

WHAT IS CURSILLO?

The word "Cursillo" is really an abbreviation for the full title "Cursillo en Christianidad" which, in Spanish, means "a short course in Christianity" or a short course in Christian living. Its purpose is to help those in the church understand their individual callings to be Christian Leaders. The leadership may be exercised in work situations, in the family and social life, in leisure activities, and within the Church environment.

The Cursillo Movement originated in Spain in the 1940's and has as its ultimate purpose the renewal of the world through the action of Christian leaders in all areas of human activity. It is a rapidly growing movement in the Catholic Church and is actively functioning in many dioceses in the United States and around the world. It has been active in the Diocese of Camden since 1968.

The method consists of three phases, all of which are essential in fulfilling its purpose:

PRE-CURSILLO — Sponsors identify as "pilgrims" (candidates) those Catholics who are leading an active Christian life and are a living witness to their love for Christ. It is also the period that selected pilgrims are informed of what to expect at the three-day weekend and assisted in appropriate preparations.

CURSILLO — A concentrated three days of teaching, prayer, fellowship and worship with a diverse group of Catholics to share the richness of many modes of worship and to broaden each one's appreciation for our Church, all aimed at emphasizing the essentials of Christian living.

POST CURSILLO or FOURTH DAY — The starting point for the rest of your life where, through community support and fellowship, the strength is found to continually grow in our walk with Christ. It is a springboard to a long-range practice of the Baptismal Covenant in the life of the Church.



WHAT HAPPENS ON A CURSILLO WEEKEND?

The three-day weekend is structured so that, through proclamation of the Gospel message in an environment of spiritual fellowship, Christians are given the foundation to deepen their commitment to building up the kingdom of God in their own parish church family and daily life.

The Cursillo weekend brings together a diverse group of Catholics to share the richness of many modes of worship and to broaden each one's appreciation for our Church. Lay people conduct the weekend with two or three members of the clergy functioning as spiritual advisors.



WHAT IS CURSILLO ABOUT?

Cursillo is patterned on Jesus' own example. He searched out and called a small group of potential leaders (pre-Cursillo); He trained them by word and example and inspired them with a vision (Cursillo Three-day Weekend); He linked them together and sent them out into the world to bring the world to Him (post-Cursillo or the Fourth Day).

WHO SHOULD MAKE A CURSILLO WEEKEND?

The Catholic Cursillo is expressed in the traditions and understanding of the Catholic Church, and its primary emphasis is to strengthen Christianity within the Catholic Church.

The Cursillo weekend is not designed to solve serious personal problems (marital difficulties, alcoholism, emotional disturbances, etc.). Pilgrims should be free to respond fully to the message proclaimed.

Cursillo presumes that those who attend are already well grounded in the faith. It often provides new insights into our faith as well as fostering ministry among lay people.

THE GOAL OF CURSILLO

The goal of Cursillo is the goal of the Church: to bring all to Christ.

