Episcopal Cursillo Ministry

Ultreya

Note: These guidelines are offered as a resource for Secretariats and Weekend Leaders to use as appropriate within their specific dioceses.

The Cursillo ministry is a part of the Church. Ultreyas are an important piece of the Cursillo ministry and are open to all, whether people have attended a weekend or not. The Christian community gathers in fellowship, prayer and learning about each other's environments. The goal of the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry is to raise up apostolic leaders who witness for Jesus Christ by transforming the environments in which they live. To support that mission, the founders of Cursillo designed the Ultreya to encourage, equip, and strengthen the Fourth Day community. Ultreya inspires people to bring Christ into their everyday environments and relationships.

Ultreya is an ancient Spanish word meaning "Onward!" Pilgrims used it to encourage one another as they traveled toward their destination. In Cursillo, Ultreya is a regular gathering of Cursillistas and friends that renews, equips, and inspires us to live as faithful Christian witnesses.

Ultreya is:

- A gathering where Cursillistas and friends grow together as a witnessing Christian community.
- A place to share how we are encountering Christ in everyday life and to encourage each another in faith.
- An opportunity to be renewed and equipped to bring Christ's love into our homes, workplaces, churches, and communities.
- A reminder that we're called to be saints and apostles in ordinary moments of life.

Ultreya Leaders

A vibrant Ultreya grows from a strong Fourth Day community where Reunion Groups experience open sharing, mutual encouragement, and accountability.

Ultreyas are best supported by a small leadership team, typically including a Spiritual Advisor, a coordinator, someone to oversee logistics, and a person who works with the lay witness speaker and clergy responder. With guidance from the Secretariat, each community develops its leadership in the way that best fits local needs.

The Diocesan Secretariat and Servant Communities strengthen local Ultreyas by offering leadership training, providing speakers or Gospel responders, and supporting the ongoing life of the Fourth Day community.

Music should inspire worship and reinforce the message of the witness talk, serving the overall purpose of the Ultreya.

In addition to monthly Ultreyas, communities may choose to offer sponsor training, team training, Instructed Ultreyas, and other opportunities that encourage growth and support the mission of Cursillo.

Flexible Approaches to Forming Ultreyas

Fourth Day communities vary widely. Some parishes have enough Cursillistas to hold their own Ultreya, while others may join with nearby parishes because of smaller numbers or travel distances. These gatherings can also welcome people who have not attended a Cursillo weekend, as well as members of neighboring churches and other denominational Fourth Day ministries. Some dioceses combine an in-person Ultreya with a group service project.

When distance, schedules, or other circumstances make gathering in person difficult, virtual Ultreyas can provide an effective alternative. Online meetings allow Cursillistas to stay connected, share their Fourth Day experiences, and encourage one another across a wider geographic area. Whether meeting in person, online, or through a combination of both, the goal remains the same: to build community, foster Christian growth, and encourage each other in sharing God's love in our environments.

Ultreya Schedule

Adjust this suggested schedule as you need.

Before the Ultreya begins:

Leaders Group Reunion
(see the Leaders Group Reunion card in ECM's publications) – 30 minutes

- Praying for the Ultreya
- Studying all aspects of the Ultreya, including past successes and disappointments
- Planning for the success of the current meeting and for the success of the Ultreya community

Fellowship with those arriving - 15 Minutes

Ultreya

- **Opening Prayer**, organize the gathering into small groups (3-6 people). Provide Floating Group Reunion Cards (found online in ECM Publications).– 5 minutes
- **Floating Group Reunions** - 25 minutes

Sharing in a Floating Group Reunion is different from regular Group Reunions. In a Floating Group Reunion, people may not know much about each other's faith journeys. Contact with Christians from many backgrounds broadens faith by offering new insights into Christian living. Give the groups a 5-minute warning before the time is up.

Lay Action Talk and Reponses

Note: Lay Action Talk and Reponses are often scheduled ahead of time.

- **Lay Action Talk** – 10 minutes
- **One or two Lay Responses** and/or any responses from the group (See the ECM's "Lay Action Talk," found online in ECM Publications) – 5 minutes
- **Clergy Response** – 5 minutes
- Announcements, Closing Prayer

Ultreya is more than a gathering. It is a source of encouragement, accountability, and Christian community that strengthens us for the journey of the Fourth Day. By praying together, sharing our experiences, and inspiring one another to live out the Gospel, we are better equipped to bring Christ's love into our homes, workplaces, parishes, and communities. Whether meeting in person or virtually, each Ultreya reminds us that we do not walk this journey alone.

De Colores!

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