



ORGANISMO
MUNDIAL DE CURSILLOS
DE CRISTIANDAD

MCC

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Juan Ruiz
Presidente
jruiz@adelphia.net

EMMO. Cardenal Juan Sandoval Iñiguez
Asesor Episcopal
arzgd@arquinet.com.mx

P. David Smith
Asesor Espiritual
frsmith@cursillomiami.org

Gail Terrana
Vicepresidenta:
Gater77@verizon.net

Maribel Gómez
Secretaria
Maribel2568@sbcglobal.net

James Wells
Tesorero
Jamesewells01@cox.net

Dear friends,

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May the peace and love of Our Lord always be with you!

The information transmitted through the Monthly Newsletter of the OMCC, is not exclusive for the Secretariats. Through the OMCC Operational Structure (OMCC – International Secretariats – National Secretariats – Diocesan Secretariats – School of Leaders) the objective is to service and inform all the millions of Cursillistas all over the world. Therefore, we again ask you to give it its most distribution so that we can all share the same Mentality and give testimony of only **One Universal Movement**.

In this March Newsletter, we like to thank the hundreds of friends that sent their condolences for the passing of our friend Eduardo Bonnin Aguiló.

This month we had the opportunity and the honor to participate in four great moving experiences for the Cursillos in Christianity Movement.

The first was in Rome with the participation of Gail Terrana, Maribel Gomez and Maria Teresa Punyed in the Vatican Congress commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Apostolic Letter *Mulieris Dignitatem*. This International Congress, sponsored by the Pontifical Council for the Laity and titled “Women and Man, the ‘Humanum’ In Its Entirety” included 250 participants from 49 countries, an audience with Pope Benedict XVI and discussions on the dignity of man and woman and the theological and anthropological relationship between the person, nature and culture.

The second was the participation of Juan Ruiz and Fr. David Smith in the historic event of our dear friend Eduardo Bonnin’s trip to Our Celestial Father. In a solemn funeral mass in the Cathedral of Palma de Mallorca presided by Bishop Jesús Murgui, Bishop of Mallorca, 48 priests, and a Cathedral full of Eduardo’s friends from all over the world, a tribute was given to the Founder of the Cursillos in Christianity. His entire Funeral was covered by numerous communications media and reported all over the world.

The third, immediately after the funeral, was a Cursillo de Cursillos in Mallorca organized by the President of the Portuguese National Secretariat. Here we felt Eduardo’s presence, living and sharing each one of the Rollos.

ALL SOULS CHURCH ♦ ATTN: OMCC
29 S. ELECTRIC AVE ♦ ALHAMBRA, CA 91801 ♦ USA
TEL: (626) 281-0466 ♦ FAX: (562) 943-2254
WWW.ORG MCC.ORG

The fourth was in the Dioceses of Watsonville, with the participation of Juan Ruiz in a Cursillo de Cursillos for all the Diocesan Secretariats in the State of California, USA.

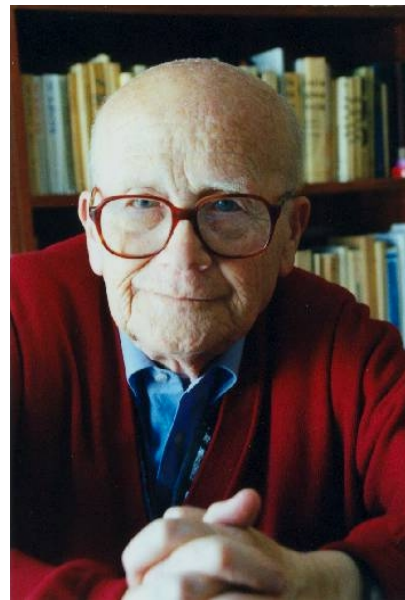
In this bulletin, in memory of our dear friend Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló, we would like to include a small Biography, as well as Bishop Jesus Murgui's homily and the testimony of

Jesus Valls, president of the Mallorca Diocesan Secretariat. In one way or another, they echo the feelings of all the cursillistas in the world:

Biography of Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló, Founder of the Cursillos in Christianity Movement:

On 6 February 2008 at 4:00 p.m., at the age of 90, Eduardo Bonnín died after a brief illness. The date of February 6 is providential for several reasons. It is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, marking the road toward true freedom and the 68th anniversary of a historic event in Eduardo's life.

Eduardo was born in Palma de Mallorca on May 4, 1917, in the family residence, where today is located the Bar Niza. He was the second of 10 children of his parents, Dⁿ Fernando Bonnín Piña and D^a Mercedes Aguiló Forteza, and called "Grand" by his father.



**Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló
1917 - 2008**

From his early childhood, his mother and grandfather, Jorge (a person who impacted his life), instilled in him the basic Christian fundamentals: Love of God and the importance of "walking the road" in the company of others. This became the principal cornerstone in his life.

Eduardo reached his youth, filled not only with a "Christian Spirit", but also with a non-conforming restlessness. He was concerned that the message of Christ was being presented in a soulless form. He tried to learn the thoughts of all the writers who were on the cutting edge in spiritual matters, emphasizing the knowing of oneself and personal friendship.

At the age of 18, due to the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, Eduardo enlisted in active duty. The coincidence of this event with the start of World War II forced him to stay in the military for almost nine years. There Eduardo met many young men who bragged about "other" very different values from the

ones he had seen among the friends of his youth. This period marked a second milestone in his life and work.

Providentially, Eduardo obtained the text of a speech that Pope Pius XII had given to parish priests and parishioners of Rome. This was on February 6, 1940, exactly 68 years ago today. The Holy Father called on the faithful to seek new ways to let everyone know the love of God, especially those distant, the “faraway.” In the thoughts of Eduardo, these principles became his basic guidelines: The love of God, friendship and the person, especially those who are “faraway.”

Since then, he dedicated his entire life to developing the union of these principles, expressing them in a work, which eventually became a rollo entitled “The Study of the Environment.” The “Study of the Environment” gave birth to what would be known as the Cursillos in Christianity Movement.

After attending the 2nd Cursillo for Advanced Pilgrims at Lluc (in Mallorca), during Holy Week of 1943, to prepare for a pilgrimage to Santiago in 1948, Eduardo considered this structure, with some substantial changes, could be useful to give life to the principles contemplated in the "Study of the Environment".

With these concepts, and with support from the Center for “Catholic Action” in Felanitx, he organized the FIRST CURSILLO in history on August 20, 1944, held in a chalet, “Mar i Pins”, in Cala Figuera (Santanyi). Eduardo was the Rector, supported by José Ferragut and Jaime Riutort as leaders.



Thus, with the Grace of the Holy Spirit, the Cursillo Movement was born.

With the same outlines, lessons, and rollos used in Cala Figuera (with minimum changes), four more Cursillos were given between 1945 and 1948, paving the way for all the Cursillos which have been celebrated to date. This includes a Cursillo weekend held in San Honorato on 7 January 1949, which (after the “elation” of the pilgrimage to Santiago) was officially numbered as Cursillo #1.

Eduardo is already in heaven having Group Reunion with the Father, sending the joy of the Resurrection to all Cursillistas of the world, and prompting the apostolate, so that all persons may know, especially “the faraway”, that God loves us.

There is a foundation that was established several years ago to preserve the books, documents and writings of Eduardo. It is called FEBA – Foundation for Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló. There website is www.FEBA.info/

Bishop Jesus Murgui’s Homily:

HOMILY AT THE FUNERAL MASS FOR EDUARDO BONNÍN AGUILÓ, INITIATOR OF
CURSILLOS OF CHRISTIANITY
La Seu, February 12, 2008
IC 9:16-19, 22-23/ Sal 22/ Mt 5:1-12

Dear brothers and sisters,

We seek our God, who is compassionate and merciful in this Eucharistic celebration that we offer for the eternal rest and salvation of our brother Eduardo. And we do so at this time of grace, the way to Easter, which is Lent, during which the Church encourages us to return to our Lord and to a conversion born of the decisive contemplation of the Love of God fully manifested in the Passion of our Lord, his Death and Resurrection for us. On that cross, and in this love, we make our supplication for him. We do so with the hope that has been brought to life by his long life, consecrated entirely, as a faithful lay Christian, to announcing the message of the Gospel to all men and women of our time.

I believe we can think that the words of St. Paul to the Christians of Corinth and to us today, the Christians of the XXI century, resounded like an echo during all of Eduardo’s life. “Woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!” was the existential cry with which he frequently judged himself as a “Christian apprentice”. Precisely because of this, it was not, and could not be, a “reason for boasting” nor did he do so out of his own “initiative”, but rather with a perfectly clear conscience of having received a mission. A mission that is essentially for other people’s benefit, “I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some”, and in this, “to become” himself “a fellow partaker of the rewards of the Gospel”.

Blessed are they, the reading of the gospel has told us, “who are poor in spirit”, that is to say, those who have made themselves poor in order to place all hope in the Lord, in order to trust only in Him, those who live detached of all the material goods and even of spiritual goods and affects so as to place their heart solely in God. Blessed also are the “meek and the suffering”, those who choose other paths instead of those of force and protagonist in order to make their presence known or their message heard in society, because they know that the message of the Gospel does not come forth from their ideas or elocutions. They know they preach something much greater than themselves, of which they are only

messengers, communicators. It is something so great that they can spend a life of many years and prodigal events as simply “apprentices”.

This is what we should all do, brothers and sisters, in constant docility and faithfulness to the Holy Spirit, in what He asks of us, by his light and his grace. How can we deny something to God when he asks it of us in his Son made man, who has experienced our weakness and temptations, suffering and death, when we have found him in the resurrection and he sends us his Spirit in order to make everything possible, although we experience his being superior to us in all things?

Eduardo, and all who shared with him in the beginning, understood it to be this way. They wanted to communicate this to others and they began the Cursillos of Christianity Movement, which was called to spread out to the whole world and to travel the catholicity of the Church to influence other Christian faiths.

Just as all initiators, they had to overcome difficulties and incomprehension. This reminds us of the beatitudes proclaimed today. Especially of those persecuted because of the Gospel--but above all we are reminded of martyrs. Just as there are martyrs who suffer due to incomprehension due to their zeal for the Lord, in wanting to spread his Word in ways and manners that clash with the environment or with established customs that seem to be immovable, and even more so when the call is to reach out to the far away, to extend into or make present in environments that seem impenetrable, and humanly speaking they are, “what is fundamental to being Christian”, as Eduardo liked to say, which is, that “God has loved us first and he has sent us his Son as ransom”, our salvation freely offered to humanity without exception. Loving Him will spring forth after, but always as a consequence of the awe caused by the discovery of such immense greatness.

I ask of God that the flame ignited then by those first Cursillos of Christianity, that has made faith in Christ burn in so many men and women, priests, religious and laity in all the world, may continue to light the way for many faithful Christians in the Movement, in their family, in the Church, so that they continue to make an infectious dissemination of faith, idealism and the colors of a living Christianity, committed and life-transforming, filled with the experience of being a child of God. And may this, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, always be in the communion with the faith and mission that is the Church. May this flame never die and may its inheritance be fertile.

It was fire and inheritance in which, by the grace of God, he was so committed to, along with others from the beginning, he, who quite possibly is the most universal lay Christian of the Church from Mallorca of the twentieth century, and whose pilgrimage in this life and this world has culminated. It is him whom we place with pious reverence into the hands of God, our Father.

And now, brothers and sisters, I do not want to fail to make a comment to the very environment, both ecclesial and human, in which Eduardo was born and grew, and do so in this native language:

Jesus Valls's Testimony of Gratitude on behalf all the cursillistas of the world:

Thank you, thanks to all for being present here and gathering for the acclamation of the person of Eduardo Bonnin.

Thank you to the distinguished Cursillo authorities from the whole world present here, such as the President of the OMCC, Mr. Juan Ruiz and the President of the National Secretariat of Spain, Mrs. Maria Dolores Negrillo, as well as to the spiritual advisors of these organizations and of many others representing cursillistas from throughout the world. This representation sums up and symbolizes the universal unity of the Cursillos of Christianity Movement in recognizing Eduardo Bonnin and the Foundational Charism.

Thank you to the Diocese, presided by Msgr. Jesus Murgui, who has made so many gestures of support to the family and the cursillistas of Mallorca in these difficult moments and in this act of recognizing this famous layman, founder of Cursillos, as a spiritual movement active for decades in five continents.

I want to be the spokesperson for the gratitude of hundreds of messages of condolence and support that have arrived from many parts in the world, of which we cannot allow to go unmentioned those from Card. Rylko, President of the Pontifical Council of the Laity in the Vatican and also of Card. Josef Cordes, personal friend of Eduardo Bonnin and author of the book "Signs of Hope"...

Thank you to all of Eduardo's friends:

I would like at this time to say a few words in the name of all those of us who have felt accompanied in this life by his friendship, his constant disposition to show us with that special character, the solution to our most urgent problems, in cohorts with his living Christ, being, furthermore, the one who has made him known to us as normal and near.

I would like to say that beyond the pain due to this indescribable loss and the hollowness we now suffer due to the fast of his presence, we should begin to nourish with renewed mentality, the invocation of his intercession in order to realize our ideals.

Dear friends! Eduardo has also been resurrected! And I am sure it was sudden because after this life in which he reached his own ideal, we cannot say that he is now sleeping the dream of the 'just ones' even though he always repeated the sentence, "Tell the just one, well done". Rather, we should embrace the expression, Good for Eduardo! For having been able to make the most possible to live joyfully knowing that God loves them.

Now that we continue, with your support, the journey from the skin of man to the heart of man, in order to share in friendship the adventure of becoming a person, we will go along hearing the echo of something certain: A voice guiding us to sanctity made normal in our daily living.

Happy but not satisfied, in order to give the world a scandalous hope, as a microscopic procession of the great love of Christ, invoking the Virgin of Wonderful Gestures, in order to remain faithful to the Gospel, that is never out-dated, never over-burdens and never steps upon, open and attentive to taking it to the heart of the most possible, by incarnating what is sought, by means of normality and always mediated by friendship, until the culmination of what is possible.

There now is a rector for the Cursillo in heaven where they will sing to the morning with his song...*Que detalle señor has tenido conmigo! Cuando me llamaste, cuando me elegiste, cuando me dijiste que tu eras mi amigo! Que detalle Señor has tenido conmigo! (What a wonderful gesture you have made me, O Lord, When you called my name, When you called me forward, When you told me that you were my friend! What a wonderful gesture you have made me, O Lord!)*

And with applause for the Tabernacle in which you are now present, we bid you farewell, while we continue in this time.

This fleeting moment, this happy moment, Great Eduardo, Christian Bonnin, swell up our soul with the fullness of the friendship of an apprentice.

Until the end of days and always,
God be with you, Chief! Adeu Amic!
De Colores!

Our friend has gone to heaven with a multitude of prayers and memories from friends, lay people, priests, bishops and Cardinals, from all over the world. May God receive him with open arms.

As always, we end by begging Our Lord Jesus Christ that we remain united in his Love and Friendship.

De Colores,



Juan Ruiz
President - OMCC