

Dear Archbishop Cordileone,

We are writing to introduce ourselves as the lay leaders of the Cursillo community in the Archdiocese of San Francisco. We represent the Secretariats of Marin, San Francisco - San Mateo, and the General Secretariat, which considers matters of interest and concern to the entire Cursillo community.

First, allow us to share a bit of the history of Cursillo in San Francisco. One of the very first English speaking Cursillos was conducted in San Francisco in the early 1960's. From a tentative beginning the movement continued to grow and to date more than 1000 Cursillo weekends have been conducted in the San Francisco Archdiocese, attended by well over 20,000 men and women. These weekends have been tremendously impactful to the faith life of thousands, and have resulted in hundreds of ongoing prayer and faith sharing groups, (we call them 4th Day Group Reunions), which continue to meet regularly throughout the three counties. Despite some challenges, our movement continues to thrive and we remain committed to the mission of our founders: to bring people back to active participation in the church and to leadership positions in their parishes. Our Cursillo weekends and Group Reunions continue to inspire and motivate many of the lay leaders in parishes across the Archdiocese.

For the entire fifty plus year history of Cursillo in San Francisco our movement has been distinguished by ecumenism. We have operated under the auspices of both the Roman Catholic Archbishop and the Episcopal Bishop of California. Each Bishop has appointed a Spiritual Director liaison to Cursillo, and each weekend has been overseen by team spiritual directors, an ordained Roman Catholic priest or deacon, and an Episcopal priest or deacon.

For over forty years Monsignor Maurice McCormick ("Fr. Mickey") has been the Roman Catholic Spiritual Director to Cursillo through a succession of Archbishops. We love Fr. Mickey and all of us have benefited in profound ways from his participation and guidance. Although still officially in this role, due to declining health Fr. Mickey is no longer able to provide us with the wisdom and direction which have sustained our movement for so many years.

Consequently, we are coming to you for your blessing of our Cursillo activity and to request that you appoint a Roman Catholic Spiritual Director to succeed Monsignor McCormick. We have assembled a list of qualifications and responsibilities for the Spiritual Director and attached it for your review. We would be happy to meet with you to further discuss our movement and request, and we thank you in advance for your consideration.

Jacque Grillo, Chair
General Secretariat for Cursillo

Laurence Mazzotta, Chair
Marin Cursillo Secretariat

Thomas Poeschel, Chair
San Francisco - San Mateo Secretariat