

Good morning fellow Cursillistas,

The sun is shining through my window and it is going to be a beautiful day. This morning, I praise God for all of you and your dedication to our mission in Cursillo.

After months of hard work and lots of prayer, we are finally ready to share with you our plan to move forward with our Cursillo weekends. Our first weekend will be January 20-23, 2022 with Damian McDonald as rector. Please begin to pray for him and his team now.

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, there will be some changes to how the weekend looks. Our goal is to keep everyone who comes to the weekend safe and well, both team and candidates. Consequently, the weekend will be much like the weekends in the Jefferson City Diocese. In other words, the weekend will essentially be closed to anyone other than team and candidates. The committee that came up with the recommendations I will outline for you was made up of Cursillistas who are nurses, doctors and public health experts from Illinois, Missouri and Iowa. The Board unanimously adopted these recommendations.

1. Food service and sanitation. I have already talked to you about most of these changes, which were actually long overdue. Most only affect the service team and food service teams on the weekend. However, the family will not be coming in to help serve meals. Also on each weekend, we will have 2 food service managers, Cursillistas who have food service certifications. They will make sure we are in compliance with public health guidelines. If you hold a food service certification and would like to volunteer, please contact Pat Holbrook.
2. Pre-weekend process. Each person coming into the building for the weekend must provide proof of a negative covid test within 48 hours prior to the weekend. A form – a covid questionnaire - will be included with the application that all team and candidates must complete and bring to registration. Masks will not be required on the weekend but are optional for those who wish to wear them. SPONSORS, I have to emphasize to you that no one should come to the weekend if they are sick, even if they have a negative test. This is true for team as well. If a rolloista is sick, we are prepared to find someone else to give their talk. Also, if someone becomes ill on the weekend, they will be sent home. They will be asked to covid test and notify the board rep of the result. Consequently, please make sure your contact information is correct on the sponsor form.
3. Buddy Mass. There will not be a Buddy Mass. The team will have a Mass at their last team meeting and they will be anointed at that time.
4. Thursday night. Sponsors will drop off their candidate outside the building. Team members will meet them and carry luggage and get them settled. Because of this, we want to try to get payments and registration information ahead of time. We are setting up an account for this purpose. More information will follow. Sponsors Hour will happen off site. We will need to figure out where. We still need to work out some of the logistics.
5. Palanca Chapel. We will continue to have a chart for coverage for the weekend. Those who sign up will pray at home. Team members will pray over a rolloista. Others can gather elsewhere, at someone's home or at church to pray during a speaker's rollo. We

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have talked just briefly so don't know yet what part digital technology might play in this process.

6. Palanca Letters should be left in the box outside the door. Also, people can send letters by email. They will be printed and put in envelopes for the candidates.
7. Stations and clowns will be allowed but they will be vaccinated and covid tested. No touching will be allowed.
8. Candlelight Mass will be held off site. Again, we will need to find a venue. After mass, those that wish will proceed to the Retreat Center and gather in the circle drive outside the south chapel. Candles will be provided. Team and candidates will stand inside the glass windows. Songs will be sung by all. While this is not the same, we believe the message will still be powerful. Afterwards, the team and candidates can gather under the cross in the chapel.
9. Closing will happen in some form. There will be a mass and witnessing but the witnessing may happen when crosses are given. This is a little like what they do in TEC. No one from outside may attend the closing. Sponsors will pick up their candidate outside. Because of this change, we strongly recommend a chance for the candidate to share, either by sharing a meal afterward or setting up some kind of gathering in your community.

For those of you who are just now hearing of these changes, I realize that this may be a lot to digest. We must remember a couple of things. First, the weekend is for the candidates and they are totally unaware of what they might be missing. Second, as both Father George and Father Tom always said, the important work that is done on the weekend happens in the conference room. The rest is window dressing, although it definitely feels good. We are confident that the Holy Spirit will find a way to bring our message home. There are so many who need Jesus, especially now. The Board feels it is more important to restart the weekends with restrictions than to wait until it is safe to resume with everything like it used to be, mostly because we don't know when if ever that will be.

These changes make it very apparent how important your groups in your community are. Please get together with your area reps to brainstorm ideas of how you can pray for and support your new candidates.

Jesus calls us to be a part of His mission to bring others to Him. The weekend may look a little different but the mission is still the same. I ask for your continued prayers for the Board as we proceed, for the upcoming weekends, for the health and safety of all who attend the weekends, for the state of the world, and for the end of Covid. I love you all.

I also want everyone to know that we are going to have a Fourth Day Renewal on December 3-4, 2021. We are limiting the number who can attend to 35 so if you are interested, you need to get your application in soon. As in Cursillo now, each person who comes must provide proof of a Covid negative test within 48 hours of the weekend. It is time for us to be together again.

In Jesus' name,
Diane Lagoski
Lay Director

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