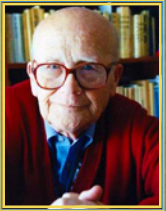




Feast of the Assumption



Servant of God

**Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló**

Founder of  
Cursillos in Christianity  
1917 – 2008

*August 2024*

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## Synodality in the Cursillos in Christianity Movement

*“Synodality”* is genuinely one of the “words of the moment” in our Church. We are still fully immersed in the process of the Synod of Synodality, in its second phase, and next October 2024, the second part of the assembly of Bishops will take place. And we continue to receive multiple references to this synodal process, in which the whole Church, including ecclesial movements and associations, are immersed. Because if we understand well the proposal that is being made to us, ALL of us, both at the personal level and at the level of the MCC, are called to rediscover a new way of being Church, a new way of walking in the Church and as Church, in which the community dimension is absolutely essential. “Walking together” is the most common translation of “synodality”. And this is what it is all about, that in the MCC, in the light of this ecclesial orientation, we rediscover new ways of walking together, accepting that it is the Spirit of the Lord who, in the Church, is pushing us to this process of searching, reflection, discernment, to concretize today, in all our spaces and all our structures, new ways of being connected, of sharing, of participating, of keeping us united and in movement, walking.

From the OMCC, we want to assume this approach as one of our primary service approaches: ecclesiality and synodality. We are, throughout the world, a single ecclesial movement, one. That is realized in different ways, in multiple dioceses, in multiple diocesan and national Secretariats. But we are one, united in diversity. And we are called, now more than ever, to walk united, together, in tune and harmony. And this is NOT a question of “ecclesial fashion”, but it is an immediate and clear consequence of our charism: the charism of the MCC, which is one, leads us, in the Spirit, to unity, to harmony, to the communitarian and shared dimension. Our charism is a gift of the Spirit that makes it possible to walk together, which becomes a reality in our mentality, in our purpose, in our method, and in our structures: all of this points to and reinforces that original intuition of our initiators, that Christian living is always living together, shared life in friendship.

But like so many dimensions of our Movement, this synodal approach of the MCC, called for today and present since our beginnings, requires a correct understanding, an updated discernment, and a specific and concrete implementation. For this reason, we will propose, from the OMCC, a shared reflection on how to live synodality today, in our Movement, in all its structures. We will do it, initially, through the web (<https://omcc-cursillos.org/>), in which we will incorporate contributions from the different International Groups, as well as ecclesial references and contributions from people especially involved in the synodal process. All this with a unique and clear purpose: that we can, in the MCC, in the whole world and at all levels, learn to walk together in the concrete reality that we live today.



**M**ost Reverend Felipe Pulido is the Auxiliary Bishop of San Diego. He was ordained June 28, 2002 in the Diocese of Yakima, Washington and was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of San Diego on June 6, 2023. Bishop Pulido shared a reflection on “Whom Shall I Send?” with the Region XI Cursillistas at the Spring Regional Encounter in Coronado, CA. He is a Cursillista and a big supporter of Cursillo.

Welcome to San Diego, Region XI!

I hope that you feel at home in this beautiful part of the state of California. We surely appreciate your time with us and your participation at this regional event. De Colores!

Just so you know, I too am a cursillista - I lived my Cursillo in 2003 one year after being ordained a priest for the diocese of Yakima, Washington. In my years of being a priest and in every parish I have been pastor I have encountered great cursillistas who love the church and their priests. This is good news!

Rae O'Rourke asked me to give a small reflection on the topic - “Whom Shall I Send?” Isaiah 6:8 says - then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” and I said, “Here am I, send me!”

Whom shall I send? Every time I hear the question - whom shall I send? I do not know why but the image of the beautiful game of soccer comes to my mind. If you know a bit about soccer, when the game is on the line and the coach needs a player that can change the game and make an impact right away - he usually looks at his assistants and then he looks at the bench. And he wonders whom shall I send? The players who are on the bench are usually average players, they are not the best players on the team. They are benched for a reason.

When it comes to our God - who is an awesome God - He looks at the bench and he sees all of us - broken, sinful, and limited. But at the same time, he looks at us with great mercy and love and he is ready to send us on a mission because he believes more in ourselves than we do. Just like he says to St. Paul “my grace is sufficient.”

Psalms 8 says, “what is man that you are mindful of them—human beings that you care for them. You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.” And this is great news!

In his Apostolic Exhortation, “The Joy of the Gospel” - Pope Francis says that the word of God constantly shows us how God challenges those who believe in him - to go forth - Abraham received the call to “set out for a new land,” Moses heard God’s call: “Go, I send you” and to Jeremiah God says “to all whom I send you, you shall go.”

Think about the yes of Mary who was a teenager.

Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Sebastian, Saint Luis of Gonzaga, Saint Joan of Arc, Saint Therese of Lisieux, Blessed Carlo Bresatti, Blessed Carlo Acutis and the list goes on. Our Lord calls all of us young and old to continue his mission on earth. Jesus commissioned his apostles and all of us to go and make disciples of all nations and all of us are called to take part in the mission of going forth.

In 1962, the social scientist Everett Rogers came up with his diffusion of innovation theory - that basically tries to explain how an idea or a new product gradually infiltrates a society and gains widely spread acceptance. At the very start you have a very small minority of the population who would accept this new idea - these are called the innovators, 2.5% of these are the people who take the risk and the uncertainty that comes with the new product or idea but they are a small minority. The next group is the most critical group, again a small group about 13 to 14% of the population and they are called the early adopters. Now you want the early adopters to be influential people to use their influence in society to convince other people to adopt this new idea or this new product because if they are able to convince other people, then a greater portion of the population adopts the idea.

I would like to concentrate on this group, the early adopters - these are people that you need to be the movers and shakers in society because these people will attract their followers to adopt this new product or idea.

When Jesus is calling his disciples I think that he realizes that far from having attracted the movers and shakers of society - like the pharisees, the scribes, and the chief priests; that is the people who would have the power to get other people to get this idea quickly, what we have is that his early adopters are the outcasts of society - those who people do not give any money for them - the fishermen, tax collectors, the prostitutes, the uneducated - the lame, the blind - and he says, “Father I thank you for having hidden these things from the wise and the clever - those who can make a difference in society - and reveal them to the mere children”. In those times children were symbolic of people who have no rights and no state; they were at the bottom of the pyramid. We might find it difficult to understand that Jesus is thanking his father that the early adopters are at the bottom of the pyramid - regular people - to advance his message and his idea of the Kingdom of God—this new idea that Jesus is trying to preach.

This is great news for us! We need to realize that proclaiming the Good News does not depend on us - it depends on the Holy Spirit of Jesus - we need to rely more on Him - sometimes we get frustrated because we invite people to a Cursillo or to the sacraments and we are not very successful - or we feel that we are not worthy because we sin. They say that a saintly person sins seven times a day - now imagine ourselves - that is why we need to rely more on God and less on ourselves.

Mother Teresa reminds us that “God does not call us to be successful - God calls us to be faithful.” The success of Jesus’ mission is in his hands. I need to learn to trust.

I still remember the day when I received the phone call from the Apostolic Nuncio Cardinal Christophe Pierre to become auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of San Diego. I was serving as pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Kennewick, Washington. It was on Pentecost Sunday after the 1:00 pm Mass. After Mass, I went to the rectory, and I said to myself... Felipe, you do not have anything on the schedule this afternoon, so relax and take it easy this afternoon. There was a baseball game on TV and I began to watch it, then I went to the kitchen to grab something to eat and came back to the living room and I saw my cell phone and it read, missed call from Apostolic Nuncio. Right away I thought someone was playing a joke on me. What is this? Then I began to realize that probably the nuncio

called me because he needed some information about a priest from my diocese since I was the vicar for clergy. So many things came to my mind. After so much thinking I returned the phone call. The nuncio responded right away. After the usual greeting he said to me, "how is your family?" I said good. Then he said to me "are you by yourself?" At that moment, I felt that something was coming. I said yes, I am alone. Then he said to me, "I want to let you know that the Holy Father Pope Francis has appointed you an auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of San Diego." When he said that to me -so many things came to my mind. I felt that the Lord was looking at the bench and he said whom shall I send? And he chose me to get into the field. I was also thinking about the Virgin Mary when she received the big announcement from God that she was going to be the Mother of our Savior. I was silent because I was afraid and I did not know what to say. Then he said to me, "so Pulido tell me what you say." I said I do not know and then he said to me - "just say yes." At that moment, I felt that it was God speaking through the nuncio. And I could not say no to God, so I said yes.



Dear cursillistas, God calls each one of us to live the fourth day. Let us continue to have a personal friendship with God and with one another. This is so important in our spirituality. Many times, we see ourselves as not worthy - as limited - as not being able to carry the commandment to love one another and to go to the world and preach the Good News, but our God sees us worthy, our God sees us good, and he tells us my grace is sufficient. And this - my brothers and sisters is good news. So, whom shall I send?

De Colores!



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