



What is Cursillo?

For more than twenty years, Cursillo has been alive and active in our Diocese.

It continues to be a wonderful instrument of personal conversion, community growth and renewal of a sense of mission within the Church.

An encounter With Christ



The Cursillo Three Days is a little refresher course in Christian Living. It is the beginning of a journey through Christ to the Father, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, bringing your brothers and sisters along with you.

Introducing Cursillo

Cursillo is a movement of renewal within the life of the Church, responsible to the Bishop within our Diocese.

The purpose of Cursillo is to present a way of living as a Christian in the world. The movement offers a method by which our relationship to God may be developed, lived out in association with other Christians, and used by God to reach others :- Thus providing a 'backbone' of committed Christians whose purpose is to 'change the world' to reflect Christ's new commandment 'To love one another as I have loved you'. This method is experienced over a three day weekend.

Cursillo is a movement that encourages involvement from all who have been baptized, and is led predominately by lay people. We also depend upon the support and encouragement of our priests.

A person who has attended Cursillo Three Days is called a Cursillista.

Cursillo

- Identifies what is fundamental to Christian Living.
- Emphasizes personal faith development
- Brings out each individual's responsibility for living and spreading the Christian life in the environment immediately around them.
- Provides an enjoyable experience of living in a Christian Community.

What happens during a Cursillo Three Days.

The three days is built upon a structured programme of short talks by lay people and the spiritual director. Additionally, there are discussions, music and other activities. These are all centred on a daily Eucharist and further supported by prayer.

Learning, praying, sharing, singing and living together in a loving community is the basis of discovering what it means to say "We are the body of Christ".

It is the experience of many people that, after Cursillo, Christian Living takes on a new dimension with a fresh awareness of God's love and purpose for each one of us.

What is expected of me?

- To be open and willing to respond to what you experience
- To make a genuine effort to discover where you are and where you can grow
- To feel secure in the knowledge that you are accepted as you are and where you are.

When are Cursillo's held?

Normally Cursillo Weekend is held each year on long weekend-end and is open to men and women.

The Three Day Weekend begins on Friday evening at 7.30pm and ends at approximately 4.30 pm Monday evening.

When you send out your spirit they are created; and you renew the face of the earth (Psalm 104:32)

What happens after a Cursillo?

As one of the founders of Cursillo said "It is possible to encounter God in many other ways other than Cursillo - encountering God is easy - it is following Christ afterwards that is the problem". Cursillo provides this follow-up structure and mutual support.

After attending a Cursillo, a Cursillista is encouraged to continue the learning, growing and sharing begun at the Cursillo, by being part of a small group of other Cursillistas. This involves meeting weekly/fortnightly for prayer and to encourage each other in taking the message of the Gospel into personal environments - home, study, work play etc.

Each person is expected maintain and strengthen his/ her parish involvement. Cursillo is not intended as an "escape" from parish commitments but rather as an opportunity to extend gifts and talents within the parish environment. The Cursillista should return with a renewed outlook on the mission of the church.

There are from time to time, larger gatherings when all Cursillistas may come together for celebration and further mutual encouragement.

How do you discover if this for you? Accept the invitation that Christ's offered His Apostles to "Come and See". You could find this is the invitation for you have been waiting.

What does a Cursillo Three Days Cost?

The cost of the weekend is set by the Secretariat and covers accommodation and meals. Your sponsor or contact person will give you full details. No one is ever denied the chance to attend because of financial difficulty.

How did Cursillo begin?

The story of the Cursillo Movement is an exciting one. The first stirrings began before the Second World War on the island of Majorca, Spain., when through dissatisfaction with spiritual lukewarmness in the church, a group of men began to pray, talk and work together to find a way to bring people to Christ. The answer was to run short courses to train Christian leaders. The first Cursillo was held on the island of Majorca in 1949. It soon spread to the mainland of Spain. The first English language Cursillo was held in Texas USA in 1961 and today Cursillos are held all over the world in Catholic, Anglican and Uniting church Dioceses under the direction of their Bishop.

The first English speaking Catholic Australian Cursillo was in held in 1965 and the first Cairns Cursillo was held in 1975.

Cursillo comes to a Diocese at the invitation of the Bishop. There must first be in that diocese, a group of lay people and clergy who pray, talk and work together just as those first men did in Spain.

The Future of Cursillo

May people from all walks of life, Laypeople, Priests and Religious, have had the experience of a Weekend? Through the power of the Holy Spirit and the dedication of a willing community we are able to provide opportunities for people in our Diocese to "Come Follow Him" through the Cursillo experience.

The Cursillo Movement is Christ centred and is based on Gospel values and asks, "How can we be Christian in our everyday environments".

Christ's statement "Whenever two or three are gathered in my name, I am there also" underlines the Cursillo Movement.

Why not consider Christ's invitation to spend time with Him in an environment that is conducive to learning more about our Christian faith and to deepening our relation with Him?

The next Cursillo for men and women will be held on the May long weekend.

For further information on Cursillo

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