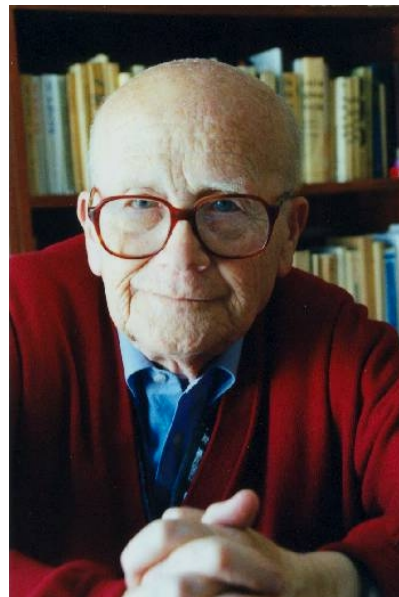


Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló, Founder of the Cursillos in Christianity Movement, has passed away.

On 6 February 2008 at 4:00 p.m., at the age of 90, Eduardo Bonnín died after a brief illness. **The date of February 6 is providential for several reasons.** It is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, marking the road toward true freedom and the 68th anniversary of a historic event in Eduardo's life.

The National Secretariat, upon expressing its condolence for the loss of this distinguished cornerstone in the Movement, would like to outline the life and personality of the founder of the Cursillos in Christianity Movement with some fragments of a biographical sketch.



**Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló
1917 - 2008**

Eduardo was born in Palma de Mallorca on May 4, 1917, in the family residence, where today is located the Bar Niza. He was the second of 10 children of his parents, Dⁿ Fernando Bonnín Piña and D^a Mercedes Aguiló Forteza, and called “Grand” by his father. From his early childhood, his mother and grandfather, Jorge (a person who impacted his life), instilled in him the basic Christian fundamentals: Love of God and the importance of “walking the road” in the company of others. This became the principal cornerstone in his life.

Eduardo reached his youth, filled not only with a “Christian Spirit”, but also with a non-conforming restlessness. He was concerned that the message of Christ was being presented in a soulless form. He tried to learn the thoughts of all the writers who were on the cutting edge in spiritual matters, emphasizing the knowing of oneself and personal friendship.

At the age of 18, due to the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, Eduardo enlisted in active duty. The coincidence of this event with the start of World War II forced him to stay in the military for almost nine years. There Eduardo met many young men who bragged about “other” very different values from the ones he had seen among the friends of his youth. This period marked a second milestone in his life and work.

Providentially, Eduardo obtained the text of a speech that Pope Pius XII had given to parish priests and parishioners of Rome. This was on February 6, 1940, **exactly 68 years ago today**. The Holy Father called on the faithful to seek new ways to let everyone know the love of God, especially those distant, the “faraway.” In the thoughts of Eduardo, these principles became his basic guidelines: The love of God, friendship and the person, especially those who are “faraway.”

Since then, he dedicated his entire life to developing the union of these principles, expressing them in a work which eventually became a rollo entitled “The Study of the Environment.” The “Study of the Environment” gave birth to what would be known as the Cursillos in Christianity Movement.

After attending the 2nd Cursillo for Advanced Pilgrims at Lluc (in Mallorca), during Holy Week of 1943, to prepare for a pilgrimage to Santiago in 1948, Eduardo considered this structure, with some substantial changes, could be useful to give life to the principles contemplated in the "Study of the Environment".

With these concepts, and with support from the Center for “Catholic Action” in Felanitx, he organized the **FIRST CURSILLO** in history on August 20, 1944, held in a chalet, “Mar i Pins”, in Cala Figuera (Santanyi). Eduardo was the Rector, supported by José Ferragut and Jaime Riutort as leaders.



And thus, with the Grace of the Holy Spirit, the Cursillo Movement was born.

With the same outlines, lessons, and rollos used in Cala Figuera (with minimum changes), four more Cursillos were given between 1945 and 1948, paving the way for all the Cursillos which have been celebrated to date. This includes a Cursillo weekend held in San Honorato on 7 January 1949, which (after the “elation” of the pilgrimage to Santiago) was officially numbered as Cursillo #1.

Eduardo is already in heaven having Group Reunion with the Father, sending the joy of the Resurrection to all Cursillistas of the world, **and prompting the apostolate, so that all persons may know, especially “the faraway”, that God loves us.**

De Colores!