

TO THE SPONSOR

IS CURSILLO OPEN TO EVERYONE?

Because Cursillo is licensed by the Roman Catholic Church specifically for developing Episcopal lay leadership and ministry, we ask that only members of the Episcopal Church be invited. Lutherans, Methodists, and Roman Catholics have their own movements of this kind. If you believe there is a special circumstance that should result in an exception to this policy, please call the Pre-Cursillo coordinator before you invite a non-Episcopalian to apply.

You have offered to be a sponsor for a person attending a Cursillo weekend. Sponsors should know their Pilgrims well enough that they feel comfortable talking with them about their relationship with God and God's church.

Cursillo is not a one-time weekend retreat. It is the start of a journey and it is a method of teaching people to understand what is basic to being a Christian, while training them to return to their environments able to live out a personal vocation and act as leaven in society.

This is the beginning of your Pilgrim's life in a new relationship with God. You have important responsibilities to your Pilgrim and to the Cursillo community. The following is provided to give you some minimum requirements for sponsorship and some practical suggestions for sponsoring Pilgrims.

If you feel you do not have the time or desire to proceed with sponsorship at this time, please realize that it will happen in God's time. It is better to wait for God than to sponsor a Pilgrim without the necessary support.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

Is my Pilgrim searching for a deeper relationship with Christ? Does my Pilgrim have the potential to see Christ in others? Does my Pilgrim possess depth of personality and exhibit self-control? Is my Pilgrim reasonably informed on church matters, current events, social conditions? Is my Pilgrim generous with his or her time in helping others? How active is my Pilgrim in parish, social, and civic life? Do others in my Cursillo community agree that my Pilgrim will grow from the Cursillo experience?

Is my Pilgrim willing to be part of my Group Reunion or other group of believers to whom s/he is accountable for living the Christian life? Are there other Cursillistas in the area available for the 4th Day activities? Has Cursillo been discussed with my Pilgrim's spouse? Has the spouse made Cursillo or is s/he interested in doing so now? Will you, as sponsor, support your pilgrim in the 4th Day activities following the weekend?

Note: Because management of Bishop Connare Center requires reservations for lodging and food to accommodate team and pilgrims, the application and deposit are due 30 days before the weekend. Afterwards, on a space available basis only.

HERE ARE SOME SPECIFICS

Palanca and its importance. A palanca letter is one that is sent to the Pilgrims and team members, informing them of the prayers and sacrifices that you are offering to God on their behalf. The letter is not the palanca, the *action* is. As a sponsor you are also expected to solicit notes of love and support from the Pilgrim's spouse, family, friends, and community during the month(s) before the weekend to assure s/he does not miss out on this important component. Please, avoid any large gifts and mementos. Such expressions should be presented *after* the Pilgrim leaves the weekend.

Before the weekend. Check with your pilgrim to ensure their family responsibilities are covered, such as childcare, meal preparation, or transportation. Help with or arrange any necessary assistance.

During the weekend. Drive your pilgrim to St. Joseph Conference Center on Thursday evening. Follow up with planned assistance, checking in with your pilgrim's family—prepare a meal, offer transportation or after-school care—making sure they are okay.

Holy Hour and Serenade. Please make every effort to attend Holy Hour on Saturday evening. Plan to arrive at 7:00 P.M. The evening is a time for prayer, Eucharist and a special serenade to the Pilgrims.

Clausura. Plan to attend or make arrangements to have someone from your community there in your place for support and to transport the pilgrim home.

After the weekend: In the Fourth (4th) Day. You continue to be a critical part of the pilgrim's journey.

Group Reunion. Arrange for your pilgrim to be in a Group Reunion, preferably before the weekend, and definitely after the weekend.

Ultreya. Bring your pilgrim (and spouse or friends) to an Ultreya. This is the pilgrim's opportunity to feel part of the larger Cursillo community, to enjoy Christian fellowship, and to realize that s/he can become a leader and/or a servant in the Cursillo movement. Remind Pilgrim to wear their Cursillo Name badge to all events.

Responsible sponsorship is a large part of what enables the Cursillo Movement to build up the church through the development of mature Christian leaders.

UNLESS YOU ASSUME THESE RESPONSIBILITIES,
THE APPLICANT CANNOT BE ALLOWED
TO MAKE A CURSILLO.