



National Cursillo Movement

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The Development of the Cursillo Movement in a Diocese Basic Requirements

Obtain Approval from the Local Bishop

*The Cursillos in Christianity are present and flourish in any diocese with the consent of and under the guidance of the bishop of the diocese.*¹ It is important for the core group of Cursillistas to meet with the local Bishop to express the desire to establish the Cursillo Movement in the diocese. The Bishop will want to know who will be taking responsibility to oversee the Movement.

Because of the sacred purpose of Cursillos' proven history, a Bishop is expected to see that neither the Movement nor its method is altered or used for a purpose other than that for which it is intended. He should sincerely desire to implement Cursillo in accordance with the Foundational Charism of the Movement. The Movement is a diocesan endeavor rather than a parish effort.

Diocesan Spiritual Advisor

A Diocesan Spiritual Advisor is a priest, deacon, or vowed religious who is appointed by the local Bishop for the support and promotion of the Cursillo Movement within the diocese and has lived the Cursillo Weekend. The Spiritual Advisor maintains a link between the Movement and the Bishop's Office. Since the Movement will need a Spiritual Advisor, it is important to have a couple of names in mind to recommend to the Bishop.

Regional Coordinator

One of the responsibilities of a Regional Coordinator and Service Team is to provide service and assist in establishing or re-establishing the Cursillo Movement in a diocese. However, this service needs to be requested by the diocese. The Regional Coordinator can help guide those responsible for establishing the Movement by following the process outlined below. The Regional Coordinator will need a Cursillista who can serve as the 'point of contact' for communication purposes. When a region does not have a Regional Coordinator and/or Service Team, the National Coordinator for the respective language group will assume the responsibility for assisting the diocese to establish the Movement.

Core Group of Leaders

A core group of Cursillistas/leaders who are willing, able, and capable of establishing the Movement must be identified before meeting with the local Bishop or his delegate. These leaders should have a basic knowledge of Cursillo, initiative, commitment, and be willing to give of their time, talents, and treasure as necessary. Without this core group, it will be difficult to establish the Movement in the diocese.

A diocese can begin a Cursillo Movement when it has a core group of Cursillo leaders who have chosen to serve the Movement as their apostolic vocation. In addition, this group must be a living example of a community of service in all three phases (Precursillo, 3-Day Cursillo and Postcursillo) of the Movement. The Movement was born from and received its form and drive from such a group. A Movement is as good as its leaders. It is not possible to have an authentic and effective Movement unless it is served by a group of leaders who exemplify everything the Movement is supposed to be. (Current edition of the Leaders' Manual)

¹ All text in italics are excerpts from the Articles in Operation November 2017

Apostolic Plan

The Regional Team should assist the Diocesan Movement that is establishing or re-establishing Cursillo to prepare a Cursillo Apostolic Plan. The plan should address specific areas such as Precursillo, 3-Day Cursillo, Postcursillo, Secretariat, and School of Leaders. In addition, each plan should consider Palanca, retreats, and workshops. The Cursillo Apostolic Plan can be used to guide the diocesan leadership in implementing Cursillo. The National Cursillo Apostolic Plan can be used as a guide and/or template for preparing the Diocesan Apostolic Plan.

Affiliation

Affiliating with the National Secretariat allows a diocese to use the Cursillo name, its methodology, workshops, and purchase associated literature and materials. Affiliation also keeps the diocese informed of Cursillo activities at the Regional and National level. Resources are available to assist the diocese regarding the Movement. Affiliation implies a relationship between the Diocesan Cursillo and the National Secretariat and an agreement by the local Movement to follow the Cursillo Charism and the Articles of Operation for the Cursillo Movement in the United States. When a diocese is not able to affiliate right away, the diocesan point of contact should contact Hoang Tran, National Cursillo Service Administrator to work out a plan for affiliation. In some cases, the affiliation fee for the first year may be waived depending on circumstances.

Ultreya

The core group of Cursillistas/leaders should setup an Ultreya for Cursillistas and ensure that Cursillistas are actively participating in Friendship Group Reunion. The core group should conduct a study in the diocese to determine if more than one Ultreya is needed to ensure availability to Cursillistas in more than one area of the diocese based on its geographical layout. It is important to setup the Postcursillo as soon as possible.

The School of Leaders prepares, serves and provides the Ultreyas – the evangelizing community. The conversion process initiated on the 3-Day Cursillo continues and grows through Group Reunion and Ultreya. Ideally, the Ultreya should meet on a weekly basis, however, if not possible, setup to meet twice a month.

The Ultreya is what allows that the best in each person be transmitted to as many as possible. There, one must live, experience, and share the same atmosphere as in the 3-Day Cursillo. In this way, what was said previously occurs and is true in being the reunion of the friendship groups. The Ultreya will also serve as an attraction to other Cursillistas, suggesting and possibly creating the opportunity to find and make friends for future Group Reunions. Such an atmosphere always draws new Cursillistas into that living community.

School of Leaders

A School should be established by the core group. The School is where the leaders study the essence, purpose, mentality, and method in light of the Foundational Charism. The School provides opportunities to build friendships, build Christian community, discuss and plan the Ultreya, etc. The School provides a great opportunity to begin with the basics of Cursillo. A day, time, and location for the School should be determined by the core group. Ideally, the School should meet on a weekly basis; however, if not possible, setup to meet twice a month. It is recommended that a study curriculum be prepared for the School of Leaders and that the School's format outlined in the current edition of the Leader's Manual be followed to stay focused on Cursillo.

Cursillo literature studied in the School should include, but not limited to, books such as the Leaders' Manual, Cursillo Manual, Structure of Ideas, Study of the Charism, Whom Shall I Send, Discerning the Will of God, An Apprentice Christian, 1st Conversations at Cala Figuera, History and Memory of Cursillo, etc. There are several articles, videos, and audio MP3's about Cursillo that can be downloaded from the Cursillo Resource Center at the National Cursillo Website for review and study in the School.

“It (School) is contact or a reunion with leaders that illuminate, encourage and fulfill the best restlessness through the best means possible: friendship. It is the place where leaders are in tune with one and the same spirit, following a common criterion, where the apostolic is spontaneous. It is where people live in community, and where the truth is foremost because all want it and all live it.” (Structure of Ideas)

Secretariat

The School of Leaders nominate leaders who have been participating regularly in the School for at least one year to serve on the Diocesan Secretariat. This supposes the School is meeting twice a month. It will be important for the School to pray and discern which Cursillistas are being called to serve as members of the Secretariat. The Diocesan Secretariat members, responsibilities and suggested terms are outlined in the current edition of the Leader's Manual.

The members of the Secretariat come from the School of Leaders. In the School of Leaders, they should have demonstrated their ability, competence, spirit of service, use and understanding of the method, humility, wisdom, and holiness. Their selection does not remove them from being part of the School. Their talents and charisma must continue to nourish that community. Their selection places them in a position to be of even greater service to the Movement. (Leaders' Manual, page 67)

Retreats

An Annual Retreat is recommended for the Secretariat and School of Leaders as part of their on-going spiritual growth. The Diocesan Spiritual Advisor or some other member of the clergy he recommends can provide the retreat. The Retreat provides an opportunity to make friends, rekindle friendships, nurture and deepen the three encounters discovered on the 3-Day Cursillo, discern the call to leadership in Cursillo, and pray for the successful implementation of the Movement in the diocese.

Workshops

For a new Movement or one that is being re-established, a basic workshop on the essence, purpose, mentality, and method of Cursillo should be provided for Cursillistas who are interested in serving as leaders in the Movement. Follow-up workshops will also be important and should be based on the needs of the Secretariat and School of Leaders. The Regional Coordinator and Service Team can provide the workshops. The respective National Coordinator can assist with the workshops as needed.

3-Day Cursillo

The Secretariat, with input from the School of Leaders and the Regional or National Coordinator, should determine if they are ready to schedule the first Men's and Women's Cursillo after attending School of Leaders for one year. If the School is ready, a team made-up of Regional and/or National leaders and local leaders who have attended School on a regular basis will provide the 3-Day Cursillo. If the School is not ready, re-evaluate in six months.

Evaluate Progress

As mentioned above, the Movement should develop a Cursillo Apostolic Plan that includes goals and objectives for the Movement that are in line with the Foundational Charism. Some of these goals are identified in this document. The Cursillo Apostolic Plan is a good tool to identify needs and evaluate progress. Evaluation is an ongoing process of review and adjustment of the overall Apostolic Plan. Evaluation is also important to maintain the focus and momentum needed to accomplish the purpose of Cursillo.