



## Christianity

In today's world Christianity must penetrate the many areas of secular life. It must live there. It must grow there. It must transform the world in a way that is more fruitful than the past and in keeping with the time. Cursillo is simply a method through which one's spirituality may be lived and shared.

Cursillo concentrates on the Person and teachings of Jesus Christ. It gives those who attend Cursillo an understanding of Christian truths and the desire to live more fully the message of Jesus. It provides a means to continue the Christian formation which had just begun in the Three Days of Cursillo.



## Cursillo is:

- a chance to strengthen and renew one's faith away from the world
- a useful tool for Christian growth
- a Christian community
- a way of encouraging apostolic action in the Church and the world



## Not a Retreat

A Cursillo can be made only once in a lifetime; therefore, it is not a substitute for a retreat. During the Three Days the teachings of Christ are discussed in a climate of joy and unconditional love.



## Three Days

The Cursillo begins on Thursday evening. Thirty to forty men or women participate in the weekend with a team of clergy and laypeople. This "team" spends weeks prior to the Cursillo working and praying in preparation.

Thursday begins with a get-acquainted time. The remainder of the evening is quiet. This time of reflection and meditation lasts until chapel Friday morning.

Beginning Friday morning, fifteen talks are given, ten by laypeople, five by clergy. The talks emphasize the true meaning of grace, the sacraments, the worship, the nature and need of prayer, living one's daily life in union with God, studying to understand the gift of God, and introducing Christ to others by word and deed.

During the talks, participants take notes, just as they would in a class. Talks are followed by a discussion.

The Cursillo weekend lasts until early Sunday evening. The experience lasts a lifetime.

The atmosphere of the Three Days is one of joy and grace. The Cursillo is filled with talking, singing, laughter, reverence, prayer, worship, reflection, and inspiration.

Worship, prayer, reflection and discussion are integral parts of the Cursillo experience. There will be numerous opportunities to share in them.



## Fourth Day

The time immediately following the Three Days of Cursillo is known as the Fourth Day. The Fourth Day encompasses all the days following the Three Day weekend. On their Fourth Day the new Cursillista is encouraged to:

- expand his/her own prayer life
- embark on a life of personal study
- become a more active disciple
- attend community gatherings in the form of monthly Ultreyas
- take part in group reunion

The Cursillo weekend comes to you wherever you are in your Christian walk. When applied, the method of Cursillo has positive results in person's life and in the Christian community. The influence of Christ on the individual is transferred to family, church school, workplace, and social circles. The goal of the Cursillo movement is to make Christ the prime influence in one's life and in society.

In the Cursillo movement the community spirit is continued after the Three Days by Ultreyas (ûl – tray – âhs) or reunions are a renewal of the sense of community of the Three Days. These meetings build the Christian community on a wider basis.

Group Reunion or grouping is an informal weekly gathering, of two or more, who share their faith in Jesus, and encourage, support and sustain one another, in Christ.



## Specifics

### Sponsors

Every participant has a sponsor. Sponsors accept the responsibilities of guiding a participant, for initiating that participant into their Fourth Day and assisting the new Cursillista in living a Christ centered life.

- It is necessary for a sponsor to
- a) believe in the Cursillo method,
  - b) participate regularly in Ultreya community, and
  - c) participate in group reunion.

### Applying

Acceptance of a participant depends upon the availability of space on an upcoming weekend. Applications are considered with regard to an equitable process between all the church communities submitting participant names.

### Marital Status

The married, the single, and the single again are welcome to attend Cursillo. Men attend one weekend, women another. Married couples should plan on attending back to back weekends. The men's weekend first, the women's in one to two weeks.

### What happens...

There is no magic, there is the power of the Holy Spirit. There is no mystery- other than the divine mystery of Christ's endless love.

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# Cursillo

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A Cursillo (pronounced ker – see – ô) is a three day learning, sharing, inspirational experience of living in a Christian community. The Spanish word “Cursillo” means a “short course.” Cursillo is an abbreviation of the full title, “Cursillo de Cristiandad” meaning “a short course in Christian community living.”

During the three days of a Cursillo weekend, a person not only hears inspiring talks on what it means to be a Christian, but actually experiences the joy of building and being part of a genuine Christian community.



Cursillo began when a group of Catholic priests and laymen in Majorca, Spain examined the condition of the Church. From 1943 to 1947, they formulated a “method” to bring renewal to the Church. They called it a “short course” or “short experience” in the fundamental teachings of Jesus as lived with other Christians. They also developed an on-going program, so the initial enthusiasm would continue.

The first Cursillo weekend held in the United States was in 1957 in Texas. From this beginning Cursillo has been introduced to the Lutheran, Episcopal, Methodist and Reformed Church in America.

In Arizona, the first Cursillo was in Phoenix in 1959. Until 1961, all the weekends were in Spanish. The first Lutheran Cursillo weekend in Phoenix was held in March, 1982.



Cursillo is an instrument of renewal. It is attempting to provide a form of perseverance in the Christian life for men and women of the church. The Cursillo conviction is that the primary purpose in life is to alter and change a world that is predominately non-Christian. This objective is sought by involving men and women in all dimensions of the social environment who are leaders with influence on others and to being them to a fuller understanding of their relationship with Christ, the Church and their mission.

The Cursillo is a method of both Christianizing one’s environment and of developing one’s spirituality. It provides a means for continuing Christian growth which is begun with our Baptism and highlighted during the Three Days.

Cursillo fits into the Church structure and is one of the many movements of the Church.