

Many, many bishops and priests have made Cursillos and are highly supportive.

Bishop Grahmann of Dallas and the former Bishop Delaney of Fort Worth both made Cursillo Weekends and have been strong Cursillo supporters, encouraging persons to attend and be filled with the mission of Christ.

Bishop Vann of Fort Worth is also supportive of Cursillo from his experience with it in the past.

Many other denominations have similar movements modeled on the original Catholic Cursillo Movement.

Who May Take Part?

Cursillo is open to adult, practicing Catholic laity and clergy, men and women, married or single. There are separate weekends for men and women.

The Diocese of Ft. Worth has a men's and women's weekend in the Spring and again in the Fall.

What is Expected of Participants?

- An understanding that you will be accepted as you are and that a specific response is not expected of you.
- To be curious and thirsty for spiritual exploration and nourishment.
- A willingness to commit a weekend of your life to Christ.

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Is There a Cost for the Weekend?

The cost for the weekend is \$80.00, which covers lodging, meals, and materials. Financial aid is available to cover part or all of the cost.

How do I Apply?

Each candidate needs a sponsor to assist them in preparation for the weekend and, more importantly, assist them after the weekend.

Often, a prospective sponsor from your parish may approach you about Cursillo.

If you are interested in Cursillo but do not have sponsor, speak to someone you know has attended a Cursillo weekend. Ask them to tell you more about Cursillo. Pray about it, and if you conclude that you should go, ask them to sponsor you.

If you don't know anyone who has attended a Cursillo weekend, contact a representative of the Fort Worth Cursillo responsible for persons interested in attending:

Ft Worth Cursillo Representative:
Stephanie Ayala (817) 239-1297
Fr. Francis Fernandez (817) 624-9411

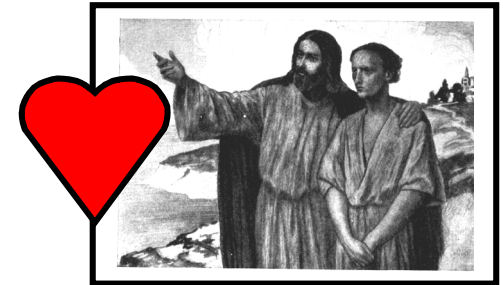
Parish Cursillo Representative:

www.ftworthcursillo.org

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WHAT IS CURSILLO?

Have you heard about Cursillo or has someone asked you to consider attending a Cursillo Weekend? Then this info is for you!



INTRODUCTION

Cursillo (pronounced kur-SEE-yo) is a Spanish word meaning "short course". The full title is *Cursillo de Cristiandad*, meaning a short course in Christian living.

Cursillo opens us up to a deeper relationship with Christ and presents a method of Christian living so we can make a difference for Christ in the world around us.

The Cursillo method helps individuals understand the calling of all Christians to be Christian leaders. This leadership may be exercised at work, in family life, social life, in leisure activities, and within the church.

#1

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.

#2

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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