

Chapter 7

THE PRECURSILLO OF THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT

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1. INTRODUCTION

A. Unity and integrity of the method

166. There are three stages of the method of the CM. All are inseparable and develop in a coordinated manner. Although each stage has a specific objective, they are complementary, forming a whole. When it comes to Precursillo – as well as to Cursillo or to Postcursillo – it is necessary to keep in mind this whole vision of the three stages of the method that form an organic unity.

B. Importance for the person

167. The Precursillo is vital for the evangelizing effectiveness of the method. It is an essential stage which encourages and prepares the person for an encounter with self, Christ and others in the Cursillo experience so that the person might have a new life according to this triple encounter which continues in the Postcursillo.

C. Importance for the environments

168. The Precursillo is also essential for leavening the environment effectively. The effective transformation of the environments is sustained in the Precursillo, on the search for, selection and preparation of people in their environments, as well as discernment of these environments. The leavening of environments will only be achieved in the Postcursillo if it starts with a sound and well directed Precursillo.

2. DESCRIPTON

A. First stage of the method of the CM

169. The Precursillo exists to begin the process of evangelization in specific individuals, to prepare the evangelizing activity in the environments, and to prepare the subsequent stages of the method.

B. Required actions

170. The search for, selection and preparation of people to whom the Christian message must be directed, is carried out in friendship in the Precursillo. During this stage the study and discernment of environments to evangelize is also carried out. Furthermore, the spiritual, personal and material elements for the second stage – the Cursillo, and the planning of support for the candidates in the third stage – Postcursillo – are also prepared.

3. PURPOSE

A. Overview

171. The Precursillo aims at finding and preparing, through friendship, people in the environments, with a preferential option for those far away, to facilitate an experience of encounter and bring about a process on conversion. Through the witness of their conversion they will then leaven their environments with the Gospel. Precursillo also aims at studying and discerning environments of particular importance and at selecting individuals who can transform them.

B. In relation to the person

172. One of the first objectives of the Precursillo is to befriend people and to prepare them to encounter themselves, Christ and others. The Precursillo assists their journey of conversion (thanks to the experience of Cursillo) by their inclusion in a community experience that will enable their perseverance in their own environment (in the Postcursillo).

173. This preparation is to inform, encourage, and awaken interest so that the person, in an attitude of openness and searching, awareness of their own reality, opens themselves to the possibility of a better life.

C. In relation to the environment

174. Another objective of the Precursillo is to begin the leavening of the environments by studying and getting to know them. This study of the environments will determine where, how and with whom to do the evangelizing work of the movement.

175. Knowledge of the environment enables us to know and to understand the people in those environments, as the Movement seeks action in the environments through the transformation of the people in them.

176. In each environment there are persons who may have, in principle, greater ability to influence because of their circumstances: special attention should be paid to these people because of their potential importance to the transformation of their environment.¹

¹ MD, p27-28, 229, SI, p.32-33.

4. DEVELOPMENT

A. Search and selection of candidates

177. The first step is to search for and select people (candidates) to offer them an experience of an encounter with the Lord (Cursillo), to become authentic Christians and act as leaven in their own environments (Postcursillo).

178. In principle, the Precursillo cannot exclude anyone: any person may be open to evangelization in the CM. With the right preparation, anyone can encounter the Lord through the CM. Also through the CM anyone can find themselves in a Christian community to live their conversion process. Any person, through the witness of their own conversion, can become leaven in the environment in which they live.

179. The “far away” are priority in the search for and selection of candidates in the Precursillo. The kerygmatic character of the CM in which the first announcement of the Good News is made, is addressed preferably, though not exclusively, to those who are far away from Christ and His Church. In the Precursillo, it is preferable that those who are “far away” should be the ones to be approached in friendship, with the confidence that, in the method of the CM, they could experience in an exceptional way, the love of God and the possibility of a new life.

180. Prudence and charity demand special attention towards people to whom the Cursillo would not bring benefits or solutions (the ones whose psychological conditions are not normal, and the ones who live in irregular circumstances of life).

181. Part of the strategy is to give particular consideration to people, who, because of their circumstances or abilities, can act as efficient “agents of change” (apostles-evangelizers) in their environments,²

182. **Persons who MAY be “candidates” in the Precursillo:** The Precursillo is open to all who are able to participate fully, actively, and consciously in a Cursillo.³

183. **Persons who SHOULD be considered priority “candidates” in the Precursillo:** Taking into account the purpose and the strategy of the CM, some people should be considered priority or ideal candidate.

- People with deep personality, with good values and sound judgment, who have the right attitudes and the ability required for them to live with and for the others.
- People genuinely dissatisfied, actively searching, with human and social concerns.
- People with the capacity to love, to commit themselves to others, to live in solidarity and brotherhood.

² SI, p32.

³ SC, no.14

184. The task of searching and selecting candidates is par of the apostolic responsibility of all cursillistas, that is, all the people involved in the CM.

Since the activity of the MCC is integrated in the evangelizing activity of the Church, some activities in the Precursillo can also be carried out with the help of other people and other ecclesial realities.

B. Preparation of candidates

185. It is an essential part of the method. It is vital to give the selected candidates an adequate preparation to encourage their participation I the Cursillo and the insertion in a community in the Postcursillo.

186. Objectives of the preparation.⁴

- To help raise awareness of the reality of one's own life, clarifying one's own personal concerns and circumstances, aspirations and limitations.
- To encourage and be excited by the possibility of a fuller life, awakening the desire to fulfil oneself as a person (and as a Christian).
- To create the disposition to listening, to openness, to transcendence and to meaning.
- To clarify to the person what the Cursillo is, presenting the Cursillo as an opportunity for renewal and an experience of Christian faith.

⁴ SI, p.35-37

187. Ways of preparation:

- From the perspective of prayer and sacrifice for the candidate: this is always the first step (talk to God about people before talking to people about God).
- From the perspective of a witness of life: sustained on authenticity and coherence, able to make us credible witnesses and showing, through ordinary life, a different way of being, enlightened by the Gospel.
- From the perspective of friendship (the primary means of the Precursillo), which is built through nearness, availability, mutual knowledge and personal dialogue.⁵
- Combining the interpersonal relationship (person to person, in the closest and intimate way), and inclusion in the community in which the candidate is shown the reality of a lively and welcoming community.

188. Agents of the preparation: this preparation can be carried out by any cursillista, any CM leader; actually, this is a task of the entire CM.

Preparation can be either in a personal or communitarian way,⁶ or both. What is important is that it is carried out based on a correct understanding of what is intended and what should be achieved in the preparation (Precursillo).

C. Study and discernment (selection) of environments

189. In conjunction with the selection and preparation of candidates, the study and discernment (selection) of environments to evangelize is carried out, so as to better understand the social and environmental circumstances of the candidates and to prioritize action in certain environments.

⁵ Evangelii Gaudium, no.128

⁶ Conclusions of the II World Encounter of OMCC (Tlaxcala, 1970)

190. This study and discernment of environments should take into particular account both the situations and challenges of the real world, as well as the Church's present teaching and guidance, and from there, by carrying out the discerning of environments, structures and human groups of greater relevance and social significance, with higher priority or needed for the evangelizing activity.

191. This activity in the Precursillo is carried out in the framework of the local Church, the Diocese. The CM takes into account the evangelizing action of the Diocese and naturally collaborates in the task of evangelization of environments, according to its charism, purpose and method.

5. THE LEADERS IN THE PRECURSILLO

A. School of Leaders and Secretariat

192. The Secretariat and School of Leaders, as Service Structures of the CM, are responsible for the Precursillo and are responsible for organizing and preparing all Precursillo tasks.⁷ They also have the permanent activity of:

- Coordinating search, selection and preparation of candidates in accordance with agreed selection criteria.
- Studying the environments.
- Encouraging evangelizing activity in the environments.

⁷ LYN. 12.

B. The Cursillo Team

193. One of the activities of Precursillo is the training and preparation of teams responsible for each Cursillo.

It is also up to the Secretariat and the School of Leaders to determine how and when to prepare these teams, so that all elements (spiritual, personal and material) needed for the Cursillo are available. Likewise, accompanying candidates in the Postcursillo will be planned.

C. Attitudes of Leaders in the Precursillo

194. As in the Cursillo and in the Postcursillo, the leaders in the Precursillo need to have the basic attitudes derived from the charism and mentality of the CM, that is, they must;⁸

- Be instruments in the hands of the Holy Spirit.
- Feel as sent by the Church.
- Be witnesses of life.
- Live a spirit of communion.
- Be willing to love, serve and befriend.

6. CONCLUSION

A. Grace as the principle and foundation of Precursillo

195. The CM is the work of God and His grace is absolutely necessary in all its activities. Therefore, communion with God through prayer, and the sacraments, will mark every moment of the Precursillo.

⁸ MD p.73

B. The community as a support

196. The Precursillo, besides being based on the grace of God, is also a human work, supported and enlivened by the community.

- A community that sends the team to the mission.
- A community that prays for each Cursillo.
- A community with a strong sense of Church.

197. The community which supports the Precursillo with its prayer is:

- The community of the School of Leaders and the Secretariat.
- The entire community of the CM (Group Reunions and Ultreyas).
- The ecclesial community, because the CM is Church, and builds up the Church in the world.