

Step by Step Workshop
Step-by-Step Workshop
Introductory Rollo

Welcome and thank you for your presence at this Step by Step workshop. This workshop is based upon The Foundational Charism of the Cursillo Movement, that is; its *mentality, essence, purpose, and methodology* ~ elements of our Charism that are foundational to Cursillo and Three-Day Cursillo.

The Foundational Charism is a gift inspired and communicated by the Holy Spirit to our Founder, Eduardo Bonnín, who shared it with us. Our Lord called us here because there is a gift to discover. It is not until we unwrap our gifts that we value their contents. So we invite you today to join us in unwrapping our gift of Cursillo together, to review its contents and discover its true Charism in friendship and joy.

Many of you have lived the friendship and joy of our gift for many years and have served on numerous Three-Day Cursillos. We ask for your continuing enthusiasm, dedication and spirit of love to dig deeper and go further into your study of The Foundational Charism.

Like a Cursillista on a Three-Day Cursillo, we ask for your open minds and hearts to rediscover our gift of Cursillo and to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us through this Step by Step so together we may encounter Christ more fully.

Background

The Step by Step is a Rector's Guide authored by Eduardo Bonnín and lived in Mallorca. As stated by Eduardo, "This Guide is offered to the World Cursillo Movements to assist them in ensuring that the content of weekends is simple, clear, and containing all that is necessary, nothing more and nothing less."

The Step by Step Guide, and its Appendices, will be included by Mallorca in their next edition of the book, *My Spiritual Testament* by Eduardo Bonnín.

Eduardo writes, "*I sincerely believe that one of the greatest assets that I possess is the awareness of knowing what constitutes the authentic Cursillo of Christianity, as well as the Movement that it engenders.*"

Eduardo continued, “*If we compare the Cursillo Movement to a tree, we are happy to see that it has grown, because an evangelical seed sown in many hearts and cultivated with prayer has given its fruit; but it also hurts us to see that in some places, no doubt with the best of intentions, they have taken the tree of the Cursillos for a Christmas tree and have been hanging lights and decorations - their favorite brilliant ideas - and have gradually been spoiling its clear and simple profile.*” (Chapter VI of My Spiritual Testament)

Though Eduardo's illness prevented him from finishing his *Spiritual Testament*, we as Cursillistas are called to be that conclusion by joyfully living The Foundational Charism of Cursillo. The Step by Step is the legacy that Eduardo left us. Together, let us keep it intact!

Today's workshop was developed to ensure that the Step by Step can be lived and experienced to be understood in a personal way. It evolved from the prayerful and collaborative study of four language committees, over the course of two years, formed at National level, of English, Spanish, Filipino and Vietnamese leaders.

This workshop consists of an Introductory Rollo and working sessions that provide for group discussions and questions and answers so we may delve deep into the theology and psychology of the weekend.

Why a new Three-Day Cursillo Guide called Step by Step?

Cursillo is like the Gospel. As we mature in our faith and understanding, the Holy Spirit reveals The Foundational Charism and scriptural messages, ever more deeply. As the heart of the liturgy, the Eucharist remains the same wherever we worship, so too may the heart of Cursillo, The Foundational Charism, remain the same wherever it is lived.

Over the years, our National Secretariat strived to move the United States closer to The Foundational Charism through revisions to its Three-Day Cursillo Manual and other Cursillo literature. As a Movement in the Catholic Church, these revisions followed a path initiated by our Church such as the Vatican II directive *Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People*.

However, the accuracy of these previous revisions was affected by our lack of access to Eduardo's writings, our less than full understanding, and at times less than authentic translations of his writings into English.

The Founder and the Foundational Charism

Where do we go to find The Foundational Charism of Cursillo? According to Saint Pope John Paul II, to find a movement's charism, we go to its FOUNDER.

In 1998, Saint Pope John Paul II invited all ecclesial movements and communities to return to their roots and discern the mentality of their founders. This "call back to our roots" was echoed in 2006 by Pope Benedict XVI and again in 2015 by Pope Francis in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Italian Cursillo Movement. Pope Francis said: "The movements are necessary, the movements are a grace of the Spirit," he continued, "Everyone seeks his own movement, according to his own charism, *where the Holy Spirit draws him or her.*"

Members of the National Staff accepted this invitation and went to Mallorca to participate in the 1st and 2nd Conversations of Cala Figuera. Through their meetings with Eduardo Bonnín, they discovered that our Cursillo Movement is to be driven by The Foundational Charism and its criteria; not by rules or directives.

The Holy Spirit continues to draw us into a deeper friendship with Mallorca and the Foundation of Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló (FEBA). This friendship has increased our access to the writings of Eduardo Bonnín, deepened our understandings of The Foundational Charism, and improved our English translations of his writings. Our deepened relationship has reinforced our understanding of the importance of Christ, friendship and the person as the pillars of Eduardo's life and the life of our world-wide Cursillo Movement. Bishop Robert Barron, Founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, said "*radiating a sense of the joy that comes from friendship with Christ is the key to bringing others to the Lord.*"

This joy, as referenced by Pope Francis in his *Joy of the Gospel*, gives the experience of living what is fundamentally Christian in coexistence with friends. While the Foundational Charism is important, joy and friendship are more important.

When joy and friendship are in place, the Foundational Charism will not be ignored; *it will be embraced!*

Will there be more changes in the future, you may be wondering? What some of us may see as change is actually our *rediscovery* of the vision. Our founder never changed that which was given to him by the Holy Spirit. He always referred to his own inspired notes, his study, on how Cursillo is to be lived and shared such through personal contact in one- by-one meetings with Rectors.

To preserve the Foundational Charism after his passing, Eduardo placed his notes into writing - the Step by Step - to guide our Movement on how Cursillo should be lived. Our knowing Eduardo's obedience to the Holy Spirit, gives us trust that any additional notes found beyond these references would only further explain or enhance what Eduardo left us; never tell us anything different.

Where do We Go from Here? Today, as we unwrap our Step by Step, we ask for your joy and friendship to:

Study ~ keeping an open mind as we unwrap this gift from the Holy Spirit,

Receive ~ keeping an open heart as this gift was given to Eduardo Bonnín for us and has been lived authentically in Mallorca for over 70 years, and,

Lead ~ keeping an open will by presenting this Step by Step workshop as opportunities for your Diocesan Secretariats so they may in turn present it to their School of Leaders for consistency in Cursillo across regions.

Loren Marian, President of the Mallorca Cursillo Movement, reminded us during the World Ultreya in Fatima, in 2017, that "*The words that Pope Francis addresses to each of us today remind us of that message of Pope Pius XII in February 1940 that moved Eduardo and his friends to "do something"*".

Loren was referring to the 1940 address by Pope Pius XII where he noted the great number of people who had moved away from the Christian life. Pope Pius challenged the Church leaders to make every effort possible to bring others back to Christian values. It was this address in 1940 that inspired our Founder to carry out a thorough and deep study of the scenario and resulted in the writing of our first

Rollo - THE STUDY OF THE ENVIRONMENT which led to the development of our Cursillos in Christianity Movement today. (Leaders Manual p. 2).

Loren continued, *"It may be that the present circumstances are not the same, but the thirst for transcendence and the soul's need to meet God is the same, and in our hands lays the possibility that we may fulfill their wishes."*

As stewards of our gift, may we together *"do something"* as Eduardo and his friends did in 1940. May we live out Eduardo's legacy faithfully in fulfillment of the Foundational Charism and share it in friendship and joy with others.

But, most importantly, may we together *"be something!"*

As in the words of Pope Francis at the Third World Congress of Ecclesial Movements in 2014, as he calls us to live the Gospel with JOY: *"You are not simply a small group. No! You are rather a **movement**, always on the way, always in movement, always open to God's **surprises** which are in harmony with the **first call** of the movement, namely the **founding charism**."*

"Eduardo Bonnín, intercede for us"; "St. Paul the Apostle pray for us".

De Colores!