Cursillo Secretariat Minutes
19 December 2024
Diocese of Harrisburg Conference Center

Attendance:
Bill Benning, Diocesan Coordinator
John Rossi, Coordinator Elect
Fr. Ken Smith, Spiritual leader
Chairpersons: Dave Schlegel, Lisa Rowe, Dave Marrazzo, Garrison Price, Bill Tully, Alex Benner
Dcn Amarante, Melissa Maleski, Spanish Secretariat

1. Opening prayers
2. Minutes from November reviewed.
   Moved for approval: Bill Benning, seconded John Rossi, carried unanimous vote.
3. Review of decision from Bishop.

Melissa Maleski is the liaison between lay groups and the bishop. She brings the needs and challenges to the bishop.
Dcn Amarante, Dcn Torres, Fr. Ken, and Ms. Maleski had conversations with the bishop to introduce Cursillo to him, since he is completely new to the movement.
Dcn Amarante noted that Cursillo operates under the arm of the office of the laity.

Fundamental message from the bishop is that he wants Cursillo to be a unified movement in the diocese. He would like one secretariat to serve both communities (english speaking and spanish speaking). There can be separate events/ weekends depending on language, but leadership should be unified. Bishop recognizes that local communities have specific needs; tailor the movement to fit each population. Using national or global resources, it doesn't matter. Discern what best serves our community here and use that.

Fr. Ken is the spiritual advisor of both, supported by Deacons Torres and Nazario.

2025 will be a year of growth and transition. Will adapt along the way as we work out the practicalities.

Fr. Smith: though the past has worked well, we must begin working together. 2 different groups heading different ways. Fr. Smith will be, along with Melissa, the connection to the bishop. Fr. Smith will be liaison to the bishop. Fr Smith said he will be the voice of the bishop. No objections were made.

Dcn Amarante: there will be things moving in parallel until arrangements are made for the transition. Weekends need to keep going and there may be 2 bodies of leadership for a period in 2025. The transition is a living process that will need to be adapted as we go. Cursillo has

been operating with lack of diocesan oversight/ direction for a long time. Need to get spiritual advisor team in place- Fr. Smith has been asking for an assistant for years.

Fr. Smith is not in tune with the Spanish side of cursillo yet. Will be attending them and growing to understand.

Everyone acknowledged the benefits of a united Cursillo movement.

Questions raised:

How to address the two methods? Tabled for later discussion.

How to bring the two communities together? Ms. Maleski said the diocese will provide guidance and have an ongoing conversation as to how to bring the Spanish and English together.
Goal is to merge the 2 secretariats by June. Continue to work through existing business while also planning for the merger. By Advent of 2025: finalize the unified approach and have the documents to support it.

Concerns raised about the timeline being unrealistic.

Spanish community concerns: financial burden of the weekends and locations to host are limited.