



Anglican Cursillo® in the Diocese of Oxford



Be a Sponsor

Sponsorship Guidelines and Responsibilities of Sponsors

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Affiliated with the British Anglican Cursillo Council

*In Cursillo, many who have found the treasure of reawakened Love, Prayer and Service often wish others to have the same experience.
The answer is to sponsor someone.*

SPONSORSHIP is a *loving, prayerful responsibility*. Sponsorship requires *time* and should never be undertaken lightly or simply to 'make up numbers'.

SPONSORS should have completed a Cursillo weekend and be taking an active part in the Fourth Day. Members of a congregation should ideally only be sponsored for Cursillo if their priest/clergy team member is attending, or has attended, a Cursillo weekend. In any case, they should be involved in the decision to sponsor a participant

CURSILLO is for members of congregations, over 21 years of age, with a firm Christian commitment, who are looking for renewal and growth in their lives and seeking a deeper personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In the words of the founders: "***Cursillo is for baptised Christians, who are reasonably stable and mature, with a desire for God's love, and a longing to be set on fire with a zeal to do His work in the church and the world***".

SPONSORSHIP must take into account the *purpose* of Cursillo. Sponsors should be seeking participants who can influence their *environments*; and who will find in Cursillo a method of support for their Christian witness and *apostolic action* in the places where they live and work.

THE WEEKEND is NOT the place for anyone with serious emotional or marital problems. In these circumstances the best action is to provide prayer and practical support. This does not preclude sponsorship at some future date.

SPONSORS should encourage couples to attend a weekend together as Cursillo is an experience to be shared. However, this will depend upon individual circumstances and is also a matter of personal preference. The decision should be left to the couple concerned.

SPONSORS should not normally sponsor more than two people per weekend as sponsorship involves a great deal of time and effort.

SPONSORING and SERVING ON TEAM for the same Cursillo is to be discouraged, but when the situation arises a *Co-sponsor* should be chosen and notified to the registrars for inclusion in the weekend lists. During the Cursillo weekend the co-sponsor assumes responsibility for the participant, which leaves the sponsor free to concentrate on being a member of the team serving everybody on that weekend.

Sponsorship begins before the weekend, and continues after it has finished

These guidelines should be used in association with any sponsorship guidelines issued by the Diocese for whose Cursillo weekend a participant is to be sponsored

BEING A SPONSOR

No one should sponsor a candidate unless they are also prepared to welcome that person back into Group Reunion, Ultreyas, and all the activities of the Fourth Day.

Having read the Guidelines, here is what to do.

Pre-weekend:

- Do... pray continually for the person or couple you have in mind. Hold them before Christ as you discuss their sponsorship with a clergy-team member, who should ideally be a Cursillista, and as you make the invitation.
- Do... encourage them to talk it over, and to read about Cursillo.
- Do... give honest answers to all their questions. Cursillo has no "secrets" but try to reply in a way that will not spoil the surprise elements.
- Do... leave them free to decline, or to defer participation until a later weekend, without making them feel guilty.
- Do... help them to complete the application form. Make sure that any special needs are noted, and that the form meets the registration requirements of the Diocese concerned. It is a nice gesture if you can pay the booking-fee for your participant.
- Do... be with them occasionally as the weekend approaches. Problems such as work leave, church duties, finances, child care are there to be solved. Talking helps thinking, and thinking often provides resolution.
- Do... provide as much information as you have about the venue, and make all necessary arrangements for the journey.

During the weekend:

- Do prepare your *palanca* - your prayer, your message, your little gift - well in advance. Keep it simple, sincere and happy.
- Do consider making a special *act of piety* such as walking the *Stations of the Cross* on the Thursday evening, or a special fast or eucharist.
- Do make a special effort to be there at Wake-up on the Sunday morning (share lifts with other Cursillistas). Wake up your participant if at all possible as this can be a joyful and unforgettable moment.
- Do support them in the time after Wake-up in a gentle, caring manner.
- Do attend the Closing Eucharist (*Clausura*) on the Sunday afternoon. This is especially important as you are the link between your participant and the Fourth Day Community.
- Do take care that arrangements are in hand for the journey home and attend to any other concerns they may have.

After the weekend:

- Do phone them or arrange a 'natural' visit on a day soon after the weekend with perhaps a little *palanca* note during the week. Keep it simple.
- Do listen as they share *their* story of the weekend, and *their* special moments - without too much 'me too!' This has been *their* introduction to the Cursillo Community. (This could be a good time to remind them gently of the need to respect confidences within Cursillo).
- Do let them see that life in the Fourth Day continues in the *group reunion*. Incorporate them into your group, or help in setting up a new group. Accompany them to 'welcome-home' activities and to an *ultreya* as soon as possible after the weekend.
- Do make sure they are familiar with the format and comfortable with what is going on. Encourage them to make a note of future Cursillo dates, especially their 'Welcome Home'.

The Cursillo Weekend comes as a gift of love to the Church and the individuals who attend. The funding varies from Diocese to Diocese but is often subsidised by the Cursillo community. Some may wish to make a conscientious contribution on behalf of their participant but there is no obligation to do this.

Prayer for the Participant

O God, the Creator and Saviour of all flesh, look with mercy on your servant _____ whom you call to yourself in love. Cleanse their heart and guard them as they prepare to attend a Cursillo weekend that, led by your Holy Spirit, they may be united with your Son and enter into the inheritance of all your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. AMEN

Prayer for Cursillo

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel for this Cursillo, and for its work in the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach them in all things to seek first your honour and glory; guide them to perceive what is right; and grant them both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. AMEN