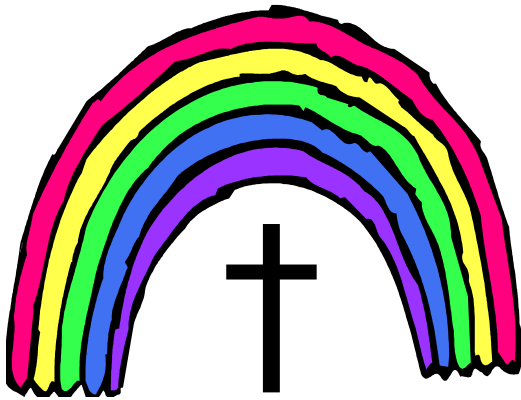


Cursillo

A short course in Christian living –



an encounter with Grace

**Episcopal
Cursillo
Community
of Minnesota**

Revised Aug 27 2007

1. What is Cursillo?

Cursillo is an opportunity to grow in your Christian life. The Cursillo weekend is a structured 3-day event that is designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people and bring them to a new and more active awareness of living in God's grace.

Cursillo de Cristiandad (the full Spanish name means "short course in Christianity") originated in the 1940's in Majorca, Spain in the Roman Catholic Church. In 1972, Roman Catholic sponsors helped the Episcopal Church conduct its first Episcopal Cursillo in the Diocese of Iowa. Episcopal Cursillo in Minnesota began the same year.

The movement continues to spread. Other Protestant denominations have developed similar programs with different names. Over two million men and women of various languages and races and communions in more than 50 nations have participated in Cursillo and related programs.

2. What is the purpose of Cursillo?

Cursillo is founded on basic Christian theology, concentrating on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. The focus is not on the church as an organization, but on the church as the Body of Christ represented by its members. The objective is to inspire, challenge and equip individuals for Christian action in their homes, churches, and communities.

Cursillo is a movement within the church intended to help Christians know God's love

and grace and to help these same Christians discover and live out their personal vocations in the world.

3. How might Cursillo affect my life?

Often people who attend a Cursillo speak of it as a 'transforming' event. Many find themselves growing in their faith, drawing nearer to God and discovering new belonging, purpose and meaning for their lives. Many make life-long friends. Couples discover common ground in their faith that strengthens their relationship. Some simply find the grace to focus on their faith better in their everyday lives.

"I had attended church all of my life, so I heard few new things at Cursillo weekend. However, for the first time, after many, many years, I felt what it was like to be in a community of Christian Love."

"The weekend opened an entirely new dimension of faith, specifically; the heart is part of knowing Christ, not just the head."

"I actually saw God in action: many, many people who did not know me were saying prayers for me and donating their time and talents to make this weekend happen."

4. Should I attend Cursillo?

Cursillo can be a significant and very real experience of what it is like to live in a community that is focused and centered on Jesus Christ. That is the joy that makes those who have attended Cursillo so enthusiastic about it.

Cursillo is for people from every walk of life. It is for church leaders and lay people, for couples and for single men and women. It is for those who live strong and active lives in Christ and for those who seek to be renewed and strengthened in their relationship with Christ and the people around them.

Keep an open mind and heart in making a decision to attend a Cursillo weekend. Like you, many attendees wondered if they should go. Each person's experience at a Cursillo weekend is unique, but many have wondered why they had waited so long to attend.

5. What happens at a Cursillo weekend?

The Cursillo weekend begins on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday afternoon. Participants live, study and worship together during this time. Holy Eucharist is celebrated daily. A series of interconnected talks are given by lay people and by clergy. These talks present the Christian life and show how people can orient themselves to living that life. After each talk, there is time for small group discussions about it.

The weekend is not a retreat. There is an abundance of music, singing, fellowship, food, laughter, friendship and prayer. Clergy are available for spiritual guidance on an individual basis as well.

The weekend encourages us to recognize Christ's presence and action in our lives and in the lives of others. Cursillo allows us to experience the fullness of Christian living in a way not usually possible in our fragmentary everyday lives.

6. What happens after a Cursillo weekend?

You may attend a Cursillo weekend only once in your life as a participant. At Cursillo, you will be invited to build on your weekend by expanding your spiritual life through Bible study and other spiritual disciplines, small groups, participation in your own church, and becoming a more active witness for Christ in your daily life.

Cursillo offers the following ongoing means of involvement:

Renewal Groups –

Small groups of people, who meet regularly to study, pray and share together.

Ultreyas –

Gatherings of the local churches' Cursillo community for fellowship.

Sponsorship –

Just as someone sponsors you to attend a Cursillo weekend, you may pass the gift along by sponsoring someone else.

Participation on a Cursillo Weekend Team –

Take part in future Cursillo weekends as part of the team that facilitates the weekend.

7. How do I apply?

To attend a Cursillo weekend, you will need a sponsor. You may have talked with someone at your church who has been to Cursillo and would like to be your sponsor. If not, your clergyperson can help you find one.

Your sponsor will answer your questions about Cursillo and help you in preparation for the weekend. More importantly, they will assist you after the weekend.

Ask questions, pray about it, and if you conclude that you should go, submit an application. Your sponsor can provide this, or you can find one on the website listed below.

The Episcopal Cursillo Community of Minnesota

5224 Minnetonka Blvd.
St Louis Park, MN 55416
(952) 929-2952

www.MnCursillo.org
MnCursillo@KmTel.com