

Canadian Anglican Cursillo



QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS

Responding to Clergy Opposition to Cursillo

All renewal movements in the Church meet with opposition from time to time. Some of the resistance is justified. In some instances opposition arises from misunderstandings or misrepresentation. In other cases personal prejudice against Cursillistas may be the source of disharmony.

When opposition from the clerical leadership of the Church arises, the matter should be presented at a meeting of the Secretariat to discern whether the priest in question should be approached. If the Secretariat decides to proceed the priest should be visited as soon as possible by the Spiritual Director.

After prayer the Spiritual Director should approach the clergyperson to determine whether the opposition has been accurately reported. The Spiritual Director should do so in a spirit of humility, and with a strong determination to listen carefully and sympathetically. The Spiritual Director should be neither autocratic nor timid. He or she should aim at being friendly. As "leadership in Cursillo is understood as influence" the Spiritual Director should be patient, and under no conditions be drawn into an unpleasant argument. He or she should approach the disquieted clergyperson with a "grace mentality" rather than a "legal mentality." Emphasis should be placed on principles rather than on personalities.

Typical problems which cause clergy to refuse to support Cursillo are "Universalism" and "Cursilloism." Universalism is the stance which depicts Cursillo as if it were applicable to all

tasks of the Church and not a specific tool for a specific purpose. Cursilloism sees the church as a tool which can be used to promote Cursillo rather than the opposite. In such instances, or when matters of teaching and doctrine are called into question, the Spiritual Director will provide Cursillo literature to clarify the true purpose of the Cursillo Movement, or he or she may wish to indicate the role of Cursillo in the Bishop's pastoral plan for the Diocese. If deemed advisable, the priest might be invited to attend an Ultreya.

Should the priest express some personal pain which he or she has suffered from Cursillistas who have been insensitive or rude, the Spiritual Director will be open to apologize for any embarrassment or unkindness the priest has experienced. He or she may also wish to reflect on the matter and perhaps return again with another experienced Cursillista to listen and to respond. All avenues leading to reconciliation should be explored.

If the opposition arises from an alleged serious moral offence, the Spiritual Director should discuss it with the priest. If he/she deems it necessary, the Spiritual Director should inform the Bishop.

If the opposition of the priest is motivated by a general dislike of the evangelistic attitude of Cursillo in transforming environments, renewal music, or the small group approach in sharing the faith, or some similar characteristic of Cursillo, the issue may have to be left quietly and confidently in the hands of God through prayer.

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Cursillo has never claimed that it will appeal all Persons.

From beginning to end in these processes it is vitally important to attempt to honestly discern the will of God in prayer, and seek grace to follow His will.