

GUIDELINES FOR SPONSORS

Approved by the Charlottetown Diocese Cursillo Secretariat January 1999



A cursillista becomes a sponsor when he or she recruits a candidate and arranges for that candidate to participate in a cursillo weekend. Sponsors, therefore, play a very important role in the growth of the cursillo community, and it is necessary that this role be clearly understood.

PROCLAIM CHRIST

The chief responsibility of the cursillista is to proclaim Christ, and in that way to bring Him to our environment. In our dealings with friends and associates we should talk about Christ – not about Cursillo. This is in recognition that the positive experience of our weekend came not from Cursillo itself but from the Grace of God. Through that Grace and through the presence of Jesus in His Word, His Eucharist, and in others, the Holy Spirit reached out and touched, healed, and educated us. We must proclaim to others that experience of God, of Jesus, and of the Holy Spirit.

THE SPONSOR

Having made a friend and having led that friend to Christ, the cursillista is led to ask:

“Is this friend of mine, after the experience of Cursillo, likely to be a person who will go out into their home, parish, and work environments and witness to the gospel by living authentically their piety, study, and action, and thus be leaders in building up the Kingdom?”



If we can answer yes to this question, what do we do?

- a) We pray to God and ask for his gift of discernment regarding this invitation to Cursillo for our friend and we ask for help in presenting Christ and Cursillo to our friend.
- b) We introduce the idea of Cursillo to our friend and, with their permission, we submit a completed application on their behalf.
- c) We provide with the application any additional information not required by the form but which might be of assistance to the Cursillo team. This could include material on the candidate’s medical condition, church involvements, marital status, educational background, or experience with other renewal movements.
- d) We commit ourselves to supporting the candidate we have sponsored by:
 - † maintaining contact up to the time of the Cursillo weekend;
 - † arranging for transportation to and from the Cursillo weekend;
 - † providing personal palanca for our candidate;
 - † attending the invasion to assist in welcoming our candidate to the community;
 - † making sure our candidate has the opportunity to attend a group reunion;
 - † keep in contact after the Cursillo experience and bring our candidate to Ultreyas.

THE CANDIDATE

In all of this there are some general things which can be said about the ideal candidate which might be helpful.

- ☛ The ideal candidate is between 25 and 65 years of age. This is not to suggest that young people could not benefit from Cursillo, but generally there are other programs more appropriate to that age level. Nor is it to suggest that older people could not benefit, but the Cursillo weekend is strenuous and may be too much for someone of advanced age.
- ☛ Ideal candidates come from a wide variety of backgrounds and occupations, but generally share an ability to lead others.
- ☛ The ideal candidate may be married or single; if the candidate is married, it is strongly recommended that his or her spouse also make the weekend.
- ☛ The ideal candidate is practising his or her faith.
- ☛ The ideal candidate is emotionally secure and has not recently experienced the death of a loved one, the struggle of a dependency problem, or the breakup of a marriage. Cursillistas should reach out to people experiencing such difficulties, but not by saddling them with the additional emotional strain which could result from the Cursillo weekend itself. There will be a right time in God's timetable.



"You did not choose Me, but I chose you," (John 15:16)