

BY-LAWS FOR
THE CURSILLO SECRETARIAT
OF
THE DIOCESE OF SAVANNAH

PREAMBLE

Unity of purpose is essential if there is to be a courageous and total service of Jesus Christ through the Cursillo Movement. Individualism halts the advance of the Movement and in fact disintegrates it. The Secretariat unifies the Movement on all levels and indicates the path to be followed in essential matters of practical detail as indicated in the official literature. However, in all questions of importance it listens to the leaders before deciding what should or should not be done.

The members of Leaders' School will be in constant dialogue with the Secretariat. The members of the Secretariat for their part should recall that the Lord, through His Bishop, has given them a most serious responsibility for the implementation of the authentic Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Savannah. Conscious of each one's talents, it should coordinate individual contributions in to a total effort in support of the Movement in all its phases - Pre Cursillo, Cursillo, and Post Cursillo. Making decisions is a formidable charge for the Secretariat. All cursillistas must support it by prayer and palanca. In guiding the Movement, the Secretariat must be watchful not to create subservience but to build up the whole Body of Christ. The Secretariat must determine the potential of the entire diocesan Movement so that each person may be led to discover his individual potential and contribute to the building up of the Kingdom of God. This it should do, in love, at the same time demanding a just response for each leader.

The Secretariat should not be dictatorial but must view its authority as one of service to the total Movement. It must remember that the Movement's direction has been entrusted to it by Christ through the Bishop to whom it will have to account for this charge. The Secretariat, as a service, unit is not established to be served but to serve those who serve most and best, namely the leaders. In this sense, the Secretariat cannot be thought of except as a group reunion whose apostolic plan is the promotion of the Cursillo Movement itself, programmed and carried out with the idea of the greatest service to all (Fundamental Ideas Chap VII).

Just as on the 3-Day Cursillo, priests bear the responsibility for spiritual guidance and laymen regulate its overall functioning, so priest and lay members of the Secretariat will cooperate for furthering the aims and objectives of the Cursillo Movement as a whole (Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity IV; Constitution of the Church IV).

Article I - In the Diocese of Savannah, there shall be only one Secretariat of Cursillo in Christianity which will be a functional and autonomous organism under the immediate direction of the Bishop and dependent on him.

Article II - As a group, the members of the Secretariat shall guide and coordinate all phases of the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Savannah with in the pastoral plan of the Bishop.

Article III - Members of the Secretariat shall be appointed by the Secretariat itself with the approval of the Bishop. Failure to attend two (2) consecutive meetings will result in the appointment of a new member. Only members of leaders school shall be eligible for appoint when applicable.

Article IV - The Leaders School is the cornerstone of the Cursillo Movement, the complement and extension of the Secretariat. The school will be its instrument for the realization of its work. The school will supply the Secretariat with teams of leaders technically and spiritually prepared that they may be the ferment of the Cursillo Movement in the diocese, since it is on the leaders that the responsibility rests for vitalizing the group reunions and the Ultreyas, the specific means of perseverance in the post Cursillo.

Article V The Secretariat shall be composed of the lay people and a priest advisor whose duties will be:

1. OFFICERS - There shall be a Lay Directory, Treasurer and Secretary who will be chosen by a simple majority vote of the members of the Secretariat.

a. The Lay Director, in consultation with the Spiritual Advisor will convoke, preside at, direct and prepare agendas for all meetings of the Secretariat. He/She will do everything possible to promote a spirit of unity, not only among the members of the Secretariat, but in leaders school and throughout the whole diocesan Cursillo Movement. He/She will see to it that each member of the Secretariat fulfills his duties. He/She will present an annual report and interim reports, if necessary to the Bishop in the name of the Secretariat. The Lay Director shall serve for three (3) years and for a serious reason may be re-elected for another term of office. He/She may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

b. The Treasurer shall handle the financial matters of the Cursillo Movement. He/She will do whatever is necessary to verify that the Movement is financially sound at all times and that local, regional and national financial obligations are met. He/She will see to it that required books, publications and other supplies, which are needed by the Movement, are always available. The term of office shall be three (3) years.

c. The Secretary will keep the minutes of all meetings and verify that they are distributed promptly to all who should receive them. He/She will verify that mailing lists are up to date and assume responsibility for all mailings sent by the Secretariat. He/She will perform other duties usually connected with this office. The term of office shall be three (3) years.

2. There shall be at least one representative for each of the three phases of the Movement.

a. The Pre-Cursillo Representative shall study and propose to the Secretariat the plan of establishment and extension of the Cursillo in the diocese; maintain a file of all applications; assist all leaders in implementing the Pre-Cursillo phase of the Movement according to the official literature.

b. The Cursillo Representative shall present to the Secretariat names of prospective rectors; help all leaders to carry out perfectly all that is required on the 3 -Day Cursillo according to the official literature.

c. The Post-Cursillo Representative shall for the benefit of all Cursillistas promote the essential means of perseverance (Group Reunion and Ultreya) and establish fundamental standards for managing the same according to the official literature; working with the Secretary, publish or distribute pertinent material for the information and orientation of the Cursillistas; gather the necessary statistical data to supply for the Secretariat opportune information concerning the progress of the Movement in the diocese.

3. Other persons may be added to the Secretariat as deemed necessary so that it may accomplish its task of guiding and serving the Cursillo Movement in the diocese.

4. A Priest Spiritual Advisor shall be appointed by the Bishop. In addition to the general responsibility for the whole Cursillo Movement which he shares with the other members of the Secretariat, it will be his specific responsibility to provide for the apostolic formation of the leaders, to advise the Movement in spiritual matters and to secure the service of priests to work in the various phases, of the Movement in their capacity as spiritual advisors.

Article VI - Liaison shall be established and maintained with the National and Regional Secretariats which bodies shall be supported by the Diocese of Savannah Cursillo Movement, both spiritually by way of prayer and Palanca and materially, by way of financial contributions to the degree required.

Article VII - The Secretariat shall implement the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Savannah according to that which is essential and fundamental as outlined in the official literature of the Movement.

Article VIII - Since the Secretariat is itself a group reunion there shall be a sharing of piety, study, and moment closest to Christ on the part of each member at every Secretariat meeting.

Article IX - Amendments to these By-laws may be proposed by any member of the Secretariat and may be made, subject to the approval of the Bishop, at its regular meeting by a two thirds majority vote of the entire Secretariat provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted to the Secretariat at least one month in advance of the meeting at which the proposed amendment is to be discussed and voted upon.