

## *Canadian Anglican Cursillo*



# **CURSILLO AND THE SPONSORSHIP FUNCTION OF THE CLERGY**

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This paper is being presented to help you as clergy in understanding what Cursillo is and in understanding your important role when you are asked to sign sponsorship papers for candidates for Cursillo Weekends.

### **The Purpose of Cursillo**

- Cursillo equips Christians to evangelize the world.
- Cursillo concentrates on the individual in community. Consequently, Cursillo should not be viewed as a Parish program, but rather as a
- movement of the church that enables people to grow in their faith and ministry.
- Cursillo provides and encourages supportive fellowship. Each person is encouraged to maintain and strengthen his or her Parish involvement and to exercise Christian leadership in all facets of his or her life.

### **How Cursillo Works**

- The Cursillo leadership is responsible to the Bishop of each Diocese.
- Cursillo strives to help Christians deepen their faith and to provide a basic method to do so.
- Cursillo encourages Christians to examine their lives (home, work, play) and to change these environments for Christ.

- Cursillo offers supportive encouragement to **all** Christians as they identify and exercise ministry.
- Cursillo is led predominantly by lay people but is dependent upon the support and encouragement of Clergy. A Cursillo weekend is a "short course on Christianity." This includes 15 talks by laity and clergy on the Christian life.
- After the Weekend people are encouraged to meet in small groups on a regular basis. These "Group Reunions" provide support and encouragement. Members share their Christian journey, specifically in the areas of prayer, study and Christian action.
- There are also regular gatherings of the larger Cursillo community (Ultreyas) to which **all** are welcome.

### **Role of clergy**

- Candidates for a Cursillo weekend are sponsored by others involved in the Cursillo movement. You as pastor will be asked to assess the appropriateness of a person attending a Cursillo weekend.
- You may know reasons why a person should not attend a weekend, such as family, medical, or spiritual turmoil, which may be unknown to the sponsor. The Cursillo Weekend is not intended to provide solutions for people presently experiencing serious problems.

*Cursillo and the Sponsorship Function of the Clergy*

- Ideal candidates are mature Christians who are able to influence their environments for Christ.
- Your assessment **is** not just a rubber stamp. If you believe this candidate is suitable to attend a weekend, please sign the application form.
- If you have concerns about a particular candidate, please consult with the Diocesan Spiritual Director of the Cursillo movement