

Sample Episcopal Cursillo Sponsor Guidelines/Responsibilities

This is a collection of ideas gathered from several Episcopal Cursillo Ministry (ECM) Dioceses as well as other denominational ministries. Each Diocesan ECM operates in a unique way. We encourage you to take what is useful and adapt it to local needs. Note: the terms “Pilgrim” and “Candidate” are used interchangeably.

- Pray for the Pilgrim, the Weekend Staff, and other Pilgrims attending the Weekend.
- Talk to parish clergy about the candidate.
- Encourage and answer any questions about the weekend.
- Explain the basics of the weekend (talks, Eucharists, table groups, possible silent retreat, etc.)
- Explain the time commitment involved with the weekend (arrival time, leaving time, etc.)
- Discuss the physical arrangements of the weekend including sleeping arrangements, not bringing alcohol, lack of access to watches/cell phones during the weekend (if applicable – many dioceses do not do this).
- Be forthright; avoid secrecy - it is not part of the Cursillo Ministry.
- Ensure that the candidate has informed the weekend Lay Rector of any special needs that would be a consideration during the weekend.
- Ask about home needs while candidates are away for the weekend, if appropriate
- Help facilitate palanca for the candidate (relatives, special people whose prayers and letters would provide spiritual support). Palanca should primarily be focused on what is being done for the Candidate in a spiritual sense, such as prayer, instead of a toy or gimmick.
- A new Cursillista should be able to see the power of Group Reunion and the Fourth Day in the life of the sponsor. Potential sponsors are encouraged to invite prospective candidates to existing Group Reunions and Ultreyas before weekend attendance, if possible and practical.
- Have a plan to involve candidates in Fourth Day activities.
- Help them get into a Reunion Group, bring them to Ultreyas, and help them find a Spiritual Director.
- Some Secretariats ask that the Sponsor attend, with the Pilgrim, particular Fourth Day activities such as the Welcome Back, or an Ultreya that occurs after the Weekend.
- Stay in touch and support the Pilgrim in his/her life in Christ.