

Palanca = prayer & sacrifice

WHAT PALANCA IS NOT.

Many within the Cursillo community think of palanca as the wonderful letters received during the weekend. But “palanca” does not equal “letters.” The Leader’s Manual states,

We must be vigilant that the term Palanca not be misunderstood and abused so that incidental trimmings overshadow [palanca’s] interior call and meaning. Colorful posters and banners are not Palanca; neither are flowers, edibles, friendship letters or good wishes. . . . It must be understood that letters are not Palanca. Letters are merely a vehicle in which we convey the actual Palanca being done.

WHAT PALANCA IS.

The Spanish word palanca means “lever.” It came to be used to describe the Spanish word “intendencia,” which means prayer and sacrifice undertaken specifically to obtain a favor from God? Just as a lever allows a person to move things which are beyond his or her strength, so do **prayer and sacrifice** allow us to accomplish more than we would be capable of otherwise.

Palanca/prayer and sacrifice should not be limited to the Cursillo weekends. It is important before the weekends (during team formation and as sponsors evangelizing candidates); during the weekends (for the community being formed); and especially after the weekends (as candidates return to their “unconverted” environments, in 4th-day groups and Ultreyas).

ARE PALANCA LETTERS IMPORTANT?

The answer is YES! It IS important for candidates to have an outward sign (letters) of the inward prayer and sacrifice offered on their behalf. The key is to have the letters be a symbol of that prayer and sacrifice and make it apparent to the candidate that love, prayer, and sacrifice are normal parts of leading a Christian life.

As a sponsor, you will ask people to write letters for your candidate. You can ask a member of the candidate’s family for help when putting together a list of names. Be sure to ask the candidate’s pastor to send a letter. It’s a good reminder for them and will be very important to the candidate.

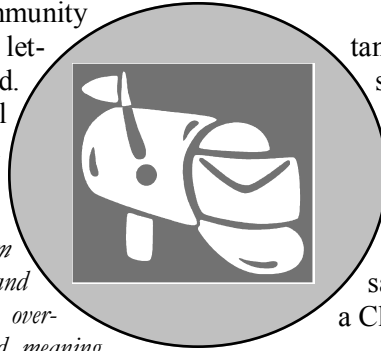
Please remember that flowers, candy, and gifts are not appropriate. In addition, while it may be nice for candidates to be surprised by the letters, the power of palanca is not the surprise itself. **The power is the prayer and sacrifice.**

Take time to give prayerful consideration to the ways you can offer palanca to your candidate. Contact the current spiritual directors, rector, or rectora for more information.

DE COLORES!

“The worst enemies of a movement are those who become its promoters without understanding it.”

Dostoevski, as noted in the Editor’s Preface-Structure of Ideas, Ultreya Press, page viii, & as quoted in the Leaders’ Manual, page 39.



Cursillo

What every
SPONSOR
should know



*The nuts and bolts
of sponsorship & candidate
preparation.*

Sponsor Basics

WHO ARE SPONSORS?

Sponsors are individuals who have made a three-day weekend and are familiar with the Cursillo methodology. As Cursillistas, we know we must go forth and spread the Good News! We are called to make our environments more “Christian.” One way to do this is to identify the people in those environments that can bring about a change.

WHO ARE PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES?

Some prospective candidates are already leaders in their environments. They are mature, responsible, motivated, and concerned about their communities.

Other possible candidates are just plain ordinary folks, but the weekend should start (or re-spark) their journey to living a fully Christian life.

Catholic candidates should be properly disposed to receive the sacraments.

WHAT IS A SPONSOR’S MOST IMPORTANT JOB?

Pray, pray, pray!!! Talk to God about the person before you talk to the person about God. Pray for the candidate before, during, and after the weekend.

Pray, pray, pray!!!



SPONSOR CHECKLIST

Do

- ✦ Emphasize that the weekend is an opportunity for spiritual development and chance to stop and get away from everyday concerns.
- ✦ Be a friend, get to know them if you aren’t already close. Potential candidates may be acquaintances from work or church, etc.
- ✦ Help with the application: pay the \$20 fee, arrange for the pastor’s signature, make other arrangements (beds, medications, allergies, etc.) as necessary, etc.
- ✦ Offer help or make arrangements (care of kids, parents, pets, etc.) so the candidate can participate .
- ✦ Explain the Eucharistic guidelines.
- ✦ Talk about the expense of the weekend and the free-will offering. The suggested donation is \$75. However, no one will be turned away because of their finances.
- ✦ Solicit palanca (see more about palanca on the reverse side).
- ✦ Provide a ride to the weekend, attend sponsors’ hour, candlelight, and closing. Ask family members to attend closing, too.

- ✦ Set a good example by attending Ultreyas, Caminos, and your 4th-day group.
- ✦ **Support the 4th day.** Sponsors have at least a 6-month commitment after the weekend. This is so important! Get your candidate in a 4th-day group; be sure a group is available before the weekend.
- ✦ Pray, pray, pray!!!

DON’T

- ✦ Don’t wait until the last minute. Think about and approach potential candidates throughout the year.
- ✦ Don’t be pushy. Just plant seeds.
- ✦ Do not recruit candidates who have serious emotional issues or who have drinking and/or drug problems. Cursillo is not designed to address these challenges.
- ✦ Never lie about anything that happens during the weekend. If asked a direct question, give an honest answer. You may explain that you don’t want to give too much detail so that the candidate has their own experience.
- ✦ Don’t stop praying!