



Timely Handling of Cursillo Candidate Applications

Cursillo 100 is fast approaching and it is time to think about who you would like to sponsor. However, this article is not about sponsoring, it's about time.

As Rectora for Cursillo 99 this "deadline" issue is near and dear to my heart. I was caught in the very uncomfortable position of having to turn away a candidate because the application did not arrive in a timely manner. The call came at 3:00pm on the opening day of the Cursillo Weekend.

My first concern, when I received the call was, the effect on the team. There was no way we could adequately prepare for this candidate in one hour. No welcome folder, no name badge, no bed sign, no guardian angel, no angel letter mailed to them, no Palanca...and on and on. These are all things that need to be done in advance so the candidate gets a proper Cursillo welcome!

As I calmed myself down I began to think about the candidate and how unfair it was to her. She was probably already packed and ready to go when she received the news that she wouldn't be able to attend. I can't imagine her disappointment. My heart was breaking for her but time had run out.

I am telling you this story because I don't want to see a repeat of this tragic situation. This can only be prevented by Sponsors taking the responsibility to get their Candidate applications mailed to the Registrar in a timely manner. Secretariat, the governing body of Cursillo, is taking this seriously and has put a policy in place which reads:

"Candidate applications must be received in the office of the Diocese no later than the Friday prior to the Cursillo weekend. Applications received after the Friday deadline will be returned to the Sponsor. The Registrar will make a courtesy telephone call to the Sponsor to inform them that the application is being returned."

Yours in Hope, Faith and Love,

Leslie Grier,

President

SPONSOR ' S

CHECKLIST

Being a sponsor is an important responsibility. The following is list of guidelines to help you be the Best Sponsor Ever!!

BEFORE CURSILLO

- #1 It is strongly recommended that you sponsor only one person or couple per weekend. It is difficult to give adequate time and support to more than one person or couple per weekend. Plus a group tends to stick together like a school of fish and not get to know other candidates on their weekend.
- #2 Before speaking to your candidate about God, speak to God about your Candidate.
- #3 Give your candidate a general idea of what Cursillo is about. There are no secrets at Cursillo only surprises.
- #4 Explain the Fourth Day. Be prepared to help your candidate form a Fourth Day Group.
- #5 Share how the Fourth Day has impacted your life.
- #6 Complete the Registration form with your candidate.
- #7 In the case of a couple, complete two Registration Forms.
- #8 Complete the Sponsor Information on the back of the Registration and mail it to the Registrar with your check.
- #9 Planned transportation to and from Cursillo for your candidate. The custom is to share a meal together and have dessert when you reach the site.
- #10 Have palanca ready to take with you Thursday night. There will be someone there to assist you after your candidate has been taken to the meeting room.
- #11 Make yourself available to your candidate's family if there are specific needs. This can be a big consideration: feeding animals, etc gives the candidate peace of mind to fully open to the weekend ahead of them.

DURING CURSILLO

- #1 Pray for your candidate during the 3 day weekend.
- #2 Make plans to attend Clausura to celebrate and be there to pack up your candidates things for the ride home.

AFTER CURSILLO

- #1 Keep in close contact with your candidate.
- #2 Take your candidate to Ultreya.

#3 Encouraged your candidate to get involved in the Movement through it's many opportunities.