

Further References

Lower Your Nets

The Cursillo Movement's Leaders Manual

The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement

National Episcopal Cursillo Library – Sponsorship



SPONSORING AND SPONSORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

“You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last” Jn. 15:16

WHY A SPONSOR’S BOOKLET

In the past, our candidate preparation may have been along the lines of: “Oh, you just have to make the weekend. I can’t tell you anything about it because I don’t want to spoil it for you.” Another method (in the past) was: “I won’t explain the Group Reunion and Ultreya because this person probably won’t go to the Weekend if they know that there is a follow up program – and besides, they will all be told about Group Reunion and Ultreya during the weekend.” This type of preparation is one of the biggest reasons the Postcursillo programs, of Group Reunion and Ultreya are not as successful as they should be. It can be said that our Postcursillo will only be as good as our Precursillo.

This booklet has been developed to provide some guidelines for sponsoring a candidate to the Cursillo Weekend. The booklet has been primarily written with the new cursillistas in mind.



Before one can address the purpose of sponsoring, we must first have a good understanding of the purpose of the Cursillo Movement.



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4. SPONSORS ROLE AFTER THE WEEKEND

There is a saying in Cursillo: "Once a sponsor, always a sponsor!" Sponsorship lasts longer than the weekend. A commitment of one year is encouraged.

- Meet with the new cursillista
- Try to answer any questions they might have. If you don't know the answers, assure them that you will find someone who can provide the answers.
- Help the new cursillista to become part of a Group Reunion
- Accompany them to the Ultreya
- Support the new Cursillista in the Fourth Day with continued prayer

CONCLUSION

Having read this booklet you should realize that sponsoring is a very important aspect within the Cursillo Movement. But most of all, our Lord wants us to be apostolic. He chose individuals to become 'fishers of people.' Should we do any less?



WHAT THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT IS

- Cursillo is one of a number of renewal movements active in the ministry of the Church.

- Cursillo seeks to change environments, one at a time, by



finding, developing and equipping leaders in those places where we live, work, worship and socialize.

- Cursillo seeks to equip these leaders where they are, not to transplant them into some other environments.
- To change environments, to make them Christ-centred, means to bring Christ to them.
- Cursillo is a movement with a method
- A method of living a life in Christ
- A method of supporting and encouraging each other through prayer and in planned individual and joint action in order to change the world for Christ
- Cursillo is a movement whose primary function is the grace of God
- Cursillo's most characteristic mark is "Palanca" (prayer, sacrifice and works of mercy)

There are several different definitions for the purpose of the Cursillo Movement (depending on what literature you read). While the wording (of the definition) may vary, the idea is the same. This is due, in part, to the fact that the purpose of Cursillo is multifaceted. No one definition can truly explain what Cursillo is about. However, all the definitions can give a much richer meaning to the purpose of Cursillo.

In the Leaders Manual it states:

- “The purpose (or goal) of the Cursillo Movement is to make Christian community possible in neighborhoods, parishes, work situations and other places where people live the greater part of their lives. It makes possible for anyone in the world to live a Christian life in a natural way.”
- Another lists the purpose of Cursillo Movement as: “the leavening of environments with the Gospel.”
- Another states: “Since it is a movement of the Church, the Cursillo Movement has the same apostolic purpose as the Church itself – to evangelize”



As it was mentioned earlier, while the wording of these definitions may differ, their ideas are the same. The Cursillo Movement is focused to help each of us fulfill our baptismal responsibility: to go forth, as apostles and proclaim the Gospel. The Cursillo Movement provides us with the necessary tools, for fulfilling our baptismal responsibility, along with the training for using those tools.

Perhaps one of the most important things to understand about Cursillo is the sponsoring of candidates. In the Cursillo movement, we must choose people after due thought and prayer have been given to the key environments in which they live.

3rd Day

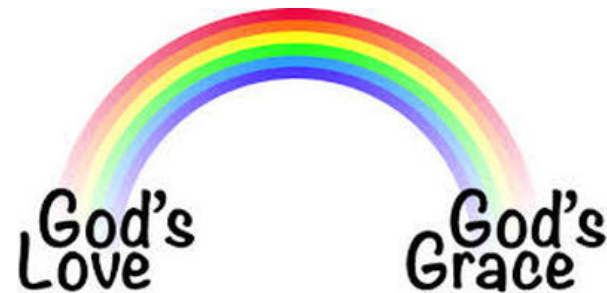
- It follows the same format as the previous day
- It includes talks presented by laity and clergy
- It includes table discussions
- It includes worship

In Addition

- The nature and importance of the Fourth Day including the support available in the Fourth Day through Group Reunion and Ultreya
- Insure that your candidate has transportation to the Weekend.
- Find out what is needed for a comfortable stay (bedding, towels, toiletries, etc.)
- Finally, before the Cursillo Weekend make sure your candidate has read the booklet entitled: “What Is the Cursillo Movement?”

3. SPONSORS ROLE DURING THE WEEKEND

- **PRAY, PRAY and PRAY some more**
- Offer to help with family, baby sitting, pets, etc.
- Arrange to take the candidate to the weekend site
- Arrange palanca, which is prayer and sacrifice. Support letters as indicators of that prayer and sacrifice may be included.
- **Most important – be there at the closing**





2. SPONSORS ROLE BEFORE THE WEEKEND

Great care is needed in sponsoring. Some Cursillistas tend to believe that Cursillo is the answer for everyone. While it is true that everyone has the right to come to a full Christian life, Cursillo may not be the best means for every person. The Cursillo method has specific demands and requires concrete conditions for its effectiveness. It is not necessary or desirable for every Christian to follow the same path.

- Discernment in choosing a suitable candidate for Cursillo may take time
- “Before speaking to a person about God, we should speak to God about that person”
- The candidates Parish priest should be consulted
- We must remember not to use Cursillo to add individuals to the movement, but rather to transform environments
- Once a possible candidate is identified, he/she should be approached through personal contact
- Explain the purpose and process of the entire method, including:

Aspects of the Weekend

1st Day

- It is a time to get to know each other and have an overview of the Cursillo Weekend
- It is the retreat phase of the Cursillo Weekend. This includes three meditations and “The Way of the Cross”
- It includes talks presented by laity and clergy
- It includes worship

2nd Day

- It includes talks presented by laity and clergy
- It includes table discussions
- It includes worship

Sponsoring is preceded by the process of selecting environments which have potential for changing society, discovering key persons or leaders within those environments and preparing those people for whom the Cursillo movement may be of assistance in their daily Christian lives.

To be a more effective part of the Church in our dioceses’ each Cursillo movement needs an overall plan for its work – a pastoral plan linked to the pastoral plan of the diocese. This plan should identify key environments and persons in them.

In determining the purpose of sponsoring, it is important that we focus on two important aspects:

1st We are communal people

By our very makeup, which was conceived by God, we need relationships (interaction of two or more persons). Our growth from newborn to adulthood is filled with relationships: in school, family reunions, Church, vacations, etc. When we enter into the working environments we find ourselves thrust into completely new relationships. Neighborhoods can also provide numerous opportunities for relationships. Social/Civic/Political involvement(s) most definitely depend upon relationships.



2nd We are teamwork people

Early in our youth, many of us came to understand the value of teamwork. Even if one was not involved in a formalized sports program, most were involved in some form of team competition during physical education class at school. We learned the value of studying together in an attempt to better our grades. Those who serve in the military realize the purpose of Basic training is to de-emphasize the individual and emphasize the team. Besides all these examples of team work, Christ gave us the encouragement to work as a team. Matt 18:19-20

Knowing the purpose of the Cursillo Movement, we can now focus our thoughts on the purpose of sponsoring. Within this context there are four basic steps.

PURPOSE OF SPONSORING

The purpose of sponsoring is to bring about a change in the environments. You should have a plan on how you are going to do this. Part of your plan would include identifying those individuals that have the talents to bring the change - bring Jesus Christ into their environments.

Sponsoring is not a haphazard circumstance. It should be a deliberate act to bring Jesus Christ into the world. Therefore, you should know your candidates very well. Your candidates will become the agents for change in their families, work situations, neighborhoods, social gatherings, etc. Your candidates will become an active participant in Group Reunion and Ultreya. Your candidates will become part of the

Christian community that links together with others to bring Jesus to the world.

THIS IS THE PURPOSE OF SPONSORING!



1. WHAT SPONSORS SHOULD KNOW AND DO

A sponsor can be either an individual or a group. There are certain things that a sponsor should know about the Cursillo Movement. More

importantly, there are many things that a sponsor should do.

Things to Know

- ❖ Potential candidates in environments
 - They are men and women who love Christ, are maturing in their Christian lives and influence their environments
 - They are interested in spiritual growth and open to the challenge of the Cursillo method
 - They have stable personalities
 - Know about the goal of the Cursillo Movement
 - Know your candidate as well as possible, pray for direction from the Holy Spirit
 - Follow the application form for sponsoring
 - **Remember to speak to God about others before speaking to others about God**



Things to Do

- ❖ Selection of environments – asking such questions as
 - What potential does a given environment have to create change in society or in the community?
 - What Christian leaders are already in those environments, or can influence them through people they know?
 - Where are Christian leaders needed?
 - Where are the gaps?
 - Walk the talk, you should be a member of a Group Reunion
 - Your candidate should be able to see Jesus in you and be attracted by His presence
 - Show your candidate how to be a Christian by the way you live your life, love your family and care for your neighbors