

**SCHOOL OF LEADERS- MARCH 14, 2009 – CULLMAN**

**APRIL 18, 2009 - HUNTSVILLE**

**SPONSORING CANDIDATES FOR THE CURSILLO WEEKEND.**

SPONSORING CANDIDATES IS ONE OF THE MAIN ASPECTS OF THE PRE-CURSILLO AND THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR THAT CONTRIBUTES TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CURSILLO WEEKEND AND TO THE EVANGELIZING MISSION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. THERE ARE THREE PHASES TO THE SPONSORING PROCEDURE:

- PRE - CURSILLO
- CURSILLO
- POST CURSILLO

TODAY, I WILL BE REVIEWING WITH YOU THE IMPORTANCE OF THE

- SPONSORING PROCEDURE IN PRE - CURSILLO. THE FUNDAMENTAL
- IDEAS OF THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT STATE THAT, IN THE PRE-
- CURSILLO STAGE, OUR MOVEMENT INITIATES THE EVANGELIZING
- PROCESS THAT IT MUST COMPLETE IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH ITS
- PURPOSE. THE PRE-CURSILLO CONSISTS OF THESE STEPS.

1. SEARCHING, SELECTING AND PREPARING POTENTIAL  
CANDIDATES FOR THE WEEKEND

2. CAREFULLY PREPARING FOR THE WEEKEND BY COORDINATING ALL THE SPIRITUAL, PERSONAL AND MATERIAL ELEMENTS INVOLVED.

3. MAKING PLANS TO ACCOMPANY THE NEW CURSILISTA IN THE POST-CURSILLO TO HELP THEM MATURE IN THEIR FAITH, DEEPEN THEIR CHRISTIAN COMMITMENT THROUGH THEIR GROUP REUNION AND ULTREYA AND TO TAKE THEIR APOSTOLIC PLACE IN THE WORLD.

EDUARDO BONNIN, OUR FOUNDING FATHER, FOCUSED ON THE PERSON, BUT NOT ON THE ENVIRONMENT. HE CONTINUALLY REMINDS US TO FOCUS ON CONVERTING OURSELVES AND OTHERS, AND CONSEQUENTLY, THE ENVIRONMENTS WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY AND NATURALLY TRANSFORMED.

IN HIS BOOK, "WHOM SHALL I SEND?" FATHER FRANK SALMANI REMINDS US THAT JESUS COMMANDS HIS DISCIPLES TO GO OUT AND TO NOT ONLY SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS, BUT TO LITERALLY RECRUIT OTHERS TO CONTINUE TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE. TO FIND OTHER DISCIPLES OF THE GOSPEL WHO WOULD CONTINUE THE WORK OF THE FIRST APOSTLES.

AT THE SAME TIME, JESUS DOES NOT ASK EVERYONE TO EMBRACE THE SAME CALL. HE CALLS ALL TO ACCEPT THE GOSPEL, BUT HE CALLS CERTAIN PEOPLE TO BE LEADERS TO HELP OTHERS ACCEPT THE CALL. IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO JUST BE FOLLOWERS.

SOME ARE CALLED TO LEADERSHIP, WHILE ALL ARE CALLED TO ACCEPT THE GOSPEL IN THEIR LIVES AND BE BAPTIZED. OTHERS ARE SET APART TO BE TEACHERS, TO SET THE TONE FOR OTHERS AND HELP LEAD THE WAY BY MEANS OF WITNESS OF LIFE AND A DEDICATION TO DOING THE LORD'S WORK.

IN ADDITION TO A PRAYERFUL AND APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY AS A WITNESS TO THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE, THERE IS A GREAT NEED FOR THE PERSONAL INFLUENCE AND CONTACT WHICH THE CURSILLISTA HAS WITH THOSE WHOM HE WISHES TO INVITE TO MAKE A CURSILLO.

CANDIDATE SELECTION AND PREPARATION FOR THE WEEKEND IS VERY IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY. THE LEADERS' MANUAL STATES THAT THERE IS NO BETTER PREPARATION AND ATTRACTION FOR THE CANDIDATES THAN A PERSONAL AND AUTHENTIC WITNESS OF OUR FOURTH DAY.

SUCH PREPARATION SHOULD BE DONE BY MEANS OF A SINCERE FRIENDSHIP ESTABLISHED THROUGH PERSONAL CONTACT. THEREFORE, SPONSORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE THEIR CANDIDATES WITH THE NECESSARY INFORMATION ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT AND THE BOOKLET, "CURSILLO MOVEMENT: WHAT IS IT?" (HOLD UP PINK BOOKLET)

THE SECRETARIAT HAS ESTABLISHED SEVERAL CRITERIA REQUIRED FOR BEING A SPONSOR:

1. THE SPONSOR SHOULD BE SOMEONE WHO KNOWS, AT LEAST IN A GENERAL WAY, THE MENTALITY AND PURPOSE OF THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT AND BE SOMEONE WHO IS LIVING THE MOVEMENT.

SPONSOR NEEDS TO GIVE AN AUTHENTIC WITNESS OF ONE'S CHRISTIAN LIFE, THAT IS, TO LIVE THE MESSAGE BEING PROCLAIMED.

THIS MEANS WEEKLY GROUPING, MONTHLY ULTREYAS –

- AT LEAST 5 IN A 12 MONTH PERIOD, AND ATTENDING SCHOOL OF LEADERS REGULARLY.
- IF YOU AS A SPONSOR ARE NOT LIVING THE MOVEMENT, HOW CAN WE EXPECT YOUR CANDIDATE TO LIVE THE MOVEMENT? IF YOU

ARE NOT CURRENTLY ACTIVE IN THE MOVEMENT, DO YOUR CANDIDATE A FAVOR, FIND A CO-SPONSOR OR BETTER STILL, PROVIDE YOUR CANDIDATE WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN THE TOOLS OF THE FOURTH DAY, HAVE AN ACTIVE CURSILLISTA SPONSOR YOUR CANDIDATE. TO DO OTHERWISE IS A SELFISH ACT, BECAUSE IT

DENIES YOUR CANDIDATE EXPOSURE TO GROUP REUNION, ULTREYA AND PARTICIPATION IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY THAT YOU HAVE LEFT BEHIND. IT IS LIKE GIVING SOMEONE A BRAND NEW CAR BUT NOT THE KEYS THAT GO WITH IT.

WE HAVE ALL EXPERIENCED TIMES IN OUR LIVES WHEN THINGS GET TO BE TOO MUCH AND WE “DROP OUT” OF OUR INVOLVEMENT WITH SOME THINGS IN OUR LIVES SO THAT WE CAN CATCH OUT BREATH; OR

PERHAPS FAMILY OBLIGATIONS, SERIOUS ILLNESS OR OTHER LIFE MOMENTS DERAILED US TEMPORARILY. THAT IS UNDERSTANDABLE AND PART OF LIFE; HOWEVER, WE DON'T WANT OUR LACK TO INFLUENCE THE CANDIDATE NEGATIVELY. REMEMBER, YOUR ACTIONS SPEAK MUCH LOUDER THAN ANY WORDS. IF YOU ARE NOT LIVING THE MOVEMENT, CHANCES ARE YOUR CANDIDATE WON'T EITHER.

2. THE SPONSOR MUST READ THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT'S SPONSOR'S BOOKLET. (HOLD UP BLUE BOOKLET)

3. AS A SPONSOR, YOU MUST KNOW THE CANDIDATE AND PRAY FOR DIRECTION FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT: SPEAK TO GOD ABOUT THE CANDIDATE BEFORE SPEAKING TO THE CANDIDATE ABOUT GOD.

4. SPONSORS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO TELL THEIR PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED OF THEM AFTER THEIR WEEKEND; GROUP REUNION AND ULTREYA WHICH WILL HELP THEM PERSEVERE IN THEIR CONVERSION PROCESS AND MOTIVATE THEM TO LIVE WHAT IS FUNDAMENTAL FOR BEING A CHRISTIAN. YOU MIGHT EVEN WANT TO INVITE YOUR CANDIDATE TO AN ULTREYA SO THAT THEY CAN SEE WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT BEFORE THEY MAKE THEIR WEEKEND. LET'S CLARIFY THAT... THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE INVITE EVERYONE WE KNOW TO ULTREYA! THIS MEANS THAT IF THERE

IS A CANDIDATE OR SOMEONE WHO IS NOT SURE ABOUT BEING A CANDIDATE AND YOU AS THEIR SPONSOR FELT THEY WOULD BENEFIT FROM SEEING WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT BY ALL MEANS, INVITE THEM TO ULTREYA

**CANDIDATES:**

NOW LET US TALK ABOUT CANDIDATE SELECTION.

THE CHRISTIANIZATION OF ENVIRONMENTS DEPENDS TO A GREAT EXTENT ON THE PROPER SELECTION OF CANDIDATES. FOR THIS REASON THE SELECTION OF CANDIDATES IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE. THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTION MUST ALWAYS BE BASED ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CANDIDATE AS THE LEAVEN OF HIS/HER ENVIRONMENT AND CIRCUMSTANCES. THE 3-DAY CURSILLOS ARE FOR PEOPLE OF ALL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LEVELS. THIS VARIETY OF BACKGROUNDS IS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT.

SINCE THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A BETTER PERSON SHOULD ATTEND THE CURSILLO, IT IS NECESSARY THAT THEY SEE THE MOVEMENT AS A MEANS FOR ATTAINING THEIR DESIRES. IN THIS WAY, THEY WILL BE CURSILLISTATS BY DESIRE BEFORE ATTENDING. THEREFORE, RECRUITING CANDIDATES THROUGH ADVERTISEMENTS OF THE CURSILLO WEEKEND ON PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWSLETTERS ARE SERIOUSLY DISCOURAGED.

QUITE A FEW CURSILLISTAS ARE CONVINCED THAT THE PRE-CURSILLO IS TO SIMPLY GET PEOPLE TO ATTEND A WEEKEND AND LEAVE IT TO THE HOLY SPIRIT TO DO THE REST. SOME CONSIDER THE CURSILLO AS A CURE-ALL AND THEREFORE THEY WHOLEHEARTEDLY SIGN UP THEIR SO-CALLED “LUKEWARM” RELATIVES AND FRIENDS WITH “SPIRITUAL” PROBLEMS. THE LEADERS’ MANUAL RECOMMENDS THAT THE CURSILLO CANDIDATES SHOULD BE CAPABLE OF:

1. BEING OPEN TO DISCERN AND TO UNDERSTAND THE GOSPEL MESSAGE.
2. BEING COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO THE LOVE OF GOD, OF THEMSELVES AND OF THEIR NEIGHBORS.
3. DISCOVERING THEIR TALENTS AND POTENTIALS WITH A VIEW TOWARDS SERVING THE COMMUNITY.
4. HAVING CLEAN OR CLEANSABLE CIRCUMSTANCES.
5. LIVING THE GRACE THROUGH THE HOLY SACRAMENTS THEY RECEIVE; AND
6. HAVING AN ATTITUDE OF PROGRESSIVE CONVERSION.

PRUDENCE AND CHARITY ASK THAT WE NOT BRING TO THE CURSILLO THOSE WHO WOULD NOT BENEFIT FROM IT OR THOSE WHO HAVE PROBLEMS FOR WHICH THE CURSILLO COULD PROVIDE NO SOLUTIONS. SUCH INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE PSYCHOLOGICAL OR

EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS; THOSE WHO ARE OF ABNORMAL SITUATIONS DUE TO ILLNESS OR VICE; THOSE WHOSE MORAL LIVES ARE SO DISORIENTED THAT THEY ARE INCAPABLE OF UNDERSTANDING THE MESSAGE OR OF LIVING THE CURSILLO; THOSE WHO DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES, CANNOT RECEIVE THE SACRAMENTS, ESPECIALLY THE SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST, BECAUSE THEIR LIFE IS CONTRARY TO THE LIFE OF GRACE AND THE CURSILLO IS CENTERED IN THE EUCHARIST WHERE ONE EXPERIENCES THE LIFE OF GRACE, AND EVIDENTLY THOSE WITH A NEGATIVE OR PESSIMISTIC ATTITUDE.

THE SUITABLE CANDIDATE, BESIDES BEING A BAPTIZED CATHOLIC, MUST HAVE A "CERTAIN PERSONALITY" CAPABLE OF MAKING THEIR OWN DECISIONS FROM THEIR OWN MOTIVES OF MOVING OTHERS WITH THEIR OPINIONS OF GIVING IMPETUS TO OTHERS BY THEIR ACTIONS. MUST BE CAPABLE OF ACTING FREELY AND LOVINGLY AND IN OTHER WORDS OF BECOMING SALT, LIGHT AND LEAVEN THROUGH CHRISTIAN CORE GROUPS' SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

### **POST-CURSILLO**

THE FUNDAMENTAL IDEAS BOOK STATES: "IT IS INDISPENSABLE TO GIVE THE CANDIDATES AN ADEQUATE PREPARATION SO THAT THEY CAN GET THE MOST FROM THE CURSILLO EXPERIENCE; SUCH A

PREPARATION WILL ALSO FACILITATE THEIR ENTRY INTO  
A GROUP, OR A COMMUNITY DURING THE TIME OF THE  
POST CURSILLO.

THE SPONSOR HAS ALSO TO ENSURE THAT THE CANDIDATE HAS  
TRANSPORTATION TO THE WEEKEND .

OR BETTER,

THE SPONSOR SHOULD DRIVE THE CANDIDATE TO THE  
WEEKEND.

DURING THE WEEKEND, THE ROLE OF THE SPONSOR IS ALSO TO PRAY,  
PRAY AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.

THE SPONSOR SHOULD ALSO HELP WITH ANY OF THE CANDIDATE'S  
THINGS THAT NEED ATTENDING AND .MOST IMPORTANT

#### **BE AT CLOSURA**

IF YOU KNOW THAT YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO ATTEND CLOSURA,  
MAKE THE NECESSARY TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR  
CANDIDATE TO RETURN HOME.

THE SPONSORS' RESPONSIBILITIES SHOULD NOT STOP AS SOON AS  
THEIR CANDIDATES ENTER THE WEEKEND, BUT THEY MUST DEFINITELY  
CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE FOURTH DAY OF BOTH THE SPONSOR  
AND THE NEW CURSILLISTA IN PRAYERS AND IN ACTIONS.

THE SPONSOR MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PERSEVERANCE  
OF THE CANDIDATE UNTIL HE/SHE IS FULLY INCORPORATED INTO  
HIS/HER OWN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.

IT IS IMPERATIVE TO PREPARE THE CANDIDATE WITH A VIEW TOWARD

POST CURSILLO. REMEMBER, THERE IS NO BETTER PREPARATION AND ATTRACTION FOR THE CANDIDATES THAN A PERSONAL AND AUTHENTIC WITNESS OF OUR FOURTH DAY.

AGAIN, THIS IS WHY IT IS **NOT** RECOMMENDED TO SPONSOR MORE THAN ONE OR TWO CANDIDATES.

THIS IS NOT A CONTEST OF WHO IS SPONSORING THE MOST.

THE SPONSORS THEMSELVES SHOULD HELP THE NEW CURSILLISTAS FORM OR FIND A CONVENIENT GROUP.

IF POSSIBLE, THE SPONSORS' GROUP; AND REGULARLY ACCOMPANY THEM TO ULTREYA, YOU CAN SEE THAT IF YOU HAVE SPONSORED TO MANY CANDIDATES, THIS IS QUITE DIFFICULT TO DO.

WE DO NOT FIND TOTAL SECURITY BY ATTENDING GROUP REUNION AND ULTREYA.

WE FIND TOTAL SECURITY BY COMING TO UNDERSTAND THAT GOD'S LOVE IS UNCONDITIONAL.

THERE IS NOTHING THAT CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD FOUND IN CHRIST JESUS. TOTAL SECURITY IN THIS CONTEXT DOES NOT MEAN THAT LIFE IS NOW FREE OF WORRIES AND PROBLEMS.

IT SIMPLY MEANS THAT IN FINDING FRIENDSHIP WITH CHRIST, WE COME TO UNDERSTAND HOW GOD LOVES US.

IT IS GROUP REUNION AND ULTREYA THAT GIVE US SUPPORT AND HELP US TO CONTINUE THE PROCESS OF CONVERSION IN WHICH WE

DEEPEN OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH CHRIST, BECOMING MORE AND MORE  
 CONVINCED OF GOD'S LOVE –  
 WHICH IS WHERE WE FIND TOTAL SECURITY.

JESUS' DISCIPLES LIVED WITH HIM AND SAW HIM EVERY DAY, BUT  
 THEY STILL INSISTED THEY WANTED TO SEE GOD THE FATHER. WE  
 OURSELVES SAW NEITHER JESUS NOR THE FATHER!

**HOW CAN OUR FAITH SURVIVE SO FAR?**

TRULY, FAITH IS A VALUABLE GIFT FROM GOD THAT WE MUST  
 DEARLY TREASURE.

THE CANDIDATES FOR THE CURSILLO WEEKEND  
 MAY ASK US TO SHOW JESUS TO THEM.

**WHAT CAN WE TELL THEM?**

JESUS SAYS HE IS IN THE FATHER AND THE FATHER IS IN HIM.  
 WHEN PEOPLE WANT TO SEE JESUS, *IS EACH ONE OF US READY TO  
 SAY: "I AM IN JESUS AND JESUS IS IN ME?"*

HONESTLY, I CANNOT AND I FEEL CERTAIN THAT I AM NOT  
 ALONE IN FAILING TO MEET THAT CHALLENGE YET.

IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO SEND SOMEONE TO THE CURSILLO WEEKEND  
 AND EXPECT THE TEAM TO WORK MIRACLES.

THE NEW CURSILLISTAS NEED AS MUCH PERSONAL CONTACT AFTER  
 THE CURSILLO WEEKEND AS THEY RECEIVED BEFORE AND DURING THE  
 WEEKEND. PROBABLY EVEN MORE!!

WE MUST MAKE A CONSCIENTIOUS EFFORT TO INSURE THAT WE DO ALL THAT CAN BE DONE TO INSERT THEM INTO GROUP REUNION AND ULTREYA.

IT IS ALSO ENCOURAGED FOR THE SPONSORS TO ATTEND SCHOOL OF LEADERS IN ADDITION TO THEIR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN GROUP REUNION AND FREQUENT ATTENDANCE AT ULTREYA.

SOMEONE HAS SAID, *THAT THE WORST ENEMIES OF A MOVEMENT ARE THOSE WHO BECOME ITS PROMOTERS WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING ITS MENTALITY.*

IN CONCLUSION, JESUS' COMMAND, **"GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS"** MUST BE A NATURAL OUTCOME OF OUR CURSILLO.