

Canadian Anglican Cursillo



TRAINING TO SERVE ON A WEEKEND TEAM – A SUGGESTED OUTLINE

Training a team for the Authentic Cursillo weekend is necessary for Cursillo to achieve its purpose. This guideline provides content suggestions to support weekend team member preparation for his or her role in supporting the weekend candidates and help ensure that the authentic Cursillo is maintained. Diocesan Cursillo Secretariats may develop a weekend team manual which includes this basic information, along with specific diocesan practices and policies related to the local Cursillo community (e.g. budget allocation for the weekend, etc.). This manual will assist Weekend Lay Directors in ensuring that consistent authentic Cursillo weekends are provided.

Once the weekend teams have been selected (please refer to the Canadian Anglican Cursillo (CAC) *Guideline Weekend Team Selection and Development*), team training is scheduled.

Cursillo Weekend Teams

Each Cursillo weekend has one team with many parts. Each part has a different role. One part is in the conference room with the candidates for the entire Cursillo weekend. A second part provides prayer and behind the scenes logistical support for the candidates and Conference Room Team.

Expectations/Roles of All Team Members

All team members are expected to have:

- The heart of a servant
- Openness – like Jesus, we welcome others without preconception or expectation.
- Positive and supportive team player attitude
- Commitment to the team training
- Commitment to be living the Fourth Day (active Group Reunion participation, Ultreya and Servant Community regular attendance)
- Ability to hold in trust and confidentiality anything of a personal nature with regard to team and candidates
- Ability to disband as a team after the weekend

Conference Room Team Training

Conference Room Team training should be under the direction of the Weekend Lay Director and Weekend Spiritual Advisor. Conference Room preparation should include worship, group reunion, and teaching of the essentials of Cursillo and the weekend. The essential components* of the Conference Room Team training are:

- What is authentic Cursillo? What is the Cursillo Method?
- Components of an authentic Cursillo weekend
- Licensing Agreement for Cursillo and its implications
- Review of all pertinent ECM, CACS, and Diocesan Cursillo guidelines
- Flow of the weekend and themes of each day of the weekend
- Personal boundaries
- Group and table community dynamics
- Reviewing all the team talks/rollos with the team
- Critiquing of the team talks/rollos to ensure that the talks not only flow together seamlessly, but that the content of the talks is consistent with the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry (*ECM*) *Lay Talk Workbook* (Ensure that team members have the current version).

Note: These critical components are all outlined in the references which are listed at the end of this guideline.

The authentic Cursillo weekend consists of the 15 talks contained in the *ECM Lay Talk Workbook*, 5 meditations provided by the priest(s) as contained in the *ECM Clergy Talk Workbook*, personal contact, prayer, daily Eucharist, morning and evening prayer, Apostolic commitment, and the Closing/Clausura.

The authority for the Canadian Anglican Cursillo is held within its licensing agreement with the Roman Catholic Cursillo. Under the terms of this license, the following must be adhered to on a Canadian Anglican Cursillo weekend:

“Leaders, both clergy and lay, are responsible for implementing the Cursillo method properly, paying particular attention to post-Cursillo needs of Cursillistas, applying the Cursillo weekend properly, using the approved talk outlines and led by a team who are exemplary in their living experience of the Christian life and Cursillo method.”**

The real action of the Cursillo weekend takes place in small table groups. Discussions about the talks/rollos and message allow each candidate and team member to reflect on the message and share a personal point of view; provide a summary of the talks for presentation to the larger conference room group (Christian community); and become communities of faith and love as the weekend progresses and the work of the Holy Spirit is experienced. Table communities promote an accepting and loving atmosphere, in-depth sharing, personal bonding, an attitude of community, and Christian friendships, and role modelling Group Reunion and the planning process of Apostolic Action.

Palanca Support Team Training

There are several roles which the Palanca Support Team has on a Cursillo weekend. This varies from diocese to diocese. The primary and most important one is to offer prayer and sacrifice for the candidates and conference room team. In order to do this, both a place of prayer (Palanca Chapel) and a logistical workroom need to be maintained throughout the weekend. In some Cursillo movements, this logistical support will also include a kitchen team to offer meals and provide kitchen cleaning and set-up. The Palanca Support Team may be guided by a Palanca Lay Director and Palanca Spiritual Director.

Team training days should include worship, group reunion, and teaching of the essentials of Cursillo and the weekend. The critical components of the Palanca Support Team training are:

- What is authentic Cursillo? What is the Cursillo Method?
- Components of an authentic Cursillo weekend
- Licensing agreement for Cursillo, and its implications
- Review of all pertinent NEC, CACS, and Diocesan Cursillo guidelines
- Personal boundaries and privacy
- Setup and role of the Palanca Chapel, if your community has one
- Intercessory prayer support and coverage
- Role of outside community

The primary responsibility of **Palanca** is to offer prayer and sacrifice for the candidates and team. This can be done by:

- Praying for each table community, candidate and Conference Room team member
- Praying for each conference room speaker before, during and after the talk/rollo
- Developing and implementing a weekend prayer vigil
- Blessing and distribution of the personal and general Palanca before its distribution
- Offering various liturgies and worship throughout the weekend which outside community members can also attend to provide additional prayer support for the weekend
- Intercessory prayer for particular issues and needs as they arise throughout the weekend

The Palanca Chapel itself can also serve as a quiet place for Conference Room team members to come away to pray, as needed.

The primary responsibility of the **Palanca Workroom** is to also offer prayer and sacrifice, but in a very practical and more visible style. This can be done by:

- Accepting, sorting and preparing the personal and general Palanca from the community members
- Distributing the Palanca as per the weekend schedule
- Posting general Palanca throughout the weekend
- Preparing for any activities such as the Mañanita and Clausura/closing service
- Setting up small chapels, as needed, for the conference room participants
- Providing meals, meal set-up, facility cleaning, etc. as required

A Joint Team Training Day

Since there is much identical information which is needed by all weekend team members, it may be efficient to have one joint team training day for both Men's and Women's Teams (including team members in the Conference Room, Palanca Chapel, and other) in order to ensure that everyone receives consistent information. This may be offered by the Diocesan Secretariat, or by the weekend Lay Directors and Palanca Directors. Some dioceses have found it helpful for persons with similar responsibilities on the Men's and Women's weekends to connect and share ideas (e.g. a proctor may share ideas, or persons giving the same talk/rollo may compare notes and pray for each other, etc.).

Conclusion

The training of Cursillistas who will be directly supporting the Cursillo weekend through involvement in conference room or Palanca activities is essential. Everyone involved on a Cursillo weekend should be well-informed as to not only what authentic Cursillo is, but what role each team member will offer as they serve. Ephesians 4:4 reminds us that “there is one body and one Spirit”, and although we may have many gifts, we are all one body with Christ. Thus it is with a Cursillo weekend - all work as one body to serve, in order to bring each of them into a closer relationship with Christ.

REFERENCES

CACS Guidelines:

*Weekend Team Selection and
Development*

Respecting Personal Boundaries

The Authentic Cursillo Weekend

The Weekend and the Charismata

Palanca and the Wider Community

***Letter of Agreement, May 15, 1989. (This includes the Licensing Agreement)*

ECM Guidelines:

What is Cursillo?

The Cursillo Path

Build the Path

Lay Talk Workbook

Clergy Talk Workbook