



CURSILLO OVERVIEW

WHAT IS A CURSILLO?

Cursillo is a Spanish word meaning short course. A Cursillo (pronounced “kur-see-yo”) therefore is a short course in Christianity. While Cursillo originated in Spain in the 1940s, today Cursillos are given in more than 50 nations on 5 Continents. It is estimated that more than 2 million men and women of various races and languages have participated. There are approximately 3,400 Cursillistas in the Joliet Diocese.

To explain a Cursillo to someone who has never experienced it is difficult and somewhat mystifying. The reason behind the mystery is God. No one can fully explain how God touches each person in His special/unique way throughout the movement. For some, it is a total turnabout in their lives; for others, it is a grand awakening; for yet others, it is an enrichment of what they have already known and have been living.

The Cursillo Weekend is above all a living experience of what is fundamental for being a Christian. The friendship and love of God in Jesus Christ is the center of what is fundamental for being Christian and, in the Cursillo Weekend, friendship continues to be the best method to transmit His friendship and love to all the new Cursillistas.

HOW IT HAPPENS

A Cursillo weekend begins on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday evening. During the three days the participants listen to the Gospel message, broken into fifteen short talks. Clergy gives five talks; the other 10 are given by laypersons that already have made a Cursillo. The talks deal with Christian study, action, leadership, living a life in relationship with God, the role of the layperson in the church and similar reflections on situations encountered in daily living. The talks build on each other.

Each talk is followed by a period of small group discussion. The teachings of Christ are presented in an atmosphere of warmth, joy and fellowship. Music and skits provide entertainment.

Cursillo weekends are usually held in the spring and fall at the Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darien. Men and women make separate Cursillos. Attendance at a weekend requires an application and a sponsor.

The Joliet Cursillo also operates two weekends a year in Spanish, one for men and one for women. For details, please contact Barb Linek, Lay Director for the Spanish Movement at blinek29@gmail.com

Weekend dates, applications and further details can be found at the Joliet Website jolietcursillo.org

ONCE IN A LIFETIME

A Cursillo is made only once in a lifetime, therefore it is not considered a substitute for a retreat. Actually a Cursillo experience makes subsequent retreats more profitable, and Cursillistas are urged to make regular retreats.

THE FOURTH DAY

The Cursillo weekend is not an end to itself. It is a starting point that lasts the rest of your life. It is your effort to bring Christ into the environments in which you operate. It is a springboard to a long-range practice of the Baptismal Covenant in the life of the Church, which we call, the "Fourth Day".

The Fourth Day is composed of two major elements: the Group Reunion and the Ultreya.

Group Reunion

The Group Reunion is the heart of Cursillo. It consists of a small group of friends that fosters a faith-based support group that meets weekly to share their faith journey.

The group reunion is the one time during the week when you can take a break from the world and compare notes with others who are trying to lead good Christian lives and need the mutual encouragement the friendship group can provide.

- Guiding principles- trust and a willingness to be open to share Piety Study and Action.
- Size-A group should consist of 3-6 Cursillistas
- Location-church, school, or homes. A permanent location is preferred.
- Regularity-weekly
- Time commitment-15 minutes to 1-½ hours depending on the number of people in the group.
- Freedom and Flexibility- ability to leave groups or form new groups without hurting anyone's feelings.
- Commitment-Openness to whatever God may require of us.

Ultreya

The "Ultreya" which is usually held monthly, is a "reunion of the reunions". The Ultreya often follows a Mass. It is an aggregate meeting of small group reunions from Parishes within neighboring communities to share piety, study and action, listen to a witness speaker and share fellowship.

Check the events tab to find the Ultreya dates/locations in our parish and diocese.

Bringing a friend to an Ultreya is a great way to give them an idea of what Cursillo is all about. We have no secrets. We are simply being deliberate about our Catholic faith and of being disciples of Jesus.

Ultreya Grande

An annual gathering of Cursillistas across the Joliet Diocese who join in worship and sharing their lives and the love of God.