

# A Basic Overview of Purpose, Mentality, and Method of Cursillo



Presented by Cef Aguillon  
National English Coordinator  
Region XI Spring Encounter  
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# Purpose

- To save souls and to build Christianity that gives life to the entire world through evangelization.
- To reach out to those who do not have a relationship with Christ and his Church – the faraway.
- To help the person, through friendship, discover his possibilities and accept his limitations.
- To make our friends, friends with Christ.
- To enlighten the person that God in Christ loves him.
- To accelerate Christianity in the world!

# Mentality

- Mentality answers the *why* of Cursillos in Christianity. It is the underlying reason of *why* we do what we do in Cursillo.
- Mentality, therefore, is nothing more than a platform of ideas, values, and beliefs from which we think (mind), we want (heart), and we act (will).
- “Cursillos in Christianity consists of proclaiming the best news of the best reality: that God, in Jesus Christ, loves us; communicated by the best means; which is friendship; and directed towards the best of each one; which is the person; his capacity of conviction, decision, and constancy.” (Eduardo Bonnín, Leaders’ Manual)

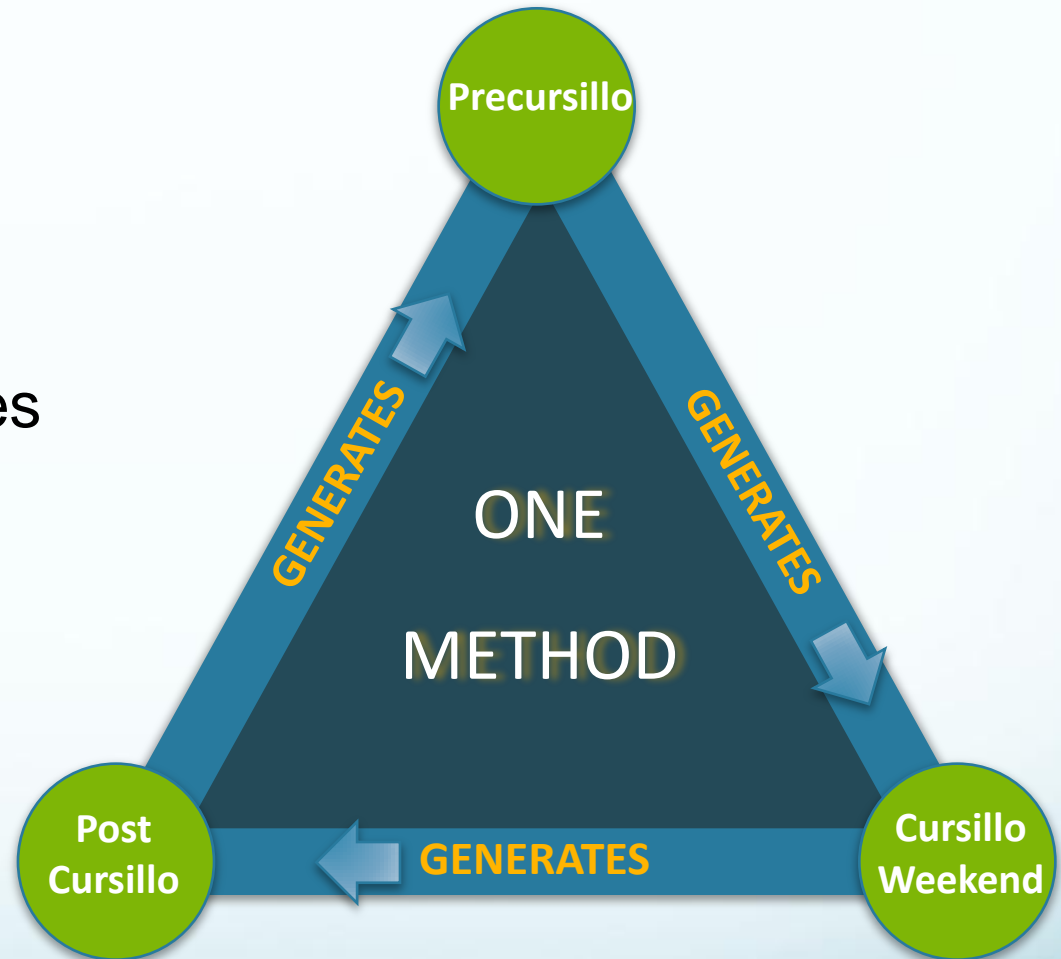
# Method

# Method

- The Method of Cursillos consists of three distinct phases; Precursillo, Cursillo Weekend, and Postcursillo. These phases, like levels established in relationships of friendship are intimately interwoven.
- The word method comes from two Greek words: *meta* meaning *beyond* and *odos* meaning *path*, and literally means a path to go beyond.
- Therefore, the Cursillo Method provides a path for the person to go beyond where he is to where God wants him to be.

# One Method, Three Phases

- **Precursillo** generates the **Cursillo Weekend**!
- **Cursillo Weekend** generates the **Postcursillo**!
- **Postcursillo** generates the **Precursillo**!



# Precursillo

The Person is searching . . .

# Precursillo

## It's about the Person!

- Person matters to Cursillo and the Church.
- Person is the primary instrument for transmitting the Good News to others.

## It's about Christ!

- The sponsor's witness of the life and teachings of Jesus.
- "Come and see" (Jn 1:46)

## It's about Friendship!

- Friendship between the person and Christ, and eventually with others.
- If there is Friendship, there is a Relationship!



# Precursillo

## Personal Contact

- The person-to-person proclamation of the Gospel remains valid and important. (Pope Paul VI)
- Cursillo places emphasis on this technique.

## Authentic Witness of Life

- “The present century thirsts for authenticity.” (Pope Paul VI)
- “The first means of evangelization is the witness of an authentically Christian life.” (Pope Paul VI)
- “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.” (Pope Paul VI)
- What is your witness about in the Precursillo?

## Real Palanca

- Prayer, sacrifice, works of mercy. (Mt. 6:1-6, 16-18)

# Precursillo

## Sponsoring is an important role in Cursillo.

- Educating sponsors in their role is essential.
- New Cursillistas should be educated in this role a.s.a.p.

## Make a friend, be a friend and bring your friend to Christ!

- Not necessarily to Cursillo!
- Focus is the relationship between the person and Christ.
- Friendship essential in all 3 phases.

## The criterion for candidate selection is essential to achieving the purpose of Cursillo:

- Those who should go
- Those who can go
- Those who should not go

# Precursillo

Study of the environment is about studying the person.

- Environment is defined as *the person and his circumstances*.
- Environment refers to the person, not the structure!

The sponsor/friend is required:

- to *know* the person – how can I help you if I don't know you?
- to *place* the person – put his talents in the service of Christ.
- to *enlighten* the person – by witnessing to the Truth.
- to *accompany* the person – to accompany my friend is not only important, but essential in all 3 phases of Cursillo.

In other words, if you know your friend, you will know:

- how he *thinks*, what he *wants*, and how he *acts* which correspond to his *mind*, his *heart*, and his *will*.

# Cursillo Weekend

The Person is encountering . . .

# Cursillo Weekend

## It's about the Person!

- Opportunity to encounter oneself.
- Image and likeness of God, treat with dignity and respect.
- Intelligence, freedom, and free will, avoid manipulation.

## It's about Christ!

- Opportunity to encounter Christ.
- Christ (Eucharist) central focus of the Weekend.

## It's about Friendship!

- Friendship with self, Christ, and others.
- The three essential encounters.

# Cursillo Weekend

## Personal Contact

- Team with candidates.
- Study of the person continues to understand circumstances.

## Authentic Witness of Life

- "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses." (Pope Paul VI)
- What is your witness when you serve on team or give a rollo?
- Are you a teacher or a witness?

## Real Palanca

- Morning and Night Prayer, daily Eucharist, 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community prayers, national and international prayers.

# Cursillo Weekend

## The team selected from a School of Leaders must be:

- prepared technically through regular attendance at School where we study the Charism of Cursillo and help each other live what is fundamental through prayer, study, friendship, and living as a Christian community.
- prepared spiritually through a life of piety, study, and action which leads to a life in grace.
- in order to be ready to deliver the *joyful proclamation of being Christian!*

## The team proclaims some Gospel realities through:

- Kerygma - Word and testimony of life. Team gives personal witness that it is possible to live and share what is fundamental to being Christian through a life in grace.

# Cursillo Weekend

## Cursillo seeks to facilitate:

- a hunger for Christ in the person
- the encounter of the freedom of each person with the Spirit of God
- in order to help the person discover that God in Christ loves him unconditionally!

## Cursillo is an invitation to experience the reality of the triple encounter with:

- Self
- Christ
- Others



# Cursillo Weekend

The team delivers what is essentially Christian,

- steps back, and allows God's grace to work in each person.

If the team fulfills their role,

- the candidates will attribute their conversion to God's grace, not to the rollista, rector, best meal, song, or letter.

The witnessing at the Closing

- will be a good indicator as to whether the new Cursillistas captured the message and whether the team delivered the message!

# Postcursillo

The Person is following . . .

# Postcursillo

## It's about the Person!

- Eager to invite others to Cursillo!
- The desire to love and be loved is huge!
- What if there is no one to accompany him in his 4<sup>th</sup> Day?

## It's about Christ!

- The person wants to show Christ his love through action.
- It's not so much about *doing* but about *being*.

## It's about Friendship!

- Friendship with self, Christ, and others must continue!
- The three essential encounters carry over into Postcursillo.

# Postcursillo

## Personal Contact

- The personal contact must continue between the sponsor, team leaders, and new Cursillistas to show them the way.

## Authentic Witness of Life

- Team leaders and sponsors witness to new Cursillistas at Group Reunion and Ultreya to show how they are living what was said during the Cursillo Weekend.

## Real Palanca

- A continuation of prayer, sacrifice, and works of mercy is essential for the new Cursillistas beginning their 4<sup>th</sup> Day.

# Postcursillo

- The Cursillista is called to be the *good news* to others through a life of Piety, Study and Action in his daily life by living the Gospel realities discovered on the Weekend.
- The Cursillista is called to continue discovering and deepening friendships in each of the three encounters discovered on the Weekend.
- The Cursillista is now in a state of progressive conversion and is ‘evangelizing’ and ‘being Christian’ where God has placed him; in his everyday environments.

# Postcursillo

- The world can become more human and therefore, more Christian, by the linkage of fully alive Christian friends who help each other to maximize their potential by living together the life of grace. This linkage is achieved through friendship in the Group Reunion and Ultreya.
- The Cursillista is now accelerating Christianity in his family, neighborhood, workplace, in his moveable square meter, through a life that proclaims the best news that God in Christ loves us and is communicating it joyfully through the best means which is friendship!

# In Conclusion . . .

**Purpose** – To save souls and build Christianity – evangelization!

**Mentality** – The Good News is that God in Christ loves me.

**Method** – Precursillo, Cursillo Weekend, Postcursillo – Path to go beyond.

**Person** – Instrument for transmitting the Good News to others.

**Christ** – The Good News that everyone should know and believe.

**Friendship** – Best means to communicate God's love to others.

**Personal Contact** – One-to-one; being present to each other.

**Authentic Witness of Life** – How I live my Christian life/faith.

**Real Palanca** – prayer, sacrifice, works of mercy.

# The Cursillo Movement's Purpose, Mentality, & Method in Light of its Charism

**PURPOSE:** To save souls and structure (vertebrae) Christianity in the world.

**MENTALITY:** Cursillos in Christianity consists of a living proclamation of the best news of the best reality that God in Jesus Christ loves us, communicated to as many people as possible through the best means which is friendship!

## PRECURSILLO (Before)

It's about the Person!  
It's about Christ!  
It's about Friendship!

Person is *searching*

Personal Contact  
Authentic Witness of Life  
Real Palanca

Sponsoring is a critical role. Education and training is essential. Sponsor Checklists are not effective in educating Sponsors.

Make a friend, be a friend and bring your friend to Christ; not necessarily to Cursillo!

Candidate selection criterion essential to achieving Cursillo purpose.

It's about developing a relationship that will turn into real friendship in all 3 phases – Precursillo, Cursillo Weekend, & Postcursillo.

Study of environment is about studying the person. Environment is defined as "the person and his circumstances" that is, each person's sphere of influence at this exact moment.

The Sponsor is required:  
-to *know* the person,  
-to *place* the person,  
-to *enlighten* the person, and  
-to *accompany* the person!

In other words, if you know your friend, you will know how he thinks, what he wants, and how he acts which correspond to his intelligence, his heart, and his will.

## CURSILLO WEEKEND (During)

It's about the Person!  
It's about Christ!  
It's about Friendship!

Person is *encountering*

Personal Contact  
Authentic Witness of Life  
Real Palanca

The team selected from School of Leaders is prepared technically & spiritually to deliver the joyful proclamation of being Christian!

The team proclaims Gospel realities through Word and testimony of life; a message of living & sharing what is fundamental to being Christian – it is possible to live a life in grace.

The Cursillo message is received according to the disposition of each person. Candidates are asked for their enthusiasm, self-surrender, & spirit of charity.

Cursillo seeks to facilitate a hunger for God and the encounter of the freedom of each person with the Spirit of God to help them discover that God in Christ loves them unconditionally!

Cursillo fosters the person becoming fully alive by means of three fundamental encounters: with Self, with Christ, and with Others.

The team provides what is essentially Christian, steps back, and allows God's grace to do the rest!

If the team fulfills their role, the candidates will attribute their conversion to God's grace, not to the rollista, rector, best meal, song, or letter.

## POSTCURSILLO (After)

It's about the Person!  
It's about Christ!  
It's about Friendship!

Person is *following*

Personal Contact  
Authentic Witness of Life  
Real Palanca

Each Cursillista is called to be a "living gospel" through a life of piety, study and action in the normality of his daily life. To live Cursillo is to live the Gospel!

In the Fourth Day, the Cursillista is called to continue discovering and deepening friendships in each of the three encounters discovered on the Weekend.

The Cursillista is now in a state of progressive conversion and is 'evangelizing' and 'being Christian' where God has placed them; in his everyday environments.

The world can become more human and therefore, more Christian, by the linkage of fully alive Christian friends who help each other to maximize their potential by living together the life of grace. This linkage is achieved through friendship in the Group Reunion and Ultreya.

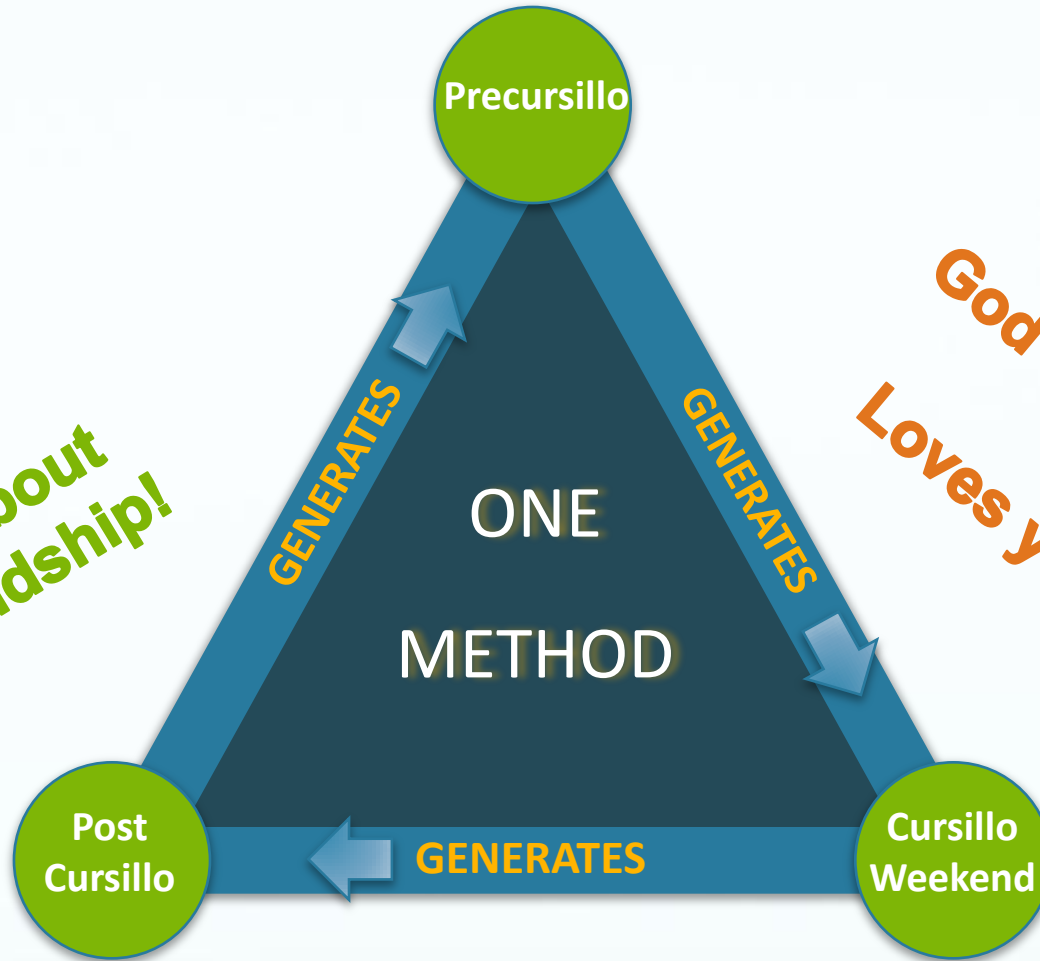
The Cursillista is now accelerating Christianity in his family, neighborhood, workplace, in his moveable square meter, through a life that proclaims the best news that God in Christ loves us and communicating it joyfully through the best means which is friendship!



**It's about the Person!**

**It's about Christ!**

**It's about Friendship!**



**The Good News is that God in Christ Loves you!**

# **DE COLORES!**

**Live & Share What is Fundamental to Being Christian with Self, Christ, & Others**