

A CURSILLO IS FOR YOU . . . AND HERE'S WHY . . .

A Cursillo, first of all, is not a problem solver. We couldn't begin to handle all the applications we would receive if we claimed it was the solution to drinking problems, marital problems, or any other problems. A Cursillo is hard to describe and people who have made it will be very enthusiastic about it, but they won't really be able to explain why. They'll tell you it's wonderful, it's the greatest experience of their lives, it's something they'll never forget. But they won't be able to describe it as well as they would like. That's why a Cursillo may appear to be something secret. It isn't, but you have to experience it to understand it.

A Cursillo is an encounter with Christ. Does that sound too simple? Too pat? Too much like a cliché? Well, it isn't. Think about it -- a real meeting with Christ. You won't be able to see Him with your eyes, but you will come to know Him with your mind and your heart. You'll really be aware of His presence and His love for you.

A Cursillo will give you a whole new approach to work you are already doing in CCD, the St. Vincent DePaul Society, CFM, or the Legion of Mary. If you are not meant to work in parish organizations, or if your occupation does not give you enough time for it, a Cursillo can still help influence your environment and bring about its renewal. That's why we are offering it to you.

A CURSILLO IS THREE DAYS LONG . . . BUT IT LASTS A LIFETIME.

A Cursillo (pronounced kur-see-yo) means "a short course in Christianity," living the way Christ wants us to live. It has a Spanish name because it began in Spain, but now it's all over the United States and spreading like wildfire. A Cursillo differs from all other courses in religion where too often Christ is lost in the maze of doctrine about Him. It is different because it teaches in two ways: through hard but exciting intellectual work, and through a living experience of what is being taught. A Cursillo begins on a Friday night and ends the following Monday night, or once in a while it begins on a Thursday night and ends on a Sunday night. There are separate weekends for men and women.

During the three days, the participants listen to talks given by two spiritual directors and lay people. They also attend Mass and receive Holy Communion each day. The spiritual directors and lay people who form the "team" spend months working together preparing their talks. It takes careful planning because the time is short, and the subject extensive. You may be wondering what the talks are about. Their titles will help give you an idea. They are: Ideals, Grace, Lay Person in the Church, Actual Grace, Christian Community in Action, Group Reunion, and Ultreya. During the talks, the participants take notes just as they would in a regular classroom situation. Each talk is followed by a discussion period, then the participants depict their impressions of the talk to illustrate the message graphically to make it more memorable.

A Cursillo is not a retreat. There is no fasting, no long periods of silence, and there is little solitude. There is no magic except the magic of the Holy Spirit. There is no mystery either, except for the mystery of Christ's endless love.

COME . . . A CURSILLO IS FOR YOU !!!

SPONSOR'S QUESTIONNAIRE
PLEASE COMPLETE EVERY LINE

When and where did you make your Cursillo? _____

Are you now a member of an active group? _____

As a sponsor, are you willing to attend local or diocesan ultreyas with your candidate for three months?

Yes No

Have you participated in any phase of Cursillo? _____ Please mark appropriate boxes.

Grouping Ultreya Closings Retreat Other _____

How well do you know the candidate? _____

How are you acquainted with the candidate? _____

List any other Cursillistas known to the candidate: _____

Do you think this candidate would make a good table leader? _____ Secretary? _____

Have you explained Group Reunion and Ultreya to your candidate? _____

Are there any special services or facilities that need to be provided for your candidate? _____

If the candidate's spouse is not making a weekend, please state the reason: _____

Are there any further comments you wish to make in regard to the candidate? _____

I have read the SPONSOR'S INSTRUCTION SHEET and I attest that the candidate _____, whom I am sponsoring meets the criteria of "Desirable Qualities in a Candidate," and I accept the responsibility as outlined in "Sponsor's Responsibilities Toward Candidate."

Date: _____ Sponsor's Signature: _____

CANDIDATES ARE WELCOME TO BRING AN AIR MATTRESS

Please Print:

Sponsor's Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City State ZIP

Telephone: () _____ eMAIL _____

CURSILLO
SPONSOR'S INSTRUCTION SHEET
(To be retained by the sponsor)

The sponsor is reminded that the suitability of a candidate can only be judged upon the information and recommendation given by the sponsor. It is most important that the sponsor not recommend candidates without serious deliberation and prayer.

When selecting a person for Cursillo, male or female, his/her marital life should be considered. Even though the Cursillo weekend is lived individually, the spiritual life of the couple, both before and after, must be considered. The Cursillo movement holds in highest regard the Sacrament of Marriage, and if participation in a Cursillo by one and not the other individual might have an adverse effect on that Sacrament, then we suggest some other form of individual spiritual renewal.

If the fact that the person is married comes into consideration, we need to determine whether both are eligible and interested in attending the Cursillo weekend. If both agree that only one spouse attending the weekend will not have an adverse effect on their Sacrament of Marriage, then the person who is eligible and interested should be allowed to do so.

In the case where both individuals are eligible, and both agree to attend the Cursillo, then both applications should be prepared at the same time and mailed along with the Sponsor's Questionnaire to:
The Cursillo Committee, P.O. Box 1207, Holyoke, MA 01041.

These same considerations should be given to a single person if he or she is engaged to be married.

Because of the important and serious demands on a sponsor, it is strongly suggested that you do not sponsor more than two candidates on any weekend. Remember that the Cursillo is not a corrective device for a person's character, morals, or emotions. It is a method of giving him/her the desire and the tools to bring Christ into his/her own environments and sharing Him with everyone.

DESIRABLE QUALITIES IN A CANDIDATE

The candidate should:

1. Be a practicing Christian and an active member of his/her church.
2. Have the ability and willingness to influence others in a Christian way.
3. Be emotionally mature and stable.
4. Be free of religious fanaticism.
5. Must be at least 24 years of age.

SPONSOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD THE CANDIDATE

- A. The sponsor should help the candidate fill out the Cursillo application.
- B. Ideally, the sponsor or the candidate should get the signature of the candidate's clergyman on the application.
- C. The sponsor should inform the candidate regarding the voluntary offering. The expected donation is \$100.00, but each candidate should give according to his/her own ability.
- D. Transportation should be arranged to and from the weekend so the candidate does not arrive or go home alone.

- E. The sponsor should make sure that the candidate receives palanca (Note: The palanca talk is given on the first afternoon.)
- F. The sponsor should assist the candidate by maintaining contact in Post-Cursillo in order to help him/her grow in Christ.
- G. The sponsor must be willing to shepherd his/her candidates through three months of ultreyas after he/she have made a Cursillo, and to encourage the candidate to attend the Group Reunions. If, for some reason the sponsor can't attend, arrangements should be made for the candidate to attend with another Cursillista.
- H. The sponsor should encourage the candidate to explore the opportunity to become a member of a permanent group.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Candidate Needs:

1. Sleeping bag and pillow - **PREFERRED - Air Mattress**
2. Towels, face cloth, and soap
3. Other necessary toiletries
4. Comfortable clothing for three days
5. Stipend (suggested \$100.00)

Sponsor's Responsibilities:

1. Prompt 7:30 p.m. arrival at the place where the weekend is being held.
2. Introduce the candidate to the Rector.
3. Deliver palanca -- be sure the envelope is clearly marked as sponsor or spouse.
4. Prompt arrival for breakthrough at 7:00 p.m.
5. Advise **CANDIDATE** to leave their Cell Phone at home.

Just a short note to remind you of the importance of palanca. You have thought enough of your candidate to sponsor him/her for a Cursillo Weekend. Now spread the word that your candidate will be attending the weekend and see that he/she is not left out when palanca is delivered. Don't just hope that other people will send palanca -- ask them to do it!! Now is not the time to be shy. Most people are more than willing to offer sacrifices for the candidates, but many need to be asked. Take this opportunity to enrich your candidate's Cursillo experience!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING CURSILLO APPLICATION

It is best to help the candidate fill out the **CURSILLO APPLICATION** so that if he/she has questions you can help answer them.

The **SPONSOR'S QUESTIONNAIRE** is to be filled out by the **SPONSOR** and must be returned along with the **CURSILLO APPLICATION** properly signed in the places provided. If the questionnaire is not returned with the application it will be put on hold until it is received.

The **SPONSOR'S INSTRUCTION SHEET** should be reviewed by the sponsor to refresh themselves about their responsibilities and the information to be relayed to their candidate concerning thing to bring and the suggested donation for their weekend.

Please ask your candidate to refrain from bringing a cell phone to the weekend, not only is it a distraction if it rings during a rollo BUT this is a retreat weekend and a "closed community" where the candidates are asked to leave behind their daily worries, problems, work and even family concerns.