

MASSACHUSETTS EPISCOPAL CURSILLO MINISTRY  
**DUTIES OF THE SPONSOR**

*"Being a Sponsor is a commitment not only to the Candidate but to the Cursillo Movement. "*

**FIRST** ---- **Preparation:**

1. YOU MUST KNOW THE CANDIDATE, PREFERABLY WELL!
2. 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 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.
3. 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 in every way both on the Weekend and during the Fourth Day.
4. 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.)*
5. Ordinarily, candidates should be from an area where there are other Cursillista's 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.
6. BE HONEST! Your candidate needs to know that a weekend is a learning experience in Christianity, a very busy and intensive one, not just a vacation. It is crucial to make sure that they do not think it is a retreat.
7. 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 that no candidate will think to ask you about a party or Palanca!
8. 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.
9. Once your candidate has been admitted to a weekend, it is very important that arrangements for the attendee's 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 the lack of sponsor contact and interest at this point.

## SECOND --- The Weekend!

1. As mentioned before, you are responsible for transporting your candidate to the Weekend location and home again. Please arrive on time, between 7:00 and 7:30pm Thursday evening. The Weekend will not begin until all candidates are present. **IF YOUR CANDIDATE IS NOT GOING TO ATTEND, LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY SO THAT WE CAN BEGIN THE PROGRAM!**
2. There is a Sponsor's Liturgy at 8:00pm in the Chapel, which all Sponsors and 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.
3. Read the sheet "PALANCA GUIDELINES". Then write Palanca, including personal notes, for your candidate and for other candidates, and an extra 2 or 3 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 or things that can be shared by the entire group and/or at least by their table mates, i.e. cookies, warm fuzzies, fruit, candy, snacks, etc. along with personal Palanca.
4. Another major responsibility of the Sponsor is to attend the Closing Ceremony. **THE SPONSOR MUST BE AT THE CLOSING** by 3:00pm. **YOUR CANDIDATE WILL BE LOOKING FOR YOU!**

## THIRD --- MOST IMPORTANT --- The Follow - Up!

1. CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE YOUR CANDIDATE.
2. Your candidate will be looking for guidance in finding a Reunion Group, attending Ultreya's, and other Fourth Day activities. Remember, YOU are the Sponsor and not the Spiritual Advisor. They will look to you as an example of how to live their 4th Day.
3. Sponsors are encouraged to stay close to their Candidates for at least one year, preferably longer.

THERE ARE PUBLICATIONS by the EPISCOPAL CURSILLO MINISTRY which explain in detail the purpose of the Cursillo Movement. You may write or email to obtain a listing of their publications to the following:

Episcopal Cursillo Ministry  
P. O. Box 7777, Myrtle Beach, SC 29572  
Telephone: 303-823-1802  
[www.episcopalcursilloministry.org](http://www.episcopalcursilloministry.org)

*ANY MEMBER OF THE SECRETARIAT (see list on the website at [www.masscursillo.org](http://www.masscursillo.org)) WILL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE CONCERNING SPONSORSHIP OR FOURTH DAY ACTIVITIES.  
Keep this document as a guide.*

MASSACHUSETTS EPISCOPAL CURSILLO MINISTRY  
SPONSOR'S APPLICATION

Candidate's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE READ THE OBLIGATIONS BELOW AND THE "DUTIES OF A SPONSOR" SHEET BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM.

**IMPORTANT: THIS APPLICATION, THE CANDIDATE'S APPLICATION, AND THE CLERGY FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED TOGETHER FOR PROCESSING.**

Following are a few suggestions in the choice of candidates for Cursillo:

1. The candidate must be at least 21 years old and a baptized Christian.
2. Cursillo is not a place for a person overwhelmed with alcoholism or drug addiction. On the other hand, members of AA and other such organizations who have faced their problems will normally be accepted.

Following are some reminders about your responsibilities as a sponsor:

1. The Cursillista's may co-sponsor at any time with a Cursillista who has lived their Fourth Day for at least one year.
2. Cursillista's may sponsor only one candidate per Weekend.

NOTE: The Weekend (May 28–31, 2026) will cost \$385.00. A \$100 deposit (\$25 non-refundable) is required with the balance being paid at the registration. Please let the Registrar know if the Candidate has financial needs.

**ACOMPLETED APPLICATION INCLUDES:** completed Candidate and Sponsor Applications, with all signatures and the \$100 deposit, and a Clergy Form. **THE SPONSOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING ALL OF THESE ITEMS TOGETHER TO THE REGISTRAR:**

Massachusetts Episcopal Cursillo Ministry (MECM)  
c/o Kathy Doller, Registrar\_  
P. O. Box 815  
Norton, MA 02766

**NOTE: Electronic equipment is not welcome on the Weekend. If you must bring your cell phone, please leave it turned off and in your room so as not to disrupt or disturb others on the Weekend.**



# MASSACHUSETTS EPISCOPAL CURSILLO MINISTRY

## PALANCA GUIDELINES

*Palanca is:*

*An outward and visible sign through prayer and action of our Christian love.*

*In this way, God's love is used as a lever to bring about that*

*Which we cannot do by ourselves.*

We offer ourselves in prayer and action to become a PALANCA PERSON.

Prayer is the operative word. As individuals and as a part of a praying community . . . We live our life as a PALANCA PERSON in these ways:

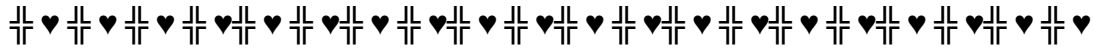
- Proper love and care for our family
- A good day's work reflecting God to our co-workers and friends
- Responsible citizenship
- Bringing Christ to our environment
- Seeing Christ in each person just as he/she is.

A few specific ways of realizing the enormous potential are listed below. Remember the outward signs (letters, posters, etc.) are indicating the power of prayer, the action, the offering, the sacrifice which is the Palanca.

- **HOLY EUCHARIST:** Receive the elements in the name of a person.
- **OFFERING** a discipline or a sacrifice in conscious prayer for someone, fasting, not smoking, not drinking, practicing patience for example
- **DIRECT COMMUNICATION:** Writing or speaking with someone to tell how they bring Christ into your life; how you admire their unique gifts; tell what is your specific prayer or offering is for that person, etc.
- **A GIFT OF SERVICE:** Such as taking care of their children, cooking a meal for an invalid, writing a letter for a handicapped person, visiting, etc.
- **AN OBJECT:** If, and only if, it is understood to stand as a symbol of your love in Christ, a poster, with Palanca always indicated; something you have made in love and prayer, something with a very special meaning.
- **OFFERING** a pleasant task or personal situation of thanksgiving and conscious prayer for the recipient; making something you enjoy doing; burning a candle; being in the midst of a happy family gathering, etc.
- **OFFERING** an unpleasant task or personal situation in conscious prayer for someone; being stuck in traffic, scrubbing the toilet, pain, etc. may be offered to the glory of God in someone's name.

In conscious prayer, we offer these and other elements of our lives with the specific intention of becoming channels of God's love. This love then becomes a lever to bring about **God's** will. We become a part of the circle of light from God-to-us offered back to God.

As part of a praying community of PALANCA PEOPLE we are blessed to have God's grace shower upon us as we attempt to Christianize the world.



### **Practical Tips:**

- ◆ You may put “Sponsor” or “Spouse” in the lower left corner of the envelope and indicate the desired day for delivery (Fri., Sat., Sun.). Palanca room workers will TRY to comply.
- ◆ You may visit the Palanca Room over the weekend.
- ◆ Gifts are not appropriate on the weekend; save them for the Fourth Day or for the ride home.
- ◆ Never put TEAM on the envelope or poster.
- ◆ Always show your Palanca on the poster.
- ◆ In the spirit of Palanca, send or bring notes and posters addressed to other candidates, team members and spiritual directors.
- ◆ An example of sacrifice (or discipline, or offering) could be to pass up breakfast if you like breakfast and to use the time to pray for the recipient. You may tell that person what you have done (or intend to do) or not. God knows, and the power is there either way.

ANY MEMBER OF THE SECRETARIAT WILL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE CONCERNING SPONSORSHIP OR 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY ACTIVITIES.

*Keep this document as a guide.*

**PLEASE VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:**

**MASSACHUSETTS EPISCOPAL CURSILLO MINISTRY  
MECM WEBSITE**

<https://masscursillo.org>

**This website is updated periodically, please check back in  
occasionally.**



**EPISCOPAL CURSILLO MINISTRY  
ECM WEBSITE**

[www.episcopalcursilloministry.org](http://www.episcopalcursilloministry.org)

*This website will connect you to several publications and resources  
available to the Cursillo Community, such as Crosses and Reunion  
Cards, Fourth Day Magazine, Items to Purchase. etc.*

*This website was formerly known as the National Episcopal Cursillo.*