

# SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN DECOLORES MINISTRIES, INC.

## SPONSOR'S COVENANT (UPDATED 2022)

Southwest Michigan DeColores Ministries, Inc. is a lay-led Christian ministry, the purpose of which is to encourage greater lay activity in the church communities of southwest Michigan and northern Indiana. DeColores hopes to accomplish this purpose by calling individual Christ-followers to a renewed commitment to their faith and by calling non-believers to accept Jesus Christ as their personal savior. It is not a substitute for membership in local church communities, but it is a part of the world-wide Church and supported by followers of Christ in those communities. DeColores is not a church, does not seek to become a church and, unlike Christian church communities, does not offer any sacraments. Now that you have made a DeColores weekend, you will want to share what you have experienced with someone you love. You know how special this experience is and simply do not want to spoil “the blessings” by telling too much about what happens. Please take the following into consideration:

### **BEFORE THE REGISTRATION FORM:**

- You attend the DeColores weekend only once as a candidate and you must be sponsored by a current member. It is a once in a lifetime experience that will have a lasting impact. DeColores is a New Testament look at Christianity as a lifestyle. Often called a “short course in Christianity”, where the atmosphere differs greatly from the solitude found at retreats. It is a highly structured weekend that begins Thursday evening and ends Sunday evening. Participants live and study together in a community of singing, prayer, worship, learning and discussion. This program is a four day experience; 3 days of sharing with fellow participants in Christian love, and the 4<sup>th</sup> day is your Christian life. You begin to understand more fully the presence of Christ in his body of believers and your own part in sharing His love with others.
- To be a sponsor means that you will serve as companion, guide, model and witness. Understanding that sponsorship requires a commitment in time and effort that begins with you before the weekend, will blossom on the weekend, and must grow with your help after the weekend. You become this persons’ spiritual shepherd for the rest of your life. Your candidate will watch how you model your faith. This means a great challenge for you to continually deepen your own faith and understanding of the DeColores vision and put into practice all that you believe so that your very life will be an inspiration for your candidate.
- In supporting and introducing a person to DeColores, you may want to invite them to a couple of activities such as Ultreyas or Holy Hours. If they find these activities overwhelming, they may not be ready to attend a weekend at this time. (Before they complete their weekend, they may not attend serenade/closing).
- These weekends are not for everyone. People with emotional problems, whether due to divorce, separation, alcohol or drugs, or problems just coping in today’s environment, may find the weekend too overwhelming and may contribute to, rather than help their problem. The hectic pace of the weekend may be difficult for those with medical or physical handicaps. However, many people with these problems have enjoyed the weekend and have found inner joy and happiness. As a sponsor, you must know your candidate and where they are spiritually at this time. In sharing your experience, you must ask yourself, “Will the weekend help or hinder this person?” Pray for God’s guidance in selecting candidates to sponsor.
- Meet with your candidate and his/her spouse (if applicable) to discuss the DeColores weekend and post-weekend activities. Every effort should be made to encourage both husband and wife (keeping in the spirit of the Cursillo Method, the husband is expected to attend before the wife to provide leadership within the family) to attend the upcoming weekends and answer any questions.
- Do not sponsor more than 2 candidates on one weekend – you have many responsibilities.
- Candidates attending must be 19 years or older.
- Complete the Registration Form.

### **BEFORE THE WEEKEND:**

- Pray for the spiritual growth of your candidate, for his/her family and for the success of the weekend.
- Make arrangements to deliver personal palanca for your candidate from: you, their family & friends, and their pastor. Personal palanca needs to be able to fit in a 10x13 envelope or smaller.
- Provide transportation for your candidate to the host church on Thursday evening.
- Attend Sponsor's Chapel at the host church for your candidate on Thursday evening.
- Invite your candidate's family and friends to Holy Hour on Friday night and the Church Service on Sunday morning (they are welcome even if they haven't made a DeColores weekend yet).

### **DURING THE WEEKEND:**

- See to the needs of your candidate's family while he/she is away – babysitting, preparing meals, or eating with them if they are alone.
- Attend serenade and closing on Sunday evening for your candidate (this is not open to everyone, only those who have made a DeColores weekend or other similar Cursillo can attend).
- Provide transportation home. Before going home, you might want to spend time talking about the weekend to help them unwind, but remember, he/she may have an anxious spouse waiting at home.

### **AFTER THE WEEKEND:**

- Make a commitment to follow-up with your crucista (crew-see-sta: one who has completed a DeColores Ministries weekend as a candidate) for at least three months after the weekend is over.
- Continue to pray for your crucista and be available to discuss what they discovered on the weekend and help them achieve the proper goal of the DeColores weekend – reinforcing individual commitment to Christ through piety, study and action.
- If your candidate doesn't have a home church, encourage and help them find one, keeping in mind that it may not be your church or denomination. Get them involved in bible studies & prayer groups. Remember that DeColores is not a church, but an arm of the church. We must be careful to not put DeColores responsibilities and activities before our church responsibilities and activities.
- Encourage participation in the DeColores Community by sponsoring someone, attending Ultreyas, Holy Hours, Serenades/Closings. They can serve as an inside or outside team member, serve as Kitchen Help, pray on 24-Hr Prayer, send Palanca, or serve on the Secretariat Board.
- Encourage them to complete the Servant Survey Form provided in their going home packet and mail to:  
*SWMI DeColores, P.O Box 225, Niles, MI 49120 OR fill our online @ [swmi-decolores.org](http://swmi-decolores.org)*