

**Diocese of Bridgeport**  
**Cursillo of Fairfield County Apostolic Plan**  
**January 2014**

The attached Apostolic Plan has been prepared by the Secretariat and School of Leaders of the English-speaking Cursillo community in the Diocese of Bridgeport. The plan is the guideline for the actions of our community in the upcoming year. The plan is in four sections:

- The Pre-Cursillo
- The Cursillo (Three Day Weekend)
- The Post-Cursillo (Fourth Day)
- School of Leaders

This plan is submitted to the National Cursillo Secretariat and Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano, bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport. It is also posted on the Cursillo of Fairfield County Diocese of Bridgeport website: [www.natl-cursillo.org/bridgeport/](http://www.natl-cursillo.org/bridgeport/). Please contact Gina Donnarummo at 203-209-6074 or [ginad1224@yahoo.com](mailto:ginad1224@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

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## The Pre-Cursillo

### **Goal**

To select environments that need evangelization, inform sponsors of their role, and to select and prepare candidates for their weekend through friendship.

### **Objectives**

To sponsor new Cursillistas

1. To emphasize the importance of true sponsorship
2. To prepare candidates for their weekend. To inform, awaken and motivate interest, and encourage an attitude of openness and searching.

### **Action Plan**

1. To sponsor:
  - To select environments and leaders in those environments for Cursillo.
  - To ensure that each sponsor receives, reads and understands the Sponsor Guidelines with the Candidate Application.
  - To ensure all sponsors are active members of Group Reunions and actively participate in Diocesan Ultreyas. If a sponsor is not, they need to get a co-sponsor to help them in their efforts.
  - To ensure all sponsors receive training to gain a firm foundation in the purpose of sponsoring, what the Cursillo movement is/is not, and the goal of the movement.
2. To prepare candidates:
  - To ensure that each candidate has personal contact with their sponsor and the Team Leaders of their weekend.
  - To ensure candidates have and read *The Cursillo Movement – What Is It?*
  - To ensure all candidates have a firm understanding of the purpose and goal of the movement, what the weekend involves, and what is involved in the Post-Cursillo.
3. To inform and train Cursillistas in all aspects of Pre-Cursillo
  - To conduct periodic sponsor training workshops.
4. To provide communication and information to our Catholic communities regarding the Cursillo movement through various means: parish representative program, written literature, etc.

## **The Cursillo (Three Day Weekend)**

### **Goal**

1. To create an atmosphere which will allow the new Cursillistas to transition well from the Pre-Cursillo to the Post-Cursillo.
2. To allow the new Cursillistas to fully experience the three encounters of oneself, Christ, and others. In turn the candidates will discover his or her personal vocation and have a *metanoia* and conversion experience during the three-day weekend.
3. Have smaller teams who can be more one-on-one with the candidates; the team should not overpower the candidates. There will be one table leader per table, not two.
4. Have less team meetings (from 8-9 to 5-6) for team formation. Formation should be done during School of Leaders. The team meetings are for building community.
5. Plan for both a Men's and Women's weekend each Spring and Fall but team formation will only begin once a minimum number of candidates are confirmed.

### **Objective**

1. To emphasize on the three-day weekend the importance of group reunion and Ultreya. This is the vehicle used in Cursillo to foster friendship.
2. To offer teachings to the community that are original and true to the Movement about the three-day weekend during team formation at School of Leaders, on the website, in the newsletter, and other avenues of communication.

### **Action Plan**

1. To encourage the community to attend School of Leaders, national and regional encounters, especially the teams in formation. Team selection should be done through those attending School of Leaders.
2. Educate the community about the importance of the closing for the new Cursillistas and for the community. The closing would be the first Fourth Day event they attend.
3. Train Coordinators who in turn train team members. Lead Three Day overview during team formation and assist with the Writers Workshop, if need be. Encourage support through the Cursillo Manual and Leader's Manual. Work with committee members to build a database, set up before and after the weekend (MUM—Mop Up Ministry).
4. Notify Cursillo community that weekends will only take place once a minimum number of candidates are confirmed to eliminate the need to cancel weekends after a team has begun formation meetings. Publish go/no-go date 8 weeks before each weekend when the decision would be made.

## **The Post-Cursillo**

### **Goals**

1. To aid Cursillistas in their perseverance in the Cursillo method along with the community throughout their 4<sup>th</sup> day.
2. To assist Cursillistas in their ongoing conversion and the transformation of their environments

### **Objective**

1. To provide authentic Ultreyas that encourage and support the Cursillista in their spiritual journey so in turn they can transform their environments by means of friendship.
2. To aid Cursillistas in their efforts to join and maintain a Group Reunion.

### **Action Plans**

1. To provide Ultreyas at a time and place that is convenient to the Community. To ensure that the Ultreya is conducted according to the format. Assisting facilitators and witness speakers by providing documentation and guidance. Concluding with Spiritual Advisors summation given by a priest, deacon or religious.
2. To assist and support coordinators in gathering facilitators for Ultreyas 2 or 3 months prior to the planned Ultreya.
3. To encourage authentic Group Reunion through the use of the Cursillo literature. Aid Cursillistas in locating and organizing regular group reunions.
4. To provide an annual retreat for all Cursillistas which provides an opportunity for Spiritual aids and study through witnesses, communal prayer and fellowship.
5. Communicate news from the OMCC (World Organization of Cursillo of Christianity) and the National Cursillo Resource Center
6. Encounter Cursillistas to attend the National Encounter and the Regional Encounters

## School of Leaders

### **Goal**

1. The purpose of the School of Leaders is to accelerate the living of what is fundamental for being a Christian in each of its members as individuals, in the Cursillo Movement as a whole, and in the environments where God has placed us. Consequently, the School of Leaders is NOT established to do things, but to BE something – a community of service to the Cursillistas.
2. It is the gathering or reunion of leaders, that illuminates, encourages and relieves our restlessness with the best means possible: friendship. It is the place where leaders are in tune with the same spirit, following a common criterion, where the truth is foremost because we all wish it and we all live it. (Structure of Ideas by Eduardo Bonnin and Francisco Forteza)

### **Objectives**

1. Have a long-term study curriculum in place for each of the two School of Leaders locations (Monroe and Stamford).
2. Keep doctrinal (Church teaching) and technical (Cursillo teaching) aspects of the School separate
3. Increase Community participation in School of Leaders, especially at the Stamford location.
4. Provide information to the Cursillo Community on the Movement to help the Community grow, learn and better understand their Fourth Day living.
5. Offer Community information and education for Cursillistas to help them grow in knowledge of the Movement.
6. Have members of School of Leaders mentor new attendees.
7. Form the members of the School of Leaders so that they are adequately prepared to sponsor candidates and serve as team members for Three Day weekends.
8. Increase the membership of the School of Leaders to the point where the teams for Three Day weekends can eventually be drawn entirely, or almost entirely, from the School.
9. Educate Community as to what School of Leaders is.

### **Action Plan**

1. Access the National Cursillo website ([www.natl-cursillo.org](http://www.natl-cursillo.org)) for related articles/books for technical teaching information, and spend the first half of 2014 studying material from these sources at the Monroe location.
2. Access Pope Francis' writings, as well as the Catechism of the Catholic Church, USCCB website, and Vatican website for doctrinal and Catholic social teaching information, and spend some time during the second half of 2014 studying materials from these sources at the Monroe location.
3. Continue the Study of the Charism at the Stamford location.
4. Request support from the priests, deacons and religious in our Movement to provide and support our doctrinal teaching, as well as requesting members of the lay Cursillo Community to support and provide technical teachings.

5. With the support of Secretariat and School of Leaders Committee members, engage in personal contact at all Ultreyas to encourage other Cursillistas to join School of Leaders.
6. Plan and implement Cursillo information sessions (i.e. Weekend Reunions).
7. Continue to meet one Saturday morning per month in Monroe and one weekday evening per month in Stamford for the first half of 2014, and then reevaluate times, locations, and frequency of School of Leaders meetings based on then-current level of community participation.
8. Provide School of Leaders information to the Community through Ultreyas, emails, website, etc.