



School of Leaders (SOL)

Sabina Gotuaco

September 9, 2023

What is the School of Leaders (SOL)?

- The Cursillo leaders who have chosen the Cursillo as their primary apostolic vocation. "This is us!"
- The SOL is a spiritual, physical, (or virtual) gathering of the leaders of the Cursillo Movement.
- The Secretariat (Officers) runs the School of Leaders, and the Secretariat came from the SOL. The Secretariat works as a team.
- In the School of Leaders, we make sure that these elements are present:
 - A school of <u>Holiness</u>

2

- A school of <u>Community</u>, and
- A school of <u>Formation</u>



What are the Purposes and Objectives of SOL?

- Purpose: The School of Leaders aims to promote growth and understanding of what is fundamental to being a Christian.
- Specific Objectives:

3

- To develop the purity/holiness of the leaders each of us. We strive to be Holy, especially after our grace-filled experience during our retreat.
- To strengthen the Christian love and unity of the leaders of the Cursillo Movement.
- To understand the authentic Cursillo Movement—its charism (or spiritual gift or grace), mentality, purpose, strategy, and method.
- To make our piety, study, and action relevant to the needs of the Archdiocese, the Catholic Church, the Christian community, and the world.

What are the roles of the School of Leaders (chair or team)?

- Set the program to strengthen the members of the School of Leaders in the areas of: LOVE, FRIENDSHIP, and <u>COMMUNITY</u>.
- Set the program and understanding in the areas of: CURSILLO <u>FORMATION</u> and CHARISM (Grace/Spiritual Gift), its PURPOSE, STRATEGY, and METHODOLOGY (termed: Technical Talks by Lay People.)
 - Set the program to bring about an understanding in the areas of: <u>HOLINESS</u>, hand in hand with the spiritual leadership and direction of the Spiritual Advisor and Spiritual (doctrinal) talks by clergies, and finally,
- Set the program to bring about: APOSTOLIC ACTION.



Typical SOL Gathering Format

- Opening Prayer and Leaders' Group Reunion
- Doctrinal Presentation & Discussion
- Technical Presentation & Discussion
- Break
- Work by the Sections
- Section Reports and Announcements
- Visit to the Blessed Sacrament

Why do we need to do the School of Leaders?

- We need to form and grow our leaders today and in the future.
- We need leaders to continue our work in Cursillo leaders to lead the pre-Cursillo, weekend or proper, SOL, and post-Cursillo.
- We need a forum to question and discuss our faith, just like the disciples. Discussions can be technical, doctrinal, and spiritual.

CURSILLOS IN CHRISTIANIT ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO FILIPINO MEN'S CURSILLO

6

WF ARE CALLED

What are my past three years as SOL chair learnings (during pandemic) to make SOL effective?

- Planning current or relevant topics early and selecting the appropriate speakers.
- Have a series of questions on the topics to stem curiosity or ask the relevancy and answer the "why" of such topics.
- Consistency in scheduling for the meeting.
- Planning and practicing with the speakers at least one to two weeks in advance (materials, content, Zoom, presentation, time zone, phone numbers, call-in, etc.) before the presentation date.
- Thanking the speakers and providing a stipend to the spiritual/doctrinal speakers, if possible.





What differentiates Cursillo from other ministries out there?

The first thing most of us think of in terms of our core competency (or what we Cursillistas are good at) would be our weekend retreat. Most of us had our conversion, transformation, encounter, "metanoia," or God's grace-filled experience in the retreat.

Our Cursillo three-day weekend is our encounter with Self, God, and Others. This encounter has equipped us to go and share the Gospel and be Jesus' witnesses "...to the ends of the earth..." (Acts 1:8) and "...to make disciples of all nations..." (Mt 28:19).

We/Cursillistas are good at bringing out the love of God on this weekend retreat, and it is our core competency or spiritual gift to carry out this retreat successfully.

After the weekend retreat, we engage our Cursillistas in Group Reunion and Ultreyas. We made a friend, became their friend, and brought new brothers and sisters to Christ. Our gatherings return to our Cursillo goals of growing in Holiness, building our Community, and providing Formation to our brothers and sisters. These Cursillo gatherings are ways to discover what is fundamental to being a Christian.

How do we continue to grow Cursillo?

- We must invite more Young Adults or leaders in our churches (succession planning).
- Be friends with our Catechists, CCD groups, or other ministries such as prayer groups, Filipino ministries, young adults, youth, readers, extraordinary ministries, etc.
- Sponsor, or bring them to our weekend retreat.
- Invite them to join our Ultreyas.

9





How do we make it sustainable - in Programs and Finance?

The goal is to sow and plant the seeds among younger generations so they can carry on the mission of Cursillo (when we are in heaven!)

What we can do is sponsor the threeday weekend retreat for these young adults or adults by covering in full or at least half of their retreat expenses. Or, for those in hardship, we could ask them to pay what they can afford.

What are our next steps?

- Our core competency is providing the experience for the three-day weekend retreat with our precursillo and postcursillo.
- Get to know the young and active adults in your parish, ministries, or volunteer work; Involve ourselves in their volunteer work if possible. (Pre-Cursillo)
- Start saving and donating towards this weekend (send donations to Sis Helen, our treasurer, by check payable to "Cursillos in Christianity.")
- Continue to act on our motto or slogan "Be a friend, Make a friend, and Bring your Friend to Christ. (three-day weekend retreat)
- Participate as much as you can in Cursillo activities (Ultreyas), be challenged, and continue to grow in your piety, study, and action as leaders of Cursillo. (Post-Cursillo)



Who are the Cursillistas?

- We have unconditional love, support, and fun!
- We have the spirit of joy, compassion, and love of God in our hearts!
- We are the lights shining for our Community and others!





