



National Cursillo Movement

National Cursillo Center • P.O. Box 799 • Jarrell, TX 76537 • 512-746-2020 • Fax 512-746-2030 • www.cursillousa.org

The How and the Why of the Cursillo Apostolic Plan

Presented by Linda Ketzner, Region 4 Cursillo Coordinator, at the 36th National Cursillo Encounter held at Wheaton College in the Diocese of Joliet, July 23-26, 2026.

Prayer: Come, Holy Spirit

Introduction

Good afternoon! Let's begin with a few questions.

- Why did you set your alarm today?
- Why did you select the clothing you are wearing today?
- Why did you register and pay the fee to attend the National Encounter?

Every one of these questions has an answer driven by one word: Purpose. In everything we do, we need a reason or a purpose to do anything. For example, if you were planning a trip to Walt Disney World in Florida, what would that entail?

Let's make a list: (Record Answers on Easel Pad – 1 minute)

Review List

Is our list complete? What is missing?

(Record Answers on Easel Pad – 1 minute)

When we leave parts of a plan out of what is needed to accomplish why we were creating a plan in the first place, we lose direction. The purpose of the plan is to direct and guide us to where we want to be. So, when we plan anything, we need to understand the purpose.

As Cursillo leaders, we need to develop an understanding of how to create plans that guide and direct all areas in our diocese and region that provide a purpose which is centered around the charism of the Cursillo movement.

The Cursillo Apostolic Plan (CAP) is a helpful guide for Cursillo Leaders to ensure the three phases and operational structures of how the Movement functions correctly and in accordance with its purpose. It is not intended to create additional work for the Secretariat or the School of Leaders. Rather, the CAP serves as a tool to ensure that the essentials of Cursillo are applied in a way that reflects the Charism. By following the CAP, each Diocese can progress towards its goals as a Movement and an evangelizing community of friends. This is an opportunity for real bonding as brothers and sisters in Christ.

A carefully planned and properly implemented CAP is essential for Cursillo leaders to successfully guide the movement through Precursillo, Cursillo, and Postcursillo. This plan ensures that the Cursillo Movement in the diocese stays on the right path. By creating and following a well-crafted CAP, Cursillo leaders can become more effective. It takes dedication and prayer to prepare and apply the CAP.

To begin the development of a successful plan, it is essential to consider the purpose of the Precursillo, Cursillo, Postcursillo, Secretariat, and School of Leaders. The great news is that the purpose for each phase has already been established, so there is no need to develop new ones. It is, however, recommended to refer to the Founder's writings, The Charism of Cursillo, its History, and the official Cursillo literature to guide the plan. You will receive a copy of this plan during our workshop session.

Let's take a few minutes to discuss the preparation of the Cursillo Apostolic Plan. To develop a plan, it is important to address the following inquiries for the Precursillo, Cursillo, Postcursillo, Secretariat, and School of Leaders:

1. What is the purpose of the Precursillo, Cursillo, Postcursillo, Secretariat, and School?
2. What are the specific goals, objectives, recommendations, or action items needed to be considered in each area to help the Movement transition closer to its intended purpose/charism?
3. Will a meeting or workshop be necessary, and if so, where will it be held?
4. Who will implement these goals, objectives, recommendations, or action items?
5. What are the target dates for completing the objectives, action items, etc.?

Once you have established an understanding of the inquiries for each of these five areas, you can form teams or work groups for each section of the Cursillo Apostolic Plan with a foundation to develop it effectively. The importance of dividing up into teams provides an opportunity to focus on one area in detail. Each team will have the opportunity to present their work to the group and should record their detailed information of their assigned section on a chart pad that will be displayed on an easel or wall for everyone to read. This will give everyone an overview of the entire plan and serve as a roadmap to guide the Movement toward the Foundational Charism of Cursillo.

This document should contain a work schedule and format that the Secretariat and School of Leaders can utilize to prepare the CAP. To finalize the plan, it is recommended to use the provided Cursillo Apostolic Plan Template.

Here is a list of tasks to be accomplished by the team leaders:

- The Vision Statement defines the Desired End-State.
- The Mission Statement defines why Cursillo exists.
- The Objectives define the goals for effectively applying and transitioning towards the purpose, mentality, method, and charism of the Cursillo Movement.
- The Recommendations define the who, what, where, when, how, and why.
- The Assignments define who will be responsible for carrying out the recommendations.
- The Target Date specifies when the recommendations must be completed.

It is important to set up work teams and assign tasks to each group.

Team 1 – Work on the Mission and Vision Statements Section

Team 2 – Work on the Precursillo Section

Team 3 – Work on the Cursillo Section

Team 4 – Work on the Postcursillo Section

Team 5 – Work on the Secretariat Section

Team 6 – Work on the School of Leaders Section

A suggested Timeline to Work on the plan.

- 30 minutes to prepare and develop each section.
- 15-minute break
- 30 minutes to present the work of each section.
- 15 minutes for questions and answers
- Collect information from each team and compile it into one document.

It is important to communicate and distribute the Cursillo Apostolic Plan to the Diocesan Secretariat, so they can also share it with the School of Leaders, the local Bishop, the Regional Coordinator, and the National Cursillo Center.

To Apply the Cursillo Apostolic Plan, You Need:

- An implementation plan, also known as an action plan, that outlines the steps needed to achieve goals, objectives, recommendations, or action items. It should specify a timeline for completing each step.
- To guarantee goals are successfully met, it is important to assign each objective or recommendation to a specific individual or team responsible for its execution.
- Assign an individual or team responsible for a task to handle the acquisition of any additional resources, such as a committee, to ensure successful completion.
- Assign those responsible for executing the tasks in the plan to keep the Secretariat and School of Leaders updated on their progress.

Once the Cursillo Apostolic Plan is implemented, it is important to review and adjust it regularly. Your evaluation of the plan is vital for maintaining focus and momentum toward the goals. It is relevant during this evaluation to ask questions essential to assessing progress effectively.

Here are some examples of questions you might use in your evaluation:

- Can the goals or objectives still be achieved?
- Have all necessary resources been assigned to the plan to ensure successful implementation of the goal?
- What is the status of each part of the plan's progress?
- Is everything on track to be completed as scheduled?
- Should the plan include any extra objectives or tasks?
- Has the CAP been updated with any necessary changes, distributed accordingly, and the action items outlined in the revised plan carried out?

IT IS RECOMMENDED TO REVIEW THE CURSILLO APOSTOLIC PLAN ON A REGULAR BASIS (AN ANNUAL REVIEW IS KEY)

After our break, we will come back and create an Apostolic Plan in teams. Your table leaders will provide you with your assignment.

Let's close this Rollo session with a prayer: We give you thanks, almighty God...
De Colores!