

DUTIES OF THE SPONSOR

*“Being a sponsor is a commitment not only to the candidate,
but to the Cursillo movement.”*

FIRST—Preparation!

- † You must know the candidate, preferably well.
- † It is recommended but not necessary that you have lived your Fourth Day for at least one year before you sponsor a candidate. If you have not yet lived your Cursillo for a year, and, through prayer, you have found a candidate for whom you truly believe this is the right time to attend Cursillo, you may sponsor this candidate. You may co-sponsor a candidate at any time with another Cursillista.
- † A sponsor may present only one candidate per weekend. Sponsorship is a big responsibility, and requires a major time and energy commitment to make sure the candidate is supported well both on the Weekend and during the Fourth Day.
- † Remember that Cursillo is an experience of persons coming together to form a Christian community. It is not the solution for people with deep personal problems or for people dealing with alcohol, drug addiction, or extremely emotional upheavals in their lives. Such persons will probably not profit from the weekend and may very well ruin the weekend for others who find themselves on the receiving end of their pain. *(This does not mean that people who have come to terms with such problems may not be accepted on weekends.)*
- † Ordinarily, candidates should be from an area where there are other Cursillistas who will be there to provide Fourth Day support. However, there will be situations where that is not possible. The key then is for you to be sure to find a way to provide that support.
- † Be Honest! Your candidate needs to know a weekend is a learning experience in Christianity, a very busy and intensive one, not just a vacation. It is crucial to make sure they do not think it is a retreat.
- † Explain the basic format of the weekend. Answer questions as truthfully as possible. While we do not want to give away surprises that make the weekend more meaningful, **SECRECY HAS NO PLACE IN CURSILLO**. If you think about it, you can be pretty sure no candidate will think to ask you about a party or palanca!
- † Talk to a couple together, stressing the importance of Cursillo as a shared experience and a strengthening of their marriage commitment. Although both partners should plan to attend a Cursillo, it is okay if only one partner attends.
- † Once your candidate has been admitted to a weekend, it is vitally important that arrangements to meet them for transportation to the location of the weekend be made **AT ONCE** unless this has already been done. Do not let your candidate be one of the dropouts as a result of a lack of sponsor contact and interest at this point.

SECOND—The Weekend!

- † As mentioned previously, you are responsible for transporting your candidate to the center and home again. Please arrive on time—between 7:00 and 7:30 PM Thursday evening. The weekend will not begin until all candidates are present. **IF YOUR CANDIDATE IS NOT GOING TO ATTEND, LET US KNOW!** WE WILL WAIT FOR YOUR CANDIDATE'S ARRIVAL BEFORE WE BEGIN.

The Registrar's cell phone is 781-821-0371.

- † *There is a Sponsor's Liturgy (when all the candidates arrive) about 7:30/8:00 PM in the Chapel, which all Sponsors/Co-Sponsors are expected to attend. You will receive a candle to burn all weekend while you pray for the Cursillo weekend and your candidate. Getting your candidate off to a good start at this Liturgy is one of your major responsibilities.*

PALANCA IS: AN OUTWARD AND VISIBLE SIGN THROUGH PRAYER AND ACTION OF OUR OWN CHRISTIAN LOVE. IN THIS WAY, GOD'S LOVE IS USED AS A LEVER TO BRING ABOUT THAT WHICH WE CANNOT DO BY OURSELVES.

- † Write Palanca, including personal notes for your candidate, and for other candidates, and an extra two or three for someone who is not receiving much Palanca. Letters of prayer, sacrifice, and positive action are the type of Palanca expected. *Posters and banners must state prayers and sacrifice or they will not be displayed.* In fairness to all candidates, **please withhold any gifts until later**—your thoughtfulness will be most appreciated by your candidate early in their Fourth Day.

GENERAL PALANCA IS: Items, things that can be shared by the entire group and or at least their tablemates are acceptable; i.e., cookies, warm fuzzies, placemats, fruit, candy, snacks etc. **with Palanca.**

SPECIAL NOTE: Check the website and download copies of the Palanca list and bring to any Cursillistas you may know that do not have internet access.

BE AT THE CLOSING by 3:00 PM. THEY WILL BE LOOKING FOR YOU !!!

THIRD—MOST IMPORTANT—The Follow-up!

CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE YOUR CANDIDATE.

- † Your candidate will be looking for guidance in finding a reunion group, attending Ultreyas and other 4th day activities. Remember **YOU** are the sponsor not the spiritual advisor. They will look to you as an example of how to live their 4th day.
- † Sponsors are encouraged to stay close to their candidate for at least one year, preferably longer. Bring them to the **next** closing and to the Palanca room on the **next** weekend held.

There are publications by the National Episcopal Cursillo which explain in detail the purpose of the Cursillo movement. You may write or email to obtain a list of their publications to:

National Episcopal Cursillo

2683 Highway 701 N Unit 4 Conway SC 29526-3885

Toll free 1-877-ULTREYA or 1-877-858-7392

Or email necoffice@episcopalcursillo.org

ANY MEMBER OF THE SECRETARIAT (see the list on the inside cover of the Tripod) WILL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE CONCERNING SPONSORSHIP OR 4TH DAY ACTIVITIES. Keep this document as a guide