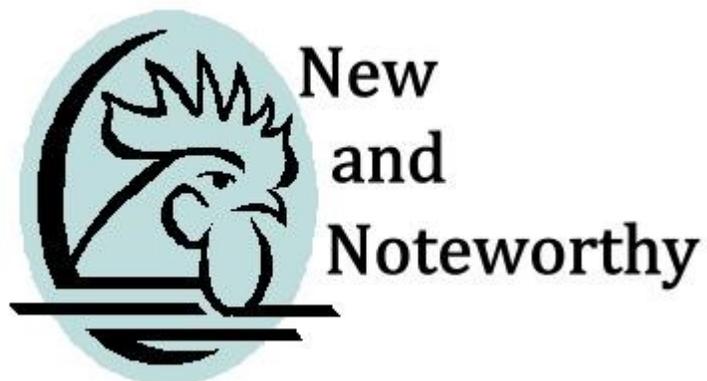


SCHOOL OF LEADERS IN THE CICC GOD HAD OTHER PLANS

Happy Springtime and a joyous Easter Season to you all! I hope that during this unusual and unprecedented time in all our lives that God is keeping you full of His Grace, Mercy and Love. My prayers are with you and everyone during this time of great need.

It was last year in the winter edition of The Voice that I was introduced to the CICC as the newly appointed Chairperson for the School of Leaders. At the time that I wrote that article I had no real concept or framework of what I was about to embark on and where this journey might take me. Over the next couple of months during 2019 I spent considerable time developing a plan of action and objectives that would serve as the working document and roadmap for my course of action for this first year. It was included as part of last year's CICC Apostolic Plan. Albeit somewhat basic and primary at the time, I at least had some vision and objectives laid out in front of me to get something started. I was excited and motivated to begin to build this re-born School of Leaders for the CICC. I immediately set out to build a small group of Cursillistas that would be my School of Leaders team. Together we would embark on this journey and create something that would once again help build and form the leadership of the CICC Cursillista membership. Then along came the Cursillo Region IV Spring Encounter – in other words, along came God's plan.

The Region IV Spring Encounter in 2019 happened to be held at the St. Joseph Retreat and Conference Center in Tipton, IN. Having been newly appointed to the School of Leaders, I was invited by our CICC Lay Director, Jennifer Burger, to attend. On somewhat of a short notice I accepted, mostly based on the close proximity of the retreat and my ability to be a "commuter" attendee. I went to that Spring Encounter with much excitement and anticipation. I had my vision and objectives plan laid out with notes and thoughts about what I can do and where the School of Leaders can go for the CICC. I was ready to share my thoughts and vision with other leaders of our Regional Cursillo Community. I had even scripted some of what I would say in response to some questions I felt like I would be asked of me, like: "What type of programming are you planning", "What will your format look like", "Where will the School of Leaders sessions take place"? As I arrived at the retreat center on that Saturday morning, I was ready and eager as I received my workshop material with much anticipation. So when we gathered and I sat down, I looked at the 3 ring binder that contained the material for the weekend. The binder cover read, "Cursillo De Cursillos Movement Three Day Cursillo Workshop, Step by Step Rector's Guide by Eduardo Bonnin Aguilo'." Again I say, enter God's plan.



As the workshop began and we worked through the material I would soon find out that we were being introduced to the just released version of the Step by Step Guide for the 3 Day Weekend. The purpose of this plan can best be summed up by the words of Eduardo himself:

“The reason ... for this - so that they may be faithful to the good that Cursillo is after and for which they were devised, designed, prayed for and structured – is that it has been proven that from its inception in 1944, more than a few times – I wish to believe with good intention – they have skimmed, deactivated, abducted or nipped in the bud of their nature and effectiveness, undoubtedly by people of goodwill and perhaps even believing that in so doing they were making a gift to God and to Cursillo.”

“However, there are serious reasons to believe that many interpretations, changes, restructuring, updates and reductions have been made with the desire to use the Cursillo. At times this has even been done with the aim of taking their cut, with a wish for being in the limelight of something they assume can help them to excel in the pious market which is normally so lacking in originality and creativity.”

Excerpt from “My Spiritual Testament” by Eduardo Bonnin Aguilo’

At that point for the previous 2 years, the US Cursillo, with the assistance of the Mallorca leadership, had been reviewing and preparing the Step by Step Rector’s Guide in preparation to introduce it to the US Movement. The Step by Step Rector’s Guide consists of the schedule of the Three Day Weekend and numerous appendices that clarify and deepen the understanding of all that is pertinent to the Three Day Cursillo. The National Secretariat, through the Regional Coordinators, were conducting the Spring Regional Encounter workshops to introduce and implement the Step by Step guide. Upon completion of the Encounter workshop the Diocesan Secretariats were charged with providing the same workshop material to their local Diocesan Movement with the anticipation to begin implementation of the Step by Step Guide in 2019 or as soon as feasibly possible. Additionally, it became more clear and evident as the workshop closed that the primary conduit for rolling out the Step by Step plan to the CICC would become the School of Leaders.

Well, SHOOT!

So I tucked away my scripted notes, my outlines for programs, my scribbles and random thoughts, and even my formulated Apostolic Plan. My new course of action for 2019 was to roll out the Step by Step Rector’s Guide to the CICC in the most efficient and effective way possible. God definitely had other plans for my first year as the School of Leaders Chairperson.

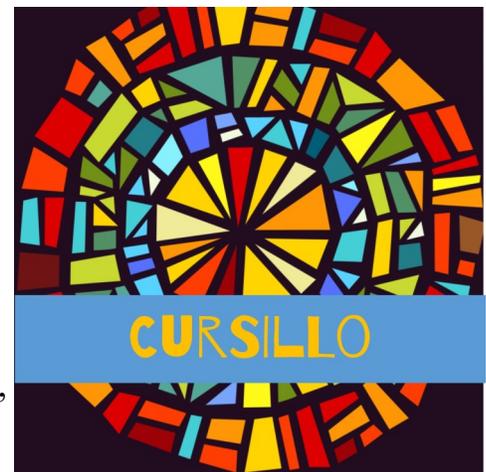
Somehow he knew that even with all my pre-meditated thoughts, plans, and goals that I deep down really still had NO IDEA what I was doing or where I was going with all of this ... let alone where to start!

Sidenote: The Step by Step program has been rolled out and implemented within the CICC beginning with the Men's Spring 2020 Three Day Weekend. More communications and information will be coming soon regarding this new program and the utilization of the method within the CICC. Stay tuned.

So as 2019 moved along we worked to deliver this "NEW" 3 Day Weekend format to certain groups within the CICC in a way that would be most adaptable to our already somewhat precise weekend script. I call out the word NEW previously only because while this guide is presenting some new material to the 3 Day Weekend in the eyes of some Cursillistas, it is actually the format used during the very first 3 Day Weekend held by Eduardo Bonnin in Mallorca, Spain.

Members of the Secretariat, my team, and myself created and developed a workshop to introduce this Step by Step Guide to the remaining Secretariat members as well as the core leadership team members of both the Men's and Women's Spring 2020 teams.

This was the core of the work for the remainder of 2019 for the School of Leaders in the CICC, although extremely isolated to only a few. However, as the year moved on and drew to an end my team's efforts turned back to the mission, goals and objectives that had been created a year prior in an effort to now adjust them for the upcoming 2020 Apostolic Plan. Even though we had not had a chance to put our 2019 plan in motion, we had some new thoughts, ideas and insight into what we really needed to do in 2020 to create and resurrect the School of Leaders within the CICC.



During our planning and as it was coming together, one of the main obstacles we faced (as have many that have sat in this School of Leaders position, or been a part of School of Leaders planning) was the thought of how we roll out and conduct a CICC all-encompassing School of Leaders that covers 2 Diocese, many counties, and many more parishes and Cursillistas. It's been a challenge and a difficult obstacle to overcome in the past. Ironically, one of my scripted answers to a question that never got asked during that previous year's Spring Encounter was set to answer that very question. My vision a year ago was to utilize and embrace the use of social media, video technology, and the internet as a means for presenting School of Leaders material, workshops and communications to the CICC in a way that will keep all Cursillistas engaged and allow them to consume what is needed without the commitment of using an entire day or weekend (mostly in travel alone) to do so. But a year ago, even with that plan and goal in mind I really was not sure where or how to start that plan.

Once again ... enter God's plan.

Fast forward to March/April 2020, I sit in the same position that most of us are in right now. We are finding new ways to do just about every activity that consumed our lives every day only a couple months ago. Finding new ways includes the activities of a Cursillista in finding alternative ways to have weekly Group Reunion, holding Ultreyas, Secretariat meetings, and other events. Even with the vast amount of technology and social media I use daily in my career work environment I was blind to the possibility of using the same technology to move forward with the goals and plans for the School of Leaders that we prepared for the 2020 Apostolic Plan. But God must have known what He was doing and where He was guiding me.

Now more than ever we as Cursillistas will need to RE-enter our daily environments with our eyes and ears open. We will need to be searching for those that are far-away, those that were hurt by this very difficult time, as well as those who were enlightened and embraced by what they have just been through. We will need to be those leaders in our environments bringing Jesus to the masses and showing them His friendship in a way that allows them to encounter Him personally and deeply. It's because of this impending re-entry into society that I am excited to get the School of Leaders for the CICC back into a place of learning, formation and continuous evolution. Through the creative use of technology there will begin to be a plan rolled out that will provide communication, education, and formation for those that desire to be Leaders for the CICC. The School of Leaders will be for You, the Cursillistas in Central Indiana. Please stay tuned and keep watching for updates and communications from the School of Leaders. My hope is to provide content that will be enjoyable and informative.

At this point now I have a plan for 2020 ... but I know it's really God's plan!

I welcome your thoughts, feedback, and prayers in order to help support the efforts of the SCHOOL OF LEADERS. If you have any questions, or would like to send me a note with your thoughts and ideas please drop me an email at school@cursillo-cicc.org. My prayers are with you all and the work you do for this movement and for His Kingdom.

De Colores!
Mike Nulph
School of Leaders Coordinator
April 29, 2020

