

MARIN CURSILLO HANDBOOK

PURPOSE OF MARIN CURSILLO:

“TO LOVE, TO SERVE, TO BRING THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL,
TO ACT AS THE BODY OF CHRIST”

"MAKE A FRIEND
BE A FRIEND-
BRING A FRIEND TO CHRIST"

This handbook contains Information that, as a member of our Cursillo community, you should know. A key ingredient in our ministry is communication. We hope that this handbook will be an instrument of communication to your community. In that spirit, it is a proven fact that word-of-mouth is still the most effective means we have to connect and energize our Cursillo community. You become informed so that your Communities can become informed.

*Christ has no hands but yours-
No voice but yours-
He is counting on you and me.
Amen*

WHY CURSILLO?

From the Catholic National Cursillo Articles on the Cursillo Movement:

“The Cursillo Movement enables, requires and facilitates all that is fundamental for Christian living and nothing more than what is fundamental. The essence of Cursillo is that it is a method to make it possible for men to live the fundamental Christian life together, so that souls, by their own spiritual force of gravity might keep on structuring Christianity with the richness and vigor of primitive Christianity.”

From the Episcopal Pastoral Plan for the Cursillo Movement:

"The goal of the Cursillo Movement is to change the world for Christ. The strategic plan to accomplish this transformation of persons and environments begins with Christian leaders dedicated to an apostolic ideal. These leaders seek to influence and challenge persons to change themselves and their environments to conform to the mind of Jesus Christ. Such persons need to be identified, formed and directed, all according to an apostolic plan. For maximum effectiveness, it is important that Christians work together as teams, mutually encouraging and supporting each other.”

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THE MARIN SECRETARIAT

The Marin Secretariat is the body charged with ministering to the Cursillo Ministry in Marin. It is comprised of Secretariat leadership and representatives from local Cursillo church communities. It provides the administrative forum to foster the growth of Cursillo in Marin County. It generally meets monthly when scheduled by the Secretariat leadership. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend and participate in the discussions conducted by the representatives and Secretariat leadership.

The Secretariat has seven working committees and two other committees made up of Secretariat regular members and interested Cursillistas from our church communities. They are Pre-Cursillo, Cursillo Weekend, 4th Day/Ultreya, Core, Leadership, Technology/Communication and Cursillo Giving and Finance. The chairs of these committees are selected by each group for a term to be determined within the committee. Other committees are Church Representatives and Nominating Committee for the Selection of the Chair and Assistant. On the pages that follow, each committee is described as it is now functioning .

THE MISSION OF THE MARIN CURSILLO SECRETARIAT

Working under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church pastored by the Archbishop of the San Francisco Archdiocese and the Episcopal Church pastored by the San Francisco Bishop -and under the guidance, love and support of the Cursillo General Secretariat - the Marin Cursillo Secretariat has its own mission:

The unity of purpose of the Marin Secretariat is one of total service to the Kingdom of God. The secretariat is the central body In Marin which brings together all Cursillo communities in Marin. We also invite communities not yet represented to join and participate with us . The Secretariat unifies the Cursillo Ministry on all levels and indicates the path to be followed in essential and practical matters.

Making decisions is a formidable charge for the Secretariat - All Cursillistas are called to support it by prayer and palanca. In guiding the Ministry, the Secretariat must always be watchful not to create subservience, but to build up the whole Body of Christ. The Secretariat should not be dictatorial, but must view its authority as one of service to the total Ministry. It must remember that the Ministry's direction has been entrusted to it by Christ through the current Roman Catholic and Episcopal Bishops.

MARIN SECRETARIAT COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEES

PRE-CURSILLO

The Pre-Cursillo committee shall focus on activities that occur before the weekend, including but not limited to the education of sponsors through sponsor workshops, the review of sponsor and candidate

applications, and preparing and making available a candidate list for each weekend for dissemination to the Secretariat and to the community at large, including, but not limited to encourage candidates through 4th day groups and church representatives.

CURSILLO WEEKEND

The Weekend committee shall concentrate on the weekend itself. Activities include, distributing 4th Day packets, coordinating with Rector/Rectoras and Head Cooks for orientation and making sure that the retreat center is available and prepared to receive the team and candidates.

FOURTH DAY/ULTREYA

The Fourth Day/Ultreya committee shall insure that cursillistas have opportunities to gather and communicate with one another. Activities shall include Ultreyas, small group reunions, the “Tuesday” gatherings and engage new Cursillistas to join 4th Day Groups.

CORE

The Core committee is comprised of the Marin Secretariat officers, Spiritual Director, chairs of the six other working committees, the General Secretariat Liaison and the Rector/Rectora of the upcoming weekend. Anyone is welcome to attend Core meetings. The primary responsibilities are identifying leadership, growing the Marin Cursillo movement, and serving the Marin Secretariat. This committee chooses the chairs of the various other committees, and it meets when scheduled by the chair, but not less than twice per year.

LEADERS SELECTION

The Leadership Selection committee is comprised of the Rectors/Rectoras of the past three years, insuring a continuous rotation system and a constant source of new input. It recruits Rector/Rectoras to recommend to the Secretariat for approval, and it provides guidance for upcoming Rectors and Rectoras as needed including team formation. It oversees the content and presentation of the Cursillo Basic Seminar for the teams and updating the procedures manuals (*Burnt Offerings* and *Bell Ringer*).

TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Technology and Communications committee shall relay information to the appropriate person(s) within each local church for dissemination as well as communicate directly to all Marin Cursillo members through the usage of newsletters, e-mails and any other means appropriate. This committee shall also maintain a website devoted to matters of interest to the Marin Cursillo community. It shall develop and maintain a current list of Marin Cursillo membership to include address, telephone numbers, email address and pertinent demographics.

CURSILLO GIVING AND FINANCE

The Cursillo Giving and Finance committee shall include a chair to be selected by the committee or appointed by the Core Committee of the Marin Secretariat. This committee shall be responsible to lead in fundraising activities and to provide recommendations to the Secretariat for all matters financial in nature.

OTHER COMMITTEES

CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

The Church Representatives committee shall consist of representatives from the various churches throughout Marin. Each representative shall be responsible to keep their communities informed; additionally, each representative shall express and represent the will of their community as nearly as possible.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR SELECTION OF CHAIR/ASSISTANT CHAIR

A nominating committee will consist of the current Chair and two or more members appointed by the Chair up to a total of five members. This committee will nominate and review all nominees for the offices of Chair and Assistant Chair. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor of the Secretariat meeting. Election of officers will take place at the December Secretariat meeting, and their terms will begin in January. The term of office for the Chair and Assistant Chair shall be two years with a two-term limit. This committee will also select the chairs of the various other committees as vacancies occur.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

CHAIR AND ASSISTANT CHAIR

It is desirable for The Chair to have served for at least one year as a representative on the Marin Secretariat. These leaders will be representative members of the Catholic or Episcopal churches to assure that we (the Marin Cursillo community) maintain the mission of the Cursillo Movement in the Bay Area under the auspices of our two current sponsoring denominations.

CHAIR:

Guides Cursillo in Marin in conformity with the vision and philosophy of the founders of the Cursillo movement; presides over and sets the agenda for the monthly meetings of the Marin Secretariat and Executive Core of the Marin Secretariat and will select Spiritual Director.

ASSISTANT CHAIR:

Will assist Chair in performing duties and will share in responsibilities; and will assume all duties if the Chair is unable to fulfill them and/or fill in whenever needed.

SECRETARY:

Will take the minutes at each monthly meeting of the Marin Secretariat; coordinate dissemination, by email, of minutes with the Technology and Communications Committee; attend to correspondence on behalf of Marin Secretariat.

TREASURER:

Serves on the Cursillo Giving and Finance Committee; manages all monies of the Secretariat - both weekend related and general accounts; Reports financial status to the Core/Secretariat following the close of each calendar quarter; maintains accurate financial records of the Secretariat; administers all receipts and payments; coordinates with Bay Rooster Boosters to process donations to insure that they are tax deductible; maintains written guidelines on weekend money management for Head Cook use, and provides direct counsel in preparation for the weekend and as needed during or after the weekend; informs Secretary on gifts/donations so that they can be properly acknowledged in writing.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR:

Selected by the Chair as a Clergy representative of one of our sponsoring denominations (Roman Catholic and Episcopal); acts as liaison to all clergy of Marin; provides spiritual guidance to all committees as needed.

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR:

To be a member of the Core to provide continuity and to be an advisor of that group.

GENERAL SECRETARIAT LIASON:

The General Secretariat Liaison shall attend General Secretariat board meetings and serve as the liaison between the Marin and General Secretariats. The General Secretariat Liaison serves at the request of the Core Committee.

CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE:

Each representative is expected to attend monthly meetings, and to send a replacement if unable to attend; each representative is expected to be active on a Secretariat committee; keep communities Informed of the actions and activities of the Secretariat; express and represent the will of their community. If a representative resigns mid-term, his/her replacement will either complete the term or begin a three-year term as a new representative and communicate such to Co-chair at first meeting.

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Revised March 2015

Terms of membership are 2 three-year terms with a member able to return after a one year absence. Any church representative who retires before completing his or her term of office should make every effort to find a replacement from their community.

SPIRITUAL COMPONENTS OF CURSILLO

PALANCA GUIDELINES

Palanca is really intercessory prayer for the weekend, the candidates and the team. Usually these prayers are coupled with an outward 'sign of our love and concern (a note, a poster). Sometimes, as part of the intercession, we also make a personal sacrifice of time, money or food.

Also, certain acts of devotion can accompany our prayer- in short, palanca serves a spiritual function and is the act of receiving communion, attendance at a weekly group reunion, attendance at .a monthly Ultreya, attending a weekly Eucharist, or reading the Bible. Personal palanca, to be delivered during the weekend, must be such that it enhances the weekend experience. It should be short, spiritual and directed toward the emphasis of prayer and sacrifice. It is also appropriate to make supportive statements if the receiver is a special, loved person. It is not to be newsy but a sincere expression of care for the candidate's weekend experience with an emphasis on spiritual growth and should never describe any weekend surprise since a note could be delivered at the wrong time.

GROUP REUNION (4th Day Groups)

The group reunion, or 4th Day Group, can be described as a group of friends that meet regularly to become better friends and better Christians. The friends must be sincere, open and trusting. This gathering involves sharing of life together in piety, study and action - the three aspects of the dynamic unity of one's Christian life (the Cursillo Tripod). This deep and joyful sharing of living promotes the support of each other in both their growth in Christ and their leavening influence on their individual and mutual environments.

ULTREYA

The ultreya is a gathering of Cursillistas in a given geographical area. It serves to support and sustain the individuals and the groups in their growing lives and foster a stronger sense of Christian community. The ultreya serves as a structure to assist Christians in their perseverance. The Ultreya should open with prayer/meditation, introductions, singing, brief witness talk (the speaker sharing his or her faith) small group discussion on the talk's theme. News about the community, closing prayer and fellowship round out the event. Special attention should be given the witness talk. The speaker's life should exemplify the topic of the talk. It shouldn't be a lecture but rather an honest sharing of how Christ is working in in the speaker's life to extend His Kingdom. Such sharing inspires imitation.

GUIDE TO WITNESS TALK AT AN ULTREYA

- 1) Open the talk with a prayer. Refer to scripture somewhere in the talk and keep the focus on Christ.
- 2) The talk should not be about just anything. It is intended to be about your apostolic action; how Christ is working in your life to effect change and growth. It doesn't have to be spectacular, just honest and sincere.
- 3) The talk should be approximately 8 to 10 minutes in length.
- 4) Focus on a single event rather than a number of separate events, or worse, on one's whole life history.

Ultreya leader may want to make copies of the above guide and give one to each person who plans to give a witness talk at an Ultreya.

Both group reunions and Ultreyas serve to encourage and mention 4th Day Groups as they aspire to bring their members closer to Christ.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA GENERAL SECRETARIAT

The General Secretariat is the central body charged with ministering to the Cursillo Movement within the Episcopal Diocese of California and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco. It is composed of lay leaders from the local Cursillo Secretariats and ordained Spiritual Directors appointed by their respective Bishops. The General Secretariat is responsible for the overall policy development and structure of the Cursillo Movement in these Dioceses.

Its mission is to support and provide guidance for the local Cursillo Secretariats, enabling the Cursillo Movement to accomplish its purpose within the pastoral objectives of the sponsoring dioceses; and to be accountable to the local Church on behalf of the Movement.

THE HISTORY OF THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT

SPANISH ROOTS

The Cursillo movement has a very rich and God-centered history. Its roots are in Mallorca, Spain, in the years following World War II. Its founders were young lay leaders of the *Catholic Action Movement*, who wanted to encourage young Catholic men, and eventually the women of Spain to be apostles for Christ.

The Spanish Civil War ended in 1939; the years following were times of ferment within the Spanish Church. The idea was born to have a pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. James at Compostela, the great spiritual center of the Middle Ages. The pilgrimage would be a time for the young men and women of Spain to dedicate themselves in a renewed way to the work of the apostolate.

After World War II, in a spirit of restlessness and dissatisfaction with spiritual lukewarmness, the pilgrimage was reinstated. The spirit of moving onward-of ULTREYA -began.

The pilgrimage provided a brotherhood that sparked further efforts for renewal in different Catholic groups, one of which was the branch for young men in the Diocese of Mallorca. It was the young men's branch of *Catholic Action* that would give rise to the first "three days."

The vision of those early Cursillo leaders, men such as Fr. Sebastian Gaya, Eduardo Bonnin and Fr. Juan Capo, was to form a spiritual movement that would attract people determined to make the Lord Jesus the central figure in their lives, as well as in the lives of those with whom they lived ,worked and played.

These early leaders responded to the needs of the times by devising Catholic leadership training and developing a process of small group reunions to foster Christian evangelism.

GROWTH OF CURSILLO

In the late 1940s, the new bishop at Mallorca, Juan Hervas, presented the first "three days" of Cursillo in much the same form we know today. Originally they were called *Cursillos of Conquest*. Later, he named the movement "Cursillo de Christfandaci" or "short course in Christian living." Since that time, the Cursillo movement has spread to all the Spanish speaking countries of the world, as well as to many countries and most continents, with the largest concentration of cursillistas being in North and South America. Millions of Christians worldwide have participated in the Cursillo weekend. Cursillo is presently active in many Roman Catholic and Episcopal dioceses, as well as many Lutheran churches.

OUTREACH

The Cursillo Movement has also given birth to *many* other spiritual renewal programs, i.e. SEARCH, Teens Encounter Christ, LOG, Marriage Encounter, KAIROS (a prison ministry) and ARISE and ERYA. Many of the originators of the Catholic Charismatic Movement were Cursillistas and RENEW, a growing Catholic spiritual renewal program, is also indebted to Cursillo methods.

CURSILLO COMES TO THE UNITED STATES

The movement was brought to the United States by Spanish military pilots who were training in Texas, in 1957. The Spanish-speaking Cursillo spread rapidly in a turbulent Catholic America which was soon to

experience the "opening of the window" by Pope John XXIII with the Second Vatican Council in the early 1960's.

Even though early Cursillos in California were in Spanish, Fr. Donald McDonald and Fr. Ken McCullough from the Bay Area heard of the spiritual power of the Cursillo movement. They set off for Texas on a motorcycle to make their Cursillos in 1960. Their enthusiastic reports inspired many to make Cursillo.

CURSILLO IN THE BAY AREA

There was a flurry of Cursillo activity in the 1960s in the United States. The first English-speaking weekend in California occurred in Stockton during that period. The official first Cursillo of San Francisco was held in October, 1962. This was only the third English-speaking Cursillo held in California. During this period, Cursillo was exclusively a Roman Catholic renewal movement.

ECUMENISM AND INTERDENOMINATIONAL CURSILLOS

From 1963 to 1995, the lives of both the Cursillo community and the Deaf community were intertwined at St. Benedict's . Fr. John Hester, Director of Ministry for the Deaf for the Archdiocese of San Francisco, made his Cursillo at one of the first English-speaking weekends held in California . Later, he was appointed as the first Director of Cursillo for the Archdiocese by Archbishop McGucken.

Fr. Hester, Fr. Bill Cane, Fr. Jack McMullen and Fr. Mickey McCormick, through their office of Director of Cursillo, have each facilitated the dynamic growth of Cursillo in the Bay Area. English-speaking Cursillos at St Benedict's took on an exciting ecumenical turn, as Episcopalians and Christians of diverse denominations became involved in the movement. Christ's command that all Christians be one has come true in one respect, as now all Christians are welcome to make Cursillo. This is evidenced by the continually growing number of Christian churches in Marin that support Cursillo.

We in the Bay Area have been blessed by being a center of "the Spirit at work" in Cursillos through sharing our one Christian faith. Archbishop Levada of the Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco and Bishop William Swing of the Episcopal Diocese of California (our sponsoring bishops) have been most gracious and supportive in allowing the unique, ecumenical Cursillos we have all known. We in the Bay Area loosely relate to the National Cursillo Movement because of this issue of ecumenism. The National Cursillo Policy of 1980 holds that Christians other than Roman Catholic may use the Cursillo format within their own denominations, but *only* for their own membership. Our bishops support the spirit of Christian community which we share.

GUIDELINES

The original format for Cursillo, as prepared by Bishop Hervas, has undergone many changes . Those changes were made to respond to the needs of different cultures in a historical period of radical change. St. Benedict' s Cursillo guidelines (the yellow books for you old-timers) were updated in 1969. Because of the great changes in ideas and ways of expression, especially since Vatican II, and in keeping with renewed energy in 4th day, our Bay Area Cursillo guidelines have been updated from time to time under the careful study and direction of the General Secretariat. These are the guidelines we in Marin are presently using.

The *New Roman National Guidelines* and current *Anglican Commentary* were utilized for the changes. If you study the original Rollos set out by Bishop Hervas, the ones currently being used are very similar and, in some cases, the same. The language , however, is clearer, and is very specific in such things as the setting , purpose, key points and style of presentation.

4TH DAY EMPHASIS

The three-day Cursillo weekend has always been the bridge from pre-Cursillo to post-Cursillo and 4th Day. While much emphasis has been placed on the drama and power of the weekend experience, practical applications for 4th Day spiritual renewal activities (i.e., group reunions and Ultreyas) have not been stressed enough.

The Cursillo message was lost by many but, fortunately, many also heard the call and sought out their own 4th Day involvements. Our secretariat is focused on efforts in this sustaining and on-going reunion and support aspect of Cursillo.

Living in our 4th Day (i.e., post-Cursillo) consists of a life of friendship with God and our brothers and sisters. It does not seek the experience of Cursillo as an end in itself but generates an excitement which we can have only when tasting life in its deepest dimensions. One who belongs to a Christian community, sharing love of the Lord and passionately concerned for this world, does experience life to be such. It is through the Cursillo tripod of piety, study and action that we progress - that we grow as a pilgrim people.

ULTREYA- "ONWARD IN CHRIST"

We live in an unsettled world. Even so, we know that we only live in our post-Cursillo world with love. We, as Christians, are making a pilgrimage, just as the first Cursillistas did, to renew the earth for Christ with the Holy Spirit. This is at the heart of all we do; we are a powerful force for Christ in the world.

-DE COLORES-