



Fundación
Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló

ESSENCE AND PURPOSE

USA September 2024

Region 5, Spanish

Diocese of Milwaukee

Good evening, fellow cursillistas!

We thank you for your interest and generosity, as well as for dedicating your time to us. Also thanks to those of you who have organized this and all the meetings that Carmen and I will attend during this visit.

My name is Margarita or Marga Rado, and we are coming from Mallorca on a “tournee”, as the French say, to visit this country that has always welcomed us so well.

This time we are in Region V and we are very excited to share with you, our concerns, needs, as well as our life in general because what we have come is to know you a little more and become more friends.

This sounds very interesting, let's see if I don't spoil it!

During these two weeks Carmen and I will share with you topics about the Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló Foundation, the process of Beatification of the servant of the Lord and friend Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló, different points of Cursillos as in this case will be the ESSENCE AND PURPOSE OF THE CURSILLOS OF CHRISTIANITY, unity, personal experience, etc. and naturally what may arise if it is in our capacity, as I said we are among friends and Christ in the center, sure it will work. Thank you for being here today and for making this meeting in this atmosphere of joy and friendship a gift.

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Well, today you have asked us to talk about THE ESSENCE AND PURPOSE OF THE CURSILLOS IN CHRISTIANITY.

I believe that when Eduardo encountered the love of the risen Christ, which did not happen in a Cursillo, he rejoiced in this love, trusted in it, and surrendered himself to it, choosing a life of commitment and service. It's not just about God loving me in Christ and loving us as we are; it's also about being and being true.

We cannot forget that the Cursillo Movement is a movement of life, a Christian life. I would say Eduardo always had the attitude of a disciple; he defined himself as an "APPRENTICE OF CHRISTIANITY."

Jesus saved us; He has saved humanity, but He is also the friend of the soul, in addition to being the teacher, the teacher of the heart. What do I mean? Well, Jesus of Nazareth encountered many people throughout His life and transformed their lives. Today, 2,000 years later, He continues to transform our lives.

With His generosity, Jesus makes us feel loved and invites us to look within ourselves, for looking at oneself doesn't just mean reflecting on our own ideas, actions, or feelings; it means examining our very being—not just what we do, our morality, or what we say, but what we truly are. Jesus points to who we are, to our hearts, to our deepest and most original nature. He sees beyond what you say or do; He sees who you are, and through this love of Jesus of Nazareth, we are today capable of looking within ourselves.



He is the key to self-knowledge. No one in history has been able to say “I” quite like Jesus of Nazareth, who proclaimed nothing less than:

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

I AM THE WAY

I AM THE TRUTH

I align myself with this teacher; I want to learn and be light, way, and truth in my life.

If we wish to learn how to be ourselves, we might need to deconstruct the image of God we were taught as children and experienced:

THE PUNISHING GOD

THE GOD WHO SENDS US BILLS SEEKING “PAY BACK”

THE GOD WHO CONTROLS US

This is what prevents us from reaching the true God, who is love, and presenting ourselves before Him just as we are—in our most vivid, real, and dynamic reality. To understand Him, we must move from the concept, or rather, the commandment of “LOVE GOD” to the good and enduring news that “GOD LOVES ME.”

Cursillo focuses on the Christian experience from this reality; it’s a new way of seeing the same old things because God, more than just seeing us, looks at us with interest and hope—from the heart, with love. There exists a privileged and all-encompassing relationship between Him and humanity. There is no separation between God and man because Jesus Christ is precisely the fusion of the divine and the human, the spiritual and the material.

We discover that we are not simply to follow Jesus, but something much more profound: to realize that God lives through us. We must



not place Him outside ourselves but situate Him within, making Him present in our lives, in our daily existence. As a friend of mine says, Jesus walks with me in the shoes of the everyday.

Cursillo invites you to live a personal experience, and it is very important that we understand and grasp this because it means moving from the mind to the heart, from the external to the internal. Jesus also underwent this process to accept and live His life in peace and to reach the Father. It is not merely a reflection or knowledge of God; it is not enough to have a fundamentally mental or intellectual view of Christ. It must come from the heart, from the depths of our being. The Christian faith is not a theoretical concept; it is authentically lived.

The essence of Cursillo is:

****The reality of love****

****The reality of friendship****

****The reality that Christ is my friend****

****The Good News that God loves me in Christ****

PURPOSE

In an interview, Eduardo explains: “The purpose pursued by the Movement began this way: A group of young people—who were young at the time—had this concern that we needed to channel. To give shape to this concern, we thought that the best way, since we were interested in Christian ideas, was to go to the sources of all the people who were at the forefront of things at that time and who could influence the world in spreading, expanding, and extending the Christian message.

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After studying quite thoroughly what we wanted to achieve, we conducted 4 or 5 Cursillos—not just as trials, but to truly experience—and we saw that the reality offered much more than we had imagined. And so, the Cursillos continued.” You see, this is why Eduardo said that Cursillos are of the Holy Spirit.

Cursillos make it possible for Christianity to flourish in the normal life we live in the Fourth Day—our everyday existence—and to carry the Good News that God loves me in Christ to as many people as possible, even to those who are farthest away, using the best means: friendship.

We can focus this purpose around three concepts—a triple A.

- “Amistad” - Friendship: testimony
- “Ambiente” - Environment: lay (secular)
- “Alejados”- the far away: person

There is nothing as important, rewarding, and beautiful as **FRIENDSHIP**, which is the deep connection between people, with Christ at the center. This allows us and empowers us to become better individuals. I must say that my Group Reunion (which, by the way, is quite dynamic since we are five strong, beautiful women, full of conviction and decisiveness—though maybe not as consistent, but we’re working on it) is my closest circle, where I have received the most forgiveness and where I have learned to forgive from the heart. I have also learned to practice temperance.

THE FAR AWAY: Cursillos are directed toward and for the person. And the person encompasses everyone. They aim to achieve, by the

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grace of God, that the Good News of the Gospel reaches as many as possible, especially the ordinary man of today. It's not about your status in society (whether you are rich or famous, you can also come); it's about those who have no relationship with God and likely won't unless one of us speaks to them. Moreover, there's a reason God places you on their path; we just need to be awake and look around us—it's that simple. One of the attitudes I appreciate most about Ultreya is that before entering, we have a coat rack where we all hang our uniforms, or rather, our personas (roles and titles in life). I assure you, it works.

ENVIRONMENT: We neither want nor know how to build Christian structures; what we do know is how to create environments of joyful Christian friendship. Cursillos are not meant to revitalize the Church, although they are achieving this indirectly; that is not the specific purpose of the Cursillo Movement.

As we always say, Cursillo is a personal plan, not a pastoral plan. Eduardo was moved by the testimonies of Cursillistas; there was one that stood out among the others, which was when a father or mother shared with him the achievements made in their family or community thanks to attending a Cursillo and how things had positively changed in their home since then.

Cursillos don't change your life; they change you, and you change your life. That is the essence of being a Christian and a free person.

The field of labor for the purpose of the Cursillo Movement lies in fostering the environments where the daily life of the Cursillista unfolds—in the Cursillo, the office, the taxi, on the sports field, in



college, etc. God wants you where you were before you encountered Him—in your reality, fermenting Christianity through friendship among those you live with.

Friends, let us continue to cultivate friendship in our movable square meter where the Lord has placed us.

When I begin the talk on the ESSENCE AND PURPOSE OF CURSILLO, my opening line has been, “I believe that when Eduardo encountered the love of the risen Christ, he rejoiced in this love.”

Now, as I seek a way to close the talk (because I don’t want to be tedious, and I’m running out of words), it turns out that at a national Ultreya in Italy, Eduardo closed his talk like this:

“We must spread the faith, spread the joy of faith. This is what we need to share—not just the knowledge of faith, but the joy of faith. Because those who spread the joy of faith help extend that faith to our brothers. It is the jubilant communication of being Christian.”

I believe that Eduardo infected us with the joy of his faith.

DE COLORES!