

Servant of God

Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló

Founder of

Cursillos in Christianity

1917 – 2008

October 2024

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My Spiritual Testament

The Founder's Legacy Continues Through All Cursillistas

Eduardo Bonnín was a meticulous record keeper, keeping copies of his correspondence, meetings, conversations, rollos, and articles, both his and those he received.

On his travels outside of Mallorca, he quickly realized that the Charism he had received was being lost to adaptations, additions, and deletions due to a lack of understanding of the mentality and method that flows from the Charism. He began to travel frequently to all five continents, even taking Cursillo to Africa some years ago. The Mallorcan leadership assisted his efforts and, starting in 1994, held meetings of the Cursillistas from around the world who were genuinely interested in understanding and living the authentic Cursillo, what has become known as living the Foundational Charism.

These meetings were named after Cala Figuera, the small fishing village where the first Cursillo was held in a small, simple seaside chalet. They called these gatherings the Conversations of Cala Figuera, and since 1994, there have been four. Describing these gatherings as Conversations is profoundly essential. The rollos were presented by Eduardo and other Mallorcan leaders well versed in the Charism and its mentality. Some of the rollos were given by leaders from around the world. The 5th Conversations of Cala Figuera is scheduled for October 2024.

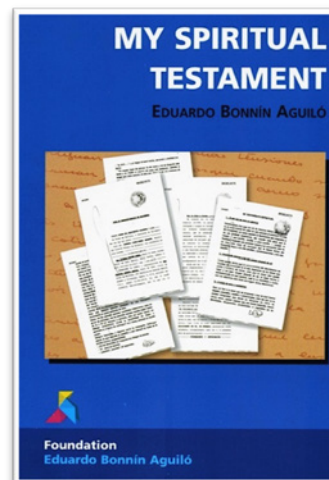
The Cursillistas who have attended the “conversations” have taken the opportunity to visit Eduardo’s office and the site of the first Cursillo in history, which was held in August 1944, the number one Cursillo held in San Honorato in January 1949, and the Ultreya which is held on Monday evening. The Cursillistas in Mallorca truly practice the art of friendship.

Though Eduardo’s illness prevented him from finishing his Spiritual Testament, we, as Cursillistas, are called to reach that conclusion by joyfully living The Foundational Charism.

According to Saint Pope John Paul II, we go to the movement’s founder to find its charism. In 1998, Saint Pope John Paul II invited all ecclesial movements and new communities to return to their roots to know their founder, charism, and history and discern their founder’s mentality. This “call back to our roots” was echoed in 2006 by Pope Benedict XVI and again in 2015 by Pope Francis in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Italian Cursillo Movement. The US Cursillo Movement is fulfilling the mandate to which we have been called by the Pontifical Council for the Laity (Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life).

The US National Cursillo Secretariat accepted this invitation and discovered that the Foundational Charism and its criteria drive our Cursillo Movement. Our study has reinforced our understanding of the importance of Christ, the person, and friendship as the pillars of Eduardo’s life and the life of our worldwide Cursillo Movement. When friendship is in place, the Foundational Charism will not be ignored; it is embraced!

As Eduardo approached his 90th year, he began compiling his thinking and work into one document called his Spiritual Testament. This is Eduardo’s Last Will and Testament. In its opening pages, he says:



I. THE REASON FOR MY TESTAMENT

“I sincerely believe that one of the greatest assets I possess is the knowledge of what the authentic Cursillos in Christianity comprises, and the Movement engendered by them. And I know by proven experience that when each piece that makes it up: Precursillo, Cursillo Weekend, and Postcursillo fulfills its purpose, it responds with clockwork precision to its aim, which is nothing else but to try to have the Good News of the Gospel reach as many people as possible, and preferably those furthest away (“The far away”).”

II. A CATEGORICAL RESPONSIBILITY TO THOSE WHO MAY COME AFTER ME

“As already mentioned, the knowledge of the Cursillos in Christianity Movement is the most important property I own. At the time of making my will I think that the best thing I can pass on to those who come after me is to leave in writing and in detail what this Movement consists of, what its purpose is, and what are the aims to be achieved by the Movement.”

III. BY WAY OF WARNING TO SEAFARERS

“The reason for this warning to seafarers - so that they may be faithful to the goal that Cursillo is after and for which they were devised, designed, prayed for, and structured - is that it has been proven that from its inception in 1944, more than a few times - I wish to believe with good intention - they have been skimmed, deactivated, abducted or nipped in the bud of their nature and effectiveness, undoubtedly by people of goodwill and perhaps even believing that in so doing they were making a gift to God and Cursillo.”

“However, there are serious reasons to believe that many interpretations, changes, restructuring, and updates have been made with the desire to use the Cursillo. At times, this has even been done to take their cut, with a wish for being in the limelight of something they assume can help them to excel in the pious market which is normally so lacking in originality and creativity.”

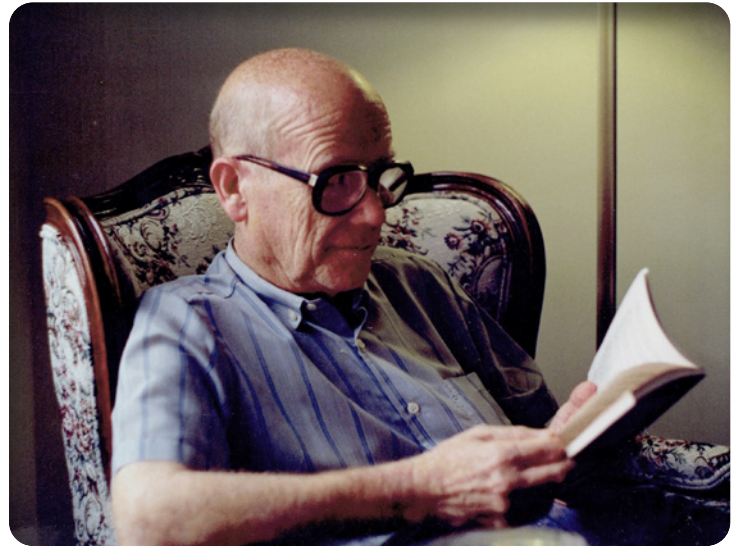
IV. FIDELITY TO THE METHOD: PRECURSILLO, CURSILLO AND POSTCURSILLO.

The Rector’s Guide with the Appendices was to have been included in Eduardo’s Spiritual Testament. In his Spiritual Testament, he says:

“Assuming all this, I will detail in a separate document, Step by Step, what the Cursillo in Christianity is and what it consists of (Appendices).”

Unfortunately, Eduardo passed away before this project came to completion. The Mallorcan leadership decided not to delay printing My Spiritual Testament, and thus, it was printed without the Rector’s Guide documents that pertain to the Cursillo Weekend. This will be remedied in future printings of Eduardo’s Spiritual Testament.

Some movements are expected to resist what they perceive as changes to what they know and love. The contents of the Rector’s Guide are not changes; they are what has always been the Mentality, Essence, Purpose, and Method of Cursillo for which Eduardo Bonnín prayed, studied, worked, and prayed again. It is his life’s work, his legacy. *“The rightful heir of Eduardo Bonnín’s Spiritual Testament [legacy] is whoever expresses their enthusiastic ‘yes’ to the invitation of the model that the Cursillos propose.”*



The cause for Eduardo’s beatification is in progress. This is part of the process for being declared a saint. When this happens, the hierarchy composes an official prayer. These prayer cards are available through the Bookstore on the National Cursillo website.

Many Cursillistas worldwide are excited and happy that Eduardo has been accepted into this process. Our founder, the humble man from Mallorca, who received the Charism of Cursillo in the early 1940s and gave his entire life to its goals, is in the process of becoming a saint! If we are excited and happy about this fact, enough to celebrate and pray for it to become a reality, then we should be delighted that he has left his legacy to us. As he said in his Spiritual Testament:

“I sincerely believe that one of the greatest assets I possess is the knowledge of what the real Cursillos in Christianity consist of, as well as the Movement engendered by them.”

In our personal lives, when somebody we know, admire, and love dies, if they leave some part of their legacy to us in their last will and testament, we are humbled, honored, and grateful. The gift is cherished and valued, and it takes a special place in our home or is carefully invested in preserving this precious gift. It becomes a family heirloom, a treasure to be carefully guarded and passed down from generation to generation.

The Rector’s Guide is part of Eduardo’s legacy to us. His Spiritual Testament is the best thing he owned and could leave to us.

Let us treasure his legacy, the Charism of Cursillo, which he has entrusted to our care. Let us preserve the purity of the Charism. Let us be the keepers of the flame of Cursillo in honor of Eduardo, but first and foremost, let us be grateful participants in the gift that the Holy Spirit has given to us through Eduardo.

Let us continue the work that he began through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and honor his memory by listening to his words, being guided by his wisdom, and following in his footsteps.

Let us recognize the founder, the Foundational Charism, and read the signs of the times in light of the Charism!

Saint Paul, Patron of Cursillo, pray for us!

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, pray for us!



CURSILLO WORLD ULTREYA IN ROME FOR NACG

June 3-9, 2025 – Rome with an excursion to Assisi

June 3-13, 2025 – including “Highlights of Italy” extension to Orvieto, Florence, Padua, and Venice

June 3-12, 2025 – including “Miracles of the Eucharist” extension to Loreto, San Giovanni, and Lanciano plus Sunday with the Holy Father!

Join us on a zoom Informational Q&A

ENGLISH on Wednesday October 9th at 9pm AT, 8pm ET, 7pm CT, 6pm MT, 5pm PT

SPANISH on Thursday October 10th at 9pm AT, 8pm ET, 7pm CT, 6pm MT, 5pm PT

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81151325425?pwd=wUtoZhyFJ6vGmfbpW11iRcabUojDbF.1>

Meeting ID: 811 5132 5425 Passcode: decolores

**Space is limited.
Register early to
secure your spot!**

This Pilgrimage is organized for the Cursillos in Christianity Movement in the North America Caribbean Group – NACG sector. Join your fellow Cursillistas with their friends and family from around the United States, Canada, and Caribbean as we venture to Italy to celebrate the OMCC 2025 World Ultreya and the Jubilee of Ecclesial Movements. During this pilgrimage, you will have the opportunity to pass through four of the Holy Doors designated by Pope Francis for Jubilee 2025. You will have the opportunity to travel to Assisi to discover the lives of true Saints, St. Francis, St. Clare and Blessed Carlos Acutis. Experience a World Ultreya with Cursillistas from around the World. Listen to witnesses, share your piety, study and action with new friends. Represent Cursillo with the other pilgrims coming from various Lay Associations, Ecclesial Movements and New Communities of the Catholic Church who will all gather in Rome in prayer and devotion.

For More Information Contact:

Select International Tours

800-842-4842 lisad@select-intl.com

selectinternationaltours.com



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