



**The British Anglican Cursillo<sup>®</sup> Council**

®Cursillo Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

# **Servant Community**

*Revised 2018*

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## Introduction

These booklets, which form the Resource Manual or Handbook for British Anglican Cursillo (BAC), are revised versions of the original documents gifted to BAC from the Episcopal Church of the USA in 1989. In the early to mid-2000s and again in 2013/4 They had been revised for basic differences between the American ways of doing things and for language alterations, but it became apparent that the booklets were not being read or used effectively by Diocesan Cursillo.

This major revision and rewording of the booklets was made by a group of experienced Cursillistas in 2017/8 and is intended for use by Diocesan Cursillo in order to explain and guide such groups in the practicalities and use of the Cursillo method. We believe that this reflects best practice.

In line with recent legal requirements there are also attached Guidelines and Policy Documents, particularly in regard to safeguarding, insurance and financial matters.

It is recommended that any future reviews of these booklets refer back to the original documents received from the Episcopal Church of the USA (ECUSA), copies of which should be held by the BAC President.

*February 2018*

# THE SERVANT COMMUNITY

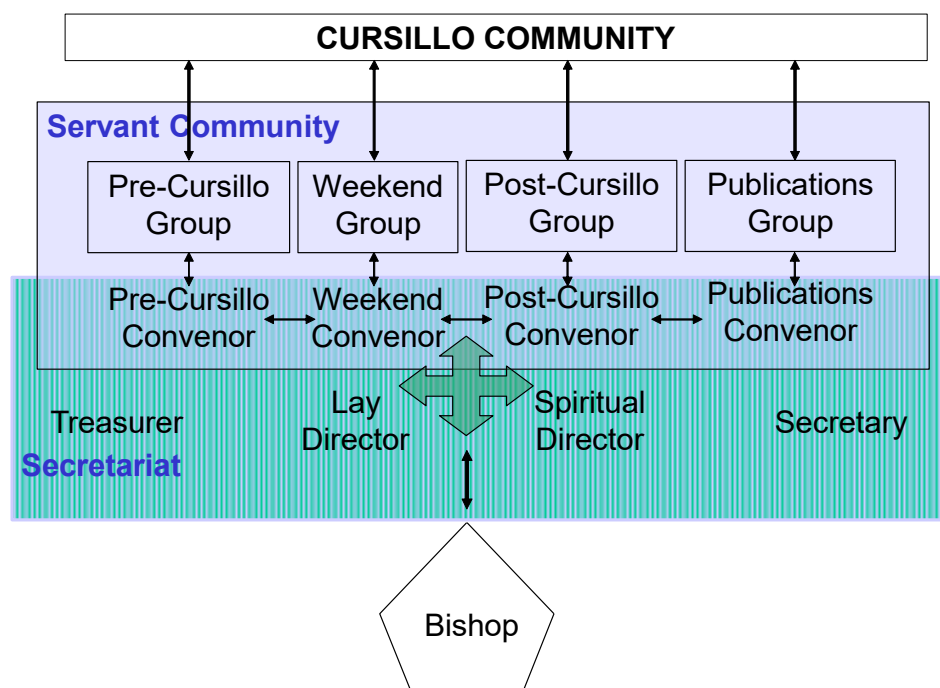
(Known in the Founders' literature as *Leaders' School*)

The Servant Community is an essential element of any Diocesan Cursillo Movement. It is not established to do something but to **BE** something.

It is:

- A place to form a Christian Community among the leaders of the movement.
- A place for leadership development both spiritually and in the Methodology of the movement.
- A place to do the work of the Cursillo Movement.

This diagram shows the structure of Cursillo in a Diocese and where the Servant Community sits in that regard



In practical terms:

- The Secretariat is the link to the Bishop – the decision and policy-making body.
- The Servant Community is the working arm of the Secretariat
- The Servant Community is the place to ‘grow’ future Cursillo Leaders

## **THE CURSILLO LEADER**

We see the development of Cursillistas in leadership roles after their weekend – where they are planted, in their parishes.

The Cursillo Leader is a Christian leader who offers themselves to help organise and run the Diocesan Cursillo for a limited time. Such Leaders are often ‘grown’ from within the Servant Community, where they can learn more about the Cursillo Method and help constructively to foster its use throughout the Diocese.

## **ORGANISATION OF THE SERVANT COMMUNITY AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE SECRETARIAT**

Each Cursillo community has its own individual characteristics and personality. The structure and format of the Servant Community may vary slightly, but the basics are:

- Members of the Secretariat chair smaller groups/committees in the Servant Community – try to ensure both Lay and Clergy are represented in each group.
  - ◇ Pre-Cursillo
  - ◇ Three Day Weekend
  - ◇ Post Cursillo (fourth Day)

- ◇ Communications/Publications
- ◇ Any others felt necessary locally
- The chair of each of the groups invites/welcomes Cursillistas to help in its work
- The groups work to further the Cursillo method in practical ways
- Potential Lay Rectors, Spiritual Directors/Advisers etc. can 'cut their teeth' in Servant Community before offering themselves for Secretariat and other Diocesan/National Roles.

## **BEGINNING A SERVANT COMMUNITY**

- Gather a group of Cursillistas, lay and clergy, who have shown leadership and commitment to serve the Lord in the Cursillo movement.
- Share Group Reunion, study and pray together - at every meeting together.
- Servant Community begins its existence at this point.
- As the community forms, the vision of the Servant Community for their diocese will become clear to them. Each community will develop according to its needs.
- Committees can be formed and work sessions agreed in order to complete agreed tasks.
- Servant Community moves forward evolving and developing.

There is no “right” way to do Servant Community – but Prayer, Reunion, Teaching and Work are the key elements.

These guidelines should help, but the most important element is perseverance!

## **MEETING FORMAT**

Most Servant Communities meet and use the following suggested format which lasts approximately **2-2½ hours**. The suggested committees and functions do not represent a complete list of responsibilities for each. The needs of the diocese and the Secretariat will determine the scope and development of each committee.

### **Prayer for the Gift of the Holy Spirit**

**Leaders' Group Reunion (30 mins)** *see Appendix A.* – This helps weld the community together – it is the discipline that all will understand.

**3. Doctrinal Talk (15 mins)** *see Appendix B.* This talk is given by the Spiritual Director/Adviser or a clergy member of the Servant Community. It contributes to the spiritual growth and development of the leaders. Followed by discussion, 10-15 mins.

**4. Technique Talk (15 mins)** *see Appendix B.* This is where the Cursillo Movement is studied. The technique talk is intended to help us grow in our knowledge of Cursillo by explaining the various elements of the Movement. It is given by a lay member of the Servant Community. Followed by discussion, 10-15 mins.

**5. Work Sessions (1 hour).** As the working arm of the Secretariat, this is where the different areas of the

movement meet together, study, plan and carry out the work of the movement.

- **Pre-Cursillo** —Study of environments, selection of leaders within targeted environments, study of specific literature related to the pre-Cursillo, especially sponsorship. More detailed information regarding sponsorship is available in the Sponsorship booklet'
- **Cursillo-Three Day Weekend**—Study of the talks on the Cursillo weekend, assist with the team formation for weekends, organize and encourage palanca, see to the physical needs of the weekend, study the literature relative to the Cursillo weekend.
- **Post-Cursillo**—Coordinate Ultreyas and help leaders establish Group Reunions, visit Ultreyas periodically to provide guidance to Ultreya leaders, help establish regional Ultreyas, study the literature concerning Post-Cursillo and encourage the development of new leadership in all phases of the movement.
- **Communications/Publications**—Design and publish the community newsletter, develop a means of communicating urgent information to the larger community, maintain communication with the British Anglican Cursillo Council and assist the Secretariat with statistics and records.
- **Other Committees** as needed by the individual diocese.

**6. Reports (15 mins).** A report from each committee is given to the general meeting. This is a brief summary of any action/recommended action/study done by each section. It is from these reports that the Secretariat evaluates and plans appropriate action.

**7. Announcements (5 mins).** This is a time to share what is happening within the Cursillo community and the diocese.

**8. Closing prayers.**

### **A few helpful hints.**

- 2-2.5 hrs means you could start with the Secretariat in the morning and welcome the Servant Community to meet in the afternoon, when the current topics and issues will be most fresh in the minds of those chairing groups
- Sessions should be made as far as possible creative, learning the “fundamentals” can be uninteresting, but it can also be exciting depending on how the material is presented.
- People will not attend or remain interested if the time spent is not meaningful – it also helps if it is fun! The community should be searched, creative folk found and involved in planning the study sessions. Use the talented and gifted people from the community.
- Evaluate the Servant Community regularly – *see Appendix C*

## **CONCLUSION—SERVANTS OF THE SERVANTS**

The work of the Cursillo Movement is the work of the whole church. The Servant Community is a means of distributing that work as well as a means of increasing the overall maturity of the Movement through its leaders. A Cursillo leader is one who, in a simple and straightforward way, helps a Cursillo community by both “going and showing the way” in witness and love. Jesus did not give



Peter a position or title, but a directive to serve: “Feed my sheep.” A leader is first and foremost a servant.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **LEADERS’ GROUP REUNION CARD**

Review your commitment as a leader in the Cursillo Movement in the following area:

#### **Piety/Prayer**

- Review your Rule of Life.
- Share what has been your Palanca for the Movement.
- Share your moment closest to Christ since the last Servant Community meeting.

#### **Study**

- Share the environments you are studying.
- Share what talk you are studying and how you are trying to apply it in your life.
- Share what official Cursillo literature you are studying and how it has furthered your understanding of the Movement.

#### **Action**

- Share what you have done to select leaders in environments.
- Share ways in which you have helped form and sustain group reunions.
- Share ways that you served others by personal contact at Ultreyas and in other areas.

- Share the ways in which you fulfilled your obligations as a leader
- In your Servant Community assignment and other projects.
- Share your plans for the next month with regard to leadership within the Cursillo Movement.

## **Closing Prayers**

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favour, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally by your mercy obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imagination, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

## APPENDIX B TOPICS FOR SERVANT COMMUNITY TALKS (12 Sessions)

	TECHNIQUE		DOCTRINAL
1	What is Servant Community?	1	Christian Community
2	Servant Community Format	2	The Sacramental Approach to Life
3	Cursillo Leader - Primary Apostolate	3	Vocation, Calling, Discipleship; Gift/Tasks/Saints/Apostles
4	The Leaders' Group Reunion Explanation Experience	4.	Rule of Life
5	What is Cursillo? Classic Definition	5	Church History
6	A movement of the Church with its own method	6	Making it possible to live what is fundamental for being a Christian—Life of Grace
7	Creation of nuclei—Strategy of the Movement	7	Jesus and the Twelve Apostles
8	The Authentic Three Days	8	Doctrine of Grace
9	Theme—1st Day	9	Confession
10	Theme—2nd Day	10	Baptism
11	Theme - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Day	11	Eucharist
12	Incorporating the three Days into the 4th	12	The Baptismal Covenant

### OTHER SUGGESTIONS

Spiritual Direction

The BACC Resource Manual

The Cursillo Weekend Talks

The History of the Cursillo Movement, nationally and in the diocese.

The Importance of good Sponsorship for the weekend.

## APPENDIX C

### SERVANT COMMUNITY EVALUATION

It is helpful to evaluate the effectiveness of the Servant Community on a regular basis. Some suggested questions are listed but your Community may wish to develop others that are relative to your own individual needs, goals and objectives.

- How do the members of the Servant Community understand Cursillo as a vocation, a calling from God?
- Is a common understanding of the Cursillo Movement growing among the Servant Community members? Explain.
- How is the Servant Community a Christian community in action; being a service to the Cursillistas, especially in the Post Cursillo environment?
- Is there a growing understanding of how the Cursillo Movement fits into the mission of the Church and the work of the diocese? How is this happening or not happening?
- Is the Servant Community making an impact on the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese? Explain





