". This policy targets populations in dioceses that are not comfortable with modern technology. As being one of the five Vietnamese Regional Coordinators, I am being connected with my brothers and sister monthly for moral support, group reunion, sharing an apostolic action plan, and addressing concerns at the regional or national level.

Despite our current situation, there are benefits because of the pandemic. Personally, I avoid the constant routine of waking up unnecessarily early and not worry about traffic. I do not have to request to leave early from work to attend Cursillo functions. I do not have to frantically drive across the metroplex to attend the School Leaders. Now I can use the morning time to daily scripture and attend online mass before work each day. I can have lunch with my children, water my garden, and reflect upon the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy daily. Since May, I have had the opportunity, with choir members whom are also my group reunion sisters, to attend live masses and visit the Blessed Sacrament. New interpersonal connections continue to grow every time I attend Ultreya and School of Leaders outside of my diocese, my region, and even internationally-NACG Ultreya. I feel content and involved when I see the smiling faces of some members of the National Secretariat during Saturday prayer and NACG Ultreya. Reflecting, there truly are advantages that the pandemic offers. Who could ever imagine that we can hear, see, and feel those powerful Fourth Day witnesses or testimonies from Cursillistas around the world?

In conclusion, it is important to keep our hope alive amidst the challenges we face every day. Social distancing has reduced the interactions we have with each other, but that must not stop the goal of Cursillo. We should collaborate with technology—such as mobiles, Zoom, and social media to continue to encourage one another. As Christ said, "I am with you always, until the end of the world" (Matthew 28.20). With Him, we can overcome everything, and we will be transparent of Him.

De Colores!

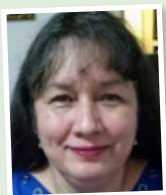
*Maria Nga Nguyen
Region VIII Vietnamese Coordinator*

ADVENT
Prepare for

CHRIST



STUDY OF THE ENVIRONMENT!



Region VIII, just like so many other regions, has had its struggles and challenges with hurricanes, the pandemic, racial conflicts and politics.

Stressors galore; however, Cursillo has taught us to rely on prayer, friendship, and Christ.

Many of us are technically challenged while others have bloomed with the virtual platforms. Perseverance takes courage to step outside our comfort zones unto the virtual side. But what a blessing to discover hidden talents and brave Cursillistas willing to take the technology plunge. Most importantly, God has provided us with this mechanism, Zoom, to help us persevere.

Yes, we at Region VIII were a bit nervous but we were blessed to have Cef Aguillón help us take our 1st step. He encouraged our Lay Directors to “Do Something”. All our Lay Directors were enthused about our new adventure especially after hearing from Peter Barrera from San Antonio who shared his positive experience using Zoom.

Since then, several have expressed the positive aspect of utilizing Zoom for their friendship groups, Ultreyas and School of Leaders and in some cases the number of participants increased to a degree. We have also utilized it to conduct our Fall Regional Encounter.

Oklahoma City has indicated how they have bonded on a deeper friendship level and how they have really seized this opportunity to fully delve into studying the Step by Step Guide. They seem to be enjoying this time and taking advantage of the platform with the full encouragement of the SOL Coordinator and their 4th day Representative.

In Lubbock, Fr. Ernesto Lopez, their Spiritual Advisor has demonstrated continued support for their virtual SOL. They even had an auction via Face Book. That appeared to go very well.

In the diocese of Corpus Christi, Deacon Cavada resonates his love of God and Cursillo by stepping up to the plate with an unwavering steadfast dedication providing doctrinal instruction and spiritual guidance.

Our region has chosen not to focus on the doom and gloom of despair but have chosen to persevere by providing a means of HOPE by taking advantage to have discussions about the FUTURE and how we can better facilitate social distancing and taking precautionary measures in our cloistered environments once we begin gathering in person again. We are proactive instead of reactive to better serve others and each other soon.

We have also recognized the importance of friendship during this difficult time in history knowing full well this platform has kept our community of friends and a community of love united. We may temporarily be apart physically, but we remain united in ONE SPIRIT, PRAYER, AND CHRIST via all technology, cell phone, video chats, group messaging, and virtual platforms.

De Colores!

*Blanca Flores
Region VIII English Coordinator*

Advent A Season of Hope



Brothers and Sister Cursillistas. Have a fraternal greeting in Christ, our elder brother.

With this pandemic we are living in different times than we are used to, and as Cursillistas we are not exempt from this new way of living.

In particular, I think that this pandemic is more vicious with us Cursillistas, because when we put on a mask it does not allow us to show our smile, when we are asked to keep our distance, it does not allow us to show our affection by embracing each other, and because we are not allowed to get together, we are not allowed to have our group meetings, nor to have face-to-face contact with those to whom we are doing apostolate; but thank God, little by little the face-to-face meetings are being allowed. Let us pray that this will be resolved in the best way.

As coordinator of Region I, I have participated in some activities in different dioceses, as well as in dialogue with a Cursillista sister interested in bringing the Cursillo Movement back to her diocese in Spanish. I also took the time to read some books and formation brochures related to MCC. In addition, I participated in some MCC activities at the national and international level, leaving me with a range of new knowledge and experiences; and something very important, to know the feelings and thoughts of new cursillista friends.

As cursillistas, we are not far from the problems that the pandemic brings, and I have been able to see some of them, mainly at the beginning, in terms of coexistence. I was not far from those problems; but through the opening of the church, the School of Leaders, the Ultreya, as well as my Group Meeting, it helped me a lot to resolve my problem and to persevere as a Christian and as a Cursillista.

For many of us connecting cybernetically was a problem: but most of us turned the problem into a challenge, and that is how we began to have another way to continue to grow as cursillistas. For this I found myself needing to seek the help from one of my daughters, who with patience and goodwill helped me a lot. I mention this because I have noticed many cursillistas in my diocese, who like me, without having much knowledge of cybernetics, have managed to learn the basics and participate in the training activities and perseverance offered to us through these links and social networks.

Brothers and sisters, believe me, it is worthwhile to use all the means at our disposal to persevere and continue growing as cursillistas and as Christians.

De Colores!

*Ramon Zelaya
Region 1 Spanish Coordinator*

Hello, my name is Carol Reyes, and I am the Region V Coordinator. I made my Cursillo back in November of 2008; it is my very first encounter with Christ, and I finally knew what I had been missing since my school age years. Since then, I have felt the joy of Christ in my heart and made it my mission to spread that joy to all I encounter. I have played my roles in the Cursillo Movement, from a team member, to secretariat, regional coordinator, and national secretariat. In these roles, I was able to spread the Love of God to all my fellow Cursillistas and to continue to share this commonality with other Cursillo leaders.

Since the Covid19 pandemic hit us back in March of this year, I felt our world has been spinning out of control with so much uncertainty. So many of us were on State mandated lockdown with no social gathering whatsoever. I know a lot of us put things on hold, hoping and praying that this would end soon, and we could all get back to "normal". As the States slowly reopened and required masks are worn, communities started their "new normal", with group gatherings limited.

Our Region V was no exception. Talking with our local lay directors, most of them have reached out to their communities through the technology age of Zoom. Small zoom groupings, secretariats and Ultreyas have been the best way of keeping connected. Cursillistas have been able to continue to share their lives the best way they can, while keeping with

the mandated rules of each state. One diocese has gone so far as to schedule Zoom Workshops! Each month, our service team leaders and I conducted workshops for their diocese. They have scheduled topics they would like to learn, and our team goes to work to put on a 20-minute talk then a discussion follows. Topics range from our founder, the Cursillo Charism, history of Cursillo, and friendship and much more. Zoom encounters have been conducted and are scheduled for additional group discussions on a regional level. As a matter of fact, our region will have an open discussion in January to talk more about the Step by Step initiative, what's worked for those who already initiated it, and what didn't, thoughts and concerns, and to share ideas - collaborative ideas work best when shared, just as the love of God works best when shared.

This virtual technology will never replace the personal contact we so desperately want and need, but it will have to do for now. Remember, reach out for the face to face reunions, when possible, but remain safe and follow all state mandated requirements. The personal interaction with others is priceless just as God's Love for all of us!

De Colores!

*Carol Reyes
Region V English Coordinator*

I had the pleasure of meeting Domingo Concha as we celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the first Cursillo in the United States in San Antonio, TX. We exchanged a smile and a brief conversation; when I was notified of Domingo's passing, I transported myself to that first encounter, the first memory that came to my mind was the glow in his eyes and his infectious smile. Domingo was a humble man of great faith; he was a Christian leader and always strived to live in grace.

Due to the pandemic, I had not travelled. At first, I was hesitant and questioned if I should attend the funeral, but my heart kept telling me that I needed to be present. In less than 48 hours I was on a plane headed to Texas, the unexpected happened, about an hour and a half into our flight attendant had a life-threatening emergency, needless to say, we landed in Albuquerque. (That alone was an adventure within itself). Our flight was delayed, it was Friday, the day of the viewing and now I was short on time. I landed in Dallas where I met Lucy and we were finally on our way, we encountered traffic, the Highway was completely shut down; GPS did not show an alternate route, but thank God for our Cursillo community, we phoned a friend and thankfully arrived at the Funeral Home.

Upon arriving we were made aware that the funeral mass had been canceled. Lucy and I attempt to attend daily mass, we were in a small town, none of the local parishes offered Saturday morning mass, we found a parish a few miles out of town. The Parish St Cyril and Methodius Church, this parish has Saturday mass on the first Saturday of the month, it was in the Lord's plan, we attended mass at the Parish Domingo served for many years, Fr. Hilario officiated mass and the intentions for the mass were

offered to honor Domingo. I later had the opportunity to officially meet Fr. Hilario who shared his experience and friendship with Domingo. He reaffirmed that Domingo was a man of great faith who always strived to be in good standing with God.

The graveside service was followed by an intimate family reception, I was blessed with the opportunity to share intimately with Domingo's Daughter, Grandchildren, Brothers, Sister, Sister in law, nieces, and family friends. (Mary Torres, Gregorio, and wife Vicky Concha, Paul Concha, Gregoria Concha, and Hope). Gregorio kept telling me to invite his daughter Hope to live the Cursillo, we smiled and shared that when it was her time to live the Cursillo she would attend.

I was blessed to spend the weekend with the Gonzalez family, Lucy's father Inez Gonzales lived the second Cursillo in the History of the United States. I was blessed with the opportunity to meet Lucy's brothers and sisters all cursillistas who lived their Cursillo within the first two years of the establishment of the movement in the United States. My extended family, shared pictures, videos, the original Cursillo bell, original rollos from the first Cursillo, and much more. I am in awe and still digesting everything; I was given a new nickname "la Niña" (the little girl) and cousin Manny made sure there was never a dull moment.

Domingo's legacy along with the legacy of the 16 men who lived the 1st Cursillo in the history of the Movement in the United States, as well as every servant leader will forever live in our hearts and the History of the Cursillo Movement. Cursillistas don't die, they go to heaven and regroup! Ultreya,

De Colores!

Nadia L. Valladolid



DOMINGO CONCHA
FEB 13, 1928 – OCT 19, 2020

Dear Cursillo Friends,

Although we have not had the opportunity to come together “in person” for our Cursillo activities since March 2020. God, through His infinite Wisdom, provided us with an unexpected option for us to connect virtually. Thank God for the innovative technology of Zoom! Of course, this option is outside the “norm” for Cursillistas since we are all about personal contact. However, I still remember Eduardo Bonnín’s words when I met with him in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, in June 2006. He, too, shared his wisdom with me as I ended a week-long visit with him. He told me that no matter what question I have about Cursillo, the response is simple, live the Gospel and when you have to, use a little common sense!

Our Cursillo Movement has kept “moving” even through the COVID pandemic. Your flexibility and your willingness to “stay connected” with Group Reunion, Ultreya, School of Leaders, Secretariat, etc., fostered motivation, instilled hope, and sustained friendship with self, Christ, and others.

Technology allowed us to go beyond dioceses, regions, states, and countries to connect with our Cursillo brothers and sisters! This time of uncertainty has allowed us to make more friends, become better friends, and rekindle friendships. All this from the comfort of our homes.

Mr. Domingo Concha was one of the 16 young men who lived Cursillo #1 in the United States, May, 1957 in Waco, TX. Mr. Concha died on Oct. 16, 2020 at the age of 92.

I had the privilege to know Mr. Concha whom as I knew him always had a smile, was friendly and treated everyone with respect. I do not recall he ever getting upset; he was a very humble and kind-hearted person who always had a friendly demeanor towards everyone.

In the early years he was very active in the Cursillo Movement. In his many years of being active in the CM he served in various capacities as SOL Team (rollista, rector), Secretariat, and a mentor to many.

One of my fondest memory of Domingo is how he encouraged me to continue persevering in the Cursillo Movement when I was passing through some difficult times by providing wise spiritual counsel as to how to continue forward in the Cursillo. Years later, due to his age and health that he was unable to be active in Cursillo, he would still attend Clausuras and some social activities and every time he’d see me he’d ask me how I was doing. (persevering) always with a kind smile and an encouraging word. Always the gentleman, Mr. Concha will be missed by our community, but never forgotten.

De Colores!

Adolfo “Doc” Alvarez
Lay Director, Diocese of Austin

I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in so many Zoom meetings, encounters, etc., and to “witness” God’s love in every Cursillista I’ve encountered during 2020.

I thank you for all you do for Christ and His Church through the gift of Cursillos in Christianity.

May you and your loved ones enjoy a Blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas.

Your friend in Christ,

Cef Aguillón
National English Coordinator

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. - John 1:14

Dear friends of the United States Christianity Cursillos Movement,

With the arrival of this invisible Covid19 virus, this year 2020 has been a period of many uncertainties because of so many things that arose from this virus and because of the ups and downs that it has caused in our lives. It has also been a period of many sorrows to see so many friends walk towards their fifth day with the Lord. With the arrival of this virus, we lost our customary freedom to move and meet each other and continue to foster our friendship in the usual way. But above all, it has been a period of great spiritual growth for each and every one of us.

And on this last positive part, I’d like to add a little more. Because we were practically locked up for most of the year, we had the opportunity to increase our relationship with Christ through prayer, that is, our Piety, and to grow in his knowledge through the Study, which further opened us the desire for Apostolic Action and seek new means to achieve it. In this quest and thanks to the generosity of Our Father, all these platforms of communication emerged that have greatly facilitated us the possibility of continuing to live and live together what’s Fundamental to be Christian, even if it is not the ideal way to be in person.

This reality can also help us to better prepare during this Advent to await the Arrival of Our Savior, and to enjoy it in the company of all our loved ones, asking Our Father to give us more faith, hope and charity so that, in this new year of 2021, we can focus and build on the positive things that present us.

We must not forget that there is no one who loves us more than Christ and that He will never leave us alone. This virus, will never have more power to spread than God’s love and friendship in Christ Jesus.

United in the Eucharist and always De Colores,

Juan Ruiz
National Spanish Coordinator

NATIONAL CURSILLO CENTER HIGHLIGHTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

The National Cursillo Movement continues inviting all Cursillistas to join them in praying for Eduardo Bonnín's beatification and canonization into the Sainthood of the Church.

Resource Center (Bookstore)

- Due to COVID-19 the printing of the Step by Step is delayed, we hope to print early 2021.

Donation Center

- ♥ Please continue to promote the \$3 Campaign. The funds received help support establishing movements nationally in terms of book vouchers, National Encounter registration fees, workshops etc.
- ♥ Provide an additional % book discount during Fiscal Year 2020-2021.
- ♥ November 2020, The NCC has received \$3,811.58 from Amazon Smile an increase \$1,213.22 from November 2019, thanks to the participation of many Cursillistas.

Event Center

- █ The world was at a standstill, but the pandemic did not stop us! We made history; the 2020 National Encounter was held during July 24-25 with 813 registered Cursillistas, laity, clergy and religious gathered virtually on Zoom to celebrate the 30th National Encounter.

2021 National Encounter:

- █ Preliminary plans are in progress to sign a contract with Chapman University, Orange, CA.
- █ Tentative Dates: July 22-25, 2021.
- █ The 2021 National Encounter registration fee will be determined based on the **\$3/YR Campaign and Amazon Smile** donations received by December 31, 2020.

Remember National Cursillo in Your Will or Living Trust

Structure your will to provide for your family first. Then include a gift to the charitable organization or movement you love. 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. Make a lasting impact through your donation.

Continue promoting the **\$3/YR Campaign and Amazon Smile** through your Friendship Group Reunion, Ultreya, School of Leaders, Regional Encounters, workshops, personal contact, etc. For more information about the **\$3/YR Campaign and Amazon Smile**, visit www.natl-cursillo.org/donate-to-cursillo. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

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

Nadia López – National Cursillo Service Administrator

Ceferino Aguillón, Jr. – National English Coordinator

Juan Ruiz – National Hispanic Coordinator

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY
BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT
PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE. - JOHN 3:16

