

## PRECURSILLO

**DEFINITION:** The Precursillo is the searching for and selection of environments and of persons within those environments, and the preparation of the persons for the 3-day Cursillo with a view toward a commitment to the Postcursillo.

In order to carry out an effective and well-oriented Precursillo, it is important to know exactly the purpose of the Cursillo Movement, which is, "The leavening of environments with the Gospel". The Cursillo Movement looks for the individual to form the community. It is a question of transforming the person into a Christian in order to Christianize the world.

The Precursillo involves:

- the study of the environment
- the selection of candidates
- the preparation for the 3-day weekend.

The first step of the Precursillo is searching for the environment or area to be Christianized, not for individuals.

**A. Study of the Environments:** Let us recall from the Rollo on the Study of the Environments. The environment is like the air: it surrounds us and encircles us. In other words, where the person finds himself or herself at the precise time and place. So how can we win our environments to bring others to Christ? **INFECT IT WITH GRACE !!!** As Christians we are called to rebuild the world around us: family, work, social life etc... There are three "**battlefronts**" in the process that we have to concentrate on:

1. **Ourselves**- we need to strengthen and convince ourselves that Christ is the answer. We have to have the **WILL** and the conviction. We have to **PRAY**, we talk to God about our friends, then we talk to our friends about God. Next is the necessity to use our God-given **MIND** and apply our intelligence fully in our evangelization efforts just as what we do with anything important to us. The last but not the least is the **HEART**. We should show charity, gentleness and respect when dealing with people. Our hearts must be open to do good things to people in order to win them for Christ.
2. **THE OTHERS** - Acquaintances, associates, casual friends we need to reach out to them, to know them, treating them with respect, dignity, and as persons. These different types of people are classified as follows: a) the believers and practicing Catholics b) the believers but need to be constantly nudged at to get motivated c) people who believe in God and nothing more; they miss Mass, gossips, tell crude jokes, and know it all d) The Far Aways, they do not believe because they do not know God. They are far away from God. No one

introduced God to them in a proper way. They are the uninterested ones, made their first communion but nothing since. They make their own religion. They say they believe in God but not in priest or the church. They are semi-atheist. e) The practicing atheist.

3. **Environment**-is the sum of ideas, persons and circumstances; is the result of people interacting together, then not only do we have to work with individual person, but also work the situation as a whole. We need to penetrate the situation as a whole and change its tone and direction so that when these people are together, they will be leading one another to Christ.

Different people should be approached differently. We must be genuinely interested in the interest of others. In choosing His apostles, Christ was interested in the fishing of Peter, Andrew, James, and John, and He helped them catch some fish. We should help people in time of need, and they will be grateful to us. If we are not interested in people, they will not be interested in what we have to say. Cursillo is about making it easier for those who have wandered away to come back to the Father. "Make a Friend; Be a Friend; and bring a friend to Christ".

**B. The Selection of Candidates:** The criteria for selection must always be the effectiveness of the candidate as the leaven of his or her environment and circumstances. Maturity is a main consideration. Youth have great potential to act as agents of change in the future. Select on people whose decisions count with those people around them. Their opinions carry weight with them, and their activities influence them. The Cursillo is for all people of different social classes, income levels, and background. All candidates should be selected on an equal basis so their talents may be used to achieve the purpose of the movement. The purpose of the selection will always be to give Christianity a strong backbone wherever it may be by means of living and life-giving vertebrae. The vertebrae are leaders properly formed, living in grace, and worked together in a dynamic Christian community. With this purpose in mind we shall find people *who should go* to the Cursillos, people *who can go* to the Cursillos, and people *who should not go* to the Cursillos

1. **Those Who Should GO**

- Those who have strength of character and self control, who are able to make their own decisions and to be interiorly motivated, who are mature, free and responsible.
- Those who are vertebrae, leaders, self-starters, movers
- Those who are concerned about the social conditions of our times
- Those who have the ability and desire to live in and for the community with Christ, in Christ, and for Christ.

2. **Those Who Can Go**

- Those who are in the position to receive the sacraments or become so
- Those who flow with the tide . Oftentimes, people who seem average have change into vertebrae when they have been uplifted by His Grace.

### 3. **Those Who Should Not Go**

- Those who have psychological or emotional problems
- Non-Catholics. Since the purpose of the movement is to produce Catholic lay leadership, and the weekend itself is centered on the Eucharist. The candidate must be able to receive the Sacraments (Reconciliation and Eucharist).

Its is important to note that our emphasis must be on environmental transformation and not on the 3-day Cursillo. What is important is to help people to be transformed by Christ and become active in the work of bringing their environments to Christ, not to have them go on a weekend.

#### **Candidates Preparation:**

Candidates have to be prepared adequately to benefit in the Cursillo, and join a group or community in the postcursillo. Ordinarily, the sponsor prepares the candidate. Ideally, the community (a Group Reunion or an Ultreya). We need to arouse the excitement, enthusiasm, and interest of the candidates in explaining to them the reason for the Cursillo.

We need to establish friendship with them. We need to help them realize their need for a deeper life with Christ; oftentimes, not in the words we utter, but in the life we live. Share with them how you are a better person now than yesterday, share with them how the teachings in the Cursillo and the living what is fundamental in being Christian made you a more peaceful, forgiving, and loving individual. Take them with you in the Group Reunions and Ultreyas where they can experience the love and friendship in the community. Get to know them without being too pushy, intimidating, or interrogating. Get enough information to know whether the person is a good candidate for the Cursillo or for other religious programs.

#### **The Sponsor (Group or Individual Must):**

- Know the goal of the Cursillo
- Know the candidate (Speak to God about the candidate before speaking to the candidate about God), and pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit.
- Live a Christian Life
- Spark the desire for God and make it grow
- Promote an attitude of conversion
- Walk with the candidate until he/she is fully incorporated into his/her Christian community

- Ensure that the candidate's application for the Cursillo is fully completed to inform the secretariat about the candidate

### **Palanca**

In the Gospel of Luke 6:12-16 - Jesus went up to the mountain to pray, and He spent the night in prayers to God. When day came, He called His disciples to Himself, and from them, He chose twelve, whom He also named apostles.

Just like in the preparation and selection of candidates, we need to identify the believers, the disciples, and the apostles

- Believers: believe there is God or Jesus is God
- Disciples: abide to Jesus' conditions to be like Him; follow and love Jesus wholeheartedly. The disciple of Christ becomes the reincarnation of Christ through self emptying.
- Apostles: disciples who were sent out to preach the gospel and cure the sick.

The Grace of God is of utmost important in our precursillo work. This is the foundation stone in all our conversion and renewal efforts. Bear in mind that *without God we are nothing, bereft of value, and incapable of doing anything*. The most characteristic mark of the Cursillo Methodology lies in the whole concept of **palanca**- prayers, sacrifices, and works of mercy. To be effective, we have to genuinely offer palancas as a community. Jesus Christ in Matthew 7:7 promised, "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you."

Once a sufficient number of good candidates have been selected, and when there is a guarantee that the participants will be assisted in the postcursillo, then Cursillo should be scheduled.