

Canadian Anglican Cursillo
RESPECTING PERSONAL BOUNDARIES



"Show proper respect to everyone, love the fellowship of believers,

(1 Peter 2:17)

There has been concern raised about respecting the "private space" of individuals within the Cursillo Movement and this guideline offers suggestions to all Cursillistas on this vital issue.

Cursillistas are often "enthusiastic" about both the faith and the experience within Cursillo, which may have contributed to a re-awakening of a commitment to both Christ and the church. Sometimes, this enthusiasm bubbles over and may lead to actions and attitudes which may threaten some members of the Cursillo community. Sometimes our desire to "love the fellowship" is seen by some as violations of that individual's personal religious devotion and liturgical practice.

* How do we, as loving and caring members of the Cursillo fellowship, share that joy which is ours in Christ with others while not "crossing the line", especially in the area of personal contact? The issue tends to arise over the matter of hugging and touching. Often at Cursillo events, the congregation is invited or expected to dance together, to hug one another etc. For some this creates an unsafe and uncomfortable space. How do we as brothers and sisters in the Lord, respect the wishes of those for whom such physical

acting out of the joy WE feel, is a hindrance rather than an encouragement?

Before hugging, seek permission from the other, simply asking if you might embrace the other and if they say "No", then **DO NOT IGNORE THE STATED WISH!** Accept the refusal with all the charity which lies within you. Do not make the other feel that somehow they are not being "authentic" simply because they are uncomfortable with others invading the privacy of their space. This also applies when moving to music is involved. If your neighbour seems reluctant to "raise the arms" or join hands during singing or praying, then respect that. Each of us has our own way of worshipping and we, as both Cursillistas and Christians, **MUST** allow each person to engage with God in their own personal way. This cannot be overemphasized since it is for some Cursillistas the issue which will determine whether they remain within the fellowship which is the Cursillo community. How we respect the needs and desires of another within the Movement may affect how that person views the Church and thus, what we do and say, has a wider implication for us than simply attendance at Ultreya's and participating in the life of the Cursillo community.