

What Is Cursillo?

The word Cursillo is derived from the Spanish language and means 'short course in Christianity'. Cursillo is an international movement to renew and revitalize Christians around the world. Involvement with Cursillo typically begins with sponsorship of a candidate by a Cursillista (one who is a Cursillo member).

What Is The Cursillo Movement?

The purpose (or goal) of the movement is to make Christian community possible in neighborhoods, parishes, work situations and other places where people live the greater part of their lives. It makes it possible for anyone in the world to live a Christian life in thoughts, words, and actions in a natural way. Since it is a movement of the Church, the Cursillo Movement has the same apostolic purpose as the Church herself. And the Church, as Pope Paul VI told us, exists to evangelize. The Cursillo Movement provides a method for people to live what is fundamental for being a Christian. Cursillo helps people discover and fulfill their personal vocations and promotes the creation of groups of Christians who leaven their environments with the Gospel.

Purpose

The purpose of the Cursillo Movement is to bring about a change in the environments. The Cursillo Movement is a deliberate act to bring Jesus Christ into the world. Cursillistas (those that have gone through the 3-Day weekend and are living the Cursillo method) become agents for change in their families, work situations, neighborhoods, social gatherings, etc.

The Cursillo Weekend – What is it like?

The initial Cursillo weekend is a **72-hour experience** designed for Christian renewal. The weekend includes a number of activities which, put together, make a very effective tool for bringing a new vigor to Christian life by giving participants a new awareness of living a life filled with God's grace. During a Cursillo weekend, people move into a church facility on Thursday night and live there until Sunday evening. The "staff" consists of spiritual directors (ordained clergy and religious) plus a team of committed Christian lay workers who have already been through Cursillo.

The lay workers will see to caring for your needs including; sleeping quarters, meal preparation, bathroom facilities, and prayer time, and also adequate rest periods. Those that have special needs, such as a particular diet or physical needs, will be attended to properly.

Each day of the Cursillo Weekend begins with Morning Prayer and ends with Night Prayer. Mass is celebrated daily (except Thursday).

Thursday provides a time to get to know each other and to have an overview of the Cursillo Weekend. This is also the retreat phase of the Cursillo Weekend. The retreat phase is done in silence and ends Friday morning after Mass.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, the lay team members and spiritual directors share ideas and experiences through a series of talks and planned activities. Following the talks, sharing at table discussions provide the participants with an opportunity to share their own insights about the presentation.

What Happens After the Cursillo Weekend?

The Cursillo Movement has two very important tools to assist each of us after our weekend. These tools are the Group Reunion and the Ultreya.

The Group Reunion is a small group of Cursillo friends that meet on a regular basis. The purpose of this meeting is to share with one another our spiritual growth as well as our growth in becoming a person who strives to bring a Christ-like attitude to our environments. As we make attempts to bring Christ into our various environments, we will sometimes become frustrated. The group Reunion also provides the continual support we need in order to persevere as a part of God's plan.

The Ultreya (Spanish word meaning Onward) is a meeting of the larger Cursillo community. It is the time for the members of the Group Reunions to meet with members of other Group Reunions.



Conclusion

We must realize that we, as individuals, can have a great impact on our society and can no longer take our role lightly. In the past, the Cursillo Movement was primarily thought of as a source of individual spiritual growth. Today, we must realize that this individual spirituality is just not enough. Our society, our Church and our world needs us to be apostolic. But most of all, our Lord wants us to be apostolic.

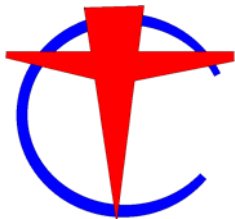


Let us strive to be Christ-like. He chose individuals to become "fishers of men." Should we do any less?

Who Should Go To Cursillo?

Cursillo is for the development of Christians who:

- Wish to strengthen their spiritual lives,
- May have unanswered questions about prayer, study and sharing their faith,
- Understand that being a Christian involves responsibility,
- Are willing to dedicate their everyday lives to God in an on-going manner,
- Have positions of responsibility in the church and in the world.



What must be considered for you to go?

You must

- complete an application.
- be sponsored by an active Cursillo member.
- be a practicing Catholic free to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Catholic church.
- be strong and mature in your Christian faith, sound emotionally, and psychologically.
- personally and honestly want to attend a weekend and participate in the Fourth day.

Are You Interested?

We invite you to join in a refreshing weekend spent meeting Jesus as he comes to you through other Christians.

Weekends are held approximately every six months. Women and men attend separate weekends. Applications must be submitted to your sponsor or the Ultreya leader at least five weeks before the weekend.

Cursillo

A method to
Find, Form,
Sustain, and
Link Lay
Leadership
for Christ in
His Church.

