



National Cursillo Movement

National Cursillo® Center • P.O. Box 799 • Jarrell, TX 76537 • 512-746-2020 • Fax 512-746-2030 • www.natl-cursillo.org

Guide for Establishing Cursillo in a Diocese Basic Requirements

Approval from the Local Bishop

*The Cursillos in Christianity are present and flourish in any diocese with the consent of and under the active guidance of the bishop of the diocese.*¹ It is important for the 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's apostolic work and service to the Cursillistas.

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. The Bishop 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.

Since the Movement will need a Priest or Deacon to serve as Spiritual Advisor, it is important that at least two names be proposed to the Bishop for his consideration. It is important that the Priest or Deacon be contacted beforehand to ask if they are interested in serving as Spiritual Advisor for Cursillo before submitting names to the Bishop.

The Cursillistas should contact the National Cursillo Center to inquire if Cursillo already exists in the diocese in the language group they are planning to establish. This is important to avoid duplication of efforts.

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 names of priests who are interested in serving in this capacity, to present 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. The Regional Coordinator can help guide those responsible for establishing the Movement by following the process outlined in this guide. The Regional Coordinator will need a Cursillista from the Diocese 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 (Friends)

A core group of Cursillistas/leaders/friends who are willing, able, and capable of establishing the Movement should be identified before meeting with the local Bishop. 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, Three Day Cursillo and Postcursillo) of the Movement. The Movement was born from

¹ All text in italics are excerpts from the Articles in Operation, November 2019

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)

Cursillo Apostolic Plan

The Regional Coordinator and Service 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, Three 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 establishing Cursillo. A Cursillo Apostolic Plan Development Guide is available for preparing the Diocesan Apostolic Plan. Contact the respective Regional Coordinator to request a copy.

Ultreya

The core group of Cursillistas/leaders should setup an Ultreya for Cursillistas and ensure that Cursillistas are actively participating in a 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 a functioning Postcursillo as soon as possible. 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 should live, experience, and share the same environment as in the Three 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. The conversion process initiated on the Three Day Cursillo continues and grows through Group Reunion and Ultreya.

School of Leaders

A School should be established by the core group of friends. The School is where the leaders study the Foundational Charism of Cursillo, its essence, purpose, mentality, and method. The School provides opportunities to build friendships, build Christian community, discuss and support 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 Cursillistas. 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 that should be studied in the School include, but not limited to, books such as the Study of the Charism, An Apprentice Christian, 1st Conversations at Cala Figuera, Structure of Ideas, Leaders' Manual, Step by Step Rector's Guide, My Spiritual Testament, History and Memory of Cursillo, 100 Years: Biography and Mentality, The Thinking of Eduardo Bonnín Book I, and Whom Shall I Send, Discerning the Will of God. Articles, videos, and MP3 audio about Cursillo can be downloaded from the Cursillo Resource Center at the National Cursillo Website for review and study in the School of Leaders. The Website address is www.natl-cursillo.org.

“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)

Diocesan Secretariat

There should be one Secretariat made up of the different language groups of Cursillo represented in the diocese. When a Diocesan Secretariat already exists, the language group establishing or re-establishing Cursillo should fall under their umbrella. The members of 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. A typical Secretariat is comprised of a Lay Director, Spiritual Advisor, School of Leaders Chair, Precursillo Chair, Three Day Cursillo Chair, Postcursillo Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Diocesan Secretariat's responsibilities and suggested terms of service 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 competence, spirit of service, use and understanding of the Cursillo method and Charism. Their selection does not remove them from being part of the School. Their talents must continue to nourish that community. Their selection places them in a position to be of even greater service to the Movement. (Current Edition of the Leaders' Manual)

Three Day Cursillo

The Diocesan 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 Three Day Cursillo. This supposes the Cursillistas have been attending School of Leaders for one year. If the School is ready, a team made-up of Regional and/or National leaders and local Cursillo leaders who have attended School on a regular basis will provide the Three Day Cursillo. If the School is not ready, re-evaluate in six months.

Workshops

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

Retreats

An Annual Spiritual 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. If requested, the Regional Spiritual Advisor can provide the retreat. The Retreat provides an opportunity to make friends, rekindle friendships, nurture and deepen the three encounters discovered on the Three Day Cursillo, discern the call to leadership in Cursillo, and pray for the successful implementation of the Movement in the diocese.

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 Foundational Charism of Cursillo 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 the 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.

Evaluate Progress

As mentioned above, the Diocesan Movement should prepare a Cursillo Apostolic Plan that includes goals and objectives for the Movement that are in line with the Foundational Charism. A "sample" Apostolic Plan is provided in the Cursillo Apostolic Plan Development Guide. The Cursillo Apostolic Plan is a good tool to identify needs, implement solutions 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: to make our friends, friends with Christ and to have friends know that God loves them!