

# SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES

First and foremost, it is the sponsor's responsibility to discern the candidate's readiness for a Cursillo Weekend. Cursillo is a call to lay leadership. Is your potential candidate curious about searching, discovering and growing in faith? Will the candidate be open to the present moments of the weekend? Honest about their spiritual journey? If so, is the candidate in a good place emotionally? If the candidate is in a time of stress or turmoil, it may not be the right time to make a weekend.

## **As a sponsor, you have several responsibilities:**

### **Prior to the weekend:**

Prepare the candidate for the weekend by explaining the basic format. No need to share everything, but the candidate should know that there is a series of talks on various spiritual topics, prayer services that are uniquely Catholic, and that sacraments will be offered on the weekend. Non-Catholics must understand that it is a Catholic weekend. Non-Catholics are entirely welcome on the Oakland Diocesan Cursillo weekends, but an Anglican weekend can be offered to the non-Catholics. Make sure that the candidate fills out an application, pointing out the need to include health and diet restrictions. Make sure that you fill out the sponsor form, have a member of the clergy sign it and get it to the Pre-Cursillo committee. The applicant's form also needs to be signed by clergy. Both forms need to be returned together. Please follow up! Don't let the form get lost on someone's desk! Make sure that the candidate understands the dates and times, including fourth day. When the candidate receives the letter of acceptance with the list of items to bring, go over it with the candidate to make sure that everything is clear. In the foreseeable future candidates will be sleeping on airbeds on the floor. This must be understood so that it won't be a surprise or a hardship for the candidate. Find out if the site of the weekend has any particular 'problems' that might be a physical challenge for your candidate.

### **On the weekend:**

Provide transportation to the weekend and stay with your candidate, helping to check-in, choose a bed and keeping them company during the short time of fellowship before the rector or rectora calls for the weekend to officially begin. Be available to the family of your candidate if they should need support during the weekend. Attend Mananitas if possible. If the candidate is married, make sure that the spouse is invited to the Closures. Help them with transportation to the Closures if needed. Make sure they know about any welcome get-together at your, or their, parish after the Closures. Attend Closures. Pick up your candidate after Closures.

**After the weekend:** Attend fourth day with your candidate. Help your candidate to find or start a group reunion. The continuing experience of grouping is known to be vital to keep the Cursillo spirit alive. This is a major responsibility of the sponsor.

**Always:** Pray for your candidate!