

**2013 PASTORAL PLAN
FOR ORLANDO CURSILLO, INC.,
THE CURSILLO[®] MOVEMENT (ENGLISH-SPEAKING)
FOR THE DIOCESE OF ORLANDO, FLORIDA**

This is the pastoral plan of Orlando Cursillo, Inc., the Cursillo Movement (English-Speaking) for the Diocese of Orlando for the calendar year 2013, as adopted by the Secretariat after prayer and discernment. The 2013 pastoral plan reflects a continuation of plans from prior years and will likely not be completely accomplished in calendar year 2013, because our ministry is an ongoing process.

MISSION

The mission of the Cursillo Movement, as a Roman Catholic movement, is the apostolic renewal of society and the evangelization of environments. The Cursillo Movement operates in the Diocese of Orlando with the permission and blessing of our Bishop. We are committed to maintaining on-going communication and dialogue with our Bishop as we work with him, support his work in our Diocese and fit what we do within his pastoral plan. It is hoped that the Bishop would feel comfortable in encouraging the priests of the Diocese of Orlando to be supportive of Cursillo. Pope Benedict XVI has called for observance of a Year of Faith, beginning on October 11, 2012, the 50th Anniversary of the Opening of the Second Vatican Council, and concluding on November 24, 2013, some 13 months later. The Cursillo movement has made a commitment to be supportive of efforts in our Diocese to observe the Year of Faith, along with the New Evangelization called for by the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

As a Movement of the Catholic Church, it is our desire to encourage all Cursillistas to participate actively in this ministry of evangelization. The leaders and Secretariat of Cursillos in Christianity of the Diocese of Orlando seek to strengthen the movement in the diocese. Just as Cursillistas must maintain a strong tripod of piety, study and action, so must leaders of the movement maintain a strong tripod of Pre-Cursillo, Cursillo (the Three-Day Weekend), and Post-Cursillo (The Fourth Day). Establishing and maintaining a number of working groups or committees, some continuing in nature and some temporary or “ad hoc” in nature, through our School of Leaders will potentially be the best route to accomplishing this task.

In each phase of the Pastoral Plan below, we focus upon the needs we see and attempt to address those needs. Where appropriate, we will identify areas from previous Pastoral Plans that have been resolved and no longer require further efforts.

PRE-CURSILLO

At our Long Range Planning Retreat, members of the Secretariat in attendance discussed the need to take Cursillo “out of the shadows.” In other words, particularly in light of the call to a deeper relationship with Christ that is part of the Year of Faith, it was felt that

Cursillo needs to be more visible in the Diocese as a whole and in each of the parishes where the Cursillo movement is an active force with the community. This may involve participation in ministry fairs, becoming listed in the parish ministry directories, and holding informational gatherings. It may also involve inquiries and requests for applications from persons who are not well known (i.e. not already a “friend”) to Cursillistas. Father Carl Vacek, our spiritual director, has challenged us to reach out to those persons “on the fringe” and be prepared to assist them in becoming Cursillistas.

Thus, we must first identify those persons whom the Holy Spirit is calling to Cursillo. This identification process must be done prayerfully, sincerely and responsibly. Once identified, we need to prayerfully and lovingly invite those persons to attend Cursillo. Once an invitation is accepted, we need to recognize the importance of doing our sponsorship of these candidates well. In a situation in which we actively welcome the entire congregation to consider Cursillo, we must have ready and willing Cursillistas who will open their group reunions (or commit to form additional ones) and who will sponsor someone that they did not previously know. Make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ will continue to prevail as the only method for sponsoring a candidate, but it will need to be an active ministry for those who are willing to become actively involved in sponsoring those who inquire as a result of our efforts to open Cursillo to more persons.

In the 2012 Pastoral Plan, we noted numerous areas of ministry in our parishes, such as Why Catholic, RCIA and Christ Renews His Parish, to name a few, from which many of our candidates had come recently. This trend continues and, thus, we must continue to interact with and get to know persons in these ministries who are looking to grow spiritually in a way that Cursillo can help.

We must continue to look to parishes that do not have an active Cursillo presence to determine if there are potential candidates in such parishes that are seeking to grow spiritually, who would be drawn to and who would likely benefit from Cursillo. Our goal should be to be supportive of the pastor of each parish in the Diocese. Possibly, Cursillo’s involvement in activities with respect to the Year of Faith might serve as a way to become more visible to pastors throughout the Orlando Diocese. We need to communicate with pastors, particularly those who do not have an active Cursillo presence. Our pastors in the diocese need to be made aware of the potential benefits of having an active Cursillo movement in their parishes, which usually happens when a priest makes Cursillo himself. Thus, we should encourage more priests to make Cursillo. We have been blessed to have several priests attend Cursillo in the past couple of years. These new Cursillistas have offered to help spread the word about Cursillo to their parishioners and, even more importantly, to their fellow priests. We should not ignore their enthusiastic response; and we should therefore continue the dialogue and assist them in any way we can to effectively communicate with priests in our diocese who are unfamiliar with or antagonistic to Cursillo. Hopefully, we can help each parish by making Cursillo available to its leaders and potential leaders. As these parishioners are given the opportunity to live their Fourth Day, they will grow spiritually and will likely

do an even better job of living the Gospel and spreading the Good News within their parishes and within the other environments in which they have been placed by God.

We must equip and enable our Cursillistas who will be sponsoring candidates with the tools needed to properly explain Cursillo to a potential candidate, to prepare a person who wants to attend Cursillo and to make sure that everything needed for sponsoring a candidate is in place before the weekend begins. This includes training, support, follow up and materials (printed, digital, etc). A working group that will assist Joyce Dobrozensky, the person responsible for Pre-Cursillo, has been formed to expand these services.

CURSILLO (THE THREE-DAY WEEKEND)

We must be constantly vigilant to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to allowing the Holy Spirit to work through the Cursillo teams on the Three Day Weekend. That being given, it is also our duty to do our part to do weekends well and to maintain the integrity of basic Cursillo principles.

A review of and, where necessary, the update of all the manuals currently used in this diocese for the men's and women's three day weekends is being undertaken. This will include talk packets and manuals for kitchen, setup, and music. Sample talks for the men's weekend have been reviewed and the sample talks for the women's weekend are being reviewed to assure that we are giving our speakers good examples of how a particular talk should be given. Mentoring speakers needs to be improved, with a working group, led by John Edmead, undertaking this role. Cursillistas who have special skills and commitment to the areas of kitchen, setup/facilities and music are being brought in to help. Committees or working groups have been formed that will soon address these issues.

We need to continue to improve the "book table" that we provide to the candidates on Cursillo weekends, so that they will have information on some of the most beneficial books that are available. A list of suggested reading should also be developed. In addition, we need to streamline or totally overhaul the way books are acquired and brought to the weekends. An effort to gather a sufficient pool of used books from other Cursillistas that are made available at no cost to candidates on the weekends was undertaken in 2012. So far sufficient books are being gathered for each weekend, but this needs to continue. The quality of books submitted for the weekends has in some cases not been good; therefore close review of the appropriateness of books submitted is important. Audio books and CD's are available from respected Catholic sources, which should be utilized. A working group has been formed to address these book table and reading list issues. Use of our spiritual directors to develop a strong reading list should be a priority. The concept of "giving away" used reading books should be evaluated to see if it is a valid way to support the Study Talk.

We should continue to make sure that *palanca* for the candidates is sufficient, sincere and appropriate to serve as a spiritual "lever" for each candidate. The sponsors need to be

aware of their responsibilities for *palanca* from family and close friends. The working group assisting the person handling applications for the weekends will communicate extensively with sponsors to make sure that they are providing adequately for the needs of candidates accepted for weekends.

San Pedro Center is our “home” as long as we continue to be welcome there. Our relationship with San Pedro Center staff has been very cordial and cooperative in 2012. We need to continue to work with San Pedro staff to make sure that the facilities continue to be adequate, properly maintained and utilized knowledgeably by our teams. Establishing a facilities support group should be a priority.

Spiritual directors on a three day weekend are of paramount importance. Establishing a pool of potential spiritual directors, particularly where the leaders of a team do not have strong contacts with spiritual directors for their particular Cursillo weekend will make sure that there is proper coverage and continuity. This should be a priority and needs to be accomplished by working in close concert with our Diocesan Spiritual Director, Father Carl Vacek. Showing our gratitude to the sacrifices made by our spiritual directors in preparing for our weekends and in taking valuable time away from their parish assignments or their free time should also be a priority. A new spiritual director manual for Cursillo weekends has been released by the National Cursillo Center. It must be obtained, reviewed by our spiritual director and then disseminated to weekend spiritual directors.

Maintaining cost controls, minimizing waste and securing advantageous pricing, is something for which we must always strive; however in our current economy it will be of critical importance in 2013. A kitchen working group has been established and that group will become involved in assisting kitchen heads on weekends during 2013. A non-profit corporate entity that has applied for tax exempt status has been formed. This has already allowed better flexibility with banking institutions. Securing competent accounting assistance that will be in place as treasurers on Secretariat change from year to year, will be critical to assure proper accounting practices and tax return filing. Recognizing the need for “scholarship” funds to pay for candidates who cannot cover the current projected per capita cost of \$150, the tax exempt status should allow for some contributions to be tax deductible from Federal Income Tax.

Based upon a suggestion from our Region VII representative, Daniel Hines, we have begun and plan to continue “commissioning” our sponsors as part of the clausura to bless and empower them and to encourage them to serve as effective sponsors/companions for their respective babe chicks during the first year of their Fourth Day.

POST-CURSILLO

Group Reunions and Ultreyas are what make living the “Fourth Day” for a Cursillista and maintaining the ongoing conversion, *metanoia*, a reality. The sponsors for a candidate have primary responsibility for making sure there is a real opportunity to participate in group reunion following the attendance at the three days. Maintaining strong ultreyas is

the responsibility of everyone who chooses to actively live out the Fourth Day, utilizing the Cursillo method.

There are certain things that were effectively implemented in 2012 to keep ultreyas in our diocese vital and strong. These include communication among the ultreyas themselves, communication with secretariat, and establishment of new ultreyas in places where active Cursillistas reside and worship. On February 8, 2013, we will be holding an Ultreya Coordinators Appreciation Dinner and Information Session that will allow us to show appreciation for their ministry, share best practices among the various ultreyas in the diocese and to provide training. A member of the Region VII service team will be invited to participate in this gathering of ultreya coordinators.

Keeping a well-maintained database of Cursillistas, including the experience of those serving on teams is essential for many reasons and has become a high priority, particularly during 2012. Maintaining and developing a functional, frequently-updated website is very important and is a project that began in 2012 and will continue through the efforts of our database working group. A quarterly newsletter, the "Cursillo Messenger" (Mary St. Pierre, editor) and an email notification system were implemented in 2012. The email system (currently Constant Contact) should allow us to establish an email prayer chain and should allow for announcements of diocesan/Cursillo events in between publication of the quarterly newsletter. Social networking (currently being tested), online workgroups and implementation of audiovisual resources should be further investigated.

Prayer warriors who provide real prayer and sacrifice as part of general palanca to movements across the nation and around the world need to be sought out.

"Cursillo Homecoming" events were initiated on a twice a year basis in 2012 and they will continue into 2013. These events have been highly successful and have been put on by a working group under the School of Leaders/Pescadors.

SECRETARIAT

As the Secretariat, we must reflect upon and be constantly mindful of our role as servants to this movement in order to be the leaders we have been called to be. We, as a movement in the Orlando Diocese, have obligations to our Regional and National Secretariat. We should also interact and cooperate with Cursillo movements from different cultures, such as the Vietnamese and Spanish cultures within our diocese. We pray for and support Cursillo movements and other Fourth Day movements both nearby and throughout the world with our prayers and, at times, with our interactions.

We should take advantage of technology where it will be helpful, but we should discern carefully as to the use of technology so that the essence of community, fellowship and the essentials of Cursillo are not lost.

In late July, 2012, some Secretariat members and former Secretariat members, under the guidance of Scott Hammerle participated in a one-day long range planning retreat. We will do another long range planning retreat, led by Scott Hammerle, in summer, 2013, which will probably start on Friday evening and continue through the day on Saturday (7/26-27/2013). Future long range planning retreats should be held every other year or every three years.

In 2012, the format for Secretariat meetings was modified to more closely resemble a group reunion, with the sharing of Piety, Study & Action by one member each month. The meetings opened with the “Come Holy Spirit” prayer and concluded with prayer petitions. Decisions made at Secretariat meetings, particularly in matters of selection of Secretariat members, rectors and rectoras relied heavily upon guidance of the Holy Spirit as most selections were made essentially by drawing lots from pools of qualified applicants. Selection of new secretariat members and lay director will continue to be guided by the Holy Spirit while conforming to the guidelines of the newly established corporation. Once the guidance of the Holy Spirit is sought and obtained by drawing lots from a pool of qualified candidates for Secretariat Members or Lay Director, the Secretariat, as a board should nominate the selected person, if there is a nomination in accordance with the bylaws. The nominations should remain open for other nominations, if any. There should be an affirmative vote to either accept the name selected through drawing lots or to accept the name of another duly nominated candidate. This procedure should meet the requirements of the corporate by-laws, while still allowing the Secretariat to seek and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, as was done to replace Judas (Acts 1:21-26).

SCHOOL OF LEADERS/PESCADORS

The concept of the School of Leaders has been undergoing a change in the past couple of years from a primarily educational organization to one that is more of a support organization (the “Pescadors”) made up of Cursillistas who are, in reality, the true leaders, within the Fourth Day Community. Ongoing spiritual development and education of persons interested in learning more about Cursillo should continue to be a focus of the School of Leaders, primarily through team formation, annual or semiannual retreats, Fourth Day Reunions, sessions at the Ultreya level and through the Cursillo Messenger Newsletter. As the number of Pescador groups has grown and as they have become more established in their support roles for the movement and for Secretariat, as contemplated by the Leaders Manual, it has become time for establishing a leadership group of the Pescadors to guide its groups. This leadership group should be composed of persons who are not currently serving on Secretariat, though previous service on Secretariat would be a desirable qualification. The organization of the Pescadors can and should likely remain as informal as practicable.

CONCLUSION

We, members of the Secretariat, must remain open to the Holy Spirit throughout the year, must be sensitive to the needs of those children of God with whom we come into contact, and must be prepared to adjust this plan as the need arises.

Respectfully adopted and submitted this 15th day of January, 2013.

The Diocesan Secretariat of Orlando Cursillo, Inc., the English-speaking Cursillo Movement for the Diocese of Orlando.