

## SPONSORING CANDIDATES

Hello, Good afternoon Brothers and Sisters. I am your Sister Erlinda. I made my Cursillo on May 10 thru 13, 2001 at Holy Redeemer Center in Oakland CA. Cursillo number 748 Decuria of St. Monica.

Before I start with my talk I would like to start with the prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the heart of your faithful and enkindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created.

And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray:

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant, that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations. Through Christ our Lord Amen.

My talk for today is Sponsoring Candidates for the Cursillo Weekend  
Source: The Cursillo Movement Sponsor's Booklet

Sponsoring candidates is one of the main aspects of the Pre-Cursillo, and the most important factor that contributes to the success of the Cursillo weekend.

### ***Slide #1 – What are the misconceptions on the Cursillo movement?***

Before I can talk about sponsoring Candidates I would like to touch base on: WHAT THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT IS NOT

It is important to note that as we try to understand the purpose of the Cursillo Movement, it is also important that we understand what the Cursillo Movement is NOT. There have been many misconceptions about the Cursillo Movement is for. There was a dialogue that appeared years ago in one of Spain's newsletters which is a good lead-in to one of the first misconceptions people have had about the Cursillo Movement. The dialogue was as follows:

- Where do all the good people go?  
They go to heaven
- Where do all the bad people go?  
They go to Hell
- Where do all the very, very bad people go?  
They go to the Cursillo weekend to get zapped.

This misconception of what the Cursillo is for could be called the “problem case approach”. The Cursillo can make Christians out of people no one else can do anything with. Of course, the only problem is to get them there and convert them.

Other misconceptions over the years have been:

- Pastors use the Cursillo for recruiting workers for the parish.
- Get people involved with social action--- programs work with the homeless, right to life, etc.
- Use the Cursillo to produce leaders for other movement/organizations.

The Cursillo Movement is not a cure for all personal problems. There are other programs, staffed by professionals, designed to help people with personal problems.

The Cursillo Movement is not just anything. It was designed in a certain way for a certain purpose. Before the Cursillo Movement can have a strong sense of direction, and be able to accomplish what it was designed to accomplish, there has to be a clear understanding of what the Movement is and what it is for.

### Slide #2 – What is the Cursillo Movement?

#### WHAT THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT IS

No one definition can truly explain what Cursillo is all about. However, we can define the purpose of the Cursillo Movement. The Movement is the reason why we do what we do. Cursillo pursues a two-fold purpose; an immediate one and an ultimate one.

The immediate purpose is to provide a foundation for the person to live what is fundamental of being a Christian--love of God and love of neighbor-- experienced through three essential encounters; the encounter with oneself, the encounter with Christ, and the encounter with others.

Therefore, the goal of the Movement is not about “preaching the Good News” and becoming Evangelicals, but to become the Good News, and in a natural way, our actions will become evangelical in our daily lives (family, workplace, neighborhood, social life, and in essence, where we are at the movement), in groups (Group Reunion and Ultreya) which will provide a more authentic, continuous, and progressive Christianity.

The Cursillo Movement, by means of its own method makes it possible for people to live what is fundamental for being a Christian, and to live it together; it helps people discover and fulfill their personal vocations, and it promotes the creation of core groups of Christians who leaven their environment with Gospel.

The Cursillo Movement is focused to help each of us fulfill our baptismal responsibility: to go forth, as apostles, and proclaim the Good News that God in Christ loves us. We can no longer afford to sit passively by and “hope” that the world comes to know Christ. The Cursillo Movement provides

us with the method necessary for fulfilling our baptismal responsibility, along with the support for using the method.

### Slide #3 – What is the purpose of Sponsorship?

Knowing the purpose of the Cursillo Movement, we now focus our thoughts on the purpose of sponsoring. Keep in mind that this must be a very conscientious act and the result will be life changing.

The purpose of sponsoring is to prepare a person or persons who can 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 with the talent to bring about the change; to bring Jesus into their environments.

So sponsoring is not a haphazard circumstance. It should be a deliberate act to bring Jesus Christ into the world. Therefore, a sponsor should know the candidates very well. If they are married, you should know their spouse as well. Your candidates will become the agents of change in their families, work situations, neighborhood, social gatherings etc. Your candidates will become active participants in their particular Group Reunion and at Ultreya. Your candidates will become part of the Christian community that links together with others to bring Jesus Christ to the world. THIS IS THE PURPOSE OF SPONSORING!

### Slide #4 – What should we know about our potential candidates?

#### THINGS TO KNOW

The sponsor must know that potential candidates for the Cursillo Movement generally fall into three categories. These three categories are:

1. Those who should go
2. Those who can go
3. Those who should not go

#### 1. Those who should go

- They are individuals who are truly the backbone of their environment.
- They have a deep personality, a capacity for humanity and able to make their own decisions.
- They are mature, responsible, concerned about the social condition of our times and they have the ability and desire to live in and for the community. In short, they are natural leaders.

#### Those who can go

- They are simply anyone who is eligible to receive the sacraments.
- The ordinary Catholic --the one trying to live the Catholic life as best they know how.

Those who should not go

- Those who have psychological or emotional problems.
- Those of abnormal situations or vice.
- Those whose moral lives are so disoriented that they are incapable of understanding the message or of living the Cursillo.
- Those who due to circumstances cannot receive the sacraments, especially the sacrament of the Eucharist, because their life is contrary to the life of grace and the Cursillo is centered in the Eucharist where one experiences the life of Grace.

Again, know your candidates as well as possible, using the Cursillo method of: Making a friend, being a friend and bringing your friend to Christ or to a better relationship with Christ. Pray for direction to the Holy Spirit. Remember to speak to God about the person before speaking to the person about God.

***Slide #5 – What are the qualities of candidates that we look for?***

Through this method of friendship, you will be informed about your candidate, such as marital status, number of children, parish the candidates belong to, specific environments that your candidate is immersed in, and reasons why this candidate should attend the Cursillo weekend. In addition, your candidate:

- Must be a baptized practicing catholic,
- Must be able to participate in the Sacrament of the Church,
- Should be able to make decisions as an individual,
- Should be free from obstacles that hinder the ability to join a group reunion.

All of this information must be provided on the application form to the Diocesan Secretariat.

***Slide #6 – What are the guidelines in terms of sponsoring married couples?***

**WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT SPONSORING MARRIED COUPLES**

Before sponsoring an individual, the sponsor must determine if the individual is married. If the individual is not married, then we can proceed with the responsibilities of sponsorship as discussed earlier. However, if the individual is married, then certain steps must be followed before sponsorship takes place.

The purpose of the Cursillo Movement is to transform the person so that the person, once converted, in a natural way, can Christianize their environment. With this in mind and taking into consideration the pluralistic society in which we live, we will encounter situations where a spouse may not be Catholic, or a spouse of the natural leader does not wish to attend the Cursillo Weekend - thus the reason for guidelines on couples.

## The GUIDELINES ON COUPLES:

Even though the Cursillo weekend is lived individually, the spiritual life of the couple, both before and after the weekend, must be considered. The Cursillo Movement holds in the highest regard the sacrament of Marriage.

If participation in a Cursillo by one spouse and not the other can have an adverse effect on the marriage, then we suggest some other form of individual spiritual renewal for the person.

Once it is known that the person is married, we need to determine whether both are eligible to attend the Cursillo or both are interested in attending the Cursillo Weekend. If something would prevent one spouse from attending, either because that individual is not eligible or the person does not wish to attend, the following steps should be taken:

- The couple would be invited to meet the Spiritual Director of the Movement, a member of the secretariat, and or a leader of the School of Leader;
- During the meeting, a full explanation of the purpose and method of the Movement would be given.
- A complete explanation of what is expected of those who attend the Weekend is given.
- Most importantly is the explanation of what is expected during the 4th day (Group Reunion and Ultreya),
- If both agree that one spouse attending the Weekend, while the other spouse does not, will not have an adverse effect on their Sacrament of Marriage, then the one who is eligible and wants to attend should be allowed to do so.

In the case where both are eligible and both agree to attend a Cursillo weekend, then both should be prepared and the question of who to attend first is not important.

The purpose of the Spiritual Director, a member of the secretariat, and/or a leader from the School of Leader meeting with the couple is to complement the work already started by the sponsor, and not to take the place of the sponsor.

One more thing that needs to be known, non-Catholics are not eligible and are not to attend the Catholic Cursillos under any circumstance. This includes non-Catholic spouses.

### ***Slide #7 – What are the Sponsorship's roles?***

## WALK THE TALK

Above all else, you should be a member of the Group Reunion. Your candidate should be able to see the Jesus Christ in you and be attracted by His presence. In this way you can show your candidate to develop a deeper and fuller relationship with our Lord which will continue to grow and mature.

Don't tell your candidate what type of Christian to be. Show your candidate how to be a Christian by the way you live your life, love your family, care for your neighbor, and speak out for Christ. Provide your candidate with an opportunity to learn the tools of the Group Reunion and Ultreya.

#### DURING THE CURSILLO WEEKEND

During the Cursillo weekend, the role of the sponsors is to PRAY, PRAY AND PRAY some more. Sacrificing is also highly encouraged. Help your candidate's things that need attending (i.e. transportation, home, children, pets, etc.) Then pray some more. Most important---be at Closing! If you know you are unable to attend the Closing, then tell your candidate and make necessary transportation arrangement so your candidate can go home.

#### AFTER THE CURSILLO WEEKEND

Be willing to meet with the new Cursillista in a one-to-one setting. Try to answer any questions that this person might have. If you do not know the answers, assure the Cursillista that you will attempt to find someone who can provide the answers.

#### GROUP REUNION AND ULTREYA

Many people leave the Cursillo with enthusiasm, after having had the opportunity to encounter self, Christ and others, That is sufficient only for the first step. The new Cursillista should be motivated to take the second step to freely use the method of perseverance by seeking a group of friends and making a commitment to share the Christian way of life together; thus fortifying the three encounters initiated in their Cursillo.

Be sure that the new Cursillista finds a Group Reunion. It may be yours or a different group entirely, Of course, the Ultreya is always a good place to find group members, That, by the way, was a subtle hint--- TAKE THEM TO THE ULTREYA.

#### In conclusion: PERSONAL CONTACT

It is not enough to send someone to the Cursillo Weekend, The new Cursillista needs as much personal attention after the Cursillo Weekend.

Probably even more! We must make a conscientious effort to ensure that we do all that can be done.

De Colores!