



Cursillo

Christianity

Christianity: God is Love. This is not new. It only leads to a "new" view of the things of always making known to all, that GOD LOVES US. Thus arises the Charism of Cursillo, with the strength to give life. The Holy Spirit had sent a wave of hope upon the world. And therefore, the essence of the Cursillos is: - The reality of Love - The reality of Friendship - The reality that Christ is my Friend - The Good News that God in Christ loves me.

Essence

The essence of the Cursillos in Christianity is just the essence of Christianity, the living content of what is Christian, the soul of Christianity that encourages and informs all the acts and all the moments of Cursillo.

Method of Cursillos

The Method of Cursillos, the path Cursillos follow to arrive at the goal, is the friendship between people. There is nothing more. There is no room for other "fantasies". It consists in making friends, being friends and making those friends, friends of Christ. Cursillos seeks, through friendship, to achieve the specific purpose of bringing the Good News that God, in Christ, is alive and loves us, to the most people possible, with special emphasis on those far away. It is a suggestion to all to have the personal experience of this proclamation. It brings someone to Cursillo so that they can come to "know" Jesus Christ.

Elements

In the Cursillo Method of living and igniting the fire of friendship, three phases or basic elements are defined: Precursillo, Cursillo and Postcursillo. This ring of unison, is caused because the precursillo generates the cursillo, the cursillo generates the postcursillo and, in turn, the postcursillo generates the precursillo. What is intended is the conversion of the person, so that this might provoke the conversion of the social circle that surrounds their movable square meter in which they live. This is obtained, by the grace of God and the free will of the person by means of the proclamation of the message and the knowledge of the psychology and methodology used, by means of a team formed by the lay leaders and priests and the palanca that represents the prayers of the whole community.

Postcursillo

The purpose of the Postcursillo is to see Christ in every moment. It is the effort made so that the candle (that Christ, through the Cursillo, placed in the center of the movable square meter in each of us) remain lit and illuminate others, especially those far away, in any one of the environments in which we live. The Group Reunion is sharing in particular what each person lives in their area, or in their environment. It is for sharing what is lived from the love of God and love of neighbor. It is to place in common, every week, what each person lives separately in their environment, so that the others will truly listen, and take this into their life, because everything good, when shared, multiplies.

The Ultreya

The Ultreya is a Group Reunion where contact is made between brothers and sisters who live and give their life for what is fundamental to being Christian. It is the place where what was said at the Cursillo is lived. It is the place where everyone should give their life for others, as was stated in the Cursillo, making the Ultreya a channel for Grace, in it each of the attendees is like a piece of the channel joining one with another and then another, until the grace is spread throughout all the attendees at the Ultreya.



The School of Leaders Charter (Why Were We Called?)

- A diocese can begin a Cursillo® Movement when it has a core group of Cursillo® leaders who have *chosen to serve within the Movement, as their apostolic vocation*. In addition, this group must be a community example of service in all three phases of the Movement. The Cursillo® Movement was born of and received its form and drive from such a group.
- One is not a leader because they attend the School of Leaders; *one is in the School because one is a leader of Christianity*.
- *Solidarity is necessary*, resulting in personal aptitude and a community attitude in its leaders, a communitarian attitude with a capacity of friendship.
- *Enabled by* means of a 'regular' Group Reunion and attending the Ultreya

Given the attitude and aptitude of its leaders, the **purpose of the School of Leaders is to:**

1. Coordinate its axis, the leaders;
2. To equilibrate the different key parts;
3. To endow all a deep and heartfelt unity.
4. To promote and to assure the authenticity and integrity of the Cursillo® Movement in all three phases (Precursillo, Cursillo® and Postcursillo).
5. To help and to facilitate the process of the Precursillo toward the Postcursillo through the 3-day Cursillo® and to channel the restlessness of those who have lived a Cursillo® to a progressive state of conversion.
6. To establish, without exercising control or dominion over groups, the function of the School of extending the basic ideas of its function and operation, and to activate the assembly without obligating them.

Consequently, the School of Leaders is established to be something: a community of service to the Cursillistas; to serve the Cursillo® Community. ***In conclusion we can say that the School is to the Cursillo® community (the Ultreyas), what the leaders (the team) is to the Cursillo® weekend.***

*"The Cursillo® Movement will grow uniquely in its mentality and be able to preserve it **only if at its hub there is an active group of leaders who possess, live, and communicate this mentality in a coherent manner that touches people**. These people must do more than just be able to understand and explain the Cursillo® mentality; they must have made it such a vital part of their lives, that it becomes a leavening element in them, inspiring others."*¹

¹ The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement, p. 37 (paragraph #71).



Cursillo Leaders Manual Chapter 6 School of Leaders¹

A diocese can begin a Cursillo® Movement when it has a core group of Cursillo® leaders who have chosen to serve within the Movement, as their apostolic vocation. In addition, this group must be a community example of service in all three phases of the Movement. The Cursillo® Movement was born of and received its form and drive from such a group.

A Movement is as good as its leaders. It is not possible to have an authentic and truly effective Cursillo® Movement unless it is served by a group of leaders who exemplify everything the Movement is supposed to be. *"As an operational structure of the Movement, the School is a community of Christians who, united in the atmosphere of a Group Reunion, seek every day to become more centered, more committed and more united, so as to accelerate in themselves, in the Movement, and in their environments the living out of what is fundamental for being a Christian."*²

The School of Leaders is the gathering of all the leaders. Every Christian (a leader in life) cannot be a leader of Christianity; this is a specific vocation. One is not a leader because they attend the School of Leaders; one is in the school because one is a leader of Christianity. The School accentuates the Cursillo® Movement because its leaders are natural leaders of Christianity.

Solidarity is necessary, resulting in personal aptitude and a community attitude in its leaders:

--Personal Aptitude:

- Psychological Maturity - dynamic harmony between understanding, the heart and the will.
- Person/Personality.
- Authenticity - personal and free acceptance by each in God. There is no room for hypocritical or other attitudes.
- Integrity - unity and continuity of life. Conviction and constancy.
- Capacity of Amazement - the capacity to see the transcendent mark in each thing and in each person; to witness the mystery of each thing and of each person, seeking the fullness of all that exists.

--Communitarian attitude - Capacity of Friendship

- Attitude - investing punctuality and efficiency, the talents that make him/her a leader. All illuminated by:
 - Humility
 - Justice
 - faith, hope and charity

Enabled by means of:

--A 'regular' Group Reunion (with any of its surnames: friendship, permanent, normal, etc....)

- Based on friendship, in which he/she does not control or indoctrinate outside of the School.

¹ Leaders' Manual pp. 57-66: School of Leaders

² The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement: Article #540



-- Attending the Ultreya

Being leaders, not as directors or coordinators but as servants, so that the School may be to the Ultreya, what the team is to the Cursillo®; thus fulfilling their function as a leader in Ultreya. With active presence, communicative and rest lessness; open to the grace of Go

A Holy fear of the Cursillo®:

- Fear of God - fear to have life below the truth that is proclaimed.
- Fear of being more of an obstacle than a conduit.
- Maximum respect for others; the security of a true spiritual Palanca and
- A conscious preparation for apostolic life.

Given the attitude and aptitude of its leaders, the purpose of the School of Leaders is to:

1. Coordinate its axis, the leaders;
2. To equilibrate the different key parts;
3. To endow all a deep and heartfelt unity.
4. To promote and to assure the authenticity and integrity of the Cursillo® Movement in all three phases (Precursillo, Cursillo® and Postcursillo).
5. To help and to facilitate the process of the Precursillo toward the Postcursillo through the 3-day Cursillo® and to channel the restlessness of those who have lived a Cursillo® to a progressive state of conversion;
6. To establish, without exercising control or dominion over groups, the function of the School of extending the basic ideas of its function and operation, and to activate the assembly without obligating them.

Consequently, the School of Leaders is established to be something a community of service to the Cursillistas; to serve the Cursillo® Community. ***In conclusion we can say that the School is to the Cursillo® community (the Ultreyas), what the leaders (the team) is to the Cursillo® weekend.***

The School of Leaders is a Group Reunion of leaders. Ideally, this group of leaders should meet weekly to become a living Christian community. Its members, because of their holiness and apostolic lifestyle, are drawn from the Ultreyas.

Furthermore, its leaders:

1. Live and understand the method so they may serve from it and safeguard it;
2. Are in a state of progressive conversion;
3. Are improving their knowledge and practical experience of the Cursillo's purpose and method to acquire the Cursillo® mentality and communicate it to others;
4. Deepen their knowledge of the Cursillo® technique and its methodology, and apply it, especially the work of personal contact; Know and live the Rollos of the Cursillo® Weekend;
5. Develop the sense of being leaders with a Church mentality;
6. Revitalize and invigorate the Precursillo, Cursillo® the Ultreya and the Secretariat.



Christian leadership is a work of the Spirit, and requires the gift of discernment to locate it and place it at the service of the Church. Though all Cursillistas are called to be leaders in their own environments, only a small percentage of them are called to be leaders in the environment of the Cursillo® Movement itself. Since they are an apostolate, those who accept their role in the School of Leaders must give all their spare time to it.

The School itself is meant to be one of spirituality, formation and Christian community. The individuals who make up the School together form a Christianity in Action as they serve the whole Movement. They must be leaders in all three phases of the Movement.

The School should provide its members with the necessary information and materials for spiritual, method- ological, doctrinal and Cursillo® mentality and formation. It should also provide the same elements so that the Precursillo, Cursillo® Weekend and Postcursillo can be progressive. The School of Leaders can be divided into six(6) essential parts or elements which need to be constant in the School of Leaders.

1. *Prayer* - Each session, of the School of Leaders, must begin and end with prayer. It is recommended that the Leaders' Prayer (found at the end of this chapter) be used to open each meeting. If possible, each session should end with a visit to the Blessed Sacrament.
2. *Leaders' Group Reunion* - This style of Group Reunion is different from the normal style of Group Reunion. This style deliberately challenges the individuals to evaluate their everyday activities, and how those activities apply to the advancement of the Cursillo® Movement.
3. *Doctrinal Presentation* - This is given by a priest, deacon or vowed religious. The purpose of the Doctrinal Presentation is to keep the leaders of the Movement current, concerning matters of the Church. Typical topics for the Doctrinal Presentation might be: encyclicals, documents of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB), spiritual exercises, excerpts from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Vatican II documents, and many other aspects that accentuate the fact that the Cursillo® Movement is an active movement within the Catholic Church.
4. *Technique Presentation* - This is given by a member of the laity. The purpose of the Technique Presentation is to keep the leaders of the Movement current on all matters concerning the Cursillo® method, its technique and its purpose. Typical topics for the Technique Presentation should come from the official Cursillo® literature approved by the National Secretariat of the United States.
5. *Work of the Sections* - During the weekly School of Leaders, time must be given to carry out the work of the three sections of the Movement Precursillo, Cursillo®, and Postcursillo. It is important to have each of these sections meeting and functioning as an integral part of the whole process. No one section should be given precedence over the other two sections. Neither can any one section be treated with less integrity than the other two sections. To thoroughly understand the Cursillo® Movement, one must understand that it is comprised of three equally important phases. To injure any one phase injures the entire Movement.



6. *Section Reports and Announcements* - This is the opportunity for the leaders of each section to report to the entire School what is being done and what needs each section may have.

Announcements are made to keep all the members aware of local, regional and national activities.

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For this reason the School must be structured in such a way that it can be a community of persons who share the vision of the Movement, its common objectives, and its mutual efforts in the work and the desire for holiness. The School must sustain leaders for the Movement, who express their sense of vocation to the Church in their service to other Cursillistas and in the work of evangelization.

*"The apostolate can attain maximum effectiveness only through a diversified and thorough formation. Such training is required not only by the continuous spiritual and doctrinal progress of the lay person, but also by the need to adapt his/her activity to circumstances which vary according to the affairs, persons, and duties involved. This formation for the apostolate should rest upon those fundamentals, which have been defended and proclaimed by this most holy Council in other documents. In addition to the formation which is common for all Christians, many forms of the apostolate require a specific and particular formation as well, because of the variety of persons and circumstances."*⁴

"The diverse types of the apostolate demand very special, formation.

- A. *When the apostolate is one of making the gospel known and the people holy, the laity must be specially formed to engage in conversation with others, believers and nonbelievers alike, in order to manifest Christ's message to all. Since in our times, variations of materialism are everywhere (even among Catholics), the laity should not only learn doctrine more carefully, but they should also provide the witness of an evangelical life in contrast to all forms of materialism. This holds especially true for those main points, which are the subjects of controversy.*
- B. *With respect to the Christian restoration of the temporal order, the laity should be instructed in the true meaning and value of temporal things, both in themselves and in their relation to the total fulfillment of the human person, exercising correct use of things and in the organization of institutions, attentive always to the common good based on the moral and social principles of the teachings of the Church. The laity should above all learn the principles and conclusions of this social doctrine, which can enable them to do their part to advance this doctrine and to apply it as is needed in each case.*

³ The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement, p. 37 (paragraph #71).

⁴ Vatican I. "Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity," No. 28.



C. *Since the works of charity and mercy afford an excellent testimony of the Christian life, apostolic formation should lead also to the performance of these works, so that Christians may learn from childhood to have compassion for their brothers, and to be generous in helping those in need.*"⁵

⁵ Ibid, No. 31



TYPICAL SCHEDULE FOR THE SCHOOL OF LEADERS

7:30 PM - Opening Prayer and Leaders' Group Reunion

7:50 PM - Doctrinal Presentation & Discussion

8:15 PM - Technique Presentation & Discussion

8:40 PM - Break

8:50 PM - Work by the Sections

9:20 PM - Section Reports and Announcements

9:30 PM - Visit to the Blessed Sacrament



**SCHOOL OF LEADERS
LEADER'S PRAYER**

Lord, grant that we may understand the necessity for depth in our movement, rather than surface glory. Convince us of the truth that colorful programs do not constitute success. My God, give us a spirit of self sacrifice so that we may offer everything for Your cause: our time, our abilities, our health and even our lives if necessary. Instill in us courage in our initiatives, good judgment in our choice of the right means, and that determination which in spite of failures assures victory. Move away from us the tiny rivalries, sensitivities, discourtesies, pride, everything which distracts from You, everything which divides or discourages. Help us to maintain at a high level a meaningful, supernatural and mutual charity among ourselves, so that each one will seek by preference the most humble tasks and will rejoice at the good performed by others, so that all our spirits united in a common purpose will have one single spirit, Yours Jesus, and that this spirit may let us see Your attractive goodness marked in all our faces, Your warm accents in all our words, and in our lives something superior to the world, something that proclaims Your Living Presence among us.

Amen.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patron of the Americas, Pray for us.

St. Paul, Patron of Cursillo®, Pray for us.

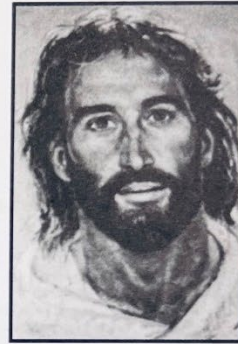
LORD JESUS CHRIST

I, _____
and my brother leaders, conscious and growing members of your Mystical Body, in union with all living Christianity in your Church, in response to your Grace, offer our IDEALISM, our SELF-SURRENDER, and our SPIRIT OF CHARITY, to make your Kingdom more effective in ourselves and in our brother.

Remember that, as Leaders, your primary apostolate must be to maintain a vital and active Cursillo Movement.



**Christ
is Counting
on You!**



National Secretariat
Cursillos In Christianity

LEADERS' GROUP REUNION

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

1. Leader's Piety

- A. What spiritual aids helped me grow as a leader of the Cursillo Movement this week?
- B. As a Cursillo leader, what was my moment most aware of Christ?

2. Leader's Study

- A. What official Cursillo Movement literature am I studying?
- B. Doctrine? Technique? Other?

3. Leader's Action

(Apostolic successes & failures)

- A. In Precursillo
 - 1. What environment am I studying?
 - 2. Have I identified key people in these environments?
 - 3. How am I preparing them for Cursillo?
 - 4. What have I done to bring others to a better understanding of Precursillo?

B. On The Cursillo Weekend

- 1. How am I living the Cursillo talks?
- 2. What am I doing to improve myself?
- 3. Am I able to give witness
 - a) to being in a friendship group?
 - b) in transforming my environment?
 - c) of my group transforming environments?

C. In Postcursillo

- What have I done:
- 1) in personal contact with others?
 - 2) to form and sustain groups?
 - 3) to prepare for and energize the Ultreyas?

D. In School of Leaders

- How was I faithful:
- 1) to my obligations as a leader?
 - 2) to my assignments?
 - 3) in offering palanca and getting other to do so?

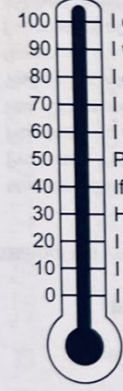
4. PLANS

What plans do I have next week for
Precursillo?
Cursillo?
Poscursillo?
School of Leaders?


PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

National Cursillo Center
P.O. Box 210226
Dallas, Texas 75211

Where are you Now?



100	I do
90	I will
80	I can
70	I Believe I can
60	I could if
50	Perhaps I could
40	If I only could
30	How can I do it?
20	I don't know how
10	I can't
0	I don't want to



**Christ
is Counting
on You!**

Lord Jesus Christ!

I.....
from this day on, a conscious and growing member of your Mystical Body, in union with all apostolic Christians of your Church, with the help of your grace, will contribute my idealism, my self-surrender, my spirit of charity, to make your Kingdom more effective in me, and in all those I come in contact with.

304

SERVICE SHEET

Christ needs you. He wants you holy so that you can help Him in the sanctification of all with your:

PIETY	STUDY	ACTION
<p><i>"Without Me you can do nothing."</i></p> <p>Morning Offering</p> <p>Personal Prayer Period</p> <p>Holy Mass</p> <p>Holy Communion</p> <p>Visit to the Blessed Sacrament</p> <p>Rosary</p> <p>Examination of Conscience</p> <p>Spiritual Direction</p>	<p><i>"If you only understood the gift of God...!"</i></p> <p>Bible Reading</p> <p>Other forms of study, following the advice of your Spiritual Director.</p> <p>Don't be satisfied with reading good books. Read the best.</p>	<p><i>"I will make you fishers of all"</i></p> <p>What have you done during the week to extend the Kingdom of God...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in your family • in your profession • in your environments • in your parish • in your group • In your Ultreya
<p>Always consult with your Spiritual Director about your Piety, Study and your Action!</p>		

THE NATIONAL CURSILLO® CENTER