

WHAT IS CURSILLO?

Cursillo is a renewal movement within the Episcopal Church which offers individuals the opportunity to deepen their personal relationship with Christ in a joyful and loving Christian atmosphere and provides individuals with the means to maintain that close relationship throughout their lives. It also helps to develop more dedicated and involved Christian leaders and workers. The full title of Cursillo is “Cursillo de Christianidad”, which means “a little course in Christian living.”

Cursillo is not a secret society. It is a loving community of Christian believers who celebrate the joy of Christian life. The Spanish terms and phrases have been kept from the original Cursillos in Spain because, as an international movement with millions of members on six continents, it provides a way of talking to one another about Cursillo. Those who have been to a Cursillo are often very enthusiastic about it because they have experienced the fullness of Christian living and joy in a concentrated weekend.

Christians attending a Cursillo weekend often find a new dimension in their Christianity: it is a time to take another look at their relationship with God and at who the person of Jesus Christ is in their lives, and it's a time to grow in the midst of a loving Christian community.

The basic atmosphere of a Cursillo is one of joy and Christian fellowship at its best. It is a three-day experience that can be made only once in a lifetime. Cursillo is simply a restating of things you have heard and talked about for years ... grace, the sacraments, piety, personal growth, and love. The weekend consists of a series of talks by laypersons and clergy. These are followed by small group discussions of the talks, plenty of worship and lots of good fellowship.

You will find that the Cursillo is not a magical weekend that does away with strife and worries. It will give you a renewed relationship with your heavenly Father. It is a joyful experience that gives time and direction towards furthering your own commitment and relationship to God.

Relaxation and fun together are integral parts of Cursillo – time away from the busy, everyday world. Each small group becomes a tiny Christian community in the course of the weekend. Group members discuss the talks, work together on creative projects, laugh, pray and sometimes cry.

Worship, of course, is the built-in backbone of the Cursillo format. Each day begins and ends with corporate worship, and there is a daily celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The Cursillo weekend also includes much joyful music.

The Rt. Rev. C. Wallis Ohl, Bishop of Northwest Texas has the following to say about Cursillo: “Cursillo is one of the most powerful renewal movements in the Episcopal Church. Sheila and I made Cursillo #13 in Oklahoma in 1975, and I have been active in one way or another ever since. Cursillo means a great deal to me as an individual, and I have seen what it can do for the spirituality in the lives of so many. Cursillo is a wonderful way for our diocesan family to be bound closer together. Most importantly, however, Cursillo helps us grow along the journey with Christ and our brothers and sisters in Him.”

If you think Cursillo could be an enriching experience for you in your personal life and your personal walk with Christ, check the scheduled dates and discuss attending a weekend with the Rector or Vicar of your church.