

Dos and Don'ts of Sponsoring

Sponsoring a candidate for a Cursillo weekend is a very important responsibility, and the proper thought should go into the process before approaching someone who may be considered as a candidate. Therefore, there are some things you should do, and some things you should not do while contemplating the approach to a prospective candidate.

Do:

- 1) Pray, and then pray some more. Before you talk to a prospect about God, you should talk to God about that person. Is this the right person to attend? Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance. Is the person Catholic? Are they mentally stable? Is there something going on in their life that would not allow them to focus on the weekend? These are all important questions.
- 2) Approach them in a loving way. Have some information such as a brochure or handout for them so that they can go home, review it, pray upon it, and make a good decision.
- 3) They will say yes, no, or maybe. If yes, get together with them over a cup of coffee and explain how the weekend works. Let them know how long the weekend is, cost of the weekend, that they will be sleeping on the floor, the overall activities of the weekend, and that they will be experiencing perhaps a life-changing event. They need to know that YOU will be taking them to Marywood, and taking them home on Sunday evening. You will be helping them after the weekend finding a group and bringing them to an Ultreya. Then, you will continue to pray for them. Complete an application with them, and send it along with your sponsorship application after getting their pastor's signature and contacting your parish representative for their signature. The parish rep can fax it into Deacon Doug for you after they have made a copy for themselves.
- 4) If the prospect says no, respect that, but ask if that means "no" forever, or if they would like you to contact them in six months. If they say maybe, then continue to pray for them, and put them on the back burner for a while, then ask again with love. Prayer should be a big part of the equation, and then let Our Lord do His part.

Don't:

- 1) Forget to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.
- 2) Forget to be a good role model. People know you have attended Cursillo, and we are being watched as we go about our business. Are you the right person with the right attitude to approach this prospect?
- 3) Attack a prospect with aggression. Pressure does not work well, but after they attend a weekend, then they will thank you for being persistent. Many have been put off by pressure tactics.
- 4) Forget to ask the Parish Representative for help. Sometimes you may not know all of the particulars of the upcoming weekends. Hopefully, your parish rep does.
- 5) Forget to write palanca. It would be nice if you wrote it for all the candidates.

You will catch more fish with prayer and love, than you will with pressure.