

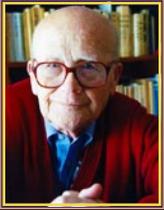


www.natl-cursillo.org

CURSILLOS

in CHRISTIANITY

National Newsletter



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

April 2020

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CURSILLO & CORONAVIRUS IMPACT

STAYING CONNECTED WHILE MAINTAINING SOCIAL DISTANCE

The peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).

Dear Cursillista Family,

When a crisis hits a family, the very best of time, care, Love and service are shared by all involved.

Our Cursillo family, our nation and our world has been stricken by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Even though MANY of our Cursillo activities have ceased, we need to continue STRONG in our PRAYER and FRIENDSHIP of Jesus and of our Brothers and Sisters.

In Light of the circumstances and for the interim. I encourage the small group reunions to continue, with the use of technology to stay in contact and united in prayer until this pandemic is over. May we keep the FLAME OF FAITH ALIVE in our Hearts. Be assured of my DAILY Love and Prayers for you ALL, and please Pray for me. Please receive my Apostolic Blessing,

+Eduardo A. Nevares

National Cursillo Episcopal Advisor

THE CORONAVIRUS

Challenging Times

Feeling anxious, unsettled? You are not alone. The coronavirus pandemic has had a profound impact on countries around the world and in the United States. The Cursillo Movement is no exception.

Today we are facing restricted travel, limited supplies and groceries, schools closing, businesses closing, cancelled Masses, stock market crash, job loss, crowd limits, etc.

People are asked to "stay home" and many employees are now working from home.

PRAYER, FASTING, and ALMSGIVING are extremely important today more than ever! We know God loves us! He will not forsake us. Let us unite in prayer and don't forget, we can all do an act of Spiritual Communion to end the virus.

STAYING HOME

Maintaining Social Distance

Due to the coronavirus impact, crowd limit restrictions, safety and health reasons, most Spring Regional Encounters have been canceled. The National Cursillo Center, Regional Coordinators and Diocesan Secretariats are diligently reaching out to the Cursillistas to inform them about the cancellations.

The Diocesan Movements are being cautious as well and are cancelling Three Day Cursillos, Cursillo de Cursillos, and other workshops and activities. In some cases, parishes have had to close their doors to their facilities.

It is important to follow your local Bishops guidance and precautionary measures being put in place. Let us work for the common good by observing all precautionary measures.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Staying Connected

Do not lose hope. Although we may not be able to meet in person for now, we can always rely on technology, for the interim, to stay connected.

Besides email and text, there are "free" applications that can bring Cursillistas together for a video conference or online meeting:

- 1) [Zoom](#) video conferencing and
- 2) [Free Conference Pro](#). Both offer "free" accounts and apps.

Make use of these free applications to stay connected with each other for the time being.

National Staff uses Zoom for a monthly online meeting. It is a great communication tool. Cursillistas rely on personal contact and friendship in all they do in Cursillo. Technology should be used for the interim.



Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,

Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.
We fly to you today as your beloved children.
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be
patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to
our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.
Amen.



During this time of the pandemic, I find myself at peace. I know the Lord is watching over us and this medical crisis is all for a reason. My acceptance was helped along by the close moment when I learned the definition of quarantine. The

word comes from medieval Venice, quarantena, which translates to 40 days. Yes, 40 days. The number 40 appears in the bible over 140 times, it symbolizes a period of testing, trial, probation. We need to look at this quarantine from our normal lives as a gift from God. A time for us to look inward and find Him in our hearts.

During this Lent, we are literally being put in our own desert. We are being tempted by the devil to “break” the curfew, “fight” with our home-mates, “hoard” what is needed, and more. As Christians, and more importantly as Cursillistas, we need to be Christ-like and avoid these temptations. We need to model the best attitude and behavior. And to help us do this, we need to keep following the Cursillo method of piety, study and action. Many churches are streaming daily Mass or offering rosary online.

I know I am finding more time for my prayer life and it have brought me this peace and acceptance. We also need our brothers and sisters-in-Christ to hold us up. It is very important to continue our Cursillo method through group reunion, and if possible, participation in Ultreya while maintaining social distancing. The new technologies of today offer digital face-to-face contact through Facetime, Skype, Zoom, Google Hangout, and more. I ask that you try grouping at least via phone if not through a conferencing app... it is so nice to see those familiar loving faces. Keep in touch with your fellow Cursillistas to make sure they are okay or in need. If you are shopping ask if you can drop needed items at the door of a neighbor or friend. Volunteer to sew masks, assemble tents, whatever you can offer, and be safe!

The Lord will guide us through this time of crisis and we pray that as we come out of the pandemic, humanity has re-discovered love of each other and the sins of greed, self-pride, and gluttony have lost the battle.

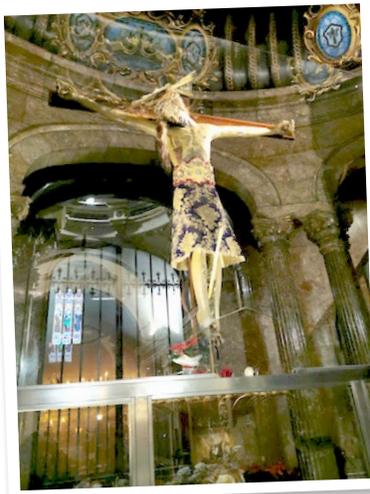
De Colores,

Bobbi LaVoie, Region III Coordinator

On Thursday, October 17th, 2019, my husband, Deacon Bill Miranda, my friend Virginia and I, went on the experience of our lifetime. We left JFK airport and arrived at Madrid, Friday, 18th at 6:00 am, missing our connecting flight to Palma. We patiently waited our connecting flight and left Madrid around 11:00 am. It was a small plane, and as the plane took off on a foggy, cloudy and rainy morning. I was excited to leave Madrid. I couldn't see anything as the plane took off, but trusted the pilot.

As we climbed over the clouds, the sky was bright and sunny, but when I looked down, I saw white clouds under the plane. After 45 minutes, we landed in Palma. I was very anxious to be where the Cursillo Movement started. After reading and listening so much about Palma, I thought I knew a little bit about their culture. Our driver Jaime was waiting for us for a long time at the airport, and once in Palma, I wanted to go to the heart of Cursillo, but It wasn't until Sunday that we went to Mass. I wanted to go to the Church that Eduardo talked about in Piety Rollo, "*Cristo de la Sangre (Crist de la Sang)*." It's one of the most revered places by the inhabitants of the island of Mallorca. It is a wood carving that is in the main chapel of the Church of the Annunciation in Palma, known as "La Sang". The religious building in the Gothic style, was built during the fifteenth century to service the General

My First Weekend in Palma, Mallorca



Hospital. It has it's entrance through a courtyard filled with orange trees and it has a neo Gothic gallery built in 1865 made of iron.

We rented a car and went to Mass at the Annunciation Church. As I went up to visit the Cross, I noticed a large amount of different size candles and flowers left there from people who visited the Church. I also noticed that the Cross was protected with fiberglass and had two openings for people to touch the hands and the feet. I saw people crying and praying to the Cross and a statue of Mary, on the other side. It was obvious to see how the feet and hands of the statue were worn-out. I was very happy to be in a place that I'm sure Eduardo visited. I stood in a corner, observing people coming in. I was praying for God's wisdom to serve the Cursillo Movement.

After Mass, we met with Carmen Enseñat and her friend Paquita. They were trying to identify three non Mallorcan visitors and they said that they identified us immediately. We were all happy to meet in person. We went for Breakfast at a local coffee shop and talked about ourselves, Cursillo and everything you can think of. I wanted to know a lot in a short time. They also gave a tour of Palma and mentioned how Eduardo walked every day around there. I was very excited to be there, talking to people that knew Eduardo and/or knew more about him than I did. †



2020 National Encounter

The 30th National Encounter will be held on July 23-26, 2020 at Creighton University in Omaha Nebraska. Registration for the 30th National Encounter is open! Register today- lets share the Cursillista Charism and bring a friend. See you there!

Visit the National Cursillo website for registration information! If something should change due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we will keep you informed.

Amazon Smile & \$3/YR Campaign:

\$3/YR Campaign January 1, 2020-March 2020 - We have received a total donation of \$4,201. Remember this money is used to help establish or re-establish dioceses in the US, as well as financial support for the North America Caribbean Group (NACG), provide book discounts, reduced National Encounter registration fee and vouchers.

The National Cursillo Center has received \$277.04 from the Smile Amazon Foundation, thanks to the participation of many Cursillistas shopping at Amazon! Please continue promoting the \$3/YR Campaign and Amazon Smile through your Friendship Group Reunion, Ultreya, School of Leaders,

Regional Encounters, workshops, personal contact, group email, family and friends. For more information about the \$3/YR Campaign and Amazon Smile, visit www.natl-cursillo.org/donate-to-cursillo. Thank you so much for your continuous support and generosity!

Acknowledgement:

Thank you to Anna, Gloria, Linda and Cursillistas' testimonials for your dedication, time and talents to give the newsletter a new look!



Nadia Lopez – National Cursillo Service Administrator
Ceferino Aguillon, Jr. – National English Coordinator
Juan Ruiz – National Hispanic Coordinator