

**DIOCESE OF ORLANDO CURSILLO
SPONSOR'S DUTIES AND APPLICATION**

Please fill out all information correctly and read the opposite before signing. Return this application along with the candidate's application to your Ultreya Coordinator who will forward it to the member of the Secretariat in charge of Pre-Cursillo. Complete the Sponsor's information for each application, including the Pastor's comments and signature. Do this prior to approaching the candidate. Also, read and be familiar with the candidate's application. **All applications should be submitted not later than four (4) weeks prior to the weekend.**

SPONSOR INFORMATION

*It is critical that to effectively sponsor a candidate into the Cursillo Movement, that the sponsor is **LIVING** the Cursillo method. To promote a method or a lifestyle to someone while not living it does not foster proper sponsoring and hinders the candidate from fully experiencing their Fourth Day.*

SPONSOR'S NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: HOME (_____) _____ WORK:(_____) _____

DATE & PLACE OF YOUR WEEKEND: _____

ARE YOU IN PERMANENT GROUP REUNION? _____ HOW OFTEN DO YOU ATTEND ULTREYA? _____

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Cursillo is not for everyone. It is important that your candidate be physically and emotionally able to experience the fullness of both the three-day weekend and the fourth day. Make sure that your candidate is fully aware of both. Answer any and all questions the candidate may have. Be honest with your candidate. Never say, "I can't tell you."

CANDIDATE'S NAME: _____ NICKNAME: _____

IS YOUR CANDIDATE ROMAN CATHOLIC? _____

Ensure your candidate is Roman Catholic. Non-Catholics are encouraged to attend the Episcopal or Lutheran Cursillo or the Ecumenical Walk to Emmaus.

IS YOUR CANDIDATE MARRIED: _____ FIRST NAME OF SPOUSE: _____

If married, both husband and wife must submit applications at the same time because of the importance of being able to share the experience. A separate sponsor application must be completed for both. A Non-Catholic spouse is encouraged to attend the Episcopal or Lutheran Cursillo or the Ecumenical Walk to Emmaus.

IS YOUR CANDIDATE'S SPOUSE BEING SPONSORED FOR CURSILLO? _____

IF YOUR CANDIDATE IS WIDOWED OR DIVORCED, HOW LONG? _____

Please keep in mind that Cursillo is not a "healing" ministry for emotional or tragic situations.

DOES YOUR CANDIDATE HAVE ANY PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, OR SPIRITUAL NEEDS THAT THE TEAM NEEDS TO BE AWARE OF?

MAKE A FRIEND. BE A FRIEND. BRING A FRIEND TO CHRIST

HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN THE CANDIDATE? _____

WHY DO YOU BELIEVE THIS CANDIDATE SHOULD ATTEND CURSILLO? _____

Cursillo is a gift that we enjoy and are anxious to share. Christ-centered friendship is our chosen method of sponsorship. Follow-up is one of our most important functions. The “peak” experienced during the weekend by most new Cursillistas must be followed by your support and encouragement.. You must assist your candidate in getting into Group Reunion and by accompanying him or her to Ultreya for the first few times until he/she feels comfortable.

WILL YOU ACCOMPANY YOUR CANDIDATE TO THE FOURTH DAY REUNION? _____

WILL YOU FULFILL THE SPONSORSHIP DUTIES OUTLINED WITHIN THIS INFORMATION SHEET? _____

SPONSOR SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

NAMES OF CO-SPONSORS: _____

CO-SPONSOR(S) SIGNATURE: _____

ULTREYA COORDINATOR'S SIGNATURE: _____

COMMENTS OF CANDIDATE'S PASTOR:

PASTOR'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

SPONSOR'S DUTIES

BEFORE CURSILLO:

1. Notify your Ultreya Coordinator and the Secretariat member in charge of Pre-Cursillo IMMEDIATELY of any changes in your candidate's status, such as change of address. Etc.
2. Obtain palanca letters from family, close friends, and other Cursillistas and deliver them to the Cursillo team Thursday night.
3. Make sure your candidate is aware of the cost of the weekend and that there will be a request for a donation to cover the cost. However, do not let the cost deter the candidate from attending.

DURING CURSILLO:

1. Registration for the weekend is from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Pick up your candidate in order to arrive with your candidate **within that time frame**. Remain with your candidate until he/she is registered, then leave – do not linger. Do not give hugs to team members or other sponsors.
2. Attend Holy Hour if available.
3. Assist the candidate's family while the candidate is attending Cursillo should an emergency arise.
4. Attend the closing and provide transportation to your candidate's home.

AFTER CURSILLO:

Keep in close contact with your candidate for at least one year following their Cursillo. Encourage him/her to persevere in the movement. Show as much interest and concern for him/her as you did before Cursillo. Remember that you have “made a friend, you have become a friend, and you have brought that friend to Christ.”

SO, YOU WANT TO SPONSOR ... a *Cursillo*[®] candidate?

Cursillo is a powerful tool of the Holy Spirit. It can profoundly change a person's spiritual life!

But, you know that. You attended Cursillo.

And, now you want to sponsor and send someone to Cursillo, just as your sponsor did for you. As a "babe chick," or brand new Cursillista, you can and are encouraged to be a sponsor, with the support and guidance of an experienced Cursillista.

Sponsoring a candidate to Cursillo can be a powerful and rewarding experience. What better way to show your gratitude for such a gift than to share it with another child of God! Every Cursillista should do it, at least once, preferably each time you are led by the Holy Spirit to do so. *Thank you for being willing to answer God's call once again and to "make a friend, be a friend and bring that friend to Christ!"*

But sponsoring a candidate to Cursillo is not child's play. It is serious work, serious apostleship and should not be done haphazardly. Remember, you are dealing with that person's relationship with God. Sponsorship that is not done well can actually damage one's spiritual life.

For that reason, if you want to sponsor a candidate, you should pay attention to the principles that underlie good sponsorship and you must adhere to some rules and guidelines that govern sponsorship.

If you do, then your labor of love to send a Christian leader to our Lord's Cursillo will indeed be rewarding for your candidate ... and for you!

Principles of Cursillo Sponsorship

- Cursillo is more than just a beautiful experience to be shared. There are many other wonderful retreat experiences, such as parish retreats and Christ Renews His Parish. Cursillo is a movement for leaders. It strives to inspire leaders in various environments to be not just Christian disciples, but also to be Christian leaders and apostles.
- Candidates, therefore, should be leaders in their environments, whether small environments such as the family or workplace, or large environments such as business, government, and civic community.
- Cursillo is not a means for a candidate to return to the Catholic faith. Candidates must already be practicing their faith. Cursillo is not a place to heal people battling mental health, addiction or substance abuse, grief or emotional trauma, emotional instability, failing marriage, or other personal issues. Help for all that is to be found elsewhere. Consider any health issues your candidate may have. *Suggestion: before approaching your candidate, ask your candidate's pastor if he knows any reason why you should not invite him/her to Cursillo.*

- Sponsorship is the work of the Holy Spirit. Be His instrument, but try not to get in the way of what He is trying to do.
- Because you are about to embark on the work of the Holy Spirit, “pray without ceasing!” 1 Thess. 5:17. Pray before you approach your candidate. Pray while you suggest Cursillo to your candidate. Pray relentlessly and offer hardships and sacrifice (i.e., *Palanca*) between the time your candidate signs an application and the end of the Closing on Sunday night of the Cursillo. Pray for your “babe chicks” during their Fourth Day that they, too, will grow in love of the Lord, aided by taking advantage of the tools of the Cursillo movement – namely, group reunion and ultreya.
- Work as if all depends on you; pray as if all depends on the Holy Spirit.

Rules of Cursillo Sponsorship

1. Your candidate must be a practicing Catholic, attending Mass regularly and eligible otherwise to receive the sacraments.
2. Each candidate must complete the Cursillo candidate application. If your candidate is married, both the husband and the wife must apply to attend Cursillo. Remember, you cannot guarantee your candidate(s) that their application will be accepted, because weekends have filled up in the past. Application forms are available at www.orlandocursillo.org.
3. If the candidate's spouse is not Catholic, he or she must attend the comparable weekend in his/her faith (e.g., Episcopal or Lutheran Cursillo or one of the ecumenical weekends, Walk to Emmaus or Tres Dias). A member of Secretariat can assist with this.
4. As sponsor, you must:
 - § Be living the Cursillo movement yourself, by grouping and attending ultreya regularly. Our own ongoing conversion, our *metanoia*, is important.
 - § Answer – *truthfully!* – any questions your candidate asks about the Cursillo (trying, of course, not to spoil surprises).
 - § Complete the required sponsor form for each candidate and obtain, on the form, the signature of the candidate's pastor (and pastor's comments, if any) and the signature of the Ultreya Coordinator for the candidate's parish (if there is one) and of any co-sponsors. Co-sponsors are highly recommended!
 - § Get the completed application(s) and sponsor form(s) delivered to the Secretariat member, listed on the orlandocursillo.org website who is responsible for “Pre-Cursillo” matters by regular mail or email [Currently, Joyce Dobrozensky, 5398 Cranes Roost, Port Orange, FL 32124; 386-299-5197; sjdobby@aol.com].

- § Respond promptly to the letter from Secretariat notifying you that your candidate(s) are accepted, when you receive it, confirming that your candidate will or will not attend the upcoming weekend.
- § Gather *Palanca* letters for your candidate(s) from family (spouse's letter, for sure), the candidate's close friends (if appropriate and comfortable), the pastor (if you can) and other Cursillistas. If sponsoring a couple, you are on your own for the husband. For the wife, the husband can help, but it is still your responsibility to make sure the appropriate letters are obtained.
- § Make sure your candidate knows what to bring and not to bring on the weekend (i.e., towels, sheets, pillows, etc. – yes; cameras – no). Encourage (but do not force) your candidate to leave the cell phone at home, in order to get the full message of the Cursillo, assuring him or her that family will have emergency contact information.
- § Deliver your candidate to San Pedro Center on Thursday night of the Cursillo, no earlier than 7 PM and no later than 8 PM, and do not let your candidate drive himself/herself to the Cursillo.
- § Deliver all *Palanca* letters for your candidate to a team member at San Pedro Center, preferably when you drop your candidate off on Thursday, but no later than 11 AM on Saturday of the Cursillo (use the "DeColores" mailbox on St. Francis Way at San Pedro).
- § Stay in touch with your candidate's family during the weekend. Make sure they have the emergency contact information, for both you and the team member with the emergency phone. Let family know that the candidate probably won't return home until late Sunday night.
- § Attend the closing, which begins approximately at 6 PM on Sunday night at San Pedro, and remember to take your candidate, now "babe chick," home. No cameras should be used.
- § When sponsoring a couple, you will be bringing the husband to his wife's closing. It is recommended that your candidate's husband NOT bring children to the closing. Encourage the husband to limit what he tells his wife about the weekend, if possible, to preserve some of the surprises. You might want to hold onto most of his *Palanca* until his wife attends her Cursillo.
- § Attend the Fourth Day Reunion with your candidate, at a place and date and time (usually a Saturday morning at a parish hall in the Orlando area) that will be given to your candidate, posted on the orlandocursillo.org website and likely announced at the closing. Last Revised 4/4/2011
- § (LAST, BUT NOT LEAST) Help your candidate find or form a group reunion and encourage your candidate to attend group weekly. Encourage your candidate to attend Ultreya monthly. This responsibility is for a full year from the weekend.

May our Lord bless your efforts ... and your candidates!

For a .pdf file of this booklet, email request to Craig Spanjers at craig@mycommercialteam.com