



**EPISCOPAL  
CURSILLO  
MINISTRY**

# Living the Fourth Day Path ~

*A Gathering for Deeper Understanding*

**RELATIONSHIP • EVANGELISM • RECONCILIATION**

## LIVING THE FOURTH DAY

### A GATHERING FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING

It is not uncommon for people to have questions about Cursillo even if they have just attended a Weekend. In the excitement of the last Weekend hours and the joys of the experience, it is to be expected that some important information will not be heard or absorbed. Gaps and questions remain for everyone.

This “Living the Fourth Day”<sup>\*</sup> presentation is meant to be a post-Weekend opportunity to answer questions and fill those gaps. Its purpose is to provide Cursillistas with a deeper understanding of Cursillo beyond the Weekend experience. The intent of the gathering is to reinforce the message that:

**Cursillo is centrally focused on the Fourth Day, not the Weekend.**

The Fourth Day is the model for the rest of our lives that includes a method for Christian growth. The message for this event is that Cursillo begins with the Weekend and continues forward by living a victorious Fourth Day for Christ. Besides those who have just attended a Weekend, sponsors and team members are especially encouraged to attend. This gathering is always open to the Cursillo Community at large and they should be encouraged to attend.

The plan for the L4D is to address the common need to understand more about Cursillo and provide a special focus on the tools of the Fourth Day as expressed in the Cursillo Method. A suggested one-day structure is given, but the leadership of a Ministry should tailor the program to meet the needs of their community.

*\* Each Cursillo diocese may have a different name for this presentation. Whatever name works best for the community is completely acceptable. For brevity's sake, it will be referred to as the L4D in this booklet.*

### HOW THE L4D ACHIEVES ITS PURPOSE

Cursillo is built on a Strategy of structuring the Christian life and provides a Method to assist Cursillistas in living their Fourth Day. The L4D seeks to achieve these specific goals:

#### 1. BUILD COMMUNITY

- The participants are encouraged to sit in table groups or a circle to provide a comfortable format for discussion questions and responses in a relaxed atmosphere.

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*(Replaces “A Day of Deeper Understanding” #5 - 2008)*

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### THE FOURTH DAY

***Cursillo exists to provide Christian apostles with the tools to strengthen their Christian life and witness. It is through the Fourth Day that the Cursillo Method is lived and experienced. And, it is the Fourth Day that makes Cursillo unique. The Fourth Day is where Christians participate in the Jesus Movement.***

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- Cursillistas are generally still excited by what they learned and experienced at the Weekend and are eager to listen, learn, and share.
- Cursillistas reconnect with others from the Weekend and continue building relationships.
- The intention is to keep people involved and interested as well as to build a sense of the larger Fourth Day Community.

## 2. CLARIFY MISUNDERSTANDINGS

- The L4D fills in gaps in the understanding of the candidates who often miss or forget information presented during the original Weekend.
- Reinforces the emphasis is on the Fourth Day as central to our Christian lives.
- Explains education is the key to formation and commitment.

## 3. BUILD FUTURE LEADERS

- The effective **Strategy and Method** of Cursillo are reintroduced during the L4D. The **Strategy** explains the three components of Cursillo: The Pre-Cursillo, the Weekend and the Fourth Day. The **Method** consists of: Group Reunion, Ultreya, Spiritual Direction and a Rule of Life. All aspects of the Cursillo method are the foundation on which we continue to live out the Fourth Day.
- The role of the Ministry in the Church is addressed. L4D reminds participants that Cursillo is not separate and apart from the Church, but exists as an instrument of the Church.
- Participants are encouraged to live a fuller life, embracing their Baptismal Vows as Christians by witness and ministry to others.

## 4. INTRODUCE CURSILLO'S HERITAGE

- The story of the Cursillo heritage is often related in order to make the connection from the past to the present. New Cursillistas are often awed at the discovery that Cursillo has such a powerful heritage and that its history is still being written by active Cursillistas. They learn that the Ministry itself was not just a well worked out human product, but rather a story of how God initially taught a group of men to work for God's Kingdom in an effective way — a way that bears fruit.
- Cursillo was formed by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit working in individuals who had dedicated themselves to the mission of bringing others to Christ. The L4D deepens the understanding of how to accomplish this mission.

# PLANNING THE L4D

## 1. SCHEDULE THE EVENT

The local Cursillo Secretariat, with the help of the Servant Community leaders, is responsible for scheduling the L4D with the approval of the Diocesan Bishop. The Secretariat needs to notify their Cursillo community of the date of the event several months in advance. In some communities, the Servant Community may take the lead in planning the event, but the Secretariat should always be kept fully informed of any plans. Ideally, it should be scheduled within four to six weeks after the Weekend.

## 2. FORM A TEAM

The selection of a presentation team is primary to the success of the L4D. The most important element to the success of any Cursillo program is the quality of the community members leading the event. In many dioceses, the selection of the team is the responsibility of the Fourth Day or Servant Community Chairperson under the direction of the Secretariat. It may be that those designated leaders choose only the Team Leader who, in turn, chooses the team. The Team Leader should be well versed in the Cursillo Ministry, an active leader in the community and preferably has attended an ECLW. In some dioceses, the L4D Team Leader is the Weekend Assistant to the Rector who therefore knows the majority of the new Cursillistas.

## 3. TEAM MEMBERS' AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Team Leader**
  - Selects the location of the L4D in consultation with the Secretariat.
  - Forms the team to implement the L4D and schedules meetings of the team — as necessary.
  - Informs all team members of the planning and implementation of the L4D.
  - Selects coordinators and serves as timekeeper for the L4D or appoints a timekeeper.
  - Assigns individuals to give the talks in cooperation with the Spiritual Advisor for the L4D.
  - Serves as a resource person and provides guidance to the coordinators and presenters.

- Selects discussion leaders--uses the team members from the recent Weekend and other *experienced* Cursillo leaders if needed.
- Welcomes the participants to the L4D, introduces the flow of the L4D, introduces himself/herself, has the team introduce themselves and encourages attendees to introduce themselves.
- Prepares a brief Evaluation Form for the participants to fill out at the end of the program.
- Prepares a summary of the L4D for the Secretariat and Servant Community synthesizing the comments and evaluations by the attendees and adding his/her own observations.
- **Spiritual Advisor**
  - Assists and supports all team members.
  - Delivers clergy talks as requested and the Gospel response at Ultreya.
  - Plans all worship services with the help of lay leadership.
  - Is available for spiritual direction.
- **Publicity Coordinator**
  - Develops and shares announcements for the L4D with recent Weekend attendees, the Cursillo Community, and diocesan parishes.
  - Posts announcements on diocesan and Cursillo social media sites.
  - May be person serving as ongoing Communications Coordinator for the Servant Community.
- **Registrar/Treasurer**
  - Keeps a current roster of the attendees and sends registration confirmation, as needed.
  - Provides a sign-in roster for use as people arrive.
  - Offers blank name tags for those who forget their Cursillo name tag.
  - Provides a cash box with money for change for those paying late (if fees are charged).
  - Arranges for childcare if necessary – keeps in communication with the Session Coordinator regarding these requests.
- **Session Coordinator**
  - Assigns Lay Witness and Responders for the Ultreya portion of the L4D.
  - Prints, collects, and/or distributes handouts required for Ultreya or other talks.
  - Assures that talk outlines are available for the speakers.
  - Prepares the packets for participants and team members. A copy of the design and printed materials for the packet should be sent to the Team Leader for review.
- **Housekeeping Coordinator**
  - Organizes and recruits a housekeeping team.
  - Prepares the meeting room with tables, chairs, lectern, microphone, paper supplies and any requested needs.
  - Assures that the facility is clean.
- **Food Coordinator**
  - Plans menu for lunch or other meal or snack service.
  - Recruits donors for snack and meal food items.
  - Recruits volunteers for receiving and serving food.
  - Recruits volunteers for on-site meal preparation (if needed) and clean-up
  - Oversees any on-site preparation of food and final clean-up.
- **Music Coordinator**
  - Recruits musicians.
  - Selects the music in consultation with the Team Leader and Spiritual Advisor.
- **Housing Coordinator** *(for 2-day events)*
  - Arranges for housing if overnight accommodations are necessary.
- **Topic Presenter**
  - Prepares a presentation that follows the summary of the topic and adds personal experience as appropriate.
  - Selects appropriate handouts for the topic.
- **Discussion Facilitator**
  - Sits with attendees and insures that each attendee has an opportunity to participate and has their questions answered.

***Keep in mind that team member positions and their numbers may be adjusted as appropriate for each diocese. For small communities, the event may be produced with a smaller number of volunteers taking on several roles. But, dividing the tasks among as many people as available will promote involvement and enhance overall commitment.***

## THE PRESENTATIONS

There are six topics that experience has shown to be important to share with Cursillo Community members. They provide valuable insight to both new and long-term Cursillistas. Each local Ministry may wish to add or substitute other talks that address areas of local concern and need, such as the topic of “The Servant Community”. The suggested order of the topics and their titles of presentations may be changed. As appropriate some topics may also be combined.

## PRESENTATION FORMATS

The topics may be presented by individuals or a panel of Cursillistas. The team and its leaders should be open to the workings of the Holy Spirit as the community reflects on the talks. A few minutes of additional discussion may be needed to deepen the participants’ understanding of the topic. Keep in mind that the L4D is about a deeper understanding of the Cursillo Ministry and the Fourth Day.

The talk assignments are at the discretion of the Team Leader with advice from the Spiritual Advisor. When selecting people for the talks, make sure that they are living the Fourth Day and are active leaders who are knowledgeable regarding the subject they are presenting.

### PRESENTATION GUIDELINES:

- Talks should be limited to 15 minutes.
- Each talk is followed by table discussion. If the group is small, a general discussion would be an appropriate alternative.
- These talks should not be known as “Rollos” or the speakers referred to as “Rollistas.” English terms are preferable.

**Remember, we are beyond the Weekend now!**

## THE CONTENT OF THE TALKS

### ○ The First Topic: THE INSTRUCTIONAL ULTREYA

This talk introduces the basic Ultreya in detail in addition to having Cursillistas experience an Ultreya. The Floating Group reunion, the lay witness talk, and the responses essential for an Ultreya are explained and demonstrated. The format presented here may also be used as an instructed Ultreya for geographic or parish Ultreyas.

*See the ECM booklet entitled “Ultreya.” \**

### ○ The Second Topic: THE ROLE AND STRUCTURE OF THE MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH

This talk should be given by the Bishop of the diocese or the Spiritual Advisor for the Cursillo Ministry in the diocese. If neither of these persons is available, the talk may be given by the L4D Spiritual Advisor or a clergy person active in Cursillo. If no clergy person is available, a lay person immersed in the subject, using the provided outline, can give the talk. This talk helps the participant understand that Cursillo is a Ministry of the whole Church and that its purpose is identical to the purpose of the Church. The talk should introduce the Pastoral Plan for the Ministry in the diocese. The talk also includes a discussion of the structure and purpose of the Secretariat, the General Council, the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry Committee, and the Servant Community.

*See ECM booklets: “What is Cursillo?”, “Secretariat”, “Pastoral Plan”, “and Servant Community” \**

### ○ The Third Topic: THE WEEKEND

This is a talk given by a layperson. The purpose of this talk is to explain why Cursillo uses the format of the Weekend and the place of the Weekend in the total structure of the Ministry. The goals and purposes of each of the days should be explained as well as how the various Rollos and meditations contribute to the goals and purposes of the Weekend.

*This talk should include the handout, “The Flow of the Episcopal Cursillo Weekend.” \**

### ○ The Fourth Topic: THE 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY: THE GROUP REUNION, ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP REUNION, RULE OF LIFE AND SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

This lay or clergy talk repeats some of the content of the Group Reunion talk on the Weekend. The major emphasis is on helping people understand the importance of the Group Reunion to the Christian life. This talk encourages everyone to become a member of a group reunion. The presenter should also encourage each person to follow a personal rule of life and seek spiritual direction. The talk introduces environmental group reunions as a means of reaching out into specific environments. Environmental group reunions include persons sharing an environment who meet together in Christ to encourage, support, and witness in that environment (i.e. workplace). If anyone is not in a reunion group, some assistance may be provided to help them get into a group.

*As a reference, see ECM booklets: “Group Reunion”, “Spiritual Direction” and the Group Reunion and Rule of Life cards. \**

**\* All reference materials may be downloaded from the ECM website [episcopalcursilloministry.com](http://episcopalcursilloministry.com).**

○ **The Fifth Topic: PERSONAL CONTACT TECHNIQUE**

This lay talk emphasizes that effective apostolic action is a planned, intentional act which takes place one-on-one in a context of prayer, sensitivity, and Christian love for the other person. An experienced Cursillista or panel of Cursillistas should be asked to share their experiences with successfully “making a friend, being a friend, and bringing a friend to Christ.”

○ **The Sixth Topic: SPONSORSHIP**

The purpose of this lay talk is to develop effective and responsible sponsorship practices in the local community by laying out the ideal approach to sponsorship. Sponsorship does not end with the Weekend but continues throughout life. Another emphasis should be how quality sponsorship affects the effectiveness of the Cursillo Ministry in the diocese and in the greater Church. Experienced Cursillistas can share their successful experiences with sponsorship.

## **SUGGESTED PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

The program schedule that follows should be viewed as a suggested format only. The program can be adjusted to the needs of the local community and the dynamics of the particular day as it unfolds. The talks are arranged and scheduled in a manner that allows them to build upon each other.

A single day program is presented. However, if a community has a location or host homes available to allow an overnight stay, the format can easily be divided into an evening and next day presentation. The distances traveled to attend the event may also dictate an overnight stay.

### ***ONE-DAY “LIVING THE FOURTH DAY” SCHEDULE:***

- 8:00 am Registration, Coffee, Fellowship and Music**
- 8:30 am Morning Prayer**
- 9:00 am Opening Remarks/Housekeeping details, etc.**
- 9:10 am First Topic on Instructed Ultreya –  
Presentation includes holding an actual Ultreya**

*(If an evening and day schedule is preferable, the program may be divided at this point with times adjusted as required.)*

- 10:10 am Break**
- 10:20 am Second Topic**
- 10:35 am Table discussion/General discussion**
- 10:50 am Third Topic**
- 11:05 am Table discussion/General discussion**
- 11:20 am Break**
- 11:30 am Noonday Prayer**
- 11:40 am Lunch**
- 12:20 pm Fourth Topic**
- 12:35 pm Table discussion/General discussion**
- 12:50 pm Fifth Topic**
- 1:05 pm Table discussion/General discussion**
- 1:20 pm Break**
- 1:30 pm Sixth Topic**
- 1:45 pm Table discussion/General discussion**
- 2:00 pm Summary/General Questions and Answer Session**
- 2:20 pm Break**
- 2:30 pm Eucharist**
- 3:30 pm Dismissal**