

# “Prodigal Son” Cursillo May 17 to 20, 2012

Dear Sponsor,

Thank you for sponsoring a candidate for the “Prodigal Son” Cursillo! As a team we appreciate the confidence and trust you have placed in us, and we are committed to doing everything possible to provide your candidate with a spiritually nourishing experience.

As sponsor you are an essential member of the team, and the weekend could not happen without your support and participation. To help you fulfill your critical role as sponsor we have prepared this booklet which we hope will provide you with all the information you will need to support your candidate before, during and after the weekend.

## BEFORE THE WEEKEND

By this time we hope you have shared with your candidate the basic structure of the weekend. He should know that a Cursillo is not a traditional retreat (which often occurs in a remote setting and in quiet). Please do share with him that nothing scary or threatening will occur during the weekend, and that his needs will lovingly and gently be provided for. Be sure he knows that he will never be required to do anything that makes him uncomfortable, and most of his time will be spent listening and responding to a series of fifteen short talks prepared by members of the team on topics like “Grace” and “Faith”. Let him know there will also be lots of opportunity for fellowship, food and fun.

Be sure to arrange for payment for the weekend. The cost is \$165.00 and is the candidate’s responsibility. Scholarships are available and if he needs financial assistance to cover partial cost of the weekend you or he should very soon contact the Assistant Rector, David Takeuchi at dtakman@yahoo.com.

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If your candidate has any special dietary or medical needs you should inform Head Cook Danny Ramirez at [basnfool@yahoo.com](mailto:basnfool@yahoo.com) so his needs can be arranged in advance.

Let him know that he will be at our Cursillo home, the CASA, and it is located in the Inner Sunset neighborhood in San Francisco at 1330 14th Avenue, between Irving and Judah. He should be aware that except for some short walks around the neighborhood he will spend the three days inside this facility.

Describe the facility to him. Inform him that the CASA consists of some meeting rooms, a dining area, chapel and small bedrooms (shared by two) on three floors. Although not fancy he should find that it adequately meets his needs for comfort and safety. Because it will be necessary to move between three floors a number of times during each day, and there are no elevators in the building, it is important that he wear comfortable clothing and shoes. (Later in this booklet is a full list of what your candidate should bring with him and, equally important, what he should leave at home.)

Prior to the weekend make contact with the candidate’s family. Let them know how to reach you should they need to contact the candidate during the weekend. Be sure that arrangements have been made to provide for their needs while their family member is away. Invite them to write cards or letters to the candidate and explain that these will be delivered during the weekend and are an important part of what makes the weekend experience so special.

Gather palanca as well from the candidate’s community and friends. If your candidate is likely to need additional palanca there will be an opportunity during the sponsor’s night to make the larger community aware.

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## DURING THE WEEKEND

You should bring your candidate to dinner on Thursday, and deliver him to the CASA between 7:15 and 7:30. Please do not arrive earlier as the team will be busy making final preparations. If you expect to be late please call the MOSSAF, Terry McNee, at 650-872-9539. Should you need to deliver a message to your candidate during the weekend contact the MOSSAF at the number above.

The Welcoming Committee and the cooks will be on the first floor to greet you and your candidate when you arrive. Unless prior arrangements have been made he will be asked for the \$165.00 fee and will be assigned a room. You should go with your candidate to his room and help him get settled. Show him where the facilities are located and then accompany him to the rollo room and remain with him until the sponsors are invited to the chapel for a commissioning service.

Bring the palanca with you on Thursday night and give it to either the MOSSAF or any cook. Palanca may also be delivered directly to the palanca room in the basement during the weekend. Any large gifts or packages should be presented to your candidate after the weekend.

Be sure to check in with the candidate’s family during the weekend to be sure their needs are being met. Invite them to accompany you to mananitas on Sunday morning. You should arrive at the CASA for mananitas at 5:45 with flowers. Enter through the palanca room in the basement.

Arrive no later than 4:00 on Sunday afternoon for the Clausura, and invite the candidate’s family to join you in celebrating the new

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cursillistas. You will find your candidate’s belongings and flowers on the first floor hallway. They can be brought to your vehicle prior to the Clausura, which will be held in the rollo room.

Pray, pray, pray for your candidate and the success of the entire Cursillo! Be sure to keep your sponsor’s candle lit as a reminder that you are an essential participant in this weekend, and bring the candle with you on Sunday afternoon and present it to your candidate as a memento of the weekend.

## AFTER THE WEEKEND

Be sure to call or meet with the new cursillista on the Monday following the weekend. He will need to speak with a trusted and understanding friend as he continues to recollect and digest his experience. He may have the need to connect with you for the next few weeks.

Arrange to accompany the new cursillista to one or more of the Reunion Meetings the team has planned (a flyer with information on the Reunion Meetings is contained in this booklet).

Make plans to bring the new cursillista to the Ultreya on June 23rd (see the accompanying flyer for location and what to bring).

Most important is to help the new cursillista in getting established in an existing Fourth Day Group, or help him start a new group! Encourage him to participate in Cursillo events and to get involved with the Cursillo community.

Plan to attend the next mananitas together for the women’s weekend on Sunday, June 10th, at 5:45.

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## WHAT YOUR CANDIDATE SHOULD BRING:

1. An open mind and faith in God!
2. Comfortable clothing (it can be unpredictably warm or cold)
3. Comfortable shoes (CASA has many stairs)
4. Sweatshirt or jacket
5. Toiletries: toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, etc.
6. Towel and washcloth
7. Bedding: sheets, blanket or sleeping bag and pillow
8. Robe and slippers or shower shoes
9. Medications
10. Musical instrument (if he plays one)
11. Flashlight
12. Ear plugs
13. Notebook and reading material (optional)

## WHAT YOUR CANDIDATE SHOULD NOT TO BRING:

1. Cell phone
2. Watch or clock
3. Laptop
4. Any electronic devices: pager, I-Pod, Walkman, etc.
5. Cash or other valuables
6. His vehicle