

What You Should Know About Cursillo

CURSILLO IS A MOVEMENT OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The Cursillo deals primarily with the fundamentals of Christianity; a growth in knowledge, awareness and love of God, neighbor and the world.

These three ideas are shared and experienced:

*Fatherhood of God
Brotherhood with Christ
Christian Community*

There is nothing very novel about Cursillo. Those attending become part of a group that lives and works together and, hopefully, grows into a living Christian community.

The Cursillo is the beginning of leadership training and can give new insights into Christian community. Therefore, we ask each candidate to consider how he or she might continue to grow in Christian awareness and become a part of a living Christian community after the three days.

It is much more worthwhile for a person to come to the Cursillo weekend with the realization that the three days are only meant to be a beginning.

There is a packed schedule. Fifteen talks are given by lay people and priests. Everyone who comes is welcome to participate in the discussion of those talks.

The Cursillo community formed during the weekend can present new thoughts, understanding and encouragement to a person. A true Christian response is desired, that is, a free personal acceptance of the Word and Love of Christ.

Would you like to hear more about the Cursillo Movement in the Belleville Diocese?



Cursillo

Cursillo Movement Belleville IL

Christ and His Church need spiritually formed leaders for today's Catholic apostolate.

One means of finding inspiration and direction for Christian formation and growth is

Cursillo

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Sometimes, sitting at home after church, I catch myself wondering about what more I can do to deepen my Catholic faith and I realize ...

I am searching for personal growth.

I need an adult understanding of my faith.

Sometimes I question how religion relates to my everyday life.

I need some time to get away from my usual activities and reflect on who I am and where Christ is in my life.

I need some new insights to help me enrich my marriage and family life.

I'd like to know more about the meaning of Christian Community.

I would like a better understanding of the changes in the church.

Perhaps the Cursillo can offer me some new ways to look at my vocation so that I can better serve my fellow man.



Cursillo In Christianity

In today's world, can Christianity penetrate the many areas of secular life? Can it live and grow there? Can it transform the world in a way that is more fruitful than in the past and in keeping with the times? The Cursillo Movement thinks so. It proposes no new type of spirituality, but simply a method through which one's spirituality may be developed, lived and shared in any area of human life where there are Christians willing to dedicate their lives to God in an ongoing manner.

Instrument of Renewal

The movement of Cursillo in Christianity is a powerful instrument of renewal in the Church. Its aim is to concentrate closely on the Person and teachings of Jesus Christ. Cursillo gives those who attend it a living understanding of basic Christian truths and the desire to live these truths. What is more, it provides a means to continue the Christian formation which is just begun in the three-day exercises.

Format of the Weekend

Cursillo (pronounced Kur-see-yo) is a Spanish word meaning "little" or "short course." It begins on a Thursday evening and ends on the following Sunday night. During those three days, the Cursillistas (those attending) live and work together, listening to talks given by priests and lay people. During the talks, the Cursillistas take notes just as they would in a regular class. Each talk is followed by a discussion period. They also pray together, celebrate the Eucharist and visit the Blessed Sacrament daily.

The priest, who is the "spiritual director", and the lay people who make up the Cursillo "team" spend weeks working and praying together in preparation. The Cursillo takes careful planning because the time is short and the subject extensive.

Not a Retreat

A Cursillo can be made only once in a lifetime; it is not a retreat. The basic atmosphere of a Cursillo differs greatly from the individual solitude of a retreat. During the weekend, the teachings of Christ are discussed in a climate of joy and peace. Actually, the Cursillo makes succeeding retreats more profitable and Cursillistas are encouraged to make regular retreats.

The Fourth Day

The "after" activity of the Cursillo is known as the "fourth day" – that is the balance of the Cursillistas life on earth. During this time, perseverance is important just as it is in any method of renewal. In the Cursillo Movement, the community spirit is continued after the three days through "ultreyas" or reunions of the community. These are available weekly as a means of growth in understanding and zeal within the Christian community. Reunions of smaller groups of friends are also available in order for them to encourage one another in spiritual improvement and the Christian apostolate.

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In December 1963, Pope Paul VI gave his approval to the Cursillo Movement. He appointed St. Paul as the official Patron and Protector. On that occasion he said in part, "This method of Christian teaching commonly called Cursillo in Christianity extends commonly over a great number of the faithful and has produced abundant fruit ... Christian renewal of the family life... vitalization of parishes... faithful observance of duties in private as well as public. All this has filled with the greatest satisfaction the Bishops and the other shepherds of souls."