



# Movimiento de Cursillo de Cristiandad de la Región 5 de los Estados Unidos

CRISTO - PERSONA - AMISTAD

## Introduction to the V Conversations of Cala Figuera:

A Summary of I, II, III, IV and V

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Saturday, March 8, 2025, Mt Assisi, Lemont, IL

Good morning dear friends! Before we split up into language groups, I will explain a little bit about the Cala Figuera Conversations. Already 5 conversations have passed, as the 5th one was in October 2024! We would like to give you a brief overview of the 5 conversations in preparation for the 5th CCF resonances that will be presented to you by some of the Region 5 participants in October.

## 1st Conversations of Cala Figuera, 1994:

The **I Conversations of Cala Figuera** were an encounter held between **August 19-21, 1994** at the retreat house *La Porcíncula*, in Mallorca. It brought together leaders of the **Cursillos of Christianity Movement (MCC)** from **15 countries**, with the purpose of studying and reflecting on the **Foundational Charism** of the movement. This event coincided with the **50th anniversary of the first Cursillo**, held in Cala Figuera, a fishing and tourist port on the island.

The conversations were driven and structured by **Eduardo Bonnín, Francisco Forteza and Jesús Valls**, with the intention of clarifying the true purpose of the Cursillos, rescuing its essence and correcting deviations in its application. A format of were used **rollos (talks), group work and plenaries**, in addition to the celebration of **mass and daily meditations**, one of them led by **Fr. Gabriel Seguí**, a key priest in supporting the Cursillo.

During the weekend, were addressed **ten fundamental themes** related to the original charism of the Cursillo Movement. It was emphasized that **Cursillo does not seek to create structures** but to focus on the **person** and facilitate three essential encounters:

1. **Encounter with oneself**
2. **Encounter with Christ**
3. **Meeting with others**

It was emphasized that the CCM must **remain genuine**, as it was conceived in 1944 by **Eduardo Bonnín**, avoiding deviations from its original purpose. It was also reminded that the movement is **diocesan** and should not be limited to parish structures.

In conclusion, the Cala Figuera Conversations were an opportunity for the leaders to deepen their understanding of the **Foundational Charism**, committing themselves to be its **guardians and custodians**, ensuring that the Cursillo Movement continues to transmit its essential message: **"God loves you"**, yesterday, today and forever.

The **Foundational Charism** of Cursillo is based on **ten core values**:

Person, Freedom, Love, Friendship, Conviction, Sincerity, Criterion, Life, Normality and Joy.

These values reflect the balance between the human and the Christian, the essence of the movement.

The **First Conversations of Cala Figuera** marked a key point in the reaffirmation of the charism, which led at the Eduardo Bonnín to speak on this topic . Later, in **World Encounter in Korea in 1997/1998**, Pope John Paul II convoked the **First Assembly of Ecclesial Movements**, encouraging all the movements to return to their origins.

The study of the **Foundational Charism** was considered crucial to **correct deviations** in the application of the Cursillo method, preventing it from adapting to personal conveniences instead of remaining faithful to its original purpose. It was also alerted about the loss of the essential message in the Three-Day Cursillo, which should focus on evangelizing the distant instead of conforming to people already active in the Church.

To preserve its identity, the movement must focus on its method based on **friendship**, bringing people closer to Christ through authentic relationships. Evangelization must be **universal**, without social, economic or educational distinctions, always prioritizing **the person** and respecting his or her **freedom**.

Finally, it was emphasized that the Cursillo Movement should be **clear, simple and profound, like the Gospel**, maintaining the balance between the human and the Christian. Only through a deep study of the **Foundational Charism**, the cursillistas will be able to live it and transmit it genuinely, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide their way in the evangelizing mission.

## II Cala Figuera Conversations 2002

These conversations highlight the evolution of the Foundational Charism of the Cursillos in Christianity from being an explanation of its beginnings to becoming a light that guides its development without losing its original identity. It is emphasized that the charism is not only the history of its foundation, but its spiritual DNA and evangelizing essence.

Mention is made of the April 2002 event in Mallorca, where representatives of various nationalities gathered to reflect on this charism. Leaders are urged to recognize this truth beyond the history and geography of the movement.

Finally, it is emphasized that the Cursillos are a journey of faith and friendship, whose purpose is to bring the Gospel to daily life. The Resurrection of Jesus is reflected upon as an act of love and trust, and a theme for future conversations is proposed.

In these Conversations, the following topics were emphasized more than anything else:

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Cursillo de Cristiandad/Institution (its origins), Foundational Charism: its Definition, Cursillo de Cristiandad as a Christianity in Action, The Encounter with Self (psychological, emotional, and spiritual level), as a Secular Vocation: A Method of Friendship and Future Challenges (external and internal).

### **III Cala Figuera Conversations: From May 5 to 8, 2011**

#### **The meaning of life:**

Life needs a purpose that goes beyond basic needs. It is conceived as a path with a vocation, where meaning is acquired through various dimensions of reality (physical, rational, transcendental). Without meaning, life generates frustration and confusion. Conversion is a constant shift towards the search for purpose, not what we expect from life, but what life expects from us. For Christians, Jesus Christ is the ultimate meaning of life, offering fulfillment.

#### **Attitude:**

Attitude is the only truly free decision a human being has and reflects how we face life. It influences our personality and imprint on the world. Jesus does not impose norms, but calls for a revolution of consciousness. In a changing world, attitude remains decisive. Christianity promotes an attitude based on love, which is reflected in actions and the option for the good.

#### **Creativity:**

Creativity is the ability to generate new and original ideas. It is a personal quality, not a profession, and it manifests itself in all human areas. To be creative is not to force originality, but to express oneself without imitation, maintaining one's own identity. Creativity requires faith, identity, trust, and love, and reflects the human being's God-like capacity for creation. Christianity is not a set of rules, but a way of life where creativity allows us to live with meaning.

#### **Communication:**

Communication begins with the discovery of otherness, whether with self, others, or God. It goes beyond the means of communication, seeking a deep connection. The encounter with oneself is essential to act from true motivation. True communication with others is based on sincerity and inner truth, creating authentic relationships. Communication with God, through prayer, is an awakening to his presence, especially through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, which activates the conscience and opens the heart to salvation.

#### **Trust:**

Trust is both self-assurance and faith in others. It is the seed of friendship, based on fidelity, reciprocity and freedom. Trust requires respect and prudence in approaching the truth of the other, avoiding abuse. Forgiveness is the restoration of trust, not just an apology. Trust is active, an act of surrender, similar to faith in God, which illuminates our life with love and freedom. To trust is to love, and to love is to resurrect.

#### **Transcendence:**

Transcendence is the act of going beyond the physical, profoundly impacting others. It is the concept of going beyond the limits of space and time, allowing true freedom. For Christians, it

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reaches its culmination with the Resurrection of Jesus. Transcendence implies that life has a purpose beyond death, connected to the immortality of the soul and a divine force. Love is central, for in giving oneself to the other, one grows spiritually. Living in transcendence means allowing love to guide our daily actions and recognizing that our essence is transcendental.

#### **IV CONVERSATIONS OF CALA FIGUERA:**

"To evangelize is not only and principally to preach the Good News of the Gospel, but to make the person himself become Good News, joyful news that Christ lives, thus making Christ alive, normal and close to the other men and women of today" Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló

The IV Conversations of Cala Figuera, held May 5-8, 2016 at the Sa Màniga Auditorium in Cala Millor, Mallorca, was an international encounter that brought together people from all over the world. The event sought to deepen the Cursillos in Christianity Movement, the Holy Spirit, and the figure of Christ, through 9 rollos, experiential testimonies and meditations that filled the participants with enthusiasm and spirituality.

Throughout the days, themes such as "Search", "Hope" and "Fullness" were explored, and the shared experience fostered the exchange of reflections and the creation of bonds of friendship. In addition, the process of canonization of Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló, founder of the movement, was discussed.

The visit of Onofre Arbona, a Cursillista from the first Cursillo in 1944, was a special moment, and the event was characterized by emotion and connection among the attendees, who were also united spiritually by the prayers of those who could not attend.

The Cala Figuera Conversations offered a space for live dialogue and reflection, highlighting the importance of sharing in person and reflecting together on the truth. The sharing was an opportunity to recycle and update human and spiritual truths, with the goal of spreading the good news that God loves everyone, regardless of place or time.

These conversations reaffirmed the legacy of Eduardo Bonnín and the mission of the Cursillos in Christianity, which continues to expand worldwide, bringing hope and love to those most in need. The experience closed with joy, inspiring everyone to live the experience of divine love.

Speeches: Search, Encounter, News, Hope, Fullness, Gratitude, Signs, Search, Encounter

#### **V Cala Figuera Conversations:**

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To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the 1st Cursillo in 1944 in Cala Figuera, the V Conversations of Cala Figuera were held from October 24, 2024 to October 27, 2024 in Mallorca, Spain.

**Humanity (Vicente Esplugues):** A reflection on the technological revolution and its profound implications on humanity, which goes beyond the economic and social, touching the spiritual. How will the essence of the human being be maintained in the face of these changes? What role will religion, especially Christianity, play in a world of genetic advances and transhumanism?

1. **Consciousness (Manuel Fernández):** Consciousness as the alpha and omega of the human journey. Listeners are invited to reflect on their individual level of consciousness and the need for answers to existential mysteries, essential for the future of humanity and the Christian religion.
2. **Word (Carmen Enseñat):** An analysis of the word of God versus the word of the world, reflecting on how the word of God remains radical and profound, while the word of the world is often superficial and manipulative.
3. **Response (Teodoro Suau):** An analysis of the response that God gives us throughout our lives, with emphasis on how the difficulties and successes of our existence can be a continuous response to His will.
4. **Cross (Guillermo Dezcallar):** The cross as transcendence of pain and failure. Through a profound reflection, he invites us to understand how the cross of Christ and our own cross allow us to transcend suffering and find purpose in life.
5. **Truth (Susana Castelló):** The only absolute truth, love, is presented as the essence of human life. We reflect on how the "truths" of the world do not reach the depth and certainty of love, which is the only one that fills the existential void.
6. **Resurrection (Mns. Eusebio Elizondo):** Resurrection as an ongoing process in daily life and as an eternal promise. It is not only a future event, but something we can live every day through faith, love and hope.

**Personally, the V Conversations of Cala Figuera were a time of deep reflection for me.** Although I had previously visited Mallorca on several occasions for reasons related to Cursillo, this experience was transcendental—it still remains alive in my heart, mind, and soul. Being on the same island, in the very places where the foundational charism was born, was an immense gift from the first time I set foot there for the IV Conversations in 2016. Everything I experienced during the Fourth Conversations helped me draw closer to the history of Cursillo and made the books that I had read come alive, but in the Fifth Conversations in 2024, I felt as if I were touching the very essence of what the movement truly means through the cursillistas and places where Eduardo thought and prayed and received the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to begin this movement. Returning to the chalet in Cala Figuera was a profoundly different experience... Seeing that little house moved me deeply as I realized: *Wow! In that little house, it all began!*

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*Thanks to the Holy Spirit poured out in a Cursillo there in 1944, I am here, and so! Are many Cursillistas all over the world!*

One of the most impactful moments for me occurred when I spoke with a friend from Mallorca, a of the last Cursillo generation that had been close to Eduardo Bonnín. Many from this group, who had been young when they walked alongside with Eduardo in and are now in their 40s and 50s, who , had lived Cursillo alongside Eduardo, some who's rector had been Eduardo, attended Cursillos and Ultreyas, and participated in the first three Conversations of Cala Figuera. As they shared their emotions, some were visibly concerned, even on the verge of tears. They shared with me that after the passing of the last of the first Cursillistas—just a month before the Fifth Conversations—they came to the realization that they are the last generation who know Eduardo and felt an immense responsibility for the legacy left by Eduardo Bonnín to disseminate and make the authentic Cursillo and Foundational Charism known.

It was deeply moving for me to witness how the concern for the future of the foundational charism and the Cursillo Movement, which Eduardo left as an instrument of the Holy Spirit, no longer rested solely on those who had known him personally. That responsibility had now passed to us—the Cursillistas of today. This encounter led me to reflect on how the Holy Spirit, through Eduardo, has entrusted us with the mission of preserving and transmitting this movement with fidelity to its foundational charism.

Many of us, especially those who have taken the time (tried) to deepen our understanding of the charism, feel the call to live and share Cursillo with authenticity. But now, the responsibility lies in our hands. We are called to keep the movement free from deviations, centered on friendship and genuine evangelization, so that future generations can experience what we have lived.

Eduardo Bonnín used to say that Cursillos were still a gift yet to be unwrapped, and this statement continues to resonate with me. It reminds us that we must take steps back to reflect in order to move forward with strength and clarity, always propelling the original charism as it was entrusted to the movement by the Holy Spirit through Eduardo Bonnín. Each of us, no matter where we are in the world, shares the responsibility of this journey—to ensure that the message of Cursillo continues to live and be lived in fidelity to its Foundational Origins.

These resonance (echo) presentations invite the participants of this encounter, just as those of us who participated in the V Conversations to explore existential, spiritual, and human topics, leaving a profound impact that encourages reflection and dialogue. Now, let's move to our classrooms to listen, reflect, and share our Resonances of the V Conversations. Spanish speakers will remain in the gymnasium, where they will be assigned a *decuria*. English and Vietnamese speakers will gather in a separate room to listen to the Resonances in English, with translation into Vietnamese displayed on the screen.

See you later! We will also have the opportunity to hear some testimonies from the V Conversations!

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