



## Frequently Asked Questions about Cursillo Sponsorship

### 1. Who can attend a Cursillo Weekend?

Any Catholic adult who desires a closer relationship with Christ and able to receive the Sacraments (including Holy Communion) are eligible to attend a Weekend. Minimum age is 18 in the US.

### 2. How long does the Weekend last?

The Weekend begins between 6-7pm on Thursday evening and ends early evening on the ensuing Sunday evening.

### 3. Can candidates drive themselves to the Weekend?

It is a tradition of the Joliet Cursillo that the sponsor arranges for transportation of the candidate to and from the Weekend. The candidate will have no need of an automobile during the Weekend. If an emergency arises requiring the candidate to leave the Weekend, a member of the team can provide transportation in such circumstances.

### 4. How much does the Weekend cost?

The total Weekend cost is \$295. There are no other costs incurred during the Weekend for the candidate.

### 5. What if the candidate cannot afford the Weekend cost?

The cost of the Weekend should not be looked at as an obstacle to attendance. If cost is an issue for your candidate, discuss the matter with the Pre-Cursillo Chair who can suggest ways in which the candidate's fees can be under-written.

### 6. Can special dietary needs be met?

Yes. Please have the candidate make note of this on their application.

### 7. Can a physically challenged candidate attend a Weekend?

Yes. Since we employ more than one facility for Weekends, the arrangements can vary based on where the Weekend will be held and the exact nature of the candidate's requirements. It is important to advise the Pre-Cursillo Chair of these specific needs as early as possible.

### 8. Is there anyone who should not attend a Cursillo Weekend?

The Cursillo is not recommended for people who are suffering from psychological or emotional problems and/or whose moral lives are so disoriented that they are incapable of understanding the message of Cursillo.

## **9. How often are Weekends held?**

The Joliet Cursillo organizes at least two men's and two women's Weekends per year. Usually one of each is held in the spring and in the fall. Additionally, two Weekends are held in Spanish, one for men and one for women. These are generally held in the early spring.

## **10. Who can sponsor a candidate?**

Any Cursillista (one who has previously attended a Weekend) may sponsor a candidate. However, it is best if that sponsor is actively participating in group reunion. If the sponsor is not participating, it is strongly advised that the sponsor team with a Cursillista who is active in group reunion. Also, a man may sponsor a woman and vice versa.

## **11. If a candidate is married, does the husband have to attend the Weekend first?**

In the past, this had been a requirement of attendance. It is no longer a requirement.

## **12. What should the candidate bring to the Weekend?**

Advise the candidate to bring comfortable clothes which they can add or subtract in layers. Obviously toiletries, medicines and any other personal necessities are to be brought. Also, recommend that they bring their favorite pillow if it helps them get a good night's rest. Stationary for note-taking and Rosaries will be provided. Most importantly, they should bring an open mind!

## **13. Why do candidates need to be sponsored?**

There are several reasons. First, it is important that the candidate be eligible for a Cursillo (see question number 1). It is one of the roles of the sponsor to ensure that this be met. Further, the Cursillo Movement consists of proclaiming the best news of the best reality which is that God in Christ loves us, communicated by the best means which is friendship. Thus, the movement grows through personal contact based on friendship. Entry of the candidate as a new Cursillista into the Post-Cursillo environment is best facilitated by a friend who will support them and help them find a small group reunion.

## **14. Can candidates use cell phones on the Weekend?**

Use of cell phones is strongly discouraged during the Weekend. A special sense of community is created on the Weekend by the team and candidates. The Weekend's impact is best experienced without distractions from the outside world. A designated member of the team will have a cell phone for emergencies and this number will be provided to the candidate in advance so that their families have a way to contact them in the event of an emergency.

## **15. What if the candidate is unable to be available for the entire three-day Weekend, from Thursday evening to Sunday evening?**

The Cursillo Weekend needs to be experienced in whole as each talk and activity during the Weekend builds on the preceding talk and thus plays an integral and essential part in the experience. If prior commitments leave the candidate unable to commit to attending the Weekend in its entirety, it would be best for the candidate to plan attending a future weekend.

**16. What are my time commitment obligations after the Weekend?**

Continuing with Cursillo through participation in weekly small group reunions and monthly Ultreyas is a matter for each new Cursillista to discern. There is no obligation to do so by having attended a Weekend.

**17. Are there ongoing dues or fees involved in being a member of Cursillo?**

No. There are no dues or annual membership fees required in being a Cursillista.

**18. How long has Cursillo been in existence?**

The Joliet Diocese Cursillo has been in operation since 1963. Cursillo came to the United States from Spain in the late 1950s where it had its founding in the early 1940s. Please see the website for more details.

**19. How does Cursillo differ from other programs such as CRHP, Kairos and Alpha?**

Cursillo predates these and other Weekend retreat movements. Most of them use elements of the Cursillo format in conducting their program. They each have specific audiences they endeavor to address. For Kairos it is older teens. Alpha was developed by the Anglicans as a ten-week program culminating in a Weekend retreat and has been adapted by other Christian denominations including Roman Catholic. CRHP (Christ Renews his Parish) is a two-day program directed to members of a given parish and conducted at the parish.

**20. Do Priests or Deacons attend Cursillo Weekends?**

The Cursillo movement is a movement of the laity, empowering the laity to evangelize the environments beyond the church in which they operate. But yes, Priests, Deacons and even Bishops have participated in Cursillo Weekends as candidates since the beginning of the movement. By so participating, ordained clergy are then eligible to assist the movement by delivering talks, saying Mass, hearing confession and otherwise serving on the Weekend teams. Again, although Cursillo is a movement of the laity, the close partnership and collaboration with the clergy is essential to the movement.

**21. How does participating in a Cursillo weekend impact the candidate's commitments to parish life and/or other volunteer activities?**

It should impact the new Cursillistas role in the parish and in volunteer organizations quite positively. In many parishes, Cursillistas often make up a significant portion of those who volunteer to be Eucharistic Ministers, Catechists and RCIA coordinators to mention just a few among many other parish ministry opportunities too numerous to mention here. Likewise in the case of volunteer activities beyond the parish, the Cursillista comes to better understand the opportunity these activities provide for apostolic action. The Cursillo experience provides a method for the Cursillista to not only enrich their participation in parish ministries and volunteer activities but more importantly to take the message of the Gospel out to the environments in which they operate.