

PALANCA



INTRODUCTION

Palanca is a Spanish word meaning “lever”. A lever is used to lift and move heavy objects, but in Cursillo, the word “Palanca” means prayer. Many persons offer their prayers to the participants and team, through selfless acts of love. This is true Palanca.

Before anything else, the most characteristic mark of the Cursillo methodology lies in the whole concept of Palanca - prayers, sacrifices and works of mercy. Palanca must be genuine and offered by communities and individuals living in union with Christ and each other if the effectiveness of all other human efforts in the Movement is to be assured.

Authentic/True Palanca

Authentic or True Palanca is the best gift that could possibly be given. Affirming or encouraging notes and little gifts are nice to give and to receive, but they are not true Palanca but merely Palanca indicators or signs.

The Cursillo weekend is enriched by **Authentic/True Palanca** which is prayer and selfless acts of love.

Authentic/True Palanca is **prayer** which is an essential part of the Cursillo Weekend. It is:

- Deep, intentional and selfless; truly offered for the sake of the participants and team.
- A connection with God which allows God’s Holy Spirit to work and the love of Jesus to be felt.

Sacrifice or Selfless acts of love:

- Is giving up of something (time, or an activity, etc.) in order to provide support for the participants and team.
- It is difficult and really only possible through prayer, and a willingness to give ourselves to God and to others, in love.
- It creates a bond of union between the giver and the receiver.

There are two types of Palanca:

A. General Palanca

In writing General Palanca, you support and encourage participants and team by telling them something of your prayer and sacrifice for them.

- A letter or poster addressed "To the Participants and Team of Men's / Women's Cursillo #...."
- In keeping with a focus on Christian community, General Palanca should be written first.
- The term "Palanca" will be introduced during the "Faith" talk. Some General Palanca will be used as part of the Faith talk.
- The remaining General Palanca is posted to be read throughout the weekend.
- General Palanca indicators are also received from other Cursillo and related groups around the world telling of their prayers offered on behalf of participants and team.

B. Personal Palanca:

Your personal Palanca is sent to the participants and team members in the form of personal cards and notes explaining to them the Palanca activity that you are offering on their behalf, for example, prayer, fasting, etc. These notes are delivered to the participants and team members by the Palanca team.

It is not necessary to offer Palanca for everyone. If you do so, pray and write first to:

- Individuals you have sponsored
- Relatives and close friends
- People in your church, groups, organizations, and
- Others if you have time

Prayer Support during the Weekend

It is the community prayer support that allows:

- God's grace to be experienced
- The Holy Spirit to open the hearts of all participants and provide wisdom and strength to the team, and
- The loving presence of Jesus to be felt

Community Prayer Support opportunities are:

- Personal prayers, anytime, anywhere, and for anyone or any aspect of the weekend
- Prayer times for specific speakers
- Community morning, mid-day and special scheduled prayers or services
- Daily community Eucharist
- Prayer vigil
- Closing (Clausura)

Bishop Juan Hervas of Spain, one of the first supporters of the Cursillo Movement, reminds us:

"We should have the intimate and absolute conviction that everything in Cursillo is the work of God's grace. It is necessary therefore, to pray and sacrifice oneself for the spiritual and apostolic success of the same. The miracles of God's grace are granted to confident prayer, accompanied by sacrifice, not to knowledge or experience."

Bibliography

National Episcopal Cursillo Library (NEC)