

# Guidelines on Sponsoring a Candidate

## Purpose of the Cursillo Movement

Cursillo is an instrument of Christian renewal. Its aim is to help Christians concentrate closely on the person and teaching of Jesus Christ; thus, nurturing people who will apply these principles to their daily lives.

Cursillo is a means for developing one's spirituality as well as a method of bringing the message and example of Christ into one's environment. In addition, a method is provided for continuing the Christian nurture which takes place during the three days. These three days point to the way that we should live in our Fourth Day. Our responsibility is to see that our candidates realize that they are strengthened and encouraged by contact with Christ and with their brothers and sisters. The goal is to enrich people's lives in Christ through the Cursillo method: be a friend, make a friend and lead that friend to Christ. And they are led to Christ through Piety, Study, and Action.

Sponsoring a candidate for a Cursillo is a commitment to the individual that extends beyond the actual weekend. It is important that you understand the seriousness of the commitment you are about to make. Encouragement and recruitment are on-going activities. Encouraging friends prior to their Cursillo should continue all year around.

Cursillo provides us with the opportunity to grow. It is an invitation for people to walk in fellowship with those who work for the Holy Spirit in today's world, and experience Christian Living. It is vital that the candidate you have chosen to sponsor should, at a minimum, have a basic understanding of Christianity and accept its beliefs.

It is NOT meant to solve problems which exist with individuals or their relationships. The weekend is NOT for everyone. The weekend is NOT a "conversion" experience in the normal sense of the word. It is NOT designed to convert nonbelievers to Christianity, NOR is it designed to solve emotional, mental, marriage, family or medical problems.

The heart and soul of the Cursillo Movement is sponsorship. It is a great privilege and responsibility to be a sponsor and it is an honor to be asked to attend a Cursillo Weekend. Everyone who has attended a Cursillo Weekend has done so because someone thought enough of them as a Christian, to invite them.

What to consider when you are thinking of sponsoring a candidate:

- Do you know your candidate well? The most successful sponsor relationship is one where the sponsor and the candidate have a solid relationship. If you are sponsoring someone who you are not very familiar with, spend time with that person discussing

their faith journey and what they are hoping to gain through their participation in Cursillo.

- Does your candidate have a Christian foundation? Cursillo is intended to enrich or in some cases, to revitalize a person's faith. It is not intended to convert individuals to Christianity.
- Is your candidate experiencing a recent stressful event, such as a death of a spouse or loved one, a divorce or a job crisis? Cursillo can help individuals respond to life 'events' in a faith-filled manner. However, if the event is recent, the individual will not be able to fully experience all that Cursillo has to offer. Consider waiting until the crisis has passed and the individual has had time to deal with the situation.
- The suggested age range for a candidate is between 25 and 75 years old. This is not a set rule. Your candidate needs to be mature enough to participate in deep sharing with other individuals and be healthy enough to participate in a weekend that can be very draining. Exceptions can be made only if the Spiritual Director approves.
- Does your candidate have a community to return to after the weekend? The candidate will benefit from participating in a faith community. Remember that a community can be two people, you and your candidate.
- Is your candidate married? Both are encouraged to attend at the same time.

Having reviewed this document, if you have concerns about sponsoring your candidate, prayerfully consider asking another member of the 4<sup>th</sup>-day community who will be a co-sponsor and share these responsibilities with you. For assistance, contact the Lay Director of Secretariat, listed on our website, [www.centralowacursillo.org](http://www.centralowacursillo.org).

Now that you (and co-sponsor) have made the commitment and have a candidate with basic understanding of Christian beliefs, review the additional responsibilities which we have provided to guide both you and your candidate.

De Colores!