

Fully Alive



THE NATIONAL RESOURCE DOCUMENT OF THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC CURSILLOS

“As St. Paul points out, Christ never meant that we were to remain children in intelligence: on the contrary. He told us to be not only ‘as harmless as doves’, but also ‘as wise as serpents’. He wants a child’s heart, but a grown-up’s head. He wants us to be simple, single-minded, affectionate, and teachable, as good children are; but He also wants every bit of intelligence we have to be alert at its job, and in first-class fighting trim.”

*An excerpt from Mere Christianity
C.S.Lewis p 77*

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OFFICERS' CORNER

Arlene van Diepen, Chair of CCCC.

Greetings from the CCCC Officer's Group. We pray that you and your families have been blessed with the Grace of the Risen Christ.

We, the Officer's Group, sincerely hope that you continue to find *Fully Alive* to be an invaluable resource in helping you to keep up-to-date with the happenings around the country as well as a resource for your School of Leaders. We believe that providing it to you in an electronic format on our [CCCC Website](#) will make it more accessible to all Cursillistas. However, if you wish to receive a hard copy for an annual subscription please contact the Resource Centre: cccresource2@gmail.com.

In November of 2015, I wrote my first Officer's Corner for *Fully Alive*. In May of 2018, I write my last as my term as chair will end after the July Annual Conference. Three years has gone by so fast and it has been my privilege to serve the Canadian Cursillo movement in this capacity. I wish the OG and its new chair all the best in the future and rest assured I will be praying for you and offer you my assistance in whatever capacity it is required.

Last year, Fr. Nel Esguerra became the Assistant Spiritual Advisor for the OG to assist with the duties of the spiritual advisor as Fr. Pat was experiencing some health

issues. With the improvement in Fr Pat's health and because Fr. Nel is now serving in a very large parish in Alberta, our dear Fathers have discerned that Fr. Nel will take a temporary leave from the OG. We thank Fr. Nel for his support and his friendship and we will look forward to the time when he is back with the OG.



Fr. Pat and Fr. Nel about to celebrate mass at the Officers meeting in Marylake Monastery, King City, ON

The Officer's Group continue to meet via Skype monthly. It is amazing how much we can accomplish in two hours using this communication medium. We met in Toronto at Marylake from April 10 - 12, 2018. As is our custom, we used our time together to develop sound friendships which is critical to the success of the Officer's Group.

As well, we worked on priorities that needed the in-person 'touch' to facilitate discussion and decision. Knowing that we had some key decisions to make at this meeting, the officers

prayed the [Novena 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit](#). We prayed days 8 and 9 together at our meeting. We were truly blessed to have both Fr. Nel and Fr. Pat celebrate the Eucharist with us daily. In addition, we also spent time in personal prayer and meditation led by Fr. Nel Esguerra.

We dedicated a considerable amount of time at the in-person meeting reviewing the make up of the Officer's Group (OG). The OG consists of a chair, 3 regional officers, a spiritual advisor and a resource person. We are developing a document that outlines the criteria for each position, it's role and tenure.

Approximately 4 years ago, Cursillistas from Kingston, Ontario reached out to Bernie Reilander, chair of the CCCC, for assistance in reviving their Cursillo movement. It had been inactive for many years. We are very pleased to announce that a men's Cursillo weekend with 14 candidates was held March 8 - 11, 2018. This weekend was the culmination of much prayer and dedicated work of many Cursillistas. The Cursillistas of the Kingston area had a strong desire to bring Cursillo back to Kingston after many years of absence. They knew that when they lived their Cursillo, it changed their lives; changed them for Christ and they wanted that for others in their environments. After exchanges of many emails and telephone calls from the OG, visits from the Toronto Cursillo movement and attendance at weekends in Toronto, the CCCC held a workshop in Kingston on the Step by Step Weekend Guide. After that, the phone calls and emails continued, and then, with God's Grace, a strategy was developed that would enable this weekend to happen. The CCCC would like to thank the Cursillistas of Kingston for putting their faith in God so that they could be open to the advice and guidance provided to them by the CCCC. We would also like to thank the Toronto Cursillo movement for their dedication to Cursillo. Without them, this weekend would not have happened. They were involved from the beginning with support from the CCCC to converse about the rejuvenation of the Kingston movement. They worked diligently with Kingston Cursillistas to plan for this weekend with a team comprised of Cursillistas from Toronto and Thunder Bay.

A women's weekend is scheduled for August 9 - 12, 2018. A second men's weekend will be held November 29 - December 2, 2018. God is good....God is great!

The Step by Step Guide has been finalized and has been sent out to movements. We will continue to revise it as required. A workshop on the guide was held in April 2018 with Cursillistas from the Charlottetown Cursillo Movement. A weekend for Cursillistas using the Step by Step Guide is being planned for St. John's, NL in October 2018. If any movements are interested in a workshop or a weekend for Cursillistas please contact the [Resource Centre](#).

We are continuing the work on revising the weekend rollos. In 2017, we finalized *The Layperson as a Christian in the World and Total Security*. Recently, the Study of the Environment and the Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo have been sent to Lay Directors and to the Leaders Group. We are now working on the Piety Rollo.

One of the priorities for the CCCC is to provide information to Cursillistas. Our [Resource Centre](#) has many resources available for purchase. Bernie Reilander is assisting the OG to write a *FAQ Second Edition* and we hope to have this available within the next 6 months. A booklet entitled *The 3 Days - A Resource for the School of Leaders - The Why of the Weekend: What Each Day Encourages and Facilitates* will be available for sale at the July conference.

The 2018 Annual Conference will be hosted by the Cursillistas of the Hamilton, Ontario Cursillo movement and will be held at Wilfrid Laurier University from July 5 - 8, 2017. The theme for the conference is *The Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo - From the Weekend to the World*.

On the international level, as mentioned in the last Officer's Corner, the seat for the [OMCC](#), (the World Body of Cursillos in Christianity), will be in Mexico for the next 4 years. The OMCC consists of four international groups. Canada belongs to the North American Caribbean Group (NACG). The USA will hold the seat for the NACG for the next 4 years. We are pleased to announce that Carlos Muñoz, a Cursillista from the Montreal Archdiocese, has agreed to be the CCCC liaison with the NACG executive. Bernie Reilander, Ottawa Cursillo Movement, and Marg Weber, Hamilton Cursillo Movement, have agreed to assist Carlos in this regard. Many thanks to all of you for your dedication to the Cursillo movement in Canada.

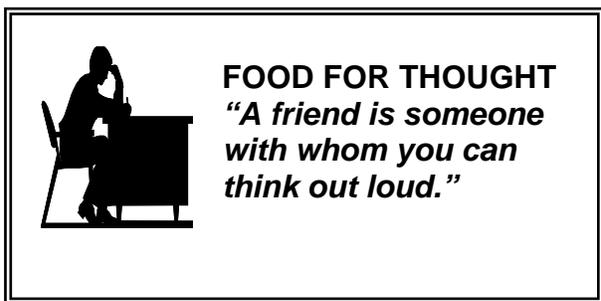
As I take leave of you as Chair of the OG, I commend all of you for your apostolic action in your environments in bringing the great news of God's love to all you meet. We have devoted our 2018 Conference to aid you in this action - the Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo: From the Weekend to the World. I also want to encourage you to attend the School of Leaders meetings in your area. If your movement, doesn't have an active School of Leaders, pray to the Holy Spirit to help you to begin one. It all starts with the desire of one! As you have heard on Cursillo weekends 'No can do everything but we all can do something.' The Cursillo movement

in Canada needs leaders; we need 'leaders who think', as Eduardo often said. The School of Leaders is where this happens. I know many of you are very busy and I have been told many times that Cursillo is not the only thing that takes up your time. I challenge you to make Cursillo your 'primary' apostolate. Note I didn't say your 'only' apostolate. We need people who can be members of the Schools of Leaders and who devote time to study of the Charism of Cursillo in Christianity. From this group of people come our team members for Cursillo weekends; people who understand Cursillo and who can speak confidently to candidates about their journey with Christ and Cursillo.

The people you meet every day and candidates on Cursillo weekends, need you to focus on bringing the love of Christ to your environment. Knowing and understanding the Cursillo mentality and method will enable you to be strong in your apostolic action. You will learn as you share your apostolic successes and your apostolic failures with your friends at Group Reunion. The Group Reunion is your invaluable resource for apostolic success.

Ultreya my dear friends in Christ.
De Colores

Arlene van Diepen
Chair, CCCC



**A Daughter, and then a Mother,
Transformed by Love**

After living my Cursillo Weekend a decade ago, my heart really hoped that my mother would experience a weekend like that. She turned 84 years old earlier this year and she lives a continent away. She is the daughter of a protestant minister, and later she became a wife, mother, grandmother, nurse, educator and administrator. Mum's mother died when Mum was in her early teens and a few years after this, her widower father married again. My mother grew up to become a

young independent woman with a nursing career that grew over time and she eventually retired as the principal matron at a major teaching hospital. I tell you this only for you to have some understanding of her remarkable tenacity in achieving her goals.

She did this while living in a racially segregated country with few opportunities for black girls to get an education, find a career and progress in it. In addition, she was raised in an environment where women were to be seen and not heard. She overcame many challenges and in the process could be rather sharp at the edges if you bumped into her the wrong way! Growing up, I did not have a particularly close relationship with my mother. This has changed in our later years.

I would have loved for Mum to experience a Cursillo weekend and I wondered if she would ever truly know and have the experience that God in Christ loves her. It's one thing to have read this and to know it in one's head, and quite another to have felt and experienced this love in one's heart.

Over many phone calls and visits, I have told Mum that God loves her, and more than mere telling, I hope I have shown her Christ's love in the ways I continue to care for her. I told Mum that God loves her as she cared for my father who had had a stroke, and as he was also diagnosed with prostate

cancer. I told Mum of God's love as we mourned the passing of my father.

We now frequently speak to each other of God's love - she lives her days aware that God loves her and she rejoices in this. This is her hope. This gives her courage. Mum has changed - as she has become less independent in body and mind, she clings more closely to the Cross. She tells me in each conversation that God loves her! I hear the joy, clarity and conviction of this in her voice.

I once regretted the fact that Mum would not experience a Cursillo weekend and that there was nothing I could do about this. I was wrong. I believe that the Cursillo weekend changed me, and my hope is that this ongoing experience within me of Cursillo beyond the weekend contributed in a small way to God's desire of making His unconditional love a reality in Mum's life.

Mum will never make a Cursillo weekend, and yet she is a part of the Cursillo community because Cursillistas are the people who lift her up in prayer when she is sick, and I ask Mum to hold my friends in her prayers when they have needs.

I see God's love encouraging and sustaining her. In my eyes, Mum has never been more beautiful than she is now - it's as though her very soul shines more brightly.

A grateful daughter

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CCCC Annual Conference, 2018

Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo – From The Weekend to the World

It is not too late to register for the conference

Go to the CCCC website for information and registration

July 5-8th



Q. I hear CCCC events referred to as CCCC Conferences or Cursillo of Cursillos. Is there a difference between the two?

A. The CCCC facilitates an annual conference each year. To make it possible for Cursillistas from the different parts of Canada to attend these conferences they take place each year in a different region of the country. We invite those Cursillo movements that would like to host a conference to let their wishes be known to the CCCC. Hosting a CCCC conference provides a service to the CCCC but it also can be of great benefit to the hosting community.

CCCC encourages those hosting to involve as many of their Cursillistas as is possible. Working together in this way creates a new enthusiasm, much like that enjoyed while planning Cursillo weekends.

The themes of the conferences are based on the perceived needs of the Canadian movements, information gathered from the Diocesan Annual Reports, from discussions that take place at the conferences themselves and from communications sent to the Officers via the Resource Centre.

A Cursillo of Cursillos on the other hand is a totally different thing although it follows a similar format to that of conferences and indeed Cursillo weekends. Rollos, discussions, Eucharistic celebrations and of course fun.

It is the content of the Cursillo of Cursillo that is different. The Cursillo of Cursillos was created in Mallorca by Eduardo Bonnin and the Mallorcan Cursillo leaders and has been a part of the Cursillo method there for many years. Mallorca recommends that a diocese has a Cursillo of Cursillos every four years. In Canada CCCC hosts the Cursillo of Cursillo as it is a big undertaking for a diocese to take on.

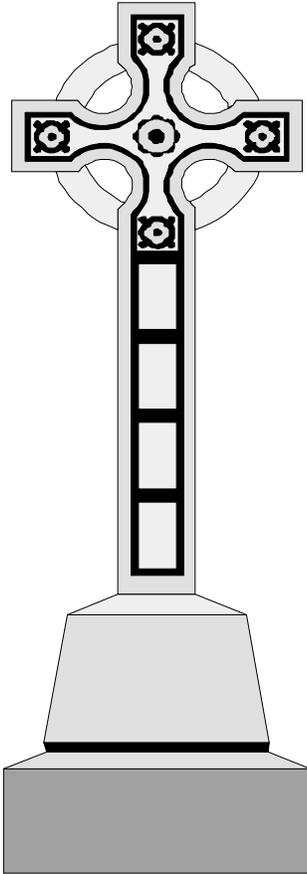
The outlines for the rollos are from Mallorca and the format is exactly the format that is used in Mallorca. The rollos address in a deeper way, the Essence, Purpose, Method and Mentality of all aspects of the movement.

CCCC has hosted several Cursillos of Cursillos, four of which have been presented for the most part by Mallorcan leaders who generously give of their time to travel to Canada to present the Cursillo as Eduardo envisioned it. Charlottown, Hamilton, Ottawa and Grande Prairie have each benefited from hosting one.

If any movement in Canada would like to be host to a Cursillo of Cursillos, please contact the Resource Centre at:

cccresource2@gmail.com

CCCC is responsible for the agenda and content of the Cursillo of Cursillos with the guidance and support of the Mallorca School of Leaders.



MATTERS SPIRITUAL

Fr. Patrick O'Meara, Spiritual Advisor to CCCC

What is important in regard to matters of the spirit is the paschal mystery, part of which refers to the fallings and the risings that are inevitable in life. In Jesus' life there were fallings - not because of sin of course, but because of disappointments and other tragedies and of course there were risings - the Resurrection. The fallings in Jesus' life resulted because He insisted on sharing the human condition in its entirety - not exempting Himself from any of the burdens and tears that can afflict anyone. Every joy, every sorrow, every tear, every smile, every glory, every fear, every complaint, every betrayal that people experience, Jesus insisted on sharing. Jesus shared all of the emotions of life in full, embracing all feelings felt by anyone, regardless of the grief and pain they may cause Him.

We will never and should never be able to figure out the reason why Jesus immersed Himself in all of the aspects of human life. In accepting that we will not know the reason, we begin to trust that Jesus gave Himself wholeheartedly to everyone for his or her good and his or her good alone and not for any benefit that He would receive - which is our faith which we are proud to profess.

How do I show my trust that Jesus gave Himself totally for the happiness of others? By giving of myself as I can for the good of others who are a part of my life. Who are the others who are in my life? The parable of the Good Samaritan provides important insights to this question. Before this parable, Jesus was asked, who is my neighbour? He responds by giving the example that the Good Samaritan gave in the parable. That example - anyone in need is a neighbour - especially if there is any way in which I can help to supply someone in need with whatever is lacking. Remember in the parable how the priest and the Levite had crossed the road on seeing the victim who had been beaten by robbers. The priest and the Levite were on their way to officiate at a religious service. According to the rules for conducting the service, they were not allowed to touch the victim. If they did so, they would not be permitted to lead the worship service. As necessary as worship services are, perhaps the care and devotion dedicated to people in need is worship that is exceedingly of a quality that can't be surpassed. Will I realize in this story the great mystery of my faith that God, who needs nothing is always willing to give all that God is and all that God has so that no one will be in need?

How much are people worth because God, in the person of Jesus, insisted on dying on the Cross at Calvary?

For God, the Redemption of all people is an important part of the work of creation. Perhaps, Jesus' choice of the Parable of the Samaritan to define who our neighbour is, was and is a way of expressing how important that the work of redemption is to the work of creation. The Samaritan could not leave the victim on the road because should the victim die, something important would be missing from the Samaritan's life – a part of himself. So, the Samaritan gave himself to the victim's needs so that the victim has the opportunity to experience an abundant life. In his self-giving, the Samaritan found abundant living – not just for the victim but for the Samaritan himself, whoever he or she was.

The parable of the Samaritan is barely a shadow of God's insistence on being in solidarity with all people. If God is willing to be in solidarity with me, will I show this

willingness by being in solidarity with others, that is by giving of myself as generously as possible in true and lasting friendship so that people will not be strange to me. Will I be willing to give myself so that their giftedness will grace others, not just with their presence but with the divine presence that is with the giftedness with which God endows all people? God did not and does not and never will intend that such giftedness is to be hoarded but to be shared. Remember that prayer in the Mass said by the priest quietly – by the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled Himself to share in our humanity. Jesus expresses His divinity by sharing in our humanity. There is the case for asserting that in sharing of friendship – in sharing our joys and in sharing our burdens and tears together, there is the experience of love – not ordinary love but divine love!

Do I fail to offer the gift that I have if I am truly a friend to others, to God?



Don't forget to send the
dates of your weekends to
the Resource Centre so
we can include them on
the web site
cccresource2@gmail.com

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

CENTRAL REGION

- ◆ ATLANTIC,
Antigonish (Tri County,
Cape Breton East, Cape
Breton West) Halifax, St.
John's, Charlottetown,
Halifax/Yarmouth
(Yarmouth, Valley) Saint
John. (Miramichi)
- ◆ QUEBEC,
Montreal English.
- ◆ ONTARIO,
London Area,
Essex/Windsor, Kent
County/Chatham)
Peterborough, Toronto,
Hamilton, Ottawa,
Kingston, Thunder Bay,
Korean.
- ◆ WESTERN,
Vancouver, Edmonton,
Grouard-McLennan,
Northern Native Cursillo.

KINGSTON

Cursillo is reborn in Kingston.

The weekend was very fruitful in terms of the Pre-cursillo candidate contact, discussion during team meetings and initiating the friendships. The opportunity for the team and all the candidates to have dinner together on Thursday before the start of the weekend, made for a very warm, comfortable entry into the weekend. There were 13 candidates.

There was a strong team from Toronto, Thunder Bay and Kingston with great support from the clergy who were present. They are all deep believers in Cursillo and it showed during their corridor conversations. The team were most effective in their corridor work in getting to know the candidates and forming friendships.

On the point of corridor conversations, they were an integral part of the weekend's success. There were three candidates who were considering leaving at differing times during the weekend, for what they felt were good reasons, but after spending time in conversation about their concerns with some of the Leaders they chose to stay to allow the weekend to play out and all were very pleased to have done so.

The rollos were well written and delivered. The Rector was a wonderful individual with an obvious commitment to the authentic Cursillo method and the new Step by Step Weekend Rector's manual. The team did an admiral job in preparing and presenting the rollos. They were effective table leaders allowing the candidates to do the majority of the work and they were also effective listeners during the corridor conversations. These observations are based on comments from the candidates as well as my personal impressions.

The Clausura was well attended with Cursillistas from Kingston, Perth, Prescott, Hamilton, Ajax, Toronto, Peterborough, Ottawa and Thunder Bay present as well as the CCCC Central Canada Officer who warmly welcomed the rebirth of the Kingston movement.

Fr. Shawn Hughes, one of the candidates, rector of St. Mary's parish (the cathedral in Kingston) in witnessing at the Clausura stated how so very impressed he was with the rollos and this unique

building bridges from coast to coast



experience. Fr. Shawn was considering three charisms from which to choose to champion prior to the weekend and stated it was easy to choose Cursillo. He went on to say he had seventeen names in mind, right away, that he would talk to about Cursillo. He has since formed a group reunion with 2 of the laymen from the weekend and has expressed his

reunions having been formed. There are Cursillistas from Kingston now attending the Toronto on line School of Leaders which will greatly assist in forming and strengthening their movement.

I believe that Kingston now has a strong core group of men to begin the process of reestablishing Cursillo in the Kingston Diocese.



At the first Ultreya after the weekend there were about thirty in attendance including many of the new Cursillistas. As of Easter week, the Kingston Secretariat have decided to have a women's Cursillo Aug. 9-12, and I

believe a men's Nov. 29 - Dec. 4th. Again they requested the assistance of Toronto to provide the team.

intent in being fully involved in this movement. It was very evident from the comments made at the Clausura by the other candidates who spoke, that the Holy Spirit achieved a resounding success.

As we go to press it has been determined that Diane Coates of the Toronto Movement will be the Rector of the women's weekend and the team of four will be from Toronto, Peterborough and Thunder Bay.

The outcome of the weekend was in the hands of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit, using all present, achieved the desired results in the hearts and minds of the candidates.

We ask you all to offer your palanca for this Cursillo weekend as you did so ably for the men's weekend

The weekend has been effectively followed up in the Fourth Day with a number of group

VANCOUVER

Our New Beginning in Cursillo... Returning Home!
Catherine Bowen, Vancouver Cursillo

‘Mallorca, Mallorca, Mallorca!’ For years, when secretariat members returned from the National Conference, their enthusiasm for the Mallorcan Way, met with resistant minds and hearts, blocking progress for many of us for we perceived it as non-translatable to our N. American culture. “Just because it works in Spain, doesn’t mean...!”

Well! Seeing is believing! When in Mallorca, two years ago, Larry and I had the privilege to experience a gathering of enthusiastic Cursillistas in a city square in Palma, there to wish candidates and team members well, welcoming them to the Cursillo community and sending them off to a men’s Cursillo weekend. Team leaders each had a car-full of candidates, as they caravanned to a retreat centre a distance away from the city. The presence of the Holy Spirit was tangible in the joyful outpouring of love and excitement from a large group of people, living Cursillo.

We were all ears, spending time with a couple of long time Cursillistas who intimately journeyed with Eduardo Bonnín for years. No nonsense and very frank were their responses to our concerns over ‘letting go’ of the many aspects of the weekend that were added on over the years, that we thought were such an important part of the weekend experience. “No!” They made it clear where our focus needed to be. That was our ‘metanoia’, the conversion of mind and heart that was necessary for us to be effective leaders in the Cursillo movement at home.

The road of denial for Vancouver, over past years turned into a planning and construction zone. It began with workshops provided by CCCC and then a hand-full of us spending a whole weekend away on

retreat, to pour ourselves into examining every detail of a new and improved weekend format, the Step by Step, one that remained as true as it could be to the original. A lot of prayer and effort into understanding, planning and implementing the new format, bringing hope and light. We knew that what we had become used to, would pale in comparison to the pure ‘uncluttered’ version it was always meant to be.

From the rollos, at the Cursillo of Cursillos last year in Grande Prairie we learned so much and were affirmed in our determination to ‘do it right’. The rollo on School of Leaders inspired me especially, as that is my role on the secretariat. With my enlightened mind set, after the Cursillo of Cursillo, the following is part of a rollo I presented at a School of Leaders.

Eduardo emphasizes the importance of having the awareness of knowing the WHAT, WHY and HOW of the ‘Authentic Cursillo of Christianity’. It has been proven in dioceses throughout the world, since Cursillo began, that when PRECURSILLO, CURSILLO & POST-CURSILLO, are implemented and fulfill their purpose, they respond with exact precision to the motivation of having the Good news of the Gospel reach as many people as possible, and preferably the far away.

Eduardo is on the job! He continually inspires me through his biography and writings, to be determined in my commitment to make a change; to BE the change that will help rejuvenate our Vancouver movement.

The proof is in the pudding! We are enjoying the fruits of our labour, as the new and much

improved format worked well for our first Cursillo weekend for ladies, May 18 - 21. I'll compare doubts vs. anxieties that did their best to be obstacles to grace throughout the

process of preparing for the weekend. The Holy Spirit, of course championed us through! After all, it was the weekend of Pentecost.

DOUBTS & ANXIETIES	ACTUAL GRACE
New venue: 70 km too far with candidates	Quality bonding during the drive
New venue, Cursillistas won't join	Enough Cursillistas made the journey to join us for the Total Security rollo, grouping and Clausura
New venue cost 150% more than the old one	"Is that all?" was a common response
Only 2 candidates one week prior to weekend	Six candidates made the weekend
Accompanying Cursillistas experiencing the weekend to learn of changes would compare the current format with how 'it used to be'	They felt privileged to be part of the weekend and commented on how much time there was to get to know those present. There was appreciation of the simplicity of the Step by Step Guide and the gifts of time and energy during the weekend.
# 1 difficulty recruiting ladies for team	Great team, they stepped up to the plate
#2 Injured rollistas, 3 replacements had to be made the week before	Some gave more than one rollo

Unexpected Blessings: The beautiful 'Little Flower Monastery at Carmel Hill' (in a forest, on a mountain) provided an inviting environment for one-on-one walk and talks, as well as groups.

In the final hour, Marna, our Rectora, was addressing us, in preparation to go to chapel for Clausura. With gratitude for being so favoured by abundant grace poured out on us all, none of us expected anything more...however! At that moment... the **Most Rev. Luigi Bonazzi, the Apostolic Nuncio to Canada** arrived with the Vicar General of our Archdiocese, to visit the monastery. Upon welcoming them, His Excellency expressed how fitting it was that our Cursillo weekend took place on the Feast of Pentecost. He gave us a blessing and commended Cursillo for being a lively

representation of the maternity of the Church. Fittingly, that day was the first memorial feast declared by Pope Francis, of 'Mary, Mother of the Church.'

Sitting among us in the chapel, His Excellency was very attentive to the witnesses given, especially by the new Cursillistas, thanking God for the impact of the love of Christ and graces they received. He enthusiastically joined in singing 'De Colores' and shared light-hearted interaction with each Cursillista who greeted him.

I have worked on many weekend teams in the past but this was the first weekend when I felt the team had experienced the weekend as "Mary, rather than Martha". Using the Step by Step Guide in all its simplicity, we were not overwhelmed with doing, we could be fully present to the candidates while also

sitting at Christ’s feet and ourselves hearing and being nourished by the whole experience.

The men’s weekend is in November. Larry as rector, is extremely grateful to Marna for blazing through the inaugural trail like a champion. For obstacles that arose, she made note of practical solutions that in no way would compromise the encounters of grace, for future candidates.

The grace continues, as God gives me gems to ponder each day. This week, I heard Fr. Tom Rosica speak at St. Mark’s College at UBC, sharing the wisdom of Pope Francis, reminding us to *‘speak of the roots of authentic piety in a way that will revive a sense of wonder at their beauty’*. Fr. Rosica spoke of the pope’s familiar words of: *encounter, dialogue, field hospital, accompaniment, mercy and*

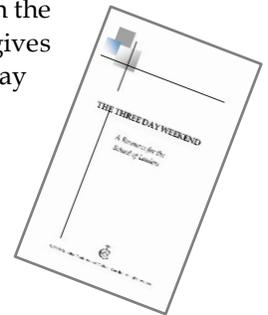
discernment, all of which affirmed the messages in the Piety and Study of Environment rollos, that I presented on the weekend.

Our team of leaders is committed and excited as we continue to be ‘torch bearers’ for our Cursillo movement in Vancouver. This was the first weekend in Vancouver that followed the Step by Step Guide. We jumped into it with faith and both feet forward. We completely discarded all the things previously added and which we had considered essential elements to the weekend. God is truly with us. All we have to do, is not entertain any obstacle to His grace. We pray the same for you! God be with you always!

Catherine

THE THREE DAYS, A RESOURCE FOR THE SCHOOL OF LEADERS

CCCC has a new publication that will be available at the upcoming conference and from the Resource Centre. It is called *The Three Days, A Resource for the School of Leaders*. It gives a detailed overview of the Cursillo Weekend, beginning with the retreat phase on Thursday evening followed by a detailed look at each day, ending with the Clausura.



Its purpose is to be a resource document for the Schools of Leaders where the purpose and focus of each day of the weekend is explained, showing how the weekend develops and what each day should accomplish. Movements who use this for their Schools of Leaders will have leaders who are well prepared to serve as team leaders on a Cursillo weekend.

CURSILLO PRAYER LINE

Let us help one another lighten our burdens and what better way than to join regularly in prayer for one another. The Cursillo prayer line has been established especially for this and we want to encourage the greatest number of people to benefit from it. When we have occasions to pray in gratitude for the many blessings, we gladly share this and multiply our joy. We want to also care for one another through all occasions of life, to erase worry, lighten the burden, be a presence in hardship, to share with God’s people who are in need. As a community, united, we want to look ahead in faith, and unwavering trust that God is indeed by our side in every battle and we are strengthened by the faith and confidence of all his people. St Augustine: *“To fall in love with God is the greatest romance, to seek him the greatest adventure, to find him the greatest achievement.”*

Let us commit to helping one another find Him through all times.

Become a member of the prayer line by contacting Yvonne, cursilloprayerline@gmail.com

Witness

Daily we touch Him

The following is written by Fr. Shawn Hughes, from the Archdiocese of Kingston, Ontario. Fr. Shawn attended the recent Cursillo in Kingston, reported on a previous page, as a candidate. As stated in the report on page 11, this weekend followed the Step by Step Rector's Guide in all its simplicity and the skiing story which Fr. Shawn mentioned as being so meaningful to him, is one of the anecdotal stories used on the Step by Step weekends. These anecdotes have a specific purpose and from Fr. Shawn's reaction to this one, they are not there without purpose.

It is a common joke among priests that the first thing that is said to those who find themselves at the gates of Hell is "Please break into small groups!" So when that was the first thing that took place on the Thursday evening as we began our Cursillo, I thought: "Glory be to God. Here we go!" However, I am very glad, now as a Cursillista, I can happily say: "My name is Father Shawn Hughes, I made my Cursillo in March of 2018 and I was at St. Joseph's table." I came to that weekend not really knowing anything about Cursillo except that my archbishop, Archbishop Brendan O'Brien, the Archbishop of Kingston, had strongly promoted it to the priests of the archdiocese, saying that when he was a parish priest, it was all those who had been on a Cursillo and who had continued in the movement, who were the most actively involved in their faith and their parish. His endorsement rang very true to me as I knew what he had said to be true of the parishioners who had been involved in Cursillo in the parishes I have been in. I knew I could only really promote Cursillo if I had experienced it myself. So when Cursillo was being reintroduced to the Archdiocese of Kingston I seized the opportunity to be in on the ground floor.

Despite that initial bump, I was immediately struck by the profound Catholicity and Scriptural grounding of all of the rollos and their profound rootedness in the reality of

our fallen human nature. They so beautiful encapsulated St. Augustine's pithy profound prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to know myself and you." The very first rollo, delivered by Kevin O'Brien, forced all of us, even myself as a priest, to reexamine my ideals: who I was, what I was doing, where was I going? This talk was followed by Father Terry MacKenna's very clear, articulate presentation on habitual and sanctifying grace. His careful explanation of grace being God's free gift of His favour; that, being made in His image and likeness, we are participants in the very nature of God. It is in that free gift of grace we become members of the Mystical Body of Christ and as members we are not alone. We are sons and daughters of the Father, not on an island, but together with others, called to grow in the ideal with which the gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ challenges us. The gospel helps us live up to become the man or woman God has created us to be.

As a priest I very much appreciated the profound vocation of the laity called forth in Cursillo. The weekend highlighted that the laity and the clergy have the same mission; to make Christ present in the world. The same mission, but different in its execution, complimentary, would be the theological term we use. It was emphasized that what is of most value is to be able to proclaim with St. Paul that, "I no longer live, but Christ lives within me" (Galatians 2:20). Forming

our decisions around this conviction and persevering in our Sacramental life; persevering in our prayer, personal and Scriptural, and persevering in living out our Sacramental life and prayer through some intentional apostolate.

The talk on Actual Grace emphasized the duty of the moment to respond to the habitual and actual grace that help us deal with obstacles that come along. The efficacy of prayer was emphasized over and over again with the introduction of the 'palanca.' It was very moving as the 'palancas' were read from all over North America and beyond. It powerfully reinforced that yes we are the Body of Christ and prayers offered somewhere else in the world were indeed contributing to the deep experience of the presence of the Holy Spirit in Kingston in March 2018.

Richard Allen presented a talk on Piety. He introduced a man who had influenced him greatly. What struck me was this man's morning prayer: "Lord help me to help you to bring one soul one step closer to Christ today." The realistic determination and openness to God's grace acting in this man's life was powerful; one day at a time, one person at a time. This talk so clearly presented that our piety is not about me and Jesus but that our piety leads to apostolate, that the fact that we are alive in Christ, leads us to awaken in others the love God has for them. This is powerfully summarized in *Gaudium et Spes* of the Second Vatican Council: "Man, who is the only creature on earth which God willed for itself, cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself." (*Gaudium et Spes*, #24) We were strongly exhorted to be doers of the word and not just hearers of the word. (James 1:22)

I would say one of the profoundest moments of my Cursillo for me was a story that

Gabriel Ferdinand, the rector, told, I think somewhat extemporaneously. He told of a group of students who had travelled to Whistler during their Reading Week to ski. One day, late in the afternoon, as they were making their final descent a violent storm blew up and they were forced to take cover in a cabin part way down the hill. As they settled in to wait out the storm it was discovered one of the girls was not with them. Her boyfriend, deeply alarmed, set out in the storm in an attempt to find her. He discovered her unconscious, somewhat off the track, having experienced a bad fall. He hoisted her onto his shoulder and carried her back to the cabin. Once safely back he told everyone what had happened. Surprisingly he had three reactions to his telling of his experience: some marvelled in admiration at his courage, a second group listened and only heard bragging and self focus. But the young lady, having regained consciousness, and having heard the telling of the story could only utter, "All this for me?" "All this for me?" Wow! "All this for me, Lord!" The grace of that story stuck with me for the rest of the weekend. Following that talk our small group went to the chapel before the Blessed Sacrament and all I could think of was 'All this for me, Lord?' It stuck with me the following week. I kept mulling it over and over in my mind; 'All this for me, Lord!' I worked the story into my homily the following weekend as we were approaching Holy Week. Yes, indeed, all this for me! All this for each one of us. What a wonderful grace that I still savour! It is always fascinating where the Holy Spirit will strike and stick!

I was strongly impressed with the application of the talk on piety and the talk on Christ which were followed by David Willkie's presentation on study. It tied so beautifully with what had gone before. Parenthetically, I must say that is one of the strongest impressions I had with the

weekend. Each talk built so beautifully on those that had preceded it. Close parentheses. Either we advance by ideals or we just go with the flow. Truth must be assimilated for it to become the reality we live. Thus, we must study about and pray over these truths. Only with enlightened understanding can our wills become stronger. Christians are driven by conviction not by circumstances. Conviction comes from deep prayer and deep study. Manchui Wong highlighted that, "yes, the action of study exercised my own power, however it was apostolic action that put into action the love of God and the love of neighbour." Here the core of Cursillo was manifested. It was out of our living our faith that Apostolic Action must be a fundamental part of being a Christian. Action is essential to the Church. "Go and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28: 19) Only .05 % of the Church is comprised of bishops and priests. Therefore, 99.95%, the rest, are laity. It is predominantly the vocation of the laity to live out this great commission. Faith longs to share what it has experienced and learned. This doesn't just happen it requires concrete choice and commitment. In prayer, study and apostolic action I have to live the truth first and then I have to make friends, be a friend and bring those friends to Christ.

Father Terry strongly warned us that we need to know that the Enemy works mostly through discouragement and our weaknesses. We need great self-knowledge. We need to recognize his work and our areas of vulnerability and always have our guard in place. Father Terry emphasized that we are in a spiritual battle and if we did not recognize we were at war we would soon become casualties of the particular battle in which we are being assaulted. The absolute Ignatian quality of Cursillo was manifested in how we fight sin or what St. Ignatius of Loyola would call desolation: the Sacraments, mortification, self-

denial/fasting, prayer, avoiding the occasion of sin and spiritual direction are the recourses we have against the assault of the Enemy. Following these spiritual disciplines we will be great Christian leaders who will "go and bear fruit, fruit that will last." (John 15:16)

Then Reino Pitkanen outlined to us how we could be Christians in the environment we find ourselves. We need a plan of action and the heart to win all for Christ. Thus it begins with prayer and study and flowers in apostolate: bringing others to Christ. We must begin with winning their hearts and then their minds. The world thinks that we must begin with their minds and then their hearts will follow. Not so. It is only when the heart is won that the will is excited. True Christian action comes from being a true Christian. Being/living the Gospel is the best way of preaching the Gospel. My heart was truly captured by Cursillo in a way that few other retreat experiences had done.

One of the most riveting aspects of Cursillo's pedagogy came with the slow realization that it really never ends. The Fourth Day is the rest of our lives lived in fellowship with fellow Cursillistas who are committed to supporting, sustaining and encouraging each other and who are committed to taking the Gospel to the environments in which they find themselves: home, recreation and work. It became irrefutably clearer and clearer as the weekend progressed that we are God's instrument to help others in the salvation of souls.

I have found the Reunion Group one of the most nourishing parts of my Cursillo. I gather with three other men every couple of weeks to pray together, share our struggles and triumphs and encourage each other in our personal living of the Christian apostolate. This is such a beautiful opportunity to see Christ in others. It is also

a beautiful opportunity to reflect Christ to others when they cannot see him themselves. Already after only a few meetings I feel a deep Christian love for each of the members of my reunion group.

As Reino, Kevin and Gabriel spoke about the ongoing living of Cursillo my mind immediately travelled to the men of my parish who were not on the Cursillo and by the end of the weekend I had a list of seventeen names of men I knew would be open to Cursillo and once on a weekend would be set afire.

As the weekend progressed one of the members of the support team from Kingston asked how I thought the weekend was going. I replied, in a typically Celtic way with a question, "How do you think it is going?" He replied: "It is a little too Catholic." I replied: "Too Catholic? Can those words ever be put together?" It was the very fact that Cursillo was so intrinsically orthodox in its Catholicity that I found the weekend so moving. It was because the weekend was so Catholic that my heart was on fire. It was after his comment that I realized that if Cursillo was going to take root once more in the Archdiocese of Kingston that it would have to always be as Catholic as it possibly could be.

One of the most satisfying parts of the weekend was one of our Kingstonians who had struggled from the very first evening. He, like I first did, felt the 'adult education model' of small groups was for the birds and he was off to call his wife to come and get him after the Many members of the team and those of us making the Cursillo spent much time convincing him to stay. As we were leaving Sunday evening he was at the door and I said to him: "I am so glad you stayed." He turned to me and said: "So am I!" Success! Another heart for Christ. Another soul on fire, thanks to Cursillo.

The final impression of the goodness of Cursillo struck me when we joined the Cursillistas who had gathered to welcome us into the movement. They had travelled from Thunder Bay, Peterborough, Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa and many from the Kingston area as well. Even himself, Archbishop O'Brien, joined us. Their generosity in being there strongly conveyed the impact the movement has made on their lives and left a strong impression on me. I came away from the weekend with a strong desire to be part of the weekends in the Archdiocese of Kingston in whatever way the Lord would ask of me. This Archdiocese needs Cursillo. I have said to my parishioners that I hope that all of them will, in time, be able to have their prayer, faith practice and understanding rejuvenated by experiencing Cursillo for themselves. Finally, I can't convey strongly enough the gratitude in my heart for the team who came from Toronto to lead us. The generosity of spending the three days with us, witnessing, teaching and encouraging, in itself was a powerful testimony of what the Lord, through Cursillo, has done in their lives. Truly, truly beautiful.

De Colores!!
Fr. Shawn Hughes

If you have any questions regarding the Step by Step Rector's weekend Guide or are interested in a workshop to explain its use, please contact the Resource Centre.

CCCC has been working with Mallorca for several years to bring the Canadian movement into alignment with the Cursillo Movement that Eduardo envisioned and which is lived today in Mallorca, with the same focus and purpose as the first weekend in 1944.

Those movements which have utilized its use in their recent weekends can testify to its efficacy.

FROM EDUARDO

The following is an excerpt from History of a Charism by Eduardo Bonnin. It will be available by the end of the year in book form. It should be noted that the book is a collection of Eduardo's writings, some written in previous years so the dates will not appear to be current.

THOSE WITH PERSONALITY DIFFICULT TO MANIPULATE

The fact that I have been active in the Cursillo Movement since its very beginning - in 1944 - makes me a witness of how - surely always with the best of intentions, of course - the powerful spiritual energy produced by the three days of a Cursillo has almost totally been initially directed, and then channelled by those who, feeling themselves better Christians than the others, have claimed to "act as agents of change" and "builders of society." To do so they have used, if I may say so, the human and generous material that each Cursillo has been providing them. And they do this, without consideration for the will of the individuals involved, trying to revitalize everything that doesn't work or works badly within their own ecclesiastical field.

This deviation, so frequently and so painfully experienced, repeatedly has been and still is, the main reason why so many times the Cursillo Movement hasn't produced and doesn't produce the effective fruits that we might expect of it. Normally persons who have lived a Cursillo, especially if they have personality, will not let themselves be managed so that the same as always get the same old things, i.e., to have stooges they can count on to do their bidding, so that they can continue exercising their abilities as agents and builders.

BLOOM WHERE GOD HAS PLANTED YOU

We must take very seriously the fact that those who come out of a Cursillo should not

be manipulated nor displaced. On the contrary they have to bloom where God has planted them. If we do this in this way, those who have lived the joyful experience of the three days of Cursillo will go on increasing it, provided (that) they are supplied with the appropriate means: Group Reunion and Ultreya. This facilitates forming a climate that will enable them to gradually clarify their conviction, affirm their own decision, and motivate their constancy. Without a doubt, this is the best way to enable them to plan the most important thing of all, which has always been, still is, and always will be, the encounter with oneself. This is the foundational step, the fundamental key that facilitates, simplifies, and paves the highway to Christ and to the brothers, without inhibiting mysticisms, or uncontrolled brotherhoods.

THE INDISPENSIBLE POINT OF DEPARTURE

Wherever it hasn't been distorted the Cursillo Movement starts from the fact that it has no need to look for any agents of change. Everything necessary is emerging naturally from the climate that is created and expanding from the very place where he is, who, as we keep saying, after having encountered himself, Christ, and the brothers, needs no reminding that the first encounter is the most important one in order to be able to gradually perpetuate the other two. This is the indispensable starting point.

WHAT IS CONTAGIOUS AND CONVINCING

The stubborn, although sometimes hidden, urgency, with which those who have recently encountered themselves at a Cursillo are forced to change their ways and start building on pious grounds, instead of giving priority to the area of their very self and their particular environment, creates a situation where, with an almost mathematical precision, they find themselves placed on very honourable and good natured tracks, but they take them far away from themselves, because of the paternalism these structures breed, for preoccupations that wear out, and for unclear horizons that are not inspiring.

Perhaps we can say, without being dogmatic, that in the field of normality, in the course of human life, for piety to be infectious and persuasive, it has to be motivated by faith; morality should stem from a joyful and cheerful conviction; and social justice from a clear and transparent altruism. But all this needs to be incarnated and made alive in men and women who really live out these attitudes and virtues. If they do it out of obligation, they will neither enthuse nor spread it to anybody.

WHEN YOU PUT MORE FAITH IN STRUCTURES THAN IN PERSONS

The structures that can be set up to promote religiosity, morality, and social justice, are always inconsistent if they rely more on structures than on persons, since people are undoubtedly the means that God uses, not to foment Christianity but to ferment it.

It is a pain that we do not come to understand once and for all, that it is not a question of updating the Gospel through the usual theoretical pastoral associations; on the contrary, it is the Gospel that updates us

all, men/women first of all and then the structures, because if one does not start from "the Jerusalem of oneself", which is where everything authentic has to start from, there will always be a latent self-righteousness in everything we do. What we need, or to say it better, the only thing required, is that each man receives the Good News that God, in Christ, loves him.

Every person who truly believes it, will act accordingly, and with a serene, sustained, humble, and simple effort, will make this belief become the light and motivation of his life, in the climate and in the place where s/he is. That's where people around him get to perceive this "something" attractive about him, where he stands out, and where he will do it with simplicity, plainly and naturally. It is there just as well where he will be able to also change a lot of things. And a lot will be achieved and built on a Christian basis within his true and concrete reality, where he is and lives. That is assuming that nobody makes things too complicated for him or tries to transplant him into some pious ground, so that once there, separated from his roots and his "land," he will be required to bear the fruit that the "super-Christians" of the moment fancy most and believe is best.

These strokes of genius are almost always the work of those who, considering themselves agents and builders, have not managed to see that the Cursillo Movement has no need to seek agents or builders. As I keep saying, in the Group Reunion and the Ultreya, when they are not distorted and put at the service of other purposes, Cursillistas will create and foster the appropriate climate. This is provided that nobody comes up with snags or obstacles to stunt their spontaneity, something that unfortunately is at times the case. There is a spontaneity that surges up from a group of Christians, when the humanity in each of them, has been fascinated by the person of Christ, and they

gradually discover that with Him on board inside them, their qualities gradually increase and their difficulties lose their force.

For today's man, thank God, there is no place for imposition. Especially if these are dished out by the stubborn champions of platonic apostles, planned with good intentions, but miles away from reality. Today's man is gradually realizing that the much-discussed freedom, which everybody yearns for, is nothing more or less than the right to be truthful. And therefore, he realizes that the Christian, instead of one day having to account for his actions, consists in being aware every day, and better yet, if he can, every moment that by the grace of God, much can be expected of a person, if only he is conscious of his qualities, and can give of himself, without abdicating his own singularity, his own originality, and his own creativity. This is the only starting point for any action that is truly of the person, and not imposed by outlandish and absurd guilt feelings, and/or responsibilities that, because they are false, can only convince the naïve.

This reality, that was sensed, thought out, prayed for, and lived from the beginning of the beginning, back in the 40s, has shown us that this is the most important point, but because of its simplicity, it is difficult to understand with ease. Rather it is almost impossible to understand, especially for those who, feeling that they are the "teachers in Israel," believe they have already understood it.

Because life has steadily proven and shown us that the route that goes from good behaviour to conviction, is much more difficult than the one that goes from conviction to good behaviour, and that the latter is also far more effective, because conviction always spreads and infects, whereas all good behaviour can do is

generate imitators, which often does nothing but highlight the abiding validity and relevance of that wise phrase that says: "blessed are our imitators, because theirs will be our faults."

When this ideal - which is what we who started Cursillo have always sought, and have never stopped seeking - reaches the common, natural and humane person, if s/he is not manipulated, s/he will easily understand that the oft-repeated and poorly understood encounter with oneself, is the fundamental reality from which s/he has to start if s/he wants to tread the path of authenticity, which is valued so highly in today's market of rising values.

Since this is the basis for putting into play the values we have, it always interests the person who is a person or strives to become one, because he will never find anything that might reveal so much to him and interest him more than knowing that he is on the best path to finding his identity, to finding himself and being himself, especially when he comes to understand that it is only by starting with himself that he will be able to orient himself, follow his path and get where his discovered human qualities, cultivated, strengthened, and given thanks for through his spirituality, will permit.

Life is always a constant challenge to the truth of oneself, and it becomes more challenging as the person gradually shapes up to the designs established by the spearhead of progress, within the vital area of his normal life, which, besides making him a better person tempers and tunes him up, thus enabling him to go through life knowing how to face apathy, despair, loneliness, and betrayal whenever they come up in the always possible adverse circumstances.

I think nobody should be surprised at the

fact that we, the founders of Cursillo, get a bit panic stricken by the incorrigible proponents of "constructions" and "changes" to the simple and plain areas of what Cursillo should be. There is no doubt that they all believe that they have found the best way to efficiency, but it's amazing to see how complicated they are making things for us! Because they have agreed on, regulated and laid down rules about things that not only don't have the same intention of the only thing that matters, but, moreover, they entangle, complicate and hinder the path to the genuine essential simplicity pursued by Cursillo.

It is not that we are afraid of any updating proposal. We have always tried to be aware and stay abreast of the different currents in vogue and the state-of-the-art schools of thought, but we have also learned, from painful experience, that every attempt to update and introduce adaptations to an existing system must stem from a conscious deepening into its what and its why. [We have also learned where it leads when this fact is ignored.]

The absurd change of the names of the Rollos and their order of appearance, [because of being unaware of the fact that they all form a comprehensive whole, laid out and directed to the

progressive impact that each of the rollos usually has on the listener, by successively giving him, the precise dose of truth to make his conviction possible without forcing his decision.] ² The elimination of the Rollo entitled "The Cursillista beyond the Cursillo", which is surely the Rollo with the strongest lay accent, and in line with Vatican II; setting age limits for the candidates, when their personality should take precedence; "legislating" the separation of the young persons from the adults; setting absolute priorities such as: "if the husband has not made a Cursillo then the wife cannot go," (when the one who should go first, so that the other will go too, is the one with a stronger personality), the picturesque mixed [men and women] Cursillos, etc.

All these examples are just bright ideas from agents of change and builders of society who draw up action programs instead of making it as easy as possible for the greatest number of people to get the good news that God loves them, feel the joy of existing, and become aware of what they are because they are baptized. The agents of change simply do not realize that, for a Christian, the fact of doing without being is almost always undoing.

Eduardo Bonnín



On February 6th 2018, we commemorated the death of our founder, Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló. FEBA, the Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló Foundation, arranged for Cursillistas all over the world to join, via live streaming, a memorial mass held in his honour at the Capuchin chapel in Palma, the church where he went to mass each morning and where, in the entrance to the chapel, he is buried.

There was also an opportunity to tune in to a special Ultreya where those who lived Cursillo with him in Mallorca shared memories and anecdotes about him. Unfortunately we received the information regarding this very close to it taking place so few were able to join in.

Hopefully, next time we will be able to provide sufficient warning so that more of you will be able to participate..

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