

## **Cursillo in Eleven Points**

*Source: Eduardo Bonnin Aguiló Foundation.*

### **1. Essence and Purpose of Cursillos in Christianity**

Cursillos in Christianity want to be a live element, and therefore grow and develop by affirming its criteria, which is its own and essential and therefore, avoid losing its identity when separated from it.

Essence - Cursillos are a lay Movement from the Church. Cursillo has a method that helps to make possible for people to live what is fundamental to being Christian.

Purpose - The purpose of Cursillo is life itself, not the Ultreya, nor the Group Reunion. Cursillo seeks to create a hunger for God rather than trying to satisfy it.

### **2. Structure of Cursillos in Christianity**

We believe that if the Cursillo Movement is given space to live, in its basic structure of Group Reunion, Ultreya and School of Leaders, it can bring, through its own dynamic, the Good News of the Gospel to all the recesses of human existence, personal, family and social life.

Cursillos in Christianity as a Movement are governed by its administrative element, a Diocesan Secretariat comprised of people who respect the guidelines of the Church.

### **3. Mentality**

The living of what is fundamental to being Christian is to know, capture, and understand that God loves us. Therefore, keep it simple, center it, embody it, and clarify it by living, believing, and witnessing to the Gospel.

### **4. School of Leaders**

The School of Leaders is a group of Christians united in an atmosphere of Group Reunion in order to accelerate and give effectiveness to the purpose which Cursillo wants to achieve.

The School of Leaders is not a School of Formation, but is intended to be a School of Holiness attempting, in a climate of sincerity and authenticity, that its components are more focused on what is essential in Cursillo and more engaged in the journey of commitment among people and more integrated in the plans that unite them.



## 5. Leaders

These may be and are in fact all the people who accept and live even without knowing the truths expressed in the essence, purpose and mentality of Cursillos in Christianity.

Leaders, above all, are those who do not pretend to be. Leaders are those who open themselves each day to the astonishment of a God who loves them and to the admiration of their brothers and sisters.

## 6. Group Reunion

Cursillo does not seek for people to assume new commitments, but rather, to accept and give meaning to the commitments which they already have in life. This commitment which originates from life itself, and through living it and sharing it, we wish to convert it, to nothing more and nothing less, into a commitment of friendship.

The Group Reunion is a channel for friendship in the conversion process. A friendship with purpose and atmosphere in which we can develop as persons and as Christians.

The four important elements are: regularity, seriousness, discretion and sincerity.

## 7. Ultreya

The Ultreya is the act Cursillistas celebrate weekly with less intensity and less intimacy, but with greater diversity and increased possibility than the Group Reunion in order to admire and encourage each other in our common faith.

The Ultreya serves to enhance our Group Reunion and in it the Cursillista seeks to become better by virtue of being better and being with the best.

The Ultreya has to be lived and experienced and is not intended to be educational or formative.

## 8. Relations with the rest of the Church

We believe that what is essentially evangelical goes toward an enlightened and dynamic sense of life in the person, and not toward the narrow minded in compliance and without the spirit of the principle.

What is serious is not getting sidetracked from the path with distractions, but in distorting its purpose. What is difficult is the accompaniment of people and sharing with them “the associative force of friendship”. The journey of living with dedication and perseverance in the face of God and with the brothers and sisters can



never be substituted by thoughtless programs in which the person is not given priority in moving towards God.

Cursillo is not opposed that Cursillistas provide an active personal collaboration at the diocesan level, parish, etc. and that there have been and will continue to be many Cursillistas who will decide to do so without external pressures. There may be those who become leaders of many associations, church or civic; however, we think that to do this will lower the aim since Cursillo, without a doubt, aims at and is oriented toward a purpose much more efficient, effective and comprehensive that ensures that many men and women take the leap of faith and feel loved by God.

## 9. Action

By means of the three stages of Precursillo, Cursillo and Postcursillo, the Cursillista attempts through his personal witness, to communicate the message to as many people as possible.

For this, the Cursillista depends on the means of Group Reunion and Ultreya and with the grace of the Lord which is specifically related to the activity of the Cursillista to live in grace, or to attempt to live in grace or is sad for not living in grace.

In summary, the expanded view of Cursillo in its most profound truth, certifies that the real encounter with self is the structure that makes possible the encounter with others and the Gospel.

## 10. Respect for the Founding Group

Cursillos in Christianity which were born in Mallorca rely on numerous people who knew and lived the Cursillo in its origins and with someone whom we recognize as the Founder and voice of Cursillo.

To those possible enemies, with respect to these people they could be the subject of the words spoken by Pope Pius XII in a speech on June 10, 1953:

“History has shown that ideas which are more fruitful tend to move slower when faced with conflicting interests. Experience has shown it a hundred times, in order for reasonable solutions to prevail, a single reason is not sufficient. The person who represents the interests of others, the one who speaks for them, must be governed by the will to serve. He must believe in the nobility of his own cause and be devoted without limits to a great deed.”

## 11. Notes

- To go as leaders or rectors is not an acquired right.



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- Go for the prize. The only prize is service itself.
- The Group Reunion is not to correct others, nor to admonish, nor to make groups who pressure others.
- Envy is motive for confession. Admiration is motive for joy. Jealousy causes bitterness.
- There is a need to serve Cursillos and not make use of them for self-serving reasons.
- The Cursillo Movement of Mallorca is reaffirmed in its totality in the Manifesto of 1981.
- The truth cannot be invented; each one must discover it. We are in the process of discovering truths and listening to those who shed light on reality.
- Manipulation can be confused with awareness. Awareness is to discover truths and understand them not only because the Lord requires it, but because we live them.
- It is essential in the Cursillo Movement, that, for the fascinating and unstoppable process of fermentation of what is Christian in man, in men and in society, we realize that with honesty and simplicity, we need to play fair [conduct oneself properly] with the things of God by taking seriously the world of men.
- What is specific about the Movement is to place what is fundamental to being Christian within the reach of man. To ensure that the liberty of man encounters the Spirit of God. This will go beyond all agendas and will collide with the temptation of framing and classifying something as fluent and spontaneous as the encounter of people with the Christ of the Gospel.