



**United States National Cursillo Movement**

# **Operational Bylaws**

**November 16, 2024**

## Preamble

Following are the Operational Bylaws for the United States National Cursillo Movement (National Cursillo USA). *“The Cursillos of Christianity is a movement that as a result of its own method, attempts, from within the Church to make the reality of being Christian come alive in the singularity, originality and creativity of each person, so that by discovering their potential and accepting their limitations, they might direct their freedom with conviction, reinforce their will with decisiveness and direct their friendship in favor of a commitment to their daily communal and individual life.”*<sup>1</sup>

The Cursillo Movement is neither a structure nor an organization. Eduardo Bonnín, always said: *“God did not become a structure, he became Man.”* He also said: *“Jesus is a person not a structure.”*

*“Some believe that it’s only to give life to the structures and organizations that already exist, leaving them the same but always with a better spirit. Others believe that giving it the room to live, in the basic and minimal structure of Group Reunion, Ultreya, and the School, it can take the good news of the Gospel to all the most intimate areas of human, singular, family and social existence.”* (from 1st Conversations at Cala Figura; Talk #8: Life, English translation 2004, p. 139.)

1. (Excerpt from the book Eduardo Bonnín, *An Apprentice Christian* by Eduardo Suárez) (cf. *Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement*, Third Edition, 2014, Introduction)

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**Eduardo Bonnín Address at the III World Ultreya in Rome**

We come from so many well-known and faraway places, but like the first Christians, we are one heart and one soul. All of us have lived the experiences of a momentous meeting with Christ in a Cursillo de Cristiandad and from that moment the living Christ of the Gospel, He who presents us to the Church, has been our reference point, our constant motivation and our guide. This is the objective of our Movement: to make possible for people to meet Christ who grows and develops in the Christian by grace in a conscious, intense and infectious manner.

Today, I feel thrilled and grateful because the idea, which was put into our souls when we were twenty years old, was not an illusion, nor a youthful fancy, nor an excitement proper to one's age, but a plan from the Spirit of God.

The fact of being united here invites us to reflect on the roots of the Foundational Charism of our Movement and to remember that the disposition of men or women facing the personal and vital world, which is the area of influence of the Cursillo, is always the same whatever the latitude, place and culture. Disposition does not take up time or space. It is an attitude facing the fact of living.

Cursillo is a Movement, which in its own way, has established itself in the Church in such a way that Christian realities might become life in the individuality, originality and creativity of each person, because each one, discovering his potential and accepting his limitations, lives his freedom with conviction, strengthens his will with decision and constantly fosters friendship in his personal and community daily living.

The Cursillos are the wonderful news, that God loves us, communicated by the most human means, which is friendship, to lead each one to what is best for him.

For this we ask and continue to ask that the laity, who constitute the majority of men and women of today, may meet one another in the place where they live and in the simplest way, with the living Christ of the Gospel and that in feeling themselves united to Him by grace, they change the rhythm of their own life and learn to relish it and accept it, without having to move away from where they live, because places in the highways of human existence, may be the yeast which, in some way leavens the Christian milieu and the condition in which they live their lives is changed.

All this is done while they continue to be lay men and women since we think that the simplest lay element of the laity, namely that it constitutes the most natural essence of its lay state, is the fact of being able to live in the midst of the world's excesses where the most authentic values are unknown, belittled or not valued. In this general situation, the Cursillo offers simple and concrete means so that each may live and grow in his faith.

We ask that those who are passing through the world may meet with people who believe in the truth and are convinced of their own faith, living, enthusiastic and capable witnesses, through their attitude in facing life and attracting others through the joy of living with God and man.

This is our aim, for this we are striving. Once again, we are gathered in Rome to strengthen our common faith and be able to achieve this end, as well as thank our Holy Father for the wonderful attention that he has always given our Movement. We are also concerned about the concerns of the Holy Father and we desire to commit ourselves to collaborate with him.

We think with gratitude of all those who have died so that Christ may reach as many people as possible. Many in fact are those who have experienced the grace of faith and the gift of inspiring it with joy. We also remember those, who more than us deserve the gift of being here and who for reasons of work, family, possibility, or economy have not been able to join us. With renewed spirit, united to all of them in prayer and united to Christ, we return anew to the world to continue our usual pilgrimage, with which we are well acquainted because we bear it deep within our soul: to journey with Christ towards the Father, with the help of the Holy Spirit and of Mary and all the saints, bringing all our brothers and sisters with us. De Colores!

*Eduardo Bonnín*

*St. Peter's Square, Rome July 29, 2000*

## **ARTICLE I - Basic Responsibility**

### **Section A - Archdiocese/Diocese**

The Cursillos in Christianity are present and flourish in any diocese with the consent of and under the active guidance of the Archbishop/Bishop of the Diocese. An Archbishop/Bishop may choose to have or not to have the Cursillo Movement in his Diocese. Because of the sacred purpose of its proven history, an Archbishop/ Bishop is expected to see that neither the Movement nor its method is altered or used for a purpose other than that for which it is intended.

### **Section B - National Body**

The Diocesan, Regional and National Secretariats are responsible to promote the gift of the Foundational Charism of friendship with self, Christ and others given to the lay person Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló. This Charism was blessed by the then Bishop of Mallorca, Bishop Juan Hervás Benet, and supported by the then Priest, Msgr. Sebastian Gayá Riera, and others.

### **Section C - International & World Body**

The National Cursillo USA Secretariat will represent the Movement as the liaison to the North America / Caribbean International Group (NACG) and the World Body of the Cursillo in Christianity (OMCC).

### **Section D – Cursillos’ Basic Policy**

Each Diocesan Movement shall abide by the Basic Policy established by the National Cursillo Secretariat to ensure consistency and unity in the Cursillo Movement.

The following criteria shall serve as determining factors for a Diocesan/Archdiocesan Movement to have unity in the creative expression of the mentality of the founder of the Cursillo Movement and to provide a criterion as to what constitutes an authentic Movement in a diocese with the privilege to use the Cursillo name, logo and materials.

The Diocesan/Archdiocesan Movement shall:

1. Have the approval of the local ordinary (Archbishop/Bishop) to establish or re-establish Cursillo in the Archdiocese/Diocese.
2. Be affiliated with the Regional and National Cursillo Secretariats. Such affiliation includes a mutually supportive relationship with other levels of the Cursillo Movement (e.g. Regional, etc.). Affiliation implies an agreement by the local Movement to:
  - a. Abide by the policies of the National Cursillo USA.
  - b. Receive the services of the National Cursillo Secretariat.
  - c. Support the Movement at the Regional and National level.
  - d. Pay an annual affiliation fee to Regional and National.
3. Be faithful to the mentality, essence and purpose of the Movement and the three phases of its method (Precursillo, Cursillo and Postcursillo) by:
  - a. Following the official Cursillo literature and resources.
  - b. Following the *Operational Bylaws for the Cursillo Movement* in the United States.
  - c. Applying the Cursillo according to what is fundamental, free from improper adaptations, using the approved Rollo outlines, for a period of three (3) full days, to Roman Catholic candidates of the same sex, by a Roman Catholic team that is exemplary in their own living experience of the Christian life and the Cursillo method.

For additional information, see Article III Overall Operational Structure.

4. Have a community of leaders, both clergy and lay, responsible for properly implementing the method with particular attention to the Postcursillo needs of the Cursillistas. This community of leaders, called the School of Leaders, is described in detail in Article VI.
5. Have a small representative group, selected from the School of Leaders, called a Secretariat, as described in Chapter 7 of the latest edition of the Leaders’ Manual. The Secretariat is co-responsible with the Archbishop/Bishop for overseeing the work of the Movement in the diocese.

**Note:** The official resources the US Cursillo uses for studying its Charism are available on the National Cursillo website bookstore, Cursillo Resource Center and Fundación Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló, (FEBA).

**ARTICLE II - The Movement's Structure**

**Section A – National Cursillo Secretariat**

The National Cursillo Secretariat is the body, with the oversight of the National Episcopal Advisor, which will guide and coordinate the Cursillos in Christianity Movement in the United States and represent the Movement on the National and International levels.

The National Cursillo Secretariat maintains its identity as an autonomous body, always mindful that it is responsible to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops through its National Episcopal Advisor for the Cursillo Movement in the Roman Catholic and Eastern Rite Catholic Churches in the United States.

This identity is a question of a freedom that is to be acknowledged and guaranteed by ecclesial authority and always and only to be exercised in communion with the Church. Consequently, the right of the lay faithful to form groups is essentially in relation to the Church's life of communion and to her mission.

1. The principal purpose of the National Cursillo Secretariat is to establish policy and provide service for the Movement. The National Cursillo Secretariat has the following purposes:
  - a. To coordinate the development of the Cursillos in Christianity in the United States, done primarily through National Cursillo Secretariat Meetings, National Encounters, National Apostolic Plan and the Regional structure.
  - b. To establish and implement policy for the good progress of the Cursillos in Christianity in the 12 Regions. To assure authenticity of the Cursillo Movement in each diocese, the National Cursillo Secretariat will set policy in accord with the official resources the US Cursillo uses for studying its Foundational Charism.
  - c. To be of service to the diocesan Archbishop/Bishops with respect to the Cursillos in Christianity.
  - d. To guide the introduction of the Cursillo Movement in a diocese when and where the Movement is requested by the diocesan Archbishop/Bishop. Refer to Guide for Establishing Cursillo in a Diocese (<https://www.natl-cursillo.org/forms-reports/>)
  - e. To establish and maintain such structures as are necessary for the good of the Cursillo Movement in the United States.
  - f. To promote friendship and communication within the Movement and maintain relationships with the four International Cursillo groups; Asian Pacific Group (APG), European Group (GECC), Latin American Group (GLCC), North American Caribbean Group (NACG).
  - g. To unify the Movement with regard to the mentality, essence, purpose and method of the Cursillo Movement.
  - h. To provide and have available Cursillo literature, material and publications to Diocesan Movements and make available workshops and encounters as necessary to inform the Cursillo leaders about the Foundational Charism and the Cursillo Movement in the world.
  - i. To be a means of reconciliation and to work for the resolution of special concerns at the Diocesan, Regional, and National levels. The National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinator, working with the appropriate Regional Cursillo Coordinator(s), the appropriate National Cursillo Language Coordinator(s), follows the proper protocol (refer to Section D for Special Concerns and Protocol).
  - j. To keep the Movement united with the evangelizing mission of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States.
  - k. To encourage an open dialogue within the Cursillo Movement in the United States through National Secretariat Meetings, National Encounters, Regional Encounters and Diocesan School of Leaders.
  - l. To help the leaders, clergy and religious understand the National, Regional and Diocesan needs of the Movement.

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2. The members of the National Cursillo Secretariat consist of the Regional Cursillo Coordinators of each recognized language group, the National Episcopal Advisor, the National Spiritual Advisor and the Assistant National Spiritual Advisor. A recognized Language Regional Cursillo Coordinator is selected in one of the following ways:
  - a. If a Region has at least three dioceses affiliated with the National Cursillo Movement, with active Cursillo Movements in that language group, those active Movements may select a Regional Cursillo Coordinator who will serve on the National Cursillo Secretariat. The term “active Cursillo Movement” means that the Movement has Group Reunions, Ultreyas, Schools of Leaders and Cursillo Weekends.
  - b. If a language group does not have at least three active dioceses in any Region but has at least four active Cursillo Movements in the United States, that language group may select one person nationally to represent them on the National Cursillo Secretariat.
  - c. In the event there is concentrated affiliated Cursillo activity of a language group within a Region and no reasonable possibility of that language group complying with (a) or (b) above, special consideration may be made by the National Cursillo Secretariat at the first meeting following that language group’s request for special consideration.

**Note:** The National Cursillo Spiritual Advisors are members of the National Cursillo Secretariat with voice; but no vote.

3. The National Cursillo Secretariat shall meet, in person, at least twice a year, when permitted – the Annual Fall Meeting close to and following the start of the fiscal year [October 1], and in the summer in conjunction with the National Encounter. Dates and sites for the Fall and Summer meetings of the National Cursillo Secretariat shall be determined by the National Cursillo Service Administrator in consultation with the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group.

Special meetings of the National Cursillo Secretariat may be called in one of two ways and will be held within forty-five (45) days of the request:

- a. From at least two-thirds of the members thereof, or
- b. From the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group of the National Cursillo Secretariat with the concurrence of the National Episcopal Advisor or in his absence the National Spiritual Advisor.

No meeting of the National Cursillo Secretariat may be held unless at least 50% of the membership and 50% of the Regions are represented. Observers may attend the National Cursillo Secretariat meetings with the approval of the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group. They may have a voice, but not vote. The National Cursillo Secretariat reserves the right to meet in an executive session.

4. Each Regional Cursillo Coordinator present at a meeting of the National Cursillo Secretariat has one vote. The presider of each meeting will be a member of the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group. Normally that would be the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinator, who is also the presider of the Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group. In the event a special meeting of the National Cursillo Secretariat is held, and no member of the Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group is present, those attending shall elect a Regional Cursillo Coordinator to preside over the meeting. That person shall have the same responsibilities as the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinator.
5. The position of National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinator will rotate annually, in order to achieve equal representation. The National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinator should alternate between language groups present on the Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group. No language group will re-chair until all willing language groups present have served as National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinator. To avoid language barriers, adequate translation will be provided to all language groups present.

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The National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinator shall:

- a. Conduct the meeting in a structured manner that allows opportunity for participation of all present and a clear indication of approving or disapproving recommendations/motions presented by members of the Secretariat.
  - b. The National Cursillo Coordinating Group with the approval of the National Secretariat can and may appoint committees first from the National Secretariat and/or Active Cursillistas (SOL, Group Reunion, Ultreya) as needed to accomplish specific tasks.
  - c. Approve National Staff Monthly Expense Reports and Office Expenditures.
  - d. Lead the Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group in completing annual performance reviews.
6. The National Cursillo Secretariat should make its decisions through a prayerful discernment process.

The National Cursillo Center will be responsible for travel and lodging expenses for members of the National Cursillo Secretariat attending the Fall Annual Meeting. Since the Regional Cursillo Coordinators are expected to attend the National Encounter in the summer of each year, the Regions, Dioceses, or the individual member are responsible for expenses incurred to attend the Summer National Cursillo Secretariat Meeting.

### **Section B - Regional Cursillo Secretariat**

It is the responsibility of the Secretariats to safeguard the Foundational Charism of the Cursillo Movement and to see to its promotion, development and direction at the Diocesan, Regional and National levels. Regional Secretariat consists of all Diocesan Cursillo Coordinators and Spiritual Advisors for all language groups of that Region, Episcopal Advisor, Regional Spiritual Advisors, Regional Cursillo Coordinators, and Regional Service Team members.

In lieu of having a separate Regional Secretariat for each language group, the Regional Cursillo Coordinators may determine that it is in the best interest of the Region to establish a single Regional Secretariat, consisting of all Diocesan Cursillo Coordinators and Spiritual Advisors for all language groups of that Region. In some Regions, it may be necessary to establish a combination of Regional Secretariats (e.g., one Regional Secretariat for each individual language group).

Diocesan Cursillo Coordinators from the particular language group(s) within the Region comprise the voting members of the Regional Secretariat. In the event a Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator is unable to attend a Regional Secretariat meeting, they should send a proxy to assume their duties. Non-voting members of the Regional Secretariat include the Regional Cursillo Coordinator, Regional Service Team, Regional Spiritual Advisor, and Diocesan Spiritual Advisors. Only a layperson who is a current voting member of the Diocesan Secretariat shall serve as proxy for the Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator. The respective Regional Cursillo Coordinators must receive written notification in advance of any proxies for the upcoming meeting.

The purpose of the Regional Secretariat is to:

- a. Address or respond to the educational needs of the various diocesan Cursillo Movements within the Region.
- b. Determine, address or respond to the educational needs of those attending Regional meetings/functions.
- c. Encourage the Regional Cursillo Coordinators and Regional Service Team members to promote and conduct nationally recognized workshops and Cursillo de Cursillos (CDCs) throughout the Region.
- d. Provide an atmosphere for open sharing among the various Diocesan Cursillo leaders. Diocesan Cursillo Coordinators should meet with other Diocesan Cursillo Coordinators and Spiritual Advisors should meet with other Spiritual Advisors.
- e. Help ensure proper communication between the Regional leaders and the Cursillistas within the diocesan Cursillo Movements.



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- f. Review Regional Service Team Pool candidate applications in order to determine the best-qualified individuals to be selected to service the entire Region. It is the Regional Secretariat's responsibility to select the Regional Service Team members who will serve all the dioceses of that Region from the Regional Service Team Pool. The Regional Secretariat should ensure that a proper balance of leadership is maintained throughout the entire Region.
- g. Review and discuss correspondence from the National Cursillo Center, National Staff and Regional Cursillo Coordinators.
- h. Maintain a proper set of Regional Operational Bylaws and a Regional Apostolic Plan.
- i. Provide necessary finances to allow for the work of the Region. The Regional Secretariat shall establish, by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority of those present and voting (at least 50% +1 of all members), an amount of support to be contributed by the aligned diocesan Secretariats (Regional Affiliation Fees). This amount may be altered periodically, also by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority vote.
- j. Take measures to correct any deficiency or relieve the individual from his or her duties if a Regional Cursillo Coordinator or Service Team Member is not properly performing his or her duties.
- k. Create and maintain a Regional Service Team Pool of qualified leaders who are eligible and suitable to serve as Regional Service Team members and who are willing and able to cooperate with the Regional Cursillo Coordinator and Service Team in providing service to the dioceses in the Region. (See Note: Refer to RSTM below)
- l. Contribute to the National Secretariat and follow its policies.

### **Notes:**

1. Refer to the Regional Service Team Member Orientation Package for more information. (<https://www.natl-cursillo.org/forms-reports/>)
2. The United States is possibly the only country that has a Regional level.

### **Section C - Diocesan Cursillo Secretariat**

Each Diocesan Movement should have a small representative body, consisting of: Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator, School of Leader Coordinator, Precursillo Coordinator, Cursillo Coordinator, Postcursillo Coordinator, Secretary, Treasurer, and Spiritual Advisor, as outlined in Chapter 7 of the latest issue of the Leaders' Manual, selected from the active participants (who attend regularly ... at least 50% or more) in the School of Leaders, as well as living the Method through Group Reunion and Ultreya, called the Diocesan Secretariat, which is co-responsible with the local ordinary (Archbishop/Bishop) for overseeing the work of the Cursillo Movement in a particular diocese.

This Secretariat shall safeguard the Cursillo identity, that is, its Foundational Charism, with the assurance that its relationship and affiliation with the National Cursillo Secretariat will keep the Movement true to the Cursillo mentality, essence, purpose and method.

The National Cursillo Secretariat encourages the establishment and maintenance of one Diocesan Secretariat for the Cursillo Movement in each Archdiocese/Diocese and, if needed, separate Schools of Leaders for language reasons. However, where pastoral reasons demand it, and with the approval of the local Archbishop/Bishop, a separate Secretariat may be established to better serve geographical distances or language differences.

Inter-secretariat communication, cooperation and liaison are essential on the diocesan level between the different Secretariats in order to promote unity and consistency in the Cursillo Movement. Each member of the different Language Secretariats is a member of one team representing the Diocesan Cursillo Movement. No one shall serve on multiple Language Secretariats at the same time unless it is the Treasurer. A Treasurer may represent one or more language groups in a Diocese. Married couples are not to serve in different positions of a Diocesan Secretariat. It is strongly discouraged that family members serve simultaneously (e.g. father-daughter, sister-brother).

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The purpose of the Diocesan Secretariat is to:

- a. Support and communicate the policies of the National Cursillo Secretariat as set forth and/or referenced herein and any amendments thereto.
- b. Receive the services of the National Cursillo Secretariat and National Cursillo Center.
- c. Work with the National Cursillo Secretariat for the unity and authenticity of the Cursillo Movement throughout the Regions in the United States.
- d. Respect the established copyrights and trademarks held by the National Secretariat.
- e. Support the Cursillo Movement of the United States on the Regional and National levels; this support includes:
  1. Ensuring palanca for the Cursillo Movement is happening at all levels Diocesan, Regional, National, and World.
  2. Submitting the Regional and National dues / affiliation fees in a timely manner.
  3. Ensuring the participation by Diocesan leaders at Regional and National levels, including Regional Spring and Fall Meetings/Encounters and National Encounters.
- f. Prepare and adopt a set of Operational Bylaws modeled on those in Chapter 7 of the latest edition of the Leaders' Manual. These Operational Bylaws are reviewed every three years or as needed to ensure implementation with the provisions therein. Copies of the Operational Bylaws and any future amendments thereto are sent to the local ordinary (Archbishop/Bishop), the appropriate Regional Cursillo Coordinator, and to the National Cursillo Center ([admin@natl-cursillo.org](mailto:admin@natl-cursillo.org))
- g. Prepare and maintain a current and viable Cursillo Apostolic Plan for the diocesan Cursillo Movement that addresses the three phases of the Movement (Precursillo, Cursillo and Postcursillo). You are invited to refer to the Cursillo Apostolic Plan [pp.84 (Ch.9) in Leaders' Manual] (<https://www.natl-cursillo.org/forms-reports/>)
- h. Maintain affiliation status with the National Cursillo Secretariat of the Cursillo Movement of the United States. Such affiliation requires association with other elements of the Movement, namely the Regional structures of the Movement. Association also implies an agreement between the Diocesan Movement and the National Cursillo Secretariat that the Diocesan Movement will address the Precursillo, Cursillo and Postcursillo phases of the Movement.

### **Section D - Special Concerns & Protocol**

The National Cursillo Movement is based on friendship with self, Christ and others. Therefore, as friends, we should make every effort to avoid problems, issues, conflict, etc. in the Movement. Problems, issues, conflict, etc. are referred as *special concerns* in Cursillo. Friendship should never be jeopardized because of a special concern. God's mercy and grace are greater than any problem we have.

The following Protocol should be used when a special concern needs to be addressed in Cursillo.

- All diocesan special concerns should be addressed and resolved by the Diocesan Secretariat. There is no need for the special concern to go beyond the diocese.
- When a diocesan special concern cannot be resolved by the Diocesan Secretariat, the Regional Cursillo Coordinator and Regional Spiritual Advisor should be available to assist at the request of the Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator.
- The Regional Cursillo Coordinator should setup a meeting with the Diocesan Secretariat to dialogue about the special concern and offer assistance to arrive at a resolution.
- The Regional Cursillo Coordinator should document the meeting minutes Cursillo and a copy should be sent to the National Cursillo Center. The respective National Cursillo Language Coordinator should be kept in the communication loop about the special concern.
- The Regional Cursillo Coordinator should meet with Diocesan Secretariat as needed to continue the dialogue and provide assistance as needed.
- If a resolution is not reached after Regional Cursillo Coordinator meets with the Diocesan Secretariat, the respective National Cursillo Language Coordinator can be called in to assist with the special concern.

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- The National Cursillo Language Coordinator should setup a meeting with the Diocesan Secretariat and Regional Cursillo Coordinator to continue the dialogue and provide assistance to resolve the special concern.
- If no resolution is reached after National Cursillo Language Coordinator and Regional Cursillo Coordinator meet with the Diocesan Secretariat, the special concern will be turned over to the local Archbishop/Bishop; however, the National Cursillo Coordinator should first consult with the National Episcopal Advisor and National Spiritual Advisor to discuss status of the special concern.
- The respective National Cursillo Language Coordinator should contact the local Archbishop/Bishop to setup a meeting to discuss the unresolved special concern. The Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator should attend the meeting. The Diocesan Secretariat should follow the guidance presented by the local Bishop.

### **ARTICLE III – Overall Operational Structure**

#### **Section A – The Precursillo Phase**

The Precursillo phase is vital for the evangelizing effectiveness of the Cursillo method. It is an essential phase which encourages and prepares the person through an offer of friendship for an encounter with self, Christ, and others in the Cursillo Weekend experience so that the person might live a new life according to this triple encounter which continues in the Postcursillo. *(from Fundamental Ideas III, page 95)*

The Secretariat should ensure that the Precursillo program:

- a. Ensures that each candidate/friend has received sufficient preparation and information to make an informed decision as to whether or not to attend a Cursillo Weekend. A member of the Secretariat or Precursillo committee should conduct an information session or similar program that each candidate and his/her sponsor should attend prior to the candidate attending a Weekend.
- b. Uses the Sponsor's Booklet to educate sponsors as to their responsibility to the candidates and the Cursillo, "What Is It?" booklet to inform candidates about the Cursillo Weekend.
- c. Prepares candidates for the Weekend as outlined in the latest edition of the Leaders' Manual and other literature of the Cursillo Movement related to candidate guidelines.
- d. Establishes a viable process for review of all candidate applications by the Precursillo committee of the Secretariat and the Spiritual Advisor of the Diocesan Movement.
- e. Follows the Couples Policy as set forth in Chapter 9 of the latest edition of the Leaders' Manual concerning those instances where either the candidate is a partner in a denominationally mixed marriage or the candidate's spouse does not intend to attend a Cursillo Weekend.
- f. Provides a Sponsor's Workshop to inform Cursillistas about their responsibilities.

#### **Section B – The Cursillo Phase**

The three consecutive days of the Cursillo Weekend is a specific and concrete form of kerygmatic evangelizing activity, described as "jubilant communication of being Christian", in which the living and sharing of what is fundamental to being Christian is encouraged, a profound personal experience that can determine a new orientation of the life of the person. *(from Fundamental Ideas III, page 108)*

The Secretariat should ensure that the Cursillo weekend:

- a. Conducts the three consecutive day Cursillo, without variation, for three full days as it is found in the latest edition of the Rector's Guide.
- b. Uses the schedule, sequence, number and content of the Rollos as contained in the latest edition of the Rector's Guide selected for use by the National Cursillo Secretariat. (Actual times might need to be adjusted due to the venue, but the sequence and content do not change.)
- c. Conducts Cursillo Weekends in which all candidates and lay team members are Roman Catholics (who have been Baptized) of the same sex who are able to or could receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist (cleansed or cleansable).

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- d. The selection of the candidates should be diverse in nature, as described in Chapter 9 of the latest edition of the Leaders' Manual.
- e. Conducts Cursillo Weekends with teams of Roman Catholic Cursillo leaders who are living in Christ, formed in the Cursillo mentality, essence, purpose, and method living the Cursillo methods of perseverance, Group Reunion and Ultreya, and have been regular participants in the School of Leaders.
- f. Schedules Cursillo Weekends only if an active Postcursillo is available to integrate new Cursillistas.
- g. Emphasizes the importance of Group Reunion and Ultreya throughout the Cursillo Weekend.
- h. Avoid incorporating activities or deviations that have the potential to distract the candidates from the true purpose of the Cursillo Weekend. In respecting the freedom of the person and that the Cursillo is held in the climate of group reunion, we need to respect the privacy or intimacy of the Cursillo Weekend (including the Clausura / Closing) by refraining from recording and/or posting any video, photographs (except for the Cursillo Weekend Group Photo), and/or audio recordings of any portions of the Weekend on social media. (*cf. Rector's Guide Appendix pp.??*)
- i. Should minimize contact between those inside the Rollo Room (team and candidates) with the outside Cursillo community (including the facility and kitchen team).
- j. Requests General Palanca from the local Community and also through the National Cursillo website (<https://www.natl-cursillo.org/palanca-requests/>)

**Note:** Spiritual Advisor and the Rector(a) recommendations should be sought for candidates in question.

### **Section C – The Postcursillo Phase**

The Postcursillo is an essential phase to enable each person to live constantly what they have experienced during the Cursillo Weekend (what is fundamental to being Christian), by means of a process of a conscious, growing and shared conversion. By being Christian and Church in the world, the person transforms and renews this world from within according to God's plan. (from Fundamental Ideas III, page 139-140)

The Secretariat should ensure that the Postcursillo phase:

- a. Encourages and facilitates the formation and sustaining of friendship Group Reunions and Ultreyas at both the diocesan and sub-diocesan (groups of neighboring parishes) levels.
- b. Encourages sponsors, team members including members of the School of Leaders, the working arm of the Secretariat, to grow friendship and personal contact with Cursillistas in their 4th Day.
- c. Ensures that the Ultreya(s) is offered for all Cursillistas and conducted following the essential elements described in the latest edition of the Leaders' Manual, Chapter 11. In respecting the freedom of the person and that the Ultreya is held in the climate of group reunion, we need to respect the privacy or intimacy of the Ultreya by refraining from recording and/or posting any video, photographs, and/or audio recordings of any portions of the Ultreya on social media.
- d. Encourages participation by Diocesan Cursillo leaders in the various Cursillo Workshops and Cursillo de Cursillos (CDCs) that have been developed for use on a Regional level, and in some cases on a Diocesan level, to enrich and educate the Cursillo leaders as to the proper and authentic purpose of the Cursillo Movement on the Diocesan, Regional and National levels.
- e. Encourages a Cursillo 4th Day Spiritual Retreat or a Day of Recollection for all Cursillistas that fosters an opportunity to make friends, rekindle friendships and deepen the three encounters with self, Christ and others discovered during the Cursillo weekend.

### **ARTICLE IV – Key Operational Personnel**

#### **Section A – Episcopal Advisors**

##### **Subsection Ai – National Cursillo Episcopal Advisor**

be selected from the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) to serve as National Cursillo Episcopal Advisor for the United States Cursillo Movement for a five-year term, renewable once.

Specific responsibilities of the National Cursillo Episcopal Advisor are as follows:

- a. Be present at the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group Fall meeting and the National Cursillo Secretariat Fall meeting.

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- b. Be present at the National Cursillo Encounter, as well as at the preceding National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group Summer meeting and the National Cursillo Secretariat Summer meeting.
- c. The Spiritual Advisor upon his availability is invited to be present at extraordinary meetings or any committee meetings of the National Cursillo Secretariat or the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group held when necessary.
- d. **Please note:** As soon as the Dates and Locations of said meetings have been decided, the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinator is to contact the National Cursillo Episcopal Advisor so that these Dates and Locations may be added to his schedule. If the National Cursillo Episcopal Advisor is unavailable, the National Cursillo Spiritual Advisor will attend in his place.
- e. Maintain open communication between the National Cursillo Movement and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- f. Intercede, at times, with Archbishop/Bishops throughout the United States to ensure that the integrity and the authenticity of the Cursillo Movement is not being jeopardized.
- g. Encourage the continual spiritual growth of the Cursillo Movement in the United States.
- h. Assist the Movement to maintain a focus on the most recent trends affecting the Roman Catholic Church, both here in the United States and throughout the world.

### **Subsection Aii – Regional Cursillo Episcopal Advisor**

Each Region should, with the permission and approval of the National Cursillo Episcopal Advisor, select a Regional Cursillo Episcopal Advisor whose main function will be to be a liaison with the Archbishop/Bishops in that Region.

Regional Cursillo Coordinator(s) select from the Archbishop/Bishops in their respective Region, one Archbishop/Bishop to serve as the Regional Cursillo Episcopal Advisor. Once the Regional Cursillo Coordinator(s) make their selection, that Archbishop/Bishop's name should be forwarded to the National Cursillo Episcopal Advisor via the National Cursillo Center Service Administrator. The National Cursillo Episcopal Advisor will then send a letter providing a description of the service that is being requested and inviting that Archbishop/Bishop to serve as the Regional Cursillo Episcopal Advisor.

## **Section B – Spiritual Advisors**

### **Subsection Bi – National Cursillo Spiritual Advisor**

Any member of the National Cursillo Secretariat may approach a Priest in good standing in his Diocese and with experience in the Cursillo Movement and ask him to serve as National Cursillo Spiritual Advisor to the National Cursillo Secretariat for a three-year term. If the Priest is interested, his name will be proposed to the National Cursillo Secretariat for their approval prior to contacting that Priest. The National Cursillo Secretariat should select the best person available, keeping in mind the different elements of Cursillo in the United States. Once approved, the National Cursillo Episcopal Advisor will then send an invitation letter to the Priest for an official appointment.

The National Cursillo Spiritual Advisor's primary function is to meet the spiritual needs of the National Cursillo Secretariat members at each meeting. Exercising his priestly role, he will be responsible for the spiritual and liturgical acts at the National Cursillo Secretariat meetings and the National Encounter.

If the National Spiritual Advisor is unable to attend a National Cursillo Secretariat meeting, he may propose a substitute for that meeting to the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinator. Whoever takes his place at the meeting has the same duties and privileges as the National Spiritual Advisor.

### **Subsection Bii – Assistant National Cursillo Spiritual Advisor (Deacon)**

Any member of the National Cursillo Secretariat may approach a Deacon in good standing in his Diocese and ask him to serve as Assistant National Cursillo Spiritual Advisor to the National Cursillo Secretariat for a three-year term. If the Deacon is interested, his name will be proposed to the National Cursillo Secretariat for their approval prior to contacting that Deacon. The National Cursillo Secretariat should select the best person available, keeping in mind the different elements of Cursillo in the United States. Once approved, the National Cursillo Spiritual Advisor will then send an invitation letter for an official appointment.

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The Assistant National Cursillo Spiritual Advisor's primary function is to assist and support the National Cursillo Spiritual Advisor in meeting the spiritual needs of the National Secretariat members at each meeting. Exercising his role as clergy, he will be responsible for the spiritual and liturgical acts of the National Cursillo Secretariat meetings and the National Encounter.

### **Subsection Biii – Regional Cursillo Spiritual Advisor**

Ideally, each Regional Service Team should strive to have a Spiritual Advisor for the Team.

The Regional Cursillo Spiritual Advisor will be selected by the Regional Coordinator and respective Regional Service Team with the approval of the proposed Spiritual Advisor's local Archbishop/Bishop or Superior. (See latest version of the Regional Spiritual Advisor Application) The Regional Cursillo Spiritual Advisor shall serve a three-year term, renewable once. Qualifications for the Regional Spiritual Advisor should include, but not be limited to:

- a. Be a priest, deacon, or vowed religious in good standing in his/her Diocese/Archdiocese.
- b. Be involved in the Cursillo Movement at the diocesan level.
- c. Be familiar with the latest edition of the Spiritual Advisor's Guide.
- d. Have participated in or be willing to participate in a Spiritual Advisor's Workshop.
- e. Have a good understanding of the basic principles of the Cursillo Movement.
- f. Support the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church.
- g. Support the efforts of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- h. Support and promote the Foundational Charism in all phases of the Cursillo Movement as indicated in approved Cursillo literature.
- i. Be a good Spiritual Advisor.
- j. Be outgoing, loving and friendly.
- k. Have the approval of his/her local Ordinary to serve in this capacity.

The Regional Cursillo Spiritual Advisor will meet the spiritual needs of the Service Team members and the Cursillistas in his/her language group in the Region, as well as seeing that appropriate liturgies, etc., are provided for each of the Regional meetings/encounters. The Regional Cursillo Spiritual Advisor will contact the Diocesan Cursillo Spiritual Advisors within their language group to determine if they need assistance.

The Regional Cursillo Spiritual Advisor is encouraged to attend Regional Service Team meetings and Regional Encounters, National Encounters, and Workshops (if possible). The Regional Cursillo Spiritual Advisor's duties are provided in greater detail in the latest edition of the Spiritual Advisor's Guide.

### **Subsection Biv – Diocesan Cursillo Spiritual Advisor**

A Diocesan Cursillo Spiritual Advisor is a priest, deacon, or vowed religious who is appointed by the local Ordinary for the support and promotion of the Cursillo Movement within the diocese and has lived the Cursillo Weekend.

“The Spiritual Advisor, who is appointed by the Archbishop/Bishop, maintains a link between the Movement and the Archbishop/Bishop's Office. To insure proper spiritual assistance to the Movement, the Spiritual Advisor will be responsible for acquiring other priests, deacons and vowed religious to assist with the Doctrinal rollos and Meditations during the Cursillos, as well as in the School of Leaders and in the Spiritual Advisor's role during the Ultreyas. The Spiritual Advisor will continually encourage the Secretariat members to discern all their activities.” *(from the Leaders' Manual)*

It is recommended that a Spiritual Advisor be assigned for a five-year term; however, the final approval for term of service will come from the Archbishop/Bishop. The Diocesan Secretariat will suggest candidates for future appointment by the Bishop before the end of the Spiritual Advisor's term.

It is best if the Spiritual Advisor can live his/her own 4th day with the method of Group Reunion and Ultreya. This will help him/her to understand the ongoing conversion throughout a Cursillistas' 4th Day. The Diocesan Spiritual Advisor's duties are provided in greater detail in the latest edition of the Spiritual Advisor's Guide.

**Section C – National Cursillo Center, National Secretariat, and National Cursillo Service Administrator and National Cursillo Language Coordinators**

The National Cursillo Center, the National Cursillo Secretariat and its personnel are intended to be a source of service, guidance, coordination, etc. for the Movement in the United States. It is meant to furnish only those services, coordination, etc. which the Movement in the United States needs and which the Regions or Diocesan Movements are unable to provide for themselves. It is the responsibility of the National Cursillo Secretariat to indicate the services, coordination, etc., which the National Cursillo Center is to provide.

The National Cursillo Center will be under the direction of a National Cursillo Service Administrator who will be the Movement’s administrator and legal representative. The National Cursillo Service Administrator shall submit a written report of the work of the National Center to the National and Diocesan Secretariats annually. The National Cursillo Service Administrator shall prepare an annual operating budget for the National Cursillo Center for approval by the National Cursillo Secretariat.

The National Cursillo Secretariat is empowered to locate, operate, staff and maintain a National Cursillo Center to carry out the purpose of the National Cursillo Secretariat. The National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group shall have the responsibility to hire, evaluate and dismiss, if necessary, the staff of the National Cursillo Center, as distinct from the office personnel. The National Spiritual Advisor or the National Assistant Spiritual Advisor is strongly encouraged when available to be present at such meetings between the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group and Staff.

The National Cursillo Service Administrator shall be responsible for hiring, evaluating and dismissing office personnel. The National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group has oversight of the Office Personnel positions. The National Cursillo Service Administrator is empowered to charge a fee for any materials or services provided by the National Center.

The National Cursillo Language Coordinators work closely with the National Cursillo Secretariat to communicate, implement, and safeguard the Foundational Charism of Cursillo. This is accomplished through educational articles, meetings, workshops, Regional and National Encounters, etc. Currently there are three National Language Coordinators in the Movement.

1. The National English Coordinator serves the needs of the English-speaking Cursillistas in the 12 Regions.
2. The National Hispanic Coordinator serves the needs of the Spanish-speaking Cursillistas in the 12 Regions.
3. The National Vietnamese Coordinator serves the needs of the Vietnamese-speaking Cursillistas in the 12 Regions.

Job descriptions, qualifications and terms of service of the National Staff positions are subject to approval by the National Cursillo Secretariat and shall be maintained in writing by the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group.

**Section D – Groups**

**Subsection Di – National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group**

The National Cursillo Secretariat elects a total of four Regional Coordinators (two each year) for a two-year term to act in their name between meetings of the National Cursillo Secretariat. This body is known as the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group. Its primary role is to implement previously established policies of the National Cursillo Secretariat, not to formulate policy, and to act on such matters that arise between meetings of the National Secretariat. The National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group has three responsibilities:



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- a. Overall operation of the Cursillo Movement.
- b. Personnel administration in accordance with the National Cursillo Movement Personnel Policy Handbook. Changes to the Personnel Policy Handbook are subject to approval by the National Cursillo Secretariat. The current Personnel Policy Handbook is to be maintained at the National Cursillo Center. Minutes related to Personnel administration are confidential and are to be kept in the National Cursillo Center.
- c. Oversee the administration of the Yearly Budget, receive and review the Quarterly Reports from the National Cursillo Finance Advisory Group.

**Selection of Members:**

- a. To be eligible for the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group, one must have been on the National Cursillo Secretariat for at least one fiscal year and have at least two years remaining in their term of office. Normally, the Regional Cursillo Coordinator will begin the Term on October 1. If a Regional Cursillo Coordinator starts mid-year after Jan. 1, then the extra months of the partial year (Before the beginning of the Fiscal Year) as an “Interim Regional Cursillo Coordinator”, those extra months do NOT count against their three-year term (see Chart below: **Option #1**). During the extra months they have voice but No vote. If a Regional Cursillo Coordinator starts between October 1 – December 31, then the partial first months are the first year of their 3 years (see Chart below: **Option #2**).

<b>Option #1: Partial Months of the Fiscal Year for RC</b> (begin after Jan. 1: Highlighted months: Voice but NO Vote)												
Year 1	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept			
Year 2										Oct	Nov	Dec
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept			
Year 3										Oct	Nov	Dec
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept			

  

<b>Option #2: Partial Months of the Fiscal Year for RC</b> (begin Oct. 1 - Dec. 31: Highlighted months are first months of 3 years)												
Year 1										Oct	Nov	Dec
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept			
Year 2										Oct	Nov	Dec
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept			
Year 3										Oct	Nov	Dec
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept			

- b. To guard against a possible conflict of interest, any family member of National Staff shall not be eligible for consideration for election to the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group.
- c. Upon election from the alternating language group (English, Spanish, Vietnamese) or those who are eligible and willing to serve, the individual garnering the most votes will become the Vice-Coordinator of the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group and will serve in such capacity for one year. At the completion of this term the Vice-Coordinator will become the Coordinator of the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group and will serve in such capacity for one year. The Coordinating Group Chair will participate in the Fall National Secretariat Meeting with voice and no vote, since his or her term as Regional Coordinator expired on September 30.
- d. The person with the second most votes will then be the Secretary for one year if and only if the persons reflects the makeup of the National Cursillo Secretariat language groups. If no one in the appropriate language group is willing to serve the person with the second most votes will serve for one year. At the completion of the term as Secretary, for the second year, the person will become Member at Large. The Member at Large will participate in the Fall National Secretariat Meeting with voice and no vote, since his or her term as Regional Coordinator expired on September 30. In addition, the Secretary will take the meetings at the Fall meeting.
- e. A member shall complete his or her term on the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group even though their Regional term may expire on September 30<sup>th</sup>, but it cannot be renewed or extended. In case of removal, vacancy, etc., the Committee can make an interim appointment until the next meeting of the National Cursillo Secretariat.



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All actions, individually or collectively, are subject to approval of the National Cursillo Secretariat at its next scheduled meeting. The National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group will inform the National Cursillo Secretariat within fourteen (14) days of actions taken at the previous National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group Meeting.

The makeup of the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group will reflect the makeup of the National Cursillo Secretariat members and is not to exceed four (4) lay persons and one Spiritual Advisor. Since most members of the National Cursillo Secretariat represent the Spanish and English speaking groups of the Cursillo Movement, the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group will consist of at least one Spanish speaking and one English-speaking member and two other members. One member of the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group will be appointed Secretary to document the meeting minutes. The makeup then consists of:

- a. The Coordinator of the National Cursillo Secretariat
- b. The Vice-Coordinator of the National Cursillo Secretariat
- c. The National Cursillo Episcopal Advisor or, if he is not available, the National Cursillo Spiritual Advisor, or in his absence the National Cursillo Assistant Spiritual Advisor.
- d. Two other members from the National Cursillo Secretariat (Not to exceed two)

The National Cursillo Service Administrator, the National Cursillo Episcopal Advisor, the National Cursillo Spiritual Advisor, the Assistant National Cursillo Spiritual Advisors and the National Cursillo Language Coordinators should attend the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group meetings. The National Cursillo Service Administrator, the National Cursillo Episcopal Advisor, the National Cursillo Spiritual Advisor, the Assistant National Cursillo Spiritual Advisor and the National Cursillo Language Coordinators will have voice, but no vote. The National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group may excuse any of the Lay Staff Members for a portion of any meeting.

### **Subsection Dii – Personnel Administration**

The National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group shall work to ensure that the actions of the National Cursillo Service Administrator and the National Cursillo Language Coordinators are carried out. When deemed necessary, the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group may invite anyone to a meeting for the purpose of monitoring implementations of policies and/or gathering information for the National Cursillo Secretariat.

The Personnel Administrative Duties and Responsibilities of the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group of the National Cursillo Secretariat include:

- a. Performing the annual review of the National Cursillo Service Administrator in accordance with the NCSA Job Profile and Description.
- b. Performing annual reviews of the National Cursillo Language Coordinators in accordance with the Job Profile and Description.
- c. Reviewing the performance evaluations of the National Cursillo Center office personnel, which are completed by the National Cursillo Service Administrator (previous to the end of the Fiscal Year.)
- d. Reviewing periodically the job descriptions of the National Staff, to include all paid positions, and making suggested updates of those descriptions to the National Cursillo Secretariat.
- e. Acting as a consulting body to the National Cursillo Secretariat, and performing such other special assignments as requested by the National Cursillo Secretariat.
- f. The National Cursillo Spiritual Advisor is invited as a member with voice and no vote by the National Cursillo Coordinating Group as the National Cursillo Spiritual Advisor's schedule allows.

### **Subsection Diii – National Cursillo Finance Advisory Group**

The National Cursillo Finance Advisory Group is appointed by the National Cursillo Secretariat. All recommendations of the committee are subject to approval of the National Cursillo Secretariat. The composition of the group is as follows:

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- a. A National Cursillo Finance Advisory Group Coordinator who is a member of the National Cursillo Secretariat. This position shall have the same eligibility requirements as the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group. The National Cursillo Finance Advisory Group Coordinator shall not be eligible to serve on the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group. The National Cursillo Finance Advisory Group Coordinator is selected during the Summer meeting and serves until the end of his/her term on the National Cursillo Secretariat. Continuation of the retired National Cursillo Finance Advisory Group Coordinator as a member of the National Cursillo Finance Advisory Group is at the discretion of the National Cursillo Coordinating Group.
- b. At least two members who are not National Cursillo Secretariat members. It is recommended that the members need to be Cursillistas with a Financial or Business background. These members serve as volunteers at the invitation of the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group with no defined term limits.
- c. The National Cursillo Spiritual Advisor is invited as a member with voice and no vote by the National Cursillo Coordinating Group and/or the National Cursillo Finance Advisory Group as the National Cursillo Spiritual Advisor's schedule allows.
- d. The National Cursillo Service Administrator (Ex Officio member).

The responsibilities of the National Cursillo Finance Advisory Group are as follows:

- a. Meet as required to review prior year's financial performance and assist in developing a budget for the National Movement for submission to the National Cursillo Secretariat.
- b. Review safety and soundness of investments with the National Cursillo Finance Advisory Group and National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group and make recommendations to the National Cursillo Secretariat at least annually and perhaps more often. The Finance Committee should interview other Groups to handle the Investments. Further to develop an investment Committee and/or an Investment Policy.
- c. Ensure that annual reports of the investment company holding the investments of the National Cursillo Secretariat are distributed to the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group.
- d. Provide at least quarterly reports from the Financial Bookkeeping Data to the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group.
- e. Present a detailed review and comments of the proposed budget developed by the National Cursillo Finance Advisory Group and the National Cursillo Service Administrator to the National Cursillo Secretariat at its annual Summer meeting for review and approval. At the Fall meeting, the National Cursillo Finance Advisory Group will submit a year-end report for review by the National Cursillo Secretariat. Financial Reports should be submitted 30 days prior to the meeting date.
- f. Work with the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group to coordinate financial needs of the staff which includes National Cursillo Service Administrator, three National Language Coordinators, and office personnel.”
- g. Provide specific reports as requested by the National Cursillo Secretariat or the National Cursillo Service Administrator.
- h. Collaborate with the National Cursillo Service Administrator to ensure that an independent Certified Public Accountant to complete an independent audit at a frequency as needed or required by law.

### **ARTICLE V – Meetings – Encounters – Ultreyas**

#### **Section A – National Meetings**

A National Encounter which includes an Ultreya shall be held annually in July or early August according to the needs of the Movement as determined by the National Cursillo Secretariat following a survey of the local Movements. The National Cursillo Secretariat entrusts the National Cursillo Service Administrator NCSA to plan and coordinate National Encounters and National Ultreyas. The role/scope of responsibilities of the National Cursillo Service Administrator, the local Regional Cursillo Coordinators, and others are defined in the National Encounter Planning Guide.

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The National Cursillo Service Administrator is responsible for submitting a yearly Report for each National Encounter (which will include a Financial Report, Survey and Evaluations) no later than September 30 and reported to the National Cursillo Secretariat at the Fall meeting.

Regions or dioceses desiring to host a National Encounter or National Ultreya shall notify the National Cursillo Service Administrator of the National Cursillo Center.

Also see Article II, Section A for National Secretariat Meetings.

### **Section B – Regional Meetings**

Regional meetings/encounters should be held at least twice a year, each before the dates of the National Encounter. These two Regional meetings/encounters should contain the following elements:

- a. A Regional Secretariat meeting: Diocesan Reports, Finance Report, Diocesan needs and/or concerns, etc.
- b. Opportunity for Spiritual Advisors to meet with one another.
- c. Opportunity for Diocesan Cursillo Coordinators to meet with one another.
- d. Educational and spiritual growth opportunities for all present.
- e. Opportunities to go deeper into the Foundational Charism of Cursillo, the Fundamental Ideas, and other Cursillo literature.
- f. Opportunities to make friends or rekindle friendships, and interact with other language groups.
- g. A Regional Ultreya.
- h. Opportunities for personal Contact and a workshop based on the method of Cursillo.

The Regional Encounters are open to all Cursillistas within the Region.

## **ARTICLE VI – Regions**

In order to provide better coordination and development of the Movement, the National Cursillo Secretariat has established 12 Regions composed of geographical clustering of Diocesan Movements. The number of Regions and the general alignment of dioceses within them will be determined by the National Cursillo Secretariat.

### **Section A – Regional Representation and Service**

Each Region should be represented and served by the following:

- a. Regional Episcopal Advisor
- b. Regional Spiritual Advisor (one per language group)
- c. Regional Secretariat (one per language group)
- d. Regional Coordinator (one per language group)
- e. Regional Service Team (three to five members per language group)

These representatives are a group reunion with the basic responsibilities of the growth and development of the Region, particularly through diocesan visitations, Regional Workshops, and Encounters.

#### **Subsection Ai – Regional Cursillo Coordinator**

The Regional Service Team members, the Regional Secretariat and the Regional Spiritual Advisor select one of the Regional Service Team members to be Regional Cursillo Coordinator for their language group, if that language group is active in at least three dioceses in the Region. The voting members, the Diocesan Cursillo Coordinators, are to approve the selection of the new Regional Cursillo Coordinator.

Those eligible to be selected are current members of the Regional Service Team who have served at least one year in their present term on the Regional Service Team and have been contacted prior to the meeting and have agreed to serve as a Regional Cursillo Coordinator for a term of three years. In extraordinary circumstances, the one-year service minimum may be waived if the Regional Service Team member had previously served in the Regional Service Team more than two years prior or if he/she was a previous Regional Cursillo Coordinator more than five years prior and no other service team member is qualified or willing to serve.

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Each Regional Cursillo Coordinator serves as a member of the National Cursillo Secretariat during the same three-year period.

If a Region falls below three (3) participating Dioceses for a language group, then the Regional Cursillo Coordinator will still complete his/her term. Once the term has ended, until the required number of Dioceses (three [3]) is met, a new Regional Cursillo Coordinator for that language group is not elected. If the Region has less than three (3) active dioceses, the National Language Coordinator will be responsible for that Region.

A former Regional Cursillo Coordinator, a former National Staff member, shall not hold a Regional Cursillo Coordinator position for a period of five (5) years immediately following the completion of his/her term.

**Note:** Refer to the Regional Service Team Member Orientation Package for more information. (<https://www.natl-cursillo.org/forms-reports/>)

### **Subsection Aii – Regional Spiritual Advisor and Regional Episcopal Advisor**

Each Regional Service Team is to have a Spiritual Advisor and should have a Regional Episcopal Advisor for the team [See Article IV, Sections A and B].

### **Subsection Aiii – Regional Service Team**

Each Regional Cursillo Coordinator should have a Service Team, selected from among members of the Service Team Pool by the Regional Secretariat and consisting of three to five members, based on the needs of the Region. The Service Team assists in the work of providing service and meeting the needs of the Diocesan Secretariats in the form of workshops, meetings, Cursillo De Cursillos, etc. These Service Team members are expected to attend Regional Encounters and other Cursillo Regional meetings, and are encouraged to attend National Encounters. The names, addresses, email and phone numbers of the Service Team members must be sent to the National Cursillo Center in order to be listed in the National Cursillo Directory. This is necessary in order for the Service Team members to receive correspondence, etc.

Qualifications for the Regional Service Team Pool members include, but are not be limited to:

- a. Lives the method of perseverance: Group Reunion and Ultreya.
- b. Has the conviction to serve as a leader in the Cursillo Movement.
- c. Understands the mentality, essence, purpose and method as contained in the official Cursillo literature. (The official resources the US Cursillo uses for studying its Charism are available on the National Cursillo Website Bookstore, Cursillo Resource Center and FEBA bookstore.)
- d. Supports and promotes all authentic aspects of the Cursillo Movement.
- e. Attends the Diocesan School of Leaders.
- f. Has served on team for Cursillo Weekends and has given at least two different Rollos.
- g. Lives and promotes friendship by way of personal contact.
- h. Has the recommendation, support and approval of their Diocesan Secretariat or Regional Cursillo Coordinator.
- i. Supports members of the National Cursillo Secretariat and follows the agreed upon policies of the National Cursillo Secretariat.

The term for a Regional Service Team member is four (4) years. Once a Regional Service Team member has completed his/her term, he/she shall not serve in this capacity for a minimum of two (2) years. This fosters an opportunity for other potential leaders within the Region.

The Regional Secretariat members should actively seek qualified members for the Regional Service Team Pool to have qualified people who can serve on the Regional Service Team.

**Notes:**

1. Since it is extremely difficult to properly serve the needs of both a Diocese and a Region, it is expected that once a candidate, who is also a member of a Diocesan Secretariat, have been selected to the position of Regional Service Team member, then that person will resign as a member of a Diocesan Secretariat.
2. To guard against a possible conflict of interest, any family member of a current Regional Service Team member or Regional Cursillo Coordinator may be in the Regional Service Team Pool but should not be eligible for consideration to be a member of the current Regional Service Team.

**Section B – Regional Level Activities**

**Subsection Bi – Regional Meeting and Encounter Activities Specific to the Regional Cursillo Coordinator and Service Team**

Each Regional Cursillo Coordinator and Service Team member should have input into the planning of Regional Meetings and Encounters; however, it is very important to consult with the voting members of the Regional Secretariats (Diocesan Cursillo Coordinators) to request their input regarding date, location, schedule, agenda, topics, etc. The Regional Secretariat represents the Cursillistas of the Diocesan Movement and the Regional Service Team serves to meet the needs of the Regional Secretariat.

For regions with multiple language groups, it is highly encouraged that they meet in the spirit of unity and friendship. In the case of multiple language groups, then the Regional Cursillo Coordinators could consider alternating with the planning, scheduling and facilitating of meetings for the Regional Secretariats, Regional Service Teams and Regional Encounters.

The Regional Cursillo Coordinator taking the lead will ensure that a notice of the next meeting is sent to each Diocesan Secretariat at least 60-90 days prior to the meeting/encounter. The Regional Cursillo Coordinators of all language groups in the Region should work together to ensure this information is made available in all the respective languages.

The Regional Cursillo Coordinator taking the lead will facilitate each Regional meeting. He/she will appoint a member of the Service Team to take minutes and distribute them to each diocese in the Region within 30 days after each meeting. The Regional Cursillo Coordinators of all language groups in the Region should work together to ensure this information is made available in all the respective languages.

The Regional Cursillo Coordinators of all language groups will appoint a person from the Service Team OR an active Cursillista from the Region to be the Treasurer for the Region for a Maximum term of four (4) years. That person will be responsible for collecting Regional affiliation fees, coordinating the amount of the fee for participants at each Regional meeting/encounter and providing a financial statement of the Region at each meeting. The Regional Cursillo Coordinators will determine other functions as deemed necessary. A Regional Cursillo Coordinator shall not hold the position of Regional Treasurer.

The Regional Service Teams should also meet at least twice a year to ensure that the contents of Regional meetings/encounters are purposeful and to ensure the needs of the Dioceses in the Region are being met. Conference calls are encouraged between meetings to keep abreast of what is going on in the Region. These two meetings can be held either immediately prior to the arrival of the participants for the already-scheduled Regional meeting or they can be held separate of any regularly scheduled Regional meetings.

**Subsection Bii – Non-Meeting Activities of the Regional Cursillo Coordinator and Service Team**

During the periods between the regularly scheduled meetings, the Regional Cursillo Coordinator and Service Team leaders have a tremendous amount of service to conduct throughout the Region.

- a. Promote the authentic Foundational Charism through workshops and Cursillo de Cursillos (CDCs).
- b. Promote friendship at the diocesan, regional and national levels.

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- c. Maintain personal contact with all dioceses in the Region.
- d. Maintain an up-to-date roster of each diocesan Cursillo Movement’s Archbishop/Bishop, Spiritual Advisor and Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator, along with the term dates for the Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator.
- e. Ensure that the Cursillo Apostolic Plan is being reviewed on an annual basis. If a diocesan Cursillo Movement does not have a Cursillo Apostolic Plan, then the Regional leaders need to offer their assistance if necessary. A copy of each diocesan Cursillo Movement’s Apostolic Plan should be kept on file with the Regional leaders and a copy sent to the National Cursillo Center.
- f. Ensure that the Diocesan Operational By-Laws are being reviewed a minimum of every three years. If a diocesan Cursillo Movement does not have a set of By-Laws, then the Regional leaders need to offer their assistance if necessary. A copy of each diocesan Cursillo Movement’s By-Laws should be kept on file with the Regional leaders and a copy sent to the National Cursillo Center.
- g. Ensure that a copy of the diocesan Cursillo Movement’s “Diocesan Report” Diocesan Report (natl-cursillo.org) is being sent to their local Archbishop/Bishop’s office, Regional Cursillo Coordinators and the National Cursillo Center.
- h. Provide nationally recognized workshops, especially a Cursillo de Cursillos (CDC). These workshops should be advertised in order to allow Cursillistas from other dioceses to attend. This provides tremendous training for the members of the Regional Service Team and the Regional Service Team Pool and helps them to prepare for service on the Regional Service Team and the role of the Regional Cursillo Coordinator.
- i. Ensure that the Regional Cursillo Coordinator’s Report is properly prepared and sent to the National Cursillo Center and respective National Language Coordinator in a timely manner.
- j. Ensure proper communications exists between the Diocesan leaders, the Regional leaders and the National leaders.

### **Subsection Biii – Regional Gatherings**

Regional Secretariats, through official representations, shall gather Regionally for the following purposes:

- a. To enhance the Palanca spirit in the Region.
- b. To provide more local coordination for the development and strengthening of the Cursillo Movement within a Region by an established Regional Cursillo Apostolic Plan.
- c. To provide a convenient forum for exchanging views, ideas and mutual assistance between and among Diocesan Secretariats.
- d. To provide input for Regional meetings, workshops, encounters, etc.
- e. To review strengths and weaknesses in the Cursillo Movement peculiar to the Region.
- f. To approve the selection of candidates for the Service Team Pool who will be responsible for serving and meeting the future needs of the Diocesan Movements.

### **Section C – Diocesan Representation**

Each Diocese in a Region is encouraged to send any or all of its members, especially its Diocesan Secretariat members, but at least the Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator and Spiritual Advisor, to all Regional gatherings.

If a Diocese has more than one affiliated Diocesan Secretariat (e.g. English, Spanish, Vietnamese, etc.), each Secretariat will have the same responsibilities at all meetings.

For voting purposes, each affiliated Diocesan Secretariat shall be represented by the same number of voting members, usually the Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator for each Language Group or their lay proxy. Every effort should be made to ensure that the voting conscientiously represents the various groups of the Movement in that Diocese.

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To signify and promote unity in the Movement in the United States, all Diocesan Cursillo Movements (English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Filipino, etc.) are to be included in the Regional body and all decisions are to be made as one body, one Movement.

For convenience, a Diocesan Secretariat (including all language groups) may change its alignment to an adjacent Region at any time by notifying in writing the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group and the National Cursillo Service Administrator after consulting with the Regional Cursillo Coordinators of the Regions involved.

### **ARTICLE VII – Diocesan School of Leaders**

Every Movement needs a core group of leaders who have dedicated themselves to deepening their understanding of the Cursillo Movement. These are people who want to know more about the mentality, purpose and method because they want to understand the WHY of things. This core group of leaders acts as leaven within the larger community in a very natural and ordinary way. As leaven within the Movement, they do not teach by preaching but rather by being living witnesses to the very essence of the Charism. The School of Leaders is a group of friends that individually and collectively have placed Christ in the axis of their persons and are striving to make Cursillo their primary apostolate. The School of Leaders is a community of service consisting of both lay and clergy.

This community of service, called a School of Leaders, should:

- a. Meet regularly, ideally on a weekly basis.
- b. Create a hunger for God and bear witness to Christ.
- c. Support the Ultreya(s).
- d. Accelerate the conversion of its own members and assist the entire community to grasp the vision and mentality of the founder and the fundamental Cursillo Movement.
- e. Communicate the Good News of God’s love to the person in a kerygmatic manner.
- f. Promote the evangelization of environments.
- g. Study and be familiar with the Operational Bylaws and official Cursillo literature as representatives responsible for overseeing the Movement in their diocese.
- h. Use the technique of personal contact during the Precursillo, the Cursillo and in the Postcursillo to make friends.

### **ARTICLE VIII – Operational Bylaws Details**

#### **Section A – When Effective**

These Operational Bylaws have been approved by a consensus method of the members of the National Cursillo Secretariat present at a meeting of the National Cursillo Secretariat on October 7, 2024.

#### **Section B – Amendments and Revisions**

Proposed Amendments to the Operational Bylaws should be submitted in writing to the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinator of the National Cursillo Movement at least 45 days prior to any National Cursillo Secretariat Meeting.

The Proposed Amendment(s) shall be distributed by the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinator to the National Cursillo Secretariat members for review at least 30 days prior to the next scheduled National Cursillo Secretariat Meeting.

The Proposed Amendment(s) will be accepted or not accepted at the National Cursillo Secretariat Meeting through a consensus voting process.

#### **Section C – Situations Not Covered**

Should any question arise in any meeting of the National Cursillo Secretariat, which is not specifically covered by these Operational Bylaws, the consensus of the members present shall determine the answer.

**Section D - Revisions**

These Operational Bylaws are to be reviewed every five years by a group selected by the National Cursillo Secretariat. It is recommended that one to two members of the review group be former Regional Cursillo Coordinators who served on the National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group within the last five years. The National Cursillo Operational Bylaws Review Group will submit the adjustments/changes to the National Cursillo Secretariat 30 days before the next National Cursillo Secretariat Meeting, via the National Cursillo Coordinating Group. Revisions can be added to this document by date, or if significant changes to the overall document are to be made, a new edition can be issued. The adjusted Operational Bylaws are to be uploaded to the National Cursillo webpage and distributed to key parties within 30 days of the National Cursillo Secretariat meeting in which they are approved.

**Reference Materials:**

- Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Printed 2014
- Leaders’ Manual, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition, Printed June 2006
- Rector’s Guide, 1<sup>st</sup> US Edition, Printed 2023
- Spiritual Advisor’s Guide, Revised edition, Printed June 2023

**Cursillo Title Changes:**

<b>Former Title</b>	<b>New Title – National</b>	<b>New Title – Regional</b>	<b>New Title - Diocesan</b>
National Secretariat	National Cursillo Secretariat		
Executive Committee	National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group		
Personnel Committee	National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinating Group		
Finance Advisory Committee	National Cursillo Finance Advisory Group		
Chairperson	National Cursillo Secretariat Coordinator		
Vice-Chairperson	National Cursillo Secretariat Vice-Coordinator		
Language Coordinator	National Cursillo Language Coordinator		
Regional Coordinator		Regional Cursillo Coordinator	
Lay Director			Diocesan Cursillo Coordinator