

## **THE SERVICE SHEET**

*Source: National Cursillo Center Mailing – April 2008*

The Cursillista will persevere when he/she has been prepared to seek Christ in the Precursillo and to follow Him in the Postcursillo. The Cursillista can accomplish this by what he/she discovered in the Cursillo: to live what is essentially Christian in friendship with self, Christ and others.

“The prime and fundamental call that the Father assigns to each of us in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit is the call to holiness; that is, the perfection of charity. Holiness is the greatest testimony of the dignity conferred on a disciple of Christ.” (John Paul II, *On the Vocation and the Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and in the World*) Being a saint is a process not of arriving at, but rather becoming. Therefore, the Cursillista should always continue to strive to be greater and better in his individual sanctity through the living of what is fundamental for being a Christian. The Cursillo Movement provides the means of Piety, Study and Action to attain this end.

It is the Cursillo leader’s responsibility to see to it that the Cursillista is placed where his talents will bear the best fruits. That is, to have the Cursillista reach the precise disposition and the exact position; which is their environment. Spirit and criterion will indicate this goal and this road. Spirit – the Cursillista wants to live his new found ideal in a more conscious and ever-growing Grace. Criterion - the Cursillista’s focus will always be to keep his spirit in rhythm with the Spirit of God, in other words, to keep his will in alignment with the Will of God. Doing so, the Cursillista will possess, exercise and project through action: faith – self-surrender; hope – idealism; and love – spirit of charity.

The Cursillo Movement provides three important tools to assist the Cursillista in living their Fourth Day; the Leader’s Group Reunion Sheet, the Friendship Group Reunion Sheet and the Service Sheet. These tools are available through the National Cursillo Movement website at <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/order1.html>.

### For Your Information

The Ultreya Group Reunion Sheet is no longer used or available. The reunion at the Ultreya, the floating group reunion, is not the same as the Friendship Group Reunion. The Friendship Group Reunion should be shared separate from the Ultreya. The floating group reunion is between those in attendance at Ultreya utilizing the Group Reunion method and the Service Sheet as a base for sharing their tripod of Piety, Study and Action.

### Leader’s Group Reunion Sheet

The Cursillista who attends the School of Leaders utilizes the Leader’s Group Reunion Sheet during the first part of the School as they break up into small groups to share their Piety, Study and Action. This style of grouping is different from the Friendship Group Reunion in that it deliberately challenges the individual to evaluate or examine their everyday activities, and how those activities apply to the advancement of the Cursillo

Movement and the evangelization of environments. The Leader's Group Reunion is one of six essential elements which must be constant in the School of Leaders.

#### Friendship Group Reunion Sheet

The Friendship Group Reunion Sheet is intended for use by all Cursillistas during their Fourth Day. This particular sheet is used by a group of individuals who are friends because they are Christians; and who wish to become better friends to become better Christians. "Everything that is lived as a Christian should be lived together. The Group Reunion is only a means for living together the Christianity that each one lives or seeks to live. The deepest form of living together is friendship. Therefore, the Group Reunion is friendship raised to the level of the Transcendental; friendship converted into permanent actual Grace." (Structure of Ideas, p. 79)

#### Service Sheet

This article will focus on the Service Sheet. "Through constant encounter with our brothers and sisters, our attitude toward the Lord becomes crystallized into a commitment of honor to Him, a promise that according to the potential, the vocation, and the gifts each of us has, we will use specific means to make into a reality, day by day, the joyful ideal of our being Christian." (FICM #343)

The Service Sheet is a means to an end. Our commitment of honor to Christ centers precisely on the abilities - authentic and possible - of each one in the Body of Christ, on each of the three streams on which our sanctity is fulfilled: Piety (heart), Study (mind) and Action (will) - our internal Tripod.

By the time the candidates receive it on the Cursillo weekend, they will have experienced the encounter with self, Christ, and be well on their way in the encounter with others. The Service Sheet provides an opportunity for the candidate to begin looking beyond the weekend. It provides the Cursillistas with an opportunity to make a personal commitment to continue their conversion after the weekend. The Service Sheet functions in the Fourth Day as a reminder of the commitments made. It will be something that the Cursillista examines and modifies as his Fourth Day is lived and his conversion progresses.

The Service Sheet is provided for every Cursillista during their Cursillo weekend and is distributed during the Life in Grace rollo on Sunday. The team should have the Service Sheets ready to distribute when instructed by the Spiritual Advisor presenting the rollo. The candidates are asked to make some kind of commitment in terms of their intentions regarding prayer, attendance at mass, visit to the Blessed Sacrament, etc. They should be given the opportunity, if they wish, to speak to the Spiritual Advisor or team members about what they feel they want to commit to in their Fourth Day. At this stage of the weekend, the candidate may be so enthused that they want to go to heaven right now! Discussing it with someone whose feet are firmly planted 'on the ground' will help them be more realistic in what they plan to do in their Fourth Day to continue and deepen their conversion process, their relationship with self, Christ and others through the living of what is fundamental for being a Christian. The Rector or Rectora ensures that all the

Service Sheets are collected and that the candidate's name is written on it. The Service Sheet is placed inside the Carnet. The Carnet is a wallet size card for documenting the Cursillista's name, Cursillo date, place and number, etc. The Service Sheet and Carnet along with a Crucifix is presented to each candidate by the Spiritual Advisor at the Closing after the Apostolic Commitment Service.

The Service Sheet is designed to help the Cursillista stay focused on the commitments they have made. This also eliminates the need for reciting a list of pious acts during their Group Reunion. Going to mass every day is fine but in sharing at the Group Reunion the person wants to tell how going to mass every day helps them grow in their relationship with God. Remember, reciting a list of pious acts can be very overwhelming to someone who is new and it may intimidate them or make them think that this is what is required of them. It is the daily examination of our own commitments that prepares us for sharing with our friends on a level that draws us deeper into our relationship with Christ and each other.

All three elements: Piety, Study, and Action of the Service Sheet must be operating in order to be effective. Piety alone is simply spiritualism. We get a nice warm and fuzzy feeling. Study alone leads to intellectualism. Knowledge without action is no knowledge at all. Action without Piety and Study is reduced to humanism. We are performing good human acts that anyone can do whether or not they even believe in God. All three elements of the Service Sheet must reflect our metanoia.

Authentic and true spiritual guidance would be, then, that which at every moment, at each new crossroad guarantees the perfect adjustment of the Service Sheet to life, thus operating on fertile soil, opening up new horizons, or closing the door against dangerous deviations, acting upon the vital points of the soul, by which it is made more keen, efficient and individual, without the danger of reducing it to a ritual and periodical review of a piety which severed from life and without zeal, becomes mechanical, and without action, bogs down.

The Group Reunion maintains and safeguards the spirit necessary to fulfill the promises on the Service Sheet. The group provides support by the decisive efficacy of those who, in Grace, meet together in the name of the Lord. Therefore, the three safeguards that assure not only permanence in life but the constant growth of the whole spirit of a Cursillo are the Service Sheet which is the practical means to achieve an end, the Spiritual Director, who lead us spiritually and center us doctrinally, and the Group Reunion where we make possible for each one that which is necessary for all; the normal, lasting, and joyful living together of our lives as Christians.

The Service Sheet is in short, the practical means for helping us be in a vanguard position as Christian Catholic Cursillistas, in line with all those who, from the Vicar of Christ to the least of all Christians, make their life a continuous pilgrimage toward the Father, encouraging and bringing all their brothers and sisters along with them.

Not keeping the Service Sheet up to date or failing to fulfill its promises is to fall back automatically, leaving open a breach through which so many open or hidden attacks of the enemy can infiltrate and place in serious danger the stability of the Kingdom of God in the person.

In order to sustain our life in Christ and persevere for life we need to use the effective means provided by the Cursillo in the Service Sheet in order to nourish us and help us continue to grow. Those who have understood the essence of Cursillo and put into action the means for making it a reality in their life soon find out the important role the Service Sheet provides.