

Information About Cursillo

What is Cursillo? (*pronounced cur-see-yo*)

The full name is Cursillo de Cristiandad meaning short course in Christian living. The Cursillo movement started in Spain in 1949 under its founder, Bishop Juan Hervás. The Cursillo gives those who make it a new understanding of basic Christian truths and the desire to serve the church.

From Thursday evening until Sunday evening, lay people and clergy live and work together to gain a deep, permanent living awareness of the treasure and responsibility of their faith. They come with many questions and some apprehensions. They leave full of joyful enthusiasm as brothers and sisters in Christ, determined to extend His kingdom.

Is it a Retreat?

The Retreat portion of the Cursillo lasts only from the opening night until the following morning, during which time silence is maintained. Therefore, the basic teachings of Christ are discussed in an atmosphere of joy, song and lightheartedness.

How often should one make a Cursillo?

You may make a Cursillo only once in your life, but you are encouraged to build upon it for the rest of your life. It is not suitable for a retreat, but rather complements it. The Cursillo will make subsequent retreats more profitable. Those who have made a Cursillo often want to make an annual retreat. They are encouraged to do so in order to renew their Cursillo resolutions.

What is the format?

The Cursillo Weekend format consists of series of spiritual talks, exercises and conferences, blending seriousness with lightheartedness. These activities are conducted by clergy and lay people. Although the MECM Cursillos are lay directed, the clergy assists in this effort most enthusiastically. Most of the talks are given by lay people.

Cursillo is *NOT* a Society.

During the Cursillo Weekend, the candidates are repeatedly told NOT to form cliques or special groups, but to get involved in the greater life of the parish and community. In other words, the Candidates are to leaven the world for GOD!

Is it Parish Centered?

Cursillistas are strongly advised to become active in their parishes. It should be noted however, that all do not come out of the Cursillo experience with the same outlook. Cursillo is, for many, the start of a growing experience that varies in each person's life according to the individual.

MASSACHUSETTS EPISCOPAL CURSILLO MINISTRY (MECM)

Post Cursillo

The Weekend lasts three days, with the Fourth Day being the rest of one's life. Cursillistas are urged to make some sort of commitment to God to intensify the growth and deepening of their faith. The Cursillo Weekend neither pretends to nor is able to give complete Christian formation in just three days. Cursillistas are by no means *finished* products on Sunday night of the Weekend. Therefore, additional activities are available to increase their knowledge and keep aflame their enthusiasm.

Cursillistas are encouraged to join or form small Reunion groups that meet regularly to share their walk with Christ and their progress with piety, study and action. Periodically, another large type of reunion, called ULTREYA (Spanish for Onward), is held. At an Ultreya, Cursillistas give brief talks developing one of the points covered during the Cursillo Weekend.

Who Lives a Cursillo?

Christians who are looking to deepen their faith and commitment to Christ attend a Cursillo. In the case of husbands and wives or significant others, MECM recommends that sponsors talk to both members of the couple. It is important to know that Cursillo is lived by an individual, but is a shared experience, strengthening a couple's commitment. If possible, a couple should agree to live their Cursillo Weekends consecutively (or simultaneously) and submit their applications together. However, if there is a vital reason that one or the other does not apply, the other may still attend. Every Cursillo applicant MUST have a Sponsor who is a friend and someone knowledgeable enough about the candidate to assume the responsibilities of Sponsorship.

**Please keep this sheet for your information
or to pass along to someone
else that may be interested in Cursillo**

Any member of the MECM Secretariat (see the list in the Tripod issue or at Masscursillo.org) would be happy to answer any questions you may have about Sponsorship or Fourth Day activities.

Please keep this document as a guide.

www.masscursillo.org