

Cursillo is not a substitute for your parish church. Rather, is designed to help you renew and enhance your Christian life, thereby enabling you to function more fully within your parish.

Growing closer to Christ and bringing Christ to the world is not an easy task. It is a lifelong commitment. The Cursillo method, as a tool in fulfilling this commitment, is also on-going, unlike one-time events such as seminars or encounter weekends.

The Cursillo method has 3 major components: **THE WEEKEND, GROUP REUNIONS, AND ULTREYAS.**

THE WEEKEND

The Cursillo method includes a three-day weekend, which begins on Thursday evening and concludes on Sunday. During this time, talks are given by lay persons and clergy, who have spent a significant amount of time praying and working together, planning and preparing for the weekend.

The weekend is an opportunity to meet other individuals who are seeking to strengthen their faith.

It provides an opportunity through shared prayer, worship, singing, study, fellowship, discussion, and new friendships to experience the reality of the gift of God's grace.

The Cursillo weekend is not a retreat, nor is there any fasting or extended periods of silence.

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There are Chapel visits and the Eucharist is celebrated daily.

Cursillistas (persons who have made a Cursillo weekend) return from the weekend with a renewed commitment to grow closer to Christ and to work for Christ.

To maintain this commitment, Cursillistas are encouraged to join in the activities of the community of persons who have also experienced a Cursillo weekend. The purpose of this Cursillo community is to give continued strength and support to one another so that each person might continue to grow in faith and develop their particular gifts of ministry.

There are 2 support methods outlined:

GROUP REUNION

The group reunion is a small group of Cursillistas that meet on a regular basis for mutual encouragement and support in their efforts to stay close to Christ and serve Him.

ULTREYA (Spanish – 'onward')

These are meetings of larger groups of people who have either participated in a weekend or who might be interested in doing so. Here they share and witness to others in order to reinforce the Church and their own faith.

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HISTORY

The first stirrings of what was to become the Cursillo Movement began on the island of Majorca, Spain during the 1940s. The Spanish Civil War had ended in 1939, and the years after the Civil War were a time of ferment and growth in the Spanish Catholic Church.

Cursillo, as we recognize it today, grew out of a series of preparatory courses on living ones' life for Christ, given to those who would lead the young Christian Catholic men of Spain on a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. James at Compostela in 1948.

The talks given on the Cursillo weekend are patterned on these courses.

Today Cursillo is a world-wide movement in Canada, Great Britain, Australia, Ireland, the United States, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Yugoslavia, Mexico, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, nearly all South and Central American countries, and in several African countries.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is it Catholic?

Cursillo has always been a Catholic Movement. Every Pope since Cursillos began over 50 years ago has been a strong supporter of the Cursillo because they know that the Cursillo awakens persons to living their lives for Christ.

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